

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

1/17/23

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gregory D. Smith \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Microsoft Word 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 Microsoft Word form and respond directly on the form. Respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the document.) Review the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Your complete application, including both the original and digital copies, must be received by the Administrative Office of the Courts on or before the deadline prescribed in the Notice of Vacancy. See section 1(g) of the application instructions for additional information related to hand-delivery of application packages.

THIS APPLICATION IS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER YOU SUBMIT IT.

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

Solo Practice – Attorney, August 1993 to date. (Practiced law in Montgomery County, TN, 1988 to date).

Part-time Municipal Judge – Pleasant View, TN, November 1997 to date.

Part-time Tribal Appellate Court Judge – 6 different Native American Nations (AZ, CA, NY/Canada, OK, NE and WI), November 2015 to date (various start dates).

Part-time Appellate Judge – U.S. Department of the Interior’s Court of Indian Appeals, May 2019 to date.

Part-time Law Professor (Online) – Lincoln Memorial University – School of Law, Knoxville, TN, June 2022 to date.

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

Tennessee, October 1988; TN BPR #013420, active.

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, TN BPR #013420.

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).

Attorney, 35 years; Municipal Judge, 25 years; Native American Appellate Judge, 8 years;

Faculty, National Judicial College, 9 years; Law Professor, 1-2 years.

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.

**General Practice.** 40% criminal law; 40% family law/juvenile; 15% appeals (primarily criminal and family law), 5% other. I also act as an appellate justice on 6 tribal appellate courts of appeals and the U.S. Department of the Interiors' Court of Indian Appeals. I teach Federal Indian Law once a year for the Lincoln Memorial School of Law.

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.

**I am A/V rated by Martindale-Hubbell and have been included in Mid-South Super Lawyers the last five years. {4 = Family Law. 1 = Appeals}. I received a blind survey client satisfaction award from Lawyers.com in 2018. I have been consistently in Who's Who in American Law since the early 1990s and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from Who's Who in 2021. I was recently named the 2023 Tennessee Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year by Legal Elite.**

**Criminal Law** = approximately 100 jury trials over 35 years, ranging from First Degree Murder, to drugs, to sex offenses, to misdemeanors. My normal caseload includes approximately 20 active criminal cases at any one point. I regularly get appointments for post-conviction matters and criminal appeals. I regularly appear in the Circuit Court in Montgomery and Robertson Counties. I regularly appear in the Montgomery County General Sessions Court and occasionally in the Robertson County General Sessions Court. I also have experience in multiple federal criminal jury trials as I was on the federal appointment panel for 25 years. I also have extensive experience in the U.S. Magistrate Court at Ft. Campbell.

**Civil Law** = thousands of cases, primarily in family law, most in either Montgomery or Robertson Counties. These cases are usually in the Circuit or Chancery courts, but sometimes in General Sessions Court.

**Juvenile Law** = thousands of cases, most heard in Montgomery County. I currently handle juvenile traffic matters as a municipal judge in Pleasant View, TN, (Cheatham County), through an agreement with the Cheatham County Juvenile Court. I served as a part-time Juvenile Court Referee for Montgomery County Juvenile Court from 1990-1995+/-, but only appeared when the regular judges both had a conflict. In 2021+/- I was appointed as Special Master by the Montgomery County Juvenile Court to handle the procedural matters of an especially contentious case.

**Appeals** = between 500-1,000 appeals in multiple state and federal appeals courts. Most of the appeals were in the Tennessee appellate system with approximately 70% being criminal or

family/juvenile matters. I have approximately 75 published opinions in state or federal reporters. As a tribal appellate judge, I have authored over 100 appellate opinions, about half on criminal cases.

**Military Cases** = I have handled courts-marital jury trials, military boards, and appeals (both active duty and VA issues).

**Tribal** = I serve on six (6) Native American tribal supreme courts (in six different states) and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Court of Indian Appeals (Miami Agency), which handles appeals for tribes in multiple states. I currently serve as Chief Justice for two (2) tribes and Chief Judge for the Court of Indian Appeals. I was Chief Justice of the Pawnee Nation Supreme Court during COVID and had to set rules for continuing court and how to conduct Zoom hearings during COVID. I have sat as a tribal trial judge in Florida and as a special public defender for several cases in the Rocky Mountains.

**Administrative** = I was a member of the old Tennessee Court of the Judiciary from 2005-2009, appointed by Chief Justice Drowota. I was a hearing officer for the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility from 1996-2002+/- . I serve as the attorney for the Clarksville-Montgomery County Regional Airport Authority (for over 25 years). I have also served a couple times as special County Attorney for conflict situations at the appointment of the two most recent Montgomery County Mayors. One interesting administrative case I won was an extremely rare Montgomery County Coroner's Inquest jury trials under Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-5-101 *et seq.* (A Coroner's Inquest jury consists of seven jurors and is presided over by a General Sessions Court judge).

**Municipal** = 25+ years as a municipal judge. During those years, I have served as state president for the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference twice, (2002-2004 and 2018-2020). In approximately 2014, I drafted the petition to the Tennessee Supreme Court on behalf of the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference that allowed part-time municipal judges to seek Rule 31 mediator status. Justice Koch was the Supreme Court contact for that rule change. I was state president of the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference during COVID and had to help establish rules for hearing cases during the pandemic.

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

**Expert Testimony:** I have been hired to testify in circuit courts as an expert in criminal procedure in several cases over the years. The two best known attorneys to hire me as an expert on separate criminal cases are David L. Raybin (a couple of times) and Jerry Scott (former Chief Judge of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals), after he retired from the bench. I am currently under subpoena from the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to testify as an expert on Native American tribal courts and criminal procedure regarding alleged Native Americans facing DUI in a pending General Sessions criminal case where tribal sovereignty over crimes charged against Native Americans is at issue. I also testified as an expert for the Tennessee Legislature on municipal courts in 2003 as the Legislature considered the Tennessee

Municipal Court Reform Act of 2004.

Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference **Judge of the Year**, (Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee Award), 2017.

Drafted a position paper on establishing due process courts for the Ukraine Parliament at the request of the National Judicial College and USAid.com in March 2023.

**TBA Pro Bono Attorney of the Year**, (Harris Gilbert Award), 2001.

**State v. Howington**, 907 S.W.3d 403 (Tenn. 1995), established the rule that district attorneys must honor contracted promises with a defendant if the state gets the benefit of their bargain in a plea agreement.

**Hopkins v. Hopkins**, 152 S.W.3d 447 (Tenn. 2004), established the rule that only a primary residential parent should receive child support and eventually led to today's permanent parenting plan concept.

**National Judicial College (NJC) Faculty**, 2015-date, teaching Judicial Ethics and Hearsay mainly. The faculty for the NJC, approximately 400 judges from across the United States per year, are hand-picked for this honor and student evaluations determine which presenters continue in this *pro bono* service. In 2023, I was one of nine (9) judges from across the United State requested by the NJC and USAid.com to write advisory papers to the Parliament of Ukraine on setting up a new court system for the Ukraine judiciary. The nine judges addressed three areas – appellate, general jurisdiction, and small claims, I was on the of the three judges that wrote on small claims, using the Tennessee General Sessions Courts as my blueprint. That paper, prepared in March 2023, was accepted for publication in the Lincoln Memorial University Law Review in late May 2023. This accomplishment was/is featured on the Tennessee Administrative Office of Courts website under the area of Municipal Courts. In 2020, I presented an international webcast at the request of the NJC entitled "Ethics for Judges During a Pandemic." Approximately 500 judges from all parts of the world (4 different continents) tuned into that presentation. In 2022, I presented another international webcast at the request of the NJC entitled "Hearsay Exceptions," which was attended by over 300 judges from 4 different continents. The normal classes I teach are online and generally include approximately 20 judges. Judges from all over the U.S., (and often from island judiciaries), attend those classes, which occur several times a year.

**Mid-South Super Lawyers.** I've been listed in Mid-South Super Lawyers for the past five (5) years. Four (4) times in the category of Family Law and once in the category of Appeals.

**Legal Elite.** I was selected as the top criminal defense attorney in Tennessee in May 2023.

**Who's Who in American Law.** Listed in multiple decades. (Regularly since the 1990s. Listed as a Lifetime Legacy Award Winner in 2021).

**Martindale-Hubbell A/V Rating.**

**Lawyers.com Client Satisfaction Award, 2018.**

**TMJC Municipal Judges Conference Benchbook** author. (2 editions). The Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference, through the Tennessee Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), hired me to draft a Benchbook for Tennessee's 300+/- municipal judges. The first edition was authored in 2013 and the second in 2022. The first edition of my book was cited by the Harvard Law Review in 2021 (134 Harv. L. Rev. 964, 1054 n.565).

**Tennessee Judicial Ethics Opinions Handbook** compiler. In 2012+/-, Chief Justice Connie Clark appointed me as a member of a Blue-Ribbon committee of judges to review the (then Proposed) Code of Judicial Conduct. As part of this process, I compiled and indexed all Tennessee Judicial Ethics opinions from 1984 through 2012. The book was available to all Tennessee judges through the AOC.

**Law School Presentation Invitations.** I have presented to law classes at Vanderbilt (2022), William & Mary (2018), Tulsa (2016) and Tennessee (1993). I am set to present at the University of Nebraska School of Law in Mid-June, 2023.

**Associate General Counsel for the Tennessee Bar Association** in the early 2000s.

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

Three (3) points apply here. First, I have learned through my tribal work what it feels like to be the minority in a room. Second, I was recently asked to give the funeral service for a criminal court former client that had overdosed on poison-laced heroin. The deceased's parents had been in a Sunday School class I've taught for years. It reminded me that there are no "small" cases and people on all sides of a lawsuit have hurting and concerned families. The trust of conducting that funeral, years after representing the deceased during his life, was one of the biggest honors of my life. If I had not shown respect to the deceased, the parents would not have asked me to officiate the funeral. The need to treat all litigants with dignity is paramount! A judge needs to know this fact. As stated by one of my judicial mentors, "The job doesn't pay enough to be a jerk." The third point is that through extensive appellate work, I have learned how to attack a trial court record. That same experience has hopefully taught me how, as a judge, to produce a clean and defensible appellate record.

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

2014, Court of Criminal Appeals opening. I did not make the panel of three.

2020, Circuit Court, Montgomery County. I did not make the panel of three.

**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.

Law School – Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, J.D., 1985-1988. (Outstanding TN graduate, 1988, “Chief Justice A.B. Neil Award” and 3 scholarships).

Undergraduate – Middle TN State U., B.S., Political Science, 1981-1985. (Outstanding Senior, 1985; Outstanding Young Alumnus, 1999, Who’s Who In American Colleges and Universities, academic work scholarship).

National Judicial College, U. of Nevada-Reno, 2011-2022. Multiple judicial certifications in different years. (Special Courts, Tribal Courts, Appellate Courts, & TN Municipal Courts). Each certificate required about 40 credit hours. I am completing a Judicial Leadership Certification that has about 10 credit hours left.

Executive Non-Profit Leadership – Harvard University, 2017-2020. This certification required about 30 credit hours.

Native American Studies Graduate Certification – Montana State U., 2015-2017. This certification required about 40 credit hours. I graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

60, ████████ 1963

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

60 years (3 during law school co-residing in Birmingham, AL, but always a TN resident), 1963-1981, Knoxville, TN. 1981-1985 (college), Murfreesboro, TN. 1985-1988 (law school), Birmingham, AL. 1988-date, Clarksville, TN.

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

35 years – Montgomery County, TN.

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

Montgomery County, TN

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

18. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No.

19. Please identify the number of formal complaints you have responded to that were filed against you with any supervisory authority, including but not limited to a court, a board of professional responsibility, or a board of judicial conduct, alleging any breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by you. Please provide any relevant details on any such complaint if the complaint was not dismissed by the court or board receiving the complaint. You may wish to request a report from the appropriate supervisory authority (or authorities) for a complete history.

Over 35 years, I have had disciplinary complaints. I do not know a specific number, approximately 10. I have never been publicly disciplined as a lawyer. I have never had a judicial complaint. The two highest areas of attorney disciplinary complaints are domestic/family and criminal. These two high stress/high emotion areas are the chief cases of my practice. I have never had any public discipline, but I have had two private admonitions. One around 1993 for giving improper advice regarding a General Sessions Court case that a client may consider transferring property out of his joint name into his wife's name solely shortly prior to a judgment being taken. The bad advice was given pursuant to previous directions from older attorneys. This mistake was quickly corrected, and similar advice has not been offered since. The second was losing track of a transient client who didn't provide updated contact information when he moved away from Clarksville, and a judgment was taken against him when I could not produce



a client for court. I do not think I've had a disciplinary complaint in over five years. During that time, I have an AV Martindale-Hubbell rating, am included in Mid-South Super Lawyers, and received a client satisfaction award from Lawyers.com.

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.

In 2019 to 2020, I was sued in my official capacity as Chief Justice of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Supreme Court, by a litigant in a de facto habeas corpus capacity. All of the NHBP Supreme Court and the Tribal Court were included in the lawsuit, but only the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court was actually named by the Plaintiff. I was never personally served or participated in the case. The matter was dismissed by both the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit, who praised the NHBP Supreme Court's ruling and work ethic in a published opinion. See Spurr v. Pope, 936 F.3d 478, 487 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2019), cert. denied 140 S. Ct. 850 (2020).

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.

Sunday School Teacher, First Church of the Nazarene for over 30 years +/- . Church Board President (2013-2019). Pro bono church legal counsel (1994-date).

I host a "cost only" two-day (15 hour) CLE seminar on behalf of Radical Missions/Warm Souls. This religious-based organization feeds and clothes the homeless and needy at Christmas. The

CLE costs \$40.00 and includes four (4) meals (breakfast/lunch) for attendees and a chance to donate to the Christmas Eve event. We usually have about 150 attorneys attend and generally raise between \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the needy after expenses and CLE reporting fees are paid. Other than costs, all money raised is immediately donated for the needy. We have done this project for over 10 years. It happens the week before Christmas. This project is strictly and completely *pro bono*, including the courthouse donating the meeting space and local caterers/restaurants donating most of the food. I also work the actual dinner/event on Christmas Eve and we average 1,000-1,500 guests per year. The event is free to the needy and homeless. I also provide *pro bono* legal representation and advice to charities such as Hope Pregnancy Center and Manna Café. I also work *pro bono* with a small group of high school students seeking guidance for college scholarships. These students, referred to as “My Kids,” are around six students per year. In 2022, I attended the West Point graduation of one of “My Kids” as an all-expense-paid guest of the young man’s parents. Between 2012 – 2016, I hosted a middle school baseball “Pink Game” raising funds and awareness for Breast Cancer research. As with the Warm Souls event, all funds after expenses were completely given to charity.

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. Native American tribal nations, due to their political status, may exercise “Indian preference” in hiring. *See, Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535, 553-555 (1974). Since I am not a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, this point actually works against me in hiring.

### 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.

TMJC – Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference. 2002-date. Past President. Working with the NJC and the AOC, I ushered in the Tennessee Municipal Courts Certification through the National Judicial College. This certification took five (5) years to complete and last November, approximately 40 judges earned this certification.

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.

Featured in an article the ABA Journal, 2021.

Legal Elite's Tennessee Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year, 2023.

Tennessee Bar Association.

The National Trial Lawyers "Top 100 Lawyers" (Criminal Law), 2015, 2016 & 2023.

Alliance Defending Freedom International Masters of Appeals Championship (3<sup>rd</sup> place). This was an invitation only competition of 32 attorneys (teams of 2) from across the U.S. and Canada that present religious rights appeals. The competition was hosted by the legal arm of Focus on the Family.

TN Gov. Highway Safety Office Lifesaver Award for my work in TMJC, 2008.

Outstanding Young Alumnus – MTSU, 1999.

Outstanding Young Mean of America, various years.

Parade Grand Marshall for Nicole Kidman Movie "Holland, Michigan," 2023.

Parade Judge for Pleasant View Christmas Parade, 2005-date.

Speaker to students at Pleasant View Middle School, and other schools, on legal issues, (recurring).

Perform weddings for former Sunday School students or My Kids, (recurring).

Lawyers of Distinction (Appeals), 2018.

Spoke at the United Nations, representing the TBA/TLD, on Juvenile Drug Prevention, 1994.

Spoke at the ABA Mid-Year Meeting on Civil Procedure, 1995.

ABA/YLD National Chair, Juvenile Justice, 1991-1993.

ABA/YLD National Vice Chair, Litigation Committee (Appeals), 1994.

Tabernacle Christian School Founder's Award, 2011.

Leadership Clarksville, Class of 1993.

A criminal case I was the attorney in that produced a humorous exchange during my cross-examination was referenced in a law review in the Georgetown Law Journal. 83 Geo. L.J. 2271,

2326 (1995).

I've presented at over 100 CLEs over the years. The main topics were Criminal Law, Family Law, Appellate Law, Post-Conviction/Habeas Corpus, Juvenile, Ethics, and Tribal.

Authored approximately 30 law reviews between 1988-2023.

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.

All appointed positions. Municipal judge, 1997 to date. Trial appellate judge (multiple tribal nations), 2015 to date. Judge for TN Court of the Judiciary, 2004-2009. Chief Judge, U.S. Department of the Interior's Court of Indian Offenses, 2017-date. Juvenile Court Referee, 1990-1995 +/-, Montgomery County, TN. Municipal Magistrate, Birmingham, AL, 1986-1988.

#### ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I believe I can serve my community with a fair and just judicial demeanor and an abundance of judicial experience. Instead of facing a significant learning curve for either Tennessee family or criminal law or how to act on the bench, I offer those traits from day one. I believe a judge must have considerable experience and provide all litigations, be they millionaire, pauper, or the state, with a fair and impartial hearing. I am ready to do just that. My appellate experience lends an eye to producing a clean trial record because I have focused on appellate technical records for three decades. The experience of finding appellate errors as an attorney should tend to help avoiding appellate errors as a judge.

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)

Circuit Court, Montgomery/Robertson County, TN (19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit). The new judgeship is being created to address the population explosion the Clarksville/Springfield area has seen over the past decade. My experience will allow me to address issues quickly and efficiently as soon as the appointment occurs. I can move a docket along and know the importance of starting court on time. In over 25 years of being a municipal judge in a courthouse 20 miles from my office, with a single exception, I have not started court over two (2) minutes late. I am usually ready an hour before court, signing outstanding orders while I wait for court to start.

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 regularly do. I do not like how the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Act (Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 55-12-139(e)(2) denies traffic judges of the discretion to dismiss citations for failure to have automobile insurance when the issue has been corrected. In situations where there was no traffic accident, my personal preference is that if the driver obtains insurance before court, the judge should have the option of dismissing the citation. The Legislature disagrees and has for about 20 years. I follow the law, not my preference.

**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. Omali Longwell, (Nurse Anesthetist, Vanderbilt U. Medical Center), [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37043. Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Mrs. Longwell is an Army Veteran.

B. John Bushnell, (Narcotics Agent/Investigator, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department and former security of the U.S. Secretary of Defense), [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37043, Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Mr. Bushnell is in the Army Reserve.

C. Jon Vaughn, (Real Estate Broker and head of Radical Missions/Warm Souls Charity), [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37040. Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] In 2022, Mr. Vaughn was named the top real estate agent in Tennessee for Small Team Adjusted Gross Income.

D. Russell Bean, (Retired Judge, 22 years on the bench), [REDACTED] Chattanooga, TN 37415-3913. Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Judge Bean is a former East Tennessee Governor for the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference.

E. Raymond F. Runyon, (Attorney and Rule 31 Family Law Mediator), [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37040. Phone: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Mr. Runyon has been listed as a Rising Star in Family Law by Mid-South Super Lawyers. Mr. Runyon is a former President of the Montgomery County Bar Association and graduated from the TBA Leadership Law Program.



**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.

Gregory D. Smith

Type or Print Name

/s/ Gregory D. Smith

Signature

June 9, 2023

Date

TN BPR # 013420

BPR #

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

N/A


**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 Circuit Court for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit 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: June 9, 2023.

  
/s/ Gregory D. Smith  
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to John Jefferson at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219.