

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

1. Name: Mrs. Kimaka "Kim" Nichols-Graham

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

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: 701 South Main Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (864) 679-3259  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1972  
Place of Birth: Marion, 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.

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.

(a). Married. Hakim R. Graham. Small Business (Development, Management & Operations)

(b). July 6, 2002.

(c). No. Not Applicable



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) Winthrop University. August 1990 to May 1994.  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Cum Laude

(b) Rutgers University. August 1994 to May 1995.  
Master of Science in Public Policy (Concentration in Education Policy)

(c) The University of South Carolina, School of Law. August 1995 to May 1998.  
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) Student-Faculty Task Force. (Career Services and Registration Committees) 1996-1997.

(b) Civil Procedure Tutor for Academic Peer Assistant Program, Spring 1997 and 1998.

(c) Black Law Student Association (Banquet and Elections Committees, Social/Mentoring Committee Chairperson, 1997-1998).

(d) Phi Delta Phi, Student Bar Association, Women in Law (1995-1998).

(e) Law Clerk for the Law Office of Hemphill P. Pride, II (Summer 1996 and Fall 1996).

(f) Law Clerk for the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of General Counsel (Spring 1997).

(g) Law Clerk for the Richland County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Project (Summer of 1997 and Fall of 1997). I worked for the CASA Attorney that had termination of parental rights cases to assist with reducing the amount of time it took to terminate parental rights of severely abused and neglected minor children in foster care so they

could be adopted by stable and loving families. I worked full time during the summer of 1997 providing support to prepare termination of parental rights cases for trial. I observed every termination of parental rights trial held at the Richland County Family Courthouse in the Summer of 1997 and many DSS child protective custody hearings and trials. I continued to assist on a part time basis when law school resumed in the Fall of 1997.

- (h) Law Intern/Clerk for the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (Spring 1998)

USC Law School did not have a child law concentration program when I attended law school. I selected courses and sought clerkships that created experiences like what would one day become a child law concentration program.

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. 1998. 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.

The Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina was a regional legal services agency that merged with other regional providers of civil legal services for low income families in South Carolina to create a statewide law firm named The South Carolina Centers for Equal Justice Legal Services on December 31, 2001. Years later the corporate name changed to South Carolina Legal Services. I was hired by the Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina on November 16, 1998 and it had three offices in Greenville, Anderson, and Greenwood with less than ten attorneys. I am currently employed by South Carolina Legal Services, a statewide law firm with nine offices across the state with at least fifty attorneys.

Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina, Inc. (LSAWC). Greenville, South Carolina.

- (a) Staff Attorney. Provided general law practice and community education in housing, probate, and family law cases. My caseload was ninety percent family law. The office served Greenville and Pickens Counties. November 1998 to September 1999.
- (b) Children's Law Attorney. I practiced law for low income families but tried to focus primarily on adoptions, termination of parental rights, children's social security cases and on developing a practice in special education advocacy and

school discipline cases. During this time, my case load was primarily divorce, custody, child support, and other cases that involved disputes or legal issues pertaining to children. LSAWC had offices located in Greenville, Anderson, and Greenwood serving clients in Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, Oconee, Greenwood, Edgefield, and McCormick Counties. I monitored the adoption and termination of adoptions files that attorneys were working on in each of these offices, created a step by step guide for how to do these cases without missing procedural or substantial steps in the process, shared sample pleadings, and provided reports to the Executive Director on the cost and status of every open adoption and termination of parental rights case at LSAWC. September 1999 until December 31, 2001.

South Carolina Legal Services. Greenville, South Carolina.

(a) Staff Attorney II. I provided civil legal services to low income individuals and families through direct client representation and by providing community education seminars. I primarily practiced family law in Greenville and Pickens Counties until the Anderson Office closed. My cases included divorce, custody, school discipline, special education, special needs relative adoptions, bankruptcy, credit card defense, and children social security appeals. I appeared before school boards, in Magistrate's Court, in Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, Court of Appeals, and in the U. S. Bankruptcy Court. I served as a staff attorney except for brief periods of time when I was the Acting Managing Attorney until I was promoted to the Managing Attorney position. Permanent Full Time Position. January 1, 2002 to April 2013.

- i. Forms and Standardization Committee. 2000-2001, 2005-2006.  
Appointed by the Executive Director of a regional legal services program to travel to Columbia and meet with attorneys from other legal service programs in South Carolina to develop standard forms that could be used shortly after we began centralized intake. Continued to serve on this committee when it resumed operations after the regional legal services programs merged. The result is the comprehensive standardization book with intake questionnaires, letters, and administrative forms.
- ii. Employee Evaluation Committee. 2005.  
Appointed by the Executive Director to serve on a committee for the Director of Human Resources to create employee evaluations. Traveled to Columbia to meet with staff members from across the state to determine which positions needed an evaluation and developed the core performance evaluation that South Carolina Legal Services still uses.
- iii. New Attorney Training Protocol Committee. 2007.  
Appointed by the Executive Director to a committee to develop a protocol for new attorneys to provide support and retain attorneys hired during their first year of practice. Served as a staff attorney with considerable experience. Traveled to Columbia for the committee meetings to develop

the protocol.

- (b) Education Unit Head. Leads the education unit, seeks local funding when possible, trains legal service attorneys across the state in representing students in the public education system, teaches parents how to advocate for children, responds to requests for training from community groups, and operated the Greenville County United Way's Securing Public-School Opportunities Program. Education cases included special education, school discipline, 504 accommodation plans, school enrollment, and homeless student education cases throughout South Carolina providing representation before local hearing officers, School Boards, the South Carolina Department of Education, the United States Department of Education, the Court of Common Pleas, and the South Carolina Court of Appeals. This is an additional leadership position. March 2003 to present.
- (c) Acting Managing Attorney. Supervised six attorneys, two paralegals, and three support staff. Assigned cases, supervised legal work, handled personnel issues, and participated on management team while the Managing Attorney was on extended leave. I assisted in setting up and staffing a satellite office in Anderson. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. September 24, 2007 through December 31, 2007.
- (d) Acting Managing Attorney. Supervised five full time attorneys, three contract attorneys, one volunteer attorney, three support staff employees, and a satellite office. Reviewed emergency intakes, assigned cases, supervised legal work, handled personnel issues, and provided other managerial duties while the Managing Attorney was on extended leave. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. August 26, 2009 through November 24, 2009.
- (e) Managing Attorney (Greenville). Responsible for the provision of civil legal services in Anderson, Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee counties, the quality of legal services provided, and maintaining connections with the community and private bar. Ensures the efficient operation of the Greenville Office and maintains a caseload. Reviews applications for legal services. Assigns cases and provides case load management. Provides employee evaluations for support staff and attorneys. Provides human resource management and addresses grievances. Provides guidance and training. Manages client trust and petty cash accounts. Assures compliance with grants, policies, and procedures. Maintains a case load in the service area. Participates in grant writing. Includes supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. Temporary position April 1, 2013 until May 31, 2013. Permanent Position from June 1, 2013 to present.
- (f) Managing Attorney for the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. Supervise and manage the Clinic Director, paralegal, and attorneys that assist with tax cases for South Carolina Legal Services in all counties. Provides case load management,

monitors the quality of legal services provided, facilitates assigning cases, denies applicants, provides human resource management, and reviews grant applications and reports. January 2015 to present.

**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 considerable experience in filing and defending divorce and the equitable division of property. Over the years I have more experience with divorces based on physical cruelty because of the legal services case acceptance policy but I have also filed and defended divorces including the other grounds for divorce. Some victims of domestic violence were married to individuals with higher incomes and significant assets, so I have also represented clients with the equitable division of property that had more property than you would expect for a legal services client. I have secured alimony.

I have significant experience in filing and defending custody actions in family court. My experience in custody cases involves disputes between biological parents and disputes between biological parents and cases involving non-biological parent or a third party challenging biological parents for custody.

During my first ten years of practicing family law I had more experience with DSS abuse and neglect cases because private attorneys that did not have experience in that area were routinely appointed so legal services would accept some of those cases to ensure the quality of services provided. Since the court appointment system changed to contracts for attorneys with experience in abuse and neglect cases representing parties that cannot afford to pay an attorney, we have not used our limited resources to duplicate access to the judicial system.

My experience with filing adoption cases is primarily with relative special needs adoptions but I have also represented biological parents in defending termination of parental rights and adoption cases. One of these cases received national media attention because it successfully secured the return of a newborn from an improper

out of state adoption. Nevertheless, I have also zealously represented adopting parents in terminating parental rights to adopt children that were abused and neglected.

I do not have significant experience as attorney of record in juvenile justice cases, but I believe the vast amount of work that I do for students in school discipline cases has provided a considerable foundation for me in that area. Many of the students involved in juvenile justice cases in family court are in family court because an incident that happened at school. I have extensive experience representing students in school discipline cases when it is safe for the student to attend school or assisting the family to find other educational options. I have also been asked to train school employees, school based mental health workers, and attorneys involved in the juvenile justice cases on the intersection of school discipline and special education law. As the Education Unit Head, I have experience in reviewing juvenile justice cases to determine if there are special education or school discipline issues that require attention.

I have significant experience in representing victims of domestic violence in filing and securing Orders of Protection from Domestic Abuse. I have also represented respondents in Orders of Protection cases when an abusive partner uses the Order of Protection process to assert control a partner.

As a Managing Attorney I have gained experience in quickly reviewing the facts and applicable laws in divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, and abuse and neglect applications for legal services to determine whether we will accept or deny the application. If accepted I assess the level of services that we will provide and assign the file to a staff attorney or private attorney for legal representation. There are many cases that we cannot accept because of limited resources and at that time it would not be in the best interest of the children to secure custody for the party applying for legal services. When possible, I explain the family court process, legal standards, and counsel on what they should do to improve their situation or ask another attorney to provide that counsel and advice when we cannot provide legal representation. Also, as the Managing Attorney I am constantly involved in providing legal strategy to attorneys that practice family law.

I have been practicing family law for almost 21 years. I appeared more frequently in family court during the first fifteen years of my practice. However, I still appear in Anderson, Pickens, Greenville or Oconee family court as time permits or on an emergency basis for new clients or when attorneys leave the firm unexpectedly. My name may not always appear on the docket, but I enjoy each opportunity to try a case or argue a point of law. During the first three years as a Managing Attorney I was able to appear more often in Greenville Family Court to provide backup for pro bono attorneys on the Order of Protection docket.

Considering the great amount of effort, it has taken me to run for a family court judgeship, since 2012, I have not represented any clients that are opposing parties to

lawyer legislators. Personally, it would be considered a conflict of interest to my clients who often believe they are already disadvantaged. There were only a few applications for legal services in family court cases that had lawyer legislators listed as opposing counsel in Anderson, Pickens, Greenville, or Oconee counties since 2013.

- (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.

Not Applicable.

- (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.

Not Applicable.

- (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.

Not Applicable.

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: Less 1%. Occasional to cover a hearing in bankruptcy court
- (b) state: 99%. There were significant variances. Sometimes I appeared as much as twice a week not including appearances before administrative agencies.
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: 47%
- (b) criminal: 0%
- (c) domestic: 53%
- (d) other: 0%

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: 9%
- (b) non-jury: 100%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel? 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) (Sealed File). John Row, et al. vs. John Doe, et al., This case was significant because a single father registered on the responsible father registry before his child was placed with an out of state couple for adoption. We reviewed adoption practices and were able to prevail by using the due process provisions already codified but often overlooked in practice. The litigation strategy was shared at a few legal education trainings. ABC Nightline News also aired a follow up story with the single father regarding the responsible father registry while protecting the identity of the Plaintiffs.
- (b) Jane Doe, A High School Student in Richland County School District Two and her Parent, Mary Doe, vs. Richland County School District Two. Case Number: 2006-CP-40-6545. This case is significant to the practice of education law in South Carolina because it is the first appellate case with a ruling on the issue of substantial evidence. This case was significant to me because I represented a student that was expelled from school and accused of committing sexual offenses without any evidence. The parent unsuccessfully appealed to the board after simply stating persuasive legal grounds, but she needed legal services to appeal to the court system. We prevailed in circuit court, but the school district appealed the decision to the court of appeals. This case is evidence that things do not always work themselves out and there are times that the indigent need civil legal services to secure basic opportunities. The student prevailed on appeal to the Court of Appeals. Decided March 25, 2009. 382 S.C. 656; 677 S.E.2d 610.
- (c) Darla Yates vs. Eddie Crooks. Case Number: 2005-DR-39-418. This case was significant because I represented a client in a visitation Rule to Show Cause that resulted in a trial. There was an allegation of a history of abuse in a prior case that prevented my client from being able to represent herself.
- (d) Martha Sue Payne vs. Mary Patterson. Case Number: 2006-DR-23-4112. This case was significant to me because I was unsuccessful in appealing a visitation contempt case after representing the client in a contested trail to the SC Court of Appeals. The visitation contempt and appeal cases were after I represented the same

third party in a contested DSS abuse and neglect case, and a contested change of custody case that was resolved after a contested trial. It is important for people to have access to the legal system, but the legal system should not be involved in every dispute.

- (e) Jane Doe vs. John Doe. Case Number: 2019-DR-04-262. This case was significant because with very little notice I was able to represent a person that filed for protection without legal representation. The hearing was a trial that involved testimony from three witnesses, proffering evidence, and closing statements. There was one issue related to the rights of a minor child, so I did not use the names to provide some privacy from internet word searches.
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) Jane Doe, A High School Student in Richland County School District Two and her Parent, Mary Doe, vs. Richland County School District Two. South Carolina Court of Appeals. Decided March 25, 2009. 382 S.C. 656; 677 S.E.2d 610.
- (b) Unpublished Opinion. Martha Sue Payne vs. Mary Patterson. South Carolina Court of Appeals. Decided April 26, 2010.
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)
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) None. Not Applicable.
- (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.
- No.
19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
- (a) None. Not Applicable.
- (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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina on November 16, 1998;
  - (b) Admitted to practice in The United States District Court of South Carolina on January 2, 2003;
  - (c) Admitted to practice before the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of South Carolina.
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 presented a session on representing low income students and parents in school law to legal services agencies for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on October 11, 2001.
  - (b) I presented a session on representing low income families in school law at the South Eastern Project Directors Association for directors of legal service agencies on July 15, 2002.
  - (c) I presented a session on monitoring re-segregation and protecting the poor for legal service lawyers at the National Legal Aid and Public Defender Substantive Law Conference on July 25, 2002.
  - (d) I presented a session on the overview of a school law practice to legal services and pro bono attorneys for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on August 12, 2004.
  - (e) I presented a session on DSS Court Appointments and Defense Pointers to lawyers at the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association Retreat on October 22, 2004.
  - (f) I presented a session on parent rights in school discipline procedures to legal services and pro bono attorneys for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on February 24, 2006.
  - (g) I presented a session on school discipline and special education discipline to lawyers in the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Education Pro Bono Project Training on August 10, 2006.
  - (h) I presented a session on students still having due process rights to school administrators, professors, and attorneys at the Education Law Association's Annual Conference on October 22, 2009.
  - (i) I have presented several sessions to attorneys and staff on education law at SC Legal Services' Statewide Meetings and in-house education task force meetings.
  - (j) I presented a session on working with students experiencing bullying to attorneys at the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center's Education Law Training on March 9, 2012.
  - (k) I presented a session called balancing the scales of justice on representing students in education law cases for the South Carolina Bar on August 8, 2014
  - (l) I presented a session called expulsion case pointers to provide practice tips for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center in October of 2014.

- (m) I presented a session on school discipline law at the South Carolina Bar Convention on January 24, 2015.
- (n) I presented a legal education session on adding school law to your private law practice at the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association Conference on September 18, 2015.
- (o) I presented a session on education law updates and developments at the South Carolina Legal Services Conference on November 19, 2015.
- (p) I presented a session to the juvenile public defenders in South Carolina on the school to prison pipeline at the South Carolina Public Defender Association on November 23, 2015.
- (q) I presented a session on forming partnerships to achieve equal educational opportunities for the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on January 15, 2016.
- (r) I presented at session at the South Carolina Bar Convention on the rights of single fathers in adoption cases on January 23, 2016.
- (s) I presented a session on victim's rights in education at the Victim's Rights Conference on April 20, 2016.
- (t) I co-presented a session on practical legal issues at the School to Prison Pipeline: Children with Disabilities seminar on June 24, 2016.
- (u) I co-presented a continuing legal education session on how legal services can partner with public schools at the SC School Board Association's Summer Conference on August 20, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- (v) I presented a session on children with special needs in family court at the Greenville Bar Annual CLE in February 2018.
- (w) I presented a lecture on special education law and section 504 accommodation plans to school based mental health workers to increase school safety in Sumter on May 11, 2018.
- (x) I presented a law related course on family and school law to guidance counselors for the USC School of Law Children's Law Office in Columbia, SC on June 11, 2018.
- (aa) I presented a session at the SC BAR Convention on January 19, 2019 on school safety as it relates to the Dangers and Disruptions: Critical Issues Facing South Carolina Youth.
- (bb) I presented a law related course to self-represented litigants seeking divorce on July 13, 2019 in Oconee County. I have presented several law related courses on divorce to self-represented litigants in Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee counties.

I completed this list to the best of my ability. I have provided numerous law related education courses to the public and for in-house legal education training sessions.

- 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.) See Attached.

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

None. Not Applicable.

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

(a) South Carolina Bar, Young Lawyers Division, Executive Council 2002-2003.

(b) South Carolina Bar, Children's Law Committee

(c) South Carolina Supreme Court CLE & Specialization Commissioner, June 2003-July 2009.

(d) Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

(e) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association.

Assistant Secretary. 2013-2017.

Secretary 2018 to present.

(f) Greenville County Bar Association

(g) Donald James Sampson Bar Association.

(h) South Carolina Bar, Education Law Committee, Chair Public Information Sub-Committee, 2014-2015.

(i) South Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force.

(j) South Carolina Supreme Court Family Court Docket Committee

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 you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

No. Not Applicable.

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

No. Not Applicable.

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

I applied for Family Court Judge, At Large, Seat 4, in Fall 2012. I was found qualified, but I did not receive a nomination.

I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, in Fall 2013. I was found qualified, but I did not receive a nomination.

I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 in Spring 2016. I was found qualified, but I did not receive a nomination.

I applied for Family Court Judge, At Large, Seat 7, in Fall 2016. I was found qualified, but I did not receive a nomination.

I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6 in Fall 2018. I was found qualified and nominated. I lost the election by a vote of 88 to 75.

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 worked as a front desk clerk at the Embassy Suites in Greenville, South Carolina. The time period was approximately February 1999 until November or December of 1999.

I also taught a LSAT preparation courses at Clemson University for Kaplan Test Preparation from 2000 to 2001.

Both positions were during evenings and weekends while practicing law for legal services, a private not for profit law firm, before any student loan assistance programs were available.

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.)

A complete financial statement of net worth is attached.

**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.

I have not had a tax lien or other collection procedure by federal, state or local authorities. Over ten years ago, at the beginning of my career at legal services, I may have defaulted on a small student loan before loan consolidation. I secured additional employment. The loan was consolidated with other student loans. At the time there were no student loan assistance programs for public interest lawyers and the federal government had not placed a limit on the interest rates for student loans. I have never filed for bankruptcy.

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

No.

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

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.

I paid \$25.00 to attend a Coffee & Campaign Announcement event on March 27, 2018, for The Honorable Chandra Dillard. It was a breakfast event and I do not know how much of the registration fee was donated to the campaign

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.

I am not aware of any financial arrangements or business relationships that could result in a possible conflict of interest.

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.

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.

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

No.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I have always been covered by malpractice insurance with all the attorneys at SC Legal Services.

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, not to my knowledge.

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) Thomas L. Bruce  

- (b) Eddie McDonald  
Director of Litigation  
South Carolina Legal Services  

- (c) George Cauthen  

- (d) Teresa Cosby  
Furman University  

- (e) Tameika Isaac Devine  
City of Columbia  


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?

Yes. I do not participate in any communication that reflects negatively upon me or the legal profession. Also, my privacy settings are monitored, and I do not accept friend requests from clients. My Twitter account is used to share public information and some public outreach events for my law firm. I am aware of the additional restraints that need to be placed on the use of social media when serving in a judicial capacity to avoid the appearance of impropriety, the creation of conflicts of interest, to avoid political activity, and to maintain impartiality. I am aware that if I were serving in a judicial capacity, I would not be able to have a LinkedIn account. Also, I would have to monitor friend

requests to avoid conflicts of interests regarding members of the Bar and potential litigants.

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) The Ellen Hines Smith Legal Services Attorney of the Year 2015. Awarded by the Access to Justice Commission and the South Carolina Supreme Court.
  - (b) Young Lawyer of the Year Award. Awarded by the South Carolina Bar. 2001-2002.
  - (c) The School District of Greenville County Salute for Teaching Above and Beyond the Call of Duty at the Center for Educational Equity's Saturday Success School. 2000-2001, 2004-2005
  - (d) Center for Educational Equity, Advisory Board of Directors (2001 to present)  
Parent Reconnect Program Coordinator (2001 to 2008).
  - (e) Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Board of Directors,  
Grievance Committee (2008-2011),  
Chair of the Personnel Committee (2011-2013).
  - (f) United Way of Greenville County. Graduate Greenville Student Enrichment Committee. (2006-2007).
  - (g) Bethlehem Baptist Church. Summer Bible Institute Instructor. June 2011.
  - (h) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Greenville (SC) Alumnae Chapter.  
Co-Chair of Social Action Committee 2016-2017, 2017-2018.
  - (i) Springfield Baptist Church. Unsung Heroine Award. March 24, 2013.
  - (j) Pro Parents of South Carolina. Board of Directors, 2013-2016. Secretary, 2014-2016
  - (k) The Riley Institute Diversity Leadership. Furman University. Fall 2015.  
Upstate Class XX.
  - (l) Greenville Branch of the NAACP. 2017-2018.
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 am a member of the South Carolina Supreme Court Family Court Docket Committee. Serving on that committee allows me to receive information and provide input on many issues that affect the efficient operation of family court dockets across the state, issues regarding the legal profession and other professions involved in family court cases, and provide feedback regarding how decisions the committee makes could impact members of the public struggling to access the court system or struggling to participate in the administration of justice in the court system.

I also serve on the South Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force for the University of South Carolina, School of Law's Children Law Center. Serving on this task force allows me to study policies and assist with designing programs relating to the SC Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Protection Services (CPS) Division in an effort "to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, the handling of suspected maltreatment related fatalities, and the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect." I worked on the disability subcommittee to assist with strengthening procedures regarding children with special needs. I worked on a sub-committee that assisted with updating mandated reporter training to provide an awareness for mandated reporters regarding issues impacting children with disabilities and special needs. Currently I serve on a sub-committee working to assist children by reviewing the procedures related to teams organized by child advocacy centers to assist with investigations of allegations of abuse and neglect and the investigation of fatalities involving minor children. The director of DSS periodically provides updates to the task force and answer questions.

I have always had an interest and curiosity for family and school law. Family relationships and educational experiences play an important role in everyone's development. My formal education was driven by a curiosity and desire to learn more about these relationships and to help others with these relationships and experiences. Like justice I blindly pursued a legal career to help and to serve the public. Values like sound character, integrity, honesty, fairness, respect, and a dedication to public service are characteristics of many of my family members. As a child, my family attended Nazarene Baptist Church in Mullins, South Carolina and everyone in my family was actively involved in our church. I quickly learned the difference between good and evil and right and wrong. I just happen to be the only lawyer in my family. I am certain that I had the temperament, morals and character that we expect of judges before I went to college.

Ironically, while I was in college, I volunteered for the local battered women's shelter on the domestic violence hotline and to helping with Order of Protection packets. This experience gave me insight into part of the pro se process in family court. At the time I did not know who those experiences would connect with my career.

A family courtroom was the first courtroom I observed and the first court I appeared in as an attorney licensed to practice law. Judge Timothy Pogue allowed me to volunteer in his law firm because I wanted to go to law school but had not met a practicing lawyer. I had a friend in law school whose father went to law school, but he was running an agency when we met. Judge Pogue had the juvenile defender contract, he was the Marion County DSS attorney, and he had a private practice, so I learned a lot about family court before I went to law school. While in law school I clerked for about six months at the Richland County Guardian ad Litem office, so I learned a lot about the role of a Guardian in abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights cases, assisted with guardian ad litem reports, and had the opportunity to observe many hearings and trials. Then I was fortunate to be in Jim Stuckey's family law class while I was interning for Dale Stuckey at the SC Department of Education. The Martial Litigation manual is the most comprehensive law book for family lawyers in South Carolina and the material for his class was a draft or an outline of that book which he published shortly thereafter. Then I secured a position at Legal Services of Western

Carolina. At that time most of our case load was family law and I found myself in family court multiple times a week representing clients on either side of any kind of issue before the court for many years. The first day I walked into a courtroom to represent a client as a member of the Bar, I was in a family court courtroom in a DSS vulnerable adult case before Judge Robert Jenkins.

I have represented many individuals in family court matters. I have also had the privilege of consulting with many legal service attorneys in numerous cases, court appearances, and appellate work. At this point in my career I work primarily with access to justice issues as a Managing Attorney weighing when limited resources can be used and measuring the quality of legal services provided to each client.

I believe my personal and professional experiences will continue to serve the public well if I am a successful candidate for Family Court.

At this time, I respectfully request your vote for a nomination to run for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6. I went to law school to help people. I did not go to law school to be a judge. I have helped thousands of people over the span of almost two decades of practicing law and I have always been an active and productive member of the SC Bar. I have also assisted in developing the practice of education law in South Carolina. I believe that I can help many more families if I can serve as 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: \_\_\_\_\_