



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

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

1. Name: Mr. Samuel LaNue Floyd

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname):
Samuel Floyd, Sam Floyd

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: Williamsburg

Business Address: 15 Courthouse Square
Kingstree, SC 29556

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 355-9000
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1969
Place of Birth: Sumter, SC
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]
Voter Registration Number: [Redacted]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

No

6. Family Status:
Married on May 23, 2009 to Tammy Davis Floyd, never divorced, no children.
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) Frances Marion College 1987 - 1992
 - (b) Thomas M. Cooley Law School 1995, left for personal reasons
 - (c) Thomas M. Cooley Law School 1996 – 1997, transferred to USC
 - (d) The University of San Diego School of Law Institute on International And Comparative Law in Dublin, Ireland 1997 semester abroad
 - (e) University of South Carolina Law School 1997 - 1999
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.
- None
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
- (a) I was admitted to practice law on November 13, 2001 in South Carolina.
I took the bar exam 4 times in the state of South Carolina.
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) I served as Clerk for the Honorable M. Duane Shuler, 1999.
 - (b) I worked for Williamsburg County from 2001 to 2002 as a Magistrate Judge.
 - (c) I worked at Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, P.A. law firm as an Associate, beginning April, 2002 and ending in 2007. I was not responsible for the administrative or financial management of the firm. I handled civil and criminal cases in the Court of Common Pleas, General Sessions, and Magistrate/Municipal Courts. I handled Family Court cases as well as real estate cases involving partitions, foreclosures, and loan closings.

- (d) I have engaged in private practice for my own firm, Samuel L. Floyd, LLC, from January, 2007 to the present. My practice includes civil and criminal cases in the Court of Common Pleas, General Sessions, and Magistrate and Municipal courts, and Family Court litigation (plaintiff and defendant), and real estate cases involving partitions, foreclosures, and loan closings.
- (e) I am responsible for the administrative and financial management of my practice, including the management of trust accounts.

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.

N/A

- (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.

(a) Over the past five years, I have handled various criminal matters in Magistrate, Municipal and General Sessions Court ranging from traffic violations to murder. These cases involved working out a plea defense and active defense at trial.

(b) My civil case experience includes, but is not limited, personal injury cases (plaintiff and defendant), real estate litigation such as partitions, foreclosure and right of way actions, landlord tenant cases, collections cases (plaintiff and defendant) in all SC Courts.

- (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.

N/A

- (c) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

N/A

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

- (a) federal: None
(b) state: Weekly

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: 40%
(b) criminal: 40%
(c) domestic: 0
(d) other: 20%

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 50%

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? None

(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.) None

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

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

Sole 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? N/A

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 vs. Marty Baggett Case # 2010-GS-45-269 and 2010-GS-45-270. Case was tried in Williamsburg County General Sessions Court. I was court appointed to defend Mr. Baggett who was charged with Felony DUI and Reckless Homicide. He was convicted in Circuit Court on 7-22-2011. At the conclusion of testimony, I made a motion for a directed verdict which the trial Court denied. A motion to appeal was filed by me but handled by the Office of the Indigent Defense based on denial of the directed verdict motion. The motion was affirmed by a three member panel at the Courts of Appeals. Later the SC Supreme Court on October, 2015 affirmed the trial Court ruling.
- (b) State vs. Lou Ann Robinson, Case # 2007GS4500152. Case was tried in Williamsburg County General Sessions Court. I served as co-counsel with W. E. Jenkinson, III to represent defendant. Defendant was charged with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. She was convicted on the lesser included charge of involuntary manslaughter thereby significantly reducing her sentence.
- (c) Jason Bynum vs. South Carolina Department of Corrections, Robert H Blease, DDS and Robert H. Blease, DDS, P.A., Case # 2003CP1400482. Case was tried in Clarendon County Circuit Court. Mr. Bynum was my client. I associated J. Ed Bell for trial purposes. The Plaintiff was an incarcerated inmate who suffered a personal injury claim as a result of mistreatment for a tooth infection. A verdict of \$825,000 was rendered in plaintiff's favor.
- (d) Janie Rabon vs. Derrick Scott Patrick and Clark's Transport Co., LLC, Case # 2012CP2100840. I associated Ronnie Sabb and Kimberly Barr to assist at trial. We obtained a favorable jury verdict for plaintiff for damages.
- (e) State vs. Robert Stack. Case number not available as case was expunged. This was a trial in the Williamsburg County Magistrate Court. I represented the Defendant who was charged with Criminal Domestic Violence. The case was tried three times. The defendant was finally found not guilty and he was able to keep his job.

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.

I have not handled any civil 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.

I have not handled 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.

I was appointed to serve as a Magistrate for Williamsburg County from 2001 to April, 2002. Civil cases ranged from collections, landlord/tenant and personal injury, property damage, and other actions with monetary limitation of \$7,500. Criminal cases covered traffic cases, misdemeanors and crimes punishable by service of thirty days or less and/or fines up to \$500.

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.

None

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 Courts, November 13, 2001
- (b) US District Court for the District of SC, September 10, 2003

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

I taught Business Law from 2005 to 2007 at Williamsburg Technical College, Kingstree, SC.

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

Please see attachment.

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

I have published no books or articles.

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.)

Please see attachment.

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.

No rating, other than a peer review in Martindale-Hubbell.

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) SC Bar Association None
(b) Williamsburg County Bar Association 2005 Secretary/Treasurer

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.

(a) I was elected to Williamsburg County Council in November, 2010 and currently serve as Council Member for District Six.

(b) On June 28, 2013, I paid a penalty for the following late filing dates:

October 10, 2010
January 10, 2011
April 10, 2011
July 10, 2011
January 10, 2012
January 10, 2013

If I remember correctly, we had filed the reports on time, but they were done incorrectly. The matter came to my attention when I contacted the Ethics Commission on another matter. The reports were then corrected, and I paid the fee for my mistake.

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.

I had no other employment while serving as a Magistrate.

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

- (a) I was an unsuccessful candidate for the SC Senate race, seat #32 Special Election in 2014.
- (b) I was an unsuccessful candidate for Circuit Court, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat Two in 2017.

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.

1993-1996 Carolina Eastern Fertilizer Company, Warehouse Manager/Equipment Operator

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.

Please see attachment.

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. I received a Notice Balance Due- Outside Agency for a past due medical bill from Williamsburg Regional Hospital on 1/12/2016. The amount due was paid in full within 30 days.

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.

- (a) \$1,000 The Honorable Senator Kent Williams
- (b) \$1,000 The Honorable Senator Ronnie Sabb
- (c) \$1,000 The Honorable Representative G. Murrell Smith, Jr.
- (d) \$1,000 The Honorable former Representative Kimberly Johnson
- (e) \$200 The Honorable Representative Fawn Pedalino

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

No

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

None

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

None

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

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

None

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

In 2003, I paid a \$1,000.00 fine for an over limit duck hunting violation.

The Florence County Twelfth Judicial Circuit Public Index shows a charge against me of Possession of Beer by a Person Under 21, issued on July 7, 1989. I don't deny it, but I have no recollection of this charge or payment of a fine for the charge.

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

Other than stated in #45 above, not to my knowledge.

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) I have never been sued by a client.
(b) I was named as a defendant in a foreclosure action filed in 2012 as a judgment creditor in the case titled JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA vs. Jeffrey B Jenkins, Samuel L. Floyd, Witherspoon Law Firm and Berkeley County Water & Sanitation, Case # 2012-CP-08-2979. The Defendant, Jeffrey B Jenkins, filed bankruptcy and the case was dismissed 5/17/17.

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) My malpractice policy coverage is \$1,000,000, and my deductible is \$2,500.00. My coverage has been continuous since December 2, 2006. I was covered by malpractice insurance at the law firm of Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan while employed there until I left to open my own law office (April, 2002 to Dec 2, 2006).
(b) No, I have never been covered by a tail policy.

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

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

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

No

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

No

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

No

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

(a) Kelvin Washington
[Redacted]

(b) C. Dorn Smith, Jr.
[Redacted]

(c) S. Scott Williamson
[Redacted]

(a) Ian Geimer
[Redacted]

(b) Stephen Gardner
[Redacted]

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

If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform.
I have a Facebook account [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?

It would not affect me in any way. I rarely participate in any Social Media discussions and use my Facebook account mostly to post the occasional family picture and wish friends Happy Birthday.

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) Rotary Club

(b) Williamsburg Regional Hospital Foundation Board

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I was fortunate to be raised in a good Christian home. From the time I could speak, my parents insisted and demanded that I be courteous, polite and respectful to all people. As a teenager, my father required that I work on our family tobacco farm each summer. From this I learned to appreciate hard work as well as the importance of being able to work daily with people from all walks of life.

My college experience was where I began interacting with people other than ones from my hometown. By joining a fraternity and serving in the student body Senate, I began to appreciate the value of what my parents and community had instilled in me.

Since graduating law school, I have participated in numerous volunteer efforts in my hometown of Kingstree. I have been active in the political area and have always strived to exercise professionalism when facing the most difficult or adverse situations. I believe my parents and community installed a humble and hard-working attitude in me that is commonly found in small towns across this state.

I meet the professional and academic ability criteria for this seat due to my broad exposure to the judiciary and my diverse experience practicing law. After law school I clerked for the Honorable M Duane Shuler. During this time, I learned the importance of proper courtroom demeanor and true professionalism. I served as a full time Williamsburg County Magistrate thereafter, where as I participated in all aspects of the judicial process. I worked as an associate with a well-respected law firm in Kingstree for five years. I have been the sole proprietor of my own law firm since 2007.

I have handled criminal cases ranging from speeding tickets to murder. I have litigated civil cases, some of which settled amicably, and some of which resulted in trial. I have handled family court cases, DSS cases, real estate matters including loans, partition actions and foreclosure. I was retained in 2016 as in-house counsel for Santee Electric Cooperative. I have been elected and currently serving as Williamsburg County Councilman, District Six. I have run unsuccessfully for the South Carolina State Senate District Thirty-two in 2014. I have always done my best to display professionalism in victory and defeat.

With the understanding that I do not know everything and have much left to learn and to be desired, I would like to use these values to ensure a fair, equitable and meaningful remedy in any situation that may present itself before me.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: _____

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2023.

(Notary Signature)

John Thomas Thompson
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: July 20, 2026