



NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW

From the office of the
PRESIDENT AND DEAN

April 8, 2021

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

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

Re: 10th Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Governor Lee:

On March 25, 2021, your office notified the Trial Court Vacancy Commission of a vacancy in Circuit Court, Division I of the 10th Judicial District created by Judge Lawrence H. Puckett's retirement. The Commission publicized this vacancy and set April 8, 2021 as the deadline for submitting applications. The Commission also made arrangements to hold a public hearing regarding this vacancy on May 13, 2021 in Athens.

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