

**SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ELECTED OFFICE**

Name: Shayla Nicole Purifoy

Office Address: [REDACTED]

Memphis, Tennessee, [REDACTED]

Office Phone: [REDACTED]

Facsimile: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

1. Indicate your present employment. What is the principal business of the business?

I have been employed by Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS) as a Staff Attorney in our Family Law and Domestic Violence, for the past seven years. MALS provides civil legal representation to low income families in the western Tennessee counties of Shelby, Fayette, Tipton and Lauderdale.

2. List your prior professional or business employment since completion of high school and lasting more than twelve months with dates and names of employers.

- Staff Attorney, Memphis Area Legal Services, Domestic Violence and Family Law Unit, March 9, 2009-Present.
- Student Attorney, General Civil Litigation Clinic (Domestic Violence Track), August-December 2007.
- Volunteer Intern, Miami State Attorney's Office, Economic Crimes and

Insurance Fraud, May-July 2006.

- Law Student, Miami relocation and law school enrollment, August 2004-August 2005.
- Document Checker-Sorter, Federal Express Corporation, July 2003-August 2004.
- Editor, the Memphis Poll, Private Contract Work, January 2004-April 2004.
- Intern, Coalition of Midtown Businesses, Cooper-Young Development Corporation, Nonprofit (NP), May 2002-February 2003.
- Neighborhood Organizer, Madison Heights Neighborhood Association (NP), May 2002-April 2003.
- Marketing Intern, The Works Incorporated (NP), October 2001-May 2002.
- Mail Room Clerk and Bookstore Cashier, Rhodes College, May 1999-February 2000.

3. Describe any experience not stated above that you would like to bring to the attention of the Commission.

My colleagues often call me for advice concerning order of protection matters and I provide accurate and fair advice (after a conflict check), regardless of whether the attorney is representing the respondent or the petitioner. I believe that all parties are entitled to a fair and impartial fact finder. I also believe that lawyers have a responsibility to share knowledge with the bar in order to provide access to justice for everyone. I am extremely knowledgeable with the Judicial Commissioner Bench Book on Domestic Violence, the Tennessee Domestic Abuse Statutes, the Tennessee Rules of Evidence, and the American Bar Association's Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims in Civil Protection Order Cases.

I attended Snowden Elementary and Central High School. Each year I supervise law student externs, from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Through this program, I mentor future lawyers by teaching them evidentiary rules, trial preparation, court room etiquette, and procedure. The externs have been able to present real cases in the order of protection hearing room. Through this program and while handling my own cases, I have observed hundreds of matters in the hearing room, and I have observed all the duties and responsibilities required for this position.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

4. How long have you lived continuously in Shelby County? Thirty total years.
5. State the county in which you are registered to vote. Shelby County, Tennessee.
5. List all states in which you have lived in the past 20 years and the dates you lived in each state, including all periods in which you resided in a state more than 50% of the time for a period of at least 12 months.

I was born in Memphis, Tennessee [REDACTED] and resided here until 2004. I moved temporarily to Florida in September 2004. I then moved to West Memphis, Arkansas in August 2005 to attend law school in Memphis. I resided in Arkansas until I was able to relocate back to Memphis, Tennessee in September 2009. I have resided in Memphis since then.

7. State your age and date and place of birth. I am thirty-five years old and I was born on [REDACTED] in Memphis, Tennessee.

8. List the following:

- a) Drivers License No. [REDACTED]
- b) Election Commission
Voter Registration No. [REDACTED]

9. Family Status:

a) State the full name and present address of your spouse.

I am not married.

b) State your spouse's occupation and place of employment.

Not applicable.

c) If you have children, state their name(s), age(s), address(es) and present occupation(s).

I have no children.

10: Military Service:

(a)-(f) Branch of service: Not applicable.

11. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance? No.
Give date, court, charge and disposition.

12. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give details.

No.

13. Have you ever been interviewed by any federal, state or local law enforcement agency for any reason other than minor traffic violation? If so, give details.

I was interviewed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation about Pamela Moses and Divine Mafa (A.K.A Devine Mafa).

14. If you have been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, disciplinary committee, or other professional group, give details.

Not applicable.

15. Has within the last five years, has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities or creditors? If so, give details. No.

16. Are you currently a party in any legal proceedings? Yes.
If so, give details including the date, court and docket number, and disposition. Provide a brief description of the case.

I fell in a parking garage, on some ice, in January 2013. The docket number is 1726118 and we anticipate this case to be disposed of soon. On December 19, 2013, I filed for emergency civil legal relief in an unrelated matter in Circuit Court. This matter has been sealed by court order and is still pending. The docket number is CT-005435-13 and CT-00854-14. If you need additional information, please let me know and I will ask my lawyer to motion for an exception to this seal. A related retaliatory, defamation lawsuit was filed in Circuit Court against me in January 2015. This matter has also been sealed. We anticipate this matter will be dismissed soon. The docket number for this case is CT-000398-15.

17. Are you now an officer or director of any business organization, or are you otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? No.

- a) If so, give details, including the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or other description of your position, the nature of your duties, and the terms of your service.

Not applicable.

- b) Do you consider continuation of such business involvement to be a conflict of interest?

Not applicable.

If your income is not wholly derived from your present employment as noted in #1 above, specify in detail the other sources of your income and the approximate percentage of your total income each source represents.

Not applicable.

18. List all organizations to which you have belonged within the last ten years, including professional associations, civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such organizations.

- Memphis and Shelby County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council, 2009-Present:
2015 Board Member.
2014 Board Member and Recording Secretary.
2013 Board Member and Recording Secretary.
2012 Volunteer, Community Outreach Committee and Batterer's Intervention Committee.
2009-2011 Volunteer, Community Outreach Committee.
- Memphis Bar Association (MBA), 2009-Present:
MBA, Young Lawyer's Division, Board Member and CLE Committee Co-Chair Person 2015-2016.
MBA, Young Lawyer's Division, Board Member and Social Media Director, 2016-Present.
- Ben F. Jones Chapter, National Bar Association, Board Member, 2011-2014:
Social Media Volunteer, 2013-Present.
Recording Secretary, 2014.
Parliamentarian, Secretary, 2013.
Member, 2009-Present.
- Women of Achievement, Treasurer, 2012-2014.
- Tennessee Bar Association, Member, 2015-Present.
- Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Member 2015-Present.
- The Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, Associate, 2011-2014.
- Rhodes College Mock Trial Team, Volunteer Attorney Coach, 2011-2013.

- The Central High School Mock Trial Team, Memphis Bar Association, Volunteer Coach, 2010-2012.
 - Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, Family Law Task Force, 2009-Present.
 - Member, Black Law Students' Association, 2005-2008.
 - Member, Association of Women Attorneys, 2005-2008.
 - Member, International Law Student Association, 2005-2008.
20. Have you within the past ten years 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. No.
- a) If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.
- Not applicable.
- b) If it is not your intention to resign from such organization(s) and withdraw from any participation in their activities should you be selected for the position for which you are applying, state your reasons.
- Not applicable.

EDUCATION

21. List each college, law school, and other graduate school which you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded and major.
- University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis, Tennessee, 2005-2008, Juris Doctor, May 3, 2008.
- Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee, 1999-2003, Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies, May 17, 2003.

ACHIEVEMENTS

22. List honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition which you have received since your graduation or college which are directly related to professional accomplishments.
- Memphis Says No More, participant in poster, interview, and public service announcement campaign, June 2015.

- Purifoy's Police Aspirations Evolve into Legal Career," by Richard J. Alley, Tennessee Bar Foundation Newsletter, Spring 2015, (adapted from the Memphis Daily News).
 - Graduate, Advocacy Learning Center, 18-month course, 2015. *The Advocacy Learning Center is an 18-month experiential course created to examine the vision, identify the principles and knowledge, and practice the skills and qualities that make advocacy a powerful force in the movement to end violence against women.*
 - Graduate, Memphis Bar Association Leadership Forum, 2013.
 - Outstanding Associate, The Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, 2013.
 - Advocate of the Year Award, Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, 2011.
 - Top 20 under 30, Memphis Flyer, 2011.
 - Employee of the Quarter Award, Memphis Area Legal Services, 2010.
 - Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy, Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), 2008.
 - Award for Excellence in General Civil Litigation, (CALI), 2008.
23. List presentations you have made to groups and organizations within the past five years.
- Domestic Violence from A to Z, May 6, 2015.
 - Social Media Discovery: How to be an Internet Sleuth, April 9, 2015.
 - Healthy Relationships, An Introduction to the Dynamics of Domestic Violence and Teen Dating Violence, March 19, 2014.
 - How to Screen, Interview, & Represent Survivors of Domestic Violence, September 26, 2012.
 - Domestic Violence 101, August 31, 2012.

- Orders of Protection & Divorce Issues Involving Victims of Abuse, August 23, 2012 (Law Alumni Chapter presents: Busted! Local & National Criminal Law Issues CLE).
- Providing Civil Legal Services for Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence, October 7, 2013.
- Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking: Answers to Questions about Family Law, Housing, and other Legal Issues, September 21, 2013.
- DV Advocacy on Housing, Child Support, Divorce, September 19, 2013.
- VAWA: Violence Against Women Act, A Summary of the History of VAWA and the Relief Provided, August 30, 2013.
- Teen Domestic Abuse & Human Trafficking 101, Warning Signs and Helpful Tips, June 20, 2013.
- Interviewing and Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, October 2010.
- Violence at Home. Victims at Work. Employers Confront Domestic Violence, panelist.

24. 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 Judicial Commissioner Appointment for June 2015; however, I was not selected.

25. Describe any experience you have had with legislative or executive branches of government other than as an elected or appointed official.

Not applicable.

26. Describe life experiences, personal involvements, or talents that you have that you feel will be of assistance to the Commission in evaluating and understanding your candidacy for this elected position. (150 words or less).

I have represented victims, not abusers. Despite this, I am able to see both sides. Due to the life experiences of my friends and family who have been victims, Respondents, and Defendants, I have an incredible ability to push through adversity. This experience also made me intimately familiar with how decisions impact lives. I have also been the victim of a person swearing out a false warrant in retaliation, so I understand how important that process is. I appreciate that the burden of proof must be met and if appointed to this position, I would scrutinize each decision with fairness, impartiality, and treat all

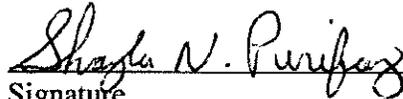
parties with respect. I practice self-care to prevent vicarious trauma and burn out that can occur in positions where you are exposed to people's trauma.

27. 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 appointment to the office of Judicial Commissioner, and if appointed by the Shelby County Board of Commissioners, agree to serve that office.

In the event any material changes occur between the time this application is filed and the public hearing, I hereby agree to file an amended application with the Board of Commissioners for distribution to the commission members.

I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners and that the Commission may publicize the names of persons who apply for appointment and the names of those persons the Commission considers for the vacancy in question.


Signature

Shayla Nicole Purifoy
Printed name

July 12, 2016
Date

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I, Shayla N. Purifoy, do hereby authorize the the Shelby County Sheriff and/or the Shelby County Attorney and any and all agents or persons authorized by it, to conduct a full review and disclosure of all records concerning myself, whether said records are public, private, or confidential in nature. The intent of this authorization is to give my consent for full and complete disclosure of records of all criminal charges, with the exception of minor traffic offenses, whether disposed of or pending, and any outstanding warrants in accordance with Rule 34 of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners' Permanent Rules of Order.

I also certify that any persons who may furnish such information concerning me shall not be held accountable for giving this information, and I do hereby release said persons from any and all liability which may be incurred as a result of furnishing such information. I further specifically release the Shelby County Sheriff and/or the Shelby County Attorney and/or the Shelby County Board of Commissioners from any and all liability which might otherwise be incurred as a result of collecting or receiving such information.

I have read and fully understand the contents of this Authorization for Release of Information.

Shayla Nicole Purifoy (Maiden Name: White)
Print Full Name of Applicant (include maiden)

████████████████████
Address

Shayla N. Purifoy
Signature

Memphis, TN ██████████

Lia Bemer
Witness

Phone: ██████████

July 12, 2016
Date

Date of Birth: ██████████

Drivers License #: ██████████

SHELBY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Special Counsel

BRANDY JACKSON
Office Administrator

*CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL SPECIALIST
*CERTIFIED CIVIL PRETRIAL PRACTICE ADVOCATE
* ALSO LICENSED IN ARKANSAS, KENTUCKY & MONTANA

July 1, 2016

Shelby County Board of Commissioners
160 N. Main Street, Suite 600
Memphis, TN 38103

Re: Brooks Irvine, Esq.

Dear Commissioners:

I am a practicing lawyer who regularly appears before the Shelby County Judicial Commissioners. It is my understanding that there may be a vacancy in the near future which will need to be filled. Brooks Irvine is a lawyer with whom I work with on a daily basis and is interested in being a commissioner.

I'm writing this letter to suggest that she be seriously considered to fill the vacancy. I believe that she has the appropriate legal temperament and legal knowledge to make a good judicial commissioner. It appropriate, Ms. Irvine would like to meet with each and every one of you, should your schedules allow it. She can be reached at 901-493-5455.

Respectfully,



Leslie I. Ballin, Esq.

LIB/bjy

July 18, 2016

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Joyce Kyles. I am the Executive Director of Walking Into A New Life, Inc. Our mission is to eradicate domestic violence and help stabilize victims through a series of projects, programs and initiatives that we host throughout the year. I'm also a nationally credentialed speaker, trainer, best selling author and survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is my pleasure to submit my request that you consider Shayla Purifoy to fill your vacancy for judicial commissioner.

I've had the opportunity to work with Shayla extensively as part of a 4 woman team to represent TN at the Praxis International Advocacy Learning Center training academy. We are graduates of an 18 month program that provided enormous leadership and training strategies regarding domestic violence, sexual assault and other social issues relevant to communities around the globe. In addition, I've interacted with her on several occasions over the years in the courtroom while serving as a victim advocate with the Shelby Co Crime Victims Center, as well as my own advocacy initiatives through my personal efforts. She's very familiar the way the judicial system operations, including, but not limited to, court proceedings, bond settings and issuing of warrants.

She is a visible community leader, mentor and champion for change. She is a beautiful, confident, effective and impartial woman who understands the law as well as the needs of our constituents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest regards,
Joyce Kyles, Executive Director
Walking Into A New Life, Inc.

Emily Sellers
7538 Terrace St.
Kansas City, MO 64114

July 14, 2016

Shelby County Board of Commissioners
160 N. Main Street, Suite 600
Memphis, TN 38103

RE: Shayla Purifoy's Application

Dear Board of Commissioners:

My name is Emily Sellers and this letter is in support of Shayla Purifoy's application for the Judicial Commissioner vacancy. I got to know Shayla during my time as a bilingual court advocate for YWCA—Immigrant Women's Services in Memphis. As an attorney at MALS, Shayla has represented many YWCA clients at order of protection hearings and other proceedings. Shayla has been a godsend to victims of domestic violence who were scared of their abusers, wary of the justice system, and completely without resources.

In my time as an advocate, I was impressed by Shayla's preparedness and professionalism. The courthouse can be a bit of a jungle, but Shayla was always above the fray. Shayla's knowledge of the law and the facts was apparent even when she had to deal with complicated situations and clients who did not speak English. Shayla never spoke down to or dismissed clients who had low levels of education or were struggling to understand the legal process. Shayla's work ethic and skill in the courtroom is part of what motivated me to attend law school. I left the YWCA to attend law school and am currently studying to take the bar.

Although Shayla's experience has been predominately as an attorney for victims of domestic violence, she would be a fair and neutral arbiter at order of protection hearings. Shayla is a strong advocate for her clients, but never misrepresented or distorted a client's evidence. The countless hours Shayla has spent in the courtroom and at domestic violence training makes her uniquely qualified to be a commissioner. If the Board of Commissioners has any questions, please contact me at 816-506-3676, I would be happy to provide the Board with any additional information it may require.

Sincerely,

Emily Sellers
816-506-3676

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

My name is Gabrielle Lewis, a resident of Shelby County, graduate of the University of Memphis School of Law, and a member of the Tennessee Bar. Thank you for your time. I am writing you to request that you consider selecting Ms. Shayla Purifoy for Judicial Commissioner. Judicial Commissioners serve a vital role in our community, often times the gatekeepers of constitutional rights (in their findings of probable cause), protectors of the vulnerable (on rulings related to domestic violence), and guardians of justice (in appointing counsel for independent persons). The person serving as Judicial Commissioner needs to be fair, impartial, and committed to protecting justice and those most vulnerable in our legal system (and community).

Ms. Shayla Purifoy has committed the entirety of her legal career to representing those most vulnerable in our legal system. This, in addition to her experience, community involvement, and legal experience make her a candidate who I believe will be a reliable gatekeeper, protector, and guardian of justice. Please consider casting your vote for Ms. Shayla Purifoy for Judicial Commissioner.

Thank you again for your time,
Gabrielle A. Lewis
Attorney