

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

1/17/23

Name: Adrienne Waters Ogle

Office Address: 117 Court Avenue, Sevierville, Tennessee 37862-- Sevier County  
(including 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.

Partner at Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter Law Firm, 117 Court Avenue,  
Sevierville, Tennessee 37862; phone: 865-429-3600; fax: 865-429-3644  
Magistrate for Sevier County Juvenile Court  
City Attorney for Gatlinburg, Tennessee

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

2009; Board of Professional Responsibility Number (BPR): 028510

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.

Licensed in Tennessee in 2009; currently active; BPR No: 028510

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).

Spicer Rudstrom - Associate Attorney (2009-2010)  
The Law Office of Jerry Galyon - Associate Attorney (2010-2011)  
The Law Office of Springmann and Waters Ogle - Partner (2011-2014)  
Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter Law Firm - Partner (2014 to Present)  
Sevier County Juvenile Court - Magistrate (2014 to Present)  
City of Gatlinburg - City Attorney (January 1, 2023, to present)

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.

(30%) - General Practice Law related to my position as the Magistrate for the Sevier County Juvenile Court;  
(30%) - Municipal Law related to my duties as City Attorney for the City of Gatlinburg;  
(25%) - Personal Injury Law cases in my private practice;  
(10%) - Family Law matters in my private practice;  
(3%) - Criminal Law matters in my private practice; and  
(2%) - Miscellaneous legal duties.

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 appear in court multiple times a week as part of my roles as the Sevier County Juvenile Court Magistrate, Gatlinburg's City Attorney and as a Partner at Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter.

My role as Magistrate for Sevier County Juvenile Court, specifically, requires me to preside over a variety of serious and complicated cases involving children and families. I have presided over approximately 1,275 cases in Sevier County Juvenile Court within the last 12 months and in excess of 8,000 cases since I was appointed in 2014. These cases include determinations of custody, ordering of treatment evaluations and/or commitment of developmentally disabled or mentally-ill children, commitment of children to the custody of the Department of Children's Services, establishment of parentage, enforcement of child support for children of unwed parents, establishing visitation for non-custodial parents, enforcement of compulsory school attendance laws, and preliminary and adjudicatory dependency and neglect hearings.

My role as the city attorney for Gatlinburg is complex and challenging and requires that I maintain a working knowledge of many different areas of the law. I appear regularly in City Court and have prosecuted approximately 1,500 ordinance violations since my appointment in January 2023. I am also responsible for defending the city in civil lawsuits brought in both state and federal court. I negotiate, draft, and/ or review contracts, leases, bid documents and bonds, resolutions and ordinances, easements, indemnification agreements, interlocal agreements, and other documents on behalf of the city. I also handle responses to subpoenas, government requests and public records requests; perform title searches when requested; and advise the planning commission regarding land use and zoning issues.

Since 2014, I have been a partner at Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter, where I have had the privilege of representing clients in a broad range of legal matters, including, but not limited to, civil litigation, divorce, child custody, child support, criminal defense, business law, estate planning, guardianship, conservatorship, and personal injury. Since approximately 2019, my private practice has primarily focused on representing injured plaintiffs in tort actions. I have represented clients in contested hearings and mediations in the Circuit, Chancery, and General Sessions courts of Sevier, Cocke, and Jefferson counties. I have also litigated several personal injury cases in the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Prior to opening Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter in 2014, I worked as an associate attorney at Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC, in Knoxville, Tennessee, beginning in 2009. As an associate attorney at Spicer Rudstrom, I represented defendants in personal injury and workers' compensation matters. It was always my goal to practice law in my hometown, so when Sevierville attorney Jerry Galyon offered me a position at his firm in 2010, I accepted. I worked for Mr. Galyon until he unexpectedly passed away in May 2011. Following Mr. Galyon's death, I practiced law at Springmann and Waters Ogle with attorney Franz Springmann until I opened Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter in 2014.

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

I cannot disclose any specific facts or information regarding a majority of the matters I hear as the Magistrate in Juvenile Court due to confidentiality. However, I can describe in general terms the types of cases I hear that tend to be the most complex and challenging. I have presided over several multi-day trials in complicated custody cases regarding allocation of parenting time between unwed parents and made decisions in cases with tough issues, such as parental substance abuse, parental alienation, and/ or mental health issues of the parents/ children involved. I have also presided over hearings related to Special Juvenile Immigrant Status pursuant to Immigration and Nationality Act §101(a)(27)(J) and Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA). I have also presided over countless preliminary and adjudicatory hearings involving the dependency and neglect of a child/ children. In those cases specifically, the facts are very difficult to hear and emotions understandably run high in the courtroom. The ability to remain calm and open-minded during dependency and neglect hearings is a skill that I have honed over the last nine (9) years and one that I believe will serve me well as a circuit court judge.

As I previously mentioned, most of my private practice is devoted to representing civil plaintiffs in tort actions. I regularly take depositions, argue pretrial motions and participate in mediations. However, like most plaintiffs lawyers, most of my cases settle prior to trial. Despite that, I have participated in numerous bench trials regarding both motor vehicle accident cases as well as premise liability cases: *Sheila Broadwell v. Tyus Cogdill*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 17-C-89847; *Melanie Hunley v. Lester Latham*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 19-C-96517; *Jonathan Gatlin v. Lester Latham*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 19-C-96516; *Nathan Hamburg v. Kendrick*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 19-C-95263; *Patricia Churchhill v. Amber Rutherford*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 18-C-92901; *Mark Stenglein v. Cubbedge*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 19-C-95265; *Kia Yang v. Ashley Jones*, in the General Sessions Court for Sevier County, No. 23-C-108575.

Below are two recent cases of note my firm has handled:

*Barbara and Rafal Szatan v. Interstate Mechanical Service, LLC., and Titanic – The Legend Continues, Titanic Tennessee, LLC., and Titanic Museum Attraction, Titanic – The Legend Continues, and John A. Joslyn, and Mary Kellogg – Joslyn*, in the Circuit Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 22-CV-297. Our client was injured when the iceberg exhibit at the Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge collapsed and struck her. This was a serious case where our client incurred in excess of \$500,000.00 in medical bills. Given the one-of-a-kind nature of the iceberg exhibit, proving liability was complicated and required extensive research into the workings of the uniquely designed HVAC system that created and maintained a large wall of ice

for museum patrons to touch. This case required multiple expert witnesses in the areas of causation, loss of future earning capacity, future medical expenses and our client's permanent disability. My partner and I litigated this case for over two (2) years before we ultimately settled the case during the parties' second mediation.

*State of Tennessee v. Anthony Devassey Punnackal, in the Circuit Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, No. 2022-CR-49-II* My firm tried a high-profile criminal case in Sevier County where a Catholic priest was accused of sexually assaulting an adult parishioner. My research and knowledge of the Tennessee Rules of Evidence was instrumental in obtaining a pretrial ruling excluding evidence that was prejudicial to our client. I assisted my partner with voir dire including preparation and review of juror questionnaires. During trial, I prepped witnesses and was instrumental in getting a crucial piece of evidence admitted and examined by the jury that ultimately led to our client's acquittal.

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

I have taught numerous continuing legal education seminars in personal injury law.

**July 31, 2019**, Instructor, "*Advanced Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Law: Determining Coverage and Valuing Damages*" - National Business Institute (NBI)

**November 22, 2019**, Instructor, "*Personal Injury Boot Camp: Subrogation- Medicare, Medicaid and ERISA Liens*" - NBI

**July 17, 2020**, Instructor, "*Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Law - Made Simple, Tennessee Uninsured/Underinsured, Clarifying UM/UIM Coverage- Carrier Obligations Made Simple Insurance Law Fundamentals, Uninsured Arbitration and Settlement Strategies*" - NBI

**May 13, 2021**, Instructor, "*Advanced Auto Injury Litigation: UM/UIM Coverage Conundrums and Negotiating with Difficult Adjusters, Liens, Subrogation and Damages: Troubleshooting Key Problems*" - NBI

**July 21, 2021**, Instructor, "*Tennessee Personal Injury Boot Camp: Reviewing Insurance, Negotiating with the Insurance Adjuster and Demand Packages, Liens in Personal Injury: A How-to Guide, Initial Filing and Discovery in Personal Injury Cases*" - NBI

**July 26, 2022**, Instructor, "*Tennessee Auto Injury Litigation From Start to Finish: Insurance Coverage Research and Negotiations With the Claims Representatives, Bad Faith*" - NBI

**August 31, 2023**, Instructor, "*Advanced Issues in Personal Injury Litigation*" - NBI

**September 6, 2023**, Instructor, "*Advanced Issues in Personal Injury Litigation: Complex Medical Record Issues and Answers, Simple Strategies for Dealing with Complex Liens*" - NBI

**November 7, 2023**, Instructor, "*Advanced Auto Injury Litigation*" -NBI

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

I have never submitted an application for any state or federal judicial position.

**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.

Carson Newman College (2001-2002) - I attended Carson Newman my freshman year of college before transferring to the University of Tennessee as a sophomore.

University of Tennessee, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (2002-2005)

University of Tennessee, College of Law, Doctorate of Jurisprudence (2005 - December 2008)

University of Cambridge, Downing College, Cambridge Study Abroad Program (non-degree) (2006) - I studied abroad during law school and completed courses in international law.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

[REDACTED]

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

My entire life.

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

I am a lifelong resident of Sevier County, Tennessee. I have been a resident of Sevier County continuously except for when I lived in Knoxville, Tennessee from 2009-2010 while I worked at Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC. I currently reside in the city of Gatlinburg in Sevier County with my husband of thirteen (13) years, Bart, and our children, Amelia and Charlotte.

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

I am registered to vote in Sevier 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.

I have responded to one complaint filed in 2014. The complaint was dismissed by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

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.

Sevier County Circuit Court, Case No. 2010-0440-II. Agreed Divorce in a short-term marriage with no children. The divorce was granted on grounds of irreconcilable differences.

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.

**CURRENT**

First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg, lifelong member. From 2018-2019, I served on the Children's Ministry Committee, and from 2022-2023, I served on the By-laws Committee.

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Board of Directors.

Sevier County Republican Party, member.

**RETIRED LAST FIVE YEARS**

Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge Airport Authority, Board Member.

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.

2014-Present: Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (TCJFCJ), member.

2012-Present: Sevier County Bar Association, member.

2019-2023: National Trial Lawyers Association, member.

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.

2014-Present: Appointed by the Sevier County General Sessions Judges to serve as the Magistrate for Sevier County Juvenile Court.

2015: Mountain Press Reader's Choice Awards, Best Attorney.

2015: Leadership Sevier - Class of 2015.

2018-2023: Named to the Mid-South Super Lawyer Rising Star list.

2019-2023: Selected as the National Trial Lawyers Association's "Top 40 Under 40."

2023-Present: Appointed to serve as the City Attorney for Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

August 14, 2023: Panelist, Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference: I spoke on a panel of three at the TCJFCJ Conference regarding Education, Truancy, and the Court's Role, School-Court Partnership.

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.

Sevier County Juvenile Court Magistrate, 2014 to present - appointive.

City Attorney for the City of Gatlinburg, January 2023 to present - appointive.

Gatlinburg Pigeon Forge Airport Authority Board, Member, 2019 to January 2023 - appointive. (I resigned my position on the board when I was appointed as the City Attorney for Gatlinburg because of the potential for a conflict of interest between the City and the Airport.)

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

I seek this position to expand my public service and utilize my diverse legal background and God-given talents to serve the people of the Fourth District. My family and I are deeply rooted in Sevier County, and I was shown from an early age the importance of working hard for the betterment of our community. For over nine (9) years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve at-risk children and their families in Sevier County in my role as Juvenile Magistrate. My exposure to the hardships of our community's most vulnerable population has deepened my desire to serve and contributed to my decision to apply for this position. It would be the greatest honor of my career to be chosen as the first female circuit court judge in the Fourth District.

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 seek appointment to the recently created judicial seat in the Fourth Judicial District, which is comprised of Sevier, Cocke, Jefferson, and Grainger Counties. Whomever Governor Lee appoints to this new position will join Presiding Judge Duane Slone, Judge Carter Moore, Judge James Gass and Special Judge Jeff Rader. The circuit court judges in the Fourth District hear a wide array of criminal and civil matters.

This new judgeship was created with the goals of providing the people of the Fourth District with speedier trials and reducing the heavy caseload of each circuit court judge. The knowledge and experience I have gained performing my duties as a juvenile magistrate, a city attorney and a local trial lawyer make me uniquely qualified for this position. As part of that experience, I have worked with Special Judge Jeff Rader for almost a decade, which would be an asset to the court and help make the recent changes to the court's composition a smoother transition. If I have the honor of being selected, I would be able to "hit the ground running" in ensuring that the legislature's goals of speedier trials and a reduction of heavy case loads are accomplished as quickly as possible.

If selected, I would also become the first female circuit court judge for the Fourth Judicial District, which would be a cherished honor. The inclusion of an experienced and competent female judge will make the judiciary of the Fourth District a more accurate representation of the men and women it serves.

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)

Judicial activism poses a grave threat to the integrity of the judiciary, and I would always strive to remain cognizant of the role of the judicial branch when adjudicating cases. The role of the judiciary is to uphold and apply the law in a consistent manner, and I believe a judge should never step outside of that role in substituting his or her personal preferences for the values and beliefs of Tennesseans as expressed through their elected representatives.

My experience as a juvenile court magistrate has required me to exercise judicial restraint on several occasions, but one example is particularly memorable. In 2017, the General Assembly passed a law which required schools to complete three tiers in a progressive truancy intervention plan (PTIP) prior to filing a truancy petition with Juvenile Court. Unfortunately, when a parent refused to cooperate with the school in completing the PTIP, it resulted in delayed intervention for at-risk students, who accumulated additional absences and fell further behind academically as the school attempted to comply with the requirements of the statute without parental assistance. Despite my belief that the delay in intervention would cause students to slip through the cracks, I followed the law and required the school system to complete all three tiers of a PTIP before allowing a truancy referral to Juvenile Court. Thankfully, the General Assembly remedied this issue three years later by clarifying that district and school officials can skip PTIP tiers in cases where a student's parents are uncooperative.

#### 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. Greg Patterson, City Manager of Gatlinburg, Tennessee; phone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
B. David Ogle; phone: [REDACTED]
C. Clint Woodfin, Spicer Rudstrom; phone: [REDACTED]
D. Hon. Jeff Rader, Special Judge of the Fourth Judicial District of Tennessee; phone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
E. Travis McCarter, Partner at Green, Waters Ogle and McCarter; phone: [REDACTED] [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] Circuit Court for the 4th 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: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Adrienne Waters Ogle  
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.

Adrienne Waters Ogle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name

*Adrienne Waters Ogle*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*June 7th, 2024*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*028510*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BPR #

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