

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

1/17/23

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(including county)

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(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 Microsoft Word 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 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.

The Long Firm, LLC.

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

2009, BPR #028189

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, 2009, 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).

Lawrence County 911, part-time 911 dispatcher, 2002-2008

Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Warrants Clerk, 2005-2008

Ortale, Kelley, Herbert & Crawford, Real Estate Paralegal, 2008-2009

King & Ballow, Litigation Legal Secretary, 2009

The Long Firm, LLC, Partner, 2009-2019

Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, Victim Coordinator, 2019-2020

22nd Judicial District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney, 2020-2022

The Long Firm, LLC, Partner, 2023-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.

Currently, I am a Partner at the Long Firm, LLC which I founded along with my husband in 2009. I manage day-to-day operations along with maintaining a private practice. Due to owning a law firm in a small town my practice has been very diverse. Currently my practice consists of thirty-five percent (35%) Criminal Defense, thirty percent (30%) juvenile practice and guardian ad litem in Dependent and Neglect cases and Termination of Parental Rights cases, twenty percent (20%) Social Security Disability, ten percent (10%) Estate Planning, and five percent (5%) assorted civil litigation.

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.

Owning a law firm in both Franklin, Tennessee, and then moving my firm back home to Lawrenceburg, Tennessee has allowed me to practice in a wide variety of courts. I have a great deal of experience in criminal courts both as a defense attorney and a prosecutor in general sessions, juvenile and circuit courts as well as in the 22nd Judicial District Recovery Court. I have practiced in the federal courts in the Middle District of Tennessee, representing both debtors and creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. I have a great deal of experience in transactional matters from my private practice. I have also assisted in preparing many briefs for the Tennessee Court of Appeals and the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

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

Our firm has worked on various appellate matters in which I have been involved. *The Manor Homes, LLC v. Ashby Communities, LLC, Et al.*, M2017-01369-COA R3-CV, 2018 WL 381481 (Tenn. Ct. App. June 6, 2018) was a contract dispute between the developer and builder of a residential property in Arrington, Tennessee. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision that the developer had breached the contract first by removing the builder from the property without providing it with an opportunity to cure the problems the developer identified and awarded damages for breach of contract to the builder, our client, The Manor Homes, LLC.

Damon Holland v. Brian Sullivan, Et al., M2016-00538-COA-R3-CV, 2017 WL 3917142 (Tenn. Ct. App. September 7, 2017) involved an appeal wherein the Defendant, Brian Sullivan, signed two loan agreements for which the certificate of title was held by the lender, Damon Holland, as security. The defendant who signed both agreements only owned one of the vehicles and his wife owned the other. It was disputed whether the husband was authorized to act on her behalf. When Mr. Sullivan failed to pay both of the debts, the lender attempted unsuccessfully to repossess the vehicles. Immediately thereafter, the Sullivans applied for and obtained new certificates of title and then used one of the duplicate titles to sell one of the automobiles to a third party. Our client and the lender, Damon Holland, filed suit against the Sullivans for breach of contract, slander of title and conspiracy to commit slander of title seeking both compensatory and punitive damages. The trial court awarded compensatory damages in the amount of \$32,456.89 and punitive damages in the amount of \$30,000, which was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

Renee N. Dhillon v. Gursheel S. Dhillon, M2012-00194-COA-R3-CV, 2010 WL 3025193 (Tenn. Ct. App. August 17, 2010) involved an appeal of the trial court's decision on a post-divorce petition to modify the parties' visitation schedule. The trial court held that a material change of circumstance had occurred where the minor child's educational needs had changed, the child's extracurricular activity needs were changing, where the parties employment had changed. The Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the trial court in favor of our client, Ms. Dhillon.

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

I have worked with the 22nd Judicial District Recovery Court and have participated in Recovery Court trainings and conferences. I have also worked with law enforcement officers on building their cases for prosecution and answering questions about criminal matters.

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

Not Applicable.

EDUCATION

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

Columbia State Community College, 2002-2003, transferred to University of North Alabama prior to graduation.

University of North Alabama, 2003-2005, Bachelor Science Criminal Justice/Political Science. (Graduated Summa Cum Laude and first in my Criminal Justice Major).

Nashville School of Law, 2005-2009, J.D.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

██████████ 1983

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

Since birth.

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

4 years. Prior to that I lived in Lawrence County for 24 years continuously from birth to the age of 24.

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

Lawrence 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. You may wish to request a report from the appropriate supervisory authority (or authorities) for a complete history.

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 named as a defendant in a minor vehicle accident that my husband was involved in because

my name was also listed on the title and insurance of the truck that he was driving. The case was settled with our insurance carrier and ultimately dismissed. The style of that case was *Nancy Russell v. Casey Long et. Al.* case number 60CC1-2017-CV-15957 filed on July 7, 2017.

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.

None.

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.

Lawrence County Bar Association, 2019-Present

Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals, 2020-2022

National Association of Recovery Court Professionals, 2022

American Inns of Court, 2013-2014

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.

Not Applicable.

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.

Not Applicable.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I am seeking this position because I have always enjoyed public service. Additionally, I feel that I would be able to administer justice fairly and impartially. I have always made it a priority to be respectful to everyone I deal with whether they are a client, defendant, victim or opposing counsel.

Another reason I am seeking this position is I would like to be able to be a part of the 22nd District Recovery Court and be able to keep it going even after Judge Allen retires. I have participated in the Recovery Court as a prosecutor and I have had extensive training in this area.

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 seek a judgeship in the 22nd Judicial District which includes Lawrence, Wayne, Giles and Maury Counties. This district is currently served by four (4) Circuit Judges prior to the addition of the fifth judgeship for which I am currently applying. These Judges hear cases in almost all aspects of the law, including but not limited to criminal matters, divorce and custody disputes, termination of parental rights cases, civil actions (including property disputes and will contests). In the 22nd Judicial District one Judge also resides over the 22nd Judicial District Recovery Court.

My selection for this judgeship would impact the court by having a Judge that has varied legal experience. I have experience as an Assistant District Attorney in the 22nd Judicial District, so I am familiar with the court systems in this district as they relate to criminal matters and before becoming an attorney I have been employed in most aspects of the criminal justice system. I also have a great deal of experience in civil matters, criminal defense, representing business entities, bankruptcy, estate planning, appellate matters and juvenile matters in which I have been involved in as a Guardian ad Litem as well as Termination of Parental Rights cases. Additionally, I have served on the Recovery Court Team for the 22nd Judicial District Recovery Court and have extensive training in dealing with recovery court issues and drug treatment programs.

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, and I believe this is one of the most important qualities for a Judge. In my past position as an Assistant District Attorney I was presented with this issue on a daily basis and this was one of the most important responsibilities of my job. I was able to put aside any personal beliefs or opinions in order to fulfill my job obligations even when it was a difficult decision to make. On many occasions I have had to tell a victim that their case cannot be prosecuted due to not having enough evidence to support the charges even when I personally believed that the alleged Defendant was guilty of the crime. One example from my legal experience is when I was prosecuting a domestic violence case where the victim refused to testify or provide any statements. This victim had been assaulted on numerous occasions by her boyfriend and after charges were filed she would then refuse to come to court and would disappear so that she could not be served with a subpoena or brought in to court. Ultimately, I ended up not prosecuting the alleged Defendant due to not having enough evidence or cooperating victim to support a conviction even though the victim had clearly been abused by the Defendant.

REFERENCES

31. List five (5) persons, and their current positions and contact information, who would recommend you for the judicial position for which you are applying. Please list at least two persons who are not lawyers. Please note that the Commission or someone on its behalf may contact these persons regarding your application.

- A. The Honorable David L. Allen, Circuit Judge, 22nd Judicial District, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. [REDACTED]
- B. The Honorable Caleb Bayless, Circuit Judge, 22nd Judicial District, [REDACTED]
Columbia, TN 38401. [REDACTED]
- C. The Honorable Mike Harris, General Sessions Judge, Lawrence County, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. [REDACTED]
- D. Tommy Lee Kidd, Circuit Court Clerk, Lawrence County, [REDACTED]
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464. [REDACTED]
- E. Sheriff John Myers, Lawrence County Sheriff, [REDACTED] Lawrenceburg, TN
38464. [REDACTED]

AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them in good faith and as completely as my records and recollections permit. I hereby agree to be considered for nomination to the Governor for the office of Judge of the [Court] 22nd Judicial District Circuit Court 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 7, 2023.


Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to John Jefferson at the 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.

Patricia Nicole Daughtry Long
Print Name

Patricia Nicole Long
Signature

6/7/23
Date

028189
BPR #

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