

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

9/8/20

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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). 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. Submit by the noon deadline date an original (unbound) completed application (with ink signature) to the Administrative Office of the Courts.** In addition, submit a digital copy with electronic or scanned signature via email to ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov, or via another digital storage device such as a flash drive. 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 a self-employed private practice attorney. My practice is Fry & Ritchie, an association of attorneys.

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

I was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 2009. BPR #028262

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 BPR#028262 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, I have never been denied admission, suspended, or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any state.

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).

Professional Experience as an Attorney

Fry & Ritchie, an association of attorneys 2012-present

Owner/Attorney

Barnes & Fry, an association of attorneys 2011-2012

Owner/Attorney

Law Office of Edward D. DeWerff 2010-2011

Associate Attorney

Associate Attorney

I began my legal career as an associate attorney with the firm, Phillips Law, PLLC. My practice there was dedicated primarily to criminal defense, military law defense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and civil litigation. Specifically, I handled state level felony and misdemeanor defense cases and worked alongside lead counsel in Article 15 actions, Article 32 preliminary hearings, and court-martial cases. I also handled civil litigation cases ranging from landlord/tenant actions to domestic litigation.

I was offered an opportunity to work as an associate for a well-known criminal defense attorney, Edward DeWerff, in 2010. This transition provided me a greater opportunity to gain knowledge in the areas of criminal defense, specifically jury trial practice. While working alongside Mr. DeWerff, I assisted with major crimes defense, including homicides, drug trafficking and crime syndication. I also continued to practice in areas of civil litigation, primarily domestic relations and juvenile court work.

In 2011, I joined with a fellow practitioner, Tim Barnes, who had a well established and busy firm in Clarksville. When I began this role, I had previously been immersed in handling legal cases, but I now took on a managerial role also handling the day-to-day operations, including staffing, accounts receivables and payables, and the day-to-day aspects of a busy small firm. We handled varied cases that included larger and more complex matters.

In 2012, I joined with attorney Stephanie Ritchie-Mize in forming what is my current practice of Fry & Ritchie, an association of attorneys. She and I combined our varied talents and interests to form a firm that meets all the needs of our growing community and clientele.

I was born and raised in Williamson County, Tennessee. Although I have lived my entire life in Tennessee, I had no ties to Clarksville when I first began practicing. Many local firms have familial ties to the area. I did not have a recognizable family name, or a client base built by a prior generation. I had to acquire and utilize a skillset outside the scope of law school curriculum and the courtroom. I consider myself a lawyer and a businesswoman. In law school I never envisioned I would hang my own shingle and write up monthly budgets. I had never opened QuickBooks in my entire life. Nevertheless, I was determined to be a successful advocate for clients and a successful business owner.

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 consider myself a general practice attorney focusing on litigation. The pandemic has changed the nature of my practice in a way that I never anticipated. Communication has become a greater focus and thinking outside the box has taken on a whole new meaning. I find that the versatility I now possess has broadened my expertise and allowed me to grow in ways that make me specifically adaptable to the ever-changing needs of the court.

My present practice is made up of criminal defense, domestic litigation, wills and estates, and a small amount of personal injury, juvenile court practice, and civil litigation. I apportion 35% criminal defense, 35% of my practice to domestic litigation, 20% wills and estates, and the remainder an assortment of civil litigation and juvenile court practice.

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.

The vast majority of my practice is litigation. Over my career I have practiced before the trial courts in Montgomery, Robertson, Williamson, Stewart, Houston, Hickman, Dickson, Cheatham, Maury, Humphreys, and various municipalities. I have performed jury trials and multi-day trials in several of these jurisdictions. Additionally, I have participated in more bench trials than I can count.

I have also appeared before the Court of Appeals, and presently have a case with a novel question of law on appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeals. Further, I was trial counsel for a case that made new law in the Tennessee Supreme Court, State v. Charlotte Frazier 558 S.W.3d 145 (Tenn. 2018). Although I did not appear before the Tennessee Supreme Court in the Frazier case, I litigated the underlying suppression issue in the trial court that formed the basis of the Supreme Court issue. I also represented this client in a seizure matter involving the Department of Safety that was related to the underlying case.

I was associate counsel for two court martial trials in the United States District Court located on Fort Campbell. As associate counsel I went through all trial preparation and performed cross-examination and direct examination on multiple witnesses in each trial. Additionally, in my own private practice I have represented clients in lesser actions involving the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

In the Middle District, I have worked with the United States Attorney's Office representing unindicted co-conspirators during the early stages of investigation on major crimes involving international drug syndicates.

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

In August 2018, I litigated a first-degree murder case based on a homicide during the commission of a robbery in our Division IV trial court. The trial testimony lasted four days and the jury deliberation went from the fourth day after closing arguments until the afternoon on the fifth day. During the deliberation, the jury posed a question relating to clarification on the robbery count. The jury returned verdicts on the three-count indictment. While the jury found the Defendant guilty of second-degree murder, they did not find him guilty of robbery or any lesser included charge. Despite these findings the jury returned a verdict of guilty on the first-degree murder during the commission of a robbery. This resulted in inconsistent verdicts, an area of law that is complex and evolving. This case is currently on appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeals in the Middle District.

In 2015 I successfully defended a young woman in a Termination of Parental Rights case against the Department of Children's Services. My client was the victim of domestic abuse. Despite being physically and mentally abused at the hands of the children's father, she maintained a steady job to provide for her children. Throughout the case, she continued having a loving and close relationship with her children. The Department of Children's Services, however, pursued terminating her rights under a theory of failure to protect the minor children. During the course of my representation, I assisted her with acquiring counseling to get herself away from the abusive situation. Further, I encouraged her to better her situation by pursuing higher education and training. To this day I am thankful for the opportunity to have helped this mother and children.

While I find many practitioners shy away from this area of law, I find the opportunity to help young families to be very rewarding. As a businesswoman, advocate, and mother, I am proud to be able to offer my support to families in distress at a time when they need not only a legal advocate, but also sage practical advice which I have gained from my life experiences.

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

In 2011 I served as a member of the Fee Dispute Commission for the Montgomery County Bar Association. At the time I was appointed to the committee I was starting my own practice. The experience helped form my representation contracts and illustrated the fundamental importance of communication and examining expectations with clients. This knowledge assisted me in building the foundation for a successful small business practice.

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

None

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.

University of Tennessee at Knoxville,	2002-2003
Transferred to East Tennessee State University	
East Tennessee State University,	2003-2006
Bachelor of Arts, <i>summa cum laude</i> 3.93/4.0 GPA	
University of Tennessee, College of Law	2006-2009
<i>Juris Doctorate</i>	
College of Law Scholarship Recipient 2006-2009	
American Association of Justice Trial Team member 2007-2009	
Moot Court Board Public Relations Chair	
American Association of Justice Vice President	
Business and Tax Association Secretary	

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

 1983
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13. How long have you lived continuously in the State of Tennessee?

37 years

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

11 years

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

Montgomery 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.

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.

In 2018 I received notice from the Board of Professional Responsibility that a prior Juvenile Court client filed a complaint. I responded and said complaint was summarily dismissed with no merit.

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.

Adrienne Gilliam Fry v. Denny Lee Fry Cheatham County Chancery Court case# 11CHI-2015-CV-16703 Filed October 26, 2015 and finalized January 25, 2016. Irreconcilable differences divorce from prior spouse. An Agreed Order modifying the Parenting Plan was entered February 2020.

Fry v. Thompson Davidson County Fifth Circuit Court case# 17-C-1369. Filed June 2015. This was a personal injury matter that resulted from an automobile accident on the interstate in Nashville. The case settled at mediation.

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.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parishioner 2009 – present

- Immaculate Conception Religious Education teacher 2018 - 2019
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Confirmation Sponsor 2013 - 2014

Customs House Museum and Cultural Center Guild Member 2019 - present

Montgomery County Sunrise Rotary member 2021 - present

TN Achieves Mentor 2020 - present

Clarksville High School Mock Trial Team Coach 2018 – present

Clarksville Triathlon Club member 2018 – present

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

- 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.

Montgomery County Bar Association member 2009 - present

Montgomery County Bar Association board member 2010 - 2012

Tennessee Bar Association 2009 - present

Tennessee Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers 2010-2018

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 not received any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition since the completion of law school that are directly related to professional accomplishments.

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)

We are our best when we are serving others and working towards a common goal. I seek this position to fulfill and utilize my talents and abilities for my community. Although a native middle Tennessean, I am not from the 19th judicial district. I have, however, chosen to make this

area my home to raise my family and deepen our roots. From a young age I have felt the need to assist others to the best of my capabilities. I watched as my parents worked diligently and tirelessly to open their own dental practice. While building this practice they remained humble and offered support to the community by serving those less fortunate who would otherwise be unable to obtain needed care. This selflessness and generosity formed a framework that I have continued to build upon in my profession. I found my calling in the law working for my 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 the Circuit Court Division I position in the 19th Judicial District. The 19th Judicial District is made up of Montgomery and Robertson Counties. Presently there are five Circuit Court judges and one Chancellor. Although there is no statutory allocation regarding the case makeup, Division I hears primarily civil matters and misdemeanor criminal cases. My background in both civil and criminal practice combined with my ample trial court experience will assist in a smooth transition. Further, it will provide the skill to maintain the current schedule without delay or compromise. While the caseload for this division is immense, it is well-maintained, and I intend to continue this practice.

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)*

Yes, I would absolutely uphold law.

I currently represent a young man who was with a group of other young individuals when a horrific crime was committed. My client was fourteen (14) at the time of the crime and had no significant criminal history. He was not the leader of the event and took measures after the fact to assist law enforcement in the prosecution of the crime. Nevertheless, he was charged with the same offense as the other individuals, including the leader and main aggressor. All individuals participated in a transfer hearing from Juvenile Court. I did not represent my client at this time. The young individuals, all of whom were ages thirteen (13) and fourteen (14), were transferred to be tried as adults. The law does not allow for an appeal of the transfer hearing until the conclusion of the circuit criminal case, denying the ability for relief at a time that would be crucial for the juvenile. At this point the young individuals are approaching the age of majority without having a final conclusion to the criminal case.

I do not agree that a transfer hearing should not be appealable until the conclusion of the criminal court case, however, where the law and the precedent is well settled, I will uphold the law. The trial court judge cannot be influenced by passion or emotion. He or she has a duty to follow and uphold the law. I will uphold the law.

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.

<p>A. Congressman Dr. Mark E. Green, United States House of Representatives, 7th District. [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37040 [REDACTED]</p>
<p>B. Billy Atkins, retired CEO, Legends Bank [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37040 [REDACTED]</p>
<p>C. Jack B. Turner, Principal of Jack B. Turner & Associates [REDACTED] Clarksville, TN 37040 [REDACTED]</p>
<p>D. J. Myers Jones, III, Williamson County Chairman for FirstBank, former CEO for Franklin Synergy Bank [REDACTED] Franklin, TN 37064 [REDACTED]</p>
<p>E. Lori T. Reid, Attorney at Law [REDACTED] Franklin, TN 37064 [REDACTED]</p>

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] 19th Judicial District Div. I 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: April 19, 2021.

Adrienne Galt Fry
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Ceesha Lofton, 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 Gilliam Fry
Type or Print Name

Adrienne Gilliam Fry
Signature

April 19, 2021
Date

028262
BPR #

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