



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

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

Circuit Court, Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable Jessica Ann Salvini

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

Not Applicable.

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

Yes. I currently serve as a Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit,  
Seat 6.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Greenville County

Business Address: 350 Halton Road  
Greenville, SC 29607

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): (864) 467-5851  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1975  
Place of Birth: Upland, CA  
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.

Family Status: Married.

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

Family Status: Married on July 4, 2022 to James Bethel Orders, IV.  
My spouse is self-employed and is one of the owners and operators of a company known as Engineered Sleep, LLC.

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

Not applicable.

- (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.

Previously married. Divorced on December 11, 2012. I was the moving party. Greenville County Family Court, State of South Carolina granted the divorce on the grounds of adultery. No children.

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

Two step-children: [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 California Riverside 1993 to 1997.  
Bachelor of Arts, with a Major in Political Science, received on March 22, 1997.

- (b) Golden Gate University School of Law, 1997 to 2000.  
Doctor of Jurisprudence received on May 20, 2000.

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) Golden Gate School of Law: Student Bar Association Treasurer (1999-2000), Participant in the Litigation Certification Program (1998-2000) and received Certificate of Specialization with distinction in Litigation (May 20, 2000); Member of the Mock Trial Team (1999-2000), which attended 1999 Western Regionals Competition. As a result of my participation in the Litigation Certification Program and on the Mock Trial Team, I received the International Academy of Trial Lawyers recognition for distinguished achievement in art and science of advocacy (May 20, 2000), the 2000 CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Mock Trials, and the 2000 CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Evidence.
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.
- (a) I was admitted to practice law in California on December 4, 2000. I took the bar exam once and passed.
- (b) I was admitted to practice law in South Carolina on June 5, 2001. I took the bar exam once and passed.
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) December 2000-August 2002: Law Offices of Jessica Salvini. After passing the California Bar exam, I opened my own law firm in San Francisco, California. My practice consisted of handling civil (including domestic) and criminal state and federal court cases. I handled pretrial and trial matters for contract disputes, simple divorces, consumer protection actions, bank fraud, various drug crimes and other criminal law matters. I handled these matters in my capacity as an independent contractor for Weinberg & Wilder and as a sole practitioner. As this was my own law firm, I managed the law firm, which included managing its finances. I did not have a trust account at that time as I did not accept retainers from clients that required me to do so.
- (b) August 2002-March 2019: Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC. Upon relocating to the State of South Carolina, I continued my practice of law by opening a law firm with J. Bradley Bennett, Esq. Over the course of almost seventeen years, I acted as the senior partner in our firm, which had a general practice handling a wide variety of legal issues for individuals and businesses. While in private practice, I represented individuals and businesses in civil, criminal and family law matters. My practice areas included: all pretrial and trial matters for contract and real property disputes, all pre-trial and trial matters

in domestic law cases; all pre-trial and trial matters in probate court; all pre-trial and trial matters in state and federal criminal court cases; appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. During the course of my practice, I served as one of Greenville County Probate Court's Commitment Proceedings Attorneys. I also served as a Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney for the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I also assisted our Criminal Justice Act Panel Representative in the Upstate. My law firm consisted of myself, my law partner and an associate attorney. My law partner and I managed the law firm, including the law firm's trust account.

(c) August 2007 to March 2019: Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin, South Carolina. In August 2007, I was appointed to serve as an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin, South Carolina. In 2009, I sought and was appointed to serve as the Chief Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin. As both an Associate Municipal Court Judge and the Chief Municipal Court Trial Judge, I presided over numerous cases involving: violations and or enforcement of city ordinances, misdemeanor criminal matters, traffic violations, bond hearings and preliminary hearings for felony criminal matters. As the Chief Trial Judge, I held court for the City of Mauldin every Wednesday (excluding the fifth Wednesday in any given month), presiding over matters involving violations and or enforcement of city ordinances, traffic violations and misdemeanor criminal law matters. The aforementioned proceedings primarily involved motion hearings, guilty pleas and bench trials. Once a month I also presided over preliminary hearings for felony matters arising out of the City of Mauldin. During my tenure as the Chief Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin, I also presided over Domestic Violence Court for the City of Mauldin, which occurred once a month. Also, approximately once a quarter, I presided over jury trials for misdemeanor criminal law matters and city ordinance violations occurring in the City of Mauldin.

(d) March 2019 to Present date: Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6. I was elected to serve as a full-time Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6, in February 2019 and re-elected to this position in February 2022. I closed my law firm and began serving in this capacity at the end of March 2019 and I continue to serve as a Family Court Judge to date. As a Family Court Judge, I preside over cases in the following matters: those within the provisions of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; actions for divorce, separate support and maintenance, legal separation, any and all marital litigation between parties; actions related to the termination of parental rights and adoptions of both children and adults; annulments of marriages; the changing of names of adults and children; actions to correct birth certificates; actions to enable minors to engage in military service; actions related to the support of spouses and or children and or to enforce the same; actions to enforce support or compel support to be paid for spouses and or children; actions related to the protection, guardianship and disposition of neglected children; actions related to custody determinations; actions brought by the South Carolina Department of Social Services related to abused and or neglected children and or infirmed/vulnerable adults; and actions related to juveniles charged with various crimes. I preside over these proceedings on a full-time basis and have done so since taking the bench in this capacity.

**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.

Not applicable.

- (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.

Prior to taking the bench as a Family Court Judge, for approximately eighteen years, I was privileged to have a private practice that included representing individuals in both criminal and civil matters at all stages of litigation. In 2002, I became a Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”) Panel attorney and I served in this capacity until my election to the bench in 2019. As a result of my service on the CJA panel, I was routinely appointed by the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina to represent individuals charged with federal crimes. Throughout my practice, I defended individuals charged with crimes in both federal and state courts at all stages of the criminal proceedings.

Focusing on the five years of my legal practice prior to my election to the Family Court Bench, I represented approximately 40-50 individuals in various criminal

matters in state and federal court. My criminal practice included representing individuals at all stages of the criminal process – from bond hearings, preliminary hearings, guilty plea hearings and jury trials – for various crimes. For example, I represented individuals charged with: counterfeiting goods and money, various drug crimes including possession, trafficking, conspiracy to possess and distribute all types of illegal drugs in varying quantities, bank robbery, criminal sexual conduct with a minor, illegal entry into the United States, being a felon in possession of a firearm, possessing a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, human trafficking and trafficking minors. In a majority of the cases, I represented the client from the commencement of the action to the conclusion of the case.

Also, in such criminal matters, I had an extensive motions practice. In many criminal cases, the issues focused on the actions of law enforcement and their compliance with a defendant's constitutional rights; and I addressed those issues in the criminal cases I handled. For example, I filed and argued a motion to suppress based on certain Fourth Amendment violations. I successfully challenged the search of my client and the vehicle he was located in as a passenger based on a violation of my client's constitutional rights. The search revealed a firearm and illegal drugs, resulting in my client being criminally charged in both state and federal court. At the conclusion of an evidentiary hearing, the court granted my motion to suppress and the charges against my client were dismissed.

In the five years prior to my election to the Family Court Bench, I tried three criminal cases in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina before a jury. In the first case, my client, along with others, was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and charged with participating in a conspiracy to possess and distribute marijuana. The Drug Enforcement Administration identified several "grow houses" in the Upstate of South Carolina and alleged my client participated in maintaining one such house and or in assisting in the "grow operation." Over 100 marijuana plants were located. At the conclusion of the trial, the jury found my client not guilty. The second case involved a conspiracy to possess and distribute a quantity of methamphetamines. My client was charged with participating in that conspiracy, as well as possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. At the conclusion of the jury trial, my client was convicted for his participation in the conspiracy, but acquitted of possessing a firearm in relation to his drug activity. The last case was an armed bank robbery, and at the conclusion of the trial, my client was convicted. I also handled a general sessions case in which my client was charged with committing a sexual crime and that matter ended with a guilty plea to a lesser charge, with a probationary sentence.

Serving as a Municipal Court Judge for approximately eleven years, I presided over hundreds of criminal matters at all stages of the criminal process – setting bonds, presiding over preliminary hearings, guilty plea hearings, bench trials and jury

trials. A majority of those matters were misdemeanors ranging from minor traffic violations to shoplifting, larceny, alcohol related crimes, assaults, and domestic violence. While others involved presiding over preliminary hearings involving various felonies, including murder and attempted murder, breach of trust, criminal sexual conduct, and various drug crimes. My experience is unique in that I have not only argued various motions to suppress before the court during my practice as an attorney, I have been required to rule on them as a judge. In every instance, I have studied the facts and circumstances of each case, in conjunction with the applicable law, and issued a ruling consistent therewith.

Civilly, I practiced primarily in Family Court, with notable experience in Probate Court, Federal Court and Circuit Court. In Family Court, I represented both Plaintiffs and Defendants in all matters of domestic/family law. In Probate Court and Federal Court I primarily represented Plaintiffs in matters of tort and contract; and in Circuit Court I represented both Plaintiffs and Defendants primarily in personal and commercial contract matters, as well as construction and business dissolution disputes. My legal practice in this regard was dispute related (as opposed to transactional). Most of the matters I handled in the Court of Common Pleas resulted in a settlement and not a trial.

As a result of both my criminal and civil practices, I was fortunate to be in a courtroom litigating matters several times a week. It was my daily practice to employ and apply the South Carolina Rules of Evidence, Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Criminal Procedure in a manner that offered me what I believe to be unique qualifications for a candidate for the Circuit Court bench.

- (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.

Not applicable.

- (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.

Not applicable.

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: Approximately 3-5 times per month.
  - (b) state: Approximately 7-10 times per 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: 10%
  - (b) criminal: 30%
  - (c) domestic: 50%
  - (d) other: 10%

14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?

Approximately 70%

- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

Approximately 10%

- (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.)

None.

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

None.

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

I served most often as 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?

Approximately 75%

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) Justice vs. Justice. This was a matter litigated in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Greenville County Family Court. The primary issue was whether a divorced parent could relocate to another state with the parties' minor children. The matter was tried for two days and the outcome not only affected the parties' three minor children, but the children's step-siblings and half-sister. It was a difficult and heart-wrenching case



and the outcome impacted not only the parents, but the lives of their children. It was also a unique case as both parents were very involved in the lives of their children and neither wanted to change the custody order in the event the parent's request to move was denied. It required an examination of the law applicable to cases in which a parent seeks to relocate to another state with the parties' minor children. I represented the parent opposing the move and I was successful in obtaining an order that restrained and enjoined the relocation of the parties' minor children to another state. After the litigation, I kept in touch with my client and his family. I have personally observed the effect the court's decision had on this family.

- (b) United States vs. Minaya-Mena. This was a criminal matter litigated in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. My client was charged in a conspiracy to possess, with the intent to distribute, marijuana. The case involved the possession of more than 100 marijuana plants found in several "grow houses" in the Upstate. The matter proceeded to a jury trial and my client was found not guilty. The matter is significant to me, not only because of the not guilty verdict, but because I litigated it against an excellent Assistant United States Attorney whose trial skills are exceptional. The matter required extensive preparation and an examination of the law to ensure that any issues to be appealed were properly in the Court's record. I also mentored two of my colleagues during the trial. Being able to secure a not guilty verdict, while imparting knowledge to my colleagues, was phenomenal.
- (c) United States vs. Twitty. This was a criminal matter litigated in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. My client was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, as well as possessing with intent to distribute a quantity of crack cocaine and heroin. I was able to successfully apply search and seizure law to the facts of the case. After an evidentiary hearing, my motion to suppress the search of my client and his vehicle was granted resulting in a dismissal of all charges against him.
- (d) Nicholas vs. Pate. This was a civil matter in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. Parties in civil actions in District Court are not usually entitled to appointed counsel. However, the court asked if I would be willing to be appointed to represent the Plaintiff pro bono and I agreed. The Plaintiff had filed a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina alleging violations of his Federal Constitutional Rights under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, that is, that he had been subjected to cruel and unusual punishment while serving a state imposed sentence. The matter is significant to me as it required me to assess and try a case that was well into litigation by a pro se defendant. After examining the pro se filings to ensure my client was not in any danger of having his action dismissed, the matter proceeded to a jury trial. Although I lost after a jury trial, my client's gratitude was a reward. Handling the matter also reminded me to always examine the statutes and rules of law governing an action in light of the facts and circumstances one is presented before proceeding forward with litigation. This is a rule my mentor, a former Assistant United States Attorney and war crimes prosecutor, ingrained in me and is crucial to abide by in handling every legal matter.
- (e) Collins vs. Murphy. This was a civil matter litigated in Probate Court and Circuit Court. A colleague and I litigated this matter throughout the court process from its inception in Probate Court, motions in Circuit Court, appeals to the Circuit Court, to

the Court of appeals and finally to a final resolution. The matter involved a question of the interpretation and application of a statute in a matter involving the rights of unmarried parents to the receipt of wrongful death proceeds of their deceased infant. The extreme differences in the rulings resulting from the Probate Court and Circuit Court make this case unique in that the South Carolina Court of Appeals addressed the interpretation and application of the relevant statutes in situations in which unwed parents have a child who dies at birth. Thus, making a determination as to who is entitled to the award of wrongful death proceeds.

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) Moore vs. Benson, 390 S.C. 153, 700 S.E.2d 273 (Ct. App. 2010) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 9/22/2010).
  - (b) Nestberg vs. Nestberg, 394 S.C. 618, 716 S.E.2d 310 (Ct. App. 2011) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 8/31/2011).
  - (c) McKinnon vs. Bray, 2019 WL 3318077 (Ct. App. 2019) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 7/24/2019)
  - (d) In the Matter of Tynslee Elizabeth Fields, et.al., vs. Collins, C424 S.C. 627 (Ct. App. 2018) (South Carolina Court of Appeals 12/18/2018). I personally handled this matter, along with co-counsel.
  - (e) Clark v. Clark, 423 S.C. 596, 815 S.E.2d 772 (Ct. App. 2018) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 5/2/2018)
  
17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) United States vs. Nicholson, 676 F.3d 376 (4th Cir. 2012). (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals 4/18/2012).
  - (b) United States vs. Shippy, Unpublished Opinion. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 5/4/010).
  - (c) United States vs. Wilkins, Unpublished Opinion. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 12/4/2009).
  - (d) State vs. Rivera, Unpublished Opinion. (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 2/10/2006).
  - (e) United States vs. Cruz, Unpublished Opinion. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2/15/2006)
  
18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

Yes.

In August 2007, I was appointed to serve as an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin in Greenville County, South Carolina. I served in this capacity until 2009 when I was appointed to serve as the Chief Municipal Court Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin in Greenville County, South Carolina.

The Mauldin Municipal Court adjudicates criminal, traffic and city ordinance violations that occur within the city limits of Mauldin, South Carolina. As a limited jurisdiction court, it can only hear cases subject to a fine and sentence not exceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days. The Mauldin Municipal Court may also hear cases that are remanded back from Greenville County General Sessions if the fine and sentence do not exceed \$5,500.00 or one-year imprisonment.

On February 6, 2019, I was elected to serve as a full-time Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6. I was re-elected to this position in 2022, and I currently hold this position and serve in this capacity. The Family Court, in general, has jurisdiction to hear the following cases: those within the provisions of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; actions for divorce, separate support and maintenance, legal separation, any and all marital litigation between parties; actions related to the termination of parental rights and adoptions of both children and adults; annulments of marriages; the changing of names of adults and children; actions to correct birth certificates; actions to enable minors to engage in military service; actions related to the support of spouses and or children and or to enforce the same; actions to enforce support or compel support to be paid for spouses and or children; actions related to the protection, guardianship and disposition of neglected children; actions related to custody determinations; actions brought by the South Carolina Department of Social Services related to abused and or neglected children and or infirmed/vulnerable adults; and actions related to juveniles charged with various crimes.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
- (a) State vs. Minors Under the Age of 18. Not reported. No appellate review. This matter involved the State prosecuting several juveniles for allegedly committing the crimes of Murder, Armed Robbery and Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery. The State filed a motion seeking to transfer jurisdiction of the juvenile cases to General Sessions, thereby resulting in the juveniles being tried as adults as opposed to minors. I was the judge assigned to hear the State's motion(s), requiring contested evidentiary hearings for each juvenile charged. The juveniles ranged in age from fourteen (14) years old to sixteen (16) years old at the time the offenses were allegedly committed.
  - (b) SCDSS vs. Sweatt. Not Reported. Appellate review: S.C. Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Sweatt, No. 2020-000908, 2021 WL 2104867 (S.C. Ct. App. May 24, 2021). This matter involved the termination of parents' rights to their minor child. The foster parents for the minor child were permitted to intervene in the action. A contested trial was held which resulted in the parents' rights being terminated. The order I issued terminating the parents' rights was affirmed on appeal.
  - (c) SCDSS vs. Mestler. Not reported. No Appellate review. This matter also involved the termination of parents' rights to their minor child. A contested trial was held, which resulted in the parents' rights being terminated. To my knowledge the parents did not appeal.
  - (d) SCDSS vs. Reed. Not reported. No Appellate review. This matter also involved the termination of parents' rights to their minor child. The foster parents for the minor child were permitted to intervene in the action. A contested trial was held, and I

declined to terminate the parents' rights. To my knowledge no parties appealed my decision.

- (e) SCDSS vs. Rogers. Not Reported. Appellate review: S.C. Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Rogers, No. 2019-001487, 2021 WL 832040 (S.C. Ct. App. March 3, 2021). This matter also involved the termination of parents' rights to their minor child. The foster parents for the minor child were permitted to intervene in the action. A contested trial was held which resulted in the parents' rights being terminated. The order I issued terminating the parents' rights was affirmed on appeal.

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.

I have been admitted to practice in the following courts.

- (a) California State Courts, 2000;
- (b) US District Court for the Northern District of CA, 2000;
- (c) US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2000;
- (d) South Carolina State Courts, 2001;
- (e) US District Court for the District of SC, 2002;
- (f) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2002.

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. To the best of my recollection, the following is a description of the continuing legal education programs that I have had the honor of participating in as a speaker.

(a) On October 29, 2009, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was ethical dilemmas encountered by criminal defense attorneys.

(b) On or about October 28, 2010, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was ethical issues confronting criminal defense attorneys.

(c) On October 24, 2013, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was federal practice in US District Courts in South Carolina.

(d) On October 20, 2016, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was the Criminal Justice Act and its potential revision resulting from Chief Justice John G. Robert, Jr.'s appointment of a Committee to review the Criminal Justice Act Program.

(e) On February 3, 2017, I was a speaker at the Greenville County Bar's "Year-End CLE". The topic was the Fourth Amendment and providing an overview of search and seizure case law, focusing on the most recent cases decided by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

(f) On October 4, 2019, I was a speaker at a SCUPA Seminar for paralegals. The topics included real world practice in Family Court for paralegals.

(g) On January 31, 2020, I was a speaker at the Guardian ad litem Seminar. I participated as a speaker on a panel, with the topics being questions from Guardian ad litems for Family Court Judges.

(h) On or about February 7, 2020, I was a speaker on a panel at the Greenville County Bar's "Year-End CLE" for the Family Law Section. The panel, which consisted of Family Court Judges, was given hypotheticals to consider and discuss related to Family Court matters.

(i) On February 21, 2020, I was a speaker on a panel for "UMC's Family Court Judges Q&A CLE." The topics were questions from family court practitioners for Family Court Judges.

(j) On June 12, 2020, I was a speaker at the New Family Court Judge's Orientation. The topic pertained to providing guidance to new Family Court Judges from my perspective and experience as a newly elected Family Court Judge.

(k) On or about January 26, 2023, I was a speaker at the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad litem Program. The topic pertained to providing guidance to lay Guardian ad litem's in assisting the Court in Department of Social Services Cases.

(l) On April 28, 2023, I was a speaker at the Family Court Judges Conference. The topic pertained to how to handle a juvenile waiver hearing (an evidentiary hearing where the primary consideration is whether a juvenile should be tried as an adult for an alleged crime) and was designed to assist judges who have not yet presided over such a hearing.

(m) On May 4, 2023, I was a speaker at Law Week in Greenville County. The topic was attorney civility.

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

Please see attachment, which includes my continuing legal and judicial reports for the past five years for the South Carolina Bar. I am now exempt from the requirement of completing continuing legal education in California.

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.

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.)

Please see attached orders.

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.

To my knowledge, I do not have a rating as a Family Court Judge.

Prior to being elected to serve as a full-time Family Court Judge, the following was my last rating(s) to the best of my knowledge:

- (a) Greenville Business Magazine Legal Elite in Family Law in 2012 and 2017.
- (b) National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys top 10 Criminal Attorneys 40 and under in 2014 and 2015.
- (c) South Carolina Rising Star in the practice of Criminal Law in 2014 and 2015.
- (d) Martindale-Hubbell – 5.0/5.0.
- (e) Lawyerratingz.com – 3.6/5.0.
- (f) Lawyers.com – 5.0/5.0.

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) California Bar
- (b) South Carolina Bar
- (c) Greenville County Bar Association
- (d) United Housing Connections, Vice Chairperson, 2017-2018, Board Chair 2019-2022.

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. I have not held public office, other than judicial office.

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.

- (a) 2007-March 2019. Self-employed as the Senior Partner at Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC. I, along with my former law partner, owned and managed the

aforementioned law firm. During that time, I served as a part-time judge for the City of Mauldin as stated herein above. As the Senior Partner at Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC, I handled a wide variety of legal issues for individuals and businesses. I represented individuals and businesses in civil, criminal and family law matters at all stages of the litigation process. My practice areas included: all pretrial and trial matters for contract and real property disputes, all pre-trial and trial matters in domestic law cases; all pre-trial and trial matters in probate court matters; all pre-trial and trial matters in state and federal criminal court cases; appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. I, along with my law partner, handled the administrative duties associated with operating a law firm, including the management of our law firm's trust account.

When I was elected to serve as a Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6, in February 2019, I closed my law firm in March of 2019. Since that time, I have not had any other employment other than elected judicial office.

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

Yes.

(a) On or around 2009, I applied for a U.S. Magistrate position in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. The selection process for Federal Magistrate Judges requires screening of candidates by a panel. The panel selects five finalists from the applicants. From there, the U.S. District Court Judges decide who will fill the vacancy.

(b) In 2017, I applied for the Circuit Court Bench, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 4. I was found to be qualified and nominated. However, I withdrew from the race prior to the vote on the candidates for this position.

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.

Yes.

(a) Approx. Summer 1991. Colton, California. I was employed by the City of Colton, California as a lifeguard at a pool operated by the City of Colton during the summer months only. My job primarily required me to watch patrons at the pool to ensure their safety, the enforcement of pool rules, as well as to provide first aid to any patrons who required it.

(b) Approx. Winter 1991. Limited, Too. San Bernardino, California. I was employed by the Limited Too clothing store during the winter. This was a seasonal position. My job

primarily consisted of folding clothes, maintaining and stocking the store shelves, operating a cash register and selling girl's clothing.

(c) Approx. 1993-1997. Rialto, California. I was employed by the City of Rialto Parks and Recreation Department as a lifeguard, swim instructor, and water aerobics instructor. My job initially required me to watch patrons at the pool to ensure their safety, enforce pool rules, and provide first aid to any patrons who required it. I also taught swimming lessons for ages 6 months to adults, water aerobics classes and water classes for adults with arthritis. During the course of my employment, I was promoted to pool manager. As a result, I managed the daily operations of the pool, which included the hiring and scheduling of staff (approx. 20), payroll/timesheets, scheduling of all water related classes for patrons, scheduling of all water related events, and in-services and training of staff related to first aid and lifeguard skills.

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.

Yes.

(a) 101 W. Park Avenue, LLC. I am the only member of this company, which is a member-managed limited liability company. The purpose of this limited liability company is the management of a building in Greenville, South Carolina and that is the company's only asset. I am responsible for maintaining the building, which includes the timely payment of the mortgages, utilities and insurance associated therewith. I also manage the renter(s) who occupy this property pursuant to a rental agreement(s). There is no finite term of service.

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. I am not nor have I ever been employed as a "lobbyist." I have not acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal."

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.)

See attached. A complete, current financial net worth statement has been 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?

None at this time.

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.

In the past four years, I have not made any direct contributions to any member of the General Assembly. I am not aware of any of the members of my immediate family making any contributions.

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.

I have an ownership interest in a property located at 101 W. Park Ave. Greenville, SC 29601. The property is owned and managed by a limited liability company known as 101 W. Park Avenue, LLC. I am the only member of this company. The purpose of this company is to manage this property. While I have an ownership interest in this limited liability company and the property it owns and manages, there could be a potential conflict of interest with any third parties who may rent the property from me in the future. Any such instance would be examined pursuant to Canons 3 and 4, Rule 501, SCACR.

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.

Reviewing the above inquiries, the only subsections that have any applicability to my real estate interests are the subsection (a). Both of the subsections labeled (b) and (c) have no applicability, as no public improvements have been made and no South Carolina state or local public agency has purchased, leased, or ever had any interest in real property in which I own an interest.

With regard to both subsections labeled (a), the following applies:

I have an ownership interest in the property located at 101 W. Park Ave. Greenville, SC 29601. While I have an ownership interest in this property, there could be a potential conflict of interest with any third parties who may rent the property from me now or in the future. Any such instance would be examined pursuant to Canons 3 and 4, Rule 501, SCACR.

- 1. 101 W. Park Ave. Greenville, SC 29601.
  - a. Interest held: 100% (as a result of being the sole member of 101 W. Park Avenue, LLC, which owns the property).

b. Value: In 2020, the property was appraised and valued at \$940,000.00. It has a first mortgage in the amount of approx. \$540,708.28 and an equity line in the amount of \$98,417.69. Thus, my interest in this property is approximately \$300,874.03.

c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.

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.

During the past calendar year, I had an interest in the following: Sirius XM Holdings, Inc., Exxon Mobil Corp., Carnival Corp., MGM Resorts International, and Wynn Resorts, Limited.

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.

No.

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

No.

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

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

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

No.

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

(a) No. I have never been sued by a client. However, my law partner and my law firm were sued by a client. I was not named as a party as I did not represent the client. I had a pecuniary interest in the proceeding as it involved my law firm. The lawsuit was filed on October 19, 2015 and alleged my law partner did not take appropriate action in representing the client in an action against her nursing license, as more fully described in the complaint. It was resolved via a settlement agreement reached on or about November/December 2016.

(b) In 2015, I was named as a Defendant in an action that was the filing of a mechanic's lien for work performed on common areas of a building in which I had an ownership interest. I am informed and believe the homeowner's association and all owners were also named defendants. I am also informed and believe the homeowner's association paid and or satisfied the mechanic's lien, resulting in a dismissal of the action.

(c) I was the Plaintiff in the action I filed against my former spouse for divorce. I was granted a divorce on December 11, 2012. The action involved the dissolution of my marriage and the equitable division of my marital estate. My former spouse and I reached an agreement as to the dissolution of our marital estate and our agreement was approved by the Greenville County Family Court at the time of our divorce.

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.

I am not in private practice so this is not applicable.

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

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

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

No.

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

No.

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

I have informed members of the General Assembly of my intent to run for this position. Otherwise, I have not done any campaigning for this election. I have not asked any individuals to campaign on my behalf and I am not aware of anyone who has done so of 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.

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) D. Josev Brewer  
[Redacted]
- (b) Margaret A. Chamberlain  
[Redacted]
- (c) Perry DeLoach[Redacted]
  
- (d) John S. Nichols  
[Redacted]
- (e) John M. Read, IV  
[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.

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.

I was on LinkedIn when I was a practicing attorney, but I no longer have a LinkedIn account. I am not currently active on any social media sites. My former law firm Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC had a website and was active on Facebook. However, when I was elected to serve as a full time Family Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6, my law firm was closed and as a result the website was shut down and the Facebook account terminated.

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) United Housing Connections, Vice Chairperson 2017-2018, Board Chairperson 2019-2022.

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I have always had a passion for the law and the litigation process we employ to bring about fair and just resolutions to conflict. This passion is fueled by my desire to help others.

While attending law school, I believed the best way I could help others was by representing them throughout the court process in all facets of the law. So, I focused my law school studies on trial advocacy. I began practicing law as a trial attorney, representing individuals, businesses, and families in a wide variety of legal matters in the courtroom. For almost twenty years before accepting a full-time position on the bench, I litigated matters throughout all stages of the court proceedings, helping my clients through the most difficult times of their lives. It was a rewarding career and my desire to help others served me well in the practice of law and as a Municipal Court Judge. However, since becoming a full time Family Court Judge, I have truly found that I make the most difference serving in the judiciary. As a full-time Family Court Judge, I have strived to be a judge that fairly resolves disputes in a way that gives the litigants, the public, the Bar and my fellow judges confidence in the integrity of the judiciary and the judicial process. I am now seeking to serve our community on the Circuit Court Bench as I believe it will enable me to use all of my experience and knowledge to help others in the most effective way possible.

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:       s/Jessica A. Salvini      

Sworn to before me this   5<sup>th</sup>   day of   July  , 2023.

      s/Emily Skidmore        
(Notary Signature)

      Emily Skidmore        
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires:   11/1/2027