

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Berkeley County Master-In-Equity

1. Name: Honorable Dale E. Van Slambrook

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

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

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: PO Box 609
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): (843) 719-4437
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1958
Place of Birth: Savannah, GA
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? 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. N/A

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
- (b) May 16, 1981 to Darlene J. Van Slambrook
- (c) N/A
- (d) [REDACTED]

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) 1976 to 1980: Clemson University - BA of Economics
- b) 1980 to 1983: University of South Carolina – School of Law, Juris Doctorate

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

- (a) 1982-1983: Law School Student Bar Representative
- (b) 1982-1983: Moot Court Bar Association

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 in 1983 and in good standing

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.

From 1983 to 2000, I engaged in a general law practice. I was involved in domestic cases, divorce, child custody disputes, Workers Compensation cases; Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Bankruptcy cases; Personal Injury Litigation; Probate; Social Security; Real Estate Closings and Real Estate Litigation. Beginning in 2000 my practice narrowed to where I was primarily involved in personal injury, Social Security, Probate and Miscellaneous Litigation.

I was hired as an Associate with The Steinberg Law Firm, LLP in 1983 and became a partner in 1986. I primarily practiced in the Goose Creek Office but also worked in the Ashley Phosphate office and later in the Summerville office located on Main Street then Old Trolley Road as the Managing Partner of the Office until taking the bench in November 2014. All of these positions included operating and trust accounts.

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

11. Please answer the following:
- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years. N/A
 - (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years. N/A
 - (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master’s court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.
 - (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? N/A
- (a) federal:
 - (b) state:

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? N/A
- (a) civil:
 - (b) criminal:
 - (c) domestic:
 - (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? N/A
- (a) jury:
 - (b) non-jury:

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate 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. N/A
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

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. N/A
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- (a)
- (b)
- (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. N/A

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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

- (a) City of Goose Creek, Municipal Court Judge, 2009 to 2014 primarily Criminal Jury Trials, Bond Hearings, Bench Trials and Motions.
 - (b) Berkeley County Master-In-Equity, 2014 to present
 - (c) Special Circuit Court Judge, 2015 to present
 - (d) Berkeley County Adult Drug Court, 2018 to present
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) Mills vs. Hudson 2012-CP-08-3013
Disputed Trial involving issues of Title to Real Property, access, prescriptive easement and res judicata. The Order was affirmed on appeal.
 - (b) Carolina Comfort Specialist vs. Weddle 2012-CP-08-1869
Disputed multi-day Trial involving Mechanic's Lien, Breach of Contract, Remediation, Construction issues, Service of Process and other evidentiary and procedural issues. The Order was affirmed on appeal.
 - (c) Matash vs. Clark 2015-CP-08-0053
Disputed Trial involving neighborhood access and easement issues.
 - (d) Estate of Stephens vs. Anderson 2011-CP-08-2933
Disputed Adverse Possession Action involving Estoppel, Laches and significant procedural and evidentiary issues.
 - (e) Blue Chip vs. Bonifay 2014-CP-08-1142
Disputed multiday Trial involving Breach of Contract issues and business development concerning development of medical equipment business.
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 in 1983;
 - (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1983.
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. Yes
- (a) I lectured at the April 26, 2018 Berkeley County Bar CLE
 - (b) I presented on the topic of Partition Actions on December 15, 2017
 - (c) Coordinated the Master-in-Equity Bench Bar CLE on October 13, 2017
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. See Attached Reports Exhibit "A"

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 Exhibit "B"
- (a) Matash vs. Clark 2015-CP-08-0053
(b) Carolina Comfort Specialist vs. Weddle 2012-CP-08-1869
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. B.V.
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 Association | 1983 to present |
| (b) Charleston County Bar Association | 1983 to present |
| (c) Berkeley County Bar Association | 1983 to present |
| Bar President | 2011 |
| (d) South Carolina Master-In-Equity Judges Association | 2014 to present |
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. None
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. None
29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates. Yes, I ran for Circuit Court, Seat #2, Ninth Circuit, February 2019, withdrew before final ballot.
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. My wife and I own two (2) rental

properties which are handled by Property Management Company and we have no day to day involvement.

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. Graceland Properties, LLC for purposes of Rental Property Management.
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: See Attachment "C"
 - (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.

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. None
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?

Supplies	\$ 43.17
Forms	\$ 49.00
Postage	<u>\$ 9.90</u>
	\$102.70

Report to be filed

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. \$500.00 to Vincent Sheheen gubernational campaign by my wife, Darlene Van Slambrook.
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. None
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.

My daughter-in-law, Lindsay Stewart Van Slambrook, is an Associate Attorney at Nelson Mullins Law Firm, Charleston, SC Office. If she were involved in any litigation before me, I would disclose and offer to recuse myself.

I am a Member of the Crowfield Plantation Homeowner's Association and their lien foreclosures routinely appear in my Court. I disclose my connection and offer to recuse myself.

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.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None That I am aware other than sidewalks, curbs and roadways.

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. Included in Financial Disclosure.
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. No
44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office? No
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.

[Yes and no responses 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. None
47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.
 - (a) As a member of the Steinberg Law Firm, I may have been named in disputes regarding fees many years ago.
 - (b) Elmore vs. Wells Fargo, et al 2016-CP-40-5072. This related to a Foreclosure Action which I presided over. The Defendant in a Foreclosure Action filed an action against the Foreclosing Attorney, myself as a Judge, the Sheriff of Berkeley County along with others. This matter was dismissed at the Summary Judgment stage. February 1, 2017.
 - (c) Bey vs. Deutsche Bank National Trust Co, et al 2017-CP-08-0808. This relates to a Foreclosure Action which I presided over. The Defendant in the Foreclosure Action filed a separate action against the Foreclosing Bank, myself and various others to prevent the Foreclosure. This action was dismissed under Rule 12(b)6 on October 6, 2017.
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. My tail policy may be still in effect from my practice with the Steinberg Law Firm.

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

[Yes and no responses for all candidates have been redacted 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. None.

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

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

I have generally announced my intention to run for re-election to colleagues as well as members of the General Assembly but did not solicit, seek or accept a pledge of support.

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. Not that I am aware of.

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.* See Attached Exhibit "D"

(a) Steven Sabback

[REDACTED]

(b) Harold Campbell

[REDACTED]

(c) Sandra Stevens-Poirel

[REDACTED]

(d) Michael J. Engel, DMD

[REDACTED]

(e) David P. Rogers, MD

[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? My profile appeared on LinkedIn while I was in private practice. It was deactivated upon my election.

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) Goose Creek International Triathlon Club - member

(b) St. James United Methodist Church – former Lay Leader; former Finance Committee Chairman; former Trustee; Chairman of Administrative Council

(d) National Rifle Association - member

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 lived in Berkeley County since 1974 and graduated from Goose Creek High School, Clemson University and University of South Carolina School of Law. I practiced law with The Steinberg Law Firm, LLP for more than thirty (30) years primarily in Berkeley County.

I began my legal career as general practitioner and handled a variety of cases including but not limited to domestic, criminal, probate, civil cases, high volume of real estate closing and real estate litigation and personal bankruptcy cases.

I tried cases Jury and Non-Jury in various Courts in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester County Common Pleas, Family Court, General Sessions, Master-In-Equity, Magistrate and Municipal Courts. I handled almost all manner of disputes in these various Courts.

For the last years of my private practice, I focused primarily on personal injury litigation and Social Security Disability.

I presided over Criminal Jury Trials as a Municipal Judge for the City of Goose Creek from 2009 to 2014.

I currently serve as Berkeley County Master-In-Equity primarily in Non-Jury matters that frequently involved Pro Se Litigants during the extremely stressful Foreclosure process.

While serving as the Master-In-Equity we underwent significant staff changes requiring training and administrative review of the job duties and requirements of the Master's staff. Further, our office transitioned from a paper filing system to the e-filing system during my term.

I also have been able to serve as a Special Circuit Court Judge and handle routine civil matters and have accepted Guilty Pleas and Probation Revocations. As Judge of the Berkeley County Adult Drug Court, I interact on a weekly basis with participants and the members of Drug Court Team.

My experience as a Master-In-Equity, Special Circuit Court Judge, Berkeley County Adult Drug Court Judge and as Municipal Court Judge has provided me an insight into the difficulties and enormous responsibilities which face every person serving on the Bench.

I believe that based upon my depth of experience as a practicing attorney, service as the Berkeley County Master-In-Equity, a Special Circuit Court Judge and as Adult Drug Court Judge, I have the training, education and experience to effectively continue to perform my duties as Master-In-Equity for Berkeley County.

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: _____