



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Court of Appeals, Seat 9

1. Name: The Honorable Matthew Price Turner
Mrs.
Ms.

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Laurens

Business Address: PO Box 325, Laurens, SC 29360

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 864-984-4416
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1978
Place of Birth: Greenville, 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:

- (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.

Family Status: Married to Megan Wadford Turner on June 8, 2002

Meg's occupation: Business Development-Regional Lead, Thermo Fisher Company

Never divorced, Two (2) children

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- attended August 1996-May 2000; received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (Management and Marketing)
 - (b) Cumberland School of Law- attended August 2000-May 2001; transferred to the University of South Carolina School of Law
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law- attended August 2001-May 2003; received a 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.

N/A

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- admitted 2003

Passed Bar Exam on first attempt

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) Turner and Burney, P.C., Associate, August 2003-2007
- (b) Turner and Burney, P.C., Partner, 2007 –March 2018
- (c) Family Court judge-March 2018-present

Turner and Burney was a general practice firm. During my time as a practicing attorney, we had offices in Laurens and Simpsonville. I represented clients in cases in Common Pleas, General Sessions, Probate Court, Family Court, and Magistrate's Court. I also represented clients in appellate matters and argued several appeals to the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. I was involved in the management of the practice, including the staff and finances. I was also the attorney responsible for overseeing the firms' trust account for many years prior to my election to the Family Court bench.

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.

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: During my time in practice, my schedule varied from week to week. I may have one (1) court appearance one (1) week, and three (3)-four (4) appearances the next. There were also some weeks that I did not have any court appearances.
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: 20%
 - (c) domestic: 50%
 - (d) other: 10%
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?

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

80%

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) Kevin Bragg v. Morgan Bragg, 2011 WL 11735683 (Ct. App. 2011)- I represented the mother in this post-divorce action. Father filed an action alleging that there was a substantial change in circumstances which he claimed warranted an order granting him sole custody. This case involved several temporary and/or emergency hearings and a two (2) day final hearing. Father asked for temporary custody on three (3) separate occasions during the pendency of the action. Father alleged that Mother had exposed the minor child to the use of illicit drugs and the excessive consumption of alcohol. Father further alleged that mother was involved in relationships with younger men and exposed the child to these relationships overnight. Father presented several witnesses who testified that mother was exposing the child to numerous young men and having them spend the night with the child present. Father's witnesses also testified that mother supplied these underage men with alcohol and that she excessively consumed alcohol while the child was in her care. We were able to establish that father's witnesses were either not credible or were biased. After the two-day trial, the court found that the child was doing well in school, was in no danger while in mother's care, and was well taken care of by mother. As such, the court awarded sole custody to mother.

Father appealed the Family Court's decision alleging that the court erred in failing to find a substantial change in circumstances. I also represented mother in the appeal. The Court of Appeals affirmed the Family Court's decision.

(b) State of South Carolina v. Hunter – This was a DJJ action. I represented the juvenile who was charged with lynching. The juvenile was a fine, young man who was in the eighth (8th) grade at the time of the charge. He was in Honors classes and played on the school football team. The juvenile and several other young men were accused of attacking a friend in the locker room. The victim's mother worked for a local law firm and was extremely upset with my client. She was very involved in the case and sought full prosecution. The juvenile was suspended for ten (10) days as a result of the allegations. The case went to trial. At trial, I was able to establish that there was no proof my client was involved in the attack despite the State witness's prior testimony to the contrary. The trial judge granted my motion for directed verdict and dismissed the case. It was extremely rewarding to be able to assist this nice, young man.

(c) Richard Aiken v. World Finance Corp., 373 S.C. 144, 644 S.E.2d 705 (2007)- This was a civil action against World Finance. Mr. Aiken borrowed money from World Finance, and after his loan was paid in full, a World Finance employee misused the personal financial information of Mr. Aiken and others. My former partner represented Mr. Aiken at the trial level. World Finance filed a motion to compel arbitration based upon the arbitration

agreement contained in the loan application. The trial judge denied the motion to compel arbitration and World Finance appealed. My former partner asked me to handle the appeal. I conducted the research, drafted the briefs, and argued at the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. Both appellate courts affirmed the trial judge. This case was featured in South Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

(d) Jarred Linton v. Chelsea Calvert, 2013-DR-30-461- This case involved the custody of a young child who was born out of wedlock. The parents were also very young. I represented the father who filed this action seeking custody. The child was less than one (1) year old at the time the case was filed and had lived with mother since birth. Father alleged that mother could not provide a stable home for the child, that she had no routine for child, that she was exposing the child to different men, and that she was putting her personal interests above the child's. The parents lived several hours apart. Mother alleged that father only wanted custody so that he didn't have to drive hours to visit his child. She also alleged that father was not capable of taking care of the young child. At the temporary hearing, mother submitted an affidavit which included many false and/or misleading allegations. Based upon the same, mother was granted temporary custody and father was granted one (1) weekend per month visitation. The final hearing was tried over the course of two (2) days. As a result of the deposition of the mother and other discovery obtained, father was able to establish that mother was not credible. Mother acknowledged on cross-examination that she made numerous misrepresentations and false statements in the affidavit she submitted at the temporary hearing. We were also able to establish that father was a fit parent who was capable of caring for the child on a full-time basis. The court awarded father sole custody and attorneys fees. This case was very rewarding for me due to the fact that we were able to obtain sole custody for a young, single father. It was also rewarding to be able to disprove the many false and misleading allegations mother made at the temporary hearing which led to her obtaining sole custody on a temporary basis.

(e) James Richard Miles v. Theodora Miles, 393 S.C. 111, 711 S.E.2d 880 (2011)- This was a modification action in which my firm represented the former husband ("Husband"). Husband sought a modification of the previously approved agreement which required him to maintain health and dental insurance on his ex-wife ("Wife"). The agreement also contained a provision stating that the parties waived alimony. My former partner represented husband at the trial level. The trial court found the fact that wife waived alimony in the agreement unambiguously showed the intent of the parties that the health insurance maintenance provision was not support, and therefore, not modifiable. I was asked to handle the appeal. I handled all aspects of the appeal, including arguing the case at the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court without oral argument. The Supreme Court reversed, holding not only that the health insurance maintenance provision was a modifiable incident of support, but that husband established a substantial change in circumstances warranting a modification of the provision.

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) James Richard Miles v. Theodora Miles, 393 S.C. 111, 711 S.E.2d 880 (2011)

- (b) Duckett v. Goforth, 374 S.C. 446, 649 S.E.2d 72 (Ct. App. 2007)
- (c) Simpson v. World Finance Corporation of South Carolina, 373 S.C. 178, 644 S.E.2d 723 (2007)
- (d) Kevin Bragg v. Morgan Bragg, 2011 WL 11735683 (Ct. App. 2011)
- (e) Kathleen Lollis and Linda Campbell v. Lisa Dutton, et. al., 421 S.C. 467, 807 S.E.2d 723 (Ct. App. 2017)

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 v. Raymond Franklin. Unpublished Opinion No: 2014-UP-110 (Ct. App. Filed March 12, 2014)
- (b)
- (c)
- (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.

I currently serve as Family Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1. I was initially elected on February 7, 2018 and began serving on March 26, 2018. I was re-elected to this position in 2019.

The Family Court, in general, has jurisdiction to hear the following types of cases: actions for divorce, legal separation, separate support and maintenance; actions for the annulment of marriages; actions for child support and alimony, as well as actions to enforce the same; actions for name changes of children and adults; actions for paternity; actions for custody and/or visitation of children; actions related to the abuse of children and vulnerable adults; actions involving juveniles charged with criminal offenses; actions for the termination of parental rights and adoption.

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.

(a) Reginald Swain v. Daniel Bollinger, 435 S.C 280, 866 S.E.2d 923 (2022). This case involved a request by grandfather to terminate the rights of the child's father and to allow him to adopt his grandchild. Grandfather and his wife had custody of their grandchild and raised the child for years as both parents were abusing drugs. The grandparents did not want to terminate their own daughters' rights so only grandfather sought to adopt the child. Granting the adoption would lead to grandfather and his daughter being listed as the child's parents on the birth certificate. I denied the request for termination of father's parental rights and adoption by grandfather. Grandfather appealed and the Court of Appeals

affirmed my decision. Grandfather then appealed to the Supreme Court who reversed my decision in an opinion authored by Justice Hearn.

(b) Elena Glinyanay v. William Tobias, 437 S.C. 137, 871 S.E.2d 193 (Ct. App. 2022). This was a highly contested custody modification action brought by the mother based on serious allegations of misconduct by father. It was tried over the course of four (4) days. I granted mother sole custody and suspended father's custody. Father appealed my decision. The Court of Appeals affirmed in part and reversed in part.

(c) Amanda Murphy v. Monte Murphy, 2023 WL 3093093 (Ct. App. 2023). This was a custody modification action that was tried over the course of three (3) days. The original order granted the parties joint custody with alternating weekly visitation. I modified the prior order granting the parties joint custody with mother being designated primary custodial parent. I also modified the alternating weekly visitation schedule. The Court of Appeals affirmed my decision in an unpublished opinion.

(d) Katie Buist v. Michael Buist, 2007-DR-01-254. This case was complicated from a factual and procedural standpoint. The case was initially tried by the Honorable Billy A. Tunstall, Jr. in 2009. Husband appealed, arguing that the trial court erred in the apportionment of the marital estate and the award of attorney's fees. In 2012, the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's order regarding the apportionment of the marital estate and remanded the issue. Husband then appealed the issue of attorney's fees to the Supreme Court. In 2014, the Supreme Court found that the issue regarding attorney's fees was not preserved for appeal. Therefore, this matter was remanded to the trial Court in 2014 for further proceedings solely on the issue of the apportionment of the marital estate. Judge Tunstall passed away while this case was on appeal. The case came before me for a contested trial in 2019. Neither party appealed my decision despite insinuation from both sides that any decision issued by the trial court would be appealed again.

(e) South Carolina Department of Social Services v. Caressa Norris, et. al., 2023 WL 3451531 (Ct. App. 2023). This was a highly contested termination of parental rights action that resulted in a three (3) day trial. I issued an order terminating the parental rights of both parents. Both parents appealed. The Court of Appeals affirmed my decision in an unpublished opinion.

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.

South Carolina, 2003

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 2018, I spoke at the “Lessons from the Bench” CLE presented by the Newberry County Bar. My topic was “Getting to know the New Judge” which was a question and answer session to allow practitioners in my Circuit the opportunity to ask questions regarding my preferences for handling cases, etc.
 - b) I spoke at the 2018 Bench Bar seminar on the topic of “Problematic Practice in Family Court.”
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

See attached

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

N/A

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) Buist v. Buist, 2007-DR-01-254. In this case, I instructed both attorneys to submit proposed orders. I utilized portions of both proposed orders in my drafting of the final order, but included many of my own additions and modifications. Please see attached.
- (b) Mollohan v. Mollohan, 2020-DR-36-126. In this case, I instructed both attorneys to submit proposed orders. I utilized portions of both proposed orders in my drafting of the final order, but included many of my own additions and modifications. Please see attached.

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.

Martindale Hubbell- BV Distinguished (2010)

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
- (b) Laurens County Bar; President 2006-2018
- (c) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges

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.

No

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

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

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

No

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

- a. June 22, 2023- Resume Paper \$29.00
b. June 29, 2023- Postage \$105.84

Yes, I have reported my expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees.

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.

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.

N/A

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.

See information attached to the Confidential Financial Statement

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.

No

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

No

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.

I do not recall ever being sued by a client.

In 2018, I was one (1) of many Defendants named in Gary Thomas and Ferris Harvley v. SCDSS, et. al. (Civil Action No: 6.18-cv-03140) filed in the United States District Court of South Carolina. Plaintiff's filed this action seeking monetary damages for various reasons. I was never served with a copy of the pleadings, but learned of the case from a colleague who was also named as a Defendant. It appears that the only allegation against me was that I erred in denying the Plaintiff's motion to vacate an order issued by another judge and erred in not granting a motion to dismiss. The Federal case was dismissed by order dated March 29, 2019. Plaintiff's filed a motion to reconsider which was denied on May 13, 2019. Plaintiffs then filed an appeal which was dismissed on August 6, 2019.

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.

N/A

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No

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

I have not asked any third party to contact members of the General Assembly. I have contacted some members to notify them of my intent to run and mailed an introduction letter to the members, except for those on the judicial merit select commission.

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) Danny R. Smith, Esq.
Smith Legal Group
[Redacted]

(b) Joseph W. McGowan, III
[Redacted]

(c) Brian Harlan
[Redacted]

(d) Jason Hucks
Hucks Financial Services
[Redacted]

(e) Adam Taylor
[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) Twitter: [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 have a Facebook page and a Twitter account. My Facebook page is private. I believe a Judge has to be very careful in using social media to avoid the appearance of bias and to avoid bringing disrespect to the Judiciary. However, I rarely make any posts or comments on Facebook or Twitter other than to wish someone happy anniversary, happy birthday, etc., and have not posted anything in years. I am certainly more cautious now as to what I say and/or do on social media and will continue to do so.

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) First Baptist Church, Laurens

1) Board of Deacons: 2009-2012; 2014-2017, 2019-2022

Board Chair (2016-2017; 2022)

2) Former Vice-Chair of Pastor Search Committee

(b) YMCA of Greater Laurens- member and former Board Member

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 always been a driven, goal-oriented person. When I commit to do something, I put in one hundred percent (100%) effort. I pride myself on having a strong work ethic. To that end, I have no problem working long hours to ensure that the task is completed thoroughly and precisely. I have continued that practice on the bench. I am relatively young and have the energy and motivation needed to be an effective judge.

I have served on various boards in my community and my church, and have volunteered with many organizations and ministries in my community. My experiences serving on these boards, coaching, and volunteering have given me the opportunity to work with adults and children from all walks of life which has taught me to always be open minded.

During my fifteen (15) years in private practice, I had the pleasure of working with clients through some of the most difficult times they ever faced. It was truly a rewarding experience to help my clients navigate through those tough times.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege for me to serve as Family Court judge for the past five (5) years. Although some days can be sad and/or challenging, I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience so far.

Throughout my life, I have made a conscience effort to be kind and respectful to others, and to treat them the way I want to be treated. I have continued that practice on the bench. I

truly believe that I have been as fair and patient with lawyers and litigants as anyone can be and I will continue to be fair and patient if elected to the Court of Appeals.

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: _____