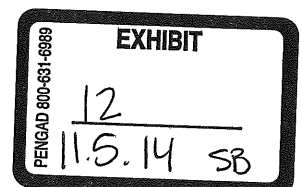


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

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

1. NAME: The Honorable Robert Eldon Hood
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 803-576-1770
2. Date of Birth: 1975
Place of Birth: Decatur, Georgia
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, Political Science;
 - (b) USC School of Law – Fall 1998 to 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.
SC, Fall 2001. I took the bar exam one 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.
 - (a) The Citadel:
 - Cadre Corporal: Sophomore Year
 - Company Clerk: Sophomore Year
 - Cadre Platoon Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant: Junior Year
 - Regimental Drum Major: Senior Year
 - Dean's List: Junior and Senior Years
 - Gold Stars: Senior Year
 - Commandant's List
 - President's List
 - Most Outstanding Disciplinary Record
 - The Citadel, Inn of Court
 - Political Science Honor Society



- (b) USC School of Law:
Moot Court Bar
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>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
(a) Lawyer Mentoring Program	2014;
(b) General Jurisdiction, National Judicial College;	2014;
(c) SC Circuit Court Judges Conference	2014;
(d) Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2014;
(e) SC Bar Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section Civil Law Update	2014;
(f) SC Bar Criminal Law Section – Part 2	2014;
(g) SC Bar Part 1: Criminal Law Section	2013;
(h) SC Bar Part 2: Criminal Law Section	2013;
(i) Spring Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2013;
(j) SC Circuit Court Judges Conference, Spring CLE	2013;
(k) Orientation School for New Circuit Court Judges	2013;
(l) Annual Judicial Conference	2013;
(m) Fall Sporting Clays: Ethics with the Judges	2013;
(n) Spring Sporting Clays : Ethics with the Judges	2012;
(o) Annual Circuit Court Judges Conference	2012;
(p) SCAJ Annual Convention	2012;
(q) Annual Judicial Conference	2012;
(r) Fall Sporting Clays: Ethics with the Judges	2012;
(s) Lawyer Mentoring Second Pilot Program	2011;
(t) DUI Defense from A to Z	2011;
(u) Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2011;
(v) SCAJ Annual Convention	2011;
(w) Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2011;
(x) SCACDL 3 rd Annual Reese Joye DUI	2010;
(y) Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2010;
(z) SCAJ Annual Convention	2010;
(aa) Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	2010;
(bb) SCAJ Annual Convention	2009;
(cc) Bridging the Gap – Defending DUI	2009.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

- (a) USC School of Law, Lunch with Leaders, February 2014: I participated in a panel and advised law students about clerkships and legal employment;
- (b) SC Bar Tort Law Update & Ethics, February 2014: I participated in a panel with two lawyers on relevant tort issues;
- (c) NBI Judicial Panel, March 2014: I participated in a roundtable discussion with judges;
- (d) Summary Court Judges Annual Meeting, March 2014: I taught on the topic of ethics to summary court judges;

- (e) Young Lawyers Mock Trial, April 2014: I served as a mock trial judge;
 - (f) Sporting Clays CLE panel, April 2014: I served on an ethics panel;
 - (g) SC Defense Trial Attorneys Mock Trial Class, April 2014: I served as a mock trial judge;
 - (h) USC School of Law, Ethics, November 2013: I taught an ethics class with Johnny Gasser and Sherri Lydon;
 - (i) Young Lawyers Division, Lunch & Learn, November 2013: I participated in a roundtable discussion with young lawyers;
 - (j) USC School of Law Mock Trial Event, October 2013: I served as a mock trial judge;
 - (k) Sporting Clay CLE panel, October 2013: I served on an ethics panel;
 - (l) USC School of Law Moot Court competition, October 2013: I served as a moot court judge;
 - (m) Annual Solicitor's Conference panel, September 2013: I participated in the criminal update portion of the conference;
 - (n) SC Defense Trial Attorneys Mock Trial Class, April 2013: I served as a mock trial judge;
 - (o) Circuit Court Judicial Conference, May 2013: I taught a class on Fourth Amendment canine searches;
 - (p) Sporting Clays CLE panel, April 2013: I served on an ethics panel;
 - (q) SC Bar Convention, January 2013: Along with Judge McIntosh, I taught a class on recent Fourth Amendment cases;
 - (r) Sporting Clays CLE panel, October 2012: I served on an ethics panel;
 - (s) Young Lawyers Division, October 2012: I was on a panel addressing middle school students at Dent Middle School;
 - (t) Sporting Clays CLE panel, April 2012: I served on an ethics panel;
 - (u) USC Mock Trial Competition, May 2011: I served as a mock trial judge.
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) State Courts of SC in 2001;
 - (b) United States District Court for SC in 2005;
 - (c) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 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 2001 to 2003. 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 to 2005. 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 through the state of SC;

- (c) Strom Law Firm, LLC, 2005 to 2012. I handled criminal and civil complex litigation cases. I primarily worked in the area of criminal defense, including all levels of criminal cases from magistrate's court to circuit court to federal court. I practiced extensively in all levels of state and federal court on a daily basis. I also handled all levels of civil litigation mainly focused on plaintiff representation.
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.
Prior to taking the bench, I was rated 2.9 out of 5 by Martindale-Hubbell and met the very high criteria of General Ethical Standing.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
I was elected to Seat 3 of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, SC Circuit Court. I have served in this judicial office from January of 2013 to present. The SC Circuit Court has general jurisdiction over Common Pleas (civil) and General Sessions (criminal) matters in the State.
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. Marcus Bailey, Richland County Court of General Sessions (July 2013). A jury found the Defendant guilty of murder in this trial lasting almost two weeks. The Defendant was convicted of killing his girlfriend and keeping her body hidden in her house for one week. Multiple issues arose during the trial, including cadaver dogs, hearsay, character evidence, and forensic pathology;
- (b) Steven Fooshe & Associates LLC v. Old McGraw Community Development Corporation, Richland County Court of Common Pleas (September 2013). This bench trial arose from a claim of quantum meruit, where a consultant assisted a community organization in negotiating a contract between the community and the landfill company. After he assisted the community and negotiated a favorable contract, the community refused to pay him. After hearing testimony and issues involving discovery, I found for the consultant and later presided over a sanctions hearing involving counsel's failure to turn over admissible documents to the opposing party. The parties eventually resolved the case;
- (c) State v. Courtney Thompson & Robert Guinyard, Richland County Court of General Sessions (May 2014). This homicide by child abuse trial lasted almost two weeks and involved the death of a four-year-old boy. The Defendants, his parents, were found guilty of beating their son to death with a shower rod. Multiple issues arose during the trial, including autopsy photographs, character evidence, prior bad acts, and redacted statements (Bruton);
- (d) State v. James Bethel, Richland County Court of General Sessions (August 2013): The Defendant was charged with murder, and sought immunity under the Protection of Persons & Property Act ("Act"). At the time, the SC Supreme Court was reviewing the procedural implications of the Act, and the immunity hearing was stayed pending the outcome of State v. Isaac;
- (e) State v. Freddie Grant, Richland County Court of General Sessions (August 2013): This case captivated the Richland County community in 2012 and 2013. The Defendant kidnapped and killed the victim in 2012, but did not confess and lead

authorities to her body until August 2013. I accepted a negotiated sentence for the Defendant before a very emotional and packed courtroom.

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?
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.
None.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
(a) Candidate for Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, Election, February 2011;
(b) 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.
I would refrain from hearing any matter involving a client that I represented while at the Strom Law Firm, LLC or any client the firm had while I was employed there.
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? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
No.
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance?
N/A.
38. 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.?

I formally had Facebook and LinkedIn accounts, but I deleted both accounts. I have a Twitter account but have never made a post and no one follows me. I use my Twitter account for news, hobbies and sports information.

I do not engage in social media discussions or postings that would compromise the dignity of my office.

39. 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.

40. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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

46. 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.

47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?

No.

48. 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.

49. 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.

Richland County Bar Association.

50. 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.

51. 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 believe that my unique experiences in handling both criminal and civil cases throughout my legal career provided me with the skill set necessary to be a competent, courteous, compassionate, and concerned judge. During my time on the bench, I have aimed to serve humbly and fairly to all lawyers, litigants, jurors, and court staff.

52. References:

- (a) Kevin Lindler, Vice-President, First Citizens Bank of SC
4020 Kilbourne Road
Columbia, SC 29205
803-931-1006
- (b) Joey Huggins
5644 Pinebranch Road
Columbia, SC 29206
803-760-8433
- (d) Chance Taylor
406 Cindy Street
Batesburg, SC 29206-2603
803-730-2564
- (e) Jim Truitt, Richland County Deputy Clerk of Court
P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29201
803-576-1953
- (f) Ryan Alphin
916 Byron Road
Columbia, SC 29209
803-312-5223

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: Robert Eldon Hood

Date: August 4, 2014

Jaynie Jordan

From: J J Gentry
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 9:57 AM
To: Jaynie Jordan
Subject: FW: Question 34

See Judge Hood's email below.

PDQ # 34



J. J. Gentry
South Carolina Senate
Judiciary Committee
Staff Attorney
104 A Gressette Building
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 212-6306 (O)
(803) 212-6606 (F)
JJGentry@scsenate.gov



From: Hood, Robert E. [<mailto:rhoodj@sccourts.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 4:25 PM
To: J J Gentry
Subject: Question 34

Mr. Gentry,

It has recently come to my attention that apparently I (along with Judge Casey Manning) was sued in a lawsuit filed in Richland County by SCDC Inmate Bennie Mitchell. I have never been served with this lawsuit. My office and I are working to figure out what is going on with the lawsuit as soon as possible. At the time I filed my application, I was unaware of and still have not been served with this lawsuit which is apparently pending.

Also, I was recently informed my Court Administration that I along with numerous other people was sued (in my professional capacity) by Dr. Marie Faltas in North Carolina. My understanding is that an attorney for the SCAG's office is currently handling this suit.

Please let me know if you need anything further in regards to these matters.

Thank you very much.

Robert E. Hood

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