



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Judge, Seat 6

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs.
Ms. Gina J. McAlhany

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.) No.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Berkeley

Business Address: 100 South Main Street, Suite M
Summerville, South Carolina 29483

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 843.832.8025
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1967
Place of Birth: Nashville, Tennessee
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 November 9, 1997 to Peter Them Thomason.

Never divorced, one 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) I attended the College of Charleston from August 1985 through May 1989. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

(b) I attended the University of South Carolina School of Law from August 1990 through May 1993. I graduated with a Juris Doctor degree.

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

(a) I received the Steinburg award (American Jurisprudence Award) in my third year of law school for receiving the highest grade in my workers compensation class.

(b) I participated in a juvenile clinic in Richland County Family Court in my third year of law school.

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) I was admitted to practice law in the State of South Carolina in November 1993. I took the South Carolina Bar Exam one (1) time in 1993 and passed.

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 1993 – current day. Solo practitioner and owner of Gina J. McAlhany, Inc. d/b/a Gina J. McAlhany Attorney at Law

I have been a solo practitioner from the day I began practicing law, maintaining my office in Summerville, South Carolina for the entirety of my practice. I have practiced as a private practitioner exclusively in family court and specifically in the Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston County Family Courts. I have handled all types of cases in

the family court including divorce, actions for separate support and maintenance, equitable distribution, custody, visitation, paternity, name changes, termination of parental rights, adoptions, settlement agreements, abuse and neglect cases and juvenile defense work.

On March 23, 1999 I became a certified Family Court mediator, and began mediating more frequently over the past eight (8) years. In 2018, I decided I would no longer serve as an attorney for parties in contested custodial cases as I have grown my mediation practice and would characterize my current practice as fifty (50%) percent mediations and fifty (50%) percent family court litigation.

As of June 2023, I have opened one hundred sixty-eight (168) total domestic and juvenile cases, inclusive of eighty-four (84) mediations.

I have always been solely responsible for the financial management of my law firm, including payroll, as well as sole management of my IOLTA trust account. I have always had a full time legal secretary or paralegal regarding daily administration of my office and assistance with clients and cases.

(b) September 1, 1995 – November 30, 1997

I served as the Dorchester County DSS attorney, prosecuting abuse and neglect cases through a contract position. I maintained my own office and my private practice with my individual staff and had a court docket every week for one half day, exclusive of any additional trial time or emergency hearings and had staffings at least one day per week at the Department of Social Services Office to prepare cases with the caseworkers. I was involved in the administration of these cases regarding notices, drafting of pleadings, orders, and subpoenas to include arguing an appeal in the Court of Appeals. I was not responsible for the financial management of the Department of Social Services in any manner.

(c) 1998, Adjunct Professor of Business Law, Trident Technical College

For one semester, I taught students participating in the paralegal program a course in business law at Trident Technical College in downtown Charleston. The course was essentially one of court procedures. I was responsible for the preparation of the lectures and materials, as well as testing and grading the students' work. I was not responsible for the financial management in any manner.

(d) January 2, 2006 – June 30, 2008, South Carolina Governor's Office, Attorney for Dorchester County guardian ad litem program

I served as the attorney for the volunteer guardians through the Governor's program in the abuse and neglect cases in Dorchester County as a contract attorney. I maintained my own office and my private practice with my staff. I participated in the weekly court trial docket in the abuse and neglect cases, in addition to additional time for trials. My

role was to advocate the position of the guardian ad litem appointed to represent the best interest of the children in the Department of Social Services cases. I was responsible for meeting with the volunteer guardians, preparing them for court, reviewing their written reports, and preparing them, as well as any evidence for trial. I was responsible for preparing legal motions and recall on one occasion preparing and successfully litigating a Rule to Show Cause against the Department of Social Services for failing to comply with a court order resulting in further harm to the children involved. I was not responsible for the financial management in any manner.

- (e) November 1993 – 1997 and 1998 to current, Juvenile Public Defender for Dorchester County

I have served as the attorney representing indigent juveniles in the Family Court twenty-seven (27) of my thirty (30) years of practice. I have maintained my private practice and my own office and staff, and am responsible upon my notice of appointment for all further aspects of the juvenile proceeding, including Rule 5 Motions, letters to juveniles, meeting with juveniles, meeting with parents, interagency staffings, representation of the juvenile in all hearings from detention, full probable cause hearings, adjudications, disposition, and review hearings. I appear in court once weekly on the regular half-day docket, in addition to initial detention hearings as a courtesy and statutory detention hearings thereafter if I am appointed as counsel. Saving my initial appointment through the Public Defender's Office, I handle all further administration of the file until closure in the Defender data system. I am in no manner responsible for any financial management.

- 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.

I have practiced in all areas of Family Court since the beginning of my practice in November 1993, including cases of divorce, equitable division of property, alimony, child custody, termination of parental rights, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice.

I have handled domestic cases which have been amicable under the circumstances from the inception, including the preparation of written settlement agreements with custodial and equitable division issues and thereafter filing and obtaining final court approval of the agreements. I have handled high conflict cases involving custody and modification of custody based on a substantial change in circumstances. I have

handled contested domestic cases regarding issues of alimony and equitable distribution, as well as stepparent adoption cases by consent. The majority of my contested filings would include motions for temporary relief, which I have prepared and argued. I have filed and litigated actions regarding custody or visitation for a de facto custodian/psychological parent, contested termination of parental rights and adoptions, as well as actions for grandparent visitation due to the death of a parent. I have prepared prenuptial agreements. I have also handled adult name changes.

I prepare qualified domestic relations orders for equitable division of retirement accounts not only for my clients, but I am also hired to prepare these orders for attorneys and clients generally in the Lowcountry area. I handle approximately three (3) to five (5) QDROs a month at the current time.

In 2018, I made the conscious decision to step away from handling contested custody cases, as although I have been a licensed mediator since 1999, my mediation practice has grown tremendously, and I now mediate one hundred (100) to one hundred fifty (150) cases a year.

As set forth above, I have not only represented defendants in abuse and neglect cases, but I have also been the county attorney in the prosecution of these cases as well as the attorney for the volunteer guardian ad litem program in the abuse and neglect cases.

I continue to maintain the juvenile public defender position, as I have for almost the entirety of my practice representing juveniles charged with status offenses to murder, including waiver hearings, one of which I have been recently assigned.

In the past five (5) years, I appear at least once or twice a week before a Family Court judge both for juvenile cases and for domestic cases.

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 in the Family Court once or twice per week on average.

13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
 - (a) civil: 0%
 - (b) criminal: 0%
 - (c) domestic: 100% (inclusive of juvenile proceedings and family court mediations)
 - (d) other: 0%

14. During the past five years
 - (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 50%.

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

Zero in the last five years.

(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.)

In the past five years, as 50% of my practice is Family Court litigation and 50% is devoted to mediating family court cases, I would estimate 40% of my litigation Family Court cases resolved after a motion, plea, or settlement. The number of cases would be dependent on the number of files I handled each year. By example as of June 2023, I have opened one hundred sixty-eight (168) cases, eighty-four (84) which are mediations.

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? N/A.

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-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) The State of South Carolina v. R.S.F., a minor, 2015-JU-18-274, 2015-JU-18-275, and 2015-JU-18-276

My client, a juvenile, was charged in 2015 with murder, armed robbery, and burglary second when he was fourteen (14) years old. The State filed a waiver petition to seek to waive him to General Sessions court. There were a sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year old co-defendants who were charged as adults and were each sentenced to approximately twenty-five (25) years in prison.

My client had not finished eighth grade, had never been adjudicated in the Family Court, was one of eight (8) children, whose mother although caring, had her own limitations. I hired my own psychologist as an expert witness for his waiver hearing regarding my client's treatability, risk, and rehabilitation. He was diagnosed with PTSD from the event. In the spring of 2017, after the first day and one-half day of trial, I was offered a plea to allow my client to remain and be adjudicated in Family Court. After almost two years in May 2017, his dispositional hearing was held, and he was given a suspended indeterminate commitment sentence with alternative placement for twelve (12) months. The victim's family had been present for all of his proceedings and did not object to his sentencing.

The resolution of this case prevented a fourteen-year-old from receiving an adult sentence in an adult prison system, and allowed him the opportunity to receive the services to rehabilitate and return to the community.

(b) South Carolina Department of Social Services v. Kimberly Love, Jason Buckley and Kelvin Mendoza, 2012-DR-18-246

I was appointed by the Family Court to represent the Defendant Mother. Ms. Love was charged with murder of her special needs child and her three (3) other children were removed from her custody by the Department of Social Services. Early in the case, I was able to have her three children moved from foster care to a relative placement to allow her supervised visitation. Ms. Love's deceased son had a congenital condition which did not allow him to speak nor ambulate and he had a history of seizures. Ms. Love's three other children who were removed from her custody were straight "A" students and there was no prior Department of Social Services history, nor criminal history as to her and her children. After multiple hearings, deposition of the pathologist, review from a second pathologist, the case was concluded with no required treatment nor findings and her children were returned to her custody. Ms. Love's special needs child was loved and was cared for by his mother. It was later determined her son had a seizure and died in his sleep. Ultimately in January 2017, the murder charge against Ms. Love was also dismissed by the solicitor.

(c) The State of South Carolina v. D.W., a minor, 2021-JU-18-001, and 2021-JU-18-092

This juvenile came into the juvenile system in 2021, initially with assault and battery third degree charges, but continued to accrue multiple charges during the next twenty-four (24) months, although ultimately not adjudicated on the charges. I was aware that he had seizures in the past, but they had been in remission. Based on my multiple interactions with my client and based on his inability to control his actions or process his thoughts at times, although he was articulate, I believed there needed to be further evaluation. I appeared at approximately fifteen (15) hearings for this child, and ultimately was able to have a neuropsychological evaluation ordered by the Family Court. The neuropsychological evaluation found he had a cerebral condition that affected his executive functioning, and therefore his reasoning, if in a heightened or agitated state. As a result, in May 2022, I was able to have his adjudications vacated and my client committed to the Department of Mental Health for placement and treatment rather than remain in the juvenile system.

(d) Steven Singletary v. Verlie C. Vanzant f/k/a Verlie C. Fender, 2010-DR-08-893 and 2012-DR-08-871

I represented a father in a custody proceeding. In his initial Final Order, my client had represented himself, leaving him susceptible to the mother and his child relocating, which is what occurred with a relocation to Texas. Neither parent was unfit. An agreement was reached in mediation, which allowed the mother and child to remain in Texas; however, the mother withdrew and the case was scheduled for trial. At the commencement of trial, I was able to make motions regarding exclusion of witnesses based on the failure of counsel to comply with discovery and responsive pleadings, and as a result, settlement negotiations ensued which allowed the child to remain in South Carolina in the custody of my client, provided if the mother relocated back to South Carolina from Texas, the parties would share custodial time. Subsequent to the Final Order, the Mother filed a second action with a new attorney seeking to vacate the prior Final Order, as she did not want to return to South Carolina, claiming she was forced/coerced into the agreement due to her prior counsel's representation. I represented Father again in this action. My client maintained custody of his daughter in South Carolina.

- (e) Sherrie Winn v. Alicia Cates and Donald Winn, Sr. and Sean Rucker and Amanda Rucker v. George Cates v. Alicia Cates, Donald Winn, Sr. and Sherrie Winn, 2011-DR-18-328

This was a complex custody case involving a paternal grandmother, maternal grandfather, mother, father, and my clients who were unrelated third-parties and had assumed significant caretaking responsibility for the child. I filed an action on behalf of my clients seeking custody of the child as psychological parents/defacto custodians and moved to intervene in the pending case with the parental grandmother and biological parents. Subsequently, the maternal grandfather moved to intervene and became a party in the case seeking custody. After multiple motions, pretrial hearings, and discovery, the case resolved with my clients maintaining primary physical and legal custody of the child until and unless the father completed a reunification plan and conditions. Provided the father was able to comply and maintain the conditions of the transition plan, primary custody would return to Father, however, my clients maintained joint custody with specific custodial rights, such as the child would continue care with the current pediatrician, my clients would continue as the childcare provider, and the child would attend private school of my clients choosing if they were financially responsible for same. Ultimately due to this case, this child was given a loving and stable home with my clients.

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) Dorchester County Department of Social Services, Respondent v. Clyde Mitchell and Krista Atkinson, Defendants, of whom Clyde Mitchell is Appellant, (S.C. Ct. App. heard June 5, 1996)
- (b) Department of Social Services v. Miller, Court of Appeals, date of decision October 14, 1996, Case No. 324 S.C. 445, 477 S.E.2d 476 (Ct. App. 1996)
- (c) S.C. Dept. of Social Services v. C.H., Court of Appeals, date of decision October 28, 2009, Case No. 386 S.C. 58, 685 S.E.2d 835 (Ct. App. 2009)
17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
- (a) I have not handled a criminal appeal.
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.
- N/A.
20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

- (a) I was admitted to practice law in the State of South Carolina in November, 1993.
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 gave a lecture in 2019 at Charleston Southern University to graduate and undergraduate students in the criminal justice program as to juvenile waiver proceedings.
- (b) I served as an adjunct professor for one semester at Trident Technical College in Charleston, teaching business law in their paralegal program in 1998.
- (c) I gave a presentation to foster parents in 1997 at their foster parent symposium.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

Please see attached reports for the past five (5) years.

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) Final Order, Family Court of First Judicial Circuit, 2013. I was the sole author.
- (b) Final Order Approving Agreement and Decree of Divorce, Family Court of Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2022. I was the sole author, subject to certain requested modifications by the Defendant's attorney.

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.

(a) Martindale-Hubbell, Distinguished, Peer Rated for High Professional Achievement, Client Champion Silver 2023.

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 Family Law American Inn of Court, Master
- (b) Dorchester County Bar Association
- (c) South Carolina Women Lawyers 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, I have not held public office.

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, I have not.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

No, I have not.

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, I am not.

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, I have not.

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 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.

None of the above.

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, I have not.

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?

I have not spent any money at this time.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

N/A.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

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

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

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

No.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

(a) Yes, I am covered by malpractice insurance and have had coverage since 1993 to current date.

(b) I have never had a tail policy.

(c) My malpractice insurance policy is through Continental Casualty (CNA) Insurance Company with \$250,000 dollars of coverage per claim and aggregate coverage of \$500,000 dollars. My deductible is \$2,000 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.

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) The Honorable Jocelyn B. Cate (Retired)
[Redacted]
- (b) Mark A. Leiendecker, Esquire
First Circuit Public Defender
[Redacted]
- (c) Benjamin A. LaFond, Esquire
The Lafond Law Firm, P.A.
[Redacted]
- (d) Mark Wise, Esquire
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Charleston Southern University
[Redacted]
- (e) Gregory A. DeLuca, Esquire
DeLuca Maucher, L.L.P.
[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.

No. I believe I created a Facebook account in my name years ago as I wanted access to my neighborhood's Facebook page, but I have never utilized the account.

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 do not use social media.

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) United States Tennis Association

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.

In completing my application for my candidacy, it required me to reflect on my legal career as a family court practitioner. Throughout this process, it reminded me of the impact the Family Court has in the lives of not only the adult litigants, but on the lives of the children who are brought into the Family Court through custody actions, abuse and neglect proceedings, or as juveniles. I believe having practiced in all areas of the Family Court, I

have a recognition of the tremendous responsibility I would have as a judge to those that appeared 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: _____