

Supreme Court Announces Open Process to Select Next Attorney General

The Tennessee Supreme Court will accept applications through the end of the business day July 17 from attorneys interested in becoming the state's next attorney general, Chief Justice William M. Barker announced Thursday.

"The court believes an open selection process will attract a diverse and well-qualified pool of applicants," Barker said. "We anticipate that choosing a new attorney general will be difficult because there will be an outstanding group of applicants."

Under the Tennessee Constitution, the attorney general is appointed by the Supreme Court. The next attorney general will succeed Paul B. Summers who announced in April he would not seek reappointment when his term ends Aug. 31.

Attorney General applications are available from the Administrative Office of the Courts, Suite 600, 511 Union Street, Nashville, TN 37219. The application also can be printed from the court system website at www.tncourts.gov. Candidates for the position must submit an original and seven copies of the application, which includes extensive personal and professional history.

The Court will review the applications to determine which applicants will be invited to continue in the selection process. Those applicants will be interviewed by the Court and asked to participate in a public hearing. The court will conduct the interviews and hearing Sept. 12 and Sept. 13. The times and locations will be announced.

The attorney general serves as the state's attorney in civil litigation and prosecutes criminal cases in appellate courts. The attorney general also provides legal advice to the Tennessee General Assembly and state agencies.