


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


04/15/16


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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.

Rutherford County General Sessions Judge, Part IV

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

I was admitted to practice law in 1992 and my Board of Professional Responsibility number is 15436.

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 is the only state I have been licensed to practice law. I was licensed to practice law in 1992 and my license is currently 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).

I obtained my Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee in 1992.

Kious, Hall & Anglin- an Association of Attorneys, Murfreesboro TN, 1992-1997—Associate attorney

Lisa A. Eischeid -Solo Practitioner, 1997-2000

Rogers and Eischeid, Association of Attorneys, 2001-2004

Eischeid Law Office, 2004 to 2016. I opened my own law firm and had several associates that worked for my office.

Rutherford County General Sessions Judge, Part IV- September 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.

I am currently the General Sessions Judge for Rutherford County. My docket consists of 85% criminal offenses, with the remainder consisting of Tennessee State Trooper Citations, civil asset forfeiture and serving as the Judge over the DUI Recovery 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.

After I graduated from law school in 1992, I began working with Kious, Hall and Anglin in October. I worked as an associate attorney and had a general practice wherein I performed various jobs including conducting real property title searches; real estate closings; litigating civil and criminal defense cases; small claims collections; sexual harassment claims; representing business owners in the purchasing and sale of businesses; corporate work; plaintiff personal injury/workers compensation cases; and domestic relations/family law.

In 1997, I opened my solo practice and continued to build a client base consisting of all matters pertinent to the general practice of law. I continued practicing business law; labor issues; domestic relations/family law practice; criminal defense; and plaintiff personal injury/ workers compensation cases.

In 2001, I associated with now Judge J. Mark Rogers. I continued with the same general practice of law, but began concentrating more on domestic relations/family law practice; criminal defense; estate planning and probate cases; and plaintiff's personal injury cases.

When Judge Rogers took the bench in 2004, I opened my own law firm, Eischeid Law Office. I had several associates working for/with me during this time period until I became the General Sessions Judge. I continued my general practice of law and mainly represented clients on domestic relations issues, criminal defense cases, estate/probate matters and a small amount of personal injury. In 2011 I became a certified family law mediator. I really enjoyed serving as a mediator and helping people settle their cases prior to having to go to trial. I conducted hundreds of mediations.

In August of 2016 I won a county-wide contested election and on September 1, 2016 took the bench on the Rutherford County General Sessions Court, Part IV. This was a new judicial position created by our county. This experience has included holding court five (5) days a week and for the first 16 months I started a jail docket in the jail wherein I saw Defendants that were arrested the night before court along with any incarcerated defendant that had pending General Sessions cases. Once Judge Ben Bennett was appointed, I moved to the Courthouse and Judge Bennett continued the jail docket. My schedule includes the following: Monday - Violation of Probation, criminal docket and specially set preliminary hearings; Tuesday - Criminal docket and DUI recovery Court docket; Wednesday - Criminal docket, DUI docket and jail docket; Thursday - Criminal Docket, DUI docket and jail docket; Friday - Tennessee Highway Patrol docket, violation docket, and criminal docket.

Serving as a Judge has given me perspective from the bench on how to run a docket. I also make a point to treat each attorney and litigant with respect.

While in the private practice of law I appeared in every court in the 16th judicial district; the United States District Courts for the Middle Districts of Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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

Later in my practice I primarily focused on Domestic Relations cases. I tried hundreds of divorce, child custody and child support cases. I also represented criminal Defendants. This type of practice did not lead to many break through cases of special note. As one knows, in domestic relations cases there is never truly a winner.

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

Once I became the new General Sessions Judge, I was asked by the Rutherford County Mayor and Deputy Mayor to oversee the creation of a Pre-Trial Risk Assessment Program. Our Judicial Commissioners were charged with conducting the initial interviews and each one of them had to be trained with the Ohio Risk Assessment Tool to learn how to properly interview each qualified Defendant and determine if he/she would be released pursuant to the Pre-Trial Assessment. This program is still in the development stage as the county has just hired two people to serve as the Pre Trial Counselors. Rutherford County is trying to keep the jail numbers down by allowing those Defendants to be released without bail but still subject to reporting prior to their hearing.

I also really enjoyed being a Certified Family Law Mediator and prior to running for judge, I was trying to move my practice into full time mediation. I was highly successful in settling many contested divorce and child custody cases during the mediation process. In many instances,, I was able to advise the litigants, through my own personal experience of trying numerous cases, how the Judge they would be in front of might most likely rule. I really enjoyed being able to share my experience and wisdom with them because it kept the parties from continued litigation, allowing them to amicably reach their own agreement instead of having a judge determine their fate.

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

This is the first time I have submitted an application for a judicial position.

### EDUCATION

11. List each college, law school, and other graduate school which you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded, major, any form of recognition or other aspects of your education you believe are relevant, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree was awarded.

I attended Middle Tennessee State University from 1984 to 1988 and received my Bachelor of Business Administration with minors in Chemistry and Biology.

I attended the University of Tennessee College of Law Fall of 1989 and graduated May of 1992 and received my Doctor of Jurisprudence.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

██████████ 1966

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

My family moved to Murfreesboro, Rutherford County TN in 1978 and I have lived in Tennessee since that time except when I spent a summer in Washington D.C. and did a summer clerkship in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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

See above- since 1978

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.

Not Applicable

17. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance other than minor traffic offenses? If so, state the approximate date, charge and disposition of the case.

I plead guilty to Reckless Driving in 1990.

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.

I have had four (4) formal complaints filed against me with the Board of Professional Responsibility to which I have had to respond. All the complaints were dismissed after the investigations.

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.

Lisa A. Eischeid vs. Mark Kropczynski et.al. Rutherford County Chancery Court, Case No.09 CV 49679. I personally sued this man on June 5, 2009 for stealing a transmission out of my 1967 Cadillac DeVille. I ended up dismissing it after several other citizens filed suit and he was ultimately prosecuted criminally.

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.

Lions Club- Murfreesboro Downtown Barristers Chapter

2016- present member

2017/2018 president

Middle Tennessee Legal Association for Women

2017 Charter Member

2017- present Board Member

I have also been involved with a newly established organization called Rutherford County Community Care. Our Deputy Mayor, Jeff Davidson, established this Organization in the hope of uniting all the non-profit Organizations in Rutherford County to meet quarterly and discuss the recidivism of inmates and how to break habitual cycles of incarceration. Since I was the Judge at the jail it was easy to determine why the inmates continued the cycle and it was mainly due to alcohol and drug abuse and mental illness. This led to stealing and even homelessness. We have had over 40 nonprofits appear at this meeting to continue in a group effort to come up with solutions to these ongoing problems.

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.

Not Applicable

c.

*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 County/Cannon County Bar Association 1996 to present  
Tennessee Bar Association- August 1999-2011; 2012-present  
Tennessee Trial Lawyer Association- 2002-2006  
Andrew Jackson American Inns of Court-2003, 2015-Present  
Middle Tennessee Legal Association of Women - 2017- Present -Charter Member, 2017 Board Member, 2018 Board Member  
Murfreesboro Downtown Barristers Lions Club 2016- present, 2017 President—As president I had to organize speakers each month for our meeting.  
Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference 2016- 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.

In 2007 I was nominated as a top Women in Business for my law office -Eischeid Law Office  
In 2017 I was nominated by Rutherford County Government for the Athena Award

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 General Sessions Judge Part IV

Elected August 2016

Took Office September 1, 2016

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

Two years ago I ran for the newly created Rutherford County General Session Judge Part IV. I became interested in this seat since it was a new position and was not already held by a sitting Judge. Once the announcement was made that the 16th Judicial District would be receiving a new Circuit Judgeship I became very interested. As a practicing attorney, I tried thousands of cases in the 16th Judicial District Circuit and Chancery Courts. I feel that we have a great Judicial bar and enjoyed appearing in all of the Courts. Although I enjoy my current position, it has limited my ability to use the skills and experience I have developed as a civil trial court litigator. My current position limits my ability to hear many attorneys argue the law and rarely do they need to present a case to bolster their position. I do not get to use my critical thinking skills as much in considering objections and ruling on them since the defense attorneys use most of the hearings as a discovery tool. Furthermore, I believe that I have a very good demeanor on the bench. In my courtroom, I have created an atmosphere where people feel heard and not dismissed. I listen to those before me present their cases with understanding, allowing them to be a bit more relaxed in a very intimidating arena. I have also tried to help young attorneys and give them encouragement when they have come to my chambers with questions (excluding current cases). Early in my career, I would meet with a Circuit Judge to gain advice. I always appreciated and learned from the wisdom and constructive criticism I received. I know this time spent gleaning from a judge's input and advice, along with my numerous years of litigation experience helped me to become a more competent, confident and capable attorney. As a Circuit Judge, I would also love the opportunity to share my years of experience and wisdom gained on complex issues with today's young attorneys.

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 the position of the Fifth Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District, which covers Rutherford and Cannon Counties. Rutherford County is growing and unfortunately with the growth, also comes the need for more litigation. The creation of this new position would enable me to be able to step right in and help with our crowded dockets. Additionally, I am a team player and would work well with my fellow judges to assist them in anyway. I have been this way since being sworn in as a General Sessions Judge and would carry this attitude up to the Circuit Court. My impact will also be felt on a different note since the 16th Judicial District has never had a female Circuit Judge. Allowing a female to take this position will diversify the bench in a positive way.

30. Will you uphold the law even if you disagree with the substance of the law (e.g., statute or rule) at issue? Give an example from your experience as a licensed attorney that supports your response to this question. (250 words or less)

Yes, I will absolutely uphold the laws enacted by our General Assembly. I feel it is a judge's position to apply the law as written and not legislate from the bench and I have upheld the law while serving on the General Sessions Bench.

As a practicing attorney, one section of laws that I did not agree with concerned Grandparents Rights. I tried a case in Juvenile Court where my clients had raised their granddaughter for 9 years while the parent (their daughter), used drugs and only saw her child when she felt like it. When the Grandparents tried to obtain temporary custody to be able to place the child on health insurance, the Mother decided she wanted to step up and since she had "superior rights" she was able to succeed. The Grandparents then wanted to obtain visitation with the grandchild since the mother was keeping her from them. The Grandparents were successful in this endeavor since it was obvious to the Court that the Mother's denial was hurting the child. In other Grandparent visitation cases the laws have not been as good. I have had to counsel lots of grandparents about visitation and ultimately tell them it is a hard process and if they cannot prove the parent is denying them visitation they will not win based on the current status of the law. Although, I did not agree with this part of the statute, but felt it was my duty to advise them on the current status of the law and not let them waste their time, energy and money.

#### 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. Jeff Davidson, Deputy Mayor of Rutherford County,

County Courthouse, One Public Square, Room 101, Murfreesboro, Tennessee [REDACTED]

B. Ben Hall McFarlin, Rutherford County General Sessions Judge, Part I

20 Public Square, Room 104, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130 [REDACTED]

C. Lea Anne Bedsole, 419 Bellwood Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. [REDACTED]

D. William C. Kimbro, President Kimbro Oil, 231 Jones Pkwy, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 [REDACTED]

E. Mark Pirtle, 3018 North Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129 [REDACTED]

32.

**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 **Fifth Circuit Court, 16th 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: July 8, 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.

Lisa A Eischeid  
Type or Print Name

  
Signature

7/8/2018  
Date

15436  
BPR #

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