

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

9/8/20

Name: William Allen Wooten

Office Address: 120 Court Square East, Covington, Tennessee 38019
(including county) Tipton County

Office Phone: 901-475-1050 Facsimile: 901-234-0028

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Home Address: [REDACTED] Brighton, Tennessee 38011
(including county) Tipton 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). 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 the Founding Lead Attorney for Wooten Law Office.

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

2007 Tennessee Bar Number 026674

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.

Missouri Bar Number: 60397; Admitted: 4/16/2008; Active

Texas Bar Number: 24089711; Admitted: 3/13/2014; 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).

Founding Lead Attorney, Wooten Law Office, 120 Court Square East, Covington, TN 38019; January 2014-November 2017; Nov. 2018- the present.

- Legal and Mediation Practice in the areas of Corporate Law and Contract Negotiations, Small Business/ Entrepreneurial Law, Employment and Labor Law, Landlord/Tenant Disputes, Criminal Law, Federal and State Condemnation and Real Estate Disputes, Probate/ Estate Law, Collections, Intellectual Property, Social Security Disability, Sports and Entertainment Law and Workers' Compensation; Attorney for Tipton County, Tipton County Public Works and Tipton County Zoning and Former Attorney for the Town of Brighton.

Shareholder/ Attorney/ Mediator, Evans Petree PC, 1715 Aaron Brenner Drive, Suite 800, Memphis, TN 38120, Dec. 2017- Nov. 2018.

- Legal and Mediation Practice in the areas of Corporate Law, Employment law, Business Transactions and Contract Negotiations, Criminal Law, Personal Injury, Sports and Entertainment Law, Intellectual Property, Estates and Trusts, Workers' Compensation, Social Security disability, and Collections

Associate Attorney, Law Office of J. Houston Gordon, 114 W. Liberty Ave, Covington, TN 38019; March 2011-December 2013.

- Legal practice in the areas of Personal Injury, Corporate Law and Business Transactions, Workers' Compensation, Product Liability, Criminal Defense, Intellectual Property and Collections

Associate Attorney, Jackson Shields Yeiser & Holt, 262 German Oak Drive, Memphis, TN 38018; June 2008-March 2011.

- Legal practice in the areas of Employment and Labor Law, Workers' Compensation Defense, Contract Negotiations, Education Law and Administrative Law.

President of Business Development, Nelly Inc., 1839 Beltway Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114; January 2003- June 2008.

- Negotiated business deals, performed market research and developed new business opportunities for the multi-platinum recording artists Nelly, Murphy Lee and the St. Lunatics; Developed several companies including Vokal Clothing Company and Apple Bottoms Clothing Company; Participated in and closed endorsement/ sponsorship negotiations with multiple companies such as Anheuser-Busch, NASCAR, and Universal Music; Responsible for the management, human resources, accounting, bookkeeping, marketing, and public relations for multiple businesses; Provided Tour accounting for Nelly's "Up close and Personal" Tour and Budweiser's "One Night Stand" Tour; Responsible for collecting payment from the venues and paying all salaries, per diems, hotel bills, and other costs; Trusted with over \$10,000-20,000 in cash at all times while on tour.

I have ownership and management experience with my own consulting and marketing company, a peanut company, beverage companies, clothing brands and a website design company. While in college, I was a Washington University Intramural Sports Supervisor, a Pre-Orientation Supervisor and a Resident Advisor for the Washington University Summer Scholarship Program.

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 general nature of my current legal practice is civil litigation and business transactional work. I estimate my practice is 45% Plaintiff-oriented, 40% Defendant defense and 15% transactional/non-adversarial. My current law practice consists of 20% Corporate and Transactional Law, 20% Employment and Labor Law, 10% Personal Injury, 5% Criminal Law, 5% Administrative Law, 5% Social Security Disability, 5% Probates/Estates, 5% Intellectual Property, 5% Municipal Law, 5% Landlord/Tenant and Collections Law, 5% Workers' Compensation, 5% Condemnation and Real Estate Disputes and 5% Sports and Entertainment Law.

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 would generally describe myself as a trial and transactional attorney with a focus in civil litigation. I have litigated and tried multiple cases in courts in Tennessee, Missouri and Texas. I have conducted numerous civil and criminal trials and hearings in Tennessee Circuit/Chancery and General Sessions Courts, the Tennessee Claims Commission, the Board of Appeals of the State of Tennessee and the Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims. I have also litigated disputes in all three Tennessee Federal District Courts, the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and federal district Courts in Missouri and Arkansas. Finally, I have litigated cases in the Tennessee Western District Bankruptcy Court and the USPTO Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

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

I obtained two multi-million dollar decisions for clients (sexual assault case and a corporate securities matter). To my recollection as lead counsel, I do not recall a judgment or decision favorable to my client being overturned by an appellate court. I consistently obtain favorable resolutions for my clients through a positive verdict, settlement or dismissal in the vast majority of my cases.

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

In addition to my normal client list, I am honored to serve Tipton Christian Academy on their personnel committee and provide employment law advice at no cost. I routinely provide at least 50 hours a year to the representation of poor, indigent and unfairly-treated individuals, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. I have represented numerous churches and non-profit organizations including the Tipton Titans Youth Football Organization for no charge or at a

severely-reduced fee. I have also filed and monitored over 400 trademark applications for domestic and international clients from all over the world.

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

I applied for a state judicial position with the Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims in Jan. 2017. The Honorable Judge Deana Seymour was chosen.

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.

Juris Doctor, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, TN (Aug. 2004-May 2007) Dean's List, President of the Sport and Entertainment Law Society, Certificate of Academic (Highest Grade in Class) in Mediation Clinic, Negotiations and Professionalism, International Business Transactions, and National Security Law, Volunteer for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, and Member of International Law Society.

B.A. with Honors in Economics and Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri (Aug. 1999- Dec. 2002), Awarded Elliot Leadership Scholarship from Washington University, Arts and Sciences Scholar, Dean's List, Wal-Mart Leadership Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, President of Sigma Chi Fraternity, Varsity Baseball Team, Intramural Sports Supervisor

Study Abroad, King's College, London, England (Sept. 2001-Dec. 2001)

Masters of International Affairs, Candidate, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri (Aug. 2003-Dec. 2003) Left Program to attend law school

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

1981

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

I was born in Memphis, Tennessee, raised in Tipton County and have lived continuously in Tennessee from 1981-1999 and from 2004-present. I only lived outside of Tennessee while attending college at Washington University in St. Louis, study abroad and some summers during college and law school.

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

I have continuously lived in Tipton County from 1981-1999 and from 2007-present.

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

I am registered to vote in Tipton 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.

I received one formal complaint with the Board of Professional Responsibility, and it was summarily dismissed.

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.

Construction Dispute in Dallas County Court, CPCM v. Elliot Ferwerda, et al., Cause No. CC-12-07669 C; I was never served but understood I was named in an Amended Complaint. This matter was settled and was dismissed on July 24, 2013.

Sponsorship Dispute in St. Louis, Missouri; US District Court for the Eastern District of MO, 4:06CV1703 HEA, Rhodes, et al. v. Haynes, et al.; Defendants denied all of Plaintiff's claims, and the case settled.

Shelby County Juvenile Court Case, Catherine Elizabeth Jones v. William Allen Wooten, BB-5799; Custody dispute which was 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.

Rotary Club Member (2009-present), Scholarship Chair (2011-2014) and Treasurer (2020-2021);

Chairman of the Board for the Covington Parks Foundation (2020-Present); Board Member for the South Tipton County Chamber of Commerce (2018-Present); Board Member of the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce (2019-Present); Member of the Personnel Committee for Tipton Christian Academy; Board Member for Life Options of West TN, Inc., a representative payee and elderly care company; Board Member for The Hope Promise: Charlie Glass Sarcoma Research Foundation; Member of the First United Methodist Church in Covington, Tennessee; Youth Sports Coach in basketball, football and baseball in Covington, Brighton, Munford and Shelby County; Member of the TOTAL Tipton County Leadership Class sponsored by the South Tipton and Covington-Tipton County Chambers of Commerce; Participant in WestStar Leadership Class 2020-2021.

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.

Memphis Bar Association (2008-Present); Founding Member of Board of Directors of the Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Section (2010-2012); President of the Sports and Entertainment Law and Intellectual Property Section of the Memphis Bar Association (2019-Present); Graduate of the 2017 Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class ("TBALL"); Graduate of the Tennessee Bar Association Public Service Academy (2018); Society of Human Resources Certified Professional and Member (2016-Present); Tipton County Bar Association (2008-Present); Tennessee Bar Association, 2008-Present; Missouri Bar Association (2008-Present); Texas Bar Association (2015-Present); Notary Public (2019-Present)

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.

2018 Reader Choice Award for Best Law Firm in Tipton County by Covington Leader Newspaper; 2016-2017 Super Lawyers Rising Star in Employment and Labor Law; National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Attorney (2019-2021); Top 10 Under 40 Personal Injury Attorney in the State of Tennessee; Top 40 under 40 Criminal Defense Lawyer in the State of Tennessee; Wooten Law Office nominated as Best Place to Work by Local Newspaper's Reader Choice Awards; Nominated for Best Law Firm by Local Newspaper's Reader Choice Awards from 2014-2018; Tennessee Rule 31 Certified Civil Law Mediator 2008; Tennessee Rule 31 Certified Family Law Mediator 2011

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 applied for the Town of Brighton appointed municipal judge position in Oct. 2018. The Honorable Judge Lauren Raynor was chosen.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I seek this position to serve the citizens of the 25th Judicial District. I was raised, spent the majority of my life and continue to live in the 25th Judicial District and would value the opportunity and challenge of being a Circuit Court judge. I aspire to be an honorable, ethical and fair servant of the people and businesses in West Tennessee. I believe my experience in representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of civil and criminal cases, in addition to my skills as an impartial mediator and certified human resource professional, make me uniquely qualified to render fair judgments in accordance with the law. I am dedicated and passionate about the law, believe in hard work and the ethical and fair treatment of all people, and I would be honored to use my experience and knowledge to contribute to the Tennessee judicial branch.

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 to obtain appointment as Circuit Court Judge for the 25th Judicial District, which includes Tipton, Lauderdale, Fayette, Hardeman and McNairy Counties. The 25th Judicial District has two Circuit Court Judges who handle the civil and criminal docket for the five county area. Due to my experience in litigating and trying civil cases as plaintiff and defense counsel and defending and prosecuting criminal cases, I am prepared to adjudicate matters fairly and efficiently. As the lead practitioner of an independent firm, I am comfortable efficiently managing a large case load with limited resources while not sacrificing the quality of reaching a resolution and following the law. Practicing in state and federal courts in multiple jurisdictions, I have witnessed different

procedures and techniques for handling the docket, managing attorneys and fostering justice for all participants.

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)

Absolutely. I have had many difficult conversations with clients and potential clients where I explained the reality or limits of the law even though that explanation was not compatible with the client's desired request. In those situations, my rapport with the client or their approval of me was frequently negatively impacted due to my commitment to remaining honest and committed to representing the law accurately. Moments such as these frequently involve sacrificing an opportunity for personal financial gain, but my integrity of upholding the letter of the law is not something I am willing to sacrifice at any cost.

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. Hon. Paul Rose, State Senator, [REDACTED] Covington, TN 38019, Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- B. Dr. Jayson Cannon, Chiropractor/ Owner of Cannon Chiropractic, [REDACTED]
Munford, TN 38058 [REDACTED]
- C. Hon. Jeff Huffman, Tipton County Executive, [REDACTED] Covington, TN 38019,
[REDACTED]
- D. Kevin Johnson, General Counsel and Senior Advisor for Speaker Cameron Sexton, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Nashville, TN 37243, Phone: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- E. Brian Yoakum, Attorney at Law/ Shareholder, Evans | Petree PC, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee 38120, [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 25th Judicial 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: June 18, 2021.



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

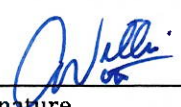
TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT
AND OTHER LICENSING BOARDS

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.

William A. Wooten
Print Name


Signature

June 18, 2021
Date

026674
BPR #

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

Missouri Bar Association, Missouri Bar No. 60397

Texas Bar Association, Texas Bar No. 24089711
