

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

1/17/23

Name: Amy Long Wilson

Office Address: [REDACTED]
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
(including county) Lawrence County

Office Phone: 931-231-9088 Facsimile: _____

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
(including county) Lawrence County

Home Phone: N/A Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

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. 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.

I am a sole practitioner. The name of my office is the Law Office of Amy Long Wilson.

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

2013. BPR No. 032598

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 No. 032598 - 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).

Yes. I was initially denied admission to the Bar for the State of Tennessee on October 12, 2013 due to a concern of past debt issues (filed bankruptcy in 2002) and previous violations of workplace policies. I appealed and was admitted on December 2, 2013.

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).

When I graduated from law school, I worked as legal assistant to the General Counsel for the Tennessee Military Department. My last day working for the Military Department was March 14, 2014. I opened my practice on March 17, 2014.

Since the age of 18, I have worked as a waitress, store clerk, cook, cashier, account executive at a radio station, emergency medical technician (EMT), department manager of a retail store, assistant manager of a retail store, owned and operated a consignment/antique store, owned and operated a restaurant and have prepared federal income tax returns. My consignment/antique store and my restaurant were located in Waynesboro, Tennessee.

Prior to age eighteen I worked as a babysitter and waitress.

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.

My main areas of practice are juvenile and family law.

Areas of practice:

Guardian ad litem for Juvenile D&N: 50%

Divorce: 15%

Custody: 15%

Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption: 10%

Criminal: 5%

Other: 5%

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.

Since opening my practice in 2014, I have represented clients in criminal court on charges ranging from misdemeanor public intoxication to 1st degree murder and post-conviction relief. I have been defense counsel on several jury trials and only one client was found guilty as indicted. The remainder were lesser included offenses, not guilty or hung jury. Until 2018, criminal defense represented approximately 40-50% of my practice.

I have had numerous termination of parental rights (TPR) trials (over 25), divorce hearings and custody hearings. I have represented parents in TPR trials and have filed TPR petitions on behalf of children that were in DCS custody and needed stability and permanency.

I have also engaged in appellate work in criminal matters on direct appeal and post-conviction matters. I have also had cases on appeal in the Court of Appeals on Termination of Parental Rights.

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

My criminal trial court record on jury trials includes one guilty as indicted, several guilty on lesser included offenses, one not guilty and one hung jury.

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

Prior to becoming licensed, and while working as legal assistant at the Military Department, I assisted in drafting contracts for fire services at the air bases, as well as TEMA contracts where accuracy and detail are essential.

While working as a legal assistant at a local law firm during my first year of law school, I assisted in drafting trusts, wills and estate documents/estate planning. I also assisted in a condemnation case, deraignment of title and easement case and property boundary issues.

I have been a volunteer ombudsman for the Employer Support of Guard and Reserves, an office of the Department of Defense. I became an ombudsman for ESGR in 2011 and in 2013 was Tennessee's Ombudsman of the Year and was nominated for the national award. In this role I mediated between service members and employers under USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act). These cases entail issues where an employer does not hire, re-hire or fires a service member due to that service member's service commitment. I resigned as an ombudsman in 2020 due to my work schedule and other responsibilities.

I also assisted in drafting T.C.A. § 8-33-110 in 2011 when I worked at the Military Department. This law affords service members protection under state law when on state active duty and is comparable to the federal USERRA law which protects service members on federal active duty.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Columbia State Community College – 1992 – Emergency Medical Technician Certification

University of North Alabama – 1993 – left school due to father's sickness and work schedule

Columbia State Community College – 2004-2006 – AA in General Studies

Middle Tennessee State University – 2006-2009 – BS in Political Science Pre-Law

BBA in Accounting

Nashville School of Law – 2009-2013 – Juris Doctorate (nominated for honor counsel all 4 years of law school)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1971.

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

All of my life except for one month in 1990.

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

Since 2005 – 19 years.

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

Lawrence 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 had 2 complaints made against me to the Board of Professional Responsibility. Both complaints were 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)?

Yes. Twenty-two years ago in 2002.

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.

Yes.

Lawrence Chancery Case. No. 5821-92. 10/28/1992. Stipulated/Agreed Divorce from Michael Glen Cox. Divorce Granted.

Lawrence Chancery Case No. 5821-92. 07/29/2002. Modification of Child Support. Child support modified.

Lawrence Chancery Case No. 5821-92. 03/20/2003. Modification of Child Support. Agreed

Order modifying support entered.

Lawrence Chancery Case No. 5821-92. 10/11/2005. Modification of Child Support. Child support modified.

Lawrence Chancery Case No. 5821-92. 8/3/2007. Modification of Parenting Plan. Parenting Plan modified.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee No. 102-05782-GP1-7. 08/22/2002. Bankruptcy. Discharge of Debt.

Lawrence County Case No. 9691-99. 9/7/1999. Irreconcilable Diff. Divorce from Jeffrey Keith Wray. Divorce Granted.

Lawrence County Case No. 9691-99. 12/29/2000. Modification of Parenting Time. Agreed Order entered modifying parenting time.

Lawrence County Case No. 9691-99. 04/27/2007. Modification of Child Support. Agreed Order entered.

Lawrence County Case No. 2020-CV-19523. Irreconcilable Diff. Divorce from Bobby Joe Schisler. Divorce Granted.

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.

I am President of the Tanner Wray Foundation and have been since 2018.

I attend United Church in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

I have been a member of the Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club since 2023.

I joined the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce in 2024.

I am a member of the Lawrence County Republican Party.

I was on the Board of Directors of Buffalo River Services from 2015 until 2020.

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.

Lawrence County Bar Association

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.

Not applicable.

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 ran for Lawrence County General Sessions Judge in 2022.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

I am seeking this Judgeship because I sincerely believe that the people of the 22nd Judicial District deserve judges that will listen to them and/or their attorneys and hear all the facts before making a decision. I adhere to the premise that every individual has a right to an impartial, fair and just rule of law no matter their situation or circumstance.

I want to make a difference in our community. I want to make a positive impact on other people's lives through the administration of justice. Whether standing by a criminal defendant entering a plea or sitting beside a mother surrendering her parental rights or by a child who is finally having his/her adoption day, I believe that my assistance made an impact. Compassion, while

maintaining a firm adherence to justice, is what is needed in our court system.

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 the Circuit Judgeship in the 22nd Judicial District to fill the upcoming vacancy initiated by Judge David Allen's resignation and retirement. Filling Judge Allen's seat will be challenging, but I feel that I am well suited to fill that vacancy. I bring to the Court and the bench a life of experiences and education that is not necessarily found in a law degree. I understand what it is like to be with limited means, what it is like to have life altering events occur that jar you to the core, and how the words of those in authority can forever impact you and your life choices.

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. T.C.A. § 36-1-113(h)(1)(E) allows the Department of Children's Services to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent if after 6 months there is not reasonable progress. This law, in my opinion, does not take into account the time it takes for services to begin or the conflicting steps on a permanency plan. When a permanency plan requires the parent to attend a drug rehabilitation program and obtain a job and housing, pay child support, etc., the parent is unable to comply with all the steps simultaneously which inherently sets that parent up to fail. I represented a young mother who was addicted to methamphetamines and her child tested positive for the same at birth. Her child was placed in DCS custody. Her required alcohol and drug assessment recommended inpatient rehab. She also had to obtain safe and stable housing, legal source of income, pay child support, etc.. She went to rehab as required and was doing well. It was a year-long program and at six months she was to transfer to sober living. At the 6-month mark, before she had a chance to complete the most important step on the plan, the guardian ad litem filed to terminate her parental rights for failure to pay child support, failure to provide a suitable home, among other grounds. This mother surrendered her parental rights because she felt she was in a no-win situation.

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. Stacey Hardin Brewer – Loan Officer/Republican State Exec Comm. – [REDACTED]

B. David Byrd – Retired Educator/Retired State Rep. –	[REDACTED]
C. David Morgan – Lawrence County Executive/Pastor –	[REDACTED]
D. Stella Hargrove – Retired Circuit Judge –	[REDACTED]
E. Patrick Butler – Asst. District Attorney –	[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 **Circuit Court of the 22nd 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: April 16, 2024.


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.

Amy Long Wilson
Type or Print Name

Amy S. Wilson
Signature

04/16/2024
Date

032598
BPR #

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

TN Dept of Health - EMT license - 017651
