



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-large Seat 8

1. Name: Mrs. Maryann Blake

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

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

Business Address: 228 Hampton Street, P.O. Box 2161, Walterboro, SC 29488

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 843-782-3299
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1968
Place of Birth: Kingsport, TN
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? No
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.

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. April 16, 2017. Stephen Brian Blake. Retired Director of Operations and Safety for Coastal Electric Cooperative, Walterboro, SC

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). NA
 - (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. March 1990, Mark Brian Trimm, Carter County, TN separation
 - (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) East Tennessee State University, Fall 1987, no degree, ended studies to work full-time.
 - (b) Draughons Junior College, 1988-89, no degree, ended studies to work full-time.
 - (c) Northern Virginia Community College, August 1989-August 1991, AS Business Administration, magnum cum laude
 - (d) American University, August 1991-May 1995, BA Justice, cum laude.
 - (e) Rutgers School of Law, August 1996-February 1997, withdrew because of family matters involving the care of my Mother.
 - (f) Shepard Broad Law Center, Nova Southeastern University, August 1999-July 2004, JD, Dean's List.
 - (g) University of South Carolina, August 2011-May 2018, graduate student accepted into the PhD program department of Sociology, graduate certificate in Women and Gender Studies.
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) Journal of International and Comparative Law, Lead Technical Editor 2002-04.
 - (b) Environmental Law Clinic, Summer 2004 at Harvey & Battey, Beaufort, SC.
 - (c) Law Firm of Bogenschutz & Dutko, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, law clerk, May 2003-May 2004.
 - (d) Law Firm of Green and Murphy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, law clerk, September 2002-May 2003.
 - (e) Center for the Study of Youth Policy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, law clerk to the Honorable Frank Orlando (ret) March 2002-May 2004.
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 2006. I took the exam twice.
 - (b) Georgia 2009. I took the exam once.

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 has 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) Harvey & Battey, PA, Beaufort, SC. June –October 2004. I completed the field part of the Environmental Law Clinic at this firm during my last semester of law school and was asked to stay on as a temporary law clerk to W. Brantley Harvey, Jr. I researched issues involved with building docks in wetlands in Beaufort County for the clinical part of my stay with the firm. During my tenure as law clerk, I assisted with probate work including an estate involving over one hundred heirs.
 - (b) Bogoslow, Jones, and Stephens, Walterboro, SC. October 2004-November 2007. I began working for the firm as a law clerk and then continued on as an associate attorney after passing the bar in 2006. The law firm's focus was insurance defense of governmental agencies through the Insurance Reserve Fund. My duties included extensive legal research and writing dealing with governmental regulations and liability, the South Carolina Tort Claims Act, and the public duty doctrine. I reviewed and drafted contracts and leases and established small corporations. A major project that was assigned to me was assisting the Jasper County Animal Rescue Mission to become a charitable nonprofit organization. I assisted the senior partner in being the attorney for Jasper County as well. I drafted appeal briefs, pleadings, Wills, and discovery responses. I assisted in developing and teaching a training course on courtroom procedures for law enforcement officer cadets. I also spoke to middle school students about the legal profession during career week.
 - (c) Woodard & Butler, LLC, Walterboro, SC. June 2008-October 2020. I served as senior associate with this firm. The law firm's focus is on creditor's rights and does extensive debt collecting throughout South Carolina and Georgia. My main job focus was litigation with a strong emphasis on negating settlement before trial. The firm also does insurance subrogation work and was contract attorney for the Department of Social Services in child abuse and neglect cases.
 - (d) City of Walterboro, October 2014-Present. I serve as part-time prosecutor for the City of Walterboro. I have prosecuted a wide range of offenses including minor traffic violations, drug charges, assault and battery cases and shoplifting. I have tried many cases before a jury and have never lost.
 - (e) Maryann Blake, Attorney at Law, LLC, Walterboro, SC. October 2018-Present. I manage all aspects of my own solo practice including its trust accounts. While still at Woodard & Butler, with the encouragement of the senior partner, I established my own firm in early 2018 and became an LLC in 2019. I have a general practice focusing on personal injury, probate, property disputes, real estate, and family law. I am certified as both a Circuit Court and Family Court Mediator. I serve as court appointed counsel for the Colleton County Probate Court through SCCID.

- (f) Town of Edisto Beach, November 2022-Present. I serve as attorney for Edisto Beach. My duties include drafting resolutions, reviewing contracts, and responding to subpoena requests and FOIA requests.

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:

- (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.

Over the past five years my practice has focused on civil, probate, and family court matters. I have also served as part-time prosecutor for the City of Walterboro since 2014. The majority of my civil work has been for the plaintiff. I have handled a wide variety of cases during the past five years including the following: debt collection, creditors' rights, personal injury, wrongful death, heirs' property, real estate closings, boundary disputes, HOA disputes, and establishing businesses. I have also represented a juvenile in court for the charge of assault. As prosecutor for Walterboro I have handled over 100 cases including DUI/DUS, shop lifting, assault and battery, drug possession, and larceny. These cases were either settled or tried before a jury. While I was with Woodard & Butler, I appeared on average at least once a month before a circuit court judge or Master in Equity. My wide variety of experience has developed my procedural knowledge of how trials work from pretrial procedure through jury verdicts.

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: 1%
- (b) state: 99%

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: 55%
 - (b) criminal: 15%
 - (c) domestic: 25%
 - (d) other: 5%
14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 20%
 - (b) non-jury: 80%

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

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) Wilmington Savings Fund Society v. James Edwin Hiott, et.al, 2022CP1500284. I represented Beth Bolt, the personal representative of the Estate of James Edwin Hiott in this matter. This was a foreclosure of a reverse mortgage. This case was significant in that it gave me experience in how estate matters also are tried in circuit court.
 - (b) Janie Singleton, et. al v. Connie Johnson, et.al, 2020CP1500024. I represent the Plaintiffs in this matter. This is an heirs property case. This case is significant because of the decades of family strife involved. At issue is whether Mrs. Singleton's husband was adopted and thus, an heir.
 - (c) Jon Attridge et. al v. The Board of Directors of Bull Point Plantation Property Owners Association, Inc., et. al, 2018CP0702345. I represented two of the Defendants in this case. This was an exceptionally complex dispute over the declarancy to Bull Point. It was significant to me because I learned a lot about pretrial procedure and motion practice.
 - (d) Estate of Mary Susan Crerar v. Jon Andrews, et. al, 2021CP3700006. I represented The Estate and the personal representative in this wrongful death action. Since this was an Oconee County case the client also retained local counsel. This case involved the death of an 80-year-old woman resulting from the malfunction of a dumbwaiter. The case was significant for me because I learned how expert testimony can either make or break a case. This was settled at mediation against one defendant and with a \$1.5 million judgment against the other defendant.
 - (e) State v. Marceia Sanders No 5102P0331719. This is a jury case I tried for the City of Walterboro. Mrs. Sanders was charged with violation of a window tinting ordinance and resisting or obstructing an officer. The Defendant was the wife of a county deputy. There was some thought in the community that the charges should be dismissed because of that fact. The evidence supported the charges, so I had to try the case. This

case was significant because laws should be applied equally and justly no matter the familial status of the Defendant.

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 of the cases I have personally handled from start to finish have been appealed. However, I do have experience in the appeals process through work on the following two cases.

- (a) Bewersdorf v. South Carolina Department of Public Safety, 2001CP150677. Appeal from the Fourteenth Circuit Court of Common Pleas. I worked as associate counsel on this case while working at Bogoslow, Jones, and Stephens. We represented the Department of Public Safety who was the Respondent in the appeal. I completed all the research and drafting of Respondent's Brief. The trial court's directed verdict based on the public duty doctrine was affirmed.
- (b) Stancel E. Kirkland and El Cid Holdings, LLC v. Robert Wolfson, 2019-000203. Appeal from the Fourteenth Circuit. I was co-counsel for Respondent El Cid Holdings, LLC for a short while and assisted in drafting Respondent's initial brief.

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 while being a practicing lawyer. However, during law school I assisted with several criminal appeals through my employer Bogenschutz & Dutko in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. I worked as a law clerk for the firm. My duties included researching and drafting briefs for both state and federal appeals.

18. Have you ever held judicial office? No.
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.

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) Supreme Court of the United States December 2019
(b) Supreme Court of South Carolina May 22, 2006
(c) Superior Court Georgia November 18, 2009

(d) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina December 24, 2008

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? No.
If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

CLE Report attached.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) "Hope for the Juvenile Criminal: A Review of the Manatee County Juvenile Boot Camp." September 1995 article included in the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) document database at call number 156752. (non-refereed)
 - (b) "Brain Development and the Legal Rights of Children." Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine. June 2005. Co-author Judge Frank Orlando. (Refereed)
 - (c) "Worker Rights and Health Protection for Prostitutes: A Comparison of the Netherlands, Germany and Nevada." November 2012. Chosen as one of twenty from over 300 papers for publication in special conference edition for International Council on Women's Health Issues (ICOWHI), 19th International Congress. Women's Health 2012: Partnering for a Brighter Global Future." (Refereed)
 - (d) "Worker Rights and Health Protection for Prostitutes: A Comparison of the Netherlands, Germany and Nevada." Health Care for Women International. 2015, 36: 784-796.
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.)

I have attached the following:

- (a) Summons and Complaint for Wrongful Death in Estate of Mary Susan Crerar v. John Andrews, et. al, 2021CP3700006 and
 - (b) Amended Notice of Motion and Motion for Summary Judgment and Motion for Release of Lien Bond with supporting Memorandum in South Atlantic Forest Products, Inc. v. William Gavigan, et. al, 2017CP0702178.
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 rated.

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 Association
 - (b) South Carolina Bar Association, Board of Governors 2020-23; Strategic Plan Implementation subcommittee
 - (c) South Carolina Bar Association, House of Delegates, At-large seat 2017-19.
 - (d) South Carolina Bar Association, House of Delegates Fourteenth Judicial Circuit 2023-25.
 - (e) South Carolina Bar Association, Board of Fee Disputes Resolutions, Fourteenth Circuit, 2017-Present.
 - (f) South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on Lawyer Conduct 2021-present.
 - (g) South Carolina Bar Foundation Board Member 2023-24
 - (h) Georgia Bar Association
 - (i) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
 - (j) Colleton County Bar Association, Technology Committee, Chair, 2019-20
 - (k) American Bar Association 2022-present
 - (l) South Carolina Bar Solo and Small Firm Section 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.
- (a) I was appointed by Governor Henry McMaster for the term of September 2016-September 2020 to the Board of Voter Registration and Elections for Colleton County. I was reappointed and served until March 2022 when I withdrew to run for Colleton County Council. I have timely filed my reports with the State Ethics Commission. I had to pay a penalty of \$100.00 in 2018 because I missed the deadline.
 - (b) I was appointed by the Colleton County Council for the term of September 2017-September 2022 to the Colleton County Board of Assessment Appeals. I am not required to file a report with the State Ethics Commission.
 - (c) I was appointed by the Colleton County Council to the Planning Commission 2020-present and to the Lowcountry Community Action Agency Board 2022-23. I am not required to file a report with the State Ethics Commission.
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.

Yes. I ran for Colleton County Council at Large seat in 2022 but did not win the primary run-off. Also, I was a candidate for Circuit Court at large seat 13 in 2019. I withdrew to gain more experience.

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.

I owned a quilt store from 2006-2010. It was called Calico Patches Fabrics & Things, Inc. and was located in Walterboro, South Carolina.

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.

I own the law firm called Maryann Blake, Attorney at Law, LLC. This business began in March 2018 as a sole proprietorship. I currently own a real estate investment company named Blake Holdings, LLC and a collectibles/nostalgia business called The Blake Exchange. I also have a title insurance company named Blake Title Insurance Agency, LLC. All of these companies are in Walterboro, South Carolina.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No.

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

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

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

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

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.

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?

The only amount spent so far has been for postage of \$1.11.

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.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

None.

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

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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

None.

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

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

which are 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.

I have carried malpractice insurance since October 2020. I may be covered by a tail policy from my prior employer, Woodard & Butler. My coverage is \$1,000,000 each claim, \$5,000 deductible. I also have first dollar defense and cyber liability insurance.

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.

I have not asked any third party to contact anyone on my behalf. I do not know of anyone who is campaigning on my behalf. The extent of my campaigning thus far is attending one special session of the House in June where I introduced myself to various members in the hallway and on the ramp in the garage.

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) M. Dawes Cook, Jr., Esq.
Barnwell Whaley Patterson & Helms, LLC
[Redacted]
- (b) J. Hagood Tighe, Esq.
Fisher Phillips
[Redacted]

- (c) Roy Laney, Esq.
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC
[Redacted]
- (d) Dean Ann Carmichael (ret)
USC Salkehatchie
[Redacted]
- (e) Rev. Dr. Scott Wachter
Bethel United Methodist Church
[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?

I have a Facebook account [Redacted]. I am not a fan of Facebook and rarely use it. I will shut the page down if I am chosen to be a judge.

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) I was a member of Civitans, Walterboro. I served as president elect 2016-17 and president 2017-18.

(b) I attend Bethel United Methodist Church, Walterboro where I volunteer as church attorney and serve on the church council.

(c) I am a board member of the Colleton County Chamber of Commerce and currently serve as vice-chair.

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 am the first college graduate and first lawyer in my family. Since moving away from my hometown I have had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Thailand. I have been exposed to many different cultures and people from varied walks of life. I have worked in various areas of the justice system since entering college at American University. These jobs included secretary to a chief of police; assistant to the chair of the Department of Justice Law and Society at AU; litigation support services; volunteer at a victim witness program; and law

clerk for one of the leading criminal defense firms in Fort Lauderdale. These jobs coupled with living in many different locations have allowed me to see the justice system from many different perspectives. I have seen people at their very worst and at their very best I have seen people suffer from court decisions and I have seen people rejoice as well. I learned from my various jobs in the justice system that all people, no matter where they live or who they are, come to the courts seeking to be treated fairly and justly. Using this knowledge and experience I would strive to be an impartial judge capable of firmness but compassion as well.

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: _____