

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



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

Family Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. Shawn L. Reeves

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Not applicable

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.): No

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: South Carolina Department of Social Services, 1535 Confederate Ave,
Columbia, SC 29201

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-898-1143
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1978
Place of Birth: Charleston, SC
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

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

5. Have you served in the military? No
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. Not applicable

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 December 20, 2003 to Amy Carol Reeves, writer and professor.

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, 1997-2001, B.S. Biology.
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 2001-2004, J.D.

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) Moot Court Bar, 2002-2004, Associate Justice for Administration and manager of a competition team.
 - (b) Pro Bono program volunteer, 2002-2004, recipient of Pro Bono award.

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) South Carolina, 2004; took bar exam once.

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) Murphy & Grantland, PA, Columbia, SC, Law Clerk and Attorney, 2003-2005. Began working at this firm during law school as a law clerk and then worked as an attorney with the firm after passing the bar exam. Represented insurance companies in civil litigation cases including construction defects cases and personal injury cases; conducted legal research and assisted senior attorneys in this insurance defense practice.

- (b) South Carolina Attorney General's Office, Assistant Attorney General, 2005-2007. Represented the State of South Carolina in criminal appeals before the South Carolina Supreme Court and the South Carolina Court of Appeals; prepared appellate briefs and conducted oral arguments.
- (c) Harvey & Battey, PA, Beaufort, SC, Attorney, 2007-2010. Represented clients in divorce, custody, adoption, and other family court cases; served as guardian ad litem in family court cases involving children; represented clients in general civil litigation cases including property disputes, business disputes, and personal injury lawsuits; represented clients in probate court cases, including guardianships and conservatorships.
- (d) Law Office of Shawn L. Reeves, Columbia, SC, Attorney and Owner, 2010-2016. Represented clients in divorce, custody, adoption, and other family court cases; mediated family court cases; owned and operated a profitable solo family law practice, being solely responsible for the marketing and administration of the business while also practicing law; managed the firm's trust account in compliance with the South Carolina Rules Governing the Practice of Law.
- (e) South Carolina Department of Social Services, Assistant General Counsel, 2016-present. Represent the agency in child welfare cases involving foster care, adoption, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, foster home licensing, and group home licensing; advise the agency in the development of child welfare policy and procedure; represent the agency in matters involving federal oversight by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; represent the agency in legislative matters including proposed legislation and the promulgation of regulations; represent the agency in administrative hearings and appeals.

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 represented clients in divorce, separate support and maintenance, and equitable distribution cases during my private law practice from 2007 to 2016. I represented clients

from various socio-economic backgrounds and therefore handled cases involving very little marital property as well as cases involving significant marital property. Many of these divorce and separation cases involved issues relating to child custody, visitation, and child support. I have represented clients in approximately 150 to 200 cases involving divorce, separation, equitable distribution, child custody, visitation, and/or child support issues. In addition to this litigation experience, I became a certified Family Court mediator in 2012 and mediated numerous cases involving divorce, separation, equitable distribution, child custody, visitation, and/or child support between 2012 and 2016.

Between my private law practice and my current representation of the Department of Social Services, I have had the honor of handling approximately 400 adoption cases. In private practice, I handled relative adoptions, including step-parent adoptions and the domestication of a foreign adoption. I also handled one significant contested adoption case that proceeded through a multiple-day trial. At DSS, I have represented the agency in facilitating the adoptions of legally free children from foster care into permanent adoptive homes.

During my private law practice, I represented biological parents in abuse and neglect cases brought against them by DSS. One case that stands out is my representation of a biological mother who sincerely loved her child but who was simply unable to care for the child due to addiction. In the end, this mother agreed to her grandmother having custody of the child. In another case, my client's child had been removed because of my client's incarceration and the other parent's incapacity. My client was incarcerated due to nonpayment of child support of a child in another state. DSS refused to consent to return the child after my client's release from jail. After much litigation and negotiation, I obtained a court order for the return of the child into my client's custody.

In my current role at DSS, I work daily on abuse and neglect issues. County DSS attorneys regularly consult with me on the handling of abuse and neglect cases, and I occasionally attend court hearings relating to abuse and neglect matters, primarily in support of the county attorney's work. Additionally, I advise the DSS administration on the development of agency policy relating to abuse and neglect cases. For example, there is a nationwide shift in child welfare towards prevention of abuse and neglect and towards placement of abused and neglected children in the homes of relatives rather than in foster care or in group homes. This nationwide shift is most clearly evidenced in the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). I represent DSS in the planning and policy development to implement the FFPSA.

Juvenile justice is the area where I have had the least experience in the Family Court courtroom. I have never represented a client in a juvenile justice case before the Family Court. However, in my current position at DSS, I have worked with the Department of Juvenile Justice on policy issues relating to children who come into the care of both DSS and DJJ, particularly including children who are victims of sex trafficking or children in foster care who have been involved in criminal activity. Most recently, I have been working on policy and consulting on legislative initiatives to fulfil the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act requiring that states not significantly increase

their juvenile justice populations as a result of child welfare policy. Although I have not handled a juvenile justice case in Family Court, I understand the issues surrounding these cases, and given my other extensive experience in Family Court, I am confident that I will be able to preside over these types of cases.

During my private law practice, I would appear in Family Court regularly, often multiple times per week. During my time at DSS, I appear in Family Court less frequently, generally no more than once or twice per month, primarily because most of my adoption cases are uncontested and do not require my appearance.

- (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.
 - (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.
 - (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.
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: From 2007 to 2016, I appeared in Family Court generally multiple times per week. Since 2016, I appear in Family Court generally no more than once or twice per month.
13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 5%

- (b) criminal: 0%
- (c) domestic: 95%
- (d) other:

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: 0%. Note that I do have jury trial experience in both Circuit Court and Magistrates Court in my work at Harvey & Battey, PA between 2007 and 2010.
 - (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) I represented a biological mother who had involuntarily signed a relinquishment to her infant child and who wanted her child back. I represented her through a four day trial of the case. Although we did not prevail at trial, the mother was satisfied that she had done what she could have done for the return of her child, and the judge complimented me on my handling of the case. The case was not reported publicly, as it is a confidential adoption matter.

(b) I represented a father in a custody action involving the mother being negligent in the child's educational development. The case went to trial, and my client prevailed. The case was not reported publicly.

(c) I prepared the appellate briefs and conducted oral arguments in the case SCDSS v. Boulware, 422 S.C. 1, 809 S.E.2d 223 (2018), which involved the question of whether foster parents had legal standing to petition to adopt a child in foster care where DSS had not consented to the adoption.

(d) I represented the State in the case State v. Ladner, 373 S.C. 103, 644 S.E.2d 684 (2007) before the State Supreme Court. The case established certain circumstances where a child's out-of-court statement may be admitted into evidence as a nontestimonial excited utterance.

(e) I represented a grandfather who wanted visitation with his young granddaughter. The mother was keeping the child away from the grandfather, although he had been a significant part of raising the child for the first five to seven years of her life. Through significant litigation, settlement discussions, and formal mediation, we were able to settle the case, and the grandfather was able to once again be a part of the child's life. This case is an important example of my commitment to the mediation process and my belief in families working out their differences for the best interests of children.

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) Wardlaw v. SCDSS, Opinion No. 5652 (S.C. Ct. App. filed May 29, 2019).
 - (b) SCDSS v. Smith, 423 S.C. 60, 814 S.E.2d 148 (2018).
 - (c) SCDSS v. Boulware, 422 S.C. 1, 809 S.E.2d 223 (2018).
 - (d) SCDSS v. Crystal C., Unpublished Opinion No. 2014-UP-100 (S.C. Ct. App. filed March 4, 2014).

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) State v. Ladner, 373 S.C. 103, 644 S.E.2d 684 (2007).
 - (b) State v. Odom, 376 S.C. 330, 656 S.E.2d 748 (Ct. App. 2007).
 - (c) State v. Thompson, 374 S.C. 257, 647 S.E.2d 702 (Ct. App. 2007).
 - (d) State v. Kinard, 373 S.C. 500, 646 S.E.2d 168 (Ct. App. 2007).
 - (e) State v. Rutledge, 373 S.C. 312, 644 S.E.2d 789 (Ct. App. 2007).

18. Have you ever held judicial office? No.
 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.

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) 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 Bar, 2004.
 - (b) United States District Court, District of South Carolina, 2005.

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) Child and Family Services Review overview, Bench Bar Committee, October 26, 2018.
 - (b) "Lessons from the IV-E Audit," SCDSS CLE, September 21, 2018.
 - (c) "Foster Parent Involvement," SCDSS CLE, April 27, 2018.
 - (d) "Best Legal Practices: TPR Cases," SCDSS CLE, February 17, 2017.
 - (e) "DSS Permanency Planning Hearings," Family Court Bench Bar, December 2, 2016.

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.
- (a) "Social Media Discovery in Family Court," ABA SciTech Law, Spring 2012.
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.)
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.
- (a) Not applicable. I am not a member of any legal rating organization.
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. I have been a member of the Children's Law Committee since 2016 and have co-chaired the public information subcommittee of the Children's Law Committee for the past two years.
27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.
- (a) I 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.
- (a) Not applicable.
29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

No.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

No, except for temporary jobs during college and law school.

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.

I am not and have never been employed as a lobbyist or acted in the capacity of a lobbyist's principal.

33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

See attached financial statement.

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? No.

Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? No.

Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.

If so, give details. Not applicable.

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?

7/1/19 \$10, Richland County Sheriff's Department for fingerprinting

7/3/19 \$1.15 postage to mail fingerprints to SLED

7/16/19 \$5.50 purchase stamps to mail application materials

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.

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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? No.

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

Yes.

(a) Reeves v. Cantey & Company, Inc., 2012CV401031032, Magistrates Court, Richland County. This was a dispute with a rental company involving the return of a security deposit. The case was resolved by mutual agreement on October 1, 2012, following mediation at the Magistrates Court.

(b) Federal National Mortgage Association v. Reeves, 2013-CP-07-0893, Court of Common Pleas, Beaufort County. This was a foreclosure action as to a property we owned in Beaufort County. The property had suffered a significant decrease in value, the housing market was depressed, and the house on the property was in need of expensive repairs. We cooperated fully with the bank and negotiated a settlement prior to the filing of the legal action. The legal action was initiated to finalize our settlement with the bank.

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

Not applicable.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

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

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

No.

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

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

incomplete. Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.*

(a) David Sojourner, [REDACTED]

(b) Patricia Forbis, [REDACTED]

(c) Mary Bryan, [REDACTED]

(d) Malik Whitaker, SCDSS, [REDACTED]

(e) Glenn Lister, [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 have accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. I rarely log onto LinkedIn but maintain a professional profile on the site. I use Facebook and Instagram to remain connected to friends and family and to post photographs of my children for friends and family. I use Twitter primarily to post publicly about my professional interests, especially issues relating to child welfare and parenting. If I am elected to serve as a judge, I will likely delete my Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts. I will probably use Twitter sparingly and only in a public professional sense. I believe that Twitter and similar platforms provide public officials, including judges, the opportunity to educate the public about the legal profession generally, and I have seen judges around the country use the platform effectively and for the public's benefit.

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) I am a board member (2014-present), former volunteer mediator (2012-2016), immediate past chair (2017-2019), and current secretary of the Midlands Mediation Center, a non-profit organization that offers mediation services primarily for lower income individuals.

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 have focused much of my law practice on helping families through difficult circumstances and on safety, permanency, and well-being for children. I am running to be a Family Court judge because I believe that I can positively impact the lives of the people who come into the Family Court courtroom. I recognize that Family Court often involves the delicate intersection of the law with the private lives and problems of people. Accordingly, my intent is to provide clear decisions after hearing all the evidence and

applying the law but to do so with humility, recognizing that there are often no clear-cut, simple answers to the family legal issues that people face.

My perspective as a judge would also be influenced by my strong belief in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. I believe that families can make better decisions for themselves than a judge can make for them, but only if they put aside self-interest and really seek solutions rather than to simply win their case. As a judge, I would encourage parties to resolve their own disputes, but I would be ready to rule on matters where agreement is not possible.

While the position of judge is a high honor, it is a position of a public servant. I would come to that work with dedication and a sense of urgency as to each case before me. I have dedicated myself to a strong work ethic throughout my career. I believe in meeting all deadlines and have rarely asked for extensions to file anything throughout my legal career. My dedication to hard work and my organization skills have been a hallmark of the way I practice law, particularly essential in the management of my solo law practice from 2010 to 2016.

Most importantly, I come to this process with a family of my own, understanding the complexity of family life and interactions. My relationships with my wife and children offer daily perspective on navigating family life. These experiences are both rewarding and challenging, as they are for everyone, and they would influence my understanding of the families who come into the courtroom.

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: _____