

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

9/8/20

Name: Felicia B. Walkup _____

Office Address: 131 East Main Street, McMinnville, Tennessee 37110 Warren County
(including county) _____

Office Phone: 931-473-9572 _____ Facsimile: 931-474-9575

Email Address: [REDACTED] _____

Home Address: [REDACTED] Manchester, Tennessee 37355 Coffee County
(including county) _____

Home Phone: [REDACTED] _____ Cellular Phone [REDACTED] _____

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). 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, 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.

Assistant District Attorney General 31st Judicial District

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

2001; BPR #021740

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; BPR #021740; Licensed in 2001; License is 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).

Private Practice – Associate Attorney at Henry & McCord, Tullahoma, TN

Assistant District Attorney General 14th Judicial District

Private Practice – McMinnville, TN

Assistant District Attorney General 17th Judicial District

Assistant District Attorney General 31st Judicial District

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 am currently employed as an Assistant District Attorney General. Accordingly, 100% of my practice is the prosecution of criminal cases.

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 work experience includes a considerable amount of time in trial courts. My work experience in private practice as well as my work experience as a prosecutor have provided numerous appearances in Circuit Court (Civil and Criminal), General Sessions Court (Civil and Criminal) and Juvenile Court.

I have had very limited practice in the Appellate Courts. I have prepared Appellate Briefs on a limited basis. I have made one appearance in the Appellate Courts but did not address the panel in the oral arguments.

I do not have experience before an administrative, legislative or regulatory body.

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

No matters of special note.

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

Member of the District Attorneys General Conference Elder Abuse Committee

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

Not applicable.

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.

Berry College – 1993-1997; Bachelor of Science; Political Science Major; Psychology Minor
Cumberland School of Law at Samford University – 1998 – 2001; Juris Doctor; Member of the Moot Court Board

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

██████████ 975

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

I am a lifetime resident of the State of Tennessee. I lived in Georgia and Alabama during my college and law school years but maintained residency in Tennessee.

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

I have resided in Coffee County for 12 years.

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

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

I had one complaint filed by a criminal defendant during my time in private practice. I responded to a letter I received from the Board of Professional Responsibility. The matter was concluded without any action from the Board of Professional Responsibility, and I completed representation of the client.

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 Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination. I currently serve as an Elder for my local church. I have previously served on the Judicial Committee for the Denomination and I currently serve as a member of the Finance Committee for the Presbyterial Board.

I am a member of the Power of 100 organization.

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.

The Power of 100 organization is composed of women.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

Recognizing the great responsibility that comes with making decisions that deeply affect people's lives, I have throughout my career wrestled with the question of seeking to be a Judge. I have reached the point in my career where my experiences clearly show the importance a Judge plays in our legal system to ensure that every individual is treated fairly and equitably within our system. My experiences have provided me with the necessary background and the desire to pursue this appointment to the bench to be that individual that works to make our legal system a place where fairness and justice are always the desired goal. I seek this position to be a Judge who values and upholds and hopefully improves our legal system.

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 appointment to fill the remaining term in the Circuit Court for 14th Judicial District. This Judicial Seat hears both Civil and Criminal matters and shares duties with one other Circuit Judge within the District.

My selection to fill this term would result in an appointment of an individual who has substantial experience in both the Civil and Criminal components that are a part of this position. My experiences have provided me with opportunities to participate in all aspects of litigation from the filing of pleadings, completion of discovery, the filing and argument of pre-trial motions, negotiated settlements, full jury trials and post-trial litigation. These experiences give me a solid foundation to apply the law as a Judge.

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.

The importance of the separation of powers is and always has been a vital part of government at the national, state and local levels. I am certainly not immune to disagreeing with certain laws. However, in my work experiences I believe I have demonstrated on numerous occasions the discipline to put aside my personal feelings or beliefs and pursue an outcome that reflects the state of the law.

As a personal example, one illustration concerning this issue is the current state of marijuana in Tennessee. From a personal standpoint, I have reviewed medical evidence that supports marijuana may have legitimate medical uses. Our state legislature as well as many other states continue to address possible changes to laws that may permit the use of medical marijuana. With competent medical evidence, I would not be opposed to legislation that adopts medical marijuana in Tennessee. However, the current state of the law in Tennessee continues to make it illegal. As a Prosecutor, my job requires me presently to continue to treat any use, possession or sale of marijuana as a criminal offense. Accordingly, I routinely resolve cases with punishment that fits within the statutory provisions of the current laws regarding marijuana. Certainly, any decision to alter the status of marijuana, or any criminal statute, needs to come from the state legislature.

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. Christi Gilliam – Partner and Co-Owner of McMinnville Physical Therapy 931-474-7755 (Business) [REDACTED]
B. Wesley Southerland – Attorney [REDACTED]
C. C. Michael Layne – Retired District Attorney General 14 th Judicial District [REDACTED]
D. Jerry Hale – Retired Director of Schools, Warren County Tennessee [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
E. Mike Lewis – Director Coffee County Drug Court [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] 14th Judicial District - Circuit Court Part 1 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, 20 21.

Felicia B. Walker
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Cecelia 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.

Felicia B. Walkup

Type or Print Name

Felicia B. Walkup

Signature

April 12, 2021

Date

021740

BPR #

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