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

1/17/23

Name: Wesley Mack Bryant

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(including county)

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(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.

Parks, Bryant, & Snyder, PLLC  
Attorney/Managing Member

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

2002  
BPR #022035

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.

Not Applicable

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).

Hardin, Parkes, Kelley, Carter, & Bryant, PLLC (Formerly Hardin & Parkes) from graduation from law school and until 10/1/2014

The Law Office of Wesley Mack Bryant from 10/1/2014 to 9/1/2016

Parks, Bryant, & Snyder, PLLC from 9/1/2016 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.

In my current practice, I focus on Domestic Relations/Family Law and Criminal Law. At the signing of this application, I would estimate that 50% of my time is devoted to Domestic Relations/Family Law, 30% to Criminal Law with the remaining 20% of my time would be allocated among Probate/Estate Planning; Landlord/Tenant issues; Collections; and other various civil matters.

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.

Throughout my career I have practiced law in almost every area of the law at the trial court and appellate level. I have participated in jury trials as counsel for insurance defense clients as well as plaintiff clients in personal injury cases; will contests representing both proponent of a will as well as on behalf of the contestants of a will; breaches of contracts; and criminal cases as low as DUI 1<sup>st</sup> cases and as high as first degree murder cases. Additionally, I have participated in countless bench trials and hearings, especially in my Domestic Relations practice. I have prepared and argued appellate briefs in both criminal and civil cases, as both counsel for the appellee and the appellant and in as high as before the Tennessee Supreme Court.

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

Below are a list of cases of note that I believe also demonstrates the variety of cases I have handled during my legal practice.

**Published cases:**

**Trial Court/Appellate Civil:** Hodge v Craig, 382 S.W.3d 325 (Tenn. 2012). This case established the cause of action for paternity fraud in Tennessee. I assisted in the bench trial on this case, I prepared and argued this matter before the Tennessee Court of Appeals and I headed the research and preparation of the brief and assisted in oral arguments before the Tennessee Supreme Court. The brief on appeal submitted to the Tennessee Supreme Court researched and addressed every State's position on the issue of paternity fraud.

**Appellate Civil:** Hollis v Doerflinger, 137 S.W.3d 625 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2003). An issue addressed in this decision established that prejudgment interest is not allowed on personal injury claims. I headed the preparation of the brief to the Court of Appeals in this matter. It was actually one of the very first assignments Russ Parkes gave me at Hardin and Parkes; I had not taken the

Bar, at that time, thus my name is not included on the decision.

### **Cases of Note**

**Trial Court Criminal: State v Norman**, Maury County Circuit No. 16988. I represented the Defendant on the charge of First Degree Murder where the instrument of death was an axe. The case, tried to verdict before a jury of 12, and dealt with complicated issues concerning the admissibility of Defendant's statement, newly discovered evidence right before trial, knowledge of prior violence of the victim, and defense of another.

**Trial Court Criminal: State v Owns, Tyler**, Maury County Circuit No. 29183. In this case, a newer attorney with the Public Defender's office was scheduled to try her first jury trial alone while she was about 8 months pregnant. In this case the defendant/father of the alleged victim was charged with Especially Aggravated Kidnapping and Aggravated Child Endangerment (both Class A felonies). The main issue in the case was whether or not the facts met the standard for the crime charged or was it merely custodial interference. I volunteered my time and was second chair in the case where we equally divided the case preparation and trial work, and where I handled the legal research and argument concerning the major/deciding issue in the matter; whether or not custodial interference should be charged as a lesser included offense of especially aggravated child kidnapping.

**Trial Court Domestic Relations/Tort: Kanka v Kanka**, Marshall County Chancery No. 17176. In this case, I represented the wife/mother in a domestic violence laden divorce. In addition to suing for divorce, I added tort claims for assault, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. During the divorce, husband took an unauthorized voluntary early retirement from his employer and relocated to Michigan causing willful underemployment issues. Bench trial resulted in alimony in futuro as well as alimony in solido (attorney fees) for wife, an equitable division of property, but then damages in tort to be taken from husband's share of the marital estate. The case was affirmed on appeal.

**Trial Court Civil: Stanton v Heffington**, Maury County Circuit No. 15647. In this case, I represented a homeowner whose neighbor hired a tree service to cut down 11 white pines that were near the border of the parties' property line but were in fact on my client's property. This case dealt with the complex and fairly novel use of the trunk formula method of value of timber for residential trees. The case was tried by a jury to a verdict in favor of the plaintiff's value and methodology of the trees.

**Trial Court/Appellate Wills and Estates: Estate of Maple Foster Park**, Maury Chancery No. P-156-01, No. M2003-0064-COA-R3-CV. This was a will contest bench trial where I assisted in the representation of the contestants and where a home health caretaker was named as the sole beneficiary of a substantial estate. I headed the preparation of the brief on appeal to the Court of Appeals where Judge William Koch, writing for the unanimous panel, stated that the facts were "among the clearest cases of undue influence that the members of this court have ever reviewed."

**Trial Court Civil: Hunt v Burns**, Humphreys Circuit Nos. 9223, 9227, and 9236. This was a multi-party automobile accident case where I represented the Defendant who had a sudden loss of consciousness due to a latent heart condition. The case dealt with complex issue concerning medical condition, notice, and damages. The claims were dismissed upon summary judgment based on the research, briefing, and argument I made in the case.

**Trial Court Civil: Williams v Columbia Housing Authority**, Maury Circuit No. 05-289. I defended the local housing authority against a suit filed by the former director claiming race discrimination and retaliatory discharge. Case was dismissed upon summary judgment based on the research, briefing and argument I made in the case.

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

Authored the Comment **Solomon's New Sword: Tennessee Parenting Plan, The Roles of Attorneys, and the Care Perspective**, 70 Tenn. L. Rev. 221 (2002)

Said comment appears in the Tennessee Law Review's Symposium edition "The Ethics 2000 Commission: The Adversary System and the Lawyer-Client Relationship."

Current chair of the TBA's Mentoring Committee and have served as a mentor through said program.

I volunteer to represent individuals at probable cause hearings who were involuntarily committed to our local mental health institute, Pinewood Springs. I have done so ever since Pinewood Springs opened in Columbia back in 2020, thus requiring such hearings.

Organized and participated in the TBA District 11 Wills for Heroes Program, a pro bono clinic where we provided approximately 250 last wills and testaments, living wills, and powers of attorney for Maury County first responders. I believe this was the highest number of participants in the state for this program for over a year.

Organized and participated in a pro bono Wills Clinic for Columbia Cares (a not for profit organization serving indigent individuals in Southern Middle Tennessee who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS) where we provided last wills and testaments, living wills, and powers of attorneys for their clients.

Coached Columbia Central High Schools Mock Trial Teams (2002-2004, 2008)

Organized/directed the District 11 Mock Trial Competition (2005-2007)

Called by the District Attorney for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District in the First Degree Murder case of State v Quintana, (Maury County Circuit Court), where I was qualified, at the DA's request, as

an expert witness on Tennessee Domestic Relations Law.

Qualified as an expert in Tennessee Law in the case of State v Soriano (Maury County Circuit Court).

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

I applied for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court in August of 2018. The position was open due to Judge Robert L. Jones retiring.

### 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 Mississippi**, 1995 to 1999 – Bachelor of Arts, major in History (minors in English, Latin, and Philosophy)

**University of Tennessee College of Law**. 1999 to 2002 – Doctorate of Jurisprudence  
Tennessee Law Review, Student Materials Editor (2002)

Employed by the University of Tennessee as a Student Attorney where I would prosecute or defend students for violations of the student handbook pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

1977

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

Other than while attending the University of Mississippi, I have lived my entire life in Tennessee.

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

Other than while attending the University of Mississippi, and then while attending the University of Tennessee College of Law I have lived my entire life in Maury County, Tennessee.

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

Maury 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.

While the question indicated to list only formal complaints that did not result in dismissal, I believe it is important for applicants for judicial appointment be completely forthcoming on this issue.

In my almost 22 years of practicing law I am only aware of one formal complaint being filed

against me, with same being filed by an opposing party to a modification of parenting plan case out of Maury County Juvenile Court. There were various claims the opposing party made, but the board only found issue regarding discovery in case. My client had only supervised visitation, but it was rightly believed that at trial the supervision would be lifted, however, my client did not have his own housing and wanted to hold off on moving forward with the trial until he closed on a home he was attempting to purchase to increase his chances of getting more time with the minor children moving forward. My client instructed me to hold off on forwarding discovery. Opposing counsel was not demanding discovery be provided, only that he would not agree to set for trial until discovery was received, thus prolonging my client's supervised visitation, which was to his client's immediate advantage. I, at the time, viewed the issue as one that concerned advocacy for each of our respective clients. After the opposing party discovered that my client had obtained his own housing and my client was likely to obtain more visitation, she filed her complaint with the board. The board offered diversion with the completion of 3 additional ethics hours then dismissal upon same. I completed the classes and the complaint was dismissed.

I also had two Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) claims that were "dismissed after investigation" (2007 and 2010). I don't recall the specifics of those claims, I just remember providing the agency with some information such as billing information, but I do not recall ever hearing anything back from the agency after providing same.

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.

I was divorced pursuant to a Final Decree incorporating an Agreed Permanent Parenting Plan and Marital Dissolution Agreement on January 7, 2015, Bryant v Bryant, Maury County Chancery Court No. 14-493



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.

Leadership Middle Tennessee  
Maury County Election Commission (Precinct Officer (R), 2014 to present)  
City of Columbia Planning Commission (Chairman, 2014 to 2020)  
Maury County Regional Planning Commission  
Maury County Public Schools Redistricting Taskforce  
Kiwanis of Columbia (Board member 2004)  
Columbia Central High School Hall of Fame Board (Chairman, 2023)  
Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance:  
Board of Directors (2014 and 2015)  
Executive Committee (2014)  
Chamber Council (2012, 2013, and 2014, Chairman 2014)  
Education Taskforce (Chairman, 2014 and 2015)  
Young Professionals Committee (Chairman, 2011, 2012, and 2013)  
Public Affairs Committee  
Non-profit Boards:  
Maury Regional Medical Center Foundation  
Maury Regional Medical Center Federal Qualified Health Center  
Columbia Peace and Justice Initiative (founding member, secretary 2019-2022)

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.
- If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.
  - 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.

In college I was a member of the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta. It limited membership based on gender. If nominated and selected for this position I intend to continue my limited participation in this organization because I continue to enjoy the fellowship I gain from such participation and do not believe college fraternities/sororities limited membership based on gender is in conflict with any ethical or moral standard.

**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.

**Tennessee Bar Association:**

Mentor Committee 2019 to present (Chair 2022-present)  
Leadership Law, class of 2008  
Leadership Law Alumni  
Young Lawyers Division - District 11 Representative  
Young Lawyers Fellowship Board  
Maury County Bar Association  
Young Lawyer's Division President 2006  
Tennessee Mock Trial  
Coached Columbia Central High School (2002-2004, 2008)  
Organized/directed the District 11 competition (2005-2007)

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.

Solomon's New Sword: Tennessee's Parenting Plan, the Roles of Attorneys, and the Care Perspective, 70 Tenn. L. Rev. 221 (2002-2003)  
Star Attorney of the Quarter (for Maury County Wills for Heroes event)  
Daily Herald Best of the Best - Attorney  
Qualified as an Expert in Tennessee Domestic Relations Law  
Qualified as an Expert in Tennessee Law  
Columbia Soccer Association Community Award

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 Maury County General Sessions, Part I (Maury County Juvenile Court, Part I) in January of 2018. The position was open due to Judge George Lovell retiring in term with the position being filled by the Maury County Commission.

I applied for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Circuit Court in August of 2018. The position was open due to Judge Robert L. Jones retiring.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

As a life-long resident of Maury County I see this position as an opportunity to continue to serve my home community as well as the surrounding counties of the District in which I have primarily practiced and have come to feel as an extension of my home county.

I have good working relationships with the attorneys who routinely practice in the District and I believe my reputation among my colleagues is as an honest, knowledgeable, and fair-dealing adversary.

Finally, I have always considered the practice of law to be one of being in the community not just of the community. I consider it a duty of those who are part of the legal system to be pillars of the community who not only concern themselves with the issues that are before them but also should be concerned with the health, safety, and progress of the community at large.

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)*

This position encompasses both Circuit and Chancery dockets across four, mostly rural, counties. The five judges handle both dockets and in some counties Probate jurisdiction as well. The appointed applicant would oversee virtually any State court action filed in the district. With my diverse litigation experience, I will be able to handle any case that would come before me on day one.

This position will need to manage case/docket loads efficiently. I've managed a law firm since 2016 containing 8 lawyers and staff, where I implemented quality management principles borrowing from programs like the Baldrige framework where regular evaluations of processes and policies are implemented to ensure efficient case/office/client management.

Finally, this district is moving towards online filing/dockets. This position will need to grow as technology grows. I've spearheaded technology transitions such as moving to a "paperless office" where I researched, implemented, acquired the equipment, and trained in the paperless process.

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)*

I will do my duty to uphold the law, even if I disagree with it.

I was once appointed as Attorney Ad Litem on an Adult Protective Services case. As the

Attorney Ad Litem it was my duty to advocate for my client's position, as opposed to her best interest. My client had untreated (or at least poorly treated) diabetes and her legs had begun to clot and she had open sores on her feet and legs. Additionally, she lived in a roach-infested home and the roaches had begun to eat and lay eggs in the open wounds.

My client had been taken to the emergency room due to her condition and had been advised that her legs were in such a state she required amputation. She refused and Adult Protective Services petitioned for her to be declared incompetent and for the amputation surgery to be performed.

From the information I had received I knew that my client faced almost certain death without the surgery, and I did not want to enable her death. However, it was my duty to advocate for her position and I did so. I was able to convince the Judge that my client was not incompetent, but that she simply preferred no life, or at least was willing to risk her death, then a life without her legs.

#### 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. J. Russell Parkes, Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, [REDACTED] Columbia, TN 38401, [REDACTED]

B. Caleb Bayless, Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, [REDACTED] Columbia, TN 38401, [REDACTED]

C. Robert L Holloway, Jr. Court of Criminal Appeals, Middle District, [REDACTED] Columbia, TN 38401. [REDACTED]

D. Barry Crotzer, former Chief of Police for the City of Columbia, former Special Agent for the Tennessee Department of Homeland Security, current Senior Director of Security, Community Health Systems, [REDACTED] TN 37067. [REDACTED]

E. Randy Wilmore, Chief Relationship Officer, Tennessee Farm Bureau Health Plans, [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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 15, \_\_\_\_\_, 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.

Wesley Mack Bryant \_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name

  
Signature

04/15/2024 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

022035 \_\_\_\_\_  
BPR #

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

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