

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

1/17/23

Name: Jennifer Kay Peck

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Davidson County

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**INTRODUCTION**

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

This document is available in Microsoft Word format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800-448-7970 or 615-741-2687; website [www.tncourts.gov](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.

Chief Operating Officer/Chief of Staff/Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI)  
State of Tennessee

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

2008  
027458

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; 2008  
027458; Active

4. Have you ever been denied admission to, suspended or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any State? If so, explain. (This applies even if the denial was temporary).

No.

5. List your professional or business employment/experience since the completion of your legal education. Also include here a description of any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law in which you have ever been engaged (excluding military service, which is covered by a separate question).

Chief Operating Officer/Chief of Staff/Deputy Commissioner, Dept of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI), State of Tennessee; 2019-Present

Oversee department with approximately 833 positions; directly manage Fire Prevention Division and State Fire Marshal's Office, Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and POST Commission, Tennessee Emergency Communications Board, Internal Audit, Human Resources, and Fiscal and Operations Divisions

Owner/Attorney; Peck Legal Group, PLLC (formerly Law Office of Jennifer K. Peck); 2010-Present

Own, operate, and manage firm focused on domestic relations litigation and mediation

Of Counsel Attorney; Priority Legal Group, PLLC; 2021-2024

Primary work in family law mediation

Adjunct Professor; University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; 2016-2018

Professor of Employment Law, Juvenile Law, and Legal Research and Writing

Legal Researcher/Attorney; Law Office of Grace E. Daniell, PC; 2007-2010

Primary work in domestic relations cases; Assisted in firm management and legal research

Legal Researcher; McColpin, Coffman, & Woods (now McColpin & Coffman, PLLC); 2007

Legal research and brief production for Tennessee Court of Appeals

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Manager of Events; The Christian Broadcasting Network; 2004-2006

Managed event department; Produced national and international events

Special Events Coordinator; Precept Ministries International; 2002-2004

Produced conventions; Negotiated contracts; Coordinated and directed vendors and staff

Senior Conference Planning Manager; The Chattanooga Hotel; 2001-2002

Responsible for approximately 20,000 sq ft of conference space; Managed staff

Event Coordinator; Tneve; 1999-2001

Produced corporate and social events; Managed and coordinated vendors and event staff

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.

In my capacity as an attorney and mediator at Peck Legal Group, PLLC, I focus 100% in domestic relations mediation.

In my role with TDCI, I work closely with the department's General Counsel and the approximately 40 attorneys within the department as we fulfill our mission of protecting Tennesseans and empowering professionals.

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 extensive experience at the trial court level. As a practicing attorney in divorce litigation, I was generally in court at least once per week, and was present in circuit court, chancery court, juvenile court, and child support court.

I also have experience at the appellate court level. I have been involved in five cases in the Court of Appeals in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I am a Rule 31 Certified Mediator, and I have built a successful mediation practice. Prior to my current position, I mediated an average of two cases per week.

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

At the trial court level, I have built a reputation for being a strong and respectful litigator who will both litigate the cases that need to be brought before the court and help settle those outside of court when possible.

At the appellate level, I have enjoyed a high success rate and have only been unsuccessful on one case brought before that court.

I am extremely proud of my mediation practice in which I have mediated highly contested cases and successfully facilitated settlements in even the most acrimonious situations.

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

Working with attorneys at the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance has provided me the opportunity to participate in an interesting area of the law from training, licensing, and

regulating various professions and companies to supporting public safety.

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

April 13, 2017; 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court Judge, Division IV vacancy

**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.

Tennessee Technological University; 2022-2024  
Master of Business Administration

Regent University School of Law; 2004-2007  
Juris Doctor  
University of Tennessee College of Law (Visiting Student, 2007)

Auburn University; 1995-1999  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Concentration in History  
Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society

Bryan College; 1994 (transferred to Auburn University January 1995)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

1975

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

I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and lived on Signal Mountain, Tennessee until leaving to attend college. After working approximately two (2) years after college, I returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee in 2001. I left Tennessee again to attend law school in Virginia and returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee in December 2006. I have lived in Tennessee continuously since 2006.

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

I have lived continuously in Hamilton County since 2006. I have also rented space in Nashville, Tennessee for the days I work in office for the State of Tennessee, but I have maintained my residence in Hamilton County continuously since 2006.

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

I am registered to vote in Hamilton 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.

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.

Complaint 10/13/2015 which was dismissed by investigations and closed 06/20/2016.

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.

Valleybrook Presbyterian Church  
The Baylor School Alumni Association  
Samaritan's Purse Volunteer  
Special Olympics of Tennessee Volunteer

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.

Chattanooga Bar Association 2007-2020, 2024  
Tennessee Bar Association 2007-2020  
Southeast Tennessee Lawyer's Association for Women 2015-2019  
National Association of REALTORS® 2013-2017  
Greater Chattanooga Association of REALTORS® 2013-2019

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.

Acceptance into American Inns of Court, Brock-Cooper Chattanooga Chapter, 2012-2013

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.

None.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

When I decided to go to law school, it was for the ultimate purpose of serving as a judge. I have both a passion for the law and a desire to serve others. My experience litigating and mediating has provided me the skills to navigate the complexities of the courtroom and the expectation of litigants, and my time spent in a large department within state government has strengthened my resolve to serve in my hometown of Chattanooga to the best of my ability. I want to focus on treating each attorney, litigant, and witness with the respect and patience they deserve whether they are in court once a day or once in their lives.



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 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court Judgeship. While this Court hears many types of cases, including civil torts, worker's compensation claims, and contract disputes, domestic relations cases represent the majority of litigated cases. I have extensive experience in domestic relations litigation, and my position in the second division would complement the three additional judges and their experience and areas of expertise.

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 served as an attorney for a gentleman who had litigated for many years in a different county with a different attorney. After beginning my representation of him, it was discovered that the order transferring jurisdiction from the previous county was void of the necessary findings and reference to the applicable statute, rendering the current court without proper jurisdiction. Despite years of litigation and tens of thousands of dollars spent previously, it was appropriate for me to agree with an order sending the case back to the previous county for proper transfer, potentially nullifying the progress my client had made in this county. While I disagreed from a fairness perspective that a mere technicality should void all of his progress, I was bound to follow the law and practice within its parameters. Similarly, should I have the honor of being appointed as a judge in Hamilton County Circuit Court, I would continue to uphold the law even if I disagreed with the substance of the law at issue.

**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.	Honorable Robert D. Philyaw, Juvenile Court Judge;	
B.	Jeffrey Hollingsworth, Retired 11 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court Judge, Division II;	
C.	Carter M. Lawrence; Commissioner Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance;	
D.	Tracy Edwards, Pastor Valleybrook Presbyterian Church;	
E.	Lang Wiseman, General Counsel First Horizon Bank;	

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

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

Dated: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

  
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.

Jennifer Kay Peck  
Type or Print Name

  
Signature

February 3rd, 2025  
Date

027458  
BPR #

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