

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

1/17/23

Name: William Kirg Lane, III

Office Address: 104 South Public Square, Centerville, Hickman County, Tennessee 37033
(including county) 125 3rd Avenue North, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 (Registered Office Location)

Office Phone: (615) 790-8412 Facsimile: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cellular Phone: _____

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.

Self Employed as a solo practitioner. William K. Lane, III, Attorney At Law

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

Licensed in 1992, BPR #015538

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.

In March of 2025 I received permission to practice in Alabama pro hac vice. Alabama does not issue a bar identification number for PHV admission per se. ALAFILE (Alabama electronic filing system) tracks PHV attorneys through the associated local counsel's bar number which is LAN91. (My son, Michael Graham Lane's Alabama Bar Association Registration Number)

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).

I began my legal career immediately upon being sworn into the practice of law in October of 1992. I associated with two other attorneys in a shared office environment, each having responsibility for their respective practice. I have been in solo practice since that time. I started in Davidson County then moving my practice to Williamson County and now with an office in Williamson County and Hickman County.

I am currently admitted on a pro hac vice basis in Alabama Circuit Court Northern District regarding a breach of contract allegation. This has afforded me the opportunity to understand and experience other jurisdiction processes and procedures. In doing so, various aspects of the

lawsuit provide me with an expanded knowledge base that enhances my overall practice of law.

While in law school and prior thereto, I worked as a senior design engineer with Nissan Motor Manufacturing located in Smyrna, Tennessee. In my capacity I was responsible for overseeing five other engineers and had responsibility for the interior design and build out of the interior of various vehicles being produced at the Smyrna facility. As part of my responsibilities, I reviewed pricing contracts, build timing schedules and agreements related to the cost and expense of design, prototyping, tooling and production of interior parts. An example would be that the budget for the interior seats of the first Nissan Altima built in Smyrna, the last project I worked on in 1991, was in the millions of dollars. As another part of my work, I was very involved with the relocation and production set-up of various manufacturing facilities from Japan to the United States. These facilities were located throughout the mid-west and southeast. The interworking of automotive manufacturing on an international scale was an incredible opportunity and provided a fundamental work ethic at an early age.

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.

The primary focus of my current practice is civil litigation in nature. I have, however, been involved in various criminal proceedings over my 32 years of being an attorney. Currently my focus is on various issues related to real estate such as easements, boundary disputes, title disputes and related contract work which comprises approximately 40% of my workload. The balance of 60%, is comprised of probate and estate matters which is about 30%, domestic law being 20% and the remaining 10% being misdemeanor criminal in nature.

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.

My time as a licensed attorney began in the basement of the old Howard School in Davidson County Juvenile Court with Judge Andy Shookhoff. I took appointments in D&N cases from Judge Shookhoff. As time progressed, I began doing estate and probate work. Over the past thirty-two years I have tried cases in General Sessions Court, Juvenile Court, Circuit and Chancery Courts throughout Tennessee but primarily throughout Middle Tennessee. I have also appeared in front of the Tennessee Claims Commission as well as the Tennessee Court of Appeals for the Middle District of Tennessee.

I have appeared in the Tennessee Federal Courts for the Middle District of Tennessee as well as the Federal Bankruptcy Court for the Middle and Western Districts of Tennessee. In 1993 I was fortunate to become outside counsel responsible for easement acquisitions for United Cities Gas Company which, at the time was based in Brentwood, Tennessee. I survived the buyout of United Cities by ATMOS Energy and continued to do easement acquisitions and other related work throughout Tennessee until 2024. This allowed me to practice in multiple circuit

courtrooms throughout Middle and East Tennessee as well as numerous jury trials.

My client base represents a varied practice in a wide range of subject matters involving, probate, juvenile, domestic, personal injury, worker's compensation, landlord tenant, contracts, boundary disputes, title closings, LLC / Corporation formation, products liability. I have also initiated and filed a lawsuit related to a products liability action involving the Hague Convention.

My career has entailed courtroom representation in numerous settings regarding various aspects of the law. I have represented clients in Juvenile Court related to dependency neglect proceedings, paternity actions, delinquency and unruly charges both as an appointed attorney and as a retained attorney. In my civil practice I have been involved with courtroom litigation related to family law involving all aspects of divorce and custody from cases based upon irreconcilable differences to highly contentious divorce cases. I have handled contract disputes involving real estate purchases and leases, both commercial and residential. Along with the probating of wills and related matters. In the related area of trusts I have represented clients in contested matters such as undue influence and breach of fiduciary duties.

In the criminal realm, I have been involved in hundreds of misdemeanor cases and several felony cases. My representation has commanded I have a thorough understanding of criminal procedure as well as a knowledge of the rules of evidence. Thanks to Judge Jim Todd, Judge Jim Martin and Don Paine over the years, my understanding of rules of evidence has helped me be successful in the courtroom when I am asked "what's your rule?"

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

While working for United Cities Gas Company as outside counsel, one project in particular I was involved with was the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Interstate I-65 along Highway 412 into the City of Columbia. I was charged with negotiating the acquisition of easements across ninety-two parcels of property of which forty-six parcels were ultimately acquired through eminent domain proceedings filed in Maury County, Tennessee. This work led me to an opportunity to implement an easement acquisition program at Kinder Morgan Energy located in Houston, Texas. I credit the work with United Cities, ATMOS and Kinder Morgan as establishing my career in the mid 1990s.

Perhaps the most significant criminal case that I was involved with was in 2000 with a judgement date of October 2001. The case was out of Sumner County Tennessee in which I represented a Defendant who was charged with aggravated sexual battery by an authority figure. The case presented a twenty-two count indictment involving twelve different victims, all under the age of twelve. After multiple appearances and heavy motion filings the State agreed to reduce the charges to misdemeanor assault with probation.

In 2022 my career as a domestic litigator led me to an eight-day trial which was a highly contentious divorce involving an eighteen-month marriage that produced a minor child who was less than twelve months old on the date of separation. I represented the mother in this

Williamson County proceeding adjudicated by the Honorable James G. Martin, III. I was able to secure not only custody of the child but due to the facts, was able to limit visitation with the father to eighty days per year. The primary issue on appeal involved the failure of the trial court to maximize the father's time with the minor child. While my representation was limited to the trial court level, the trial court was affirmed in all aspects presented on appeal. (*Hunter v. Cooper*, No. M2022-01050-COA-R3-CV).

I was heavily involved Multi District Litigation involving the DOW Corning breast implants, representing twenty-six different claimants here in Tennessee. The representation which occurred over several years ending in 2021, ended with favorable results for all twenty-six clients at various levels of compensation. My involvement with the DOW Corning MDL representation resulted in my participation in a fairly recent ruling through associating with Alabama attorneys to secure a trial court reversal and favorable appellate ruling regarding when the State's Attorney General could get involved under a deceptive trade practices theory versus a private claimant. (*Lisk v. Lumber One Wood Preserving, LLC*, 792 F.3d. 1331 (2015)).

Perhaps one of the more humorous cases involved my being contacted by a case searcher for the TV show "Judge Judy" which I respectfully declined.

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

While not in an attorney/client representative capacity, my experience on the Planning Commission for Hickman County, Tennessee has provided me with an understanding of the effect of growth and expansion in a rural county setting when you have one of the wealthiest counties in the United States next door. The understanding and enforcement of zoning ordinances and restrictions has given me opportunities to "vote" yes or no on issues that may not be so favorable to the applicant but need to be enforced according to what the ordinance states and seeks to accomplish.

The involvement I had with the early development and start-up of The Nashville Food Project, a Tennessee non-profit, allowed me to go through the process of just what it takes to establish a successful non-profit here in Tennessee. The understanding of the consideration given to cost and budgeting are some that I have carried over to my solo practice, primarily, client relationships and cash flow.

Being on the Staff Parish Committee of a large Methodist Church for several years while an attorney allowed me the opportunity to incorporate into my practice a deep understanding of what makes people click. Taking that understanding has assisted me when dealing with difficult clients and situations where there is no real good answer when it comes to telling people what they don't want to hear in a legal setting.

10. List and describe all prior occasions on which you have submitted an application for any

state or federal judicial position.

I have not submitted any prior applications.

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.

Middle Tennessee State University 1976-1977 no degree / transferred to University of Tennessee

University of Tennessee 1977 to 1981 Graduated with a B.S. Agriculture

Nashville School of Law 1988 to 1992 graduated with a Doctor of Jurisprudence

Regent University 2023 no degree / graduate studies / M. Div. with concentration in Missiology

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

[REDACTED]

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

All my life, 67 years.

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

17 years

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

Hickman

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.

I have had four complaints filed against me over my 32 year career. All four were "Dismissed by Investigation." Upon inquiry of the Board I was provided with the following four file numbers: 42083-6-ES (2015), 29520-6-CH (2006), 17485-5-ch (1997), and 14622-5-ch (1996).

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.

1984 Divorce resolved based upon Irreconcilable Differences in 1985 / Davidson County, Tennessee. A modification was sought in 1994 which resulted in an Agreed Order.

I have been named as a Plaintiff or Defendant in various lawsuits filed in Williamson County General Sessions Civil Court as follows:

2013-TR-625 / Defendant / Dismissed / Stop sign violation

2021-TR-271 / Defendant / Dismissed / Seat belt violation

2010-CV-3089 / Defendant / Dismissed / Sued by private investigator based on breach of contract

2011-CV-1054 / Defendant / Non-suited by Plaintiff / Plaintiff, trustee sought a refund of a retainer fee. Plaintiff non-suited without any explanation after a short period of time.

2007-C-45101 / Defendant / Non-suited by Plaintiff / regarding an unpaid court reporter invoice

2016-CV-2099 / Defendant / I paid agreed judgement / My timber contractor cut timber on an adjacent landowner's property

2010-CV-1662 / Plaintiff / Attorney Fee collection / Paid by Defendant

2013-CV-2617 / Plaintiff / Attorney Fee collection / Paid by Defendant

2008-CV-47918 / Plaintiff / Attorney Fee collection / Defendant filed bankruptcy

Williamson County Chancery Court filings:

1999-CV-9412 / Plaintiff / Probate matter closed 07/10/2003. I don't recall the details. The docket sheet provided no entries beyond the initial filing

2013-PR-7226 / Probate Co-Administrator / dismissed and closed 04/15/2025

Williamson County Circuit Court filings:

2011-CV-487 / Plaintiff / Attorney Fee Collection / Paid by Defendant

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.

Tennessee Cattlemen's Association; Dairy Sheep Association of North America; American Cheese Society; Southall Church, Franklin, Tennessee. I have not held any offices. I also sit on the Board of Directors for Daysprings Farm a Tennessee non-profit, located in Maury County, Tennessee.

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.

Tennessee Bar Association ongoing since 1992

Williamson County Bar Association, on going since 1999. At the time in 1999 the 21st Judicial District included Hickman, Lewis and Perry Counties as well as Williamson.

Nashville Bar Association from 2005 till 2013 and at times prior to 2005. The NBA changed the computer system and was not able to provide the dates prior to 2005.

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.

In 2012 was the recipient of the first Volunteer Pro Bono Attorney award in Williamson County

Tennessee awarded by the Williamson County Bar Association.

I was the recipient of the "Our Superman" award from The Nashville Food Project in 2013. I helped with the initial start-up of The Nashville Food Project being in 2008 and continued volunteering in various capacities.

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.

I was appointed as a 4th District representative on the Hickman County Planning Commission in 2023. Since that time, I was appointed as Vice-Chairman.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

Believing firmly in the people of the 32nd Judicial District, I believe I am qualified to be a Judge who understands, listens, discerns and rules on issues folks face on a daily basis. After seventeen years of living in Hickman County, I have seen many issues and can relate to the concerns facing the 32nd District that come with a growing community. The experience I have had over the 32 years of practice has provided a knowledge base that would allow me to effectively rule while maintaining an empathetic demeanor towards those affected. This is the community in which I live. I want the best for everyone through my service and commitment to the individual needs of the community as a whole. My broad experience involving real-life circumstances in rural courts throughout the State will allow me to do so and I feel this would be a benefit the community.

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 to be the appointed Judge in both the Circuit and Chancery Courts for the 32nd Judicial District. The appointment is a result of the retirement of the Honorable Michael E. Spitzer as of June 30th 2025. There is only one Judge who rotates between Hickman, Perry and Lewis Counties and is charged with hearing both civil and criminal proceeding in both a jury and non-jury setting. As with many Districts within Tennessee that are comprised of multiple counties, the position would require a level of flexibility to travel between the three counties on a regular schedule that at times would require modification to meet the time frame of multi-day trials. Providing accessibility to the Court is a factor which is paramount when serving the District. The population of the 32nd District needs to know "their judge" is available and approachable.

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)

Taking an Oath is a covenant to be bound by the terms and conditions expressed in the Oath. We are afforded the opportunity to implement law and justice, and I would do just that. Exclusive of personal opinions and outside influences, the law nonetheless would have to be applied such that the law would prevail. It would be my job to ensure the application is implemented on an unbiased and consistent basis. The case previously referenced in Sumner County represents my work when it comes to a matter that, personally, found the facts to be disturbing, yet required my representation in order provide for the rights of my client.

One area of the law which is currently undergoing change relates to "reliable hearsay" when making a determination as to pretrial release and the setting of bail for a potential criminal offender. I feel there exists enough factors upon which to determine an appropriate remedy based upon the facts that existence. Terms within T.C.A. § 40-11-115 such as "least restrictive" and "reasonably ensure" pose a level of subjectivity that is open to broad interpretation. This is where it is imperative to have the experience to make a justiciable determination as to what is "least restrictive."

Given the workload of the 32nd District and taking an attitude of "I only work from nine to five" is not something that, as a practicing lawyer I agree with. I have not made a nine to five mentality part of my practice and never will.

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 Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Ret.), Chancellor 20 th Judicial District, [REDACTED] |
| B. The Honorable Terry A. Fann, Circuit Judge, 16 th Judicial District, [REDACTED] |
| C. William (Bill) Young, Executive Director, Tennessee Ethics Commission, [REDACTED] |
| D. Jason Craft, Sheriff, Hickman County Tennessee, [REDACTED] |
| E. Keith Nash, Chairman, Hickman County Commission, ([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] 32nd 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: 11/14/25, 20 25.



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.

William K. Hargrett, III

Type or Print Name

[Signature]

Signature

May 8th 2025

Date

015538

BPR #

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