



**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

Michel & Ward, PC  
735 Broad Street  
Suite 406-Office #1  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

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

2005, BPR # 024243

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.

Licensed in Tennessee on 9/6/2005, BPR #024243, Active.

Licensed in Florida on 12/29/1988, BPR#0784737, 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).

**Rumberger, Kirk** – Orlando, FL – August 1988 to January 1990.

I was an associate working on a wide variety of insurance defense matters in the firm's litigation division under the supervision of Scott Kirk. I also provided trial support to the senior lawyers in the firm.

**Fowler, White, Hurley, Burnett, Banick & Strickroot** - Miami, FL - January 1990 to February 2001.

I started as an associate and worked up to Jr. Partner under the tutelage of attorney Henry Burnett, the “Dean” of the Miami Defense Bar. I primarily helped defend the University of Miami School of Medicine in healthcare liability actions, which included the trial of an Organ Donation case on Court TV. I also served as a key member of the team defending NutriSystem in 1990’s class action litigation.

**Zurich Staff Legal**

Law Offices of Paul Clark - Miami, FL - March 2001 to May 2005.

I primarily handled medical malpractice matters as a member of the Zurich, in-house Staff Legal team in South Florida.

**Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel, P.C** - Chattanooga, TN - June 2005 to June 2013.

I was recruited to one of Chattanooga’s largest law firms to help manage a large book of medical malpractice & long-term care litigation work the firm had recently acquired. The firm had that large book of business from 2005 – 2010 and during that time, my responsibilities included co-supervising a large team of associates and paralegals to successfully achieve the client’s goals, while also helping train younger members of the team. I also tried several defense medical malpractice cases during this period. Retiring Judge Neal Thomas presided over two of those trials.

**Michel & Ward, P.C** - Chattanooga, TN - July 2013 to Present.

Co-owner/founder/manager of a boutique litigation law firm focusing on trial and appellate advocacy. The Firm handles a wide variety of litigation matters for Plaintiffs as well as Defendants. Representative defense clients include the FCCI Insurance Group; the Tennessee Risk Management Trust (TNRMT); and, Safety Engineering & Clams Management (SEC). Our main goal is to help the firm’s clients solve their legal problems while providing exceptional legal services at reasonable rates.

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 in a small, two-man firm. We handle all types of legal matters with an emphasis on:

- medical malpractice (35 - 40%).
- GTLA, personal injury, product liability, automobile and trucking negligence claims (35 - 40%).
- Non-litigation matters (20 - 30%).

In addition to the above and in response to the Rx Drug epidemic, I devote time in helping educate and raise awareness of the extent of the opioid/heroin epidemic and possible solutions. I frequently present on those issues and have done so for the following groups/organizations:

- The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy;
- The Tennessee Medical Association;
- The Chattanooga/Hamilton County Medical Society;
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee;
- The American Society of Medical Association Counsel;
- The American Health Lawyers Association;
- The Casualty Actuarial Society;
- The Chattanooga MGMA;
- The Cleveland MGMA;
- East Tennessee Children's Hospital;
- The National Rx Summits (I, II & III);
- Coverys (an insurer); and,
- AIG.

I also write articles and make local TV and radio appearances to discuss Rx Drug epidemic issues.

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.

Throughout my almost 29-year career, I have handled a wide variety of legal matters ranging from medical malpractice claims, professional negligence claims, nursing home claims, construction defect, employment, product liability, GTLA, personal injury, automobile negligence, trucking negligence, wrongful death, EMTALA and prisoner claims. I have helped many clients successfully resolve a wide variety of legal problems and look forward to using that experience as a judge.



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

The most notable trial in my experience was the trial of an Organ Donation case which aired live on Court TV in 1998. Having commentator Nancy Grace and her panel discuss the trial proceedings each night brought an added dimension to the trial and enhanced the entire learning experience.

I also have experience in managing high volume litigation matters. For example, when I practiced in Florida, our firm defended NutriSystem in class action litigation involving hundreds of litigants. At the time, I was the Senior Associate in charge of handling/managing the responsive pleadings for the South Florida cases.

In addition, during my early years at the Chambliss firm (in TN), I helped successfully co-manage a high volume of medical malpractice & long-term care litigation files. Those experiences will help me in managing a heavy Court docket.

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

In 2009, 2010 & 2011, I participated in the Street Law Corporate Diversity Pipeline Program and helped co-ordinate the joint efforts of Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel and BCSTN to implement the program locally. The program helped introduce high school students to the various opportunities available in the legal field, if they chose to pursue such a career path.

For me, the program provided an excellent insight into another avenue that the legal profession (as a whole) can expand its efforts in making positive impacts in our community.

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

I have previously applied for the following positions:

- Claims Commissioner, Eastern Grand Division of Tennessee;
- United States Magistrate in the United States District Court Eastern District of Tennessee; and,
- United States Magistrate in the United States District Court Middle District of Tennessee.

**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.

University of Miami School of Law, 1985-1988, Juris Doctor

Fordham University, 1979-1983, Bachelor of Arts, Economics

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

10/18/1961

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

12 years.

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

12 years.

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

Hamilton 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.

Not applicable.

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.

None.

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.

Yes. A Pro Se Plaintiff, Richard Green, filed a civil lawsuit against Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel (my former employer) and all of the attorneys and paralegals at the firm who represented

his brother John in a lawsuit that Richard had filed against John. In essence, what started out as a lawsuit between two brothers ended up with Richard Green suing his brother's lawyers. I was named as a defendant in that suit and all claims were quickly dismissed by the trial Court. Two attempts to appeal that dismissal were denied.

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.

For the last five years I have been a member of the Signal Mountain Lions Club. The Club's motto is simple, "we serve." The Club not only puts on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day barbeques but also helps with providing eyeglasses for the needy and strives to help make the community's problems smaller and better.

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.

No.

### 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.

Tennessee Bar Association from 2007 to present.

Florida Bar Association from 2007 to present.

Chattanooga Bar Association from 2007 to present.

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.

I was an invited speaker and moderator at the National Rx Drug Abuse Summits I, II & III (from 2012 -2014). This was related to the work I have performed (and continue to perform) in helping raise awareness on Rx Drug epidemic issues.

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.

N/A

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

I have always aspired to be a Judge. My grandfather served as a Judge in Port Au Prince, Haiti. He was well respected and had a positive impact on his community. In turn, our own community has been blessed with Judges who have found ways to positively impact it. For example, Judge Tom Greenholtz, though fairly new to the criminal bench, has implemented procedural improvements which have helped the criminal court dockets run smoother. In addition, Federal Judge Curtis Collier participated in activities such as the Streetlaw Diversity Pipeline and helped encourage high school students to stay on the straight path; complete their education; and, hopefully pursue a career in the law. It is my goal to follow the laws established by our legislature while also following the example of our own Judges in finding ways to make a positive impact in our community.

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)*

The judgeship is a Circuit Court position located in the Eleventh Judicial District of Tennessee, in Hamilton County. Circuit Courts are courts of general jurisdiction and the judgeship I seek is in the Civil Division, which is currently comprised of four judges who preside over cases including but not limited to: tort claims, contract disputes, application for injunctions, divorces and adoptions.

In turn, Hamilton County currently leads the State in economic growth and benefits from one of the nation's fastest internet services and the presence of a number of business accelerators and incubators. My own firm opened in the County incubator located at the BDC and benefited from the resources and synergy there. That experience serves to motivates me to be a judge that can work on finding ways to help our Circuit Court be ready to handle the increased case load that will follow the County's economic growth.

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. For example, Tennessee's one year statute of limitations can have very harsh application in some medical malpractice settings. In contrast, Georgia has a two-year statute and Florida has a three-year statute.

I have had to advise/counsel many prospective Plaintiffs that, based on their case facts, the Tennessee statute of limitations had run and would effectively bar their potential claims. Those discussions were not easy and the plaintiffs would invariably ask why the Judge could not make an exception in their case? I would explain how it is the legislative branch that makes the laws and our Judges must follow them, even if they might disagree with their harsh application in a particular case.

Those experiences will help me in following the rule of law in our cases and will also provide a reference for me to use to explain to litigants why the law must be followed (and help identify for them the entity that has the ability to change it).

**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. Glenn E. Farr**

**B. Rick Piedra**

**C. Tom Montgomery**

D. James Neal

E. Cesar Sastre

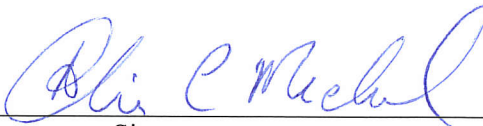
**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

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 the Eleventh Judicial District of Tennessee, in Hamilton County 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: August 2, 2017.

  
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.

Alix C. Michel

Signature

8/2/17

Date

024243

BPR #

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

The Florida Bar #0784737

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