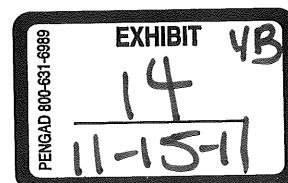


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat # 2

1. NAME: Mr. Roger L. Couch
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2614
Spartanburg, SC 29304
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 864-596-2285
2. Date of Birth: 1950
Place of Birth: Spartanburg, SC
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
5. Family Status: Married on March 30, 2002, to Joy A. Couch. Divorced on October 04, 2001, Roger L. Couch, Spartanburg County Family Court, One Year's Separation. Three children.
6. Have you served in the military? I have not served.
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) University of South Carolina, 1968-72; BA Political Science;
 - (b) University of South Carolina, 1972-75: JD.
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state. South Carolina: 1975
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates
 - (a) Member of the Horseshoe Council 1969;
 - (b) Member of Phi Delta Phi Law School April 16, 1975.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) Annual Judicial Conference	All of the past five years;
(b) Circuit Judges Assn. Meeting	All of the past five years;
(c) SC Bar Annual Convention Civil and Criminal Updates.	All of the past five years.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?



- (a) I have made presentations at CLE Programs offered by the S.C. Bar on a couple of occasions;
 - (b) I taught a Business Law Course at Spartanburg Methodist College in the late 1970's;
 - (c) I assisted Mathew Henderson as a lecturer in Business Law at Wofford College in the 1980's.
 - (d) I have been invited to lecture next year at Converse College
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None that are law related.
13. 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 1975;
 - (b) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 1978;
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1979.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) 1975-77 Henderson & Lister;
 - (b) 1977-80 Henderson, Lister Couch Brandt & Ackerman;
 - (c) 1980-85 Henderson, Lister Couch & Brandt;
 - (d) 1985-89 Lister and Couch;
 - (e) 1989-97 Lister, Couch & Courtney.
- I was always involved in the general practice of law with particular focus on real estate transactions, family court litigation, wills, estates and trusts and general litigation.
15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any. B-V Martindale Hubble
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
- (a) 1985-89 Town Judge in Cowpens, SC, jurisdiction limited to enforcing town ordinances and traffic laws
 - (b) 1997-2004 Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County, Non-jury Civil Circuit Court issues
 - (c) 2004-Present Circuit Court Judge Seventh Circuit, Seat #2
23. If the answer to question 22 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) State v. Torres; 390 S.C. 618; 701 S.E.2d 226 (2010);
 - (b) Mathis v. Brown and Brown of South Carolina, Inc., 389 S.C. 299, 698 S.E. 2d 773, (2010);

- (c) McMaster, ex rel. v. Eli Lilly & Co, Inc. Pre-trial Motions Order, 07-CP-42-1855;
- (d) New York Times Co. v. Sptg. Co. School District No. 7, 274 S.C. 307; 649 S.E. 2d 28 (2007);
- (e) Wilson el rel. v. Jannsen Pharmaceuticals Pre Trial Order, 07-CP-42-1438.

24. 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?

I served as an elected School Board Member in Spartanburg County School District 6 from March 1976 until June 1997. During that time, I timely filed all necessary reports with the State Ethics Commission and was never subject to a penalty.

25. 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

26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?

I ran unsuccessfully for the S.C. House of Representatives in 1988.

27. 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? Only summer jobs when I was in school.

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No

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

30. 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. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None

31. 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? No

32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No

33. 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? No

34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as deferdant or respondent in any court of law?

- (a) I was named as a Defendant in a suit because I was a member of the School Board in a suit involving a bus accident but was later dismissed individually from the suit. I was unable to get the citation for the case. That case was in the 1970's or early 1980's.
 - (b) Elvelt Kerns v. St. of S.C. & Roger Couch, 97-CP-42-230, This was a PCR that somehow I was named as a party. I do not recall the outcome.
 - (c) Seay v. Roger Couch, et al 1984 TR-42-6844, This was a Magistrates Court Case by a former tenant of a partnership that I was in. The case was settled before a trial was held.
 - (d) Parks v. Roger L. Couch, Richland County Magistrates Court, 2011. This was an action brought by a person that I was involved in a minor automobile accident. Both parties claimed that the other was at fault. The Plaintiff failed to appear for trial and the case was dismissed.
36. 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? No
 37. 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)? No
 38. 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? No
 39. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. No
 40. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
 41. 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. None
 42. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None
 43. 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? 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? No
44. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No
45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No
46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
47. 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) Spartanburg County Bar Association. 1975 to present;
 - (b) SC Bar Association. 1975 to present;
 - (c) American Bar Association. 2011 to present.
48. 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) Spartanburg Rotary Club;
 - (b) The Piedmont Club;
 - (c) The Group of 100.
49. 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.
50. References:
- (a) David Eubanks
15 Tims Creek Road
Roebuck, SC 29376
(864) 574-6837
 - (b) Ben H. Dorman
2025 Pierce Street
Daniel Island, SC
(843) 278-2876
 - (c) David B. Anderson
204 Sanders Place
Simpsonville, SC 29681
(864)542-5683
 - (d) Louie Blanton, c/o Capital Bank
215 N. Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC

- (864) 948-9001
- (e) Daryl Owings, c/o Spartanburg County School District #6
1390 Cavalier Way
Roebuck, SC 29376
(864) 576-4212
- (f) Elizabeth A. Fleming, Pres. Converse College
580 E. Main Street
Spartanburg, SC, 29202
(864) 596-9050

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: Roger L. Couch

Date: August 2, 2011