


**Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission**  
***Application for Nomination to Judicial Office***


9/8/20

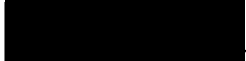
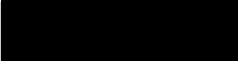
Name: Edward H. North

Office Address: 100 North Spring Street  
(including county) Manchester, Coffee County, Tennessee 37355

Office Phone: (931) 728-0820 Facsimile: (931) 728-9798

Email Address: 

Home Address:   
(including county) Hillsboro, Coffee County, Tennessee 37342

Home Phone:  Cellular Phone: 

**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 Microsoft Word format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800.448.7970 or 615.741.2687; website [www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov)). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the Microsoft Word 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 [ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov](mailto:ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov), or via another digital storage device such as a flash drive. See section 1(g) of the application instructions for additional information related to hand-delivery of application packages.

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

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

I am an attorney at the law firm Rogers, Duncan & North. I am a partner at the firm.

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 the State of Tennessee on October 21, 2003. My Board of Professional Responsibility number is 22963.

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.

Tennessee.

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).

I have continuously practiced at my law office since my bar admission in 2003.

From December 2007 through January 2018, I owned and operated North Properties. I operated this business individually. I owned 42 residential rental real estate properties in Manchester, Tennessee.

I currently have North Farms at my residence in Hillsboro, Tennessee. I have Angus and Angus cross cattle and raise beef calves for resale. I purchased my first heifers in 2018.

My law partners and I own the law office where I practice. I acquired interest in the building when I became a partner June 1, 2010. I have subsequently acquired more ownership interest in the building.

I also currently own a one-half interest in a residential property located in Manchester, Tennessee. My partner and I bought this property for renovation and resale. The property was purchased on March 19, 2019.

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 have a general law office practice in Manchester, Tennessee. I estimate that twenty-five percent (25%) of my practice involves domestic relations. Approximately twenty-five percent (25%) involves estates. I handle both uncontested and contested estate matters. Approximately twenty-five percent (25%) is criminal defense. This includes clients who retain my services and clients who are appointed to me by the court. Approximately ten percent (10%) of my practice involves Plaintiff's personal injury cases. The remaining fifteen percent (15%) of my practice involves deed preparation, estate planning matters, and business related matters.

I have not included my services as a mediator in the above stated percentages. I have served as mediator in various types of cases. Also, I am the counsel for the Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center.

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.

I have tried civil and criminal matters in several judicial districts in Tennessee and practiced in the appellate courts. I have also represented clients in administrative matters.

I have tried civil cases ranging from small property dispute claims to wrongful death and medical malpractice litigation. These cases were tried in the General Session Courts, Circuit and Chancery Courts and in the United States District Court. I have tried civil cases to judges sitting as fact finders and to juries. My trial experience involves a wide range of cases.

I have tried criminal cases ranging from Class C misdemeanors to Class A felonies. My trial court practice includes jury trials and matters tried by the court. My clients are from all parts of the economic spectrum. Many of my most contested criminal jury trials involve indigent clients who were appointed to me by the court. The protection of a client's constitutional rights is extremely important to me, and I always use my best efforts to ensure that they have fair hearings and trials.

I have represented clients in both the civil and criminal Courts of Appeals. I enjoy writing appellate briefs and oral argument before the Court.

My practice has also included representing clients before administrative boards. Many times an attorney's representation of a client in a professional position will involve some disciplinary matters before an administrative board. I have represented clients before the Boards of Medicine and Nursing. I have represented clients before the POST Commission.

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

One area of my practice that is increasing is litigation involving contested estate administration and estate planning documents prepared by alleged incompetent persons or secured by alleged undue influence.

These cases involved extensive trial preparation. Pretrial discovery is extensive. Medical testimony is a necessity in almost every case. Fact witness testimony is always a challenge, because it is emotional.

I have tried many of these cases in my district and other districts. Many of these cases are referred to me and my firm by other attorneys. I have also argued these cases in the appeals courts.

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

One aspect of my legal career which has meant as much to me as anything has been the mentoring I have received from my law partners and other members of the bar. The legal practice requires more than knowing statutes and rules. I believe I was taught how to practice law by these people, and I am forever grateful. Clients can be effectively represented by advocates who are polite and respectful. This type of practice brings honor to the profession and often goes overlooked by attorneys.

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

None.

**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.

I attended Middle Tennessee State University beginning August 1994, and I graduated in May 1998. I received my Bachelors of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Finance.

I attended the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law beginning August 2000, and I graduated in May 2003. I received my Juris Doctor degree.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1976.

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

I have lived continuously in Tennessee since April 1986.

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

I moved to Coffee County, Tennessee, in April 1986 and resided here continuously until July 1994 when I moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee, to attend college. I lived in Coffee County, Tennessee, from August 1998 until July 2000 when I moved to Shelby County, Tennessee, to attend law school. I have continuously lived in Coffee County, Tennessee, since May 2003.

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

Coffee County, Tennessee.

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.

I received a citation from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. I took my nephew on the juvenile deer hunt. He hunted in a one person tree stand. I sat in my truck a short distance away. I watched him the entire hunt. I was cited, because I did not "accompany" him on the hunt. I paid the citation in January 2013.

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. You may wish to request a report from the appropriate supervisory authority (or authorities) for a complete history.

I have had one complaint filed against me by a former criminal defendant client with the Board of Professional Responsibility. The client was charged in a three Count Indictment alleging that he sold methamphetamines and heroin on three different occasions. I was appointed to represent the person. He had fired his previous two attorneys. The District Attorney General chose to sever the counts, and the first case was getting close to trial. My client and I were discussing the last plea offer made, and we were going through his potential sentences if he was convicted. The client was not happy with me.

He filed a complaint against me, and the Board forwarded it to me. I filed my response. The client filed a written statement withdrawing the complaint soon after I filed my response. The matter was summarily dismissed.

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.

Robert D. Qualls vs. Edward North, III, No. 1999-CV-1073, Coffee County General Sessions Court. I was sued by a gentleman. I was driving to work, and he pulled out in front of me turning across my lane of traffic. He was pulling a boat on a trailer. I was able to dodge his truck, but my vehicle struck his boat and trailer. The trial judge dismissed the lawsuit.

Suzanne A. North v. Edward H. North, No. 2008-CV-624, Coffee County Chancery Court. My former wife filed for divorce against me. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences. A Marital Dissolution Agreement was incorporated into the Final Decree.

Edward North vs. Victoria Taylor, No. 2008-CV-530, Coffee County General Sessions. My former wife and I purchased a residence at a foreclosure sale. Ms. Taylor would not move out of the house, so I filed a detainer action to have her removed.

Edward North v. Bethany North, No. 2020-CV-229, Coffee County Chancery Court. I filed this action for divorce. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences. There was a Marital Dissolution Agreement and Permanent Parenting Plan incorporated into the Final Decree of Divorce.

I have filed lawsuits for detainer warrants and rents owed in the name of North Properties.

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 currently a member of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. I am not a member of the executive committee of this association. I have held this membership since 2019.

This accomplishment is not directly related to my membership in the cattlemen's association, but I am a certified Master Beef Producer with the State of Tennessee, Department of Agriculture. I have held this certification since 2019.

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.
- If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.
  - 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.

State of Tennessee Bar Association	October 2003 – present
Coffee County Bar Association	October 2003 – present
President	2008 – Presiding over the meetings
Vice President	2007 – Organizing functions for the Association
Treasurer	2006 – Keeping account of the Association’s fund
Tennessee Bar Association Member	2003 – present
House of Delegates	2009 – present
Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association	October 2003 – 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 have a Distinguished rating by Martindale-Hubbell. This rating was made by my legal peers.

Also, my firm was recognized by the Legal Aid Society of the Upper Cumberland as the law firm of the year in 2015.



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.

I have never held a public office. In November 2004, I ran for District 47 State Representative. I was unsuccessful.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

I have wanted to be a trial court judge in my district since my admission to the Tennessee Bar in 2003. I have tried a variety of cases, both civil and criminal. I am experienced in the practice of law and courtroom procedure. I will apply the law to the case and will do so in a manner that is fair and equitable to all involved. I believe I am qualified to hold the position, and I will uphold the dignity of the Court.

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 am seeking to fill the Circuit Judge position for the Fourteenth Judicial District. The Judicial District serves Coffee County, Tennessee. The Circuit Court Judges also sit as Chancellor for the Chancery Court. The Circuit Court has civil and criminal jurisdictions. The Chancery Court has civil and probate jurisdiction. My district has two Circuit Judge positions.

I believe my broad experiences practicing in all types of Circuit and Chancery Court cases make me the most qualified candidate to fill the position. I also believe my work ethic would serve the District well.

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 am counsel for the Coffee County Children's Advocacy Center. I was a founding Board Member, and I believe in its cause. I have resigned from the Board, but I have represented them in Court proceedings for some time. One area of the law that frustrates the purpose of all the advocacy centers is the statutes and case law which allows counsel for the criminal defendant to access recorded interviews of minor children at the centers by subpoena. As counsel for my advocacy center, I feel it is being used for a criminal defendant to get access to discovery which they might not otherwise be entitled. I comply with these subpoenas, but I hold them to the letter of 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. James F. Conley, Attorney, 111 W. Grundy Street, Tullahoma, TN 37388; [REDACTED]
B. James D. Lane, Attorney, 214 NE Atlantic Street, Tullahoma, TN 37388; [REDACTED]
C. Joyce Prusak, Coffee County Children’s Advocacy Center, 104 N. Spring Street, Manchester, TN 37355; [REDACTED]
D. Brent Parsley, Senior Loan Officer, CapStar Bank, 100 W. High Street, Manchester, TN 37355; [REDACTED]
E. Robert Newman, Attorney, 309 W. Main Street, McMinnville, TN 37311; [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 [Court] Circuit Court, Fourteenth 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: April 12, 2021

/s/ Edward H. North  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Cecilia Lofton, 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.

Edward H. North  
Type or Print Name

/s/ Edward H. North  
Signature

April 12, 2021  
Date

22963  
BPR #

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---