

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission

Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

04/15/16

Name: Adam T. Dodd

Office Address: 1710 South Church St., Suite 1, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Rutherford County

(including county)

Phone: 615-217-0061 Facsimile: 615-217-7130

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Home Address: [REDACTED] Murfreesboro, TN 37130, Rutherford County

(including county)

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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). 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, 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.

Juvenile Court Magistrate-Rutherford County, TN

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

1999-BPR#020051

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#020051, licensed October 22, 1999-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).

Juvenile Court Magistrate: Rutherford County, TN (9/2006 – Present) Full Time since Nov. 2012

Associate Attorney: Murfree, Cope, Hudson, & Scarlett (10/1999-02/2000)

Sole Practitioner: Adam T. Dodd, Attorney at Law (2/2000-11/2012)

City of Murfreesboro Board of Zoning Appeals: (7/2007 – 11/2012)

Middle Tennessee State University, Adjunct Professor, Department of Industrial Studies, Construction Law: (1/2004 -7/2008)

Heritage Land Title, LLC, Co-Owner: (5/2006 – 3/2008)

Advance Title Services, LLC, Co-Owner: (3/2008 – 5/2017)

Advance Title of Murfreesboro, Inc., Co-Owner: (5/2017 – Present)

Town of Eagleville, Attorney: (2/2008 – 5/2009)

Ascend Federal Credit Union, Real Estate Mortgage Originator: (11/1993 - 9/1996)

Murfree, Cope, Hudson, & Scarlett, Law Clerk/Title Searcher: (9/1996- 10/1999)

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.

Currently I serve as the full time Juvenile Court Magistrate for Rutherford County, Tennessee. I hear cases including: the IV-D child support docket, dependency and neglect, termination of parental rights, delinquent and unruly, temporary and final hearings on child custody and visitation cases, and surrender of parental rights. I am on-call for after hour determinations regarding detention of juveniles and removal of children by the Department of Children's Services. Additionally, I assist the Juvenile Court Judge with various administrative duties including, but not limited to: scheduling and maintaining dockets, liaison with various law enforcement departments to assist with issues involving juveniles, liaison with various county departments to address budgetary and other necessary administrative issues involving Juvenile Court and revising the local rules of practice for Juvenile Court.

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 practice I appeared regularly in all courts to include: General Sessions-civil and criminal, Probate Court, Juvenile Court, Circuit Court-civil and criminal, and Chancery Court. I represented clients in areas of criminal defense practice, general civil litigation primarily involving business and real estate matters, and domestic litigation. I appeared before the Probate Court as Attorney for the Estate, Guardian for incompetent beneficiaries or the proposed ward, and as Court-appointed Administrator. I regularly appeared before the Bankruptcy Court as part of my bankruptcy practice representing debtors. I have conducted thousands of real estate

closings representing lenders, buyers, and sellers. I have represented business entities and individuals in various transactions involving the establishment, sale, and purchase of businesses and professional ventures. I appeared before governmental bodies on issues of zoning.

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

None

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

The following rulings were issued by me and subsequently appealed to the Court of Appeals of Tennessee at Nashville. All were upheld by the Court of Appeals.

1. In Re: Emily M.-No. M2015-01017-COA-R3-JV (Modification of Parenting Plan)
2. In Re: Jeramyah H., et al.-No.M2016-00141-COA-R3-PT (Termination of Parental Rights)
3. In Re: Jordin M.-No. M2013-02275-COA-R3-JV (Modification of Parenting Plan)

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.

Middle Tennessee State University (8/1987 – 8/1992), Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Technology

Nashville School of Law (8/1993 – 6/1999), Doctorate of Jurisprudence

[Redacted]

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

[Redacted] 1966

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

29 years

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

29 years

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

Rutherford 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.

Tennessee Air National Guard, 118 CAMS, Berry Field Nashville TN (2/1988 – 2/1994), Avionics Guidance and Control Technician on C-130 A & H models. Active duty for training from 6/1988 -6/1989. Various other periods of active duty for training and deployment including NCO preparation course and operational deployments to Panama (Volant Oak), Germany (Provide Promise), and England. Honorably discharged February 5, 1994 at the rank of Staff Sergeant (E5).

During my service I was awarded the following decorations, medals, commendations, or ribbons:

Air Force Achievement Medal, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, and Tennessee Service Ribbon.

[Empty box]

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.

Yes. Karen L. Dodd v. Adam T. Dodd, Chancery Court for Bedford County, TN-Case No. 31252, Divorce granted with Final Order July 2016.

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.

Volunteer coach for Murfreesboro Soccer Club and Murfreesboro Kiwanis girls softball.

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.

Rutherford and Cannon County Bar Association (2000-present)

Andrew Jackson American Inns of Court (2008 – present)

Tennessee Bar Association (2000-2017)

Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2006 – 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.

None

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.

Rutherford County Juvenile Court Magistrate, (9/2006 – Current) Appointed

City of Murfreesboro Board of Zoning Appeals, (7/2007 – 11/2012) Appointed

Town of Eagleville Attorney, (2/2008 – 5/2009) Appointed

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I seek this position to fully utilize my professional, educational, and personal experiences to be of service to the people of the Sixteenth Judicial District. It has been my privilege to serve the people of Rutherford County as Juvenile Court Magistrate. I feel that the experience gained in my current position along with my other professional experience will provide me with a unique opportunity to be fully prepared to take the Circuit Court bench and be of service from day one. The Circuit Court position will provide me an opportunity to engage in subject matter across multiple areas of the law in which I have experience while still being able to utilize my knowledge and experience gained as Juvenile Court Magistrate.

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 position is a new appointment to the Circuit Court bench for the Sixteenth Judicial District. The district covers all of Rutherford and Cannon Counties. The district currently has four Circuit Court Judges and the Chancellor. This position will be the fifth Circuit Court Judgeship. Being a Court of general jurisdiction, the Circuit Court presides over criminal court, domestic litigation, and general civil litigation of all types. I am not aware if the Presiding Judge has assigned a specific docket or area of law to this new position, but I am fully prepared to preside over all manner of cases under the Court's jurisdiction. I believe my experience on the Juvenile Court bench and diverse legal background will allow the Presiding Judge to utilize me immediately to assist the Court in expediting the hearing of dockets in a timely manner.

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)

As Juvenile Court Magistrate I regularly hear parentage cases as part of a child support action or as part of a request for parenting time. The initial question in these cases involving children born out of wedlock is to determine the child's father. Often times, there has been a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity (VAP) pursuant to T.C.A. § 24-7-113. The statutory provisions contained therein state that the acknowledgment is conclusive as to the issue of parentage unless a party brings an action to set aside the VAP. The burden is on the petitioner to prove fraud, material mistake of fact, or duress. After five years, the only ground for setting aside the VAP is fraud by the mother in the inducement of the signature by the purported father. Under the statute, these findings are required before a court can order DNA testing. This statutory mechanism leads to results that are often not reflective of a child's actual biological father being determined to be the legal father thus placing the determination of who is a child's legal father on the VAP and not in the science of DNA testing. Despite my misgivings about the soundness of reasoning behind the statute, I have, on many occasions and will continue to, enforce these statutory provisions as dictated by the 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. Donna Davenport, Juvenile Court Judge Rutherford County,	
B. Robert Calloway (Cal) Renegar, Partner-Bradley, Arant, Boulton, Cummings	
C. Josh McCreary, Partner- Hudson, Reed & McCreary, PLLC	
D. Chris Tynes, Manager-MFA Propane,	
E. Sean Kelley, Plant Manager-Bridgestone North America,	


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 16th Judicial Dist 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: July 6, 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.

Adam T. Dodd
Type or Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

7/6/18
Date

020051
BPR #

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