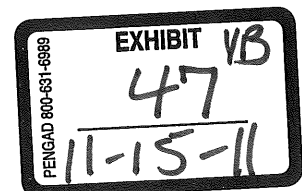


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

1. NAME: Mr. Robert Eldon Hood  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 2110 N. Beltline Blvd.  
Columbia, SC 29204  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 803-252-4800
2. Date of Birth: 1975  
Place of Birth: Decatur, GA
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 April 17, 2004, to Kristina Kirk Hood. Never divorced; two children.
6. Have you served in the military? No
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) The Citadel, the Military College of SC – Fall 1994 to Spring 1998, BA in Political Science;
  - (b) USC School of Law – Fall 1998 – Spring 2001 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, Fall 2001 (took the bar exam 1 time)
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
The Citadel:
  - (a) Cadre Corporal – Sophomore Year;
  - (b) Company Clerk – Sophomore Year;
  - (c) Cadre Platoon Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant – Junior Year;
  - (d) Regimental Drum Major – Senior Year;
  - (e) Dean's List – Junior and Senior Years;
  - (f) Gold Stars – Senior Year;
  - (g) Commandant's List;
  - (h) President's List;
  - (i) Most Outstanding Disciplinary Record;
  - (j) The Citadel, Inn of Court;
  - (k) Political Science Honor Society.



USC School of Law:

- (a) Moot Court Bar;
- (b) Order of the Barristers.

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>CLE/Conference</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SCAJ	2011;
(b) Sporting Clays Ethics with the Judges	2011;
(c) Sporting Clays Ethics with the Judges	2010;
(d) SCAJ	2009;
(e) Bridging the Gap – Defending DUI	2009;
(f) SCTL	2008;
(g) Beginning Westlaw	2008;
(h) Guideline Seminar	2008;
(i) Federal Criminal Practice	2008;
(j) Sporting Clays/Skeet Shoot	2008;
(k) Fighting to Win your DUI	2008;
(l) Skeet Shoot	2007;
(m) Criminal Law Update	2006.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? No

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None

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) South Carolina – 2001;
- (b) United States District Court for SC – 2005;
- (c) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals - 2006.

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) Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office – Fall of 2001-03  
I handled prosecution cases in General Sessions Court as an Assistant Solicitor including violent crimes, property crimes, white collar crimes, drug related crimes and misdemeanors.
- (b) SC Attorney General’s Office – 2003-05  
I served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Statewide Grand Jury. I handled multi-county drug trafficking cases, large scale securities fraud cases, and white collar/public corruption cases throughout the state in General Sessions Court.

- (c) Strom Law Firm, LLC 2005 – Present  
Our law firm handles criminal and civil complex litigation cases. I primarily work in the area of criminal defense including all levels of criminal cases from magistrate's court to general sessions court to federal court. I practice extensively in all levels of state and federal court on almost a daily basis. I also handle all levels of civil litigation mainly focused on representation of plaintiffs.

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:

- (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 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.

Experience in Criminal Matters

I have extensive experience in handling criminal matters both as a prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney. I began my practice by serving as an Assistant Solicitor in Richland County and then moved on to an Assistant Attorney General in the Statewide Grand Jury Division. While serving in these positions I have handled jury trials, bench trials, and hundreds of motions and guilty pleas in Magistrate's Court, General Sessions Court, and Federal Court. I have tried Murder cases both as a prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney. Further as an Assistant Solicitor, I helped prepare a capital murder trial. I have handled violent crimes, property crimes, drug crimes, and misdemeanors both as a prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney.

I practice almost daily in federal, state, magistrate, or local criminal court. I have represented victims as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. I have represented defendants charged with all levels of crime in South Carolina. I have also practiced extensively in federal criminal court handling large scale white collar cases and complex drug trafficking conspiracy cases.

I have worked on legal issues involving securities law, change of venue in high profile cases, complex plea negotiations with corporations, search and seizure, and admissibility of statements.

While at the Attorney General's office I successfully tried the largest securities fraud case in SC history. I also successfully tried the largest methamphetamine dealer in the state (at that time) whose case was affirmed on appeal. I have also handled multiple PCR cases from basic guilty plea PCRs to murder cases that went through a full trial.

Experience in Civil Matters

All of my dealings in civil matter have been on the plaintiff's side of the case. I have drafted and argued motions, taken depositions, and prepared multiple cases for trial. I have also been involved in settlement negotiations on multiple cases and have a strong understanding of the civil system in SC. I have handled cases from the pleadings and discovery stages to preparation for jury trial. I continue to research and study civil cases and authoritative sources concerning procedure and substantive aspects of civil law. I also have handled cases in federal civil court.

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.

Rated 2.9 out of 5 and I have met the very high criteria of General Ethical Standing.

**Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.**

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
- (a) federal: weekly to monthly;
  - (b) state: three to five days a week.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 20%;
  - (b) criminal: 80%;
  - (c) domestic: 0%;
  - (d) other: 0%.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 99%;
  - (b) non-jury: 1%.
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel
19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

- (a) State v. Larry C. Owen – In this trial in Greenville County General Sessions Court I was an Assistant Attorney General for the statewide grand jury. The case was a large scale securities fraud trial. After week one of a three week trial, Mr. Owen pled guilty to all charges pending against him. This was the first ever securities fraud criminal trial in SC and the largest criminal fraud case ever in SC.
  - (b) State v. Earle Morris – In this trial in Greenville County General Sessions Court I was an assistant attorney general for the statewide grand jury. Mr. Morris maintained his innocence throughout a three week long trial. During this trial I handled complicated legal issues that had never before been handled in SC. Mr. Morris was convicted and his conviction was upheld on appeal.
  - (c) State v. Denise Hagan – In this trial in Abbeville County General Sessions Court, I was an assistant attorney general for the statewide grand jury. Ms. Hagan was the largest methamphetamine dealer in SC. Hagan was represented by Jack Swerling and the trial went to jury verdict where Ms. Hagan was convicted. The case had complicated search issues, admissibility of statements issues, co-conspirator hearsay issues, and confrontation clause issues. Ms. Hagan’s conviction was affirmed on appeal.
  - (d) State v. Eugene King – In this trial in Orangeburg County, I was appointed by the Court to represent Mr. King in his then pending Murder case. Mr. Kind had previously been represented by the public defender’s office when just weeks before trial I was appointed to represent him. There were complicated legal issues involving admissibility of statements, mental health issues, and evidence preservation. Based on legal arguments presented at trial, the Court decided to give an involuntary manslaughter charge to the jury to which the state objected. Mr. King was convicted and his conviction was upheld on appeal and his PCR was denied.
  - (e) Campbell Soup Company v. Mehder – In this civil case, our firm was retained by Campbell Soup Company to bring a civil action against Ms. Mehder for taking in excess of one million dollars from Campbell’s illegally. I have handled all of the pleadings, motions, settlement negotiations and hearings in this case. This case is in York County Common Pleas and is still pending.
20. 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.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
- (a) United States of America v. Jamar Robinson  
4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals  
No. 05-5276

Unpublished  
January 11, 2007

22. Have you ever held judicial office? No
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.
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? No
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?
  - (a) Yes, Candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, Election February 2011;
  - (b) Yes, The Citadel Board of Visitors, Spring 2010.
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? No
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? None
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 defendant or respondent in any court of law? No

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. None
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) SCAJ;
  - (b) Richland County Bar Association;
  - (c) SCACDL.

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.

The Citadel Alumni Association

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.

I believe that my unique experiences in handling both criminal and civil cases throughout my legal career provides me with the skill set necessary to be a competent, courteous, compassionate, and concerned judge. This broad and balanced perspective of the legal system gives me the unique ability to serve humbly and fairly to all lawyers, litigants, jurors, and court staff.

50. References:

- (a) Kevin Lindler, Vice-President First Citizens Bank of SC  
4020 Kilbourne Road  
Columbia, SC 29205  
803-931-1006
- (b) G. Frank O'Neal  
117 Meadow Crest Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29172  
803-331-8504
- (c) Jason Peavey, Esquire  
1720 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201
- (d) A. Randolph Hough, Esquire  
1720 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-771-4119
- (e) J. Preston Strom, Jr., Esquire  
2110 N Beltline Blvd  
Columbia, SC 29204  
803-252-4800

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: Robert E. Hood  
Date: August 11, 2011