

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

04/15/16

Name: SAMUEL JASON WHATLEY

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COLUMBIA, MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE 38402-0411  
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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](http://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](mailto: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 the owner and lead counsel for the law firm, Whatley & Associates, a sole proprietorship. I employ one other attorney, Cory L. Ricci, and four full-time staff members. I have one part-time employee.**

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

**I became licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee in 1998. My Board of Professional Responsibility Number is 019646.**

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 have only been licensed to practice law in Tennessee, although I have been admitted to practice law in various federal courts.**

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 graduated from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in May 1998. I spent the balance of that first summer post-graduation preparing to take the Tennessee Bar Examination. Shortly thereafter, around late July or early August 1998, I began work at the law firm of Gideon & Wiseman in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Sometime in either September or October 1998, I resigned my position with that firm and shortly thereafter accepted a full-time assistant professorship in the Political Science Department at Middle Tennessee State**

University – the same department where I had majored. I taught there full-time for the balance of that academic year, replacing a professor who had left for medical reasons. My position was interim and ended with the conclusion of that academic year. I also recall teaching there in the summer of 2000 and sporadically thereafter as an adjunct professor. I primarily taught a foundational course described by its title, “Law and the Legal System.” I also taught a paralegal course, served as the pre-law advisor for the University (during the time I worked full-time at the University), and spent a great deal of time serving as the attorney coach for the MTSU mock trial team and program from 1998 through 2001. In July 1999, I accepted a position as an associate attorney with William Kennerly Burger, an attorney of long and good standing with practice in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Our firm went by the name, “Burger, Siskin, Whatley, Scott & Goad,” named for the attorneys in the firm, including the aforementioned Mr. Burger, Keith Siskin, Rodney Scott, David Goad, and myself. I worked for Mr. Burger as his employee until approximately January 2000, whereupon I began my own practice, although I continued to work in the same office and under the same firm name. (I had been the only member of our firm who was not working independently.) In June 2001, my wife and I relocated to Columbia, Tennessee following the birth of our oldest child in January of that year. I opened my solo private practice at that time located at 28 Public Square in Columbia, next door to my present office. I have been in full-time, private practice in Columbia ever since. I began my firm under the heading and name, “S. Jason Whatley, Attorney at Law.” Until 2005, I had at various times a few other attorneys who shared office space with me and who, during such times, also shared in the firm name, including Shannon Barnhill, Christina Jackson, and Rhonda Hooks. In 2004, I began sharing office space exclusively with James M. Marshall and ultimately began the firm of “Whatley & Marshall” and “Whatley & Marshall, P.L.L.C.” Mr. Marshall and I partnered on or about January 2005. That partnership and association ended in September 2005. I have worked for myself, with no partners, ever since. It is my recollection that since that time I have only worked under the present firm name of “Whatley & Associates.”

Interestingly and maybe strangely, I ventured briefly into another business while continuing to practice law full-time between approximately 2004 to 2006. At that time I attempted to start a fencing company with a friend, Scott James. This was only ever a side-business/investment for me. The company’s intent was to install chain link fencing around cell towers. The venture was ended after one or two jobs as the business of my law practice did not afford me time to work on anything else.

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 estimate that between 80 and 90 percent of my present practice is devoted to domestic law, which includes divorce, paternity, custody, enforcement and modifications of the aforementioned, terminations of parental rights and adoption, dependency & neglect, unruly cases, and the like. The vast majority of my divorce cases include children and disputes about the same. The balance of my practice includes criminal defense, personal injury, and miscellaneous other cases, including one rather large civil rights case now pending in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. I otherwise practice in Circuit, Chancery, Juvenile, and General Sessions Courts all over Middle Tennessee, although the majority of my cases deal with matters pending in Maury County. I am experienced in appellate work (Tennessee Court of Appeals and Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals) and it is not uncommon for my firm to handle several appeals per year, both civil and criminal, although the appeals that I handle personally are typically, if not now exclusively, civil by nature. I occasionally am asked to mediate matters, although I am not a Rule 31 mediator.

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.

In my 19 years of practice, I have tried hundreds of bench trials and/or hearings (both civil and criminal) where testimonial proof was introduced. It is possible that the number approaches or even exceeds 1,000 different such hearings and/or trials, although I simply cannot say for sure. (The number of cases that I have handled, including the ones that did not actually go to court or which did not require testimonial proof, obviously exceeds that number.) Most of these hearings have been in Chancery Court, although I have had a great deal of in-court work in Circuit, General Sessions, and Juvenile Courts in counties across Tennessee, including at least Maury, Giles, Lawrence, Wayne, Marshall, Bedford, Lincoln, Moore, Hickman, Lewis, Perry, McNairy, Williamson, Davidson, Rutherford, Cannon, Sumner, Robertson, Dickson, Humphries, Shelby, McNairy, Franklin, Montgomery, Smith, Putnam, Overton, and Wilson Counties. I have also had a limited number of matters in federal court, including the Middle District of Tennessee. I have tried nine Circuit jury trials that I can recall (7 criminal and two civil). I have represented clients in multiple other forums as well. For all of these, I have been personally involved, in court, presenting, arguing, etc., and also worked in preparation for the same, including the drafting of underlying documents, such as complaints, answers, propounding and answering discovery, drafting of various hosts of motions, orders, notices, briefs, memoranda, etc.

The nature of my practice has forced me to be able to handle on a daily basis a variety of related and unrelated matters, moving from one case and client to the other, and managing the same in an efficient manner. More than that, as a solo

practitioner with a very busy practice and with a number of employees, I have had to run a business while practicing law – a difficult task to say the least.

Because my career has been focused on trial work, I am a devoted student to the Rules of Evidence and courtroom procedure generally. For me, this started in high school via my involvement in mock trial, which extended through college and law school.

**Trial Courts:**

The bulk of my work as an attorney has been in litigation and actually preparing for court and trying cases, primarily domestic ones. These include *pendente lite* matters involving the entry of temporary parenting plans, hearings on *ex parte* and/or temporary restraining orders, and temporary child and spousal support matters; divorce and custody trials on the merits, as well as post-trial motions; large numbers of matters involving modification and enforcement of prior decrees; contempt matters of various types, both civil and criminal by nature; terminations of parental rights; dependency and neglect matters (all stages), including appeals of the same; parental relocation matters; unruly and other juvenile matters; and other unique cases involving non-parent custody. It is not uncommon for me to have multiple contested matters scheduled in a given week (sometimes in multiple counties at the same time) and hearings and/or trials that last multiple days. My longest domestic trial, a divorce, literally lasted 10 days, with the tenth day spent arguing and hearing the Court's voluminous findings of fact. Primarily in Juvenile Court, I have served as an appointed counsel in scores of matters, if not hundreds, wherein I was appointed to represent parents in dependent and neglect matters or to serve as the guardian *ad litem* for the same. I have also handled all aspects of conservatorships and other related matters. Simply put, there is probably very little I have not done in the domestic law arena. I have a passion for this area of the law, particularly as it relates to dealing with cases involving children, their care, maintenance, and custody.

My civil trial work experience is not limited to domestic cases, though. I have represented clients in multiple personal injury cases, including worker's compensation and medical malpractice, and a host of other civil causes of action, including civil rights matters, matters involving common law torts, election contests, zoning issues, defamation cases, contract disputes, and the like. A few years ago, I was fortunate to settle a personal injury matter for over \$900,000.00 after mediation.

I have also had a good deal of experience in handling criminal matters, which has always remained an ongoing but smaller part of my practice. I have handled everything from speeding tickets to homicides, including parties charged with First Degree Murder. My last homicide case (an indictment for Second Degree Murder) was bestowed upon me by appointment in 2014 and lasted about 15 months of what at times was a very complex litigation, involving multiple experts. Like most

criminal cases, that matter settled shortly before trial, this one for a reduced plea of 2.5 years, Reckless Homicide. My longest criminal jury trial was a child abuse matter lasting six days, ending in acquittal of both defendants. I have represented clients in hundreds of criminal matters over the years in General Sessions and Circuit Court, at virtually all aspects of such proceedings including preliminary hearings, bond hearings, suppression hearings, motions *in limine*, bench and jury trials on the merits, sentencing hearings, motions for new trial, and other motions. I have also handled post-conviction relief matters (PCRs), petitions for writs of *habeas corpus*, and other such petitions for extraordinary relief in criminal cases.

For about 2.5 years I served as the Municipal Judge for the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee (2007-2010) wherein I presided over a variety of municipal code violations, including traffic violations and codes enforcement.

I served as Municipal Judge for the City of Columbia, *pro tem* and the opinion that I drafted from that hearing is attached hereto.

**Appellate Courts:**

While appellate work is not a mainstay of my practice, it is not uncommon. I have personally handled 18 different appeals over the years, three criminal and 15 civil, to the Tennessee Court of Appeals. I have participated in oral argument in most or maybe all of these. I also participated with other counsel in an appeal of a federal tort matter in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, actually applying for *Certiorari* (denied) to the United States Supreme Court.

**Administrative Bodies:**

I have been counsel of record in multiple different types of hearings before administrative bodies, including forfeiture matters before the Tennessee Department of Safety, trials before administrative law judges in appeals of indications of abuse or neglect by the Department of Children's Services, hearings before the local school board regarding disciplinary matters for children, hearings before various other local boards, such as the County Board of Zoning Appeals, one hearing in front of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy, and the like. This has been a modest part of my practice.

**Legislative or Regulatory Bodies:**

I cannot recall handling matters in front of legislative or regulatory bodies, other than noted above. To the extent this might be relevant, I have been a member of the Maury County Election Commission for the last five (5) years.

**Other Forums:**

I have occasionally represented clients whose matters were before the media, focusing at times on managing information within the media. In 2017, in what

quickly became a national story, I represented the father of a child who had been kidnapped. During that representation, I coordinated and managed media interviews and communication of all types, including personally holding press conferences and the like. That particular case consumed my practice for period of about a month-and-a-half.

**Transactional Matters:**

I have enjoyed working on contracts over the years, including serving as counsel in the drafting of a fairly complex real estate development contract, as well as the drafting of another very complex agreement involving the purchase of fracking sands from Russia. While unique to my normal practice, these areas were very rewarding to me. I have drafted some wills and, like most attorneys, have drafted a fair amount of powers of attorney and related documents, although I readily admit this area is not a major part of my practice.

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

I have handled many high-drama cases, as have most attorneys in litigation, especially domestic litigation. Probably the most "special note" matters that I have handled involve cases where people have children in precarious and dangerous situations, or where the parent has already had their rights to a child severely reduced or eliminated. I have been on all sides (plaintiff, defendant, guardian *ad litem*) of such matters. I have represented the custodial parent in protecting children and I have had to defend such cases, working to get those parents back in good standing, sometimes representing a complete change of custody for the client in the end. It would be hard for me to consider anything being of more "special note" than these. I cannot fail to emphasize that our practice has focused on extremely difficult custody matters, often involving psychological and other extremely complex and voluminous proof.

A case of special note might also be considered my representation of a Circuit Judge candidate, post-election, where the winner died before taking office. While certainly not something that took up a large portion of my time, it was a privilege to represent my client in what was at the time very special and involved the question of who became the next judge in that district.

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

I am confident that I have spent hundreds, maybe thousands of hours in meetings with clients and assisting them with determining a proper course of action. When dealing with divorces and custody matters, often these meetings are much more therapeutic for the client than clinical or even informational for the attorney. I have counseled people in divorce situations who are desperate to save their marriage, working with them on a plan to avoid making the situation worse and, hopefully, setting down a path that provides opportunity for reconciliation. I am not ashamed to say that I have prayed with many clients whom have appeared in my office at the lowest point of their lives or whom I have visited in jail. All too often I think attorneys forget that they are meeting people at their most vulnerable and needy time. I believe that the attorney's compassion for a client is often necessary to fully understand what proper legal representation looks like. These experiences have taught me to have great sympathy and empathy for people who, perhaps by their own poor choices, have wrecked their lives. These experiences and meetings with clients have helped to shape my practice.

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.

Columbia State Community College (1989-1991): I left after completing basic requirements to attend MTSU (below).

Middle Tennessee State University (1991-1993): Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Pre-Law Emphasis; Minor in Spanish; Chair of MTSU College Republicans (1992-1993); Chair, Tennessee College Republicans (1993); Editor-in-Chief, *Sidelines* (1993); MTSU Mock Trial team (1991-1993), ending in Rank No. 3 nationally.

Cumberland School of Law at Samford University (1995-1998): Juris Doctorate; Deans List on multiple occasions; "Book" Award in Torts and Commercial Transactions; selected for ATLA national mock trial team; American Journal of Trial Advocacy, member.



**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

**██████████ 1971.**

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

**Since on or about July 1998 upon returning from law school. I lived in Tennessee beginning in 1987 before that as my permanent residence.**

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

**Since June 2001.**

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

**Maury 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.

**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.

**Not to my knowledge.**

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 had two formal complaints filed against me in the Board of Professional Responsibility, one by a client and one not. Both were dismissed after an investigation (July 22, 2010 and November 9, 2005, respectively). I am not aware of any other formal complaints against me other than one or two "CAP" complaints with the Board which also were either not pursued or were dismissed. These were many years ago. I was unable to find any details on these after calling the Board.**

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, other than a fraudulent lien placed on my property by a sovereign citizen in 2014, the opposing party in a custody case. The same man also placed a similar lien on the property of the case's guardian *ad litem*. He was ultimately prosecuted for this illegal action and the lien released a few months later.**

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, but only as a Plaintiff against clients who owed the firm money. These cases are detailed below:**

**Cases filed in the Maury County General Sessions Court:**

2013-CV-538

Samuel Whatley, Attorney v. Ledena Lea Survant Non-Suited

09/19/2013

2015-CV-118 S. Jason Whatley v. Daniel James	Dismissed with prejudice	07/01/2015
2009-CV-1086 Jason Whatley v. William Shore	Judgment of \$3592.71	08/17/09
2004-CV-2399 Jason Whatley v. Kimberly Swiggett	Judgment of \$5148.00 (Judgment expired)	01/10/05
2014-CV-1264 Whatley and Associates v. Timothy Frank Stewart	Judgment of \$4344.00	10/24/2014
2016-CV-255 Whatley and Associates v. Josh Gracin	Open (no service)	
<b><u>Cases filed in the Rutherford County General Sessions Court:</u></b>		
2002-CV-65370 Jason S. Whatley, Sr. v. Wendy Russell	Open (no service)	
Jason S. Whatley, Sr. v. Bobby Davis, Christopher Davis and Kathy Davis	Judgment of \$4747.25	07/15/2002

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.

**First Baptist Church of Columbia (“First Family”), member and Sunday School teacher;**

**Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, member, trustee and Chair of Bylaws Committee;**

**Maury County Election Commission, member;**

**Maury County Republican Party, member;**

**National Rifle Association, member (at various points);**

**Agathos Classical School of Columbia: I have held several positions at this school, where my five children attend, including especially coach of the Agathos Mock Trial team, along with my associate, Cory Ricci (August 2015 to present). I have also**

served as the Capital Campaign Committee Chairman (2013), a project coordinator for campus renovation (2014), and as a member of a building committee for the school's first permanent academic structure (2016-2017).

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, other than when I was a cub scout leader between approximately 2007 and 2012. The organization, at the time, was limited to boys. I am no longer associated with scouting.

#### 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 left membership in the Columbia Breakfast Rotary about ten (10) years ago in order to have more time assisting my wife with our five children. I have been a member of the Maury County Bar Association during this time, although held no title other than member. I have also been at times a member of the Tennessee Bar Association during the same period.

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.

Last year I was nominated by a regional publication as one of the best domestic attorneys in Tennessee. My biggest honor has been in the accomplishments of my mock trial students from Agathos Classical School of Columbia. Agathos is a school that just capped 200 students (pre-K through 12) for the first time this year. When the program started three years ago, there were about 20 students in the entire high school. That year and each of the three years of the program's history the students have one first or second place in their regional competition to qualify for the state competition in Nashville, sponsored by

the Tennessee Bar Association. For each of the last two years, the team's lead student counsel has one a top attorney award at the state level. In 2018, the team won the state championship and went on to remain undefeated through the season, ending ranked No. 3 in the country. The program, including myself, received special recognition via a proclamation from the City of Columbia this summer, naming July 12, 2018 as the "2018 Agathos Mock Trial Team Day."

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 other than being a member of the Maury County Election Commission for the last five years. That position was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee.

#### ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I am applying to become a judge because, first, I believe it is where my talents would be best suited. Second, my family, which includes my wife and five children, as well as friends and colleagues, have urged me to seek this position. It has been something that has been discussed with the aforementioned for at least a decade. Also, I strongly believe that the strength of our judiciary is critical to not only our local Judicial District, but collectively to the nation. There is a growing sense of callousness that one hears in the media and otherwise about the courts. This is concerning. The importance of keeping a strong, ethical, independent judiciary, one committed to protecting and upholding the Constitution of both Tennessee and the United States, and one which is respected by the public, is something for which I have a passion. For a person with five children, the importance of doing something to strengthen your community, to give back, becomes more focused as the years progress. Being part of protecting and upholding the office of Circuit Judge would certainly fulfill that desire in me to respond to that focus. Finally, it goes without saying that being selected for this position would be one of the greatest honors in the life of the candidate selected.

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 replace the Honorable Judge Robert L. Jones for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court. I have the experience necessary for the position, varied, covering most areas of practice that will be seen by the Court. I also believe I enjoy a very good relationship with all members of our Bar and that such will help in running the Court fairly and efficiently. I feel also that I have a very strong grasp of the Rules of Evidence and

courtroom procedure generally that will greatly assist in the job.

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)

**My paramount concern for any judge is to uphold the law. Without doubt I will uphold the law even if I disagree personally with its substance. I have used the following example to make this point to clients and students over the years: After a major felony trial in which my client was acquitted, I spoke to the jury afterwards. One juror, a woman, was crying. I asked her why. She said that she believed my client "did it" but that the State had not proven its case. I told her that she had done her duty. What I did not tell her is that I too believed that my client very well might have done the thing charged, but I also knew the government had failed to meet its burden. Of course, I had an ethical duty to him and would never breach that, but it reassured me in that moment that our system, as flawed as it may be, is still the best system in the world. In that instance, the juror clearly believed that my client had done something really wrong, but her desire to uphold the Constitution was her first concern. That is mine as well.**

**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 Judge Stella L. Hargrove; Circuit Court Judge, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, 14 Public Square, Columbia, TN 38401; [REDACTED]

B. The Honorable Judge David L. Allen; Circuit Court Judge, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, 200 Mahr Avenue, P.O. Box 369, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464; [REDACTED]

C. The Honorable George Clark Shifflett, III, The Shifflett Law Firm, PLLC, 704 S. Broadway, Suite 2, Portland, TN 37148; [REDACTED]

D. Dr. Mark Seago; Physician/friend; [REDACTED] Columbia, TN 38401; [REDACTED]

E. Ms. Kelley Rushford; Former Client [REDACTED] Spring Hill, TN 27174; [REDACTED]

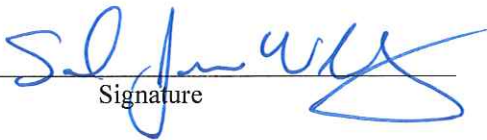
**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

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] Grand Court for 22nd Judicial 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: Aug 30, 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.

Samuel Jason Whatley  
Type or Print Name

Samuel Jason Whatley  
Signature

August 30, 2018  
Date

015646  
BPR #

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

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