



## NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW

*From the office of the*  
PRESIDENT AND DEAN

January 7, 2020

[By email to: lang.wiseman@tn.gov]

The Honorable Bill Lee  
Office of the Governor  
1st Floor, State Capitol  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: 16th Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Governor Lee:

On December 16, 2019, your office notified the Trial Court Vacancy Commission of a vacancy in Circuit Court, Division IV of the 16th Judicial District created by Judge Royce Taylor's planned retirement on March 2, 2020. The Commission publicized this vacancy and set January 7, 2020 as the deadline for submitting applications. The Commission also made arrangements to hold a public hearing regarding this vacancy on January 29, 2020 in Murfreesboro.

The application deadline has now passed, and the Commission has received only two applications. The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Commission cannot provide you with the names of three persons qualified to fill this vacancy pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-308(h) because only two persons have applied. Accordingly, Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-310(a) permits you to fill the vacancy with any person of your choosing who is duly licensed to practice law and otherwise fully qualified to serve as a judge of the circuit court in the 16th Judicial District.

For your information, I have included with this letter the redacted applications of the two persons who filed timely applications for this position. The Administrative Office of the Courts is prepared to provide your staff with unredacted versions of these applications upon request.

Very truly yours,

William C. Koch, Jr.  
Chair, Trial Court Vacancy Commission

cc: Lang Wiseman, Esq.  
Deborah Taylor Tate, Esq.

enclosures