



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

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

Circuit Court, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

1. Name: Mr. Joshua D. Holford

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

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:
Horry

Business Address:
1301 Second Avenue
Conway, SC 29526

E-Mail Address:
[Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 915-8659
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1984
Place of Birth: Arlington, Texas
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#: SCDL [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; N/A
6. Family Status:
 - (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
Married
 - (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
Married on May 15, 2019 to Jenna Ann Holford; Real Estate Agent.
Never divorced, one child.
 - (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
N/A
 - (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.
N/A
 - (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.
[Redacted]
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) University of South Carolina; 2003 – 2007; B.S. in Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude.
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law; 2007 – 2010; Juris Doctor, Cum Laude.
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) ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal (2008 – 2010); Associate Editor in Chief (2009 – 2010)
 - (b) Law Clerk, South Carolina Attorney General's Office, Civil & Securities Division (2008)
 - (c) Research assistant to Professor Benjamin Means (2008 – 2009)
 - (d) Research assistant to Professor Cinnamon Carlame (2009 – 2010)
 - (e) Bankruptcy clinical intern, Reed Law Firm (2010)
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) South Carolina; 2010; I took the bar exam one time in South Carolina.
 - (b) Virginia; 2012; I took the bar exam one time in Virginia.

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) South Carolina Attorney General's Office, Senior Law Clerk (2010)
 - (i) Assisted attorneys in researching and drafting motions and memos for securities enforcement, civil, and administrative actions
 - (ii) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
 - (b) Office of Disciplinary Counsel (2010)
 - (i) After being hired as Judge Cottingham's law clerk and leaving the Attorney General's Office, Judge Cottingham had surgery that prevented him from traveling and taking the bench. During those three months, between October and December, I was placed by the Judicial Department at the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.
 - (ii) I assisted other attorneys with disciplinary complaints on lawyers. I read complaints, researched the applicable rules of conduct, and drafted responses. I also assisted in interviews of lawyers responding to the complaints.
 - (iii) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
 - (c) Law clerk to the Honorable Edward B. Cottingham, Circuit Court Judge (2010 – 2012)
 - (i) I performed the typical duties of a law clerk: researching, drafting jury charges and orders, and communicating with attorneys. In addition, I drove Judge Cottingham to and from whatever county he was holding court in each week, and to and from the courthouse each day. From September to May, he was typically assigned to Horry County. In the summer months, he held court in Lexington, Marlboro, and a few other counties. Those two years prepared me the most to be a trial lawyer, and the wisdom he shared during the numerous hours we spent in the car is invaluable. It wasn't until my clerkship with him that I decided to pursue criminal law.
 - (ii) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
 - (d) Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Assistant Solicitor (2012 – 2013)
 - (i) As an assistant solicitor in General Sessions, I tried nine cases to a jury verdict: (1) burglary, 1st degree, (2) armed robbery, (3) shoplifting, enhanced, (4) murder, (5) attempted murder and burglary, 1st degree, (6) burglary, 1st degree and larceny, enhanced, (7) criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature, (8) burglary, 2nd degree, and (9) attempted murder, unlawful possession of a firearm, and burglary, 1st degree.
 - (ii) I disposed of over eight hundred other warrants by plea, diversion, or dismissal.
 - (iii) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
 - (e) Goldfinch & Winslow, Associate Attorney (2013 – 2014)

- (i) I mainly started and handled the criminal defense section. I tried one DUI case in Magistrate Court to a jury verdict.
 - (ii) I assisted with business formations, civil cases, and administrative hearings.
 - (iii) I volunteered as the defense attorney for Horry County Drug Court. I assisted participants in small personal matters (e.g. license reinstatement requirements), advocated for them at staff meetings, and represented their interests at termination hearings.
 - (iv) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
- (f) Johnny Gardner Law Group (2014)
- (i) I mainly handled criminal defense, both retained and appointed cases. I was appointed to defend a person charged with murder, but that case did not come to a resolution until after I left private practice. I tried one case in General Sessions court to a jury verdict: burglary, 2nd degree (violent) and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.
 - (ii) I also assisted clients with civil matters, demand letters, and hearings.
 - (iii) I continued to volunteer as the defense attorney for Horry County Drug Court.
 - (iv) I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I did not manage a trust account.
- (g) Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office (2015 – Present)
- (i) Assistant Solicitor (2015 – 2016)
 - (aa) I tried two cases to a jury verdict: (1) pointing and presenting a firearm, and (2) burglary, 1st degree, armed robbery, and kidnapping. I also did a stand your ground hearing; after which, the defendant pleaded guilty. I disposed of hundreds of other warrants by plea, diversion
 - (ii) CSC/Violent Crimes Solicitor (2016 – 2017)
 - (aa) I tried three cases to a jury verdict: (1) murder, (2) criminal sexual conduct in the first degree, kidnapping, armed robbery, and possession of a weapon during a crime, and (3) criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the first degree.
 - (iii) Senior Assistant Solicitor (2017 – Present)
 - (aa) I have tried eighteen cases to a jury verdict, including multiple murders, carjackings, attempted murders, homicide by child abuse, felony DUI, assault on an officer, obstruction of justice, armed robberies, joint trials with co-defendants, and others. Two other cases I took to trial resulted in guilty pleas after testimony by witnesses. I have also defended multiple stand your ground motions. I have disposed of over two thousand five hundred other warrants by plea, diversion, or dismissal.
 - (bb) I supervise and train assistant solicitors on my team. I sit with them in trials and teach them how to try cases. I also run court for my team's plea days.
 - (cc) I handled the trial docket and the priority docket for the office for three years.
 - (dd) I have been the solicitor in charge of the Horry County Drug Court since 2015. Until this year, I met with the drug court team and attended court

every Wednesday afternoon. Earlier this year, I brought another team member in to help, so now I attend court every other Wednesday.

(iv) I am not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, and I do not manage a trust account.

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.

N/A

(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.

(a) I have practiced in criminal law, both as an assistant solicitor and as a defense attorney for the past eleven years. I have handled pleas, motions, trials, diversion programs, and bond hearings for thousands of cases. I have argued suppression motions, Jackson v. Denno motions, Neil v. Biggers motions, directed verdict motions, motions for new trials, and others. I have been solo counsel, lead-counsel, and co-counsel in trials. I have handled trial dockets, priority dockets, and managed the office's benchmark numbers. I have dealt with all types of crimes from DUI and unlawful carrying of a pistol to murder and criminal sexual conduct.

(b) Criminal trials for the past five years (February 2018 – Present)

- (1) State v. Deterris Bellamy; murder and attempted armed robbery.
 - (2) State v. Oswaldo Castaneda; failure to stop for a blue light
 - (3) State v. Brandon Davis; assaulting an officer while resisting arrest.
 - (4) State v. Edward Washington; felony DUI with death and hit and run resulting in death.
 - (5) State v. Shaquille Dozier; carjacking and failure to stop for a blue light.
 - (6) State v. Calvin Ford and Aliga Campbell; murder (x2), possession of a weapon during a violent crime, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.
 - (7) State v. Cleavon Dantzler; attempted murder and unlawful possession of a firearm. Dantzler pleaded guilty to ABHAN after witness testimony.
 - (8) State v. Jerome Thompson; attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Thompson pleaded guilty after testimony.
 - (9) State v. Alyssa Dayvault; homicide by child abuse (x2).
 - (10) State v. Zachary Stell; murder (x2).
 - (11) State v. Earl Gaddis; murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, unlawful possession of a firearm, pwid marijuana, and possession of schedule I-V drugs (x2).
 - (12) State v. Jamar Williams; murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.
 - (13) State v. Quatase Jenrette; murder.
 - (14) State v. Adriatik Hodaj; unlawful carrying of a pistol.
 - (15) State v. Jeremy Jeffers; attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.
 - (16) State v. Dlanor Tilton and Mazar Sturdivant; armed robbery (x2).
 - (17) State v. Tyshawn Brown; murder and attempted murder.
 - (18) State v. Shaquille Blakeley; kidnapping, armed robbery, and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.
- (c) I have appeared in front of a Circuit Court judge nearly every week we have had a term of court, which is generally two or three weeks a month, for the past five years. Each week of a court term, I am typically in front of a Circuit Court judge at least one or two days for that week.
- (d) I have limited experience in civil matters. I realize this may be my biggest weakness. As a law clerk for two years, I observed, researched, and assisted Judge Cottingham with every term of civil court we had. It seems like a majority of the time those cases settled and the Chief Justice would convert the remainder of his week to a criminal term. He did preside over a few civil trials though, and he was the Chief Administrative Judge for the condemnation docket in

Horry County. I also assisted in civil matters at both Goldfinch & Winslow Law and Johnny Gardner Law. I do know the rules of evidence, as well as courtroom and trial procedure, which would carry over for civil court. I am an avid reader of the advance sheets and e-blasts; I believe I have kept up on civil law and would continue to do so. I am adept at researching and reading caselaw and would be able to follow the law when adjudicating civil cases. I would also compensate for my lack of experience in civil court by making an extra effort to study civil opinions, the rules of civil procedure, and by checking the judicial listserv relating to civil matters. I believe my law clerk could also be a great help to me in this area. Finally, I know mock trial is not real court, but the law related education committee does an excellent job in trying to make it as realistic as possible. Typically every other year is a civil matter. I have been on mock trial teams, been coached by civil lawyers, coached a high school team for four years in the past, and judged—both as a juror and presiding judge—local and state competitions. I believe the foundation I already have from my prior experiences will allow me to hone in on and fine-tune the areas in which I am least experienced.

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

(a) federal: None

- (b) state: 100%; I have appeared in court at least one or two days a week during almost every term of court in Horry County the past five years. Typically we get two to three terms of General Sessions court a 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: 0%

(b) criminal: 100%

(c) domestic: 0%

(d) other: 0%

14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?
95%. Other than my cases that I dismissed or put into pre-trial intervention; all of them resulted in a trial, a plea, or were resolved in court.
- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?
Sixteen
- (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.)
Two cases resulted in a guilty plea after jury selection, opening statements, some witness testimony, but before the State rested.
- (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?

Chief 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?

N/A

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) State v. Kareem Harry, 420 S.C. 290, 803 S.E.2d 272 (2017)
- (i) This was my first murder trial in 2013; I acted as co-counsel. The shooter in the case had already pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. Harry rejected all offers and proceeded to trial as charged. He was convicted of murder under the hand of one is the hand of all theory. He went out of his way to get his friends and a known shooter in order to reclaim a television. When he showed up at the victim's house, an argument ensued, and Harry's co-defendant, the known shooter who had a gun with him, shot the victim in his own driveway. The Court discussed circumstantial evidence and the theory of the hand of one in South Carolina. This case was later overturned on PCR grounds. I handled the plea N.C. v. Alford entered by Harry earlier this year.
- (b) State v. Sidney Moorner, Op. No. 2020-UP-198 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed July 1, 2020)
- (i) Moorner and his wife were charged in the kidnapping and murder of Heather Elvis. She is missing to this day. This case garnered national attention. I tried Moorner as co-counsel, along with Nancy Livesay, for his obstruction of justice charge prior to him being found guilty of kidnapping. The obstruction of justice charge was the first step in getting justice for the victim's family.
- (c) State v. Calvin D. Ford, 439 S.C. 261, 886 S.E.2d 710 (Ct. App. 2023)

(i) Ford was convicted of murder. This case involved a lengthy stand your ground hearing and an argument at trial in regards to self-defense. Ford and the victim had prior bad blood. Ford armed himself illegally and went to the victim's house during his birthday party. An argument ensued and Ford shot the victim and another individual. Ford was convicted for one death and acquitted of the other, as the jury felt the latter killing was unintentional.

(d) State v. Tyshawn Brown

(i) Brown was convicted of murder and attempted murder. He followed the victim and the victim's girlfriend in a vehicle from a gas station. He was upset because the victim did not want to be a part of his gang. Brown ordered his co-defendant in the back seat to shoot the victim with an AR; the co-defendant refused. The co-defendant testified at trial. After refusing, Brown boxed in the victim's vehicle, exited his own vehicle and shot the victim and his girlfriend. The girlfriend suffered gun shot wounds, but she survived to call the police, tell what happened, and testify in trial.

(e) State v. Edward Washington

(i) Washington was convicted of felony DUI resulting in death. Washington was on his way home from a drug deal, intoxicated, and speeding. He struck a pedestrian, who was running across the street near Coastal Carolina University. The dispute in the case was over the speed at the time of the collision and the potential fault the victim had in crossing without a crosswalk. The defendant's ankle monitor and MAIT report showed and estimated different speeds than the car computer. Washington was also charged with hit and run resulting in death because he left the scene for a short time; he did return, angry and accusing people of throwing a bottle at his car; he was acquitted of hit and run resulting in death.

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) I have not personally handled civil appeals.
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) I have not personally handled criminal appeals. I have assisted the Attorney General's office when information was requested or when I was needed for PCR hearings.
18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
No; N/A
19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
N/A

20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
(a) South Carolina, 2010;
(b) Virginia, 2012;
(c) US District Court for the District of SC, 2014.
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.
I coached a middle school mock trial team in law school. I also coached a high school mock trial team for four years in Horry County.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
My reports from the past five years of continuing legal education are attached.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
N/A
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.)
My two writing samples attached are the following:
(a) Motion to reconsider denial of motion for a continuance; and
(b) Petition to transfer and waiver of rights forms used for Horry County transfer court.
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.
N/A
26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
(a) South Carolina Bar
(b) Horry County Bar Association
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; N/A

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

N/A

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

No; N/A

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; N/A

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; N/A

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; N/A

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

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

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

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

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

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

Yes. I defaulted on my student loans in 2014. I was making payments each month when they were in default beginning in 2015 until COVID halted all student loan payments. All of my student loans have been rehabilitated and reconsolidated and are now in good standing. Proof of satisfaction and loans in good standing is attached. I do realize what a bad series of decisions I made nearly ten years ago. I only have excuses, no good justification. I can accept that I have made mistakes, and I would ask you to look closer at the person I am today. I have grown a lot since then and my finances are in a much better place now than they were in 2013 and 2014.

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.

None

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

No

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

None; N/A

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

None

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

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

N/A

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

N/A

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

None

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

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

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

No

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? 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.

N/A

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

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

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

No

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

No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? 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 cautioned friends and colleagues that I am not permitted to seek any pledges prior to 48 hours after the release of the Commission's report.

I have not done any campaigning, but I have informed members of the General Assembly, judges, attorneys, friends, and family that I intended to seek election.

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) Jimmy A. Richardson, II

- Solicitor for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
[Redacted]
- (b) Phillip E. Thompson
Sheriff of Horry County
[Redacted]
- (c) J. Eric Fox
Chief Public Defender for Horry County
[Redacted]
- (d) The Honorable Kathy G. Ward
Retired Horry County Probate Judge, Former Horry County Drug Court Judge
[Redacted]
- (e) Diana D. Greene
Executive Director, Leadership Grand Strand
[Redacted]

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

I am somewhat active. I view more than I post.

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

Facebook: [Redacted]
Instagram: [Redacted]
LinkedIn: [Redacted]
Twitter: [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?

I would likely deactivate my twitter and linkedin accounts and lock down all my others so other people could not post on my account.

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) The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, member, 2021 - Present
- (b) The Leadership Challenge class/workshop for assistant solicitors, 2023
- (c) Leadership Grand Strand
 - (i) In class thirty-seven, 2016 – 2017
 - (ii) Board of Regents, 2017 – 2022; Treasurer of BOR, 2018 – 2019; Vice Chair of BOR, 2019 – 2020; Chair of BOR, 2020 – 2021.

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.

At a young age, my dad instilled in me the drive to work hard to achieve my goals. He sacrificed for our family by working two and three jobs so my mom could finish college. He always showed me how to be respectful, kind, and a man of integrity. He showed me how to love your family and that spending time, not buying things, was what mattered. We were poor when I was growing up, but I did not know that until I was much older. After my mom graduated college, she stayed home with me and my siblings. She showed me patience, kindness, and self-control; she never complained and found the good in all situations. I do not remember one time growing up when my parents had an argument, and I know there must have been many. They showed me how to respect others. My mom also read to me a lot as a child and encouraged me to read. I am an avid reader still, and I read to my son most nights. I am a better person for having the love and support from my parents. I am blessed that they raised me to do the right thing.

I am the oldest of four. My parents named me Joshua David, a leader and beloved. I have always been a leader, to my siblings, in school, and in work. The earliest I remember telling my family I wanted to be a lawyer was in second grade. I am a typical Type A, so driven and dedicated that I never strayed from that path. I have vice president, president, chair, teacher, coach, supervisor in most organizations that I have been involved with since high school. My calling was and is to serve for the benefit of others and the public good. Although there have been bumps in the road, I have always tried to stay true to my calling.

I am not perfect. I have made many mistakes. I have been humbled. I believe those mistakes and hardships allow me to be more compassionate, fair, reasonable, and empathetic. My weaknesses and negatives have already been presented to you in previous questions. I know I am a better and stronger person having faced adversity, even hardships of my own causing, and come through to the other side intact. There is a book, *The Obstacle is the Way*, which has the basic premise that it is not our faults, mistakes, or hardships that define us, but the way in which we trudge through them and bounce back. I find that to be true. You can likely tell from my son's middle name that I have an affinity for Roman emperors. Marcus Aurelius is a favorite of mine. The book of his meditations show that even an emperor has stress, pressures, and doubts in life, but he always comes back to core principles of serving the public, doing what is right, not letting external circumstances dictate his reactions, and controlling his emotions. I have also found those principles to be a guide to success.

I believe the kind of judge I plan to be has been shaped by what I have been taught my whole life. I want to be wise like Solomon. I plan to be a leader and a public servant. I plan to work hard. I plan to follow the law. I plan to know the statutes and caselaw, and to apply the same to adjudicate disputes. I plan to not get in the way when parties are in agreement. I plan to show respect to all of those who appear in front of me. I plan to uphold the integrity and the honor of the office of Circuit Court judge. I plan to work diligently and cooperatively with other judges. And finally, I plan to strive to live by what the first

Solicitor that hired me in 2012 would always say: do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reason.

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: _____