

# 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 choose one of their own to be Chief Justice. In November, they 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](http://www.TISLonline.org). Since its inception in 2008, the Court has decided several 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 are **Justice Jeff Bivins** of the Tennessee Supreme Court and **Judge Frank Clement Jr.** of the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Justices will be sworn into office at the *conclusion* of the TISL General Assembly in November and will serve the following year.

The Court meets in conjunction with the TISL General Assembly, typically in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the State Capitol.

TISL pays for justices' lodging and for mileage to and from the session, pursuant to the regular TISL reimbursement policy. Members of the Court don'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 except students in law school.

### 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) Letter of recommendation from a faculty member in a related discipline. Further details are in the application.

Additional information is also available at [www.TISCourt.org](http://www.TISCourt.org).

### Benefits

Benefits of serving on the Court include:

- Networking
- Learning about the legal system
- Meeting judges and lawyers
- Building your resume

### Commitment

This is a major commitment that will put you in the top ranks of Tennessee college leaders.

You will be expected to attend the Court's annual two-day retreat in the winter, participate in weekly conference calls during the academic year and conduct reading and research. You must attend the TISL General Assembly in November.

## 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. Otherwise, graduate students may also apply. It is *not* necessary for the applicant's college to be a member of TISL.

### Checklist

#### 1. Create/Update Online Account

Please log in at [www.TISLonline.org/onlineereg.html](http://www.TISLonline.org/onlineereg.html) to update or enter your personal contact info. It **isn't** necessary for you to register for the General Assembly to be considered for the appointment, but you must have an account.

- If you previously attended a TISL event, your email address should be recognized. Please review and update your profile.
- If you are new to TISL, you will need to enter complete contact information to create an account.

#### 2. Additional Questions Include a copy of this page with your application

Name [ Mr. / Ms. ] \_\_\_\_\_

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

What is your GPA? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you read the TISL Constitution? Yes / No [tislonline.org/Documents/constitution.html](http://tislonline.org/Documents/constitution.html)

### Commitment

This is a major commitment that will put you in the top ranks of Tennessee college student leaders.

You will be expected to attend the Court's annual two-day retreat in the winter, participate in weekly conference calls during the academic year and conduct reading and research. You must attend the TISL General Assembly in November.

Do you anticipate any major commitments during your term that will limit your ability to meet your obligations as a justice, including study abroad, missionary trip, national leadership position or other big responsibility?

Yes / No If yes, please explain in your cover letter.

#### 3. Cover letter See page 2

#### 4. Essay question

Two provisions of the Tennessee Constitution contradict each other.

"That no political or religious test, other than an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under this state." — Article I, Section 4.

"No person who denies the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this State." — Article IX, Section 2

How should the Tennessee Supreme Court resolve this constitutional contradiction?

An outstanding essay will identify case precedents and state and federal constitutional provisions that provide a path to a resolution. (Suggested maximum length: 500 words)

#### 5. Letter of Recommendation See Page 3

**Deadline: October 18, 2018**

Submission details on page 2.

**Freshmen and sophomores are encouraged to apply because justices can serve up to three terms.**

Special provisions for freshmen on page 2.

**Please be sure your name is on every page of every document.**

## 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, each of whom is a member of the TISL Executive Council.

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

More information: [www.tiscourt.org/tiscapplication.html](http://www.tiscourt.org/tiscapplication.html)

## Benefits

Benefits of serving on the Court include:

- Networking
- Learning about the legal system
- Meeting judges and lawyers
- Building your resume

### Questions?

**TISL State Office**  
(615) 337-2307  
[StateOffice@TISLonline.org](mailto:StateOffice@TISLonline.org)

## 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. Relevant courses you've taken such as constitutional law, communications law, criminal justice, logic, etc.? (These are not requirements.)
- e. Special skills and experiences that qualify you for the Court. Includes internships, Mock Trial, job experiences, etc.
- f. Other major commitments that will affect your comment to the Court.

## How to Submit

Put your completed application form, your answer to the essay question and the sealed letter(s) of recommendation\* in one envelope and send to:

TISC Nominating Commission  
P.O. Box 23213  
Nashville 37202

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

All applications will be scanned into a PDF packet. Fancy paper and special covers won't matter. Please don't staple.

## Special Provisions for Freshmen

1. You may submit a letter of recommendation from a non-faculty member who can speak specifically to the skill set you would bring to the Court, such as a high school teacher, Mock Trial coach or employer in a relevant profession.
2. You should include your *high school* GPA in your cover letter. The Nominating Commission may verify this with your high school.

## Additional Information

If additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the Court's website: [www.TISCourt.org](http://www.TISCourt.org)

## Applying for Attorney General

Unsuccessful applicants for the Supreme Court will also have the opportunity to apply to be next year's Attorney General. The deadline for AG applications is during the General Assembly, which is after Supreme Court appointments are announced. You may submit your Supreme Court application to easily apply for AG.

**Letter of Recommendation** One required

The application to be a justice must be supported by a letter of recommendation from at least one faculty member.

Freshmen may submit a letter of recommendation from a non-faculty member who can speak specifically to the skill set they would bring to the Court, such as a high school teacher, Mock Trial coach or employer in a relevant profession.

Every nominee shall be an undergraduate or graduate student at a Tennessee college or university; students enrolled in a college of law may NOT apply.

Letters of recommendation should 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 professor(s) writing your letter(s) of recommendation. We also suggest that you request recommendations from more than one faculty member in case someone is unable to fulfill his/her commitment by the deadline.*

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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 consider the applicant's ability to learn about the legal system, to work collaboratively with others, to articulate an informed point of view and to learn quickly.

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

# TENNESSEE INTERCOLLEGIATE SUPREME COURT

WWW.TISCOURT.ORG

## Magistrate Application

Completely separate from applying for the Supreme Court next year, you may also apply to serve as a Magistrate this year. Magistrates serve on the bench during the preliminary round of AMC3, TISL's moot court competition.

If you are applying for the Court, serving as a magistrate can help you prepare to be a justice.

	Chosen By	Term of Service
Justice	Supreme Court Nominating Commission and Governor	Next year
Magistrate	Supreme Court	This fall

A Magistrate's duties primarily end on Friday. After that, you would be free to participate in another TISL program such as legislative, lobbying or media.

**Deadline: October 18, 2018**

**Please be sure your name is on every page of every document.**

### Checklist

#### 1. Create/Update Online Account

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- If you previously attended a TISL event, your email address should be recognized. Please review and update your profile.
- If you already registered as part of your Supreme Court application, no further action is necessary.
- If you are new to TISL, you will need to enter complete contact information to create an account.

#### 2. Additional Questions Include a copy of this page with your application

Name [ Mr. / Ms. ] \_\_\_\_\_

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

Is your GPA 2.5 or greater? Yes / No (Your references will be asked to verify.)

Have you read the TISL Constitution? Yes / No [tislonline.org/Documents/constitution.html](http://tislonline.org/Documents/constitution.html)

Will you be available to serve a Magistrate during General Assembly? Yes / No

Will you participate in training and conference calls before the General Assembly? Yes / No

#### 3. Essay questions

Short answer (200 words or less on each)

1. Why do you want to serve as a magistrate *or* What makes you qualified to serve as a magistrate?
2. What do you believe is the most important trait for a judge to exhibit on the bench?

### Additional Information

If additional information becomes available, it will be posted on the Court's website: [www.TISCourt.org](http://www.TISCourt.org)

### How to Submit

Please email your completed application to [filings@tiscourt.org](mailto:filings@tiscourt.org).