



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

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

Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1.

1. Name: Mr. Justin Thomas Williams

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.)

No.

Home Address:

[Redacted]

County of Residence:

Richland County

Business Address:

101 Executive Center Drive Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

E-Mail Address:

[Redacted]

Telephone Number:

(home): [Redacted]
(office): (803) 896-5100
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth:

[Redacted] 1984

Place of Birth:

Orangeburg, 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#:

[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.

Yes.

December 9, 2014 – present.

United States Army

Major/O4

United States Army Reserve

Honorable

6. Family Status:

Married on August 7, 2010, to Stacy Ayers Williams.

Never divorced, one child.

[Redacted]

7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
- (a) Aiken Technical College, August 2001 – December 2001, Non-Degree Coursework.
 - (b) University of South Carolina, August 2002 – May 2006, B.A. in Public Relations.
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2007 – May 2010, J.D.
 - (d) Piedmont Technical College, January 2019 – April 2020, Funeral Director’s Certificate.
 - (e) The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, February 2015- May 2015
Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course Diploma.
 - (f) Duke University, August 2022 - Present, Master of Environmental Management.
 - (g) U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, June 2023 – Present, Intermediate Leader Education Diploma.
8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
- (a) Student Bar Association, 3L Representative August 2009 – May 2010
 - (b) Mock Trial Bar, Justice of Administration August 2009 – May 2010
 - (c) Black Law Students Association, Member August 2008 – May 2010
 - (d) Law School Ambassadors, Member August 2009 – May 2010
 - (e) Criminal Trial Practice Clinic, January 2010 – May 2010
 - (f) Inaugural Internal Mock Trial Competition, Finalist September – November 2009
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
- (a) Admitted to practice law in South Carolina.
 - (b) Admitted on May 23, 2011.
 - (c) Sat for the South Carolina Bar Exam twice.
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) Assistant Solicitor, May 2011 – August 2013
 - Serving as an Assistant Solicitor was my first legal job after graduating from law school. As an Assistant Solicitor, I only practiced criminal law at the trial court level. Initially, my caseload included over 600 warrants. As an Assistant Solicitor, my duties included managing a criminal docket includes appearing in

bond court, appearing at preliminary hearings, appearing at first and second appearances, meeting with law enforcement officers and victims, issuing offers to defendants to enter a guilty plea, arguing motions before in General Sessions Court, negotiating terms of a plea agreement with defense counsel, presenting guilty pleas in General Sessions Court, and calling a case to trial in General Sessions Court if plea negotiations were unsuccessful. I prepared and called four cases to a jury trial during my first stint as an Assistant Solicitor. I did not have any administrative or financial management responsibilities in this role.

(b) Associate, Workers' Compensation Defense, August 2013- June 2015

- Working as an associate for an insurance defense firm was all about practicing law in the most effective and efficient manner possible. I recorded all the time I spent working on a legal matter for a client and billed them accordingly. Many of my clients (I represented the employer and their insurance company) preferred quick, low-cost resolutions to claims instead of long, drawn-out litigation. This made initial case evaluation very important. Much of my time was spent reviewing initial filings, taking depositions, developing legal strategies, and making recommendations that mitigated my clients' liability accident claims and job-related injuries. Most of my cases were settled, but a few went to a hearing before a Workers' Compensation Commissioner. I did not have any administrative management or financial management responsibilities in this role.

(c) United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate, June 2015 – Present

- Serving as the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate has significantly broaden my legal practice. From June 2015 – June 2016, I served as a legal assistance attorney. As a legal assistance attorney, I helped Soldiers and retirees with wills, powers of attorney, family care plans, debt issues, letter writing, landlord-tenant issues, and referred them to civil counsel to assist with matters that required counsel to appear on their behalf. From July 2016 – July 2018, I served as an administrative law attorney. As an administrative law attorney, I was responsible for serving as the legal advisor for Investigating Officers, conducting legal reviews on administrative investigations into Soldier misconduct, and serving as the recorder (prosecutor) for separation boards. From August 2018 – present, I served as Brigade Commanders' primary or secondary legal advisor on matters of administrative law, contract and fiscal law, military justice, and national security law. Currently, I serve as the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 2d Brigade, 87th Training Division. Not only am I the primary legal advisor to 2d Brigade's Commander, but I advise Commanders at the Battalion and Company level within 2d Brigade's footprint. I also provide legal support at the 87th Training Division's Commanding General as needed. I do not have administrative management or financial management responsibilities in this role.

(d) Assistant Solicitor, June 2015- December 2016

- During my second stint as an Assistant Solicitor, I prosecuted mid-level and major felonies. My caseload was lower than it was when initially started in 2011 because I was assigned more serious and complex cases. I spent much more time reviewing discovery, preparing plea offers, negotiating plea agreements, and preparing for trial. I prepared and called three cases to jury trial during this period. A murder case, a burglary ring, and a case where the State pursued Life Without the Possibility of Parole (I recused myself from arguing the last case because my wife was the trial judge's law clerk). I had very limited administrative management responsibilities with interns, legal assistants, and paralegals. I had no financial management responsibility.

(e) Associate, Civil Litigation (Plaintiff) and Criminal Defense, January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

- As a Plaintiff's Civil Litigation and Criminal Defense Associate, the character and nature of my job was simply to help me. I worked at a high operational tempo law firm with clients throughout the entire state. While I built my practice, I would assist partners with their appearances. There were some days when I would have an appearance in Chester County at 9:00 a.m. and Bamberg County at 2:00 p.m. During this time I learned how important it was to a lawyer in private practice for the court to start on time and for fellow attorneys to be prepared to present their matters so that the court can keep moving. Because of court appearances and client appointments, I prepared for court early in the morning and late in the evening. My primary practice areas were personal injury, workers compensation, and criminal defense. I also appeared in magistrate court for traffic tickets and simple contract disputes. My administrative management responsibilities were limited to managing my legal assistant. I did not have any financial management responsibilities.

(f) Public Service Commissioner, July 1- Present

- Serving as a Public Service Commissioner is the most unique job I have had. While I do not practice law and I am not a judge, I conduct legal research, make legal analyses to support my decisions, and I must comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct. Serving as a Public Service Commissioner is a cerebral academic endeavor in that I spend much of my time reading reports and pre-filed testimony in preparation for hearings. While the Public Service Commission has jurisdiction to regulate electric, natural gas, water and wastewater, transportation, and telecommunication utilities, my tenure on the commission has focused heavily on electric utilities and the renewable energy transition. During my service as Chair of the Public Service Commission, my responsibilities increased greatly because by statute the Chair is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Public Service Commission. While I was not managing simple day-to-day tasks, I frequently met with executive staff to ensure that all employees were performing to standard and that we were managing our financial resources responsibly and effectively. As Chair (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022), I was ultimately responsible for administrative and

financial management; however, I delegated many tasks to the Executive Director and managed her performance.

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:

- (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.

Since July 1, 2018, I have served as a Commissioner for the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. As such, I have not appeared as counsel for a party to a criminal or civil matter in Circuit Court or any other court since my election to the Public Service Commission.

Prior to my election to the Public Service Commission, I was an associate for Moore Bradley Myers from January 1, 2017 – July 1, 2018. In that capacity, my criminal experience included regular appearances in General Sessions Court in Richland, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Bamberg Counties as defense counsel for the accused. I served as primary and secondary defense counsel for clients charged with murder, kidnapping, assault and battery, criminal sexual conduct, driving under the influence involving death, and trafficking narcotics, among other charges. My representation included arguing for a bond at bond hearings, arguing against probable cause at preliminary hearings, reviewing discovery, negotiating plea agreements, and presenting plea agreements in General Sessions Court. None of my General Sessions Court cases were resolved with a trial. In addition to a robust criminal practice in General Sessions Court, I also represented clients accused of various misdemeanor charges in magistrate court.

Prior to my employment with Moore Bradley Myers, I served as an Assistant Solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's office From June 2015 – December 2016. In this capacity, I was immersed in criminal practice in General Sessions Court every day. I advised law enforcement on probable cause for arrest, argued for an appropriate bond at bond hearings, argued in support of probable cause for arrest at preliminary hearings, argued for bond revocation when defendants were charged with committing a subsequent crime while on bond for a pending criminal charge, negotiated plea agreements and presented plea agreements in General Sessions Court, prepared serious felony matters for jury trial, and presented several serious felony matters, including a murder case, to juries from opening statement to jury verdict. During my first stint with the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office (February 2011 – August 2013), I worked as a law clerk and performed legal research/writing on criminal matters and observed General Sessions Court while waiting for bar results. Once I was admitted to practice (May 24, 2011), I performed the same tasks that I performed during my second stint, but my docket was primarily misdemeanors and low to mid-level felonies.

My civil experience is limited to my time as an associate with Moore Bradley Myers (January 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018), where I served as primary and secondary counsel for personal injury, employment, contract disputes, and medical malpractice matters. My civil practice included taking depositions, arguing against motions for summary judgment, settlement negotiations, and mediation. Even though none of my civil cases made it to a jury trial, I am adequately prepared to preside over such matters due to my trial experience in General Sessions Court and my experience as Chair of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. In both roles, I had to demonstrate mastery of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence and understand legal procedures and processes. I will use my past experience and dedicate myself to constant study of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and other applicable Circuit Court Rules to ensure the fair administration of justice. Also, I will engage the parties who appear before me by giving all parties the full and complete opportunity to offer oral and written arguments to support their positions on issues as they arise. I am most concerned with issuing the correct ruling, and I am willing to take all the time necessary to reach the proper decision.

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?

Note: My answer reflects my court appearances in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

- (a) federal: 0.10%
- (b) state: 99.9%

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?

Note: My answer reflects my court appearances in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

- (a) civil: 5%
- (b) criminal: 90%
- (c) domestic: Not Applicable
- (d) other: 5%

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? Not applicable because I have served on the Public Service Commission for the past five years.

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

Not applicable because I have served on the Public Service Commission for the past five years.

(c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case?

Not applicable because I have served on the Public Service Commission for the past five years.

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

Not applicable because I have served on the Public Service Commission for the past five years.

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

In the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, I primarily served as 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?

I am not a sitting judge but in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission, 100% of my practice was in trial court.

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

(a) State v. Channen F. Ricks was a murder case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant while I was an assistant solicitor in the

Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. April Sampson was the first chair, and I was the second chair. This was the most significant legal matter that I personally handled due to the serious nature of the charge, the length of preparation (two years), the length of the trial (four days), and the number of witnesses (30), and the impact on the community (justice for the victim's family and the local community). This case was called to trial on the week of October 10, 2016. The jury found the Defendant guilty, and the judge sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

- (b) *State v. Khlil Davis* was a multi-count first-degree burglary and grand larceny case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant while I was an assistant solicitor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I served as the first chair, and Stephanie Taylor was the second chair. This case was significant due to the number of homes burglarized, the number of co-defendants, the organized nature of the burglary operation, the mandatory minimum fifteen-year sentence for burglary first degree, successfully turning a co-defendant into a witness for the State, and the fact that the Defendant did not have a criminal record. This case was prepared and called to trial the week of September 19, 2016, but the judge granted a continuance. The case was not resolved before I left the Solicitor's Office for a new employment opportunity.
- (c) *Tyresha Outing, et al vs Oliver P Simmons et al* was a medical malpractice, wrongful death, and survival action filed on behalf of the mother of a toddler who died as the result of an improperly written and filed prescription. Stanley Myers, Jake Moore, and I represented the Plaintiff in this matter. Representative Todd Rutherford also assisted in representing the Plaintiff in this matter. This case was significant because it involve highly sophisticated Defendants, was highly technical, and required an immense amount of study and preparation for depositions, arguing against motions for summary judgment, trial, and mediation. This case was ultimately settled for a sum representative of justice for the decedent and his mother.
- (d) *Margret B.Villegas v. AYG Aiken, LLC* was an employment discrimination case based on gender discrimination, hostile work environment, and constructive discharge. I was the sole counsel for the Plaintiff. This case was significant because it was demonstrative of how a *pro se* litigant's access to justice can be denied even if they follow every step of an administrative process. After defeating a motion to dismiss, this case settled for an appropriate amount representing justice for the Plaintiff.
- (e) *State v. James Earl Green* was a dog-fighting case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant while I was an assistant solicitor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I served as the first chair, and Sandra Moser was the second chair. This case was significant because of the significant investment in resources used to investigate and prosecute the Defendant, the number of co-defendants, and the other alleged criminal activity intertwined with the dog fighting ring. This case was called to trial on the week of January 21, 2013. The Defendant accepted a one-year active prison sentence after the State presented

its case. This was believed to be the first active prison sentence received by a defendant for dogfighting in Richland County.

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.

Not applicable as I have not filed civil criminal appeals.

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.

Not applicable as I have not filed any criminal appeals.

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

No.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

Not Applicable.

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 Courts (Rule 403 Certified), June 21, 2011

United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, March 22, 2017

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.

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.

Not applicable as I have not yet published a book or an article.

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.)

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.

I am not a member of any legal rating organization, and I do not have a rating.

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) Richland County Bar Association
 - (b) South Carolina Black Lawyers
 - (c) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

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.

Commissioner
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Elected May 11, 2018

I have timely filed all Statements of Economic Interest except the first Statement of Economic Interest. On January 21, 2022, I received notice from the State Ethics Commission that I should have filed a Statement of Economic Interest in May 2018 instead of October 2018. I informed the State Ethics Commission that I did not object to the \$100.00 late penalty, but I wanted to offer some extenuating circumstances for their consideration. Even though my term started on July 1, 2018, I was at Camp Humphreys in South Korea for an overseas U.S. Army training exercise from June 27 – July 30, 2018. Also, I was not sworn in until August 15, 2018. At worst, I filed my Statement of Economic Interest two months late as opposed to five months late. Please see attached.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting or former judge.

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

S&J Backhoe Services
Laborer
July 1994 – July 2002

Piggly Wiggly
Bag Boy
January 2002 – June 2002

South Carolina Senate
Page
January 2003 – May 2006

Pfizer, Inc.
Healthcare Representative
May 2004 – August 2007

Red Bull, Inc.
Mobile Energy Team
January 2006 – April 2006

Columbia Urban League
Special Projects Coordinator
August 2010 – February 2011

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.

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.

I have never had a tax lien or other collection procedure instituted against me by the federal government, state government, or local government. I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy.

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?

Not applicable as I have no expenditures at this time.

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

My wife has contributed a total of \$750.0 to Representative Deon Tedder within the past four years.

- \$250 on June 2, 2023,
- \$150 on September 28, 2020,
- \$250 on June 15, 2020, and
- \$100 on March 25, 2020.

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.

Not Applicable as I have no past or present financial or business relationship conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest arises, I will recuse myself from deciding the matter in question.

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.

Not applicable as none of the issues listed immediately above apply to me or my family.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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 have never been sued by a client, but I have been named as a party in a civil proceeding. Please see the details below.

Case: Casey Edwards and Justin Williams v. State of South Carolina, filed May 27, 2009

Petitioners sought a declaratory judgment from the Supreme Court of South Carolina that the South Carolina General Assembly may request, accept, and distribute the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds, which the General Assembly included in the 2009-10 General Appropriations Bill, and that the Governor must execute the Budget as enacted by the General Assembly.

Disposition: On June 4, 2009, the Supreme Court of South Carolina ruled in favor of Petitioners.

Case: Justin Williams v. Edgar H Peacock, Jr, DDS, PA, filed November 23, 2016

I was in the market for elective surgery to remove my wisdom teeth. I consulted my dental insurance for a list of dental surgeons that accepted my insurance. After shopping around, I selected Dr. Peacock because his office manager told me that I would pay no more than \$400.00 out of pocket for the procedure and that my insurance company would pay the balance of the bill. I proceed with the procedure. Approximately one month after the procedure, I received a bill for over \$800.00. I attempted to work through the issue with Dr. Peacock's office manager, but negotiations failed. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed an Unfair Trade Practices action against Dr. Peacock.

Disposition: Settled out of court in my favor on December 30, 2016.

Case: Justin Williams v. Jared Timothy King, filed January 5, 2017

As I was riding home from the University of South Carolina Football Game, I was T-Boned on Bluff Road by Mr. King. My truck was totaled, and I sustained several injuries. A dispute arose with Mr. King's insurance company regarding the amount of damages I suffered. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed a personal injury and property damage action against Mr. King.

Disposition: The case settled out of court in my favor on September 21, 2017.

Case: Justin Williams v. Frank James, filed on February 8, 2017

As the result of a motor vehicle accident, my truck was towed to Frank James Paint and Body Shop for repair. Mr. James determined that the truck was totaled. The at-fault driver's insurance company paid me what they thought the truck was worth and sent Mr. James a check for his initial damage assessment and storage fees. The at-fault driver's insurance company told me that they issued a check to Mr. James for his fees on or about the same date they issued me a check for the value of the truck. Mr. James denied that he

received a check for his fees from the at-fault driver's insurance company and refused to release my truck to my possession. Several months passed and Mr. James maintained that he never received a check for his fees. I requested the at-fault driver's insurance company send me a copy of the check and proof that the check was cashed and they did. I confronted Mr. James with the copy of the check and proof of deposit and he stated that I still owed him money for storing my truck. As the result of failed negotiations, I filed a claim and deliver action in magistrate court.

Disposition: The magistrate judge ruled in my favor on April 25, 2017, and ordered Mr. James to release the truck to my possession.

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 as I am not in private practice.

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 third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf. My election campaign for Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 has included mentioning my interest in running for Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, researching the judicial selection process, and preparing this application.

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) Brigadier General Kelly A. Hagenbeck
[Redacted]

(b) I.S. Leevy Johnson, Esq
[Redacted]

(c) Dean Susan S. Kuo
[Redacted]

(d) Executive Director Helen Munnerlyn
[Redacted]

(e) Stanley L. Myers
[Redacted]

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

I have a LinkedIn account.

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

[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 only have a LinkedIn account, and my use of this account would not be affected by my service in a judicial capacity.

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) Richland County Bar Association - Member
- (b) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association - Member
- (c) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- (d) USC Alumni Association – 2022 Young Alumni of the Year
- (e) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated – Zeta Epsilon Advisory Team
- (f) Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

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.

My diverse life experiences have shaped me into a decision-maker with an open mind who has the ability to see matters before me from all angles. This ability ensures that all parties who appear before me will receive full consideration of their position on a matter without fear of prejudice or bias. Regardless of the matter before me, the facts as applied to the law will always be the basis of my decisions, and I will clearly articulate orally or in writing how and why I reached my decisions. I have been in the shoes of the less fortunate and the privileged. Both feel as if they will be taken advantage of by the legal system. Consistently rendering decisions that fully demonstrate that I keep an open mind, give full consideration of a party's position, and clearly articulate the basis of my decision aids in the public trust of the legal system. If elected to the bench, I plan to be a judge that aids, supports, and advances the public's trust in the legal system.

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: _____