



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
2023**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit,  
Seat 4

1. Name: Mr. Vernon F. Dunbar  
Mrs.  
Ms.

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: Greenville

Business Address: 55 E. Camperdown Way Suite 300 Greenville, SC 29601

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): 864-239-6735  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1961  
Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia  
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. N/A.

6. Family Status:
- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.  
Married on November 25, 1989 to Tarita A. Dunbar.  
Never divorced, three children.
  - (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation. Tarita A. Dunbar. Married on November 25, 1989. Tarita is a Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.
  - (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 divorced and not in the process of divorcing.
  - (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) Furman University, 1979 to 1983. Received a Bachelor of Arts Degree on June 4, 1983.
  - (b) University of Virginia School of Law, 1983 to 1986. Received a Juris Doctorate Degree on May 18, 1986.
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.
- I worked during my entire three years of law school in the work study program assisting the Dean of Minority Affairs for undergraduate students. During the first summer of law school (May-August 1984), I assisted with writing and editing Dean Richard Merrill's text book on Administrative Law.
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.
- I was admitted to the South Carolina Bar on November 14, 1986. I took the bar exam on one occasion.
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.

First, I worked as an Assistant Solicitor in Aiken from August 1986 to January 1987. I was assigned defend the Department of Social Services and Department of Youth Services n/k/a the Department of Juvenile Justice in the counties of Aiken, Barnwell and Bamberg. It was during my representation of The Department of Youth Services that I learned the rudimentary aspects of the practice of criminal law.

Second, I served as a law clerk to The Honorable Ernest A. Finney, Jr., then Associate Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court from January, 1987 to December, 1988. In that capacity, I wrote memoranda of law, proposed majority concurring and dissenting opinions on criminal, family and criminal law cases.

Third, Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., along with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed me to serve as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner in 1988. I was later appointed to serve as Chairperson of the Commission in 1993. I served as Chairperson until 1995. There are multiple duties of a Commissioner. The primary duty of a Commissioner is to adjudicate disputed workers' compensation claims and to award medical and disability benefits in accordance with the law. The other duty of a Commissioner is to direct and oversee the business and administrative operations of the Commission. The duty includes executing policies established by the Legislature; fulfilling the functions of the Commission's in its capacity as the governing body of the Judicial and Administrative Departments; qualifying employers and companies as self-insured entities; and promulgating rules and regulations governing the administration and execution of the workers' compensation laws of South Carolina.

The Chairperson of the Commission and the six Commission Board members were required to prepare a budget and submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly showing receipts, expenditures and disbursements of the Commission.

Fourth, I entered into the private practice of law with the law firm of Turner, Padgett Graham & Laney. In the early years of private practice, I concentrated exclusively on building a workers' compensation practice with the firm. To this end, I litigated hundreds of workers' compensation cases primarily defending employers and insurance carriers. However, I also represented a number of injured workers.

Later, my practice evolved from 1997 to 2014 into one in which I was involved in general and business litigation. A litigation practice began defending automobile accident cases in Richland, Lexington, Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties. Representing clients in automobile accident cases was extremely high volume practice. I litigated at least 35 cases that resulted in jury verdicts either before Magistrate Courts or Circuits Courts of the aforesaid counties.

Eventually, my practice evolved in which I was involved in employment/discrimination cases, breach of contract claims, covenants not to execute, breaches of patent license agreements, personal injuries and business torts. These type of cases were litigated in state and federal courts from 1999 to the present. It was also during this time, I accepted criminal case appointment in Richland county.

Fifth, while actively litigating cases, I also served as lead counsel or sole counsel in a number of Appellate cases that were decided by our Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

Sixth, my present practice with McAngus Goudelock & Courie involves litigating and defending occupational disease claims, ionizing radiation claims and complex bodily

injury claims before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. I also represent a number of entities in subrogation claims which have been filed in Federal and State Circuit Courts.

Seventh, I have experience in representing clients before the Administrative Law Court, the Architectural and Physical Therapy Boards.

Eighth, I am a certified mediator and mediate civil and workers' compensation cases. Most recently as part of my mediation practice, I served as a Special Circuit Court Referee in a property rights case.

During my tenure at Turner Padgett Graham & Laney from 1995 to 2014, I served on the firm's management committee from 2004 to 2014. The Management Committee was responsible for the administrative and financial management of the firm. The administrative and financial management functions of the firm included budgeting, maintaining proper general and malpractice insurance for the firm; and managing growth of the firm.

**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.

During my tenure as an assistant solicitor, I was involved in probable cause hearings. I was tasked with deciding the appropriate charges with respect to criminal offenses committed by juveniles. These charges most often involved malicious destruction to property, assault and battery, murder, petty larceny, grand larceny and trespassing. All of these matters were litigated before a Family Court Judge. Many of the cases resulted in plea agreements, while the remainder either resulted in probation or a referral to the Reception and Evaluation Center in Columbia. A small number of juveniles were placed in the custody of the Department of Youth Services.

I was involved in one Federal criminal case, USA v. Gerald McDuffie, 4:96-CR-00721-CMC-2, in which Mr. McDuffie was charged with intent to distribute and traffic drugs. Gerald Malloy, Lead Counsel, and I were able to negotiate with the Assistant United States Attorneys in which a plea agreement was reached and approved by the Honorable Cameron McGowan Currie.

Thereafter, by virtue of a court appointment in Richland County I was appointed counsel in the case of State of South Carolina v. Frank Livingston, Indictment Nos.: 2003-GS-40-00550 & 2003-GS-40-0010 for trafficking Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute. A plea agreement which was approved by the Honorable Edward Cunningham.

Most recently, I was able to have a criminal charge dismissed against a friend of my family, who had been arrested for criminal domestic violence in 2019. Tommy L. King was 91 at the time and was suffering with dementia and early stages of Alzheimer's. Because of his mental incapacity, the Assistant Solicitor of the Aiken County Solicitor's Office requested the court dismiss of the charges of Mr. King during a hearing.

With respect to civil matters, I have tried countless cases to jury trial. However, the ability to recognize the strength and weaknesses of my case, as well as that of my opponents, have enabled me to resolve cases that were beneficial to my clients.

With regard to civil cases, I have litigated the following matters:  
Herin et al. v. US Band and Orchestra Supplies, Inc et al, 0:11-cv-01164-JFA (breach of patent license agreement).

USF Holland et al. v. ResCare Inc., 3:07-cv-01339-JFA (subrogation case based upon negligence and violation of state and federal guidelines governing healthcare aides).

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. BF-Southeast, LLC, 6:10-cv-02538-JDA (sexual harassment and discrimination case involving a professional fitness center).

Durant v. Inner City, et al, 3:03-cv-01333-MJP (employment discrimination case and unlawful discharge).

Cox et al v. South Carolina Republican Party, Fox News et al., 3:07-cv-01339-JFA (Represented Defendant Fox News regarding a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction with respect to Cox participating in South Carolina Republican televised presidential debate).

Dearybury Oil & Gas Inc. v. Lykins Companies Inc et al., (legal issue involved enforcement of a form selection cause enforceable pursuant to terms of contract).

I have worked to achieve justice for both individuals and corporate entities. My jury trial experience is primarily the result of my representation of Allstate Insurance in motor vehicular accidents during the early part of my career when it was common practice to try two to three wreck cases in a week.

With the past five years, I have appeared before a circuit judge on approximately five occasions and appeared before a federal judge in 2022.

- (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: 1
  - (b) state: 5
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: 75%
  - (b) criminal:
  - (c) domestic:
  - (d) other:25% (mediation)
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? (100%).
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?
  - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? (Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

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

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

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) Cunningham v. Mixon, 2006 S.C.App. Unpub. LEXIS 172, 2006 WL 7285963 (2006).

Mixon had operated a successful daycare business for over 15 years without incident. Unfortunately, a minor child in her care and custody suffered scratches and bites over her body which were inflicted by another child during naptime. The child who inflicted the bites and scratches had exhibited some minor behavioral issues, but never had acted in an aggressive manner. Cunningham reported the incident to DSS and she took the case to a local television news station. Consequently, DSS immediately revoked Ms. Mixon's daycare license; and Cunningham filed a lawsuit for injuries sustained by the minor child. Although Ms. Mixon was unable to pay for legal services, I accepted her proposal that she would pay me \$100 per months for 18 months if I defended her in Circuit Court and assisted her in regaining her license.

Because Ms. Mixon had more than enough workers covering the small amount of children she cared for, DSS concluded that Mixon had not violated any DSS regulations. Thus, Mixon's license was reinstated.

Because Cunningham failed to meet her burden of proof, the court directed the verdict in Mixon's favor. Thereafter, the Court of Appeals affirmed the grant of a directed verdict.

(b) Johnson v. Synoco Prods Co., 381 S.C. 172, 672 S.E.2d 567 (2009).

Mr. Johnson suffered with pulmonary failure due to exposure to toxic chemicals and other substances during his employment tenure. The case was denied by the Single Commissioner and the Full Commission Appellate Panel, but was reversed by the Circuit Court Judge on appeal. The South Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed the Circuit Court's reversal and remanded the case for benefits. Defendants denied an award of interest and a ten percent penalty pending the appeal was due to Mr. Johnson. The Supreme Court determined that absent a reasonable excuse by defendant to show why it did not pay benefits during the pendency of the appeal, Mr. Johnson was entitled to interest calculated from 30 days after the trial courts awarded benefits. This case verified that South Carolina Appellate Court Rule 225(a) expressly authorizes a trial court to order the payment of benefits during the pendency of a workers' compensation appeal.

(c) Anderson v. Baptist Medical Center, 343 SC 487, 541 S.E.2d 526 (2001).

Prior to this decision by the South Carolina Supreme Court, there was a question as to whether fringe benefits such as payment for disability and life insurance should be included in the calculation of an employee's average weekly wage. This issue had never been addressed by our courts. Anderson had argued that whenever allowances of any character are made to an employee in lieu of wages, they should be deemed a part of the employee's earnings. The Supreme Court concluded fringe benefits do not constitute wages or earnings under the plain and ordinary meaning of the terms. The case stands out because of the amount of research conducted with regard to other states in addressing the meaning of average weekly wage. Moreover, the undersigned's course work in tax law during law school came into play in reference to footnote 3 in the Decision.

(d) Crisp v. SouthCo, Inc., 401 627, 738 S.E.2d 835 (2013).

This case determined the legal difference between permanent physical brain injury and permanent physical brain damage. Permanent physical brain damage has been differentiated by a Court as falling into a catastrophic category in terms of injuries akin to injuries that renders a person or paraplegic and quadriplegic. A catastrophic physical brain damage injury must not only affect one's earning capacity, but also one's daily living activities. The Court further concluded that objective diagnostic tests such as a CT scan or a MRI are not totally reflective of whether an individual has suffered a permanent physical brain damage injury.

(e) Arrowpoint Capital Corp. v. S.C. Second Injury Fund, 2017 S.C.App. Unpub. LEXIS 578 (S.C. Ct.App., August 18, 2017).

The Defendant Employer and Insurance Carrier had been improperly denied reimbursement from the South Carolina Second Injury Fund. The Single Commissioner, the Full Commission and the Circuit Court found that Arrowpoint Capital Corporation was not entitled to reimbursement from the South Carolina Second Injury Fund, despite overwhelming medical evidence and strict compliance with the statute in terms of the basis for reimbursement. The opinion reflect the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission abused its discretion in barring Arrowpoint Capital's request for reimbursement based upon a technological error and ignored the only evidence in the case.

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) Jones v. Wilbert Burial Vault, Inc., 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 105487 (August 16, 2016).
  - (b) Anderson Baptist Medical Center, 343 SC 487, 541 S.E.2d 526 (2001).
  - (c) Crisp v. SouthCo, Inc., 401 627, 738 S.E.2d 835 (2013).
  - (d) Transp. Ins. Co. v. S.C. Second Injury Fund, 389 S.C. 422, 699 S.E.2d 687 (2010).
  - (e) Smith v. NCCI, Inc., 369 S.C. 236, 631 S.E.2d 268 (Ct.App. 2006).
  - (f) Brunson v. American Koyo Bearings, 395 S.C. 450, 718 S.E.2d 755 (Ct.App. 2011).
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.
- (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.

Technically, I have never held a judicial office. I served in the capacity of a Workers' Compensation Commissioner and Chairman of the Commission, which is a quasi-judicial office and is a part of the Executive Branch. I was appointed by Governor Carroll Campbell, Jr. and confirmed by the Senate in 1988 and served until 1995. The Workers' Compensation has jurisdiction to award medical and indemnity benefits to employees injured by workplace accidents. The Commission also is empowered, in part, to regulate the activities of insurance carriers and self-insured entities.

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. I do not have access to those orders which have been destroyed.

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

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) United States District Court of South Carolina-admitted November 22, 1988.
- (b) United States Court of Appeals-Fourth Circuit-admitted December 12, 1988.
- (c) South Carolina Supreme Court-admitted November 14, 1986.

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) Mediation Practice- Greenville County Bar Year End CLE
- (b) Civil Law Update-Greenville County Bar Year End CLE
- (c) Are COVID Compensable Under SC Workers' Compensation Law
- (d) Defending Data Breach Claims-ABA Annual Conference

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

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

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.  
Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating-AV; Named by Best Lawyers in America from 2008-2024; Listed in Greenville Business Legal Elite in Workers Compensation for Employers 2017-2023; and South Carolina Elite Lawyer 2021-2023.
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) Haynesworth-Perry Inn of Court
  - (b) SC Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (Mediators)
  - (c) SC Black Lawyers Association-Circuit Representative (2018-2023)
  - (d) Greenville County Bar-Member of the Executive Committee (April 2023-present)
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.  
I served on the South Carolina State Election Commission upon appointment by Governor David Beasley in 1996/1997.
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.
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. 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.**

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” to all of the above questions.
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.
- The Honorable Gerald Malloy--\$1,000.00
  - The Honorable Jason Elliott--\$1,000.00
  - The Honorable Bruce Bannister---\$1,000.00
  - The Honorable Chandra Dillard--\$1,000.00

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: None.
- (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.

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.
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.
44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?
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. 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. I have been covered by malpractice insurance for the past 28 years.
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" to all the questions posed.
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) Charles J. Hodge. [Redacted]
  - (b) Jeremy A. Dantin,, [Redacted]
  - (c) Paul B. Lindemann, [Redacted]
  - (d) Jon Harris, [Redacted]
  - (e) Brad B. Easterling, [Redacted]
56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?  
I have Facebook, which was strongly recommended in order to promptly receive news and school notifications when our youngest son attended the Citadel. I have never posted anything on Facebook and have not viewed it since our youngest son entered his junior year in at the Citadel in 2018.
- If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform. [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? No impact whatsoever, because I do not use any social media accounts.
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) Poinsett Club-Board Member, Vice President and President.
  - (b) Artisphere-Board Member and General Counsel
  - (c) Greenville Local Development Corporation (GLDC) Board Member for City of Greenville.
  - (d) SC Legal Elite in Insurance Law and Workers' Compensation.

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.

Having appeared before judges in South Carolina and U.S. Appellate Courts and trial courts and having served as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner and State Election Commissioner, I truly value the importance of judicial temperament, fairness, impartiality and attentiveness. For the past 28.5 years, I have worked as an advocate for the working man, insurance companies and various business entities. As such, due process of law, justice and an understanding of the law are critical not only to doing what is right but also to promote and maintain the public's faith and unwavering confidence in the judiciary and the judicial system. Honesty, integrity, fairness and a willingness to work as a public servant for the citizens of South Carolina are the attributes that I shall carry. These attributes and characteristics serve to enhance the status and respect of this most vital and important institution in this great democracy.

My experience as a law clerk reviewing the finished product of a trial or an adjudicatory hearing; having my decisions appealed to the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court during my tenure as a Workers' Compensation Commissioner; and litigating cases and defending and challenging those decisions has provided me with a keen insight on the importance of legal knowledge, adequate preparation and the effectiveness of oral and written communication and skills in our judicial system.

Accordingly, while many may view the judicial role as simply moving cases through the system, the quick movement of cases cannot be accomplished at the expense of justice, fairness and equality under the law. The service judges are asked to perform clearly constitutes the highest and most difficult service in the mind of the public: exercising wisdom; knowing right from wrong; and judging mercifully and with justice.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

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