



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2022**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, At-Large Seat #7

1. Name: The Honorable Thomas T. Hodges

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Tommy Hodges

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes. I am currently a Family Court Judge

Home Address: (Redacted)

County of Residence: Greenville

Business Address: 350 Halton Road
Greenville, SC 29616

E-Mail Address: (Redacted)

Telephone Number: (home): (Redacted)
(office): (864) 467-5919
(cell): (Redacted)

2. Date of Birth: (Redacted) 1959

Place of Birth: Conway, SC

Social Security Number: (Redacted)

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: (Redacted)

Voter Registration Number: (Redacted)

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge. No

6. Family Status:

(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
Married.

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Family Status: Married on April 23, 1988 to Erroll Anne Yarbrough. She is an attorney.

Never divorced, two children.

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

- (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds. Never been divorced.

- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

(Redacted)

7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

(a) Georgia Tech – August 1978 to March 1979. Withdrew without a degree

(b) USC-Spartanburg – August 1979 to August 1980

(c) USC-Columbia – August 1980 to December 1980

(d) USC-Spartanburg – January 1981 to August 1982. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

(e) USC School of Law – August 1984 to May 1987. Juris Doctor

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

(a) I was a law clerk for Turnipseed, Bogan and Dew after my first year of law school and into my second year.

(b) I was a law clerk for Callison, Tighe, Rush Robinson and Anastasion after my second year of law school and into my third.

9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina 1987. I took the bar exam one time.

10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character

changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

- (a) I graduated from law school in May 1987
- (b) Haynsworth, Baldwin, Miles, Johnson, Greaves and Edwards. Associate from August 1987 to December 1994. Partner from 1994 to May 2003. The firm was a labor and employment firm representing employers exclusively. The scope of my work ranged from legal research in the early years to appearing before various State and Federal agencies and courts representing clients in labor disputes in later years. I was not involved in any financial management of the firm.
- (c) Robertson Hodges and Coleman. Partner from October 2003 to 2005. In October 2003 Marsh Robertson (now Judge Robertson), Anne Coleman and I formed Robertson Hodges and Coleman. Our practice was limited to Family Court matters exclusively. Coleman left the practice in 2005. Each of us maintained separate trust and operating accounts. We had one combined operating account that was used to pay joint expenses.
- (d) Robertson and Hodges 2005 to February 2010. After Anne Coleman's departure, Marsh Robertson and I formed Robertson and Hodges, LLC. We continued to practice exclusively in Family Court and continued our same financial arrangement of having separate operating and trust accounts. This partnership was dissolved when Robertson was elected to the Family Court bench in 2010.
- (e) Thomas T. Hodges, P.A. February 2010 to May 2017. During this period, I was a solo practitioner. I continued to limit my practice to Family Court matters. I practiced until my election to the Family Court bench. I was solely responsible for administrative and financial matters.

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.
- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases

handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
 - (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.
12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal:
 - (b) state:
13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil:
 - (b) criminal:
 - (c) domestic:
 - (d) other:
14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury:
 - (b) non-jury:

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

Yes. I was elected to the Family Court bench in February 2017. I took office on July 3, 2017 and continue in that position today. The Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all matters concerning family or domestic relationships, including, divorce, separation, alimony, equitable distribution, custody, child support, adoptions, abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, and juvenile delinquency.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

- (a) State v. A.W., 2016-JU-23-503 and 504; 2017-JU-23-978 and 979. This matter involved a motion to waive a juvenile's charges for murder, armed robbery and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime to the Court of General Sessions so that the juvenile could be tried as an adult. In summary the State alleged that the defendant, along with another juvenile, chased an innocent man into a cemetery and shot him four times in the mistaken belief that he was someone else. After a full day of testimony from various witnesses, including psychologists and other professionals, I found that it was appropriate that the case be transferred to General Sessions.
- (b) DSS v. Savannah Ann Spoon and Earl Wayne Hitt, 2016-DR-39-0897, Appellate Case Number: 2017-002484. This matter was a multi-day termination of parental rights case.

There were numerous allegations against both parents. After careful consideration I found that the best interests of the children would be served by terminating the parents' parental rights. My decision was affirmed on appeal by the Court of Appeals.

- (c) Kravets v. Kravets, 2016-DR-39-0904. This was a divorce case that included issues of alimony, equitable division and attorney fees. Complicating this case was the existence of a closely held business, the value of which was highly disputed. The case included testimony from expert witnesses concerning the value the business and the existence of undisclosed income.
 - (d) Nunn v. Nunn, 2019-DR-23-2215. This case involved a request to modify an alimony award based on the subsequent retirement of the supporting spouse. After considering all testimony and exhibits, I found that while the plaintiff had retired and had less income, his retirement was voluntary; he had not proven that his former spouse needed less support and, most importantly, he still had the ability to pay since he had amassed an estate in excess of one million dollars since the prior order was issued.
 - (e) Kearns v. Odum, 2017-DR-23-2201, 2022-UP-191. This was a multi-day trial involving a father's attempt to modify a preexisting custody order granting the parents equal time with their child. After considering all the evidence and testimony, I found that he had not proven a change of circumstances warranting a modification. This finding was affirmed by the Court of Appeals. I also ordered the plaintiff to pay a significant amount of attorney fees. This was also affirmed on appeal. Additionally, I ordered the plaintiff to pay a substantial increase in child support. This issue was not appealed.
20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- (a) South Carolina – 1987
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC – 1988
 - (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit - 1988
21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
- (a) I moderated a CLE in 2011 titled “What Family Court Judges Want You to Know”. This seminar involved a panel of eight Family Court judges speaking on a variety of topics.
 - (b) I have spoken at several Greenville Bar Association Year End CLEs since becoming a judge. These covered common Family Court issues such as evidence, trial preparation, dos and don'ts in Family Court.
 - (c) I have spoken at several CLE seminars for the Upstate Mediation center. These also covered common Family Court issues, such as trial preparation and evidence, as well as provided open forums for questions and answers.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

See attached.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have not written any books or articles.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

N/A

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization; such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

(a) AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell

(b) Super Lawyer in the area of Family Law 2008 and 2009.

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) Greenville County Bar

(b) SC Bar

(c) SC Family Law Inn of Court

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

No

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

None

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

(a) I was a candidate for Judge of the Family Court, At-Large Seat 6 in the fall of 2012. I was found qualified and nominated but withdrew my name from consideration prior to the election.

(b) I was a candidate for Judge of the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5 in the fall of 2013. I was found qualified but not nominated.

(c) I was a candidate for Judge of the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 in the Spring of 2016. I was found qualified and nominated but withdrew my name from consideration prior to the election.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

Since graduating law school, I have not been engaged in any occupation other than practicing law as detailed above and holding my current judicial office. Between college graduation and law school I was a sales clerk for Ivey's department store and Richland Creek clothing store in Spartanburg.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
No.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No.

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

(a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and

(b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the commission.

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

No.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

None.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

The only potential conflict in this regard would be if a member of my hunt club (each member owns an equal share) or a former law partner or employee were to appear before

me. I have recused myself on two occasions involving my hunt club: Once where a member was a party to the litigation and once where the caretaker appeared before me. One current member is a practicing attorney and I have disclosed our relationship, as necessary, when he has appeared before me. I will continue to recuse myself from cases involving members of the club as necessary.

I have also recused myself from hearing a case where a colleague in my former law firm was a party. I will continue to recuse myself in these types of situations.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

N/A

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

A copy of my account records is attached.

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

See Rule 501 Disclosure Statements for years 2018-2021 attached hereto. Additionally, in 2019 I attended a dinner hosted by the Harrison White law firm during the 2019 Trial Lawyers convention. I estimate the value of this was less than \$50.00.

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

No.

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

(a) I have never been sued by a client or personally for non-professional reasons.

(b) In 2007 BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation filed suit against Robertson & Hodges, LLC f/k/a Robertson, Hodges and Coleman P.A. in Dekalb County, Georgia seeking payments owed under a yellow pages advertising contract. The contract was entered into by Ann Coleman under the name of Robertson, Hodges and Coleman to advertise her adoption practice. Marsh Robertson and I were unaware that she had entered the contract under the firm name until we were contacted by BellSouth about the unpaid debt. After Ms. Coleman failed to satisfy the debt BellSouth filed the lawsuit. The debt was thereafter satisfied with funds provided by Ms. Coleman and the case was dismissed with prejudice.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

N/A

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No.

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No.

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released?

No.

Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

I have not done any campaigning for this position.

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

(a) Charles M. Duke, III
Elliott Davis
(Redacted)

(b) Elizabeth M. McMillan
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
(Redacted)

(c) Andreas Satterfield, Jr.
Jackson Lewis P.C.
(Redacted)

(d) Russell H. Stall
(Redacted)

(e) Paul Wickensimer
Greenville County Clerk of Court
(Redacted)

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?

No.

If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform.

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

My wife has a Facebook account where she posts many family pictures. I do not allow her to post any picture of me that might appear to bring dishonor or disrespect to my position.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) I am a member of the Greenville Country Club and have served on the Nominating Committee.
 - (b) I am a member of Hogskin Hunt Club and have served as the Vice President.
 - (c) I am a member of the Greenville Gun Club.
58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I have been a lawyer for almost 35 years. In my career I have seen and dealt with people from every financial, educational and social background. What I have learned is that almost everyone, regardless of their educational, financial or social background, will at one time or another enter a Family Court courtroom and when they do, they hope to be treated respectfully and fairly regardless of their status. I believe that my time on the bench has shown that I am capable of providing that respect and giving each person a fair hearing while honorably representing the State of South Carolina. Each day I try to improve my job performance so that each person leaves the courthouse feeling like they were important enough for me to care about them and their circumstances.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: _____

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2022.

(Notary Signature)

(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____