



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

**Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:**

Family Court Judge, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

**1. Name:**

Mrs. Alicia A. Richardson

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

N/A

**Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note. (Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)**

No

**Home Address:**

(Redacted)

**County of Residence:**

Marion

**Business Address:**

Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office  
410 Cleland Street  
Post Office Box 1688  
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

**E-Mail Address:**

(Redacted)

**Telephone Number:**

(home): (Redacted)  
(office): 843-545-3175  
(cell): (Redacted)

**2. Date of Birth:**

(Redacted) 1970

**Place of Birth:**

Conway, South Carolina

**Social Security #:**

(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 #:**

(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 on June 4, 1994 to Charles Thomas Richardson

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

Employed in Sales, Linder Industrial Machinery

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

Never divorced or widowed

**(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.**

N/A

**(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) Clemson University, August 1988 – May 1992, Bachelor of Arts in English, minor in Marketing

(b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1992 – May 1995, Juris Doctorate

**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) South Carolina Law Review, 1995

(b) Family Law Practice Internship Fall 1994

(c) Criminal Practice Clinic, Spring 1995

(d) Order of Wig and Robe, 1994

(e) Order of the Coif, 1995

(f) Faculty Award in Family Law Practice, 1994

(g) Recipient, Petigru Legal Scholarship 1992-1995

(h) American Jurisprudence Awards, Civil Procedure, Legal Research 1992-93

(i) Student Bar Association

(j) Public Interest Law Society

(k) Palmetto Legal Society

(l) Pro Bono Program, Richland County Department of Youth Services

(m) Dean's List

(n) Legislative Aide, Representatives L. Morgan Martin and Doug Jennings, January-April 1993

(o) Law Clerk, Turner, Padget, Graham, and Laney, Florence, SC, May – August, 1993 and May – August, 1994

(p) Law Clerk, South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee, August, 1993 – May, 1994

**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, 1995

South Carolina Bar Exam - once

**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) Law Office of Edward Whittington, Mullins, South Carolina 1995-1995. Worked as an associate in the primary areas of family law and real estate. I had my own trust account.

- (b) Marion County Public Defender, Juvenile contract attorney, 1995-2000. I served as public defender for juvenile offenders in Marion County. This was a part-time contract position with the Marion County Public Defender.
- (c) Law Office of Alicia A. Richardson, Marion, South Carolina 1999-2000. Sole practitioner in the primary areas of family law and real estate. I handled the financial management of the practice including bank accounts and trust accounts.
- (d) Assistant Solicitor, Family Court, Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office. January-March 2001. Worked with two other attorneys prosecuting juvenile cases in Family Court and then was promoted to Senior Assistant Solicitor.
- (e) Senior Assistant Solicitor, Family Court, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, Horry County, March 2001 – 2012. I was Senior Assistant Solicitor for the Family Court division of the Solicitor's Office in Horry County. I supervised the division and was responsible for the prosecution of juvenile cases in Family Court. I also occasionally handled child support extradition cases for the Solicitor's Office.
- (f) Senior Assistant Solicitor, General Sessions, Sexual Assault and child abuse cases, Horry County, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. I was one of two attorneys prosecuting sexual assault and child abuse cases.
- (g) Deputy Solicitor Georgetown County, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office, January 2013 – present. I prosecute cases in the Georgetown County Solicitor's office in General Sessions Court. I also supervise the Georgetown office including General Sessions, Family Court, and Magistrates Court attorneys.

**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:**

**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.**

- (a) **Divorce and equitable division of property:** I represented clients in divorce and equitable division cases in my first five years as an attorney from 1995-2000. My practice included uncontested divorces and contested cases. I handled both fault and no-fault divorces and handled at least cases on every statutory ground. I represented clients in

temporary hearings, emergency hearings, contempt hearings, settlement negotiations, alimony modification, and in trials. I had cases with some unusual issues such as annulment, allegations of bigamy, common law marriages, and second divorce or separate support and maintenance from the same spouse. I practiced primarily in Marion County but also represented clients in Horry, Florence, Dillon, and Darlington counties. Additionally, I was certified as a mediator in 1999-2000, and mediated a few cases.

- (b) **Child custody:** When in private practice from 1995-2000, I represented parents and other parties in child custody cases, visitation, determination of paternity, modification of custody, and child support actions. I served as guardian ad litem in cases as well. As guardian ad litem, I prepared reports, met with parents, children, and other relatives, I made home visits, and in contested matters testified to my findings. Additionally, I was certified as a mediator in 1999-2000, and mediated a few cases.

In over twenty years at the Solicitor's office, I have dealt with issues regarding child custody and visitation. In cases involving domestic violence or crimes against children, bond issues regarding custody and visitation of the minor children often need to be addressed. I have also provided legal advice to law enforcement regarding child custody and visitation disputes, including cases with out of state orders.

- (c) **Adoption:** When I was in private practice, I did not handle any adoption cases for the adoptive parents. However, I was appointed as guardian ad litem in some adoption cases, and I represented some biological parents in relinquishing parental rights for adoption. On one such occasion, the attorneys asked that I appear at the hospital to assist in releasing the newborn to the parents which was an amazing experience. Also, I have had personal experience with adoption as I have an adopted sibling.

- (d) **Abuse and Neglect:** When I first began practicing law in Marion County the County Bar was small and there was not a limit on the number of appointments. I was routinely and regularly appointed to abuse and neglect cases. I was usually in DSS hearings about once a month during that period of time. While I have not represented a party in a DSS action since joining the Solicitor's office, prosecution of juvenile and some General Sessions criminal cases, often have an abuse and neglect component. A DSS case worker attended all juvenile hearings in Horry County, and juvenile truancy cases often resulted in DSS investigations. Also, since prosecuting in General Sessions Court, there are cases involving abuse and neglect proceedings, including sexual abuse, child abuse, unlawful conduct toward a child, domestic violence with children present, prenatal substance abuse, exposure to parental substance abuse, and even the murder of one parent by the other. I often confer with DSS on these cases. I have also attended DSS hearings to give the status of the criminal case to the Family Court.

On a more personal level, my parents were foster parents for many years, and we had foster children in our home from the time I was in elementary school until I married. We welcomed children as a family, and often siblings were placed together in our home. I have witnessed the frightened look on a child's face when they are brought to live with people who are strangers to them. I have watched children flourish with love and support,

and others who have struggled with all of the changes. I witnessed families that were reunified with success, and unfortunately children who ended up in the revolving door of the system and then repeated the cycle with their own children.

(e) **Juvenile Justice:** I have handled thousands of juvenile cases in Family Court. I represented juveniles in Family Court as public defender from 1995 to 2000 in Marion County. In 2001, I joined the Solicitor's office in Horry County as a juvenile prosecutor and served there from 2001 to 2012. I have handled every sort of juvenile prosecution from truancy, runaway, criminal sexual conduct, attempted murder, and murder. Because Horry County is a tourist area, we had a pretty significant number of out of state juveniles charged with crimes or located as runaways. I became very familiar with the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. During my time in Horry County, our office began assisting the Department of Juvenile Justice in prosecuting violations of probation. We also handled cases against parents for truancy of their children. I have toured several of the Department of Juvenile Justice secure facilities. I handled several Waiver hearings in Family Court where the State sought to transfer jurisdiction of serious crimes to General Sessions Court. Since 2013, I have not actively appeared in Family Court in the prosecution of juvenile cases but have supervised our Family Court attorney and attended some hearings that were connected to General Sessions cases. As a General Sessions prosecutor, I find that my background in juvenile prosecution is invaluable. I often pull juvenile records and files when making prosecutorial decisions on a case. It is often helpful for the court and defense attorneys to have juvenile evaluation records. Additionally, there are cases where General Sessions Defendants have juvenile co-defendants or where a young defendant in General Sessions court may have a pending juvenile case or be on probation with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

(f) **Appearances in Family Court:** I have not appeared as an attorney for a party participant in a Family Court case in the past 5 years. However, I have supervised our juvenile court prosecutor. I have also attended hearings as needed to advise the court of the status of a General Sessions matter including abuse and neglect proceedings, juvenile proceedings, and a grandparent visitation action where there was a pending General Sessions case against the parent.

**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:** None except as observer in a case with a Defendant that also had state charges.
- (b) **State:** I average about two weeks per month in General Sessions Court. I am occasionally in Magistrate's court for preliminary hearings and bond hearings.

**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:** 0
- (b) **criminal:** 100%

- (c) domestic: 0
- (d) other: 0

**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:

In nearly 100% of my cases in the past 5 years, the defendant had the right to a jury trial. The majority of cases resolve without a jury trial. I have tried approximately 11 jury trials to a jury decision in General Sessions Court in the past five years and have prepared for jury trials in numerous cases which were resolved prior to trial.

- (b) Non-jury: During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?

Sole counsel and/or chief 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) In re Christian H. and State v. Christian Helms – I prosecuted this case in both Horry County Family Court and Horry County General Sessions Court. I was the Senior Assistant Solicitor in Family Court and represented the State in a waiver hearing on the charge of Attempted Murder, Weapons charges, and Possession of an Incendiary Device. The case involved a 14-year-old student who brought a loaded handgun to school and attempted to take the School Resource Officers service weapon at gunpoint. The officer tackled the defendant, and the Defendant fired a shot at the officer, grazing the officer's head. The Defendant had functional pipe bombs in his backpack as well as a video recording prepared for this family detailing his plans to take the Officers gun for additional firepower, to kill multiple students at random, and then killing himself. The Defendant also had a journal detailing plans for a mass school shooting, including a list of intended targets. The writings demonstrated that he idolized past school shooters particularly from Columbine. I represented the State in the waiver hearing where I called between twenty and thirty witnesses, including students, teachers, administrators, DJJ employees, psychologist, firearms experts, an expert in explosives, and law enforcement officers. The Defendant was waived to General Sessions Court. I then assisted in the prosecution of the case in General Sessions Court. The Defendant pleaded guilty after a jury was selected for his General Sessions trial. This case garnered significant media attention not just because of the nature of the case but also because the defendant's family gave media interviews portraying him as a victim of bullying. The case involved issues with school safety, mental health, confidentiality of records of minor, the Freedom of Information Act, and media coverage of juvenile proceedings. Many of the proceedings were recorded by media outlets. Mr. Helms has completed his sentence, including

probation and parole. Since completing his sentence, he has attempted to contact some of the participants.

- (b) **State v. Alexander Rhue, Sr., Alexander Rhue, Jr., and Tiesh Rhue.** - I along with an Assistant Solicitor prosecuted this case in Georgetown General Sessions Court. The three co-defendants were tried together in a week and a half long trial in October, 2021. The case involved the murder of Leon Harrison, Jr. Mr. Harrison's partially decomposed body was discovered in the river with his hands and feet bound. It was estimated that his death occurred two weeks prior, and a cause of death could not be determined. Mr. Harrison's wife, her father, and her brother were charged in his murder, and the motive was believed to be domestic in nature. This was a circumstantial evidence case with multiple expert witnesses including serology, DNA, cell phone data, cell site tower location and mapping, as well as the emerging technology of Google geo-fencing and location data. The admissibility of evidence collected by search warrants was a crucial issue in the prosecution of the case. Tiesh Rhue and Alexander Rhue, Jr. were convicted of Murder and related charges, and have appealed their convictions. Their father Alexander Rhue, Sr. was acquitted of murder but convicted of Obstruction of Justice. This case was significant not just because of the seriousness of the charges but also because of the logistical challenges of conducting a three co-defendant trial while following COVID protocols. Additionally, because of the family relationship of the victim and defendants, emotions ran high both in and out of the courtroom. There were significant concerns regarding reported threats of violence at the courthouse, particularly with the verdict being reached late in the evening. This case demonstrated how the Judge, attorneys, courthouse staff, and law enforcement all worked together to maintain public access to judicial proceedings and successfully ensuring the safety of all participants.
- (c) **State v. Marissa Cohen and State v. Randy Collins, ( State v. Collins, 435 S.C. 31, 864 S.E.2d 914 (Ct. App. 2021), cert granted), State v. Devon Coombs.** -

These Georgetown County General Sessions cases involve co-defendants charged in the tragic arson death of a 12-year-old child and the subsequent shooting death of one of the arson defendants by the deceased child's brother.

Firefighters discovered the body of a 12-year-old boy after extinguishing a fire in what was believed to be a vacant mobile home. The child's mother, Marissa Cohen, and Randy Collins and his nephew James Miller were charged with Arson First Degree after Randy Collins gave statements that Ms. Cohen had enlisted Collins and Miller to burn the mobile home for insurance proceeds. He declined to cooperate with the state without the assurance of leniency. His case was tried in November 2018. I prosecuted the case along with an Assistant Solicitor. The primary issues were his competency to stand trial and the voluntariness of his confession. The Defendant was found competent after a contested hearing, and the statements were found to be admissible in pre-trial hearings Mr. Collins was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 30 years in prison. His conviction was overturned by the Court of Appeals in 2021. The Court held that his confession was not voluntary. The State has appealed to the Supreme Court and the appeal is pending. While his appeal was pending, Mr. Collins testified in the trial of co-defendant Marissa



Cohen. I along with another Assistant Solicitor tried Ms. Cohen's case in January 2020 prior to the COVID pandemic. Ms. Cohen had a protracted process to determine competency but was found competent to stand trial after a contested hearing. Ms. Cohen was convicted and sentenced to thirty-five years in prison.

The tragedy of this case was compounded when James Miller was shot and killed by Devon Coombs, the 17-year-old brother of the deceased child and the son of Defendant Marissa Cohen. Evidence gathered in the investigation of Mr. Miller's death was used in the Arson trials. I was the prosecuting attorney in Mr. Coombs trial in August, 2017. Mr. Coombs pleaded guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter midway through his trial.

- (d) **State v. Frederick Willaims** – I along with an Assistant Solicitor tried this Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor case in Georgetown County Sessions Court. The participants were related which made prosecution even more difficult for the family. In this case the minor victim and another minor witness testified, and I had to prepare them to testify not just with the perpetrator present but also with a room full of strangers. The victim and victim's family expressed significant fear of the Defendant during the trial of the case. This was exacerbated by the Defendant's use of "roots." This case demonstrates the conflicting emotions when family members are on opposing sides of a courtroom. It also demonstrates the importance of understanding how cultural and religious beliefs can impact the parties.
- (e) **State v. Damonte Rivera Georgetown General Sessions court.** - I was the prosecuting attorney for the trial of this case in 2015. It involved a home invasion, burglary, and armed robbery of a family in the city of Georgetown with five co-defendants involved. Later in the night after the home invasion, one of the co-defendants was shot and killed by two other co-defendants. Because much of the same evidence was needed to prove both crimes, the charges were joined. Mr. Rivera was tried for both the home invasion and the murder of the co-defendant. The case involved testimony of a minor victim, multiple out of state witnesses with Interstate Compact proceedings to secure witness attendance, a Federal Writ to secure the attendance of a federal cooperating inmate, DNA evidence, co-defendant testimony, cell phone data and mapping involving multiple cellular devices and multiple cellular providers, lost evidence, and Giglio issues. Mr. Rivera was convicted of all charges and sentenced to life in prison with, consecutive sentences for each additional charge. The Defendant actually asked the Judge to sentence him to consecutive maximum penalties. The Defendant died in prison during the riot at Lee Correctional Institute and the appeal was dismissed. This case was significant because it was actually two crimes, with two crime scenes, and with separate victims. There was a massive amount of discovery and multiple attorneys involved between all the co-defendants and witnesses with pending charges.

**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.**

None

**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.**

Sate v. Diquan Johnson – This was an appeal to Circuit Court of a Family Court Order denying the State’s Motion to transfer/waive jurisdiction to General Sessions Court of a Murder charge against the 15-year-old defendant. I was not involved in the Family Court waiver hearing but was asked by the Solicitor to handle the appeal and assist the juvenile court prosecutor. This was the first time I was aware of our office appealing a Family Court order to Circuit Court. I prepared a “Record on Appeal” and was able to introduce it as an exhibit in the Circuit Court hearing, I argued the case in Circuit Court. The appeal was successful, and jurisdiction was transferred to General Sessions Court. He later pleaded guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter in General Sessions Court.

**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.**

No

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

South Carolina State Courts since 1995

**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.**

Yes

- a) I have taught numerous law enforcement in-service training classes on juvenile and Family Court issues from 2001 – 2011 when I was the Senior Assistant Solicitor in the Family Court division. I do not have an accurate list of the dates and courses, but I did participate in the following: Horry County Police In-service training on multiple occasions, Loris Police Department, Myrtle Beach Police Department on multiple occasions.
- b) I taught and presented for multiple years at the Juvenile Officers Association Annual meeting held each year in Myrtle Beach, including as recently as 2018-19. Topics include juvenile crime, mandated reporting of abuse and neglect, issues related to sexual abuse, changes in legislations, and guidelines for juvenile detention

- c) I participated in a presentation for principals, assistant principals, and attendance clerks with the Horry County School District (year unknown)
- d) I participated in a Juvenile Fire Setters Program with the Horry County Fire Department (year unknown)
- e) 2014 Prosecution Boot Camp for new prosecutors. I presented on victim issues and judged and gave constructive feedback on opening statements and closing arguments
- f) August 19, 2011 Prosecuting Cases in Family Court, South Carolina Solicitor's Association
- g) December 5, 2007 and December 3, 2008, Fifteenth Circuit Solicitors Office Annual Law Enforcement Training Program. I taught a section on Juvenile Issues and Family Court and prepared materials which were included in a binder provided to all participants.
- h) Presented and participated in round-table discussions in Family Court continuing education courses presented at the South Carolina Solicitors' Association Annual Conference on multiple occasions prior to 2011
- i) In service training with the Georgetown Police Department and Georgetown Sheriff's Office as Deputy Solicitor
- j) I have presented a section on juvenile issues at the Horry County Family Court CLE, (year unknown)
- k) Participated in training for Volunteers with the Juvenile Diversion Program, Youth Mentor Program, and Juvenile Arbitration Program on multiple occasions (years unknown)
- l) Taught some classes for Project Lead at McDonald Elementary School, Georgetown, SC. This is a program providing law related education to elementary school students.
- m) I have spoken on topics of law related education and career days at multiple elementary, middle, and high schools throughout my legal career.

**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 published any books or articles, however I have prepared materials for Continuing Legal Education Trainings and Law Enforcement training.

**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.)**

See attached

**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.**

I have not sought membership in any of these organizations. I am not aware of any ratings by these organizations.

**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) South Carolina Bar Association 1995-present
- (b) Georgetown County Bar Association, approximately 2014 - present
- (c) former member, Horry County Bar Association
- (d) former member, Marion County Bar, Secretary-Treasurer for a few years approximately 1996-2000

**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.**

N/A

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

No

**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.**

(a) Law Clerk, Turner, Padgett, Graham and Laney, Florence, South Carolina, May-August, 1993 & May – August, 1994

(b) Law Clerk, South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee, August, 1993 – May, 1994

(c) Legislative Page, Representatives L. Morgan Martin and Douglas Jennings, January – April 1993

(d) Various part-time employment in high school and college including grocery stores, fast food waitress, and substitute teacher.

**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.

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

**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.**

- (a) While in private practice, I make payments for employment taxes through my accountant’s office. When I closed my practice and went to work for the Solicitor’s Office in 2001, I was not aware of an outstanding amount until it was garnished from one of my county paychecks. This was 20 years ago.
- (b) There was a tax setoff against our joint state income tax refunds for payment of environmental service fees
- (c) I have not defaulted on any student loans.
- (d) I have not file for bankruptcy

**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.**

None

**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.

**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.**

I am not aware of any potential conflict of interest regarding real property owned by my family or myself. I am not aware of any public improvements to adjacent properties by a local, state, or public agency other than the installation of internet in my rural community as a result of COVID and/or typical maintenance and improvements to infrastructure and roads.

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

N/A

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

N/A

**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?**

No

**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.**

Yes

- (a) 2002CP3300415 Cendant Mortgage Corporation vs. Marvenis P. Wilson, et. al. This was an action against a former client of mine that appears to be a foreclosure. I believe that I was named a party because of some sort of fees ordered to be paid to me.
- (b) 2015CP3300317 Anderson Brothers Bank vs. Alicia Richardson. Judgement. Settled and paid in full
- (c) 2021CP3301562 Apex Bank vs. Charles T. Richardson and Alicia A. Richardson, Dismissed
- (d) 2021CP3300580 Apex Bank vs. Charles T. Richardson and Alicia A. Richardson, Dismissed
- (e) Britton's Neck Community Association, et. al. vs. SCDHEC and John Taylor. This was an administrative law court action filed on behalf of myself and multiple other citizens in our community to appeal the granting of a permit for a landfill. The case was unsuccessful, and we filed a Notice of Intent to Appeal but ultimately abandoned the appeal
- (f) *Jennings v. Richardson*, No. 2:14-cv-3439-RMG (D.S.C. Aug. 14, 2015), Full title: Ricky A. Jennings v. Solicitor Jimmy Richardson and Deputy Solicitor Alicia A. Richardson, Dismissed. This was an action filed by a Defendant and was dismissed by the Federal Magistrate. I did have to give a deposition in a lawsuit filed by this Defendant in an officer involved shooting involving the Charleston County Sheriff's office. The shooting occurred in Georgetown County after a vehicle pursuit from Charleston County crossed county lines.
- (g) *Cole v. White*, Case No. 2:16-cv-3548-RMG-MGB (D.S.C. Feb. 2, 2017), dismissed without service of process. This was a lawsuit filed by an inmate against the Georgetown County Clerk of Court, Georgetown County Sheriff's office, the magistrate, defendant's public defender, and me in my capacity as Deputy Solicitor. I was never served with the suit as the Federal Magistrate dismissed it without service of process.

**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.**

No, I had malpractice coverage when I was in private practice from 1995-2000. To the best of my knowledge, I was not covered by a tail policy.

- 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 answers 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? 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.**

No and I have not asked anyone to campaign on my behalf. I am not aware of anyone campaigning on my behalf on their own initiative.

- 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. I have only introduced myself and announced my candidacy.

**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) Jimmy A. Richardson, II, Solicitor  
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit  
(Redacted)
- (b) L. Morgan Martin, Esquire  
Law Offices of L. Morgan Martin, P.A.  
(Redacted)
- (c) Charlie Dorn Smith, III, MD  
MUSC Cardiovascular Surgery  
(Redacted)
- (d) Mark W. Richardson  
Retired Sheriff Marion County  
(Redacted)
- (e) Ms. Lunda Green  
(Redacted)

**56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.? If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform.**

- (a) (Redacted)– Facebook
- (b) (Redacted) – Instagram
- (c) (Redacted) – Twitter
- (d) (Redacted) – TikTok

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

I would make sure all accounts had private settings and are not public. I would maintain friend status only with family and close friends.

**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) Ernest F. Hollings Award for Excellence in State Prosecution, Family Court 2009
- (b) South Carolina Supreme Court Docket Management Task Force, Family Court 2011-12
- (c) Completed Leadership Challenge Workshop, 2021
- (d) Completed, What You Do Matters Lessons from the Holocaust 2021
- (e) Completed, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault “Helping Juries Understand Sexual Assault,” 2012
- (f) Attended, Public Agency Training Council, “Rape and Sex Crimes Investigation,” 2005
- (g) Completed, American Prosecutors Research Institute Prosecutorial Leadership Course, 2003
- (h) Completed, South Carolina Council for Conflict Resolution Family/Divorce Mediation Training, March 8, 1999
- (i) Attended, Twelfth International Conference of Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma, Boston, MA, September 29 – October 1, 2012

**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.**

In preparing this application packet, I miraculously found drafts of my law school application essay I wrote over half of my lifetime ago. It was a humbling reminder of why I became a lawyer, why I have spent the majority of my career in public service, and why I am applying for the position of Family Court Judge. It is who I am and who I have always been.

This is some of what I wrote over 30 years ago:

The unique circumstances and experiences of my life have instilled in me the qualities that I feel are necessary for a legal career. Much of who I am is derived from my family. I am the daughter of a Southern Baptist Minister. My mother suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis since her teens, but she never let her physical disabilities stop her from helping others. At the age of fifteen, I lost my older brother in an automobile accident. From that moment on, I realized that life itself is the most precious gift we have, and that family should never be taken for granted.

My parents were foster parents from the time I was eight years old. I have witnessed firsthand how the wrongdoings of one individual can nearly destroy the life of another. I have also witnessed the power of rehabilitation. I have seen frightened and withdrawn children become happy and outgoing once they were placed in a safe and loving environment. I have watched families that faced insurmountable odds become whole again.

I sincerely feel that I can make a difference. Some may feel that I am idealistic and not realistic, but I am determined to use my abilities to help others and our State. I have high goals that I am determined to reach. I want to work in the Family Court and with the Department of Social Services. I am aspiring to one day be Solicitor of my county and eventually to be a Judge.

I felt that way then and feel even stronger now. Since drafting that essay in hopes of beginning a legal career, I have added a vast array of personal and professional experience and life lessons that have prepared me for this position. I have been married for twenty-eight years and have three wonderful children. I have balanced a demanding legal career with the demands of motherhood.

While my legal career has not just been in Family Court, I feel that the experience I gained in prosecuting General Sessions Cases would be a benefit if I became a Family Court Judge. I want to be the type of Judge who is fair, honest, decisive, and sees the big picture. Safety, security, happiness, and being a productive citizen begin in the home. When disputes and problems arise with families and children, when children are abused or neglected, and when juveniles begin down the wrong path, there must be clear, fair, and decisive resolutions and guidance to ensure to help individuals become whole again.

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: \_\_\_\_\_