



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

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

1. Name: Mr. Pete Gus Diamaduros
Mrs.
Ms.

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes, I frequently appointed as special referee for Union County to handle foreclosure cases, quiet title actions and partition lawsuits. I am occasionally appointed as special referee for Laurens County and Cherokee County on foreclosure actions.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Spartanburg

Business Address: 108 West South Street, Union, South Carolina 29379

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 864-427-5657
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1961
Place of Birth: Chester, South Carolina
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:
Married on February 7, 1998 to Gia Konduros Diamaduros. She is on staff and the contemporary worship leader of Westminster Presbyterian Church (2005-present)
Never divorced, two children. [Redacted]
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) University of South Carolina - Union, dual credit classes during high school and one summer school class after Freshman year in college
 - (b) Wofford College - September 1979 - May 1983, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting (Cum Laude)
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1983 - May 1986; Juris Doctor
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) 1983 - 1986 Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity
 - (b) I was a summer law clerk in the law office of Leigh Leventis in 1984. I also was a law clerk for Collins & Lacy Law Firm in 1985 and 1986
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.

South Carolina Bar November 14, 1986 – I took the bar exam one time.
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) November 14, 1986 - December of 1988, I was an associate/partner in the firm of Phillips, Guess and Diamaduros. This was a general practice firm but the other partners predominantly handled collections for local banks, real estate transactions and trusts and estates. I was allowed to expand my caseload to include civil, domestic, and criminal cases. I had no financial management involvement in this firm.
 - (b) January 1989 - August of 1992, I was a partner in the firm of Whitney, White and Diamaduros. The firm was a general practice firm which predominantly handled criminal, domestic, civil, real estate, foreclosure and collection work. I became

heavily involved in the financial management of this firm including the management of trust accounts.

- (c) August of 1992 - May of 2000, the previous firm added a partner and the name changed to Whitney, White, Diamaduros and Diamaduros. The firm continued its general practice mentioned above. I remained active in the administrative and financial management of this firm which included the management of trust accounts.
- (d) May of 2000 - June of 2014, I was a partner in the firm of White, Diamaduros and Diamaduros. This firm was a general practice firm which concentrated on domestic, civil, criminal, collections, foreclosure and real estate work. I was considered the office managing partner and handled the majority of the administrative and financial management of this entity including the management of the trust accounts. In 2002 I served as a part time county attorney along with the other partners in the firm.
- (e) June of 2014 - the present date, I am a partner in the Diamaduros Law Firm. This is a general practice firm which predominantly handles domestic, civil, criminal, collections and foreclosure. I often serve as special referee for common pleas cases in Union, Cherokee and Laurens County. I am considered the office managing partner and handle the majority of the administrative and financial management of this firm including the management of the trust accounts. I have continued to serve as part time county attorney along with the other partner in the firm.

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.

Divorce and equitable division of property: I have represented clients in what I would estimate to be, nearly a thousand cases involving divorce and decree of separate support and maintenance since I started practicing in 1986. I have equally represented husbands and wives as both plaintiffs and defendants in family court. I have represented them on all grounds of divorce including one year's continuous separation, adultery, habitual drunkenness, physical cruelty, and one case of desertion. I have also represented clients seeking annulments and have represented clients seeking to establish common law marriages. Nearly every case I have handled has included the issue of equitable division of property. Many of these cases included issues involving transmutation of non-marital property into marital property, special equities in properties and property having been

purchased in the name of a third party. The cases that I have handled included the issue of equitable division of property ranging from personal property of nominal value to multi-million-dollar estates.

I am familiar with the evidence required to meet the various burdens of proof for the grounds of divorce and division of assets. I have always worked hand in hand with my clients in identifying and valuing marital assets including, but not limited to, real property, businesses, retirement accounts, personal property and pensions. I have employed professionals to help with valuation of assets in some cases.

I have regularly appeared before the family court judges on all of these issues in the past five years. I would estimate I appear in family court fifty times per year.

(b) Child Custody: I have represented the mother, father, third parties, grandparents, and other relatives in hundreds of cases in which custody was in dispute. I have handled initial custody disputes, modifications of custody based on a change in circumstances, issues involving parents relocating out of state, third party custody actions and cases where DSS has become involved and removed children from their homes.

Some cases I handled included the need for genetic testing to determine paternity. Physical and psychological abuse and neglect were issues in many cases. Parental alienation, psychological parenting and de facto custodians were often involved in these cases. Many, if not most, of these cases are resolved at mediation or shortly before trial. Throughout my practice I have litigated many custody cases that consisted of actual trials that lasted up to five days.

I have regularly appeared before the family court on this issue in the past five years. I would estimate I have handled approximately five seriously contested custody cases a year during the past five years.

(c) Adoption: Throughout my career I have handled between fifty to one hundred adoption cases. Nearly all of these cases were relative adoption cases. I have served as guardian ad litem on many uncontested adoption cases and on a contested adoption cases. I have handled cases that were tried to verdict that involved termination of parental rights and in some cases the termination of parental rights and adoption of the child.

I have appeared before the family court about two times per year on these issues in the past five years.

(d) Abuse and Neglect: I have been involved in many DSS abuse and neglect cases. Those cases involved attendance at probable cause hearings, status hearings, motion hearings, removal hearings, intervention hearings, judicial review hearings, permanency planning hearings, and termination of parental right hearings. In many of these cases, I was actively representing third parties or relatives seeking custody in private actions that coincided with the DSS action.

I have appeared before the family court multiple times on these issues in the past five years.

(e) Juvenile Justice: In the past I was appointed to serve as attorney in many juvenile justice cases. I have been retained to represent juveniles in cases in the past. During my service on the Commission on Lawyer Conduct from 1993 to 2021 there was an order from the Supreme Court removing members on the Commission on Lawyer Conduct from the clerk of court's appointment list. This order removed me from the list that appointed me to many juvenile justice cases. Even though I have not appeared regularly before the court on juvenile cases, I have extensive experience in handling criminal cases for adults and am regularly before the court of general sessions, magistrate courts and municipal courts throughout the upstate of South Carolina.

(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. N/A

(c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years. N/A

(d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years. N/A

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

(a) federal: None

(b) state: I appear frequently in general sessions, common pleas, family, magistrates and municipal courts. I regularly appear in court and would estimate that I appear seventy-five times per year.

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: 20%
 - (b) criminal: 35%
 - (c) domestic: 30%
 - (d) other: 15%

14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 95%
 - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? Approximately ten
 - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? Zero (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? Zero

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

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial? N/A

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

- (a) State of South Carolina vs. Jerry Fox, 88-GS-181
This case involved an individual charged with three separate counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree with a Minor. I had been out of law school for just shy of eighteen months. The defendant was arrested on April 12, 1988. I was hired as soon as he was released on bond. The grand jury issued indictments on May 2, 1988. I was immediately given discovery and told the case would be tried in May. The solicitor William "Red" Ferguson and his assistant Jack Flynn would not discuss or entertain a motion for continuance. I recall being told that the crime carried twenty years and that the state would try him on all three counts and put him away for sixty years. I met with my client and we frantically prepared for trial. I was not granted a continuance and trial started on May 3rd. The state rested after a day of trial and I put up three witnesses the next day. Closing arguments were held and a not guilty verdict was returned on May 4, 1988.

This case was significant in that it was my first felony trial. My client professed his innocence and was not open to a plea bargain. I tried this case alone and was very nervous knowing my client's freedom was resting in my hands. As the jury was deliberating, I was going back over every question I asked and everything I

argued and was hoping I had done enough. The jury returned their verdict. Hearing the words “not guilty” and being able to walk out of the courtroom with a man wrongly accused of having sex with a thirteen-year-old girl made me know that I had chosen the right profession for me.

- (b) Preston Brooks Carwile vs. Sharon Brickle Carwile 1992-DR-44-13
Union County DSS vs. Brooks Carwile and Sharon Carwile 1997-DR-44-366
Sharon Carwile-Smith vs. Preston Brooks Carwile 1996-DR-44-211

This case was a divorce and custody action filed by the husband against the wife. I represented the husband throughout many years of litigation. The cases listed above are only a few of the case names and numbers that I could locate regarding these individuals. In 1992, joint custody was agreed to and approved by the courts for these parents to share their children and both parents felt this was in the children’s best interests. The litigants did not get along very well at all which led to more court appearances a few years later. The mother filed an action against the father in 1996 which led to a two-day trial in 1998 at which time the court granted custody of the oldest daughter to the mother and custody of the other two children to the father. Due to allegations made in this case the Department of Social Services also brought an action against the parents. A third case was filed by the mother against the father which led to an additional three-day trial wherein the court did not change the custody arrangement that was in place. As the years progressed, the parties would file contempt actions against each other and litigation seemed to go on for over ten years.

This case was significant because it was a case involving joint custody being allowed and then confirmed by courts after multiple trials between the parents. There were experts that did psychological evaluations and MMPI evaluations on the parents. There were allegations of alienation, verbal and mental abuse, coaching, etc. in all of these cases. I was representing the husband/father who was a childhood friend of mine which made juggling friendship and my responsibilities as his attorney a bit difficult at times. I was the only attorney that Mr. Carwile had represent him throughout all of these different actions. The wife had, to my recollection, five different attorneys representing her throughout this matter. It seems there were about six different judges that took part in the trials and/or contempt matters that were litigated. I would go to family court seminars and would be pulled aside by numerous judges wanting to know if these two parents were still litigating their differences. It seemed like each time the answer was “yes, they are”.

- (c) Danny William Dove vs. Dana Haddox, Leslie Haddox and Tamara Dove, 2008-DR-29-644
State vs. Danny William Dove (indicted in Chester County, South Carolina)

Danny Dove was arrested in Chester County with charges including illegal gambling machines in his home, possession of drugs, criminal conspiracy, distribution of controlled substances, operating a gambling establishment, two counts of child neglect and was accused of holding his wife and children captive for four years inside his home. The wife and two children were taken into protective custody by the Department of Social Services and turned over to state officials. This case was picked up by the internet and all facts such as the home being littered with human waste, food scraps, and animal waste was being reported and being put on the nightly news and on internet feeds every day, or at least for what seemed like every day. I had to navigate not only the criminal case against Mr. Dove, which led to a dismissal of all of the charges, but also had to defend him from what he would categorize as a “witch hunt” by the Department of Social Services. Approximately a year and a half later, we were in court in Lancaster County in the family courts and Mr. Dove was granted custody of the two minor children and the wife/mother was granted visitation as allowed by Mr. Dove.

This case was significant because, even though Mr. Dove was not guilty of any crimes, he had to accept responsibility for the condition of the home and complete classes required by DSS before he was able to obtain custody of the children. Those children have lived with him since he obtained custody in January of 2009. Since the family court and the Department of Social Services are always trying to protect children, it seemed like an impossible battle to overcome the criminal charges, the DSS investigation and a custody battle against the wife. The individuals that were granted custody of the minor children while the Doves were following a DSS treatment plan also caused issues in the case. The fact that Mr. Dove raised those two boys alone and was their sole provider until they reached the age of majority made all the hard work and pressure associated with this high publicity case worth every minute that we put into it.

- (d) South Carolina Department of Social Services vs. Kristin E. Williams, Matthew West and Donna Jean Sanders 2009-DR-42-2898

I got into this case when it was almost too late to make a difference. The Department of Social Services had removed a minor child, who was about five years old, from the mother due to the mother’s addiction to, and abuse of, drugs. After the mother continued to fail in her attempts to convince the South Carolina Department of Social Services that she was overcoming her drug addiction and was able to care for her child, the Department of Social Services referred this case to an adoption review committee that recommended termination of the parent rights to the minor child and adoption by the foster parents. It was at about this time that Donna Jean Sanders, the maternal grandmother, retained my services. I was actually retained by the maternal grandmother just before the adoption review hearing. After that ruling and before the Department of Social Services started a termination of parental rights action, I filed a motion on behalf of the grandmother asking for an order of the court allowing the grandmother to be made a party to

this action and to be granted custody of her granddaughter. A hearing was held on September 1, 2010 and the grandmother was made a party to the action and was granted actual and physical custody of her minor grandchild effective that same afternoon.

The reason this case was significant was that the court, after hearing the arguments made on behalf of my client, ordered the transfer of custody to the grandmother. There were a number of issues that did not allow SCDSS to place the child with my client throughout the proceedings, but as soon as she was made a party to the case, she was able to explain why those issues should not have been the sole determinative issues in the case. The court considered what was best for the child and reuniting the family was determined to be best. I will never forget how unbelievably happy and excited Ms. Sanders was to have been granted custody of her grandchild and to have been allowed to raise her granddaughter as her own.

(e) Heather Marie Shaw vs. Robert Ryan Shaw, 2018-DR-42-1293

In 2018, the wife filed an action against her husband seeking emergency relief. The South Carolina Department of Social Services had become involved in this case based upon the wife's allegations of physical abuse towards the minor child of the marriage by not only the father, but also the paternal grandmother. Temporary hearings were held on June of 2018 and May of 2019. Pretrial conferences were held. During my representation of the husband, the emotional pain and heartache that he endured based upon the false allegations of abuse by the mother pushed my client close to an emotional breakdown. Ultimately, we were able to convince the Department of Social Service to close their case over the objection of the mother. During the period of time that the case was open, my client was only allowed supervised visitation for a few hours every other weekend with his mother-in-law as the "sight and sound supervisor" of the visitation. The child was evaluated by a child therapist and both parents had to subject themselves to psychological evaluations and co-parenting therapists etc. After a hearing with the court in May of 2019, the father was given "makeup" visitation and was allowed nearly the entire summer of 2019 with his child after having no meaningful visitation outside of supervision for a year. This case was ultimately litigated in a five-day trial in November and December of 2019. The father was granted custody and the mother was given "sight and sound" supervised visitation by the court. Over the course of the following three and a half years, the mother has retained three additional attorneys and my client has continued to have to litigate and defend himself from many different allegations of physical abuse, alienation, coaching, and mental abuse.

This case is significant because there was a point in this litigation when my client was so depressed and upset with all of the allegations being made against him that I honestly thought he was going to quit and give up on his fight to obtain custody of his child and thereby protect the child from his ex-wife's manipulation.

The father was able to obtain custody, and to this day, I am pleased to report that the child is an honor student in school, excels in sports, is considered a leader among his peers, and has a wonderful and happy personality. None of this would have happened if I had not convinced my client to continue the fight and not give up on the court system.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
- (a) Willie McBeth vs. TNS Mills, Inc., 318SC388, 458SE2d52 (1995) (appeal from common pleas court to S.C. Court of Appeals) (I was heavily involved in the trial of the case but most of the brief to the court was handled by co-counsel).
 - (b) Julie Sims vs. Paul Glenn, 2001CP4400316 (2003)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
- (a) State of South Carolina vs. Woodrow Mozee, 2015UP453 (appeal from court of general sessions to S. C. Court of Appeals).
 - (b) State of South Carolina vs. Gene Howard Vinson, 400SC347(SC Ct. App. 2012), 734SE2d82 (appeal from magistrate court to common pleas court to S.C. Court of Appeals).
 - (c) Kenyotta Brandon vs. State of South Carolina, 2003CP4400222 (2003)
 - (d)
 - (e)
18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

Yes. I have been appointed to serve as special referee for Union County, Cherokee County and Laurens County in certain matters including foreclosures, partition actions and quiet title actions. In this capacity I am serving as a circuit court judge by appointment due to the fact that these counties do not have a master in equity.

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. None of the cases I handled led to any significant orders or opinions.
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

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; November 14, 1986
 - (b) United States District Court; July 6, 1998
 - (c) United States Court of Appeals; Fourth Circuit November 16, 2000
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) I have not taught classes nor lectured at bar association conferences but have on occasion served on discussion panels at seminars with the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
 - (b) I was a speaker in a continuing legal education program presented by the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to young lawyers who had been admitted to the bar for only a few years. I spoke on how to successfully practice law in a small firm.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. CLE information is attached.
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.)
- (a) Carwile v. Carwile order
 - (b) Shaw v. Shaw order
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.

I am not a member of any of these legal rating organizations and have not sought a rating in Martindale-Hubbell or any of these associations.

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) Union County Bar Association
 - (b) South Carolina Bar Association
 - (c) Spartanburg County Bar Association
27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates. No
28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. N/A
29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates. No
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) Starting in 2005, my brother and I formed an LLC and purchased four rental houses. The entity was Diamond Realty, LLC. That business was operated for approximately three years and then sold to an investor.
 - (b) A number of friends and I started a corporation, DIG, Inc. in 1994 and operated it until 1999. This corporation bought three lots and built houses on them in rural Union County.
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 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? 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.

I donated \$250.00 to Travis Moore for House in May of 2022.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation. No
39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I have no such financial arrangements.

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;
None
 - (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
None

- (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. N/A

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

None

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

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

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

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

I have had speeding tickets during the forty-six years that I have been a licensed driver. I do not recall any ticket or fine being imposed over \$125.00. In 2012, I was written a citation for a noise ordinance violation at the Isle of Palms. I was issued this citation because I rented a home for a weekend for four couples to share while attending the Wofford vs. Citadel baseball series in Spring of 2012. This location became a gathering spot for approximately eight couples after a game. We all went into the garage area of the home and opened the garage door which faced the street. We played ping pong and listened to music until a deputy arrived around 10:30 at night and said that the neighbor

had complained about the amount of talking and laughing that was taking place at this residence. The complaint came from an older gentleman who lived next door with his spouse and slept with the window open in the spring. I was given the ticket because the lease was in my name. The charges were ultimately dismissed after my discussions with, and a memo was written to the town attorney indicating how the ordinance was unconstitutionally vague and allowed for a subjective standard to be used instead of objective standard for enforcement. It appeared that the neighbor making the complaint was a local resident who was familiar with all elected officials in town and was a regular attendee and complaining individual at many meetings.

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. Yes

(a) In 2008, Andre Chick sued me, my firm, Charles Hodge and the Hodge Law Firm for legal malpractice. This case was a case of police brutality brought in 2008 by me and Charles Hodge of the Hodge Law Firm against Lexington County for police brutality in the arrest that caused injuries and ultimate paralysis of Andre Chick by the Lexington County Jail in 2007. After obtaining a \$300,000.00 settlement for Andre under the torts claim act, there was a weaker claim under Section 1983 of the United States Code. The associate at the Hodge Law Firm that took responsibility for serving Lexington County did not perfect service because he served the sheriff of Lexington County but failed to serve the administrator for Lexington County on behalf of the sheriff. This technicality caused the 1983 cause of action to be dismissed and Mr. Chick then filed a lawsuit against all lawyers. The case was ultimately settled by the insurance carrier.

(b) Susan White et al vs. Provident Bank and White, Diamaduros & Diamaduros. This was a lawsuit brought in 2004 against our firm based upon a loan closing handled by one of my partners. The lawsuit brought was a "shotgun" approach to suing everyone involved with a real estate loan. After closing the loan, she used the proceeds to buy a restaurant. The restaurant that was purchased had liens on it. Our firm had nothing to do with the purchase of the business and had no responsibility for searching for and finding any liens on a restaurant that she bought with the proceeds from the loan closed by our firm. The firm was dismissed after depositions were taken. My partner was responsible for placing a second mortgage on the plaintiff's home, which was properly done.

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.

All firms I have been a partner in have always been covered by malpractice insurance, but I have never been covered by a tail policy. Our coverage is five hundred thousand for each claim and one million in the aggregate. The deductible is two thousand five hundred dollars.

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; 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; No

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

No; I have sent an introductory letter to all members of the legislature. I have asked no one to campaign on my behalf.

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) J. Carlisle Oxner, III, [Redacted]
 - (b) James Fletcher Thompson, [Redacted]
 - (c) William F. Gault, [Redacted]
 - (d) M. Brooks Moss, [Redacted]
 - (e) Doug Smith, [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) LinkedIn – [Redacted]
- (c) Instagram – [Redacted]
- (d) Facebook – [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 use Facebook for posting pictures of family and friends and to celebrate accomplishments such as a buck killed during deer season. I also post pictures of the family on special occasions, holidays and birthdays. I have many relatives living in Greece, Australia and Canada and in many states across the United States that are only able to keep up with me through this platform. As a judge, I would continue using the site in the same manner. I try to stay away from controversial issues since getting involved with those usually makes half of your friends happy and half mad.

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) Supreme Court Commission on Lawyer Conduct 1993-2021
- (b) Union Rotary Club 1987-2023 (President 1999-2000)
- (c) Wofford Terrier Club Board of Directors (app 1995-2023) (President 2004-2005)
- (d) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (founding member in 1992)
- (e) South Carolina Bar Association
- (f) Union County Bar Association, treasurer
- (g) Spartanburg County Bar Association
- (h) Family Law Section of South Carolina Bar Association
- (i) Criminal Section of South Carolina Bar Association
- (j) Workers Compensation Section of South Carolina Bar Association
- (k) Westminster Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina
- (l) St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina
- (m) Piedmont Club, Spartanburg, South Carolina
- (n) Debutante Club of Spartanburg, South Carolina
- (o) Spartanburg Country Club

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.

Born in Chester SC in 1961, I am the proud son of Gus and Helen Diamaduros, whose sacrifices afforded me the opportunity to be the first to go to college in my family. I graduated from Union High School in 1979, received a BA degree in accounting from Wofford College in 1983, and received my Juris Doctor degree from The University of South Carolina School of Law in 1986. My father owned and ran Heart's Restaurant in Union, SC from 1963-1995, managed it for many more years, and to this day can be found still making his secret hamburger sauce and greeting customers at 92. I watched him work eighty-hour weeks for most of my life and began working with him as a "curb hop" at age 7, happy to be near him. He instilled this same work ethic in me. During my thirty-six-year career, I have always been committed to my clients and have made myself available to them after hours and weekends as well. I would like to think that my work history has been one of consistency, stability, hard work and passion for my clients. One of my daily life habits is promptly and conscientiously returning phone calls and answering emails and letters. That being said, I am a family man, happiest when I am with my wife, children, new granddaughter, and extended family. I can usually be found at some point every week on the back of a tractor or working on our farm with my son.

I moved my family to Spartanburg in 1995 when our son started kindergarten at Pine Street Elementary, and we have loved being a part of the Spartanburg community ever since. I have been married to Gia Konduros Diamaduros for thirty-five years, and we have two married children and one precious grandchild. Gia has been on staff and the contemporary worship leader at Westminster Presbyterian Church since 2005, where we have worshiped as members for over 15 years.

I truly love the law and continue to pursue practicing with integrity daily. As my wife reminds me, it is how I live out my God-given calling. One thing I know to be true for me is that knowing and understanding the facts and law surrounding a case is needed, but spending the time to know the client and explain realistic expectations before taking on a case is the key to a successful practice. In addition to practicing law, I served on the Supreme Court Commission for Lawyer Conduct from 1993-2021 and the South Carolina State Ethics Commission from July 2000-May 2005. I have been a member of the Union Rotary Club (President 1999-2000) for approximately thirty-five years and the Wofford Terrier Club Board of Directors (President 2004-2005) for over twenty-five years. Some of the other organizations I have served are the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Board of Directors, the Workforce Development Board, the Union County United Way Board of Directors the Hillbrook Baseball Board of Directors, the South Carolina Bar Judicial Qualifications Commission 1999-2000 (Citizens Committee) and was a founding member of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers started in 1992.

I feel that my personal life- my Christian faith and my family- and all the life and work experiences that I have touched on above, give me the skills and experience necessary to be an excellent and passionate family court judge- who I hope and pray could make a real difference. In my heart and mind, I would like to give back to this profession at this point in my career. I have been in the criminal, civil, and family courtrooms in over half of the counties in the state and have tried hundreds of cases to verdict or ruling. I have handled over 1500 domestic cases in one-third of the counties in this state, many of which involved trials lasting from two to five days in duration. I believe having the extensive litigation experience that I have had in my career, coupled with common sense, "street smarts", knowledge of the statutory and case law of the family court, and passion for the law and the people involved, give me the ability to make a difference from the bench.

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: _____