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"TN appeals courts deadline to fill 3 vacancies draws near"

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Written by

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The Tennessean

The group that helps pick the judges who sit on Tennessee's appeals courts faces an end-of-the-month deadline to fill three vacancies.

The Judicial Nominating Commission, 17 lawyers who review applicants and send suggestions to Gov. Bill Haslam, is reviewing nominations before June 30, after which it will cease to exist legally.

The commission is screening 25 applications to replace two judges who will retire next year. Those retirements, and a third announced this month, have been timed to give the group a chance to suggest successors.

Western Tennessee district applicants have not been released. Other applicants are:

Court of Appeals, Middle Tennessee

Christina Henley Duncan, partner, Rogers, Duncan & North, Manchester. Duncan primarily practices civil trial law, with personal injury and wrongful death cases making up the bulk of her work. She was nominated to the bench in 2007.

Robert Lee Holloway Jr., circuit court judge, 22nd Judicial District, Columbia. A judge since 1998, Holloway recently completed a term as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Robert L. Huskey, attorney, The Huskey Firm, Manchester. Huskey has practiced law in Coffee County since 1970. He is currently the county attorney and its delinquent tax attorney.

John D. Kitch, solo practitioner, Nashville. An attorney since 1976, Kitch also teaches law at the Nashville School of Law and is the past president of the Nashville Bar Association.

Janet M. Kleinfelter, deputy attorney general, Office of Tennessee Attorney General, Nashville. As deputy of the AG's public interest division, Kleinfelter has represented the state in suits against it seeking the release of Department of Children's Services records and challenging Tennessee's voter identification law.

Linda W. Knight, member, Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin, Nashville. Knight primarily practices corporate and bankruptcy law. She sat on the Tennessee Ethics Commission for four years starting in 2006.

William Neal McBrayer, attorney member, **Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada**, Nashville. A co-author of three books on bankruptcy law, McBrayer was a candidate for a bankruptcy judgeship in 2011. He has sat on the Brentwood Planning Commission since 2009.

Forrest Shoaf, investor, Lebanon. Shoaf is the former general counsel of Cracker Barrel and served 15 months as its interim chief financial officer. His name was floated late last year as a potential candidate for Congress.

Kathryn Ann Stephenson, assistant general counsel, Corrections Corporation of America, Nashville. Stephenson joined CCA in 2010 and specializes in labor law. She served on the Metro Council's Board of Ethical Conduct from 2003 to 2010.

Matthew J. Sweeney, shareholder, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, Nashville. Sweeney was a Circuit Court judge from 1986 to 1990. He was last nominated to the bench in 2003.

Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Tennessee

Charles Edward Atchley Jr., assistant United States attorney, Eastern District of Tennessee, Knoxville

William Jackson Brown, owner, William J. Brown & Associate, Cleveland

Sandra N. Craig Donaghy, deputy district attorney, 7th Judicial District, Clinton

Michael A. Faulk, solo practitioner, The Faulk Law Office, Church Hill

Mark A. Fulks, attorney, Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz, Johnson City

Jason Lee Hunnicutt, assistant district attorney, 6th Judicial District, Knoxville

Kenneth F. Irvine Jr., assistant district attorney, 6th Judicial District, Knoxville

Donald Marty Lasley, solo practitioner, Law Office of D. Marty Lasley, Chattanooga

Samuel K. Lee, attorney, Ridenour & Ridenour Law Firm, Clinton

William Troy McDougal, magistrate, Hamilton County Juvenile Court, Chattanooga

Robert H. Montgomery Jr., criminal court judge, 2nd Judicial District, Blountville

Boyd M. Patterson Jr., assistant district attorney, 11th Judicial District, Chattanooga

Porsche Lyn Shantz, staff attorney, Tennessee Court of Appeals Eastern Division, Knoxville

Ann Claudia Short, associate, The Bosch Law Firm, Knoxville

Thomas J. Wright, circuit court judge, 3rd Judicial District, Greeneville

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