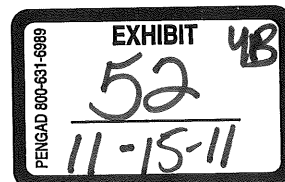


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

1. NAME: Mr. John P. Meadors
BUSINESS ADDRESS: PO Box 61151
Columbia SC 29260
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 803-351-1732
2. Date of Birth: 1961
Place of Birth: Loris, 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 September 12, 1987, to Patricia Ann (Rogers) Meadors. Never divorced; four 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) Wofford College 1979-83 BA.;
 - (b) USC – School of Law 1984-87 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 – May 1988. I took the exam twice.
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.
Wofford College:
 - (a) President of the Student Body 1982-83;
 - (b) Vice-President of the Student Body 1981-82;
 - (c) Vice-President of Kappa Sigma Fraternity 1982-83;
 - (d) President of Inter-Fraternity Council 1981-82;
 - (e) Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges-1983.
University of South Carolina School of Law:
 - (a) Lewis, Lewis, Bruce and Truslow-Law Clerk, 2L and 3L years; helped draft standard residential lease for Board of Realtors to comply with Landlord Tenant Act;
 - (b) Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office-Law Clerk, 3L year.



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) 2010 Mid-Year Bar Association	1/21/2010;
(b) 2009 SC Solicitors' Conference	9/27/2009;
(c) 2008 SC Solicitors' Conference	9/28/2008;
(d) Capital Litigation Prosecution	9/11/2008;
(e) Prosecution the Impaired Driver	7/17/2008;
(f) 2007 Solicitors' Conference	9/23/2007;
(g) 2006 Solicitors' Conference	9/27/2006;
(h) 21st Annual Criminal Law Update	1/27/2006;
(i) 2005 Solicitors' Conference	9/25/2005.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

- (a) SC Solicitors' Association 1997 Annual Conference-Taught "Back to the Basics."
 (b) Boot Camp for New Prosecutors 2/18/2009-Taught and instructed new attorneys in criminal prosecution.

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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina in 1988;
 (b) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court for SC in 1994.

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.

I started my legal career in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office as an assistant solicitor. From 1988-91, I prosecuted everything from magistrate court offenses to rapes, armed robberies and murders.

From 1991-95, I worked for the SC Attorney General's Office in the State Grand Jury Division. Under the supervision of (now) Judge Cameron Currie, I was part of a team that prosecuted major drug conspiracies statewide. In addition to presenting evidence to the State Grand Jury and prosecuting the cases, we also handled the civil forfeiture aspect of the cases. During this time, I personally prosecuted numerous cases around the state; including a multi-county drug conspiracy case involving 8 defendants that culminated in a conviction after a three week jury trial in Kershaw County. I also was the lead prosecutor in the second child pornography prosecution and the first money

laundering case for the State Grand Jury. In addition, I was also appointed a Special Assistant US Attorney and worked with the US Attorney's Office in the presentation of evidence to the Federal Grand Jury and preparation of a joint federal/state drug conspiracy prosecution.

From 1995 to 2003, I was the First Assistant Solicitor in charge of the Kershaw County Solicitor's office in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. I was responsible for the prosecution of all General Sessions Court and Family Court cases in Kershaw County.

From 2003 to 2011, I was the Deputy Solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Richland and Kershaw). I have been responsible for the supervision of over 30 attorneys and the prosecution of criminal cases in the fifth Judicial Circuit. As Deputy Solicitor, I have primarily tried murder cases.

Since April of 2011, I have been employed as a part time Assistant Solicitor for Solicitor Ernest Finney, III, in the 3rd Judicial Circuit. I have also been employed with the law firm of McWhirter, Bellinger and Associates. I have been involved in several civil cases at the law firm, and will continue to work on criminal and civil cases prior to this position becoming available. This will further prepare me for Common Pleas Court.

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.

I have been involved in the prosecution of hundreds of jury trials including non-violent and violent felonies. In the past five years, I have primarily prosecuted murder cases including Homicide by Child Abuse and Felony DUI Resulting in Death cases.

Cases I have tried in the past year:

State v. Charles Gambell: The defendant killed his ex-girlfriend and two other individuals at the Colony Apartments in Columbia. The defendant then called a friend who helped him dispose of the bodies in a nearby drainage ditch. The defendant was also charged with Burglary 1st and received four consecutive life sentences.

State v. Maurice Abrams: This was a Sumter County case and was tried in June 2011. The jury convicted the defendant for murder, armed robbery, and possession of a fire arm during the commission of a felony. The case involved co-defendant testimony and the defendant received a sentence of life plus 35 years.

State v. Andrea Pearson: The defendant worked as a daycare worker and was convicted of killing on of the babies in her car (Homicide by Child Abuse) The victim died in 1998 and two other babies in her care died in the ten years following. She was tried and convicted for the first death. In this case I cross-examined an expert in false confessions who was presented by the defense.

State v. Johnny Gaskins: The defendant shot and killed a bouncer and customer at a Super Bowl party at Club 360 in Richland County after being asked to leave the bar. He was also charged with three counts of Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill (ABID) for wounding three other individuals at the establishment.

State v. John Portee: The defendant, an employee at Wendy's restaurant on Two Notch Road in Richland County, killed his supervisor and another employee after a dispute earlier that week regarding working at the drive through window.

State v. Christopher Arant: The defendant slammed his wife's head into his truck window the morning after her son had beaten him for previously assaulting the victim (his mother). The victim died as a result of her injuries.

State v. Rafael Goodwin, State v. Timark Hammonds, State v. Isiah Smith, State v. Terran Clark: This case involved a gang related retaliation which resulted in homicide. All Defendants pled guilty.

State v. William Jenkins: The defendant killed three people at Wellesly Place Condominiums in Richland County.

I have handled a case in Kershaw County juvenile court where a child shot and killed his brother.

Some of the cases I have tried over the past five years:

State v. Oliver, State v. Gallman, State v. Joy: A triple homicide case involving three co-defendants and statements which had to be redacted according to Bruton v. United States, 391 U.S. 123, 88 S. Ct. 1620 (1968).

State v. Whitehead, State v. Robert Cannon, State v. Derreck McDonald:

Three co-defendants beat a young man to death in his home in Kershaw County. This case had numerous legal issues including redaction of defendants' statements pursuant to Bruton and voice identification.

State v. Tobias Lee: A Georgia man killed an elderly victim and stole his car. The defendant was wanted for several armed robberies in Columbia and also wanted in Georgia for murder and rape. The

defendant was ultimately captured in Monroe, LA after being featured on America's Most Wanted.

State v. Christopher Caldwell: The defendant was a young man who pled guilty to murder; he decapitated his mother with a medieval ax.

State v. Jaime Marrero: The defendant killed the clerk at a Kangarooconvenience store on Garners Ferry Road. This case went unsolved for years. Co-defendants and the defendant's ex-girlfriend testified at his trial, which resulted in a murder conviction.

State v. Christopher Pittman: The defendant, a twelve year old boy, killed his grandparents in Chester county. His defense counsel unsuccessfully attempted to blame the killings on the anti-depressant Zoloft.

State v. Dwaine Herring: The defendant, a local attorney, killed a bouncer at a night club in Richland County. The defense unsuccessfully attempted an involuntary intoxication defense.

State v. Jason Dickey: The defendant was a night watchman at Cornell Arms Apartments in downtown Columbia who killed an unruly young man who was visiting a resident. The case involved issues surrounding the Castle Doctrine and its application. The defendant shot the victim on the sidewalk in front of Cornell Arms and presented expert testimony regarding the difference between public and private property. The defendant was convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

State v. Kevin Goodwin: The defendant killed a Forest Acres physician who came home while the defendant was burglarizing his house. The defendant was identified through a C.O.D.I.S. Hit by KNA left on a cigar butt which was discarded at the scene.

State v. John Moore: This case involved road rage; the defendant shot and killed a passenger in a vehicle on I-20. This case went unsolved for years but was resolved by a witness' cooperation and defendant's statements.

State v. Timothy Green, State v. Curtis Harris: Two teenagers killed an elderly store owner in Hopkins. One of the defendants stated he wanted to rob the store for his birthday.

State v. Lawrence Crawford: The defendant killed his child by beating her to death. He would not allow his family to leave their home without him and initially coerced another child to claim she had committed the act. He was ultimately convicted of murder for killing his daughter.

State v. Vincent Filyaw: The defendant kept a young girl in an underground bunker for ten days and raped her repeatedly. The young victim escaped after law enforcement tracked the text messages that she sent to her mother. The defendant received 421 years imprisonment.

State v. Dennis Kirk: The victim had asked the defendant for directions to the post office and the defendant offered to ride with him. The

defendant pulled a gun on him, ordered him to drive to a remote area, shot him in the head, and later burned his truck.

State v. Carmen Rice: A female defendant shot the victim five times in a remote area of Richland County. The defendant planned on robbing the victim; the case involved a female accomplice's testimony.

State v. Sharon Smith: Female defendant stabbed her husband to death and unsuccessfully argued that she did not intend to kill him.

State v. June Harris: Three children testified as eyewitnesses against their mother's ex-boyfriend who shot their mother and killed her new boyfriend.

State v. Christopher Commander: The defendant suffocated his wife and for over a month led her family to believe she was still alive. Several weeks after he had killed her mother, the defendant sent the daughter a text message from the victim's phone saying "I'm alive" He was ultimately captured by the New Orleans Police Department and was brought back to Richland County for trial, where he was convicted of murder.

State v. Keith Sims: Richland county defendant killed a victim and then dumped the body in Molly's Rock Park in Newberry County and then disposed of the victim's clothes in Charleston. Defendant unsuccessfully claimed self-defense.

I have also prosecuted five Capital Murder cases, two of which went to trial. In one of these cases, I conducted the first hearing in the state on the applicability of Capital Punishment to a defendant claiming mental retardation.

My significant experience trying cases in General Sessions Court has provided me a solid foundation to become a circuit court judge. As a result of my trial experience, I have dealt with all aspects of criminal law including evidentiary issues such as eyewitness identification, DNA evidence, competency of defendants, search and seizure, and other related issues. I have presented and cross-examined experts in forensic psychiatry, forensic pathology, statistics, bloodhounds, eyewitness identification, fingerprints, crime scenes, firearms and ballistics, gun-shot residue and other fields of expertise.

My experience in civil matter includes assisting in handling asset forfeitures in drug cases, driving offenses, and judicial commitment proceedings. Because the rules of evidence are the same in both criminal and civil trials, my trial experience in General Sessions Court provides me with a good foundation which I can build upon to become proficient in Common Pleas Court. Furthermore, I have studied the rules of civil procedure and have followed the changes in the law by reading the Advance Sheets.

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.

Not listed. I have been a prosecutor my entire career.

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: minimal--have appeared in Federal Court to inform Judge of state defendant's cooperation for downward departure sentencing;
 - (b) state: extensive.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 10%;
 - (b) criminal: 80%;
 - (c) domestic:
 - (d) other: 10% Family Court – helped prosecute juveniles in Kershaw County this past year.
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: 80%;
 - (b) non-jury: 20%.
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Chief 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. Pittman, 373 S.C. 527, 647 S.E.2d 144 (2007) – This case drew national attention because the defendant was twelve years old at the time of the murders and the anti-depressant Zoloft was a potential issue. The defense had argued that the drug had caused the defendant to lose control and that he was not responsible for the death of his grandparents. Legally this case was significant because the opinion held that lay testimony may be used to rebut the presumption of incapacity regarding children under fourteen years of age. Court held that the M'Naughten test is the correct standard for determining criminal responsibility at the time of the offense. This includes the defense of involuntary intoxication.
 - (b) State v. Herring, 387 S.C. 291, 692 S.E.2d 490 (2009) – An attorney shot and killed a bouncer in a local nightclub. Police responded to the defendant's residence and peeked into his garage where they saw the defendant's vehicle that was seen earlier on a videotape. The South Carolina Supreme Court discussed the Fourth Amendment and its

exceptions. Held that the officer's minimal intrusion was objectively reasonable and did not constitute a Fourth Amendment violation. Held it was objectively reasonable for the officer to take precautions to protect his own safety, and the safety of the other officers by looking in the garage to see if suspect was present. After seeing no one in the garage, police knocked on the front door and waited to get a search warrant. Looking in garage yielded no evidence, in as much as the police already knew the make and model and license tag of the car, as well as the address of the suspect.

- (c) State v. Goodwin, 384 S.C. 588, 683 S.E.2d 500 (2009) – The victim, a retired Forest Acres physician, was shot in the head inside his home after he surprised the intruder. The defendant was linked to the crime by a cigar butt he left outside of the window of the residence which was determined to be the point of entry. This was the first case in this jurisdiction where a suspect was identified from the SLED DNA database, C.O.D.I.S. Held that probable cause was established at least for the burglary from the fact that the defendant's DNA was on the cigar butt outside the point of entry. The court further held that the statement of defendant was freely and voluntarily given.
 - (d) State v. Childers, 33 S.C. 367, 645 S.E.2d 244 (2007) – the opinion discussed the difference between murder and voluntary manslaughter. The opinion held that an overt act from a third party is not sufficient legal provocation to entitle a defendant who is charged with murder to a voluntary manslaughter charge. The provocation must come from some act of or related to the victim in order to constitute sufficient legal provocation.
 - (e) State v Adams, 319 S.C. 509, 462 S.E.2d 308 (1995). Edward Gray, IV, was arrested and began cooperating with law enforcement in the investigation of an active cocaine conspiracy. This organization was bringing drugs from New York, New Jersey and Georgia into South Carolina for distribution to third parties. The conspiracy continued after Gray's arrest. Gray made a purchase of drugs from the Atlanta source while working undercover for the police. Gray and the defendant had dealt with this source on numerous occasions prior to Gray's arrest. The Court of Appeals held that even though Gray was working for the police during the transaction in question, the act of purchasing cocaine from the source, a co-conspirator, was an act in furtherance of the conspiracy and admissible to prove the existence of the conspiracy.
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. None.
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. None.

22. Have you ever held judicial office? N/A
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. N/A
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? N/A
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. N/A
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
 - (a) Fifth Circuit Solicitor – 1994;
 - (b) Circuit Court Judge 2002 – found qualified;
 - (c) Fifth Circuit Solicitor – 2010 – lost in run-off;
 - (d) Circuit Court Judge 2011 – found qualified and screened.
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? 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 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. I have no knowledge of any violations.
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) Richland County Bar;
 - (b) Kershaw County Bar;
 - (c) South Carolina Bar.
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) Camden Rotary Club:
Board of Directors, July 1999-2002;
Chair of the Club Service Committee, July 1999-2002;
Health and Happiness committee, 2007-present;
Paul Harris Fellow;
 - (b) Columbia Classical Ballet Company;
Board of Directors – January 2009 - present;
 - (c) Kershaw County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs;
Prior Board member.
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.

The biggest influence on my life has been my father and mother, Bishop Jack Meadors and the late Hannah Meadors. My siblings and I were raised to treat people with fairness and respect. My parents instilled in all of us the value of service to others. These values have shaped my personal life and professional career. We were also taught that there are rules and that there are consequences when the rules are not followed. I learned early in life that my greatest power was my power to choose. After 22 years as a prosecutor, dealing with victims, law enforcement, attorneys and judges, I have the temperament, experience and judgment to be an effective Circuit Court Judge.

As an assistant solicitor, I was named "Victim/Witness Assistant of the Year" in the State of Maryland in 1989. I was nominated by the parents of a murder victim in a case I prosecuted in Richland County. The family was from Baltimore and their son was attending Columbia Bible College.

I was appointed by the Governor to the State Child Fatality Review Board – 2007 – present.

In 2005, I was the recipient of the Ernest F. Hollings Award for excellence in State Court prosecution. I received this award for my work on six murder cases in 2005.

I am a member of Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia and periodically teach Sunday School. In addition, I have coached the girl's basketball team for over twenty years. I am currently chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations committee at my church.

50. References:

- (a) Karen Eckford
VP/Market President NBSC
P.O. Box 1565
Camden, S.C. 29201
803-708-5687
- (b) Glenn B. Manning
111 South Parsonage St.
Bennettsville, SC 29512
- (c) Dr. Michael L. Guffee
Senior Minister Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine Street
Columbia, S.C. 29205
803-256-8383
- (d) Thomas R. Mims
138 Florence Highway
Sumter, SC 29150
- (e) R. Kirk Griffin
2840 English Turn Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

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: John P. Meadors

Date: August 10, 2011