



NASHVILLE SCHOOL of LAW

From the office of the
PRESIDENT AND DEAN

June 17, 2021

[By email to: lang.wiseman@tn.gov]

The Honorable Bill Lee
Office of the Governor
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: 26th Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Governor Lee:

On June 3, 2021, your office notified the Trial Court Vacancy Commission of a vacancy in Chancery Court for the 26th Judicial District created by Chancellor James F. Butler's retirement. The Commission publicized this vacancy and set June 17, 2021 as the deadline for submitting applications. The Commission also made arrangements to hold a public hearing regarding this vacancy on July 21, 2021 in Jackson.

The application deadline has now passed, and the Commission has received only two applications. The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Commission cannot provide you with the names of three persons qualified to fill this vacancy pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-308(h) because only two persons have applied. Accordingly, Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-310(a) permits you to fill the vacancy with any person of your choosing who is duly licensed to practice law and otherwise fully qualified to serve as a judge of the Chancery Court for the 26th Judicial District.

For your information, I have included with this letter the redacted applications of the two persons who filed timely applications for this position. The Administrative Office of the Courts is prepared to provide your staff with unredacted versions of these applications upon request.

Very truly yours,

William C. Koch, Jr.
Chair, Trial Court Vacancy Commission

cc: Lang Wiseman, Esq.
Deborah Taylor Tate, Esq.

enclosures