

**Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission**

***Application for Nomination to Judicial Office***

04/15/16

Name: Wesley Mack Bryant

Office Address: 33 Public Square.

(including county)

Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee 38401

Office Phone: 931-398-5222

Facsimile: 931-398-5199

Email Address:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

(including county)

Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee 38401

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 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.

Parks, Bryant, & Snyder, PLLC  
Attorney/Managing Member

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

2002  
BPR# 022035

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.

Not Applicable

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).

Hardin, Parkes, Kelley, Carter, & Bryant PLLC (formerly Hardin & Parkes) from graduation from law school until 10/1/2014  
The Law Office of Wesley Mack Bryant from 10/1/2014 to 09/1/2016  
Parks, Bryant, & Snyder, PLLC from 09/1/2016 to present

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.

In my current practice, I focus on Domestic Relations/Family Law and Criminal Law. Approximately 60% of my time is devoted to Domestic Relations/Family Law and 30% of my time to Criminal Law. The remaining 10% of my time would be allocated among Collections, Landlord Tenant, Wills and Estates, and Breach of Contract disputes.

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 career I have practiced law in almost all areas of the law at the trial court and appellate court level. I have participated in jury trials on Insurance Defense cases, Plaintiff Personal Injury cases, Will Contests, Breaches of Contract, and Criminal cases as high as First Degree Murder. Additionally, I have participated in bench trials primarily in Domestic Relations/Family Law matters. I have participated in appellate practice, drafting briefs and/or appearing at oral arguments for both the criminal and civil appellate courts and have briefed and argued before the Tennessee Supreme Court.

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

Below are a list of cases of note that I believe also demonstrates the variety of cases I have handled during my legal practice.

**Trial Court/Appellate Civil: Hodge v Craig**, 382 S.W.3d 325 (Tenn. 2012). This case established the cause of action for paternity fraud in Tennessee. I assisted in the bench trial on this case, I prepared and argued this matter before the Tennessee Court of Appeals and I headed the research and preparation of the brief and assisted in oral arguments before the Tennessee Supreme Court. The brief on appeal submitted to the Tennessee Supreme Court researched on every State's position on the issue of paternity fraud.

**Appellate Civil: Hollis v Doerflinger**, 137 S.W.3d 625 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2003). An issue addressed in this decision established that prejudgment interest is not allowed on personal injury claims. I headed the preparation of the brief to the Court of Appeals in this matter. It was actually one of very first assignments Russ Parkes gave me at Hardin and Parkes; I had not taken the Bar, let alone passed it, thus my name is not included on the decision.

**Trial Court/Appellate Domestic: Rountree v Rountree**, 369 S.W.3d 122, (Tenn. Ct. App. 2012). I represented the Mother in the bench trial of this divorce. I also prepared the brief and argued before the Tennessee Court of Appeals on this matter. This case was decided at the trial level prior to the legislature's change of Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-6-106(a) adding "the court shall order a custody arrangement that permits both parents to enjoy the maximum participation

possible in the life of the child..." On appeal, the Court of Appeals determined for the first time that "maximum participation" means maximize time with the minor child for each parent.

**Trial Court Criminal: State v Norman**, Maury County Circuit No. 16988. I represented the Defendant on the charge of First Degree Murder where the instrument of death was an axe. The case, tried before a jury of 12, dealt with complicated issues concerning the admissibility of Defendant's statement, newly discovered evidence right before trial, and defense of another.

**Trial Court/Appellate Wills and Estates: Estate of Maple Foster Park**, Maury Chancery No. P-156-01, No. M2003-0064-COA-R3-CV. This was a will contest bench trial where I assisted in the representation of the contestants and where a home health caretaker was named as the sole beneficiary of a substantial estate. I headed the preparation of the brief on appeal to the Court of Appeals where then Judge William Koch, writing for the unanimous panel, stated that the facts were "among the clearest cases of undue influence that the members of this court have ever reviewed."

**Trial Court Civil: Hunt v Burns**, Humphreys Circuit Nos. 9223, 9227, and 9236. This was a multi-party automobile accident case where I represented the Defendant who had a sudden loss of consciousness due to a latent heart-condition. Claims were dismissed upon summary judgment.

**Trial Court Civil: Williams v Columbia Housing Authority**, Maury Circuit No. 05-289. I defended the local housing authority against a suit filed by the former director claiming race discrimination and retaliatory discharge. Case was dismissed upon summary judgment.

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

Authored a Comment **Solomon's New Sword: Tennessee Parenting Plan, The Roles of Attorneys, and the Care Perspective**, 70 Tenn. L. Rev 221 (2002).

Said Comment appears in the in the Tennessee Law Review's Symposium edition "The Ethics 2000 Commission: The Adversary System and the Lawyer-Client Relationship."

Organized the TBA District 11 Wills for Heroes Program, a pro bono clinic where we provided approximately 250 Last Wills and Testaments, Living Wills, and Powers of Attorney for Maury County first responders. I believe this was the highest number of participants in the state for over a year.

Organized a pro bono Wills Clinic for Columbia Cares (a not for profit organization serving indigent individuals in Southern Middle Tennessee who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS) where we provided Last Wills and Testaments, Living Wills, and Powers of Attorney for their clients.

Coached Columbia Central High Schools Mock Trial Teams (2002-2004, 2008)

Organized/directed the District 11 Mock Trial Competition (2005-2007)

In the First Degree Murder case of State v Quintana (Maury County Circuit Court), I was called by the District Attorney and qualified as an expert witness on Domestic Relations Law in Tennessee.

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.

**University of Mississippi**, 1995 to 1999 – Bachelor of Arts, major in History (minors in English, Latin and Philosophy)

**University of Tennessee College of Law**, 1999 to 2002 - Doctorate of Jurisprudence  
Tennessee Law Review, Student Materials Editor (2002)

Employed by the University of Tennessee as a Student Attorney where I would defend or prosecute students for violations of the student handbook pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

██████ 1977

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

Other than while attending the University of Mississippi, I have lived my entire life in Tennessee.

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

Other than while attending the University of Mississippi and the University of Tennessee College of Law, I have lived my entire life in Maury County.

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

Maury 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.

I was divorced pursuant to a Final Decree incorporating an Agreed Permanent Parenting Plan and Marital Dissolution Agreement on 01/07/2015, Bryant v Bryant, Maury County Chancery No. 14-493.

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.

Maury County Election Commission (Precinct Officer, 2014 to present)  
City of Columbia Planning Commission (Chairman, 2014 to present)  
Maury County Public Schools Redistricting Taskforce  
Maury County Public Library Board  
Kiwanis of Columbia (Board member 2004)  
Maury County Tennessee Achieves Advisory Board  
Tennessee Promise Mentor  
Columbia Soccer Association:  
    Coach (both recreational and travel)  
    Referee  
Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance:  
    Board of Directors (2014 and 2015)  
    Executive Committee (2014)  
    Chamber Council (2012, 2013, and 2014, Chairman 2014)  
    Education Taskforce (Chairman, 2014 and 2015)  
    Young Professionals Committee (Chairman, 2011, 2012, and 2013)

Public Affairs Committee (2017 and 2018)  
Non-profit Boards:  
Maury Regional Medical Center Foundation  
Amuse'um Children's Museum  
The First Family, First Baptist Church

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:  
Young Lawyers Division:  
Maury County Representative  
District 11 Representative  
Voter Registration Committee  
Tennessee Representative to the "Civics in the Classroom: Play by the Rules" Conference  
Leadership Law Tennessee class of 2008  
Leadership Law Alumni  
Young Lawyers Fellowship Board  
New Attorney Mentor Program  
Criminal Justice Section  
Family Law Section  
General –Solo-Small Firm Practitioners Section  
Juvenile and Children’s Law Section  
Maury County Bar Association:  
Young Lawyers Association (President, 2006)



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.

Tennessee Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division: Star Attorney of the Quarter, August 2008 (for Maury County Wills for Heroes event)  
2006 Daily Herald Best of the Best – Attorney

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 applied for Maury County General Sessions, Part I (Maury County Juvenile Court, Part I) in January of 2018. The position was open due to Judge George Lovell retiring in term with the position being filled by the Maury County Commission.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

As a life-long resident of Maury County I see this position as an opportunity to continue to serve my home community as well as the surrounding counties of the District in which I have primarily practiced and have come to feel as an extension of my home county.

I have good working relationships with the attorneys who routinely practice in the District and I believe my reputation among my colleagues is as an honest, knowledgeable, and fair-dealing adversary.

Finally, I have always considered the practice of law to be one of being in the community not just of the community. I consider it a duty of those who are part of the legal system to be pillars of the community who not only concern themselves with the issues that are before them but also should be concerned with the health, safety, and progress of the community at large.

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)

This judgeship is for both Circuit and Chancery Courts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District comprising Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties. There are four judges in this district that all handle both the Chancery and the Circuit dockets. In some of the counties, they also have Probate jurisdiction. Thus, this judgeship would preside over any state court action that could be filed in this district.

I believe my broad range of experience handling a variety of litigation (bench/jury trials,

appellate, as well as motion practice) during my career makes me uniquely situated to this position. I will be able to, on day one, handle any case that has been or will be filed in this district. Specifically, in the last few years I have focused my practice on Domestic Relations/Family Law and Criminal matters. Those cases comprise the vast majority of cases filed in the district.

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)

I will do my duty to uphold the law, even if I disagree with it.

I was once appointed as Attorney Ad Litem on an Adult Protective Services case. As the Attorney Ad Litem it was my duty to advocate for my client's position, as opposed to her best interest. My client had untreated (or at least poorly treated) diabetes and her legs had begun to clot and she had open sores on her feet and legs. Additionally, she lived in a roach-infested home and the roaches had begun to eat and lay eggs in the open wounds.

My client had been taken to the emergency room due to her condition and had been advised that her legs were in such a state she required amputation. She refused and Adult Protective Services petitioned for her to be declared incompetent and for the amputation surgery to be performed.

From the information I had received I knew that my client faced almost certain death without the surgery, and I did not want to enable her death. However, it was my duty to advocate for her position and I did so. I was able to convince the Judge that my client was not incompetent, but that she simply preferred no life, or at least was willing to risk her death, than a life without her legs.

**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. Judge J. Russel Parkes, Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, 14 Public Square, Columbia, TN 38401, [REDACTED]

B. Joe W. Henry, Jr., Attorney, Henry, Henry, & Underwood, PC, 119 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Pulaski, TN 38478, [REDACTED]

C. Judge David Allen, Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, 200 Mahr Avenue, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, [REDACTED]

D. Jim Barrier, Owner Smelter Service Corporation, [REDACTED] Mt. Pleasant, TN

38474, [REDACTED]

E. John K. Langsdon, Owner Columbia Machine Works, Inc., 1940 Oakland Parkway, Columbia, TN 38401, [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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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: 8/29/ \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

Wesley Mack Bryant  
Print Name

[Handwritten Signature]  
Signature

8/29/18  
Date

022035  
BPR #

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---