



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court Eighth Circuit- Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable Eugene Cannon Griffith, Jr

Name that you are known by if different from above

Bubba Griffith

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.

Circuit Court Eighth Circuit- Seat 2

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Newberry

Business Address: 1226 College Street
Newberry, SC 29108

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office) (803)321-1430
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1964

Place of Birth: Newberry County

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? No.

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.

6. Family Status:

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

Divorced

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Elizabeth Rushing Griffith, d/o/m 8/17/1991

Elizabeth is an educator in the public schools in Fort Mill area.

- (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.

Divorced by Order dated April 6, 2018

Richland County Family Court, SC

Grounds of One Years' Continuous Separation

Eugene Griffith was moving party

- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each 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) College of Charleston August 1983 to December 1983 transferred to USC
(b) USC – Columbia January 1984 to May, 1987 B.S. Business Admin – Finance
(c) USC –Law School August 1988 to December 1990 J.D.

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

I worked at various jobs in law school. I was focused on graduating in two and one-half years, and thus did not have time to participate in extracurricular activities outside of class and study-time.

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 – May 14, 1991

I sat for the Bar once

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) March 1991 – July 1991: Clerk to the Honorable James E. Moore, Circuit Court for Eighth Judicial Circuit
- (b) July 1991 – June 1992: Clerk to the Honorable John P. Gardner, S. C. Court of Appeals
- (c) July 1992 – February 1997: solo practice as Griffith Law Firm – general practice of law. The office handled real estate transactions, mortgage closings, magistrate’s trial work, criminal trial defense, civil trial work, both plaintiff and defense counsel, domestic relations trial work, and estate and probate matters. As a sole practitioner, I was entirely responsible for administrative and financial management functions.
- (d) February 1997 – February 2009: In February of 1997, Rushing and Griffith, P.C., was formed by Eugene C. Griffith, Jr. and Elizabeth R. Griffith. The scope and type of law practice did not change significantly from the initial five years as a solo practitioner, and was operated as a general practice. Don S. Rushing bought into the corporation, and opened an office in Lancaster, South Carolina. Don S. Rushing has operated a limited practice in the Lancaster office. During the last several years of the practice, the type of work performed in the Newberry office changed slightly. In January of 2005, I agreed to work as a special prosecutor for the Eighth Judicial Circuit for the court terms of General Sessions Court, held in Newberry County. After agreeing to act as special prosecutor, I was unable to accept cases as a criminal defense attorney. I also handled numerous condemnation actions on behalf of the SCDOT, Duke Energy, and City of Newberry. I was also appointed under the Circuit Court rules to numerous civil cases to act as special referee for non-jury matters, such as partitions and foreclosures. I was part-time city attorney for the City of Newberry for 15 years. I was entirely responsible for administrative and financial management functions of the law firm.
- (e) February 27th, 2009 – present: Resident Circuit Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2
- (f) May 2010 – December 2011: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas and General Sessions
- (g) January 2013 – December 2013: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas and General Sessions
- (h) January 2014 – December 2014: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for General Sessions

- (i) January 2016 – July 2016: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas
- (j) July 2016 – June 2017: Chief Administrative Judge Eleventh Judicial Circuit for General Sessions
- (k) July 2017 – December 2017: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas
- (l) January 2018 – December 2018: Chief Administrative Judge Eleventh Judicial Circuit for General Sessions
- (m) January 2019 – December 2020: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas
- (n) January 2021 – December 2021: Chief Administrative Judge for Sixth Judicial Circuit
- (o) January 2022 – June 2022: Chief Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial Circuit for Common Pleas
- (p) July 2022 – December 2023: Chief Administrative Judge Sixteenth Judicial Circuit for General Sessions

QUESTIONS 11 THROUGH 17 DELETED

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.

Circuit Court Eighth Judicial Circuit Seat 2: February 27, 2009 to present

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) Wilson v. Willis 426 S.C. 326, 827 S.E.2d 167 (2019)
- (b) State v. Tim Jones ___ S.E.2d ___, WL 2671754 (2023)
- (c) City of Charleston v. City of North Charleston 439 SC 6, 885 SE2d 151 (Ct. App. 2023)
- (d) State v. Chhith-Berry, 437 S.C. 527, 878 S.E.2d 352 (Ct. App. 2022)
- (e) Crenshaw v. Erskine College, 432 S.C. 1, 850 S.E.2d 1 (2020)

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 Bar – May 14, 1991

US Federal District Court for SC – September 26, 1994

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.

Judge's School: For New Circuit Judges: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023 – teach the criminal law portion to newly elected judges

Back to Basics SCACDL: February 2023 – Provided tips from judicial perspective to criminal defense attorneys

I spoken as a panel member for many CLE's e.g.: Solicitors Conferences, Public Defenders Conferences, and other CLE's on a variety of topics but mostly: Best courtroom practices/ Best Advice from the Bench, etc.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

See Attachment A

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.

BV Martindale-Hubbell in 2008

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) South Carolina Bar Association

(b) Newberry County Bar- President, 1994-1999 Secretary-Treasurer 1992-1994

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 public office held in past

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.

No employment while sitting as a judge

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

Candidate for House District 40 2002: Unsuccessful

Candidate for Circuit Court At-large Seat 13 2008: Unsuccessful

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

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

No

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

No

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

No expenditures

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.

No contributions

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 funds have been solicited by me nor by anyone on my behalf

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.

My sister and I own a tract of land that adjoins Dreher Island State Park. Dreher Island State Park is leased from Dominion Energy. I am not aware of the costs of the improvements on the State Park, but would consider the improvements

much greater than \$200.00. It is doubtful that the State Park would expand toward the mainland as the three islands which comprise the park are in excess of 500 acres and much of the land has not been developed. However, the park is serviced solely by State Park Road for ingress and egress by motor vehicles. The islands are separated by a short causeway from the mainland across the lake. The last tract of land before the entrance to the park on eastern side of State Park Road is the tract owned by my family. My sister, Harriet L. Griffith, and I each own a 50% undivided interest in two tracts which total more than 34 acres along State Park Road.

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;

I am uncertain of any particular conflict of interest, but if the park sought to add more facilities to increase park use, the two-lane road (State Park Road) may need to be widened which would impact my ownership interests. I believe that this event is unlikely.

- (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.

I am not a party to any such agreements

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 Attached Schedules 5, 6, 7, and 8

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 gifts received

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.

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.

Not applicable

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.

I have not.

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.

I have not.

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.

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?

I am familiar with the 48-hour rule.

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.

I have not.

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) James Lee Foster
[Redacted]

- (b) Wayne K. Pratt
[Redacted]
- (c) Joe Trainor
[Redacted]
- (d) Don S. Rushing
[Redacted]
- (e) S. R. Hubbard, III
[Redacted]

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

I am minimally active on social media but have accounts with several sites. For example, I have one “friend” on Facebook, my daughter, and my “snapscore” for my Snapchat account is 27. I use Twitter to monitor Gamecock baseball game scores and NASCAR races when I cannot get game or race on the radio broadcast.

- (a) Facebook username: [Redacted]
- (b) Twitter username: [Redacted]
- (c) Snapchat [Redacted]

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?

I consider my use of social media to be very slight and therefore do not think it has affected my service on the bench and do not believe it will affect my service on the bench in the future.

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.

I am an active member in Macedonia Lutheran Church and am currently serving as Vice Chair on the Church Council. I do not participate in other organizations.

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.

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: _____