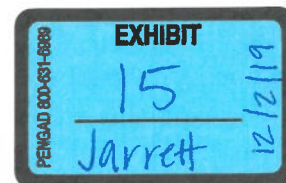


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



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

Family Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

1. Name: Mr. Ernest Joseph Jarrett

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

Ernie Jarrett or Ernest J. Jarrett

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

No

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

120 West Main Street
Post Office Drawer 669
Kingstree, S.C. 29556

E-Mail Address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home):

[REDACTED]

(office): (843) 355-2000

(cell):

[REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1967

Place of Birth: Sumter, South Carolina

Social Security Number:

[REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

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

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: S.C. DL #

[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: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation; (c) if 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; and (d) state the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Married on October 12, 1996 to Josette Tisdale Jarrett
Never divorced; three 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.

Wofford College: 1985 - 1989
Bachelor of Arts: English and Government
University of South Carolina School of Law: 1989 - 1992
Juris Doctor

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

- (a) Moot Court (1990-1992), Chief Justice (1991-1992), Member of the Craven Team (1992)
(b) Palmetto Law Society (1989-1992)

9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina admitted November 18, 1992
Took S.C. Bar Exam - one time.

10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has 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.

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.*

In August of 1992, I returned home to Kingstree following graduation from law school and completion of “Bridge the Gap” as an associate attorney for Jenkinson, Jenkinson, and McFadden, PA, to begin working for W. E. Jenkinson, III, Gordon B. Jenkinson, and Helen T. McFadden. I continue to practice law in this same firm. Jennifer R. Kellahan joined the firm as an associate in 1995. I became a partner in 1996 and the name of the firm was changed to Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA, in 1998. I have served as the Managing Partner since 2000 and have been responsible for overseeing all finances and administrative areas of the firm including the regular trust account, operating account, and the partnership account. I review all deposits and checks written on a daily basis and make sure all of our accounts are in order. (Jennifer R. Kellahan manages the Real Estate Trust Account). I oversee our associate attorneys, our office manager, the receptionist, the runners, and my paralegals. The other paralegals report directly to their respective attorneys, but the office staff meets weekly to discuss office procedures. If there is ever a personnel problem, I work with the office manager to resolve the issue.

As an associate attorney, I worked for all attorneys and did mostly civil litigation (Family, Magistrate, and Common Pleas) as well as real estate and probate work. I completed all research for the firm and wrote briefs and supporting memoranda to use in court. I was drawn to family court cases and as the years progressed, I concentrated more on these types of cases. In 1993, I contracted with the South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Program and served as their attorney until 1995, when I then contracted with the South Carolina Department of Social Services. I have been serving as a DSS contract attorney in one or more counties since that time. I have also been the attorney for the Town of Kingstree since 1994. For the past twenty (20) years, my practice has focused almost exclusively in Family Court.

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.

During my last semester in law school, I interned with Family Court Judge William Byers. Since I did not have a part-time job, I spent every hour that I was out of class and he was in court watching and learning from him. I knew early on that I wanted to practice in Family Court and one day be a Family Court Judge. When I started as an associate, I learned all aspects of family law from Gordon B. Jenkinson. During the first five years I practiced law, I concentrated approximately one half of my practice handling cases involving divorce, equitable division of property, child custody, child support, adoption, name changes, birth certificates, annulments, and common law marriages. I have handled every type of case that a Family Court Judge handles many, many times. During my internship with Judge Byers, I spent my entire Spring Break with him while he held court in Clarendon County. Judge Turbeville had just been elected to the family court bench, and he sat with Judge Byers for that week as part of his training. As a result, Judge Turbeville and I developed a close relationship, and he has always been my mentor. He taught me how to conduct myself in court and taught me to always be prepared and know the rules and the law. I have been a contract attorney for the Department of Social Services handling abuse and neglect cases for over twenty-four years. I currently handle cases in Williamsburg, Georgetown, Horry, and Clarendon Counties. I have also represented DSS in Lee, Pickens, Sumter, and Florence Counties. I have handled hundreds of family court cases to include abuse and neglect, child support, equitable division, divorce, custody, termination of parental rights (both DSS and private), adoption, name changes, annulments, delayed birth certificates, Rules to Show Cause, amended birth certificates, and common law marriage. These cases have also included some complex equitable division cases. Although not in my primary practice area, I have handled approximately ten juvenile justice cases over the course of my practice. I have also observed many of these hearings on behalf of the Department of Social Services or while waiting in the courtroom for my cases to start. I would have no problem presiding over these types of cases. I also routinely served as guardian ad litem in contested custody and visitation cases. I am a certified Family Court Mediator and mediate family law cases on a regular basis.

As far as appearances, I have appeared in family court for at least one family court hearing 48 out of the past 52 weeks. Some weeks, I have had in excess of thirty hearings when I have back-to-back DSS court days in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties. I primarily practice in Williamsburg, Sumter, Clarendon, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Berkeley, and Florence Counties, but I have handled cases statewide when necessary.

- (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, 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.

N/A

- (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

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

N/A

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: None
 - (b) state: Multiple (up to thirty) hearings weekly in Family Court
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: 5%
 - (b) criminal: 0%
 - (c) domestic: 95%
 - (d) other: N/A
14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 2%
 - (b) non-jury: 98%

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

I almost always serve as sole counsel.

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) SCDSS vs. Teresa Swindler, Anthony Shephard and Caroline Shepard Op. No. 2004-UP-313 (S.C.Ct.App. filed May 13, 2004) This case was tried in March of 2002 before Judge Lisa A. Kinon in Horry County and lasted several days. It was one of my first termination of parental rights cases. The case was contested and the Defendant father was extremely volatile. One of our witnesses had moved to North Carolina and we had to fly her in and meet her at the airport to bring her in to testify. There were numerous witnesses and exhibits to coordinate. I was successful in terminating the parental rights of the parents. Both parents appealed, and the Court of Appeals affirmed the ruling.
 - (b) SCDSS vs. Veronica Denise Chandler and Monroe Holmes Op. No. 2016-UP-166 (S.C.Ct.App. filed April 1, 2016). Op. No. 2018-UP-003 (S.C.Ct.App. filed January 4, 2018). This case was a complicated Termination of Parental Rights case where SCDSS sought termination of parental rights on both the mother and father, and Judge Pincus terminated the parental rights of both parents. The case was reversed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals and remanded back to Judge Pincus due to the admission of drug screens without the proper chain of custody. We had a full day remand hearing, and Judge Pincus again terminated the parental rights of both parents. The case was appealed a second time and oral argument was necessary. Judge Pincus was affirmed.
 - (c) Robert M. Richardson, Sr. vs. Jean B. Richardson 2014-DR-22-602 Op. No. 2018-UP-277 (S.C.Ct.App. filed June 27, 2018). This was a complicated equitable division case which involved a very contested transmutation issue and was tried before Judge Creech on January 25, 2016. We won on the transmutation issue, the equitable division issue, and the attorney's fees issue. The case was appealed by the Plaintiff to the South Carolina Court of Appeals and it was affirmed.
 - (d) Randy Mobley vs. Sharon Mobley 93-DR-22-280 This case was tried on December 9 and 10, 1993, before Supreme Court Justice Kay Hearn when she was a Family Court Judge. This case was my first all-out custody case that lasted over two days, and I was up against a seasoned family court petitioner. I represented the father and was able to convince Judge Hearn to award the father custody of four young girls all under the age of ten. Back in 1993, it was not common for fathers to get custody of children, especially young girls. This case was probably my biggest case early on and established my reputation in custody

actions. I have been able to watch all four of these girls grow into adults and have represented all of them over the years.

- (e) James Dillon vs. Janelle Elizabeth Evans Turner 2015-DR-22-369
This matter was a divorce, contested custody, and equitable division case before Judge Bromell-Holmes. The big issue in the case was custody as the mother had relocated from Georgetown County to Georgia and since the temporary hearing, the parties were alternating week to week. Due to the distance between the homes, one parent had to be awarded primary custody of the minor child during the school year. It was very contested and involved much animosity and many witnesses. The exhibits included Facebook and other social media posts. I was able to win full custody for the father in Georgetown County and due to the distance involved, the mother was only awarded visitation one weekend per month during the school year.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a) Williamsburg Rural Water vs. Williamsburg County Water Williamsburg County, Town of Kingstree, et al
357 S.C. 251, 593 S.E.2d 154 (2003) and 367 S.C. 566, 627 S.E.2d 690 (2006)
- (b) SCDSS vs. Tammy A, Douglas A and John Doe
Op. No. 2011-UP-088 (S.C.Ct.App. filed March 3, 2011)
- (c) SCDSS vs. Fulton
Op. No. 2017-UP-244 (S.C.Ct.App. filed June 6, 2017)
- (d) SCDSS vs. Hitt
Op. No. 2016-UP-456 (S.C.Ct.App. filed November 9, 2016)
- (e) SCDSS vs. Sheakenia S.
Op. No. 2013-UP-089 (S.C.Ct.App. filed February 25, 2013)

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a) N/A
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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

N/A

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) N/A
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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) South Carolina - November 22, 1992
- (b) United States District Court – South Carolina - January 25, 1993

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

- (a) I was an Adjunct Professor at Limestone College and taught Business Law (1997-2000).
- (b) I was the Co-Course Planner on “Children’s Issues in the Family Court” (March 20, 2009) for the S.C. Bar.
- (c) I was a Speaker on “Constitution and the Bill of Rights” at Williamsburg Technical College (September 16, 2009).
- (d) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Dollars and Sense in Family Court” (October 6-8, 2011) at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC for the S.C. Bar.
- (e) I was a Speaker at “Hot Tips” on “Form 4 – What Now?” (September 28, 2012) for the S.C. Bar.
- (f) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Fast Pass to the Child Custody Roller Coaster” (October 23-25, 2013) at The Yacht and Beach Club at Disney Resort in Orlando, FL for the S.C. Bar.
- (g) I was a Speaker at “Family Law Essentials” on “Equitable Division of Marital Assets” (June 27, 2014) for the S.C. Bar.
- (h) I was a Speaker at “Family Law Essentials” on “Orders of Protection” (June 26, 2015) for the S.C. Bar.
- (i) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Family Law Inside and Out” (October 20-22, 2016) at The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA for the S.C. Bar.
- (j) I was a Speaker on “Child Hearsay in Family Court” at the Fifteenth Circuit Family Court CLE (February 13, 2017).
- (k) I was a Speaker on “Preparing Court Information Sheets” at Georgetown County DSS (February 14, 2017).

- (l) I was the Speaker on “Preparing Court Information Sheets” at Florence County DSS (February 16, 2017).
- (m) I was the Course Planner and Moderator for the “Family Law Intensive” (November 2-4, 2018) at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N.C. for the S.C. Bar.
- (n) I was the Speaker at the Horry County Foster Parent Association on “Navigating Foster Care Successfully” (November 13, 2018)
- (o) I was the Course Planner and Moderator for Family Law Seminar, S.C. Bar Convention (January 18, 2019).
- (p) I was the Speaker on “Preparing Court Information Sheets” at Georgetown County DSS (May 8, 2019)

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

Please see Attachment #1

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

(a) South Carolina Family Lawyer’s Toolkit, Second Edition (SC Bar 2010), Contributing Author

(b) South Carolina Family Lawyer’s Toolkit, Third Edition (SC Bar 2017), Contributing Author

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 Attachments #2 and #3

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

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) Williamsburg County Bar Association 1992 – Present
Secretary/Treasurer 1992 - 1996

- (b) Georgetown County Bar Association 2001 – Present
- (c) South Carolina Association for Justice 1993 – Present
- (d) Family Law Section Council of the South Carolina Bar 2008 – Present
 Family Law Intensive Co-planner 2009 - Present
 Chairperson-Elect 2017 - 2018
 Chairperson 2018-2019
- (e) Supreme Court Commission on Docketing, Family Court Committee 2017 – Present
- (f) South Carolina Family Court Bench-Bar Committee 2015 - Present
 Nominating Committee 2017
- (g) South Carolina Bar Resolution of Fee Disputes Board 2014 - Present
- (h) Office of the Disciplinary Counsel – Attorney to Assist 2005 - 2014
- (i) SC Bar Young Lawyer Division – 3rd Circuit Representative 1994 – 2002
- (j) SC Bar Judicial Qualification Committee 2003 - 2006

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.

Williamsburg County Board of Voter Registration and Elections
 Appointed by the Governor and Confirmed by the Senate March 15, 2010, to Present.

I did miss the filing deadline one year right after I was appointed and was fined a small amount. That made a lasting impression on me and I have never missed the deadline again. I have the date this report is due already recorded on my calendar for the next five years.

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

N/A

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

Yes in 2017, I ran for Family Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, and withdrew from the race.

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.

- (a) Managing Partner for Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA

Practice family law and manage a general practice law firm that has five attorneys and a support staff of twelve to fifteen employees. I began practicing at this firm in 1992 and have worked there continuously since that time.

- (b) A Partner in Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, Partnership. The Partnership owns our building where we practice law.

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.)

Please see Attachment #4

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.

No

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

No

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

None

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

(a) Contributions from Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA: \$500.00 political contribution to Thomas McElveen Campaign on August 1, 2015.

(b) I have made no personal contributions as I am prohibited from doing so due to the position I hold as a member of the Williamsburg County Voter Registration and Election Commission.

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

which are 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.

Yes. Dr. Blake Moore, a former client, sued me Pro Se in federal court in 2009 along with W. E. Jenkinson, III and almost every DSS worker that worked on his case that involved his children. He sued for wrongful death of his wife and other causes of action. I did not handle the DSS case as I informed DSS that I had a conflict of interest. The minor children ended up in foster care, his parental rights were terminated, and the minor children were eventually adopted. Mr. Jenkinson and I were granted Summary Judgement in that case in 2010.

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.

I have been covered under applicable malpractice insurance since I began practicing in 1992. Currently, we have a \$2,000,000.00 policy with a \$10,000.00 deductible with AXIS Professional Insurance. The policy is retroactive to October 15, 1971. I have never been covered by a tail policy as I have always practiced in this firm.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been 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 sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

[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

Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, (3) Memo of Guidance, and (4) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

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 packet.*

- (a) Joe M. Crosby, Esquire
Crosby Law Firm, LLC

[REDACTED]

- (b) Mary Jo G. Burgess

[REDACTED]

- (c) Jennifer R. Kellahan, Esquire
Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA

[REDACTED]

- (d) Scott Williamson, President
Bank of Greeleyville

[REDACTED]

- (e) M. Evan Powell, Head of School
Orangeburg Preparatory Schools, Inc.

[REDACTED]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, 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 am active on Facebook and often post family pictures or about local events. I also have a Twitter account, although I have never “tweeted” anything. I also have an Instagram account but rarely use it. I do not comment or post about politics or get involved in any social media drama. I try to use Facebook in a positive way to congratulate friends on

births, marriages, new homes, promotions, etc. I try to wish others Happy Birthday and enjoy reading my posts on my birthday. Our firm also has a Facebook account which we use for marketing.

I realize that if I am elected as a Family Court Judge, I will have to curtail my Facebook usage and will not be able to post or “friend” people due to the nature and responsibilities of this position, and I am willing do so.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) Williamsburg Academy Governing Board 2001 – 2018
Chairman 2003 – 2018
 - (b) Kingstree Rotary 2000 – Present
Paul Harris Fellow
Past President 2009 - 2010
Projects Chair 2014 - 2018
President–Elect 2017 - 2018
President 2018-2019
 - (c) Williamsburg County First Steps Board 2011 – 2018
Personnel Committee 2012 - 2018
Vice- Chairman 2014 - 2018
 - (d) Kingstree United Methodist Church Member Birth – Present
Council on Ministries (became Church Council) 1994 – 2002
Chairman of Council on Ministries 1997 – 2000
Long-Range Planning Committee 1996 - 1999
Church Council 2002 – Present
Chairman 2019 - Present
Committee on Lay Leadership 2001 - 2004
Trustees 2002-2005; 2015 - 2018
Vice-Chair 2005
Sunday School Teacher 2008 – Present
Youth Leader Assistant 1997 – Present
Bible School Leader 1993 – Present
Mission Trip Chaperone 1997 – 2015 (18 trips over the Southeast)
 - (e) South Carolina Independent School Association Executive Committee
2010 – Present
 - (f) Tri-County Regional Development Board 2012 – 2016

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 can remember attending a church conference one weekend where we had to write a personal life mission statement as one of our exercises. I do not remember the exact wording of my mission statement, but I remember it being something to the effect of “serving others by helping them through difficult times.” I have tried to devote my life to serving others professionally by representing them during some of the most trying and difficult times in their lives. I enjoy serving others. I have participated in eighteen mission trips through Kingstree Community Youth, the youth group sponsored by my church, Kingstree United Methodist Church. These mission trips have covered the Southeast where we go into the community, stay in a local school, and serve the residents during the week by repairing homes, painting, and helping to rebuild their lives. I think being selected as a Family Court Judge would allow me to further my life of service to others. I have patterned my career to position me to have the professional, academic, and ethical traits along with the proper temperament to do this job well. I deeply care about children’s issues as reflected by my professional work with the Department of Social Services and by my volunteer work with children and youth at Williamsburg Academy and my church. I want to see children thrive and grow up in a healthy and safe environment, and I always want what is best for them. I want to be fair, impartial, and treat each person that comes before the Family Court with dignity and respect. I realize that this is a very trying time in the lives of litigants and a Family Court Judge usually sees the worst side of people and relationships. However, I think I can have a positive impact on the lives of the litigants and especially the lives of children who are involved in Family Court proceedings.

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: _____
Ernest J. Jarrett

Sworn to before me this 15th day of July, 2019.

(Notary Signature)

Katherine B. Jarrett
(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____