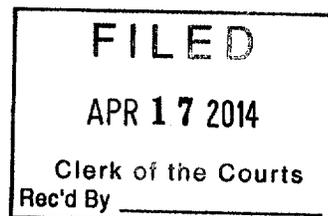


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

JOHN JAY HOOKER ET AL. v. LT. GOVERNOR RON RAMSEY ET AL.

**Circuit Court for Davidson County
No. 13C5012**

No. M2014-00144-SC-A10B-CV



ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO RECUSE

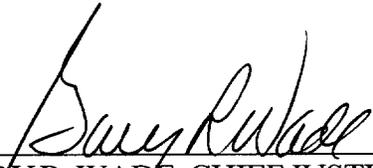
On February 7, 2014, Plaintiffs filed a motion in the Court of Appeals seeking the recusal of the Judges assigned to hear the appeal in this case, styled as Hooker et al. v. Lt. Governor Ramsey et al., No. M2014-00144-COA-R3-CV. By separate orders filed February 21, 2014, each Judge denied Plaintiffs' motion. Plaintiffs subsequently filed a "Response" to the Judges' Orders, which the panel treated as a petition to rehear and denied by per curiam order entered on March 14, 2014. On March 28, 2014, Plaintiffs filed in this Court a combined "Recusal Appeal from Denial of Court Review . . . and a Motion for the Members of the Supreme Court to Recuse."

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 10B, section 3.01 provides that a motion for recusal "shall be supported by an affidavit under oath or a declaration under penalty of perjury on personal knowledge and . . . shall state, with specificity, all factual and legal grounds supporting disqualification of the judge or justice." Plaintiffs have failed to satisfy any of these requirements in their "Motion for the Members of the Supreme Court to Recuse."

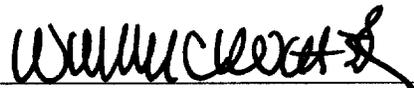
Notwithstanding Plaintiffs' failure to comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 10B, the undersigned Justices of the Supreme Court have considered the ethical obligations imposed upon them by the relevant Rules of Judicial Conduct and have concluded that they are obligated to recuse from this case. Chief Justice Gary R. Wade, Justice Cornelia A. Clark, and Justice Sharon G. Lee have been evaluated and recommended for retention by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission whose composition formed the basis of the underlying appeal. Justice William C. Koch, Jr. has determined that although he has announced his retirement effective July 31, 2014, he also has reason to recuse. Because the impartiality of this Court might reasonably be in question under these circumstances, we enter this order of recusal and certify to the Governor the need for the appointment of four

members of a special supreme court to join Justice Janice M. Holder as a panel to decide the merits of the Plaintiffs' "Recusal Appeal from Denial of Court Review."

Plaintiffs' motion seeking recusal of the undersigned Justices is hereby GRANTED.


GARY R. WADE, CHIEF JUSTICE


CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE


WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE


SHARON G. LEE, JUSTICE