

✓ 4th

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

1/17/23

Name: Brad L. Davidson

Office Address: 407 West 5<sup>th</sup> North Street Ste. B Morristown Tennessee 37814  
Hamblen County  
(including county)

Office Phone: 423-787-3075 Facsimile: 423-587-3074

Email Address: judgebraddavidson@yahoo.com

Home Address: [REDACTED]  
(including county)

Home Phone: N/A Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

**INTRODUCTION**

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-301 et seq. charges the Trial Court Vacancy Commission with assisting the Governor and the People of Tennessee in finding and appointing the best qualified candidates for judicial offices in this State. Please consider the Commission's responsibility in answering the questions in this application questionnaire. For example, when a question asks you to "describe" certain things, please provide a description that contains relevant information about the subject of the question and, especially, that contains detailed information that demonstrates that you are qualified for the judicial office you seek. In order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about the range of your experience, the depth and breadth of your legal knowledge, and your personal traits such as integrity, fairness, and work habits.

This document is available in 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.

Assistant Public Defender, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District

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

Licensed in 2002; BPR #022471

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 #022471, 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).

My license to practice law in Tennessee was suspended on June 23, 2023 and reinstated on June 27, 2023. I failed to timely pay my annual registration fee.

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).

License to practice Law issued on 5/30/2023

9/1/2022 to Present      Assistant Public Defender 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee

8/7/2014 to 8/26/2022	General Sessions and Juvenile Judge Cocke County, Tennessee
6/1/2009 to 8/16/2014	Assistant Public Defender 4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee
6/2/2003 to 6/1/2009	Attorney in Private Practice in Newport, Tennessee
1981 to 1999	Practiced Chemical Engineering for both Witco Corporation and Great Lakes Chemical Corporation holding a variety of positions including Plant Manager in Santa Fe Springs, California from 1991 to 1995.

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 an Assistant Public Defender in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee. I practice mostly in General Sessions Court resolving a variety of criminal issues.

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 have been an Assistant Public Defender for some 7 years in both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts of Tennessee and am somewhat of an expert on State of Tennessee Criminal issues. In my capacity as General Sessions and Juvenile Judge in Cocke County, Tennessee I had jurisdiction over all criminal matters, Civil Disputes of less than \$25,000 (with some exceptions), all Juvenile Matters including both Civil and Criminal in nature

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

I have been a practicing Judge in Cocke County (General Sessions and Juvenile jurisdiction).

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

N/A

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

I was elected as General Sessions and Juvenile Judge in Cocke County, TN in August of 2014 and served an eight (8) year term.

**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.

Texas A&M University, College Station Texas, BS Chemical Engineering, 9/1976-12/1980

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, MBA, 5/1987-12/1980

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois, JD, 8/1999-5/2002

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

[REDACTED]

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

23 years

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

23 years

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

Cocke County, Tennessee

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.

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.

Over the years I did have some complaints filed against me but all were dismissed.

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.

No

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.

Kiwanis Club of Newport, Tennessee. I was granted the honor of entering into the "rotation" and served as Vice President, President Elect, President and Immediate Past President.

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.

President of the Newport Bar Association for 1 year.

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.

N/A

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.

Elected as General Sessions and Juvenile Judge for Cocke County, Tennessee and served an 8 year term from 2014 to 2022.

### **ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

Having already been a General Sessions Judge I am already familiar with the responsibilities of such a position. It takes a special individual to be in a position in which you make decisions for others that may be considered either good or bad. I enjoyed this responsibility and, for lack of a better phrase, trust myself to do what is right. I personally know all of the other 4<sup>th</sup> District Circuit Judges and am quite familiar with the issues they face. I look forward to again sitting on the bench and being the one who makes the final decision.

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 applying for the newly created position of Circuit Judge for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Part V. If selected I would be the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge for the 4<sup>th</sup> District and would help alleviate the backload of cases the other four judges face. The 4<sup>th</sup> District encompasses Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Sevier Counties of Tennessee, and I currently reside in Cocke County and have for some 23 years. Again, I would expect to help address the backload of cases currently on the docket, many of which have been hanging around since the COVID pandemic. I am very attached to East Tennessee and would enjoy helping serve the people of the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

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

Of course.

**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. Dr. Rich Lloyd, Pastor, 1<sup>st</sup> United Baptist Church, [REDACTED]

B. Mr. Rob Mathis, Mayor of Cocke County, TN, [REDACTED]

C. Mr. William Shults, esq., Retired Judge, [REDACTED]

D. Mr. Ben Hooper, retired Circuit Court Judge, [REDACTED]

E. Mr. Clyde Dunn, esq. Attorney, [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 Circuit Court for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee, and if appointed by the Governor, agree to serve that office. In the event any changes occur between the time this application is filed and the public hearing, I hereby agree to file an amended questionnaire with the Administrative Office of the Courts for distribution to the Commission members.

I understand that the information provided in this questionnaire shall be open to public inspection upon filing with the Administrative Office of the Courts and that the Commission may publicize the names of persons who apply for nomination and the names of those persons the Commission nominates to the Governor for the judicial vacancy in question.

Dated: May 31, 2024.

  
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.

BRAD L. DAVIDSON  
Type or Print Name

Brad L. Davidson  
Signature

5/31/24  
Date

022471  
BPR #

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

TENNESSEE  
BPR # 022471