



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

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

1. Name: Ms. Deanne Marie Gray

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

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: Dorchester County

Business Address: 227B South Cedar Street, Summerville, SC 29483

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 285-5746
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1972
Place of Birth: Adak, Alaska
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.

6. Family Status:
(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

- (a) Married;
- (b) Married to John William Gray, Jr. on April 20, 1999;
- (c) Not applicable;
- (d) Not applicable;
[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 Pittsburgh, August 1990-December 1993, B.A. History/Political Science;
- (b) Rutgers University School of Law, August 1996 – May 1999, J.D.

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) Summer Intern for Pennsylvania Superior Court, May 1996 – August 1997;
- (b) Research Assistant, August 1997 – May 1998;
- (c) Summer Intern for Pennsylvania Attorney General, May 1998 – August 1998;
- (d) Extern at US Attorneys Office, Philadelphia, PA, August 1998 – May 1999.

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, 2000, took exam twice;
- (b) Texas, 2006, did not take exam and was admitted via reciprocity.

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) Law Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals, August 1999-August 2002. Drafted opinions and orders, read and analyzed trial records and briefs, participated in pre-oral argument court conferences, performed legal research, and supervised two junior law clerks.
- (b) Assistant Solicitor, Charleston County Family Court, August 2002-February 2006. Prosecuted juvenile criminal offenses, including all sexually based offenses, worked closely with law enforcement agencies, prepared and presented training materials to law enforcement. Conducted waiver hearings pursuant to Kent v. United States, 383 U.S. 541, 86 S.Ct. 1045, 16 L.Ed.2d 84 (1966).
- (c) Prosecuting Attorney, City of Fort Worth, Texas, June 2007-February 2008. Prosecuted state and local offenses in the City's municipal courts, prepared cases and pre-trial hearings, negotiated appropriate settlements with attorneys and un-represented defendants, represented the State in hearings regarding Emergency Protective Orders.
- (d) Assistant City Attorney, City of Fort Worth, Texas, February 2008-June 2008. Researched legal questions and evaluated the impact of issues on city policies and procedures, provided advice to city management staff, filed charges, prosecuted and/or negotiated pending cases against violators, supervised staff responsible for providing legal assistance to the City.
- (e) Managing County Attorney Dorchester County DSS, May 2013-January 2022. Represented SCDSS in Court and at administrative hearings, in addition to providing legal advice for county child protective services and adult protective services staff. Managed the county legal office and hired, fired, trained, and supervised the attorneys and paralegals within my office. Assumed final responsibility for maintaining good working relationships and communication between the county legal office and other system stakeholders. Managed workflow for timeliness and statutory compliance.
- (f) Family Law Attorney, Cobb Dill & Hammett, LLC, January 2022-Present. Advise clients regarding family law matters. Represent private clients in actions involving divorce, custody, child support, and equitable division of property. Draft Settlement Agreements and Prenuptial Agreements for clients. Defend private clients in actions brought by the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Attend arbitration and mediation with clients.

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience *prior to serving on the bench.*

11. Please answer the following:
- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family

Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.
- (a) Divorce and Equitable Division – As a law clerk for the South Carolina Court of Appeals, I reviewed many divorce cases involving equitable division of property. In my current position as a family law attorney, I handle numerous divorce cases, both contested and uncontested. The divorce cases are based on fault and no-fault grounds and involve equitable division. I have also attended mediations and arbitrations dealing with the equitable division of marital property. I appear before a Family Court judge three to four times a month on divorce cases involving equitable division.

Child Custody – For almost a decade, I appeared on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Social Services when foster parents or other individuals filed private actions seeking custody. As a family law attorney, I represent parents seeking custody of their children or to modify existing child custody orders based on a significant change of circumstance. I typically appear before a Family Court judge at least once a week on cases involving child custody.

Adoption – On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Social Services, I appeared in cases when a private adoption action was consolidated with a pending SCDSS action and if SCDSS objected to the consolidation and opposed the private adoption action. In private practice, I have filed several termination of parental rights and adoption actions. These cases are typically step-parent adoptions or adoptions by relatives who gained custody of the children through a previous SCDSS action. I typically appear before a Family Court judge once every other month for adoption hearings.

Abuse and Neglect – I served as the managing attorney for SCDSS in Dorchester County for almost a decade. I appeared before the Family Court for probable cause, merits, permanency planning and termination of parental rights hearings. I also advised SCDSS staff regarding prior rulings of the Court in private actions. I now defend parents when their children have been removed by SCDSS due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect. In the past five years, I would appear several times a week before a Family Court judge as the managing attorney for Dorchester County DSS. I now handle numerous cases defending parents in abuse and neglect actions and appear in before a Family Court judge two to three times a month.

Juvenile Justice – I served as an assistant solicitor in Charleston County and prosecuted juvenile offenders. I participated in detention, adjudicatory, and dispositional hearings. I developed a team to handle the prosecution of sexually based juvenile offenses to guarantee that the cases were handled with consistency and continuity. I handled several complex trials including having a five-years old victim testify via closed circuit video and a deaf victim testify with the assistance of interpreters from out of state. I was also the lead attorney in a waiver hearing. In the past five years, I appeared before a Family Court judge two to three times a month when juveniles, who were also involved with SCDSS, had hearings.

- (b) Not applicable;
- (c) Not applicable;
- (d) 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: Weekly
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: 2%
 - (b) criminal: 3%
 - (c) domestic: 55%
 - (d) other/child advocacy: 40%
14. During the past five years

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

- (a) 98% of my practice in the past five years was in trial court;
- (b) In the last five years, at least thirty cases went to trial and resulted in the Court's verdict;
- (c) In the last five years, at least five cases went to trial and resolved after Plaintiff's case;
- (d) I have not had any cases settle after a jury was selected as I primarily practice in Family Court.

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

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) SCDSS v. M.L., et. al.: This emergency removal and termination of parental rights action involved birth parents who were arrested on federal charges of child sex trafficking. A great deal of time was spent getting information from the United States Attorney's Office regarding the federal charges to determine how best to present the case to the Family Court to show termination of parental rights was in the best interests of the minor child. In addition, a study of the maternal grandmother's home in New York was completed through the Interstate Compact for the Place of Children (ICPC) and was denied. The grandmother then relocated to South Carolina and filed a Motion of Intervene seeking custody of the minor child. After receiving testimony and evidence from all parties, the Family Court terminated the birth parents' parental rights and denied the grandmother's petition for custody.
 - (b) State v. R.S.: I prosecuted a juvenile for several counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, first degree. The victim was just five (5) years old at the time of trial. After filing the appropriate motions, I prepared the victim and worked with the clerk's office to have the victim testify via closed circuit television. This case meant a great deal to me as I was able to prepare the victim to testify and make her comfortable enough in the courtroom that it was a positive experience for her. She felt that she had told the truth and people believed her and took steps to protect her. After the child victim testified, counsel for the juvenile accepted the State's plea offer to resolve the matter without further testimony being presented.

- (c) State v. T.K. I was the lead prosecutor presenting the case to waive the juvenile offender to General Sessions court after he was arrested for criminal sexual conduct. This required me to present evidence as to the existence of probable cause that the juvenile committed the offense. Once the Family Court determined probable cause existed, I presented evidence as to the waiver factors as set forth in Kent v. United States, 383 U.S. 541, 86 S.Ct. 1045, 16 L.Ed.2d 84 (1966). Most family law attorneys have not had the opportunity to participate in a waiver hearing. It is an extensive process, but I was able to present the case from the first detention hearing through the waiver hearing where the Court waived the juvenile to General Sessions.
- (d) SCDSS v. D.M., et. al.: This termination of parental rights action involved a minor child with numerous allergies, medical conditions, and behavioral issues. Defendant's counsel argued that these conditions made the minor child "unadoptable" and therefore, termination of the mother's parental rights was not in the minor child's best interests. After working closely with the child's treating physicians and counselors, I was able to successfully argue that termination of the defendant mother's parental rights was in the minor child's best interests. The minor child was subsequently adopted and found a forever permanent home.
- (e) Singh v. Singh: I represented the defendant father in this divorce and custody matter filed by the birth mother. North Carolina had jurisdiction over the divorce as my client was a resident of North Carolina. The divorce was granted in by North Carolina and that issue was dismissed in the South Carolina matter. This matter was resolved with a one-day trial on the issues of child custody, visitation, and child support. In addition, a Rule to Show Cause against the mother based on her failure to pay child support as ordered by the Court. At the end of the trial, the Court found in my client's favor and granted the relief he requested.

- 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. Not applicable.
- 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. Not applicable.
- 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, 2000;
- (b) Texas, 2006.

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) In 2014, I taught a section for Law School for Non-Lawyers course at Trident Technical College regarding the topic of child protection law on behalf of the South Carolina Bar, public services division;
 - (b) In 2019, I presented at the Charleston County bar program entitled “DSS Abuse & Neglect Cases” regarding child protection laws;
 - (c) In 2020, I presented at the statewide guardian ad litem training seminar regarding guardian ad litem involvement with DSS including tips, tricks, and pitfalls;
 - (d) In 2020, I presented at a DSS continuing legal training regarding utilizing data to manage cases specific to termination of parental rights cases;
 - (e) In 2020, I presented at a legal training for advocates sponsored by My Sister’s House. My presentation was entitled, “Everything you wanted to know about DSS but were afraid to ask”;
 - (f) In 2022, I taught a section for Law School for Non-Lawyers course at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College regarding child protection law on behalf of the South Carolina Bar, public services division;
 - (g) I’m scheduled to teach another section for Law School for Non-Lawyers course at the Technical College of the Lowcountry regarding child protection law on September 18, 2023 on behalf of the South Carolina Bar, public services division.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. Please see attached.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. Not applicable.
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.)
- (a) South Carolina, 2019; I was the primary author of the order. However, pursuant to Rule 5(b)(3), SCRCP, the proposed order was circulated to all parties for review prior to submitting to the Family Court.
 - (b) South Carolina, 2023; I was the primary author of the order based on the Court’s ruling from the bench. However, pursuant to Rule 5(b)(3), SCRCP, the proposed order was circulated to the opposing party and guardian ad litem for review prior to submitting to the Family 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. 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) South Carolina Bar Association
 - (b) Dorchester County Bar Association
 - (c) Texas Bar Association
 - (d) Dorchester County Bar Association, Family Court Liaison Committee (2018-2020).
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.
- (a) Family Court, At-Large, Seat 1 in 2019. I did not receive enough votes to be moved to the election.
 - (b) Family Court, First Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 in 2021. I withdrew prior to the election.
 - (c) Family Court, First Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 in 2022. I withdrew prior to the election.
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.
- (a) AVID Tutor and Substitute Teacher, Lejeune High School, March 2011-May2013. I advocated for students, tutored students individually or in small groups. I instructed students following school and system-wide curricular goals.
31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service. No.
32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C.

Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed. No.

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.
- (a) 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
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? Not applicable.
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. Not applicable.
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. Not applicable.

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.

(a) None;

(b) None;

(c) 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.

(a) None;

(b) None;

(c) None.

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. Not applicable.
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.
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.
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.

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) Jeffrey M. Schreiber, [Redacted]
 - (b) Jessica Birt, [Redacted]
 - (c) Jason Pockrus, [Redacted]
 - (d) Margie A. Pizarro, [Redacted]
 - (e) William S. Hammett, [Redacted]
56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.? Yes.

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

- (a) Facebook: [Redacted]
- (b) Instagram: [Redacted]
- (c) Snapchat: [Redacted]
- (d) Twitter: [Redacted]
- (e) LinkedIn: [Redacted]
- (f) TikTok: [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 am active on Facebook to provide pictures and updates to family and friends who live outside South Carolina. I have accounts on other social media platforms but am not active on those platforms and maintain the accounts to monitor my sons' presence on those same platforms. I strictly limit who has access to my information and if serving in a judicial capacity, I would be even more vigilant about what I post and who has access to that information.

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. Not applicable.
58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I have spent most of my legal career practicing in the South Carolina Family Court. I have been blessed to appear before a diverse group of judges that have shaped the type of judge I plan to be in the future. Deanne is tough, but fair. This was the way I was first described by a fellow member of the bar after I joined the Solicitor's office. It is a motto that I have spent my legal career upholding. I believe all members of the legal community need to hold themselves to a high standard, both at work and in the community.

As a SCDSS attorney, I advocated on behalf of the Department. However, I had to remain open to the positions of all parties and respect their perspectives and positions. I was required to have a good temperament and the ability to communicate with pro se litigants as well as other attorneys. I have had the opportunity to mentor several attorneys during my time at SCDSS and hope I have passed those lessons on to new members of the bar.

The Family Court bench and bar deal with some of the most emotional and intimate areas of people's lives. I am a family law attorney who has experience practicing in all three areas before the Family Court, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) cases, Department of Social Services (DSS) cases, and now private practice cases involving child support, custody, divorce, orders of protection, equitable division, and other issues in the Family Court. Each area has its own nuances and distinct challenges. They also require those appearing before the Family Court to understand the specific skills and knowledge required in each area. However, there are many times that these areas may overlap. A juvenile involved with DJJ may make allegations of abuse or neglect that trigger the filing of a DSS action. One of the parties in a divorce action may make allegations against the other party that requires DSS to initiate an investigation and take appropriate protective measures. Given the broad scope of issues involved in family law cases, some would argue that family law should be considered complex litigation.

I often told the high school students I tutored that they shouldn't assume things about individuals based on that person's appearance or the limited information they may have regarding that person. My experience on paper may not fully inform the reader of my past struggles and personal experiences that led me to this moment. As a military spouse, sister of a domestic violence survivor, aunt to a teen mom, working mother, prosecutor, and attorney, I have been exposed to a wide array of individuals, experiences, cultures, religions and circumstances. Professionally, I have handled cases that involve issues of substance abuse, extreme physical abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, and domestic violence. These

experiences have allowed me to develop a professional demeanor when arguing cases and not let my emotions rule my judgement, decisions, and interactions. Every individual who appears before the Family Court deserves to be treated with dignity and respect no matter the allegations they are facing. I would be honored to carry on the fine traditions of the South Carolina Family Court judges that came before me.

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: _____