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Thomas Patrick Wall, III  
Of Counsel

July 6, 2011

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk  
100 Supreme Court Building  
401 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: Supreme Court of Tennessee Docket No. M2011-01310-SC-RL1-RL

Dear Mr. Catalano:

I support the statewide adoption of the forms proposed in the docket number above as universally acceptable and legally sufficient for use in civil cases before the General Sessions Court in Tennessee.

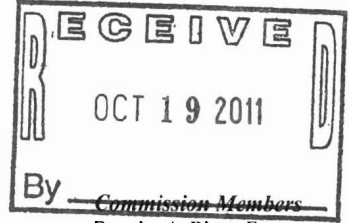
Having practiced in the civil division of the General Sessions Courts of this State for 35 years, it is clear that increased uniformity and availability of these forms will be a benefit to all interested parties. The availability of these forms online will promote and broaden access to the courts among members of the bar and the public at large, while statewide uniformity will promote efficiency in the courts' processes and simplify coordination of matters between the counties of the state.

As a member of the committee responsible for the production of the forms proposed by the General Sessions Judges Conference, I can assure you that the hard work of the committee members and those who assisted them has produced a compilation of forms that meet the high standards of the Courts of this State.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Wesley Hall, III".

M. Wesley Hall, III



**Chairperson**  
 Margaret L. Behm, Esq.  
 Dodson, Parker, Behm &  
 Capparella, PC  
 1310 6th Avenue North  
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## Tennessee Supreme Court

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION  
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 Nashville, TN 37219  
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 George T. Lewis, III, Esq.  
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 Dr. Frank Anthony Thomas  
 Bill Young, Esq.

**Access to Justice  
 Coordinator**  
 Anne-Louise Wirthlin, Esq.

**Supreme Court Liaison**  
 Hon. Janice M. Holder

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Members of the Court**

**FROM: Margaret Behm  
 Access to Justice Commission Chairperson**

**DATE: October 19, 2011**

**RE: Comment on General Sessions Judges Conference Petition Regarding  
 Proposed Uniform Court Forms**



The Access to Justice Commission acknowledges the time and effort of the members of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference ("GSJC"), members of the Creditors' Practice Section of the Tennessee Bar Association and Court Clerks representatives to develop the twenty-three proposed forms submitted to the Court. The Commission is especially appreciative of the initiative to create a uniform set of forms that can be used in all Tennessee General Sessions Courts. Uniform and universally acceptable forms are an important step to providing greater access to the court system. The Commission requests that the Court delay adoption of these forms under Supreme Court Rule 52 until the Commission completes its form review process.

As part of its Strategic Plan, the Access to Justice Commission is tasked to review forms with sensitivity to access issues related to disability, language, income and literacy barriers. Integral to the Commission's form review process is putting the forms into plain language (a fifth to eighth grade reading level). A civil forms subcommittee then reviews the proposed form for legal sufficiency and readability. Prior to the filing of the proposed forms by the GSJC, the subcommittee had begun work on six of the forms. Those six forms are:

1. Affidavit of Claim Exemptions
2. Uniform Civil Affidavit of Indigency
3. Motion and Affidavit for Installment Payments
4. Motion to Quash Garnishment/Execution and Claim Exemption Rights
5. Pauper's Oath in Lieu of Appeal Bond
6. Sworn Denial on Account

The subcommittee has already converted these six forms into plain language and has held many meetings to review and edit these forms for legal sufficiency. The next step in the review process is to circulate the six forms in plain language to judges, court clerks, members of the private bar, members of legal aid providers and other persons who work with litigants that will most likely use these forms. These groups have thirty (30) days to submit their comments. The subcommittee reviews these comments and determines how to modify the forms. After this review, the subcommittee submits its final proposed forms to the ATJ Commission with the recommendation that they be sent to the Court.

The Commission proposes to convert the remaining seventeen forms proposed by the GSJC into plain language and utilize its form review process prior to making a recommendation to the Court. The Commission proposes to complete its forms review process according to the following timeline and submit its recommendations regarding the six forms set forth above on or before December 31, 2011, and the remaining seventeen forms on or before April 30, 2012.