


Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

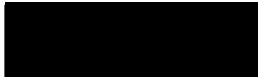
04/15/16


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INTRODUCTION

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-301 et seq. charges the Trial Court Vacancy Commission with assisting the Governor and the People of Tennessee in finding and appointing the best qualified candidates for judicial offices in this State. Please consider the Commission's responsibility in answering the questions in this application questionnaire. For example, when a question asks you to "describe" certain things, please provide a description that contains relevant information about the subject of the question and, especially, that contains detailed information that demonstrates that you are qualified for the judicial office you seek. In order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about the range of your experience, the depth and breadth of your legal knowledge, and your personal traits such as integrity, fairness, and work habits.

This document is available in word processing format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800.448.7970 or 615.741.2687; website www.tncourts.gov). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the word processing form and respond directly on the form. Respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the document.) **Review the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Submit by the noon deadline date an original (unbound) completed application (with ink signature) to the Administrative Office of the Courts.** In addition, submit a digital copy with electronic or scanned signature via email to debra.hayes@tncourts.gov, or via another digital storage device such as flash drive or CD.

THIS APPLICATION IS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER YOU SUBMIT IT.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE

1. State your present employment.

I am a trial attorney with The Law Office of Glenda Hawkins – Staff Counsel Hanover Insurance Company.

2. State the year you were licensed to practice law in Tennessee and give your Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility number.

I was licensed to practice law in Tennessee in 2007. My Board of Professional Responsibility number is 026488.

3. List all states in which you have been licensed to practice law and include your bar number or identifying number for each state of admission. Indicate the date of licensure and whether the license is currently active. If not active, explain.

I am currently licensed to practice law in the states of Tennessee and Georgia. My Tennessee bar number is 026488 and my Georgia bar number is 289132. I have been licensed to practice law in Tennessee since 2007 and in Georgia since 2013. Both licenses are currently active.

4. Have you ever been denied admission to, suspended or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any State? If so, explain. (This applies even if the denial was temporary).

No.

5. List your professional or business employment/experience since the completion of your legal education. Also include here a description of any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law in which you have ever been engaged (excluding military service, which is covered by a separate question).

In 2007 I started my legal career with Sigmon Law Firm in Memphis, Tennessee. I defended doctors, nurses and hospitals from what were then referred to as medical malpractice claims.

These types of cases are now referred to as healthcare liability actions. In January of 2011 Sigmon Law Firm merged with Hardison Law Firm. However, the nature of my practice did not change. In 2011 I moved to Middle Tennessee and began working in insurance defense as a trial attorney with The Law Office of Glenda Pipkin. This was as a staff attorney for Hanover Insurance Group. In approximately 2014 the office name changed to The Law Office of Glenda Hawkins.

6. Describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major areas of law in which you practice and the percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

I currently practice as a trial attorney representing Hanover Insurance Company's insureds in litigation throughout the entire State of Tennessee and a large portion of Georgia. I am licensed in Federal Court for the Western and Middle Districts of Tennessee and the Northern District of Georgia. Ninety-nine percent of my work is defense work. I estimate that 50% of my work involves motor vehicle accidents, 30% are premises liability actions, 10% of my work is products liability or professional liability claims. Approximately 9% of my practice involves coverage opinions and policy interpretation and the remaining 1% are Plaintiff's subrogation claims.

7. Describe generally your experience (over your entire time as a licensed attorney) in trial courts, appellate courts, administrative bodies, legislative or regulatory bodies, other forums, and/or transactional matters.

My practice is somewhat unique in that I travel extensively and practice all over the state of Tennessee as a trial attorney. The vast majority of my cases throughout my career have been in Circuit Court. I have first chaired jury trials across Tennessee from Shelby County to Knox County and many counties in between, including Rutherford County. Approximately 30% of my practice includes litigating and defending claims in Georgia. I am a trial attorney and have spent my entire career litigating cases at the trial level.

8. Describe any matters of special note involving your practice in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

I have first chaired numerous jury trials across the entire State of Tennessee and in virtually every major county in the State. Additionally I have appeared in even more courts on motion hearings. I always endeavor to treat litigants and opposing counsel with the utmost respect and professionalism. I actively litigate cases in Federal Court in Tennessee and Georgia.

9. Describe any other legal experience, not stated above, that you would like to bring to the attention of the Commission.

In 2006 I worked as a law clerk to the late Honorable Rita Stotts in Division IV of Shelby County Circuit Court. As a law clerk I was responsible to ensure that the weekly trial docket ran smoothly and researched any novel issues raised in the weekly motions and discussed those with Judge Stotts. I was also tasked with researching other novel issues of law in pending cases and drafting opinions on behalf of Judge Stotts. I worked closely with attorneys in ensuring that Judge Stotts was prepared for court each day. I saw first-hand how Circuit Court operates and it provided a firm foundation for my legal career as a trial attorney.

10. List and describe all prior occasions on which you have submitted an application for any state or federal judicial position.

I have not submitted any other applications for any state or federal judicial positions.

EDUCATION

11. List each college, law school, and other graduate school which you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded, major, any form of recognition or other aspects of your education you believe are relevant, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree was awarded.

Brigham Young University 1996, 1999 – 2003: Major – History; Minor – English

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law – 2004 -2007: Juris Doctorate

CALI Award – Contracts

Moot Court Board

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

I was born on [REDACTED] 1977.

13. How long have you lived continuously in the State of Tennessee?

I lived in Tennessee from 1977 through 1996 and 2003 until the present. I have always retained my Tennessee residency.

14. How long have you lived continuously in the county where you are now living?

I have lived continuously in Rutherford County since 2011.

15. State the county in which you are registered to vote.

I am registered to vote in Rutherford County.

16. Describe your military service, if applicable, including branch of service, dates of active duty, rank at separation, and decorations, honors, or achievements. Please also state whether you received an honorable discharge and, if not, describe why not.

I have never served in the military.

17. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance other than minor traffic offenses? If so, state the approximate date, charge and disposition of the case.

No.

18. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No.

19. Please identify the number of formal complaints you have responded to that were filed against you with any supervisory authority, including but not limited to a court, a board of professional responsibility, or a board of judicial conduct, alleging any breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by you. Please provide any relevant details on any such complaint if the complaint was not dismissed by the court or board receiving the complaint.

I have never had a formal complaint filed against me with any court, board of professional responsibility or board of judicial conduct.

20. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities or creditors within the last five (5) years? If so, give details.

No.

21. Have you ever filed bankruptcy (including personally or as part of any partnership, LLC, corporation, or other business organization)?

No.

22. Have you ever been a party in any legal proceedings (including divorces, domestic proceedings, and other types of proceedings)? If so, give details including the date, court and docket number and disposition. Provide a brief description of the case. This question does not seek, and you may exclude from your response, any matter where you were involved only as a nominal party, such as if you were the trustee under a deed of trust in a foreclosure proceeding.

No.

23. List all organizations other than professional associations to which you have belonged within the last five (5) years, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such organizations.

I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In the past five years I have held offices as the president of the Young Men's Association and president of the Elder's Quorum. I was president of the Young Men's Association from approximately 2014 – 2015 and I was president of our congregation's Elder's Quorum from approximately 2015 through February of 2018.

24. Have you ever belonged to any organization, association, club or society which limits its membership to those of any particular race, religion, or gender? Do not include in your answer those organizations specifically formed for a religious purpose, such as churches or synagogues.
- a. If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.
 - b. If it is not your intention to resign from such organization(s) and withdraw from any participation in their activities should you be nominated and selected for the position for which you are applying, state your reasons.

I am an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. At the time of my active participation this organization limited its membership to boys. Recently the Boy Scouts of America opened its membership ranks to include girls. I have volunteered in the past to assist the Boys Scouts organization as a Scout Leader, though I do not think that I have been involved with them in the past five years. I do not have any current plans to participate or volunteer aside from assisting my sons in the program as their father rather than as an official scout leader. However, as noted above, this group no longer limits its membership according to gender.

ACHIEVEMENTS

25. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you have been a member within the last ten years, including dates. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List memberships and responsibilities on any committee of professional associations which you consider significant.

I am a member of the Tennessee Bar Association.

26. List honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received since your graduation from law school which are directly related to professional accomplishments.

None.

27. List any public office you have held or for which you have been candidate or applicant. Include the date, the position, and whether the position was elective or appointive.

None.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

28. What are your reasons for seeking this position? *(150 words or less)*

My experience representing clients throughout the State of Tennessee has offered me the unique opportunity to observe best practices in courtrooms across the State and this familiarity has prepared me to implement this knowledge in helping the 16th Judicial District function efficiently and fairly for litigants and attorneys. I have observed how judges in varying jurisdictions have utilized varying methods in an attempt to manage their courtroom and dockets and I have observed those that are more effective and others that are less effective. I will use this knowledge to assist attorneys and litigants in resolving and moving their cases toward resolution.

Additionally, I recognize that courts need judges who are knowledgeable and experienced trial attorneys who also have the work ethic to facilitate moving cases to resolution. As a judge I will apply the law impartially and respect each attorney's time and efforts by being punctual and well prepared for court hearings and trials.

29. Describe the judgeship you seek (i.e. geographic area, types of cases, number of judges, etc. and explain how your selection would impact the court. *(150 words or less)*

I seek appointment to the Circuit Court for the 16th Judicial District, which includes Rutherford and Cannon Counties. This District currently has four Circuit Court judges. Two judges currently cover the civil docket and two judges currently cover the criminal docket.

During law school I enjoyed virtually all of my classes and I enjoy the study and application of the law. My practice has always centered on civil litigation; however, I would enjoy working on both civil and criminal dockets. I see my role as being at the service of the judicial district and will assist in any way I can.

I anticipate that my selection will enable the 16th Judicial District to continue providing stellar service to litigants and attorneys practicing before the court despite the increased number of cases. I hope to stand on the shoulders of those distinguished judges who have gone before and those who currently serve in the office and lift it higher.

30. Will you uphold the law even if you disagree with the substance of the law (e.g., statute or rule) at issue? Give an example from your experience as a licensed attorney that supports your response to this question. *(250 words or less)*

Yes, I will uphold the law. I have never looked at a law with the determination to decide whether I agree or disagree with it. I have never seen that as my role as an attorney, and, frankly I cannot think of a bigger waste of my client's time than to decide whether I agree with a law. The law is the law and a judge's role is to apply the law fairly based upon the

facts of the case.

I enjoy litigating cases with competent zealous attorneys on the other side of the case. I have a great respect for the practice of law; however, I quickly lose respect for an attorney that does not put forth their best efforts for their client. Likewise, judges lose the respect of attorneys when they attempt to influence litigation by failing to uphold the law as it is written.

My wife and I recently had the opportunity to provide a home for two young girls who were removed from their home due to allegations of severe abuse by their parents. We were disappointed when after several months the court returned them to one of the parents despite what we felt were well-founded concerns for their safety. However we respected the process and recognized that judges and attorneys can only operate within the confines of what the law prescribes. As a judge I will impartially apply the law.

REFERENCES

31. List five (5) persons, and their current positions and contact information, who would recommend you for the judicial position for which you are applying. Please list at least two persons who are not lawyers. Please note that the Commission or someone on its behalf may contact these persons regarding your application.

A. The Honorable Kyle Atkins, Madison County Circuit Court Judge [REDACTED]

B. Katherine Anderson, Partner at Baker Donelson [REDACTED]

C. Glenda Hawkins, Senior Trial Attorney with Hanover Insurance Company [REDACTED]

D. Jason Knox, DPM [REDACTED]

E. Cory McDermaid, Director Enterprise Reporting and Information Exchange at Genesco, Inc.
[REDACTED]

AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them in good faith and as completely as my records and recollections permit. I hereby agree to be considered for nomination to the Governor for the office of Judge of the Circuit Court of 16th Judicial District of Tennessee, and if appointed by the Governor, agree to serve that office. In the event any changes occur between the time this application is filed and the public hearing, I hereby agree to file an amended questionnaire with the Administrative Office of the Courts for distribution to the Commission members.

I understand that the information provided in this questionnaire shall be open to public inspection upon filing with the Administrative Office of the Courts and that the Commission may publicize the names of persons who apply for nomination and the names of those persons the Commission nominates to the Governor for the judicial vacancy in question.

Dated: July 9, 2018.


Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Debbie Hayes, Administrative Office of the Courts, 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219.



**TENNESSEE TRIAL COURT VACANCY COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

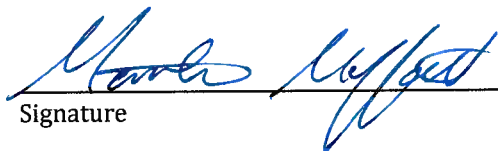
511 UNION STREET, SUITE 600
NASHVILLE CITY CENTER
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT
AND OTHER LICENSING BOARDS**

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I hereby waive the privilege of confidentiality with respect to any information that concerns me, including public discipline, private discipline, deferred discipline agreements, diversions, dismissed complaints and any complaints erased by law, and is known to, recorded with, on file with the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct (previously known as the Court of the Judiciary) and any other licensing board, whether within or outside the State of Tennessee, from which I have been issued a license that is currently active, inactive or other status. I hereby authorize a representative of the Trial Court Vacancy Commission to request and receive any such information and distribute it to the membership of the Commission and to the Office of the Governor.

Matthew Thomas Moffitt
Type or Print Name


Signature

July 9, 2018
Date

026488
BPR #

Please identify other licensing boards that have issued you a license, including the state issuing the license and the license number.

State Bar of Georgia License Number 289132
