

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

1/17/23

Name: Jimmy Terry, Jr.

Office Address: 4640 Andersonville Hwy  
(including county)

Andersonville, TN 37705, Anderson County

\* Mail must go to: P.O. Box 31, Andersonville, TN 37705

Office Phone: 423-201-3933 Facsimile: 800-616-5593

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED], Andersonville, TN 37705 (Anderson County)  
(including county)

\* Mail must go to: [REDACTED] Andersonville, TN 37705

Home Phone: [REDACTED] Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

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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.

I am self-employed and work out of my home office. I concentrate my practice primarily on real estate including title examinations and closings. I also perform other legal services including divorce, custody, and probate matters.

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

I became licensed in Tennessee in 2004 – BPR # 023370

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.

I was first licensed in the state of Indiana in October 2003. My license # was 24432-32. My license is inactive because after returning to Tennessee, I eventually determined it unnecessary to keep them active in Indiana.

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).

I voluntarily let my license in Indiana lapse inactive because after returning to Tennessee, I eventually determined it unnecessary to keep them active in Indiana.

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).

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Attorney/Consultant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | June 2018 – Present |
| Jim Terry, Attorney at Law – Oneida, TN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real Estate attorney focusing on title opinions, real estate closings, land disputes, and contracts</li><li>• Perform loan review, provide guidance on compliance with Federal regulations, and draft forbearance agreements and obtain judgments</li></ul> |                     |

|                                                        |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Senior Credit Officer/Associate General Counsel</b> | October 2012 – June 2018 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|

First National Bank – Helenwood, TN

- Responsible for ensuring lending compliance with Federal regulations and developing Bank policies and procedures
- Responsible for drafting commercial loan agreements and various other legal contracts
- Provides support, direction, and guidance with respect to loan policies and procedures to ensure the overall quality of the Bank's lending portfolio

**Attorney – Owner**

August 2005 – October 2012

Jeffers & Terry – Oneida, TN

- General practice law firm focusing on contracts, real estate, personal injury and employment claims
- Responsible for all aspects of practice management including marketing, accounting, and all phases of civil litigation

**Attorney**

June 2004 – July 2005

The Law Office of April Carroll Meldrum – Clinton, TN

- Involved in all aspects of civil litigation from the initial consultation through the various phases of litigation

**Attorney**

October 2003 – February 2004

Schuerman Law Firm – Batesville, IN

- Involved in all aspects of civil litigation from the initial consultation through the various phases of litigation

6. Describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major areas of law in which you practice and the percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

I am self-employed and work out of my home office. I concentrate approximately 70% of my practice primarily on real estate including title examinations and closings. Approximately 15% of my practice is divorce/custody, 10% is probate, and the remaining 5% would be personal injury.

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.

During my first nine years of practice, I was a general practice attorney and spent a significant amount of time in the local trial courts, with the exception of criminal court. I also practiced in the area of Social Security Disability for which I presented cases to the Administrative Law Judges. In addition, I have had two cases filed with the Tennessee Court of Appeal, one of which I argued and the other was dismissed on my motion.

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

I was able to argue a case to the Appellate Court on adverse possession and was successful in overturning the trial court ruling. However, I will reluctantly admit that the matter was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court but due a timely filing error by my late partner.

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

Not applicable.

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.

**Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis, IN 8/2000 – 5/2003**

Juris Doctorate, May 2003

- Participant, Moot Court
- American Health Lawyers Association, Student Member
- Indianapolis Bar Association, Student Member

**Carson-Newman College of Nursing – Jefferson City, TN 8/1995 – 5/1997**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, May 1997

**Carson-Newman College – Jefferson City, TN 8/1989 – 5/1992**

Bachelor of Arts, Biology/Human Physiology, May 1992

**Tennessee Technological University – Cookeville, TN 1/1987 – 5/1989**

No degree. I left to attend Carson-Newman College.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

█/1968

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

1968-2000 and 2004- Present. My only time away was for law school and brief employment.

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

I have lived in Anderson County since 2004.

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

Anderson 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.

None, although I enlisted when I was seventeen but could not go after breaking my ankle requiring surgical repair with screws and pins.

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.

I have had two complaints filed against me with the Board of Professional Responsibility, the first being in 2006 and the second was in 2010. Both were dismissed upon my responses and without hearing.

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 a party to two agreed divorces. The first was resolved by an agreed Final Decree of Divorce filed in the Union County Chancery Court, Case No. 6857. The second was resolved by an agreed Final Decree of Divorce in the Knox County Chancery Court, Case No. M-20-199438.

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.

I was formerly on the Scott County Homeless Shelter Board of Directors from approximately 2010 – 2019.

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.

None.

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.

I have never been one to seek public recognition or awards. A genuine show of appreciation from my client's or employer has always been sufficient to feel worthy of the profession.

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*)

Many years ago, a Judge in a neighboring county took me in his office and apart from giving many words of wisdom, he suggested that I myself should seek to become a Judge someday. He stated that because of my demeanor in the courtroom and passion for righteousness, he

believed that I would make an excellent judge. I have always carried that thought and deep down I have always wanted to be a Judge. Although admittedly, my trial experience has been limited in the past few years, I firmly believe that I have the desire and the intellectual capacity to make a great Chancellor. I believe that I am at a stage in my life that it time for me to give credence to that Judge’s wisdom and belief in me to take the chance at pursuing this amazing opportunity to serve the citizens of Anderson County, Tennessee.

29. Describe the judgeship you seek (i.e. geographic area, types of cases, number of judges, etc. and explain how your selection would impact the court. *(150 words or less)*

I am seeking the appointment to be the next Chancellor for the Anderson County Chancery Court. I believe that my appointment could impact the court by bringing in someone who does not have significant interpersonal relationships within the local political climate, local bar, and the general public. I would envision that it would be a very rare circumstance that I would ever have a conflict of interest thereby negating the need to recuse myself from a case.

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)*

I have always maintained throughout my career that the letter of the law should be applied to the facts regardless of my own personal beliefs or the status of the parties. I had a case that involved a restraining order and parties with dementia. Under the circumstances, I did not like, or necessarily agree, with the ruling, but I understood the Judge had to uphold the law and I will do the same.

**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. Ashley Riseden – Scott County Register of Deeds [REDACTED]

B. Jimmy Byrd – Former Scott County Trustee [REDACTED]

C. Scott Jones – Pastor and long-time friend [REDACTED]

D. Paul Sexton – Attorney in Anderson County, TN [REDACTED]

E. Blake Culver – Sr. Vice President/Sr. Lender-First National Bank of Oneida [REDACTED]



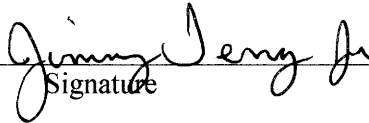
**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

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 Chancery Court for Anderson County 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: February 2, 2023.

  
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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.

Jimmy Terry, Jr.  
Type or Print Name

Jimmy Terry Jr  
Signature

February 2, 2023  
Date

023370  
BPR #

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

Indiana (inactive) 24432-32