

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

1/31/19

Name: Wesley Thomas Bray

Office Address: 105 S. Dixie Ave.  
(including county)

Cookeville (Putnam County), Tennessee 38501

Office Phone: 931/526-8985 Facsimile: 931/526-8987

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Home Address: [REDACTED]  
(including county)

Cookeville (Putnam County), Tennessee 38506

Home Phone: Not applicable 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 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 [ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov](mailto:ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov), or via another digital storage device such as a flash drive.

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

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

Currently I am in private practice as a solo practitioner and a Rule 31 Listed Family Mediator.

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

2005 - BPR #024086

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 #024086 - April 26, 2005 licensed - Active

Federal Middle District Court of Tennessee - August 7, 2012 - Active

From 2002 – 2005, a limited license to practice was issued while I was still in night law school and employed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office working during the day.

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).

Not applicable

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).

**During and since completion of my legal education:**

***2005 – Present: Private practice as a Solo Practitioner***

My practice started with a focus on criminal law due to my background with the District Attorney's office. The needs of my clients required my practice to expand to cover divorce and family law, as well as other limited areas.

The current practice load is high and I handle about 70% criminal law, 25% family law matters

consisting of divorce or custody matters, and the remaining 5% is the general practice of law.

***2005 – Present: Rule 31 Listed Family Mediator***

As a Family Mediator I use the experience gained through my life, specialized mediator training and legal career to help people forge their own resolution to matters that they cannot solve on their own without the pressure of a court room setting.

***2017 – Present: Bray Firearms, 07/02 Federal Firearms License and SOT***

My Wife and I operate, as a partnership, a small unadvertised firearms business in the bottom level of the building that we own. We mainly transfer firearms and other firearms related items for friends and people we know. My family and I have always enjoyed shooting sports, hunting and fishing, and this business developed as an extension of those interests.

***2017 – Present: Notary Public***

***2002 – 2005: 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office, DUI Grant Coordinator and Prosecutor***

The Supreme Court of Tennessee granted me a limited license to practice law in 2002, while I was still in law school. My duties included collecting and maintaining DUI arrest information, DUI case disposition and recidivism tracking for the seven (7) county district. It also consisted of the training of law enforcement officers for DUI Detection, database compilation and grant applications.

In addition to my duties maintaining the Governor's Highway Safety Office's DUI Grant, my responsibilities included court appearances to assist in the prosecution of DUI's and a wide variety of misdemeanor and felony cases while still seeking a law degree. While an employee of the District Attorney's Office I went the distance on thirty-three (33) jury trials and related motions and arguments with one of my mentors and licensed District Attorney, Benjamin W. Fann by my side. General Fann was one of a kind and I learned so much from him. In addition, it required handling numerous cases day to day in office and at court.

***Other than my Legal Education:***

Beef and Tobacco Farmer from Moss, Clay County, Tennessee.

Sawmill worker at Graham and Hammer Lumber Company, Hestand, Kentucky

Tennessee Technological University Hyder-Burks Agricultural Pavilion, worker and resident.

United Parcel Service, Preload Worker

Kroger Company, Employee

Lowes, Inc., Dock Worker

Averitt Express, Inc., Customer Service and Cookeville Terminal Dock Worker

Bray Lumber Company, LLC – member

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.

My present law practice consists of a heavy case load of novel and complex cases in both criminal and civil family law matters. I practice all across the seven (7) counties of our judicial district and also other counties surrounding it as client's needs dictate. About 70% of my case load is criminal law. This includes misdemeanor and serious felonies, up to and including drug related and homicide cases. The other 25% is mainly family law consisting of divorce and custody issues, the remaining 5% is the general practice of law.

The current focus of my practice is as listed above, however, the variety of cases I have handled over the years also include, in addition to the above: business litigation, state and local tax litigation, real estate litigation, federal criminal law, federal bankruptcy law for creditors and debtors, torts litigation, personal injury, worker's compensation, Tennessee claims commission cases, dependent and neglect matters, step parent adoption, juvenile delinquent law, guardian ad litem, attorney at litem, insurance enforcement, asset forfeiture matters, probate, will and estates, personal injury, landlord/tenant, detainer, contract enforcement and defense, conservatorships, guardian ad litem for mentally challenged individuals in state cases, LLC Formation, business law, as well as other matters before the circuit, chancery or juvenile courts over the last fourteen (14) years.

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.

***Trial Court Experience***

I have extensive trial court experience with both jury trials and bench trials in criminal and civil matters. The active practice of law has allowed me to handle cases of a wide range in State and Federal Courts representing victims, defendants, petitioners, respondents, plaintiffs/defendants and the People of the State of Tennessee.

As of today I have completed thirty-nine (39) criminal court jury trials total. I have prepared and completed countless other matters such as: preliminary hearings, bond hearing, sentencing hearings, motions for new trial, post conviction matters, notice of appeal, pendente lite hearings, temporary custody hearings, motion hearings and other matters before the court. As a civil

attorney I have prepared for trial divorce, custody, personal injury, workers compensation, claims commission, tort, injury, detainer, child support, alimony, qualified domestic relations orders and emergency matters. The preparation for those cases required interviews, discovery, research, depositions, admissions, interrogatories, and request for production of documents depending on the case. I have drafted and had approved countless orders over the years and I am very comfortable composing and drafting complex orders for the court.

I am very hands on in my private practice, dealing directly and meeting with my clients in person to discuss their goals and needs are part of my daily process. My desire is for clients to be successful and it is my aim as their attorney to help them reach that goal. Being told the truth and telling the truth is a big part of a successful private practice and when I meet with clients that is one of our first conversations. The people I meet with do not always hire me, but I always treat each person with respect because they are usually in a very difficult position in their life; they could be losing their freedom, their spouse, their children or maybe their home. I find myself counseling and trying to lead them to a better mindset or a real mindset of the reality of what they are facing. Sometimes I am forced to tell them, and I am not afraid to tell them, that I do not know the ultimate answer, but I will do the best to my ability to help them sort out their problem and try and solve it.

My practice is in a small town and not a lot of cases are appealed past the general sessions court level to the circuit or chancery court. As such there is little opportunity to appear in appellate courts, administrative bodies, legislative or regulatory bodies, other forums, and/or transactional matters. I have handled a little banking work as related to Federal Bankruptcy practice. The majority of my practice is in local state level courts as my clientele has never required branching out to those other levels.

The majority of the jury trials I participated in at the District Attorney's Office, if appealed, went to the State Attorney General's office to handle. The cases that went to trial as a private attorney were all not guilty verdicts, or a verdict for a lesser included offense. One trial was appealed after a guilty verdict to the indictment. I did not handle that appeal, nor the motion for new trial due to a conflict.

As a family law and general practice attorney, I am unable to count the number of divorces, custody and general law hearings/trials completed at both the general sessions and circuit/chancery court level. All of these cases have been bench trials.

As a Rule 31 Listed Family Mediator I have received and continue specialized training to help clients reach their goals and help them solve common problems in family law matters such as custody and property issues. I enjoy and believe in the mediation process as it allows people to form a resolution to their matters in a setting in which they control the outcome.

If I cannot or do not handle a matter a client needs I diligently try to find an attorney who can assist. I try to always treat people the way I would want to be treated in my practice of law. That

includes my clients, my staff, other people, other attorneys, other attorney's staff, clerks, law enforcement officers, and everyone else that we interact with in the practice of law.

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

Practicing law for seventeen (17) years with three (3) of those years with a limited license to practice while I was still in law school at the Nashville School of Law and employed by the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office working during the day, I have completed thirty-nine (39) jury trials and countless other motion hearings, bench trials, discovery and years of dealing with clients and other attorneys gives a certain level of understanding. I believe a judge needs balanced experience. For the past seventeen (17) years I have helped prosecute while working at the District Attorney's Office and defended offenders of the law in private practice. I have helped mother's and father's in divorce and custody cases and every day people with every day legal problems. I meet with some people at the worst times in their lives and give them counsel and hopefully help them solve problems that they are unable to solve on their own.

I also believe that the temperament of a judge is important to our justice system. At the beginning of my career, I practiced under Criminal Court Judge Leon Burns, as well as other judges, but I learned so much from listening to the way he always treated those in front of him fairly and with respect no matter who they were. If appointed, I will strive to follow the model set by all the good judges I have appeared in front of and learn from the others.

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

Across the street from my house lived a quiet elderly woman who lived alone. My neighbor had no children and never had any visitors; she was very private and protected that privacy. She passed away in June 2017, alone in her home, and was discovered many days later after we noticed that she had not been getting her newspaper from the tube and not answering the door for the lawn care service man. Probate is not a normal area of practice for me, but it was decided by fellow neighbors since I was the lawyer in the subdivision, for me to figure out how we could get her remains back from the Medical Examiner in Nashville and give her a proper burial. I located a local attorney to open the estate and helped coordinate getting her remains transported back from Nashville after the autopsy, located and notified the closet next of kin, and arranged her burial next to her lifelong companion who had predeceased her.

I was asked to complete a step parent adoption for a current client. I normally do not handle matters such as this, but given the clients I was honored to unify their family. Lawyers who do adoption work may have one of the best parts of the profession.

I will mention two homicide cases of note for discussion on this question. One concerned two

defendants charged with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder. I represented the defendant who actually assaulted the alleged homicide victim. The case went to a jury trial and they were convicted of Aggravated Assault after a two day jury trial. The medical examiner's testimony, that I elicited on cross examination, revealed the victim had died before the fight had actually occurred due to a congenital aneurysm. The defendants were sentenced to a year in prison and with a period on probation for this death during a bar fight. I was appointed to this defendant. This solidified in me that everyone deserves the right to a trial and a good defense whether their attorney is hired or appointed.

The next homicide case was a retained case of double homicide by one defendant, in which the State did not seek the death penalty, although the facts were appropriate. The case was eventually settled via a plea bargain to two (2) concurrent sentences of life with possibility of parole and an aggravated robbery consecutive. The facts of the case were difficult and it involved large amounts of evidence, multiple agencies, a confession, search warrants and many other facts I cannot detail here. The note worthy point is once you take a homicide case to defend, especially a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder Case with two (2) victims, you have it the rest of your practice and life. This type of case stays with you. This case caused me many sleepless nights of preparation. It grew my resolve, understanding and appreciation for the justice system. This case was settled with the approval of all involved and was not appealed, nor was a post-conviction filed.

On another matter I was appointed by the Chancellor as a Guardian Ad Litem for a lady who chose (and still chooses) to be homeless. Her family had sought to have her committed or at least declared incompetent via a Conservatorship Petition and given the circumstances and her strong will, the Chancellor thought I would be a good person to advocate for her. She was taken into custody in court to be evaluated and while she was gone I stored around ten large trash bags for her of all her belongings. Once she was released she met with me in office and retrieved her items. I had another attorney appointed to assist me as an Attorney ad Litem and together we fought for her wishes and the case was dismissed. I still see her walking around town and she appears to be happy and healthy.

I have handled other unpopular matters, and I do not feel comfortable discussing family law cases as I think it is disrespectful to those families. However, I truly believe our justice system only works when we have good people advocating for both sides. So far the correct results appear to occur when that happens.

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

In 2008, Judge John Turnbull, a Circuit Court Judge of the 13th Judicial District, retired due to a medical issue before the end of his term. After filing my application and going through the process my name was selected as one of the three for consideration by Governor Bredesen. Circuit Judge Amy Hollars was selected. She is still the sitting Circuit Court Judge for that position. It was not a good time for me to seek that position via the election process once it came due. My heart and passion is to be a Circuit Criminal Court Judge.

## EDUCATION

- II. 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.

### ***Nashville School of Law, Nashville, Tennessee, J.D. 2004***

During school I worked full-time during the day in Cookeville, where I live and practice now. We would drive to Nashville to night law school after getting off work. The first two years I worked at Averitt Express's National Call Center and their local terminal's loading dock on Friday nights. The last two years of law school I was employed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office. The education, discipline, work ethic, and legal experience this developed allowed me to hit the ground running.

I am very fortunate that I was able to attend Nashville School of Law at night and pay for it as I went by working my full-time job during the day; as it truly makes me appreciate the hard work, sweat and tears that went into the experience. The day work and night school arrangement helped forge a true love for the law and its practice.

### ***Tennessee Tech University, (1994 - 1999), Bachelor of Science in Psychology***

I am the first of my family to attend college; the tuition was very expensive, and I had to start immediately working after High School. I moved to Tennessee Tech University and started working and lived at the Hyder-Burks Agricultural Pavilion. I was awarded a partial academic scholarship for Agriculture and was one of the first students to live at the new Ag Pavilion. After and during my tenure at TTU, I had to work various jobs listed in Question 5 during the day, nights and weekends while seeking my degree to pay for the tuition. When needed I would also go back home to Clay County, Tennessee and work on the family farm to help with the beef cattle and tobacco.

### ***Volunteer State Community College, (1993 ~ 1996)***

In 1993, while I was still in High School, Volunteer State Community College offered to Celina High School, Clay County, Tennessee, through an Interactive Television setup, a dual credit course to complete the Freshman Year of College English and Senior Year of High School. I also took a few classes from Volunteer State while I attended Tennessee Technological University to help stay on track to graduate as my work hours would sometimes interfere with class schedules. No degree sought from Volunteer State.



**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

██████/76

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

I am a life long resident of Tennessee and have lived in the 13th Judicial District my entire life.

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

Fifteen (15) years. I moved from Clay County to Putnam County in 1994, to attend Tennessee Technological University. From 2002 to 2004 my wife and I resided briefly in her home town of Livingston in Overton County. In 2004, we moved to our current home in Putnam County. The Upper Cumberland is our home and where we raise our family.

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

Putnam 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.

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.

Yes. Almost twenty (20) years ago, in 2000, I traveled to Nashville to celebrate with friends. I made a bad decision to get behind the wheel and was rightly arrested for it. In short order a guilty plea was submitted to a reckless driving charge and a civil violation of implied consent.

This mistake is something that I learned a great deal from and an event that I share with those I counsel and represent. We all learn from our scar tissue, and this taught me the fear and the stress that the people I want to help are under. Whether a case is a criminal or civil matter, it comes with a certain amount of stress, fear and confusion that few can understand unless they have been through it. This experience made me a better trial attorney as I could relate to the parties involved

and better advocate for whichever side I happen to be on. I feel my bad decision that I made almost twenty (20) years ago, will help me to better weigh the cases justly I could potentially hear and be fair and impartial.

A broad range of experience in life and the legal field, both good and bad experiences, just adds more knowledge and experience to pull from for an appropriate measured decision. This mistake is not something that I am proud of, but it is a valuable life lesson and blessing that I have used and grown from since that event.

- 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.

Not applicable

- 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.

Two. Both 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.

Not applicable

- 21.** Have you ever filed bankruptcy (including personally or as part of any partnership, LLC, corporation, or other business organization)?

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable

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.

Collegeside Church of Christ in Cookeville, Tennessee

Putnam County Republican Party – active since before 2009

The Little Pantry Box – food ministry outside my law office (canned food, Bibles, hygiene packs) - this was started by my children to help supplement those who are food insecure.

Tennessee Cattleman's Association

Putnam County Cattleman's Association

Putnam County Rod and Gun Club

Tennessee American Legion Boys State Speaker, 2002 - present

Haslam for Governor, 2014 – Putnam County, Tennessee contact / chair

Algood Middle School Wrestling Team Assistant Coach

Cookeville Youth Wrestling Team Assistant Coach & sponsor

Algood Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

Upper Cumberland Soccer Club Coach & sponsor

YMCA Youth Soccer Coach & sponsor

President's Advisory Board for Volunteer State Community College at Livingston

National Rifle Association

Carmen's Fund Board Member

Farm Bureau Member – 2002 forward

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.

As a student at Tennessee Technological University I was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. The “Brother” membership of that Chapter was male, however I am not sure that membership was limited to only males as we had several females with membership positions. I was the Secretary 1997-1998 and the Ethics Chair from 1998 – 2000. I have not been involved actively since 2000.

### 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.

Putnam County BAR Association, 2002 – Present

Tennessee BAR Association, various years since 2002

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.

Where I practice is a small town. There are not many professional awards given out like in larger cities. I have received some awards and honors, but the best honor is repeat business and referrals from previous clients whether they were retained or appointed. I do not seek the things listed in this question, working hard for my clients is honor, reward, prize and recognition enough.

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.

In 2008, I applied for the appointment of an open Circuit Court Judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District created by the retirement of Judge John Turnbull. My name was selected as one of the three sent up to the Governor for selection.

In 2014, I sought the Republican Candidate spot for 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Criminal Court Circuit Judge, Part I. This position was elected. My opponent, and current sitting Judge Gary McKenzie, won a clean, but hard fought, close race to secure the Republican nomination and he went on to win the general election by a wide margin.

I will campaign for and seek election of this position I am applying for. I am already organized and have not stopped preparing since the 2014 election mentioned herein. Candidate election papers can be picked up starting September 13, 2019, for this special election. The primary for this position will be held March 3, 2020. The general election will be August of 2020, to finish out the two year term.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

Life is short, and I feel that we all need to do the best with the gifts and talents that have been bestowed upon us. I am seeking this position because my community is very important to me, and I want to help people with their problems and see the laws applied fairly and justly. As I have worked on both sides of the courtroom with the district attorney's office and a private attorney, I now want to help my community as a judge.

Practicing law and helping those in the Upper Cumberland is important to me; and that is why I am seeking this position, so I can use my wide and balanced experience and understanding to help people by being fair and impartial to everyone. I believe that having been on both sides of the courtroom representing both victims and defendants, at the lowest points in their lives gives me the balanced experience needed as a judge to be fair but firm. My integrity is very important to me and I will make sure to follow the laws and protect the Constitution of our nation and the State of Tennessee. It is my continued and constant desire to seek and serve in this capacity and be a giver to our community.

The counties of the 13th Judicial District are very important to me, as I have lived here in the Upper Cumberland my entire life. I hold the values of this area close and dear to my heart and I want the best results for those who live here, as my family, friends and their futures are here as well.

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)*)

The judgeship sought is for the largest geographic judicial district in the state. The seven (7) counties of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District range from distressed rural areas to metropolitan and micropolitan areas. All of these areas suffer from criminal activity due to drug abuse and alcohol driven crimes ranging from low level misdemeanors to violent homicides. These life controlling issues of individuals stress our criminal justice system as well as the courts of family law and other civil matters.

Our region, and the state of Tennessee is changing as we see reflected in the inevitable redistricting of Tennessee's thirty (30) Judicial Districts. The judgeship I am seeking will hear only criminal law matters at this time, and I bring the experience of prosecuting and defending to the table for a balanced judgeship. Should a civil matter need to be heard if the nature of our judgeships are reshaped by redistricting, I would have experience handling civil matters successfully as well.

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 uphold the law even if I disagree with the substance of the law at issue. Everyone is entitled to a competent lawyer zealously advocating for their position. When a lawyer cannot set aside their personal feelings toward the law, the client, and the case, we all lose. Our system of justice requires advocating with intelligence and emotion to prove the case and support the case with evidence. Whether you have the winning side, the losing side, the popular side or the unpopular side, you must advocate for your client. As a Judge one must set aside the preconceived notions of who is right and wrong and weigh the facts and the law as they apply to the case without personal bias. A judge must be fair and impartial and apply the law and statutes to everyone equally that appears before them with the proper measure of justice, whatever that case may dictate under the law.

I have sought an elected Judge position before and that experience has forged, molded and instilled in my heart, in my life, in my dealings with others, a true respect and understanding of the laws and the actual fairness of our rule of law. I know that our system is not perfect, but it is the best system of justice in the known world and I happily support and follow it.

#### 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. Paul Bailey, State Senator – [REDACTED]
B. Everett Bolin, Crab Orchard Utility District – [REDACTED]
C. Kelly Keisling, State Representative – [REDACTED]
D. Gary McKenzie, 13 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Criminal Court Judge, part I – [REDACTED]
E. Ryan Williams, State Representative – [REDACTED]

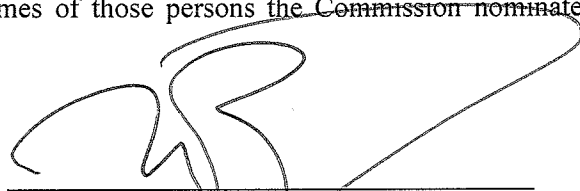
**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

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 \_\_13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Criminal Court, part II\_\_ 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: April 8, 2019.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Ceesha Lofton, 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.

\_\_\_\_Wesley Thomas Bray\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name

\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_April 8, 2019\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_024086\_\_\_\_  
BPR #

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

\_\_\_\_Federal District Court for the Middle District\_\_\_\_  
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