



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

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

1. Name: Mr. Adam B. Lambert

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.) I have been serving as a Special Referee in  
Pickens County since 2017.

Home Address: (Redacted)

County of Residence: Pickens

Business Address: 859 Pendleton Street Pickens, SC 29671

E-Mail Address: (Redacted)

Telephone Number: (home): (Redacted)  
(office): 864-878-1184  
(cell): (Redacted)

2. Date of Birth: (Redacted) 1984  
Place of Birth: Spartanburg, South Carolina  
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.  
(b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.  
(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.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Family Status: Married on July 11, 2015 to Stacey M. Lambert  
Never divorced, one 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) University of South Carolina – 2002 – 2006; B.A. in History
  - (b) The Citadel Graduate College – 2006 – 2008; M.A.T. Secondary Education
  - (c) Thomas M. Cooley Law School – 2008 - 2011; J.D.
- 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) Cooley Ambassador; 2010 - 2011
  - (b) Director of Intramurals; 2010 - 2011
  - (c) President of Southern Law Coalition; 2009-2011
  - (d) Teaching Assistant/Tutor – Secured Transactions 2010-2011
- 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 – 2011; Took the SC Bar Examination 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) January 2011 – May 2011 – Intern at Burts Turner & Rhodes, Spartanburg, SC. Interned during my last semester of law school. Responsible for legal research, drafting memorandum of law, and participated in client consultations. Assisted the attorneys in trial preparation and attended trials as an intern. No involvement in administrative and financial management.
  - (b) November 2011 – July 2012 – Associate at McDonnell & Associates, Greenville, SC. Associate attorney charged with handling mobile real estate closings. No involvement in administrative and financial management.

(c) July 2012 – April 2013 – Associate at The Acker Law Firm P.A. Associate attorney that handled real estate closings, probate, estate planning, and civil litigation. No involvement in administrative and financial management.

(d) April 2013 – February 2015 – Owner/Partner at The Acker & Lambert Firm, P.A. Handling real estate closings, probate, estate planning, and civil litigation. Given full administrative and financial management duties.

(e) February 2015 – Present – Owner/Partner at Acker Lambert Hinton P.A. Handling real estate closings, probate, estate planning, and civil litigation. Given full administrative and financial management duties.

**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.

I have extensive experience in the Master's court through my work as a defense attorney, serving as a Special Referee since 2017, and as a plaintiff's attorney. Since beginning at Acker Lambert Hinton P.A., I have actively practiced in the Master's court. As an attorney, I have personally participated in partition actions, foreclosures, boundary line disputes, easement litigation, breach of contract, petition to determine heirs, and quiet title actions. Additionally, over the past 5 years, I have been serving as a Special Referee in Pickens County. To date, I have been appointed as Special Referee on over 200 cases and manage the foreclosure sales docket every month.

Partition Actions – I have represented, defended, and served as special referee in partition actions before and after the creation of the Clementa Pinckney Uniform Partition of Heirs' Property Act. These cases have ranged from a few tenants in common to multi-generational ownership. I have been able to obtain judgments in my client's favor regarding the dividing of the property physically or monetarily.

Foreclosures – I have represented holders of notes and mortgages in owner financed transactions. I ensured the mortgage was foreclosed, sold the property at auction, and helped my clients recover debt and expenses. I have also presided over 200 foreclosures as a special referee. I have handled the bidding, compliance, and finalization of the file for each property sold by me at auction. Lastly, I have defended borrowers in their foreclosure matters. I have been successful in helping my clients modify their mortgage, reinstate their mortgage, or seek any equitable defenses they may have against the mortgage lender.

Boundary Line Disputes & Easement Litigation – I have been on both the Plaintiff and Defendant's side of a boundary line dispute. Within the past five years, I have tried a case regarding the location an easement between two family members. Additionally, I have handled cases involving multigenerational property.

Petition to Determine Heirs – As a Special Referee, I have heard and ruled on petitions to determine heirs. The cases have ranged from involving a few heirs to numerous heirs with varying percentages of ownership. Additionally, I have filed petitions to determine heirs in the Probate Court throughout my career as an attorney. Like the Special Referee cases, the cases range from one heir to multiple heirs.

Quiet Title Actions – I have filed numerous quiet title actions in the Master's court or before Special Referees. These cases involve the quieting of the title due to a tax deed being in the chain of title. Other cases have involved the reformation of the legal description of a piece of property or confirming the legal description due to errors in the deeds, mortgages, and/or surveys.

- (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: 1 time
- (b) state: Every other month

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: 25%
- (b) criminal: 0%
- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: 75% - Real estate closings, probate administration, estate planning.

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: 1%
- (b) non-jury: 99%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? I most often serve as sole 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) William D. Nix v Estate of Wayne Galloway et al – 2015-CP-39-00706: I initiated this case on behalf of my client to quiet his title and settle a multi-year boundary dispute between neighboring family members. This was one of the first cases I filed that was sent to the Master’s court. The case presented issues regarding conflicting surveys and conflicting testimony regarding the position of nature monuments in legal descriptions. After a day-long trial with a pro-se defendant and the Special Referee coming out and viewing the property, I prevailed; the Special Referee issued an order that quieted my client’s title and confirmed his legal description was the controlling description regarding the boundary. This case was significant because it was my first experience proving the origins of boundary lines between two neighbors. Most other boundary line disputes end with mediated agreements. I gained the knowledge of what to present to the court and how the court adjudicates boundary line disputes.

(b) Samuel Breazeale v Jennifer & Christopher Colburn – 2016-CP-39-00042: This was a case I defended on behalf of my clients regarding a boundary line and easement dispute. The Plaintiffs and Defendants are neighbors that a common drive was divided by the property line. After a half-day trial with witnesses on both sides taking the stand to offering testimony to affirm and dispute the existence of a prescriptive easement, my client ultimately prevailed. This case was significant because we not only disproved that the Plaintiff had a prescriptive easement over my clients’ property, we confirmed my clients’ easement over Plaintiff’s property. I gained a wealth of knowledge regarding easement causes of action by trying this case.

(c) J. Robin Bodway v Benji L. Currey et al. – 2017-CP-23-07251; This was a case regarding the foreclosure of a second mortgage under a divorce decree. I represented the Plaintiff and succeeded in foreclosing on the mortgage she held subject to the first

mortgage held by a national bank. This case was significant because I secured full payment on my client's mortgage which included her fees and costs. Also, it was significant for me professionally as I gained valuable experience in the intricacies of foreclosing a second mortgage in the Master's court.

(d) Jack E. Shaw v KT of Greenville, LLC et al – 2019-CP-23-03558: This case involved a breach of contract regarding a commercial lease and a contract for the sale of a business. I represented the buyer of the business and the new tenant of the restaurant. This case was significant because of the liability my client was exposed to due to the breach of the lease by the prior owner. I used my knowledge regarding the lease and the purchase of the business to negotiate a settlement for my client that removed exposure to the full debt amount on both the original lease and the new lease.

(e) C.L. Hollingsworth LLC v Marion Garvin – 2020-CP-39-00339; This breach of contract case concerned the nonpayment of rent under a commercial lease. I represented the Plaintiff. I sued to enforce the terms of a commercial lease and succeeded in obtaining a judgment in the amount due to my client. This was significant to my practice because I learned how a default case proceeded through the Court of Common Pleas. Most if not all breach of contract cases I have handled were settled before filing or if filed, settled at mediation.

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) Naturaland Trust et al. v. Dakota Finance et al.; Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Decision outstanding; Case 21-1517

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.

None

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.

I have been appointed to serve as a Special Referee in Pickens County Court of Common Pleas cases since 2017.

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) Ditech Financial v Sutherland – 2016CP3901100; This order is significant to me because this was the very first case that I was appointed as special referee. It was also one of the first cases that I presided over the auction, disbursement of funds, and closing of a foreclosure file.

(b) Warren v. Reese et al. – 2016-CP-39-01144; This order is significant to me because this was the first time I was appointed as special referee over a quiet title action regarding a tax sale. Additionally, this case included numerous defendants including the U.S. Department of Justice. I held and presided over a hearing that ultimately quieted the title in the name of the plaintiff.

- (c) SunTrust Bank, Inc. v Cox et al – 2018CP3901233; This was a significant order for me since this case was referred to me regarding disbursement of a tax sale overage and summary judgment. This case allowed me to preside over a summary judgment hearing dealing with tax sale payments.
  - (d) Wood v Wood – 2020CP3900356; This was a petition to determine heirs that I was appointed to handle as special referee. While it was a consent order, I still got the experience of reviewing the evidence presented and issuing an Order accordingly. I believe this one was significant because I got to see another type of case as special referee outside of the normal foreclosures and real estate matters.
  - (e) Reverse Mortgage Solutions v Kirby et al – 2019CP3900822; This was a foreclosure and reformation of mortgage action that I was appointed as the special referee. I believe this order was significant to expanding my knowledge of reformation causes of action.
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) State of South Carolina, November 2011
  - (b) District Court for South Carolina, 2019
  - (c) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2020
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.
- No.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- Please see attached.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- None.
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.)
- (a) Court of Common Pleas, 2022
  - (b) Court of Common Pleas, 2021
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) Martindale-Hubbell – AV Preeminent Rating, 2021 – 2022
- (b) Martindale-Hubbell – Client Rating, 2021-2022

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) Pickens County Bar
- (b) Greenville County Bar
- (c) American Land Title Association (ALTA)
- (d) National Academy of Elder Law (NAELA)
- (e) Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce – President 2020
- (f) Pickens Service Club

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.

Not applicable

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.

No.

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.

- (a) Co-Owner of Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.; Partner of the law firm and responsible for the management of the firm and employees.
- (b) Co-Owner of Pickens Agency LLC; Partner of the title company that produces title insurance policies for closings conducted by Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.
- (c) Co-Owner of The Pickens Group LLC; Partner of a real estate holding company that owns and manages the building that Acker Lambert Hinton P.A. occupies.
- (d) Co-Owner of L&S Technology LLC; Partner in a technology startup company



- that is attempting to develop software for probate administration.
- (e) Member of Messinger Group LLC; Partner of a real estate holding company that owns and manages the building that Carolina Billing Associates LLC occupies.
  - (f) Member of Tailgate at the Lake LLC; Member of a real estate holding company that owns and manages a family vacation condo on Lake Murray.
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.)

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

**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.  
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?

- (a) Postage – Acknowledgement of Application \$0.53; 06/24/2022
  - (b) Postage – Personal Information Sheet Letter \$0.53; 06/28/2022
  - (c) Postage – Fingerprint Cards \$0.72; 07/06/2022
  - (d) Postage – Final Application Packet \$7.35; 07/15/2022
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.
- (a) 06/10/2016 - \$1,000.00 to Neal Collins campaign from Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.
  - (b) 06/03/2016 - \$1,000.00 to Larry Martin campaign from Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.
  - (c) 05/04/2017 - \$150.00 to Walt Wilkins campaign from Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.
  - (d) 09/06/2018 - \$1,000.00 to Walt Wilkins – Wilkins for Solicitor campaign from Acker Lambert Hinton P.A.
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.
- (a) 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.
- (a) Co-Owner of Acker Lambert Hinton P.A., - A potential conflict of interest could be the appearance of lawyers from Acker Lambert Hinton P.A. in the Master's court. I would follow the requirements and recommendations of Judicial Canon 3 regarding disclosing the potential conflict and recusing myself if there is any appearance of impartiality.
  - (b) Co-Owner of Pickens Agency LLC - A potential conflict of interest could be the appearance of the remaining owner(s) of the Pickens Agency LLC in the Master's court. I would follow the requirements and recommendations of Judicial Canon 3 regarding disclosing the potential conflict and recusing myself if there is any appearance of impartiality.
  - (c) Co-Owner of The Pickens Group LLC - A potential conflict of interest could be the appearance of the remaining owner(s) of the Pickens Group LLC in the Master's court. I would follow the requirements and recommendations of Judicial Canon 3 regarding disclosing the potential conflict and recusing myself if there is any appearance of impartiality
  - (d) Member of Messinger Group LLC - A potential conflict of interest could be the appearance of owner of the Messinger Group LLC in the Master's court. I would follow the requirements and recommendations of Judicial Canon 3 regarding disclosing the potential conflict and recusing myself if there is any appearance of impartiality
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.

None.

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.

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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.

DUAC, .08 but less than .10, 1st Offense – Greenville, SC; guilty plea upon the advice of attorney. On December 5, 2012, I plead guilty to DUAC resulting from an arrest for DUI

(refusal) in Greenville County. I was pulled over one night after leaving dinner with friends. I had consumed alcohol but not to the point where I believed I was too impaired to drive legally. I accepted responsibility for my actions and plead guilty. This incident was a pivotal point in my life; one which I have learned and grown from. At the time, I was in my early twenties. I am now a husband, a father, I've been baptized, and I am a working professional, having owned my own business for over ten years. I am not proud of my decision that night, but I would not change the positive ways in which the event impacted my life.

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

Not to my knowledge.

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.

No.

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.

Yes, 2011-Present. I have never been covered by a tail policy. Current malpractice insurance coverage is 2 million in coverage and a \$5,000.00 deductible.

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 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.

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) R. Murray Hughes, Esq. (Redacted)
- (b) Brian K. James, Esq. – (Redacted)
- (c) William P. Stork, Esq. – (Redacted)
- (d) John S. Kay, Esq. – (Redacted)
- (e) John Shannon Haskett – (Redacted)

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

Yes. I have personal social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. I also manage my law firm's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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

- (a) Facebook – (Redacted)
- (b) Instagram – (Redacted)
- (c) Twitter – (Redacted)
- (d) LinkedIn – (Redacted)
- (e) Instagram - (Redacted)
- (f) Facebook - (Redacted)

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

(a) I only use social media to keep up with friends and family. Additionally, I keep my profiles private and only allow verified accounts of family and friends access to my profiles. I would limit my social media to only family and friends in compliance with the Judicial Canons. If I were to be appointed, I would turn over the administration of my law firm's accounts to the managing partner after my departure.

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) Pickens County Service Club – Vice President 2019
- (b) Pickens County Chamber of Commerce – President 2020
- (c) Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem – Co-Chair 2019
- (d) Pickens County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year, 2021
- (e) Kappa Sigma Housing Corporation Board of Directors, 2016 – Present
- (f) Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Chi Omega Chapter, President 2001-2002, Grand Master of Ceremonies, 2000-2001

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.

When I obtained my first position as an associate attorney, I quickly realized a desire to become a real estate lawyer. From handling title review, closing loans, or trying a boundary line dispute, I became fascinated with the many aspects of real estate law. While most of my friends and colleagues were pursuing careers in personal injury, criminal defense, or corporate law, I recognized I thoroughly enjoyed “dirt” law.

Over the last ten years, I have been blessed to learn real estate law from two prolific real estate lawyers in Pickens County, Kenneth D. Acker and R. Murray Hughes. These two attorneys have served as wonderful mentors, providing a wealth of knowledge surrounding real estate transactions, real estate litigation, and general litigation. Their guidance molded my practice and my daily interactions with clients, litigants, and opposing counsel. I now have over ten years of experience as a real estate attorney and special referee which has prepared me to serve the Master-in-Equity for Pickens County. Since 2017, I have presided over 200 cases as a Special Referee in Pickens County. These cases range from foreclosures, quiet title actions, petitions to determine heirs, and reformation actions. I have personally issued final orders pertaining to real estate matters as the special referee, and I have personally been responsible for most foreclosure sales each month in Pickens County since 2017. Following the monthly sales, I have managed the receipt and disbursement of funds pursuant to the foreclosing order. Additionally, I have handled the issuance of surplus funds when necessary, following a foreclosure action.

I believe my knowledge of real estate law, handling the monthly foreclosure sales, and my trial experience reflect positively on my candidacy as the Master-in-Equity for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Pickens County.

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Question 22  
CLE Attachment

Question 24  
Writing Samples

Question 33  
Confidential Financial Statement

Question 55  
Letters of Recommendation