

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court  
Judge, Seat #5

1. Name: Mr. Spiros Stavros Ferderigos

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

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: 101 Meeting Street, Suite 330, Charleston, South Carolina 29401

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): 843-958-5150  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1978  
Place of Birth: Charleston, 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#: [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.

I have not.

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.

Family Status: Married on April 24, 2004 to Laura Williams Ferderigos.  
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.
  - (a) College of Charleston, 1996-2000, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Bachelor of Arts in History;
  - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 2000-2003, Juris Doctorate.
  
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) The Federalist Society, 2000 – 2003;
  - (b) Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, 2000 – 2003;
  - (c) Vice President, Criminal Law Society, 2000 – 2003.
  
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 in the State of South Carolina in 2003. I took the bar exam one time.
  
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character 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.
  - (a) Law Offices of Paul E. Tinkler, Charleston, South Carolina  
Civil Litigation, October 2003 to March 2007  
Attorney for a civil litigation firm specializing in the field of domestic relations. Other areas of practice included personal injury, medical malpractice and business transactions. Complete autonomy in representing clients in a two lawyer firm.
  - (b) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Criminal Litigation, March 2007 to present

Assistant Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Division.  
Includes complete autonomy in the prosecution of Murder, Armed Robbery,  
Narcotic and Weapon related charges.

- (c) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Special Counsel to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court Program,  
January 2011 to present  
Representative and member of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court  
Program. Sole Assistant Solicitor assigned to the program and intricately  
involved in the program's oversight, day to day affairs and recruitment.
- (d) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Managing Assistant Solicitor, June 2013 to present  
Promoted to Managing Assistant Solicitor in addition to the duties of Special  
Counsel to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court Program and general  
duties of an Assistant Solicitor in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.
- (e) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
Chief Prosecutor, March 2016 to present  
Promoted to Chief Prosecutor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court  
Division. In addition to handling the most complex juvenile delinquency cases in  
Family Court, the duties of the Chief Prosecutor include complete management of  
the entire Family Court Division of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, oversight and  
management of all Family Court Assistant Solicitors and staff, and management  
of Juvenile Delinquency Dockets with the Family Court. As Chief Prosecutor, I  
am the acting deputy of the elected Solicitor for all matters regarding the Family  
Court Division in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11-17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years.

I have been blessed to practice extensively in both fields of domestic relations and juvenile justice in Family Court. I have personally and solely handled a large

caseload of domestic relations matters in my approximate three and a half years in private practice. These cases involved nearly every aspect of domestic relations law. For divorces, I handled contested and non-contested cases. These include cases of adultery, habitual drunkenness, one year's separation, common law marriage and annulment. I have handled equitable division cases with nominal financial estates as well as multi-million dollar financial estates. I have represented military spouses and drafted Qualified Domestic Relations Orders. I have handled both simple child custody cases and complex child custody cases. The simple child custody cases being when custodians agree on visitation and child custody. The complex child custody cases include a spouse who is hiding his or her abuse of narcotics or alcoholism, a spouse secretly exposing his or her young child to a paramour, one parent removing the child from his or her homestate without a court order, and non-custodians petitioning the court as the "psychological parent" to gain custody of a child over the biological parents. I have represented clients in Department of Social Services matters in cases of abuse and neglect, navigating those clients through the judicial process and treatment services they require for re-unification with their child and fighting to put the family unit back together in a safe and nurturing environment. I have also handled numerous Rule to Show Cause hearings in Family Court domestic matters, ensuring that my client's significant other or prior significant other follows the orders of the court.

For juvenile justice matters in Family Court, I have been an Assistant Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit for approximately twelve years. My prosecutions have resulted in numerous violent crime, non-violent crime and status offense adjudications that include Arson, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, Burglary, Disorderly Conduct, Lynching, Runaway and sexual misconduct crimes to name a few. Examples of contested cases resolved by trial include numerous Murder convictions, Armed Robbery convictions, narcotic related convictions, and weapon related convictions. I also successfully tried numerous contested Waiver Hearings where juvenile defendants have been transferred to General Sessions Court to be tried as adults for charges that include Murder, Assault With Intent to Kill and Escape from Prison. I have also had the pleasure of spearheading the re-formation of the Charleston County Juvenile Drug Court Program where I have seen children addicted to narcotics and alcohol literally turn their lives around and become productive citizens of our community. Most recently, I have been humbled and honored to be selected as the Chief Prosecutor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Division. As Chief Prosecutor, I am in charge of the Solicitor's Office Family Court Division, supervising all other attorneys and staff in the division, and prosecuting the most complex criminal cases within the Ninth Judicial Circuit Family Court.

The area of domestic relations law that I do not have personal experience in is adoptions. Although I have not represented a client in an adoption matter, I have personally observed numerous adoption hearings and would be comfortable as a presiding judge navigating through the statutes and case law relating to adoptions to ensure that the legal standards are satisfied and the best interests of the child are met.

Over the past five years, I have appeared before a Family Court Judge a minimum of three days a week.

- (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. I am not a candidate for Circuit Court.
  - (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. I am not a candidate for Master-In-Equity.
  - (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. I am not a candidate for Administrative Law Court.
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: Approximately three days a week for Family Court Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings
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: None
  - (b) criminal: 100 percent (Family Court Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings)
  - (c) domestic: None
  - (d) other: None

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: None
  - (b) non-jury: 100 percent

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel? Sole, chief 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) State vs. Jones– I successfully prosecuted a contested juvenile delinquency Waiver Hearing resulting in the juvenile defendant being transferred to General Sessions Court to be tried as an adult for the charges of Murder, Assault with Intent to Kill and Escape from Prison. This matter is of significance as Waiver Hearings are one of the more complex and rare hearings to be held in Family Court. This matter is also of significance as I succeeded in bringing justice to a mourning family in a case where the court found that the juvenile defendant could not be rehabilitated after he hunted down a minor victim and shot the victim “execution style” in front of the victim’s sister. The same juvenile also repeatedly shot another minor victim resulting in permanent disfigurement. The family of the murdered victim desperately sought justice for the unnecessary death of their child. The other minor victim who was shot numerous times not only sought justice, but also feared for his safety should the defendant be adjudicated delinquent in Family Court where he could only be indeterminately committed for a period not to exceed his twenty-first birthday. By “waiving up” the juvenile defendant, the family of the murdered victim was able to receive the maximum justice afforded in our legal system, and the maimed second victim did not have to live in fear that the defendant would be released within a few short years of his conviction.

(b) Rawlins v. Rawlins – This domestic relations matter is of significance as I represented a mother who was completely blind-sided by her spouse’s adultery with exotic dancers, abuse of narcotics, devaluation and concealment of marital/business assets, and attempts to transmute my client’s substantial inheritance to marital property. Motions for Emergency Hearing, Rules to Show Cause, Motions to Compel and other relief had to be sought to protect the minor child and protect the sanctity of the marital estate. Through the proper use of these motions, I succeeded in protecting my client’s minor child from her spouse’s dangerous behavior, preserved the marital estate, and used financial experts and private investigators to ensure the court had the proper evidence to issue a fair and proper ruling. After hearing testimony from my financial experts, private investigator, and other witnesses; the court imputed a significantly higher income to the spouse than he reported, awarded my client permanent periodic alimony, granted a divorce on the ground of adultery, granted primary custody to my client, denied the spouse’s

demand to transmute my client's significant non-marital estate to marital property, and awarded my client attorney's fees and costs.

- (c) State vs. Williams and Gathers – This juvenile delinquency matter is of significance as I successfully prosecuted two juvenile defendants concurrently for Murder and received Murder adjudications against both defendants. This was a highly contested matter in which the juveniles denied shooting the victim when the victim came out to defend his younger brother who was being bullied by the defendants. By the end of the altercation, the victim was killed by a single gunshot wound to the head and another shot to the body. I worked diligently with police investigators to re-create the crime scene, analyze the possible trajectories of the bullets and offered into evidence audio recordings of the shots fired that ultimately led to the defendants being found guilty of Murder beyond a reasonable doubt. The Family Court's ruling was appealed by one of the defendants; however, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Murder adjudication in an unpublished opinion.
  
- (d) Schenkler vs. Schenkler – This matter is of significance as I represented a mother in a complex divorce case whose psychiatrist spouse had committed adultery by prescribing medications to and taking sexual advantage of his patients while they were under the influence of the medications. When I was retained to represent the mother in this action, she was aware of her spouse's obsession with pornography; however, she never imagined what our investigations would bring to light regarding his sexual exploits. Although the parties had a nominal financial estate, this matter became heavily contested as I fought for the safety of the minor children. As the evidence of his adultery and inappropriate behavior with patients began to solidify, the spouse unexpectedly left the country. After I successfully navigated through the procedural hurdles related to the spouse's flight during litigation, trial moved forward in the spouse's absence with my client being awarded custody of the children, a fair equitable division of the marital estate, restraining order from the spouse contacting the children, and the court granting my client attorney's fees and costs.
  
- (e) State vs. Felder – This juvenile delinquency matter is of significance as I successfully prosecuted a juvenile for numerous counts of Arson and Malicious Injury to Property after he intentionally entered a downtown residence at approximately 9:50 am, lit the drapes of the residence on fire and fled as the building collapsed from the flames. The fire spread to two additional residences and engulfed those homes as well. In total, five homes were damaged (three completely engulfed in flames), numerous vehicles damaged, and pets of the homeowners trapped in the blaze were killed. Fortunately, all of the residents had just left and were not asleep in their homes as the flames quickly spread through the buildings. This was a complex matter as the juvenile defendant initially denied his involvement. Numerous investigations had to be completed to determine where the fire started and a search for witnesses or individuals with information about the crime. In addition to working with the police department, I had the additional role of consoling and providing legal guidance to the victims who had lost everything. With the help of

the Fire Marshal, police interviews and police surveillance video near the area; I was able to convince defense counsel that the juvenile defendant would be found guilty at trial. The juvenile pled accordingly and was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, providing some closure to the innocent victims as they began the process of slowly putting their lives back together.

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) Callen vs. Callen, 365 S.C. 618, 620 S.E.2d 59 (2005)  
Date of Decision: September 19, 2005  
(Personally handled along with Paul E. Tinkler and Lori Stoney)
- (b) Simmons vs. Simmons, 370 S.C. 109, 634 S.E.2d 1 (Ct. App. 2006)  
Date of Decision: April 10, 2006  
(Personally handled along with Paul E. Tinkler)
- (c) Computer Products Inc. vs. JEM Restaurant Group, John E. McGrath, Monolith Software Solutions, Inc., and W. David Valmus, Op. No. 2007-UP-066 (Ct. App. 2007)  
Date of Decision: February 12, 2007; Not Published.  
(Personally handled along with Paul E. Tinker)

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 have never held judicial office.

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.

- (a) South Carolina, 2003;
- (b) U.S. District Court for the District of S.C. Federal District Court, 2004.



21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
- (a) I have lectured at the 2011 and 2014 Judges and Attorneys Substance Abuse Seminar as a panelist discussing Drug Court Programs;
  - (b) I have made annual presentations to the local School Resource Officers regarding updates to the criminal law as it relates to school incidents and best practices regarding criminal activity that arise within a school setting;
  - (c) I have made presentations in 2017 and 2018 to students at the Charleston Southern University regarding juvenile delinquency matters and the Family Court criminal process.
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. None
24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.) I am the sole author of the attached legal writings.
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. None
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) Charleston County Bar Association
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. I have never held public office.
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

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

I was selected as a candidate by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in 2014 and 2015 for the vacancy of Seat # 2 and Seat #3, Charleston County Family Court, respectively. I withdrew my nomination in both instances a few days prior to the vote when it became apparent that my opponent would likely secure sufficient votes to win the nomination. As my local delegation appeared to be divided regarding support for a single nominee, I chose to withdraw from the contest and seek nomination to the next vacant Charleston County Family Court seat.

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.

I am a co-owner of Lantern Properties, LLC (2008 to present) and Old Towne Suites, LLC (2011 to present), both of which are Limited Liability Companies for rental properties. I am also a co-owner of 229 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401 of which the first floor is occupied by Old Towne Grill and Seafood Restaurant. The remaining floors are short term residential units rented through Old Towne Suites, LLC.

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.

I am not.

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.

I have not.

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

(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? There has not. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? I have not. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? I have not. If so, give details.
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. I have not.
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?

There have been 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.
  - (a) Peter M. McCoy, Jr. in the amount of \$250;
  - (b) Samuel Rivers, Jr. in the amount of \$300;
  - (c) Samuel Rivers, Jr. in the amount of \$300.

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.

I have not.

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.

The only financial arrangements or business relationships I have or have had that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest relates to my residential rental company,

Lantern Properties, LLC, of which I am a co-owner. A conflict may arise if a current or prior tenant were to appear before me in Family Court. I would resolve this conflict of interest by immediately recusing myself from the case as I would have previously made, or currently be making, a financial gain from a litigant before the Court.

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;

The only interest that I or an immediate family member has in real property that may constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest relates to my residential rental company, Lantern Properties, LLC, of which I am a co-owner. A conflict may arise if a current or prior tenant were to appear before me in Family Court. I would resolve this conflict of interest by immediately recusing myself from the case as I would have previously made, or currently be making, a financial gain from a litigant before the Court.

- (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

None

- (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;

Lantern Properties, LLC (hereinafter LLC) owns a residential property located at 1854 Ashley Hall Road. I am a fifty percent owner of the LLC and my brother, Phillip Ferderigos, is a fifty percent owner of the remaining fifty percent interest in the LLC. The total value of the residential property is \$270,614.00.

- (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. None

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Subsection (b) and (c) are 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.

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. Not applicable
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
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
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.

I have not.

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.

For the first time in my life, I had been named as a defendant in a lawsuit(s). The causes of action filed against me were dismissed by the Court. Specifically, by Court Order filed September 28, 2017 (Case Number 2015-CP-10-3919) and February 20, 2018 (Case Number 2015-CP-10-3891), the Honorable J.C. Nicholson, Jr. granted Summary Judgment in my favor for the allegations alleged against me. The lawsuits were filed by my cousin, Athan Fokas. The docket numbers for the lawsuits are 2015-CP-10-3891 and 2015-CP-10-3919. The lawsuits were filed July 14, 2015 and July 15, 2015 respectively. These lawsuits arose from a dispute regarding exploring and potentially building additional rental units above an existing property located at 229 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina (229 King Street). My cousin, my brothers and I are co-owners of said property, which we all received

interest in said property as a gift from our respective parents. I was not the only defendant named in the lawsuits. My brother Phillip Ferderigos (a law partner at Barnwell, Whaley, Patterson and Helm) was named as a defendant in case number 2015-CP-10-3891 and both my brothers, Phillip Ferderigos and Jacob Ferderigos (restaurant owner), were named as defendants in case number 2015-CP-10-3919. As an officer of the Court, I attest hereto that it is my opinion and belief that my cousin's lawsuits were baseless and were filed in an effort to gain negotiation leverage. In fact, as stated above, the Honorable J.C. Nicholson, Jr. outright dismissed the lawsuits filed against me.

I am also a Plaintiff in two pending lawsuits. The docket numbers for the lawsuits are 2017-CP-10-3313 and 2017-CP-10-3474. The lawsuits were filed June 29, 2017 and July 10, 2017 respectively. These lawsuits involve the same inherited property located at 229 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina from Case Number 2015-CP-10-3919 and Case Number 2015-CP-10-3891 in which the Court granted Summary Judgment in my favor. Case Number 2017-CP-10-3313 is a lawsuit filed to evict a business occupying the first floor of 229 King Street and for damages. Case Number 2017-CP-10-3474 is a lawsuit against a dissociated member of the Limited Liability Company (LLC) that manages the rental units located at 229 King Street for actively competing against the LLC while he was a member of the LLC.

All of these lawsuits involve disputes with the same extended family member, my cousin, Athan Fokas. Additionally, all of the lawsuits are in regards to the same inherited property located at 229 King Street that each owner inherited from their parents. I have never been involved in any other lawsuits.

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 am not in private practice.

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. I have not.

**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.

I have not.

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

I have not requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf, nor am I aware of any third parties that have done so on my behalf. The only contact that I have had with members of the General Assembly is my personally contacting members to generally introduce myself and inform them that I intend to run for the Family Court position being vacated by The Honorable Jocelyn B. Cate.

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) The Honorable Irvin C. Condon; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- (b) Scarlett Wilson, Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- (c) M. Dawes Cooke, Jr., Esquire; [REDACTED]
- (d) Richard N. Buchanan, Esquire; [REDACTED]
- (e) Paul E. Tinkler, Esquire; [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 a member of the social media site Facebook. The primary purpose of my social media account is to share family pictures with my friends and acquaintances, view my friends' family pictures and to follow posts from my children's school regarding upcoming events. If I were to serve on the judiciary, I would limit my account access to only family members and very close friends who would not appear before me in court. I believe a judge should be held to a higher standard regarding the appearance of impropriety and having "special relationships" with those who may appear before him/her in court. As such, I would not make my account available to any individuals that may appear before me.

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) None

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.

First and foremost I am a devoted husband and the father of three adorable children. My children are my life and I strive every day to set a good example for them and be the kind of father that they deserve. I believe that every child should have the same opportunities as my children and be raised in a nurturing and safe environment. I have devoted my legal career to the practice of family law because Family Court is the judicial arena where children are the primary focus of the law. Whether it is domestic relations where the "best interests of the child" is the cornerstone of the law, or juvenile delinquency proceedings that focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment; a Family Court judge is expected to make every effort within the law to protect children and attempt to bring normalcy in what is a tumultuous period in a child's life. A Family Court judge also has the duty to set appropriate boundaries



for adult litigants whose lives have been turned upside down from divorce proceedings. I have personally observed how divorce proceedings can turn the most rational individuals into irrational litigants whose sole aim is to harm their spouse rather than seek the best interests of their children and reasonable financial resolution for their families. Throughout the chaotic mental, physical and emotional state that many individuals find themselves in during a domestic matter, it is up to the presiding judge to set appropriate boundaries that will foster litigants to move forward in a dignified manner and provide an opportunity for all parties to present the appropriate evidence before the court.

I am also the son of an immigrant father and mother. My father relocated to the United States of America from Greece as a teenager and became an American citizen in search of a better life for himself and his family. The unfair laws and lack of opportunity in his origin of birth crippled my father's ability to live in a dignified manner where he could raise a family and prosper through hard work. I have personally observed the unjust laws (or lack thereof) when visiting Greece where judicial verdicts are routinely given in favor of litigants who make the proper "contributions" to court officials, or observing officers imprison individuals with no warrant, no probable cause or any explanation whatsoever. I am very blessed that my father risked everything to seek a better life in the United States of America, a country where disputes are not handled in the streets or by a corrupt judiciary; but a country with a judiciary that allows all litigants from every walk of life, race and social status to have a truly fair trial. The necessity of a fair trial, following the rule of law, treating litigants with respect and a judiciary that is above reproach is something that is very dear to me and something that I will ensure should I be blessed with the opportunity to become a Family Court judge.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_