

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

04/15/16

Name: Jennifer Kay Peck

Office Address: 201 Frazier Avenue, Suite F  
(including county) Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405  
Hamilton 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 word processing 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 word processing 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 [debra.hayes@tncourts.gov](mailto:debra.hayes@tncourts.gov), or via another digital storage device such as flash drive or CD.

THIS APPLICATION IS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER YOU SUBMIT IT.

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

Owner/Attorney  
Peck Legal Group, PLLC

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

2008  
027458

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, 2008  
027458, 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).

In 2013, my Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits were erroneously reported, causing a suspension of my license for lack of CLE credits. As soon as the status was detected, the error was immediately corrected and my license was restored. I have confirmed with the Board of Professional Responsibility that my license is not reported as suspended on any documents, but out of an abundance of caution, I wanted to bring the error to the Commission's attention.

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).

Adjunct Professor, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; 2016 to Present  
Professor of Employment Law, Juvenile Law, and Legal Research and Writing

Owner/Attorney, Peck Legal Group, PLLC; 2017 to Present  
Own, operate, and manage firm focused in litigation of domestic and juvenile cases

Owner/Attorney, Law Office of Jennifer K. Peck; 2010 to 2017  
Owned, operated, and managed firm focused in litigation of domestic and juvenile cases

Legal Researcher/Attorney, Law Office of Grace E. Daniell, PC; 2007 to 2010  
Primary work in domestic relations cases; Assisted in firm management and legal research

Legal Researcher, McColpin Coffman, & Woods (now McColpin, Coffman, & Harris); 2007  
Legal research and brief production for Tennessee Court of Appeals

Legal Researcher, R. Wayne Nunnally Law Offices; 2006 to 2007  
Assisted in pre-trial meetings, legal research, brief production, and litigation

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Manager of Events, The Christian Broadcasting Network; 2004 to 2006  
Managed event department; Produced national and international events

Special Events Coordinator, Precept Ministries International; 2002 to 2004  
Produced conventions; Negotiated contracts; Coordinated and directed vendors and staff

Senior Conference Planning Manager, The Chattanooga; 2001 to 2002  
Responsible for approximately 20,000 sq ft of conference space; Managed staff

Event Coordinator, Tneve; 1999 to 2001  
Produced multi-million dollar events; Managed and coordinated vendors and event staff

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.

Present Law Practice:

Domestic/Juvenile (includes mediation in this area)	90%
Real Estate	5%
Personal Injury	5%

I also have an associate who works for my firm and who focuses primarily in the area of criminal defense, while also working on domestic relations cases.

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 have extensive experience at the Trial Court level. I practice divorce litigation so I am generally in Court no less than once per week, and the majority of the time I am in multiple Courts throughout the week, including Circuit Court, Chancery Court, Juvenile Court, and Child Support Court.

I also have experience at the Appellate Court level. I have been involved in at least five (5) cases in the Court of Appeals in Knoxville, Tennessee, and I have only been unsuccessful in one (1) of my cases before that Court.

I am a Rule 31 Certified Mediator, and I have built a successful mediation practice. On average, I mediate three (3) cases per week and have mediated up to five (5) mediations per week on several occasions.

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

At the trial Court Level, I have built a successful reputation for being a fierce yet respectful litigator who will both litigate the cases that need to be brought before the Court, and settle those outside of Court when possible.

At the Appellate level, I have enjoyed a high success rate and have only been unsuccessful on one (1) case brought before that Court.

I am most proud of the mediation practice I have built over the last several years. I have mediated highly contested cases and successfully facilitated settlements in even the most acrimonious situations. I recently mediated a case for almost twenty (20) hours over three (3) days that ended with a settlement acceptable to all six (6) parties involved in the matter.

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

As a hobby, I obtained my real estate license. This additional facet of my experience helps keep me abreast of developments in the law with respect to real estate issues, and aids in my contract and negotiation skills.

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

N/A

### 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.

Bryan College; August 1994 (transferred to Auburn University after deciding to withdraw from volleyball on the collegiate level)

Auburn University; January 1995 to March 1999  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Concentration in History  
Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society

Regent University School of Law; August 2004 to December 2006  
Juris Doctor  
3rd in class after first year  
University of Tennessee College of Law (Visiting Student, Spring Semester 2007)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

December 26, 1975

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

I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and lived on Signal Mountain, Tennessee until leaving for college. After working approximately two (2) years after college, I returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee in 2001. I left Tennessee again to attend law school in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and returned to Tennessee in December of 2006. I have lived in Tennessee continuously since 2006.

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

While living in Tennessee, I have lived only in Hamilton County. I have lived continuously in Hamilton County, Tennessee since 2006.

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

I am registered to vote in Hamilton 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.

N/A

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.

None

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.

No

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.

The Baylor School Alumni Association  
Member of North Shore Fellowship

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.

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.

American Bar Association 2011  
Tennessee Bar Association 2007 to Present  
Chattanooga Bar Association 2007 to Present  
American Inns of Court, Brock-Cooper Chattanooga Chapter 2012 to 2013  
Southeast Tennessee Lawyer's Association for Women 2015 to Present  
National Association of REALTORS® 2013 to present  
Greater Chattanooga Association of REALTORS® 2013 to 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.

Acceptance into American Inns of Court, Brock-Cooper Chattanooga Chapter

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.

None

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

The reason I applied to law school after establishing a successful event planning career was to become a Judge. My previous career showed me that I didn't just want a profession that provided for my expenses, but one that gave me a sense of purpose. There is a saying that, "Law is more than a profession. It is a calling." I imagine a judicial position to be rewarding in providing a sense of purpose, but also grueling, tedious, heart-breaking, and a true test of patience. I also imagine that finding the narrow line between justice and compassion is its own job, in addition to rendering decisions based on the law and its application. This is where I aver that I have an advantage over the other applicants who may possess more experience or achievements, because I sincerely feel a calling to the law and specifically to the judicial position.

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 am seeking a position in the Fourth Division of the Circuit Court of Hamilton County. It is my understanding that while domestic relations cases represent a small percentage of the cases filed in Circuit Court, the vast majority of cases actually litigated are domestic relations cases. That means that Circuit Court Judges routinely preside over domestic relations cases more than all other cases filed in the Circuit Court of Hamilton County. I have extensive experience in domestic litigation and my position in the Fourth Division would compliment the additional three (3) Circuit Court Judges and their areas of expertise, while providing the necessary component of an experienced domestic litigator as one (1) of the presiding Judges in the Circuit Court of Hamilton County.

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 recently became the new attorney on a case in which a man had been trying to regain custody of his son. The case had been previously litigated for approximately four (4) years in this county. It was detected after I entered the case that the Order transferring jurisdiction from the previous county was void of necessary findings and reference to the proper statute. Despite years of litigation and tens of thousands of dollars spent previously by my new client, I had to agree to send the case back to the previous county for proper transfer, potentially voiding the progress he had made in this county. While I certainly disagreed from a fairness perspective that a mere technicality should void all his progress, I am bound to follow the law and practice within its parameters, and I would continue as such as a presiding Judge in Hamilton County Circuit Court.

#### 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. Honorable Robert D. Philyaw

B. Honorable Frank W. Brown

C. Bill Lee, P.E.

D. Scott Wilson

E. Dr. Alissa Hudson


**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

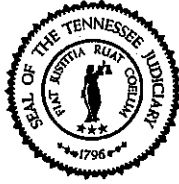
I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them in good faith and as completely as my records and recollections permit. I hereby agree to be considered for nomination to the Governor for the office of Judge of the [Court] Fourth Division of the Circuit Court of Hamilton County of Tennessee, 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: August 2nd, 2017.

  
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Debbie Hayes, 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.

Jennifer Kay Peck  
Type or Print Name

  
Signature

8.2.2017  
Date

027458  
BPR #

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