

## Candidate Qualification / Position Statement For *Coalition for a Better Memphis* Website

The CBM will post your completed statement on our website, [www.bettermemphis.org](http://www.bettermemphis.org), exactly as it is submitted. It is important that your information be complete – please use extra space if needed and feel free to attach a resume or any supplemental information. Is questionnaire is also located on the website [www.bettermemphis.org](http://www.bettermemphis.org) under the tab “Candidate Ratings Guide.” Please email the statement to [peggy@bettermemphis.org](mailto:peggy@bettermemphis.org) or Fax 901-752-0743 by March 4, 2014.

Name: Van Davis Turner, Jr.

Website: [www.friendsforvanturner.com](http://www.friendsforvanturner.com)

Candidate for: Shelby County Commission District 12

Why do you believe you are qualified for this position? I was born and raised in Memphis and Shelby County. After I was offered the opportunity to leave to began my career elsewhere, I made the decision to come back home. I love this community. I think the best days for the county and city are ahead of us, and I am seeking this appointment to play my part in making this happens. I believe my past work experiences such as serving as Associate General Counsel for the Memphis City Schools and my community involvement with organizations such as the Economic Club of Memphis and the Memphis Branch of the NAACP have given a diverse perspective of our community and prepared me to make sound policy decisions.

Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected: First, I would like to make sure that the Shelby County Schools are fully-funded and that universal Pre-K is funded. Second, I would like to see our crime statistics dramatically lowered through early intervention and greater job opportunities. Third, I would like to see a significant drop in our unemployment and poverty rates. I believe all three of these goals are interconnected and to improve one will improve the other.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ **No X**

Have you declared bankruptcy? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ **No X**

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ **No X**

If you answered "yes" on any of the above items, please list the year and provide details.

N/A

List other elected positions you have run for and the outcome of the election: None. I served in the appointed role of Chairman of the Shelby County Democratic Party for two terms spanning from 2009-2013.

### **Current Employment**

Company: Hagler, Bruce & Turner, PLLC

Length of Employment: Approximately three (3) years

Brief Job Description: I maintain a law practice concentrated in the areas of business litigation, business transactions, government relations, municipal law, and estate planning.

### **Education**

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
<u>Morehouse College</u>	<u>Bachelor of Arts in English</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>UT College of Law</u>	<u>Doctor of Jurisprudence</u>	<u>2002</u>

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional): I studied as a Pew Younger Scholar at the University of Notre Dame for a summer, and I also lived in Japan for two years working as an assistant English teacher with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program.

How long have you lived in Memphis? 30 years

Where did you grow up? Memphis

If you grew up in Memphis, what schools did you attend: Double Tree Elementary School, Havenview Jr. High School, and Whitehaven High School.

Marital status/children: Wife: Tamara Turner & Children: Malik, Masai & Malia

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy and provide a contact (with phone number) for each.

1. Mayor AC and Ruby Wharton

2. Ron Redwing

3. Saul Belz, Esq.
4. Daniel Kiel, Esq.
5. Tyronne Burroughs

Please list your association memberships and identify any leadership positions you have held in the past.

1. National Bar Association, Ben F. Jones Chapter, President
2. Memphis Bar Association, Board Member
3. Shelby County Democratic Party, Chairman
4. Hattiloo Theatre, Founding Member, Board Member & Former Chairman
5. Economic Club of Memphis, Member
6. Tennessee Bar Association, Member of 2008 Leadership Law Class
7. American Bar Association, Member
8. Mississippi Bar Association, Member
9. Leo Bearman Sr., American Inns of Court
10. Morehouse College Alumni Association-Memphis Chapter, Vice-President

Please list up to 10 current or past civic/community memberships.

1. NAACP Memphis Branch, Vice-President, Board Member
2. Metropolitan Baptist Church, Deacon Board
3. St. George's Independent School Board of Trustees
4. Shelby County Health, Education and Housing Facility Board
5. American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)
6. Facing History and Ourselves Advisory Board
7. Leadership Memphis Graduate 2010
8. Memphis Urban League Young Professionals
9. Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility Hearing Panel
10. LeMoyne-Owen College Leadership and Governance Committee

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Andre' Wharton, Esq.

Treasurer: Julian Bolton, Esq.

Any other information you would like to share with the voters:

If elected, I will promote a fiscally responsible and progressive agenda for the Shelby County Commission. Further, of utmost importance to me again is making sure that our schools are adequately funded, that we continue to provide for the safety and well-being of all citizens in Shelby County, and that we promote initiatives and policies which promote economic growth and sustainability for the county and city.