

TENNESSEE INTERCOLLEGIATE SUPREME COURT

Overview

The Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court (TISC) is the judicial branch of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL). It is established and governed by the TISL Constitution, particularly Article VIII.

The Supreme Court Nominating Commission submits a list of seven nominees to the Governor of TISL, who appoints five to the Supreme Court. The five justices will choose one of their own to be Chief Justice. In November, they will elect the next Attorney General of TISL. In these respects, TISC mirrors the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Court has two major functions:

1) To serve as the court of original and sole jurisdiction in issues arising from the Constitution and Laws of TISL. These documents are posted at the TISL website ... www.TISLonline.org. Since its inception in 2008, the Court has decided two cases in this category.

2) To preside over the Appellate Moot Court Collegiate Challenge (AMC3), a competition for legal teams from colleges across the state. Each justice will preside for part of the AMC3 preliminary round, will sit with the full Court for the final round and will write an opinion to be delivered on the final day.

Special advisers for both programs are **Justice William Koch** of the Tennessee Supreme Court and **Judge Frank Clement Jr.** of the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

In 2011, justices' terms are transitioning from July-June to November-November. A Court was recently seated for a short transition term of July 1, 2011, to Nov. 20, 2011. Applications are now open for a full term that will run from Nov. 20, 2011, until Nov. 18, 2012. The Governor is to appoint justices by Nov. 1 for the full term, and their term will begin when the 42nd General Assembly adjourns in November.

Justices appointed will need to be available for an organizational meeting in September prior to the TISC session in November.

The Court meets in conjunction with the TISL General Assembly in November of each year. It typically meets in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the State Capitol.

TISL will pay for justices' lodging in November and will pay mileage to and from the session, pursuant to the regular TISL reimbursement policy. Members of the Court won't pay TISL fees. Justices are members of the Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court, not of a particular college delegation.

Who can apply?

Any Tennessee college student with a 3.0 GPA or greater majoring in political science, government, pre-law, philosophy, history or a similar discipline. Students enrolled in law school are excluded.

How do I apply?

Submit a packet that includes:

- 1) Completed *Application for the Supreme Court* (next page).
- 2) Your answer to an essay question that is on the application.
- 3) Letters of recommendation from two faculty members in a related discipline. Further details are in the application.

Additional information is also available at www.TISCourt.org.

Application for the Supreme Court

Nominees for the Supreme Court must be enrolled at a Tennessee college or university and not in a college of Law. A nominee's major or minor area of study is to include political science, government, pre-law, philosophy, history or a similar discipline. It is *not* necessary for the applicant's college to be a member of TISL.

A complete application will include:

Deadline: September 20, 2011

Submission details on the next page

- 1) This page of the application form.
- 2) A cover letter (details on the next page).
- 3) Your answer to the essay question on the next page of this application.
- 4) Letters of recommendation from at least two faculty members in a relevant discipline (details on page 3).

Name [Mr. / Ms.] _____

College/University _____

Class Of _____ Major _____

Date of birth _____

Email _____

We frequently have trouble sending email to .edu addresses. Please provide an off-campus email address, too, if possible.

Email 2 _____

Cell Phone _____

Your Address at School _____

Permanent Home Address _____

Are you registered to vote? Yes / No If so, where? _____

Is your GPA 3.0 or greater? Yes / No (Your references will be asked to verify.)

Continued on next page

Cover letter

Please write a cover letter of not more than one page that includes:

- a. A statement of why you want to be on the court.
- b. Your plans after you receive your bachelor's degree.
- c. Your *legal* experience such as AMC3, mock trial or a legal internship.
- d. Your *legislative* experience such as TISL, a legislative internship or a congressional internship.
- e. Other relevant information you wish to include.

Essay question

Legislators in several states are proposing to deny birth certificates to children born in the United States whose parents are illegal immigrants, relying on the phrase “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof” in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as the underpinning. Would this be constitutional under the U.S. Constitution?

You will be judged on your research, analysis and writing, not on your conclusion. (**Suggested maximum length: 500 words**)

Deadline

The complete application package must be *received* by the deadline on the first page at the address below.

How to Submit

Put your completed application form, your answer to the essay question and the sealed letters of recommendation in one envelope and send to:

TISC Nominating Commission
P.O. Box 23213
Nashville 37202

Questions?

Commission Chairman
Dr. Marc Schwerdt
(615) 966-5726
schwerdtms@lipscomb.edu

TISL State Office
(615) 337-2307
StateOffice@TISLonline.org

Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately, if necessary or convenient.

Overview

Members of the Supreme Court manage and preside over the Appellate Moot Court Collegiate Challenge (AMC3) at the State Capitol in November. Additionally, the Court occasionally decides disputes arising from the Constitution and laws of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

In keeping with Tennessee practice, the five-member Court elects its own Chief Justice and the TISL Attorney General.

Justices receive free lodging at TISL events and are reimbursed for most out-of-pocket expenses, including mileage.

Additional Information

If additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the Court's website: www.TISCourt.org

Letters of Recommendation Two required

The application to be a justice must be supported by letters of recommendation from at least two faculty members in a relevant discipline.

A nominee shall be an undergraduate or graduate student at a Tennessee college or university whose major or minor area of study includes political science, government, pre-law, philosophy, history or a similar discipline. Students enrolled in a college of law may NOT apply.

Each letter should verify that the applicant's GPA is 3.0 or greater. Letters of recommendation should also include the faculty member's opinion of the applicant's academic acumen, research skills, ability to work with others, communication skills and critical-thinking ability.

Applicant, we recommend that you give a copy of this page to the professors who are writing your letters of recommendation. We also suggest that you request recommendations from more than two faculty members in case someone is unable to fulfill his/her commitment by the deadline.

Professor:

This student is applying to be a justice on the Tennessee Intercollegiate Supreme Court.

We would be grateful if you would prepare a candid letter about the student's qualifications to be a justice for the benefit of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

Please place the letter in an envelope, seal it and sign the flap. You should return the envelope to the applicant or mail it to us directly: P.O. Box 23213, Nashville 37202.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Supreme Court Nominating Commission