



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 4

1. Name: Mr. William Chandler McMaster III

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): No

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) No

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Greenville

Business Address: Office of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor
305 East North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (864) 467-8647
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1969
Place of Birth: Sandersville, Georgia
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina?
Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?
Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]
Voter Registration Number: [Redacted]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.
No

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.

Date of Marriage: October 18, 1997
Gina Rossi McMaster (Gina)
Attorney – The McMaster Law Firm, L.L.C.
 - (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.
Not Applicable
 - (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) Georgia Southern University – (1987-1988) transferred to Mercer University.
 - (b) Mercer University – (1988-1991) Graduated Bachelor of Arts, Major: History.
 - (c) Georgia College and State University – (1991) Prerequisite courses taken for future application to a school of veterinary medicine. Enrolled in the University of Georgia to continue prerequisite courses.
 - (d) University of Georgia – (1991-1992) Prerequisite courses taken for future application to a school of veterinary medicine. Changed career path.
 - (e) Samford University, Cumberland School of Law – (1993-1996) Juris Doctor Degree.
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) Directed Research, Professor Robert Goodwin – concentration in Criminal Evidence (1994)
 - (b) Robert Donworth Freshman Appellate Competition (1994)
 - (c) Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, Marshal/Ritualist (1995)
 - (d) Internship Jefferson County Alabama District Attorney's Office (1996)

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 (1996)
 - (b) Bar exam was not taken in any other states.
 - (c) Bar exam was taken one time in South Carolina.

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) Graduated in 1996 and accepted a job with the Office of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor.

Employment dates November 25, 1996 - June 29, 2001.

I served as an Assistant Solicitor for Solicitors Joseph Watson and Robert Ariail. During this time period, I was a member of the Traffic, General Crimes, and Drug Units, where I managed a criminal docket with over six hundred warrants. Additional duties included managing office plea court operations, along with serving on the Office Interview Committee for hiring new attorneys.

- (b) From June 30, 2001 - June 3, 2013, I was in private practice with my wife, Gina R. McMaster, at The McMaster Law Firm, L.L.C. in Greenville, South Carolina. My initial area of practice focused on criminal defense from 2001-2004. During this time period, I completed a one year criminal defense contract with the Office of Indigent Defense in Greenville, South Carolina. After completing my contract in 2002, I accepted a part-time public defender contract with the Greenville Public Defender's Office where I was employed until 2003. While actively engaged in my criminal defense practice, I was a charter member of the Greenville Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and served in all executive positions including President.

In 2004, my area of practice began to shift to a bankruptcy law based practice, which focused on representing debtors in personal and small business bankruptcy cases. I continued my criminal defense practice with a smaller caseload.

In 2004, I was awarded the William S. Robinson Public Service Award by the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association for my contributions to the advancement of bankruptcy law.

While at my law firm, I was responsible for managing staff, payroll obligations, and paying monthly expenses. I also secured insurance, lines of credit, and vehicle loans. I was responsible for managing all operating and trust accounts, including all deposits and withdrawals/transfers.

- (c) June 3, 2013, I was hired by Solicitor Walt Wilkins and returned to the Office of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor as an Assistant Solicitor. I initially served in the White

Collar and Drug Units. In 2016, I was named Office Liaison and direct point of contact for all vice and narcotics units in Greenville County. In 2018, I was promoted by Solicitor Wilkins to Deputy Solicitor. In my current role as Deputy Solicitor, my responsibilities focus on managing a large staff of attorneys and administrative support personnel in our Greenville and Pickens offices. These duties include the evaluation of office staff members and attorneys concerning their work ethic and job performance. Based on these evaluations, staff members and attorneys could receive an increase in salary and/or an increase or decrease in their duties and responsibilities within our office. Additionally, as Deputy Solicitor I am responsible for the organization and management of all Circuit Court trial and plea court operations for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. To effectively perform my duties as manager of trial and plea court operations, I am in regular contact with members of the judiciary, the Clerk of Court's personnel, and the defense bar. My office financial duties include serving on the Office Budget Committee. Since 2018, I have participated as a member of the Office Interview Committee for hiring new attorneys.

- (d) In 2020, I was nominated for, attended, and graduated from the County of Greenville Leadership Development Series, a twelve month program focused on the development, training, and management of the workforce in Greenville County offices.
- (e) In April of 2023, I was named 2022 Greenville County Sheriff's Office Thirteenth Circuit Assistant Solicitor of the Year. I received this award from the Sheriff's Office in recognition of my ability to effectively organize and manage the criminal docket of Greenville County.

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.

Criminal Experience

Since 1996, I have personally prosecuted numerous criminal matters in the Court of General Sessions and Magistrate's Court. From November 25, 1996 until June 26, 2001, I was employed as a full-time Assistant Solicitor in the Office of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor. During this time period, I was personally responsible for the prosecution and disposition of thousands of criminal warrants. The dispositions of these criminal warrants included numerous jury trials and guilty pleas.

Upon leaving the Solicitor's Office in 2001 and entering into private practice, my practice was primarily focused on criminal defense where I represented appointed and retained clients. My representation of clients charged with criminal offenses involved every aspect of the criminal process. Dispositions of these cases took many forms, including dismissal, diversion, guilty pleas, and verdicts of guilty and not guilty after trial.

I returned to the Solicitor's Office in 2013 as an Assistant Solicitor, and was assigned to the White Collar and Drug Units, where my duties again involved the prosecution of hundreds of criminal warrants. As part of my regular duties, I have evaluated cases, prepared discovery, attended and participated in bond hearings and preliminary hearings, presented pleas, prepared and argued motions, and participated in jury trials.

Since 2018, I have served as Deputy Solicitor for the Thirteenth Circuit. I continue to be responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in our office and I regularly appear in court. Upon receipt of a criminal case, I evaluate each case for the potential of a successful prosecution. Discovery is prepared and provided, and in many instances a bond hearing and/or preliminary hearing is held. An offer is then extended to defense counsel or a pro se defendant and a guilty plea may be conducted and a sentence issued, or the case could be set for a jury trial.

As Deputy Solicitor and a senior member of the office staff, I have frequently consulted with and advised Assistant Solicitors in our office on how to handle issues in their own cases. My advice has addressed all areas of their cases, including but not limited to, how to conduct witness and victim meetings, evidentiary issues, trial strategy, general evaluation of cases, reasonable offers, and proposed dispositions.

During the past five years, I have tried two complex jury trials and received guilty verdicts in both trials. One trial involved a defendant charged with Murder. The defendant in the second jury trial was charged with Burglary First Degree. These

trials were multiple days in length and involved numerous witnesses, pieces of evidence, and evidentiary issues. During these trials, I served as Chief Counsel.

One of the more complex cases I have prosecuted in past five years resulted in a guilty plea. This case involved a defendant charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Death, and an unrelated Burglary First Degree charge. This tragic case involved a young mother of two from the Greenville community who was struck and killed while walking her dog along the sidewalk of one of the more popular streets in the city of Greenville. I was involved in this case from the beginning stages of the investigation, the arrest of the defendant, and all areas of the preparation of the case, and the prosecution of the defendant. My duties included preparing the case for trial, meeting with the victim's family, law enforcement, and defense counsel and analyzing the evidence and issues in the case. I represented our office during the defendant's guilty plea. The defendant pled guilty and received a twenty-five year active sentence.

Civil Experience

In 2004, I began to change the focus of my private practice to a debtor-based bankruptcy practice. This was the area of practice my wife/law partner concentrated her practice on since 1996. My bankruptcy practice primarily involved the representation of consumer debtors in personal and/or small business bankruptcy cases. Over the years, I represented hundreds of bankruptcy clients from all walks of life. The bankruptcy practice is civil in nature, and to be a successful practitioner you must understand and analyze issues involving civil, family, and probate law. Many potential clients have been served with or are facing various civil actions. To effectively represent bankruptcy clients, I was required to analyze the various legal issues my clients presented and provide counsel on how to manage their particular situation.

Since my 2013 return to the Solicitor's Office, my involvement in civil matters has been limited. However, from 2017-2018, I was responsible for filing civil asset forfeiture actions for Pickens County. During this time period, I drafted and filed summons and complaints focusing on the forfeiture of various items and amounts of currency related to criminal activity. In all of these cases, I represented the plaintiff. Due to being assigned new duties and responsibilities in the office, my forfeiture duties were reassigned.

For the past five months of 2023, I have again become more involved in the civil forfeiture division of our office. During this time, I have worked directly with our office's general counsel. I have attended roster meetings and tried one Common Pleas Jury Trial and four Common Pleas Non-Jury Bench Trials. All trials were civil forfeiture actions, and I represented the plaintiff in all actions. During these trials, I served as Chief Counsel.

Recently, I drafted a summons and complaint and *lis pendens* in a complex forfeiture matter. This particular case involves the forfeiture of real property. Due

to the fact that the property owner was not the target of the criminal investigation and was deceased at the time of the seizure of the property, this case presents a number of complex legal issues.

I plan to continue to work with our general counsel on forfeiture matters and attend, participate in, and observe as many civil trials and motion hearings as my duties allow. In the fall of 2023, I will attend CLEs that focus on civil practice and procedure.

- (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: None
- (b) state: a minimum of three weeks per month: Two terms of General Sessions in Greenville County per month and one term of General Sessions in Pickens County per month. Recently, I have also appeared for several terms of Common Pleas in Greenville County.

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: 5%
- (b) criminal: 95%
- (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?
100% (This percentage includes defendants that pled guilty.)
- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

7 Total = (2 General Sessions Jury Trials), (1 Common Pleas Jury Trial) and (4 Common Pleas Non-Jury Bench Trials)

- (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case?
0 (Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.
- (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?
0

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

- (a) Chief Counsel for all 7 cases

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?

Not Applicable

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 of South Carolina v. Tristian Cummings (2019). Charges: Murder, Attempted Armed Robbery, Possession of Weapon during the commission of a violent crime, Conspiracy, and Burglary First Degree. This trial involved a home invasion and the murder of a homeowner in Greenville County. This trial is important to me based on the serious nature of the charges, the numerous witnesses, and the complex issues presented during the prosecution of the case. The defendant was found guilty of all charges.
- (b) State of South Carolina v. Aundra Hunter (2018). The defendant was convicted of Burglary First Degree, Kidnapping x 2, Discharging a firearm into a dwelling, and Possession of a Weapon during the commission of a violent crime. This trial involved a homeowner that was killed and a law enforcement officer that was shot while responding to the scene. This trial is significant due the nature of the charges and the complex issues presented during the preparation and prosecution of the case.
- (c) Young v Elite Financial Svcs., Inc. (In re Young) (2005). My wife and I represented the debtor against a creditor for the wrongful repossession of a motor vehicle after the debtor had filed for bankruptcy protection. United States Bankruptcy Judge John Waites presided over the trial and issued a verdict in favor of our client and damages, including punitive damages, were awarded to Mr. Young. This was my law firm's first trial in the United States Bankruptcy Court. During the trial, I served as Chief Counsel.
- (d) State of South Carolina v. Edward James (2002). Charge: Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature. The defendant was found not guilty at trial. I was appointed to represent Mr. James and if convicted, he could have received a significant amount of active incarceration. This trial resulted in my first not guilty verdict as a criminal defense attorney in the Court of General Sessions.

- (e) *State of South Carolina v. Anthony Johnson* (1999). Charge: Trafficking in Cocaine 200-400 grams. This trial was my first jury trial involving a defendant who possessed a significant amount of narcotics. The defendant was found guilty and received a twenty-five year active sentence.
 - (f) *State of South Carolina v. Teresa Pirkle* (1997). Charge: Driving under the Influence Third Offense. This was my first jury trial as sole counsel in the Court of General Sessions. The defendant was found not guilty. The defendant was represented by a very capable and seasoned member of the defense bar and this was a very challenging case to prosecute. Although the defendant was found not guilty, this case serves as a starting point in my career as a trial lawyer.
16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
None
 17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
None
 18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
No
 19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
Not Applicable
 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, 1996
 - (b) US District Court for the District of South Carolina, 2001.
 21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
 - (a) Presenter at our annual office in-house CLE program in 2023.
The area of law I presented on was Foundation in the Criminal Case.
 - (b) Served on a panel at the 2023 Greenville Bar CLE for a discussion concerning criminal docket issues in Greenville and possible solutions to those issues.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
See Attachments
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
None
24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)
See Attachments
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.
Not Applicable
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) Greenville Bar Member
27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.
No
28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.
Not Applicable
29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.
No
30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give

details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

Partner in Williams Street Partnership (2001-Present). The partnership owns and operates one rental property located at 8 Williams Street, Greenville, SC 29601.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
No
32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
No
33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
See Attached
 - (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.) A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

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

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.
No for all three questions.
35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal involved.
No

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?
No expenditures have been made.
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.
- (a) Williams Street Partnership (Joint with Attorney Ronald Clement). Assets are a rental office building located at 8 Williams Street, Greenville, SC 29601, and one bank account located at First Citizens Bank. Based on this issue and if elected, I would sell my interest in Williams Street Partnership. However, if a party related to this property or an issue regarding the property appeared before me, I would advise all parties on the record of this potential conflict of interest and if requested by the parties, I would recuse myself from the matter.
 - (b) If I am elected, my wife, Gina R. McMaster, will continue to operate The McMaster Law Firm, L.L.C. At this time, her area of practice is exclusively bankruptcy law. Although if elected, I will no longer retain any ownership interest in The McMaster Law Firm, L.L.C., if a party represented by or associated with The McMaster Law Firm, L.L.C. appeared before me, I would advise all parties on the record of this conflict of interest and I would recuse myself.
 - (c) Membership in Level Land Hunt Club with Attorney David Seay and his brother Britt Seay. The extent of my business relationship with David Seay and Britt Seay is currently a once a year lease payment for membership rights in the hunt club. If David Seay or Britt Seay appeared before me, I would advise all parties on the record of this potential conflict of interest and if requested by the parties, I would recuse myself from the matter.
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.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not Applicable

- 41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.
None

- 42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.
Not Applicable

- 43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.
Not Applicable

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

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

[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 and 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.

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 and No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

- (a) Walt Wilkins
Solicitor
[Redacted]
- (b) Frank Eppes
Eppes and Plumblee, P.A.
[Redacted]
- (c) Anne Culbreath
Wilson, Jones, Carter & Baxley, P.A.
[Redacted]
- (d) Ryan Beasley
Ryan Beasley Law
[Redacted]
- (e) Mindy Lipinski
Circuit Public Defender
[Redacted]

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

No

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?

I would not have active accounts for social media or similar types of internet sites.

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) Bavarian Hunt Club (Past President) resigned for membership in C&M Hunt Club
- (b) C&M Hunt Club resigned for membership in Level Land Hunt Club
- (c) Level Land Hunt Club (Current)
- (d) Greenville Gun Club (Current)
- (e) Christ Church Episcopal School Booster Club (Current)
- (f) Highway 25 Hunt Club (Dissolved) property sold by the property owner

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.

Before entering into the legal profession, my family background was in the retail business. My grandfather, father, and uncle owned and operated two hardware and auto parts stores in Georgia. My earliest memories involved Saturdays and summers working in the family business. My father (age 78) and uncle (age 74) continue to own and operate one hardware and auto parts store. Even today, they work twelve hour days, six days per week. This work ethic, while extreme to some, was common in my household. I have attempted to apply their work ethic to my legal career. I have always taken great pride in my commitment to the legal profession, whether it is working for the citizens of Greenville and Pickens Counties at the Solicitor's Office or in my years in private practice.

In addition to a strong work ethic, another component of our retail business was the exposure to different types of customers. Our customers were an eclectic group of individuals. They were a true cross-section of our community and came from all walks of life. Our customers were from varying financial statuses, educational levels, genders, and races. Our job was to serve and treat our patrons equally regardless of their race, gender, or position in the community. This exposure and service to the people of our community gave me a unique insight into the different types of individuals that I would encounter throughout my twenty-six year legal career. These distinct personalities from varying backgrounds serve as an accurate representation of the many clients, witnesses, and victims I have had the pleasure to represent and interact with during my legal career.

If elected, I will continue to apply these life lessons, my strong work ethic, and my commitment to the legal profession in service to the citizens of South Carolina.

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: _____