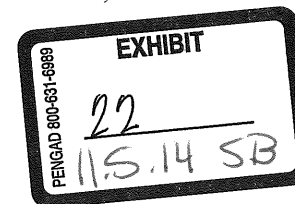


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 6

1. NAME: The Honorable William Henry Seals, Jr.
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 103 N. Main Street
Marion SC 29571
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-423-0446
2. Date of Birth: 1961
Place of Birth: Marion, 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 May 12, 1990, to Phoebe Richardson Seals. Never divorced, one child.
6. Have you served in the military?
None.
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) Charleston Southern University (1979-83) BS Degree;
 - (b) USC (1984-87) MBA Program. No degree obtained as I started law school;
 - (c) Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, (1987-90) JD Degree.
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, 1990.
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) Member Beta Gamma Sigma 1987;
 - (b) Golden Key National Honor Society 1985;
 - (c) Gamma Iota Sigma Fraternity 1986;
 - (d) Presidents Honor Roll 1986;
 - (e) College of Business Administration Certificate of Academic Achievement 1985-86;
 - (f) Moot Court Competition Finalist 1989-90.
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) New Judges Orientation	07/08/2009;
(b) SC Association for Justice Annual Convention	08/06/2009;
(c) 2009 Annual Judicial Conference	08/19/2009;
(d) Annual Civil Law Update	01/22/2010;
(e) Annual Criminal Law Update	01/22/2010;



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|-----|--|-------------|
| (f) | SC Circuit Court Judges Conference | 05/05/2010; |
| (g) | SC Association for Justice Annual Convention | 08/05/2010; |
| (h) | 2010 Annual Judicial Conference | 08/18/2010; |
| (i) | Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | 01/21/2011; |
| (j) | SC Circuit Court Judges Conference | 05/04/2011; |
| (k) | General Jurisdiction | 05/15/2011; |
| (l) | Part 2 Criminal Law Section | 01/20/2012; |
| (m) | Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | 01/20/2012; |
| (n) | SC Circuit Court Judges Conference | 05/02/2012; |
| (o) | 2012 Annual Judicial Conference | 08/22/2012; |
| (p) | Mandatory School | 11/02/2012; |
| (q) | SCDTAA Annual Meeting | 11/08/2012; |
| (r) | Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | 01/25/2013; |
| (s) | Part 2 Criminal Law Section | 01/25/2013; |
| (t) | SC Circuit Court Judges Conference | 05/01/2013; |
| (u) | 2013 Annual Convention | 08/01/2013; |
| (v) | 2013 Annual Judicial Conference | 08/21/2013; |
| (w) | SCDTAA Annual Meeting | 11/01/2013; |
| (x) | Part 2 Criminal Law Section | 01/24/2014; |
| (y) | Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | 01/24/2014; |
| (z) | SC Circuit Court Judges Conference | 03/24/2014. |
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.
Circuit Court, SC, 1990 to date.
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) | 1987-89, during summer months of law school, I worked for my father's law firm, Seals and Brogdan; |
| (b) | 1990-93, worked for my father's partner, Jim Brogdan (my father deceased). During this time I practiced all areas of law, as Seals and Brogdan continued being a general practice law firm; |
| (c) | 1993-2009, I opened my own practice, Seals Law Firm, and maintained a general practice of the law; |
| (d) | 1996-2009, I was elected by the Marion City Council as Municipal Court Judge. I held this position while continuing my law practice. During this time, I received the Marion City Anonymous Committee Award in 2011, for my service as Municipal Court Judge; |

- (e) 2009 to present, I was elected to the position of Circuit Court Judge, At-Large, Seat 6. In 2013, I was appointed Chief Administrative Judge, Civil, for the 12th Judicial Circuit.
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.
BV.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
(a) Marion Municipal Court Judge, elected by City Council Marion SC, (1996-2009) Criminal and traffic misdemeanors;
(b) Circuit Court At-Large Seat 6 (2009-present) which is a court of general jurisdiction.
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) City of North Myrtle Beach v. East Cherry Grove Realty Co., LLC, The State of South Carolina, and John Doe
This case has been involved in litigation for over 40 years and involves the issue regarding who holds title to the disputed canals in North Myrtle Beach. The question was before the court on three theories. That two quit claim deeds established title to the canals; that the canals had been dedicated to the public; and that the State of SC holds title to the canals in trust for the public;
(b) State Mutual Company v. Gerald Ray Ard and Susan M. Ard, individually and as natural mother, custodian parent, and natural guardian of Lauren Ashley A. and Brandon Todd A., minors under the age of fourteen (14)
This case involved a Family Court Order and its directives in regards to a life insurance policy mention in same. This case involved contract law, constructive trust and principles of equity;
(c) Don D. Gause v. Nathan Dale Smithers and Edward W. Hunt
This case involved the issue of whether punitive damages may be assessed against a Father when his liability was predicated on the family purpose doctrine;
(d) Celest Hemingway, as Personal Representative for the Estate of Ronnie Earl Davis and David Brown v. Marion County and Marion County Prison Camp
This case involved the exclusivity provision of the Workers' Compensation Act as it relates to the claim falling within the personal comfort doctrine;
(e) The State v. Herbert Causey
This case involved the two prong inquiry to determine the admissibility of an out-of-court identification. It involved five (5) factors that should be considered in evaluating the totality of the circumstances to determine the likelihood of a misidentification.
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?
No.

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.
Early in my career, an action was instituted to set aside a will or deed. In this regard, the plaintiff erroneously named me as a defendant instead of naming me as a witness to testify as to the competency of the grantor. I was dismissed from the case. Also an action was brought by a pro se plaintiff against the Korn Law Firm, Wachovia, and others which included my firm, by a plaintiff that was foreclosed on and the property was sold at the courthouse steps pursuant to the foreclosure order. The pro se plaintiff joined everybody in any was connected with the foreclosure action including my firm since my firm was hired to place the bid. The action was subsequently dismissed. Also there was a prison conditions lawsuit filed in Federal Court by Frederick Williams in 1999 against the Marion Police Department, Captain H.D. Feagin of the Marion Police Department and myself as Municipal Judge. The lawsuit was never served on me and was dismissed. Also another prison conditions lawsuit was filed in Federal Court by Lavern Garner in 2003 against 65 defendants including several doctors, the police department, the sheriff's department, DSS, the Governor, the President of the United States, several correctional facilities, as well as many others and myself. This case was never served on me and was also dismissed.
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?
Not applicable.

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.?
No.
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.

(a) Marion County Bar Association 1990 to present;

(b) SC Bar Association 1990 to present.

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.

None.

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 do not know of any information which would negatively affect my candidacy. I do believe that my personality in treating all people with respect, being patient, being a good listener, and allowing lawyers the opportunity to try their cases are positive attributes which help me every day in performing my duties as a judge. I also believe that growing up in and practicing law in a small town has provided me with a wide variety of experiences with multiple legal issues but more importantly in dealing with people which helps me in my duties as a judge.

52. References:

(a) Troy Carroll Atkinson, III

P. O. Box 583

Marion, SC 29571

(home) 843-464-6752

(work) 843-423-2150

(b) Ralph A. Atkinson

1200 Bryant Street

Marion, SC 29571

(home) 843-423-4098

(work) 843-423-2150

(c) Francis Brown

4173 Bluff Road

Mullins, SC 29574

(home) 843-464-5605

(work) 843-423-1000

(d) Gordon R. McLellan, Jr.

728 N. Main Street

Marion, SC 29571

(work) 843-275-9837

(home) 843-464-9993

(e) Kelly Milton Morgan
3736 Palmer Drive
Florence SC 29506
(home) 843-292-8973

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

Signature: William Henry Seals, Jr.
Date: July 14, 2014