



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

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

1. Name: The Honorable Grace Gilchrist Knie, I currently hold the position of Circuit Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2. I am seeking re-election to that position.

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Not Applicable.

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

Yes, I currently hold the position of Circuit Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit,
Seat 2.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Spartanburg.

Business Address: The Spartanburg County Courthouse
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (864) 596-2285
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1964
Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia
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.

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
Married.
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
August 16th, 2003 to Patrick Eugene Knie, Attorney.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
Not Applicable.
- (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.
Previously divorced on October 30th, 2000, from John F. Dunbar, Jr., in Spartanburg County, the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Grace Gilchrist Dunbar was the movant for divorce based upon separation for one-year without co-habitation.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.
Not applicable.
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) Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina, Bachelor of Arts Degree, 1982 - 1986;
(b) University of South Carolina, School of Law, Juris Doctor Degree, 1986 - 1989.
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.
- University of South Carolina School of Law: 1986 -1989
(a) Chairperson, Legislative Council
(b) Vice President, Student Bar Association
(c) Women's Law Association (President)
(d) Orientation Committee (Chairperson)
(e) American Bar Association/Law Student Division,(ABA/LSD)Representative and 4th Circuit Lt. Governor for Membership
(f) Member, Outstanding Young Women of America
(g) Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), (Community Service Fraternity).
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, 1989. 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) Kermit S. King, Attorney, Columbia, South Carolina, Clerkship August 1988-June 1989;

Upon graduating from law school in the Summer of 1989, while studying to take the bar exam in August, I continued to work for Kermit S. King, Attorney at Law, in Columbia. Mr. King's practice primarily focused on domestic litigation. My job responsibilities were to research aspects of the law as instructed, to assist in organizing files and accompanying him and other lawyers in the firm to court, when necessary. In addition, I performed general clerkship duties. The position ended at the conclusion of the bar exam preparation and upon my taking a position as Law Clerk to The Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge.

- (b) The Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Law Clerk, August 1989- August 1990;

I obtained the position of Law Clerk to The Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Spartanburg, SC, in August 1989. I had the opportunity to shadow Judge Stephen in his court room and in his office for one year. I traveled with him while he rotated throughout the state when he held court in Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia, Aiken, Cherokee, Spartanburg and other counties. I had a unique and distinct career opportunity which was priceless in gaining valuable experience and insight into the practice of law and in being a Circuit Court Judge. During that year, I sat beside Judge Stephen on the bench, in the courtroom, daily and was able to observe first-hand General Sessions Court and Common Pleas Court. He had me research legal issues, assist in writing decisions and had me serve as the conduit of information between him and counsel appearing before him concerning decisions, calendaring, and scheduling.

- (c) Bruce Foster, P.A., Spartanburg, South Carolina, Associate, 1990-1992;

In August of 1990 I became an associate of Bruce Foster, P.A. in Spartanburg. The practice was a general litigation practice with a focus on domestic litigation, and plaintiff's personal injury. As an associate attorney, I initially served as co-counsel with Mr. Foster in on-going, pending litigation. I then accumulated my own clients, representing them in both family court and civil litigation, and some criminal defense, as well as, employment discrimination and sexual harassment litigation. At the conclusion of two years, I continued to share office space with Mr. Foster but, formed my own firm as Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, P.A.

- (d) Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, PA, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Attorney, 1992-2004;

In 1992 through 2004, I had a general litigation practice handling domestic litigation, plaintiff's personal injury, workers' compensation, employment discrimination and criminal defense work. During this time, Mr. Foster's health began to deteriorate, and he retired. I purchased and renovated an office building in Spartanburg and moved my practice to a location approximately one block from Mr. Foster's office. I was a sole practitioner and solely handled the administrative and financial management of the law firm which required that I was in charge of payroll, payroll tax deposits, quarterly and annual tax returns, and I was in charge of the management of the law

firm's trust account/s. A CPA firm calculated payroll, tax deposits, and withholding amounts.

- (e) City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, South Carolina, City Prosecutor, 1995-2010; part-time position;

In 1995, I took the position as the City Prosecutor for the City of Spartanburg. I held that position until 2010. It was part-time. My job responsibilities included the prosecution of all criminal jury trials for the City of Spartanburg. The cases ranged from minor traffic citations to more serious charges of Criminal Domestic Violence, Driving Under the Influence 1st offense and Driving Under Suspension. There were multi-day terms of court on a monthly basis. I dealt with attorneys representing defendants, as well as, pro-se litigants on a regular basis. Additionally, I served as legal counsel at City Council meetings when the City Attorney could not be present. I handled most of the appeals from the Spartanburg County Municipal Court to the Circuit Court.

- (f) Grace Gilchrist Knie, PA, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Attorney, 2004 – February 23, 2017.

In 2004, although the nature of my practice remained the same, after my marriage, I changed the name of my law practice and professional association to Grace Gilchrist Knie, P.A. Approximately 6-8 years later I transitioned the nature of my practice from contested domestic litigation to Social Security Disability in addition to personal injury. I was a sole practitioner and solely handled the administrative and financial management of the law firm which required that I was in charge of payroll, payroll tax deposits, quarterly and annual tax returns, and I was in charge of the management of the law firm's trust account/s. A CPA firm calculated payroll, tax deposits, and withholding amounts.

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.
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:
 - (b) state:
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:
 - (b) criminal:
 - (c) domestic:
 - (d) other:
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?

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)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

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)
 - (b)
 - (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)
 - (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.

Yes, I was elected on February 1, 2017, by the SC General Assembly and took the oath on February 24th, 2017, for the position of Circuit Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2. The Circuit Court is a court of general trial jurisdiction and limited appellate jurisdiction from the Probate Court, Magistrate Court and Municipal Court in South Carolina. I was re-elected to the same position on February 7th, 2018.

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) Farr v. Wan, et.al., 2013-CP-42-02404
This action was brought as a medical negligence case in which it was alleged that the physician, a pulmonologist due to a failure to diagnose breached the standard of care when she failed to identify an abnormal density in the decedent's right lung. Suit was brought against the physician and her employer medical group. The case was tried by jury trial for one week in the fall of 2020. There were several expert witnesses from various parts of the United States called by both parties. The trial was challenging due to the constraints of the COVID pandemic. There were challenges and complications regarding jury selection, jury management, and travel restrictions for witnesses. Ultimately it was agreed that several expert witnesses would be allowed to testify virtually. The jury trial verdict was for the Defendants.
- (b) State v. Mark Anthony Gilbert, 2019-GS-42-1035
This criminal jury trial involved allegations by the victim, a daughter against her biological father of criminal sexual conduct. The Defendant was charged with four counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the Second Degree. The evidence presented by the State included the testimony of the victim, and other family members. The State presented no physical evidence. The case was tried for four days. The jury found the Defendant guilty on all charges. He was sentenced to 25 years in the SC Department of Corrections and was required to register as a Sex Offender.
- (c) Keith Bookman v. Jason Brian Buffkin, 2018-CP-40-6147
The parties in this action were involved in a motor vehicle collision on Interstate 77 North in 2018. Plaintiff was working in an interstate construction zone, driving a message board truck, and Defendant, driving under the influence, collided with the attenuator on the back of Plaintiff's truck. Plaintiff suffered personal injuries. Plaintiff brought a claim for negligence and sought actual and punitive damages. Plaintiff resolved his case against the at-fault insurance carrier on a covenant not to execute and proceeded at trial against the UIM carrier. Plaintiff's demand had been for the limits of coverage. In September of 2021, the case was tried for four days. At trial, Defendant admitted negligence but disputed that Plaintiff was injured or suffered any damages as a result of the collision. The parties presented expert testimony via video conference and in person from an orthopedic surgeon, a toxicologist, and a biomechanical expert. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the Plaintiff for \$12.5 million dollars, \$3.5 million dollars in actual damages and \$9 million dollars in punitive damages.
- (d) State v. Christian Thomas McCall, 2018-GS-46-03262, 2018-GS-46-03265, 2018-GS-46-03267 and 2018-GS-46-03269
This action arose in 2018 from a domestic dispute between husband and wife in which a 911 call was made from the residence of the victim and the Defendant. The Defendant fled the scene on foot and to apprehend him, a chase ensued by law enforcement. When cornered, the Defendant killed one officer and wounded three others. The Defendant pled guilty to Murder and three counts of Attempted Murder. He received a life sentence, three consecutive thirty-year sentences and a consecutive five-year sentence. This case was further complicated due to the significant public and press interest in this case, and the press coverage of the plea and sentencing hearing which lasted for several hours.
- (e) Carnell Davis v. The State of South Carolina, 1991-GS-42-1126 & 1991-GS-42-1723

This matter came before the Court for a bench trial on resentencing pursuant to Aiken v. Byars, 410 S.C. 534, 765 S.E.2d 572 (2014). Petitioner filed his petition and the Circuit Court of Spartanburg County was vested with exclusive jurisdiction to hear the petition by Order of the Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. A hearing on the petition was conducted in August 2018. In 1991, the Petitioner committed murder and shot a Spartanburg City Police Officer. Petitioner was indicted and pled guilty to Murder and Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill. The Petitioner received a life sentence with parole on the Murder charge and he received a twenty-year consecutive sentence on the Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill charge. At the time of the commission of the crimes, the Petitioner was seventeen years old. Petitioner sought relief pursuant to Aiken v. Byars, 410 S.C. 534, 765 S.E.2d 572 (2014). However, the law of South Carolina at the time of Petitioner's conviction provided for possibility of parole being granted for persons sentenced to life terms. Based on information obtained from the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, since first becoming eligible for parole in 2011, Petitioner had at least four prior parole hearings and subsequent to the time of the re-sentencing hearing the Defendant would again be eligible for parole consideration. Because the Petitioner's original life sentence made him eligible for parole pursuant to South Carolina law, he was not entitled to resentencing pursuant to Aiken v. Byars, 410 S.C. 534, 765 S.E.2d 572 (2014).

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) All South Carolina State Courts, admitted November 15th, 1989; SC Bar# 12873;
 - (b) US District Court, for the District South Carolina admitted June 17th, 1991; Federal Bar # 5337.

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 lectured at the 2002 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Court Visitation and Custody Issues (Excluding Patel);
 - (b) I have lectured at the 2003 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section, on the subject What Family Court Judges Want at Temporary Hearings;
 - (c) I have lectured at the 2004 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Law- Case Law Update, September 2003 -July 2004;
 - (d) I have lectured at the 2005 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Law- Case Law Update, September 2004 -July 2005;
 - (e) In 2007 I chaired the Family Law Section of the SCAJ and enlisted speakers for the CLE presentation. I presided over and moderated the Family Law presentation at the 2007 Annual Convention;
 - (f) I have lectured as a judicial panelist at the SC Bar Association CLE held in Spartanburg on the subject of 7th Circuit Tips from the Bench, May , 2018;
 - (g) I enlisted speakers for the JCLE presentation and moderated the JCLE presentation for the SC Circuit Judges' Association Annual Conference in May 2019;

- (h) I served as co-presenter at the SC Judicial Conference September 2019, for the introduction of speaker Karen Korematsu, Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute regarding Korematsu v. United States, 323 U.S. 214 (1944);
 - (i) I made a presentation at the ABOTA SC Chapter Meeting, March 2020, as judicial panelist to discuss Attorney Conducted Voir Dire in South Carolina;
 - (j) I have lectured as a judicial panelist at the SC Bar Association CLE held in Spartanburg on the subject of 7th Circuit Tips from the Bench, May 2022;
 - (k) I have participated as a panelist in several presentations by the NCSI (National Courts and Sciences Institute) in my capacity of SC Judicial Representative 2018-present.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
See Attachment Hereto.
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.)
Not applicable.
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) AV Preeminent Rating Martindale -Hubbell in Legal Ability and Ethical Standards;
 - (b) Best Lawyers in America, Member;
 - (c) Super Lawyers, Member;
 - (d) Litigation Counsel of America Trial Lawyer Honorary Society Fellow.
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) Spartanburg County Bar Association;
President, 2012; Vice President, 2011; Executive Committee member, 2009 -2013;
Chairperson, Spartanburg County Bar's Cinderella Prom Dress Project 2008-2013;
 - (b) SC Bar Association 1989 - Present;
Member, Judicial Qualifications Committee 2012 - January 2016;
Member, Solo and Small Firm Section
 - (c) American Bar Association;
 - (d) Association of SC Circuit Judges;
 - (e) NCSI (National Courts and Sciences Institute) SC Judicial Representative
 - (f) SCWLA.

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.

Not Applicable.

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.

None.

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

Yes, I ran for the position of Judge of the SC Court of Appeals, Seat 2, in 2022-2023. I withdrew from the race before the election.

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

While in junior high, high school, college and law school, I held several part-time employment positions. These included fast food clerk, produce grader, produce salesperson, grocery store stocker and cashier, clothing store clerk, hostess, waitress, gift shop clerk, receptionist, page, intern, and law clerk. My only profession has been to practice law.

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.

(a) I am the sole officer and shareholder of Grace Gilchrist Knie, PA, and have been since December 28th, 2004. The entity was a law practice. I concluded active participation in that business in February 2017. Since that time, I have only carried out the duties associated with closing a business enterprise.

(b) I am the sole officer and shareholder of 130 Avant, LLC, and have been since October 10th, 2018. The entity is a limited liability corporation with the sole purpose of managing rental property.

(c) I am the sole officer and shareholder of 276 Magnolia, LLC, and have been since October 10th, 2018. The entity is a limited liability corporation with the sole purpose of managing rental property.

- (d) I am the sole officer and shareholder of Fantree Properties, LLC, and have been since October 27th, 2008. The entity is a limited liability corporation with the sole purpose of managing rental property.
- (e) I am the sole officer and shareholder of Campobello Investments, LLC, and have been since August 21, 2009. The entity is a limited liability corporation with the sole purpose of managing rental property.

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.)

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

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

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

No.

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

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position

you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None.

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.

(a) I am married to Attorney Patrick Eugene Knie. I currently do and would in the future disqualify myself from hearing matters in which he is counsel of record or in other matters in which he is involved as specifically outlined pursuant to Canon 3E., CJC, Rule 501, SCACR, "a judge shall disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned." Canon 3E. lists specific examples of when the judge's impartiality might be questioned, such as if the judge's spouse is a party or lawyer in the proceeding; if the judge has or judge's spouse has more than a de minimis interest in the proceeding; if the judge has a bias concerning a party or lawyer in the proceeding; or if the judge's spouse is a likely to be a material witness. Canon 3E.(1)(a) -(d), CJC, Rule 501, SCACR.

(b) My spouse Patrick E. Knie has one law partner, Attorney Matthew W. Shealy. I currently do and would in the future disqualify myself from hearing matters in which he is counsel of record or in other matters in which he involved as specifically outlined pursuant to Canon 3E., CJC, Rule 501, SCACR, "a judge shall disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned." Canon 3E. lists specific examples of when the judge's impartiality might be questioned, such as if the judge's spouse is a party or lawyer in the proceeding; if the judge has or judge's spouse has more than a de minimis interest in the proceeding; if the judge has a bias concerning a party or lawyer in the proceeding; or if the judge's spouse is likely to be a material witness. Canon 3E.(1)(a) -(d), CJC, Rule 501, SCACR.

(c) I own (through an LLC) an office building located at 276 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC. On September 27th, 2017, I leased office space to the Smith Legal Group, P.C., to two attorneys Danny R. Smith and R. Patrick Smith, whom specialize in Social Security disability law.

In proceedings in which Attorney Danny R. Smith or R. Patrick Smith are legal counsel of record my procedure as to resolution of any potential conflict of interest is that I would disclose on the record the nature of the relationship and give counsel and parties the opportunity to discuss my disqualification outside of my presence as outlined in Canon 3E.(1) and 3F., CJC, Rule 501, SCACR, the Remittal of Disqualification procedure, "the judge may disclose on the record the basis of the judge's disqualification and may ask the parties and their lawyers to consider, out of the presence of the judge, whether to waive disqualification." This should be balanced against the requirement of Canon 3B. (1), Rule 501, SCACR, "A judge shall hear and decide matters assigned to the judge except those in which disqualification is required."

(d) My brother James Whitfield Gilchrist, Jr., is an attorney practicing in SC with a law office located in Columbia, SC. I currently do and would in the future disqualify myself from hearing matters in which he is counsel of record or in other matters in which he is involved as specifically outlined pursuant to Canon 3E., Rule 501, SCACR, "a judge shall disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned." Canon 3E.(1)(d) lists specific examples of when the judge's impartiality might be questioned, such as if "(d) the judge or the judge's spouse, or a person within the third degree of relationship to either of them, or the spouse of such a person:(i) is a party to the proceeding, or an officer, director or trustee of a party;(ii) is acting as a lawyer in the proceeding;(iii) is known by the judge to have a more than de minimis interest that could be substantially affected by the proceeding;(iv) is to the judge's knowledge likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

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.

My spouse owned commercial real estate located at 310 North Limestone Street, Gaffney, SC. On February 1st, 1994, he leased a portion of the building to the Public Defender's Office for Cherokee County.

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.

Initially my spouse received rent in the amount of \$500.00 per month. At some point the rent amount was increased to \$600.00 per month. That agreement terminated as of September 1st, 2015, by mutual agreement. I owned no interest in the property.

The lease agreement was month-to-month for at least ten years. The property sold in December 2020, for \$50,000 to a private individual. Initially there was a written lease agreement which is attached. There is no conflict of interest.

See Attached hereto a copy of the Lease Agreement.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.
None.
42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.
See Attachment Hereto.
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.

In approximately 1993 I was given a Traffic Citation for disregarding a control device in Richland County, South Carolina. It is my belief that the fine exceeded \$125.00.

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.

- (a) Roberta D. Ringler v. Jack W. Ringler, Sr., W. Marsh Robertson, P.A., Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, P.A., Susan Ingles, P.A., James Fivecoat Pension Manager;
6:01-cv-04290- HMH
Pro se Plaintiff alleged that during the course of her divorce proceedings she did not receive a fair divorce hearing because her spouse, the attorneys and judges did not follow proper court procedures. The action was filed in 2001 in SC Federal District Court. The District Court judge assigned to the case dismissed the action on December 11, 2001, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The defendants, including myself, were never served with the lawsuit. I learned of this matter for the first time while conducting an electronic document search in conjunction with completing this application for my initial judicial election;
- (b) Fred Ciacelli v. Barbara Audet, Grace Dunbar, James Cothran, and Anne Katherine Ciacelli;
1999-CP-42-2514;
The action was filed on September 24th, 1999, by a Pro Se Plaintiff alleging that during the course of a post-divorce proceeding against him for contempt in which I represented his former wife, his daughter Anne Katherine Ciacelli, a named defendant, obtained a felony warrant against him which caused him to be extradited from the state of Florida. Once in SC he was served with a Rule to Show Cause seeking to hold him in contempt. Legal counsel for defendants filed 12(b) 6 motions to dismiss. Plaintiff thereafter filed a request with the Court for a dismissal of the action. The action was dismissed with prejudice on November 18th, 1999, by order of the Circuit Court;
- (c)* SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority v. Ralph L. Garner, Phyllis H. Garner, William G. Wynn, Jr., Bell Atlantic Mobile, Phillip Morrow, DMD, Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, Gregory J. Nield, Karen M. Nield;
1997-CP-42-2106
This matter was a foreclosure action against Ralph and Phyllis Garner. I previously represented one of the parties and was awarded attorney's fees in the Family Court Order. I was named a party in the foreclosure action due to my status as a potential inferior lien holder to the Plaintiff and the potential to receive the attorneys fee from the foreclosure sale by virtue of the fact that a Family Court Order listed that I was to receive attorney fees from one of the Garners.
- (d)* First Citizens v. Ralph Garner, et.al.;1997-LP-42-00639
This case number was listed on the public index for Spartanburg County. I requested assistance in locating these files from the Clerk of Court's Office for Spartanburg County. The office was unable to locate this file because the file number suggests that this is a Lis Pendens. I assume that this is another foreclosure action where I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.
- (e)* First Citizens v. Ralph Garner, et.al.;1997- LP-42-00738
This case number was listed on the public index for Spartanburg County. I requested assistance in locating these from the Clerk of Court's Office for Spartanburg County. The office was unable to locate this file because the file number suggests that this is a Lis

Pendens. I assume that this is another foreclosure where I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.

- (f)* Regions Bank v. Christopher J. Green, Crystal M. Green, Grace Gilchrist Dunbar et.al.; 2008-CP-11-1062;

I assume that this was a foreclosure action in which I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.

- * There was a period that legal counsel handling foreclosure actions believed that it was necessary to name any potential, inferior, or subsequent lien holders, including domestic relations attorneys who had been awarded attorney's fees in a Family Court Order. I did not request to be named in the foreclosure actions.

- (g) Grace Gilchrist Knie v. Grace Gilchrist Knie, PA and The Hartford;
WC File Number: 1303436

I suffered a work-related injury on April 3rd, 2013 and filed a Workers' Compensation Claim against my PA and my Workers' Compensation insurance carrier. The claim was later resolved on June 25th, 2014. The claim resulted from an assault and battery by a client attempting to flee from arrest by his probation officers at the Office of Adjudication and Review (ODAR) in Greenville, SC, immediately following his Social Security Disability hearing.

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, when I was in private practice, I was covered by legal malpractice insurance;
(b) My legal malpractice carrier is The General Agency, Inc., with mailing address P.O. Box 30459, Charleston, SC 29417-0459 with contact telephone number (843) 766-9091;
(c) My first policy with that agency was effective 2/2/1993; and has been with them since that date;
(d) The limit while in private practice was \$500,000 each claim and \$1,000,000 aggregate. The deductible was \$1,000;
(e) My policy, now that I am no longer in private practice, provides coverage for all prior acts and past exposure subject to all policy terms and conditions.

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.

[Redacted]

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) William Barnet, III, [Redacted]

(b) Edward R. Tallon, Sr., The Tallon Group, Inc., [Redacted]

(c) The Honorable Brandy W. McBee, Clerk of Court Cherokee County, [Redacted]

(d) Norman F. Pulliam, Pulliam Enterprises, Inc., [Redacted]

- (e) Alexia Newman, Executive Director, Carolina Pregnancy Center, [Redacted]
- (f) J. Barry Mason, Senior Vice President, Park National Bank, [Redacted]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?

No.

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

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

Not applicable.

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 Presbyterian Church;

(b) The YMCA;

(c) The Piedmont Club;

(d) The Spartanburg County Library

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.

As a young person, it was always my goal to complete college and law school. Out of necessity in order to pay the tuition and the necessary costs involved, I worked multiple jobs at the same time while attending school and was able to pay my way through undergraduate school and law school. I believe that I have a strong work ethic that has carried over to my professional practice. I was always willing to put in the long hours necessary to be fully prepared in every case which I handled. As a circuit court judge, I brought that work ethic with me every day to ensure that whatever tasks were assigned to me were fully and timely completed. My work ethic has also made me very independent and I believe that such independence is very important to be a good and ethical jurist.

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: _____