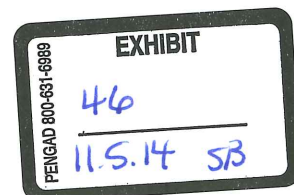


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 9

1. NAME: Mr. William Vickery Meetze
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Florence County Complex
180 N. Irby St. MSC-N
Florence, SC 29501
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-665-3055
2. Date of Birth: 1968
Place of Birth: Columbia, 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 January 23, 2010 to Anna Braddock Meetze.
Never divorced, No children.
6. Have you served in the military? I have never served in the military.
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 1987-91, BA;
(b) Walter F. George School of Law (Mercer University) 1995-98, 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, 1999
I took the SC Bar 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.
(a) SAE Fraternity- Wofford College-Treasurer my Jr. Year in 1989-90 & Vice President my Sr. year from 1990-91;
(b) I have been a part of the Palmetto Boys State program since 1986. I have held a number of leadership positions within the Boys State program. I was a Senior Counselor from 1988-1990 where I was in charge of a Boys State city in each of those years. I was a Party Advisor in 1991 where I led one of the two political parties. I was a County advisor from 1993-2006 where I was in charge of a County. I have been a Co-Dean of the Boys State law School for the last twelve years and for the last two years (2013-14) I have been one of two Operations and Program coordinators where I am in charge of coordinating the Boys State program by lining up Speakers and coordinating many aspects of the program.
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.
Conference/CLE Name Date



- (a) Public Defender Conference September 23-25, 2013;
 - (b) Capital Case Litigation Initiative April 30-May 2, 2012;
 - (c) Public Defender Conference September 26-28, 2011;
 - (d) Capital Case Litigation Phase II May 1-3, 2011;
 - (e) Omnibus Crime Reduction Act November 22, 2010;
 - (f) Public Defender Conference September 27-29, 2010;
 - (g) Public Defender Conference September 28-30, 2009;
 - (h) SC Bar Criminal Law Update January 23, 2009;
 - (i) Public Defender Conference September 29-October 1-2008.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
I have taught the law school class at Palmetto Boys State each year for the past twelve years.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. I have not published any books or articles.
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.
Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1999.
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) Law clerk for The Honorable James E. Brogdon, Jr. 1998-99;
 - (b) Assistant Solicitor 16th Judicial Circuit 1999-2002;
 - (c) Assistant Public Defender-York County 2002-06;
 - (d) Assistant Public Defender for the 12th Judicial Circuit 2006-Present.
14. (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 practicing criminal law in General Sessions Court since August of 1999. I was a prosecutor in the Sixteenth Circuit for a little under three years and during that time I prosecuted individuals charged with non-drug related criminal offenses that carried a penalty of up to fifteen years in prison. In August of 1999 I began work as an Assistant Public defender in York County. As an Assistant Public Defender I represent indigent defendants charged with anything from lower level misdemeanors all the way up to armed robbery, burglary first degree and murder. In 2006, I was

given an opportunity to come back home and work in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I accepted a position in the Florence County Public Defender's Office and have worked there since that time. I have continued defending indigent defendants charged with all types of offenses, however; I have a much larger concentration of A, B, and C felonies at this point. I have defended people in cases involving all levels of criminal activity including major drug trafficking, criminal sexual conduct and murder. My primary experience in civil matters has been as a law clerk for the Honorable James E. Brogdon, Jr. Judge Brogdon was the Chief Administrative Judge for both the Twelfth Circuit and the Third Circuit during my one year Clerkship. I was able to observe many terms of Common Pleas Court both jury and non-jury. During that year Judge Brogdon was also assigned some complex litigation and I was able to work on and gain valuable experience.

Even though I do not have any practical experience practicing law in Common Pleas Court, I have no reservations regarding my ability to quickly develop the skills necessary to provide effective service as a Circuit Court Judge in Common Pleas Court. My entire career has been as a trial attorney and as a result I am very familiar with the rules of evidence and those rules function in both General Sessions and Common Pleas Court. I am also familiar with the rules of civil procedure and that will serve me well as a Circuit Judge in Common Pleas Court as well. My entire legal career I have done my own legal research and I consider myself quite competent at both legal research and interpretation of both statutory and case law. Also, the fact that I don't have practical experience in civil court also means that I wouldn't come into the job with any biases or pre-conceived ideas with regard to one type of case or another. I am perfectly suited to Judge these matters objectively which is imperative to effective service as a Circuit Judge. I am also smart enough to know that I don't know everything. I treat people with the respect that we all deserve.

Even though my legal experience has been exclusively in General Sessions Court, It has provided me with the opportunity to deal with the public and help to forge the ideals of character and patience. It is a humbling profession and one that takes a well-honed variety of skills to perform well. It is humbling by virtue of the fact that hard work and diligent preparation are guarantees of nothing. You can work extremely hard, try a very good case and still not get the outcome that you had hoped would result. Recognizing that there is no room for arrogance in the court room and displaying the proper characteristics of patience and temperament make me an outstanding candidate for a spot on the Circuit Court Bench.

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.
I have not been rated by any legal rating organization.
16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
 - (a) federal: 0%;
 - (b) state: 100%.

I have appeared in General Sessions Court an average of at least two weeks a month for the last five years. There may be a month here and there where we don't have court; however, there are many months where we have three straight weeks of court with two of those weeks running two court rooms. Since August of 2011 I have worked every term of General Sessions Court in both Florence and Marion Counties.

17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?

(a) civil: 0%;

(b) criminal: 100%;

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

(a) jury: 10% (As a public defender I handle many case every year and a small percentage actually go to trial);

(b) non-jury: 90%.

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. Syllester D. Taylor (694 S.E. 2d 60, 2010) I handled this case at the trial level. It was trial in absence where I preserved all motions and eventually the conviction was reversed by the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court subsequently reversed the court of appeals in (736 S.E. 2d 663, 2013). However, even though Mr. Taylor eventually lost his appeal, this case is an example of our legal system at work and even though Mr. Taylor was absent from his trial he was represented effectively and was not denied any opportunity or due process of law in spite of his absence.

(b) State v. Tavario Brunson This was a very high profile case in Florence County that I tried along with another attorney. The evidence against Mr. Brunson was quite overwhelming to include a recorded confession and a positive DNA match. Mr. Brunson was convicted of murder and that result was never really in question. I believe this is an important case because it is an example of our Constitution at work. Mr. Brunson exercised his right to a Jury trial and even though the evidence was overwhelming he was provided an excellent defense and to this day I believe it is one of the most well tried case I have been involved in.

(c) State v. Ralph Thompson This was a case in York County where Mr. Thompson was charged with several counts of forgery. It was a case where Mr. Thompson gave a statement to police regarding where he had gotten the check. It was the kind of story that on its face sounded made up and that is exactly what the police and prosecutors believed he was doing. However, through my investigation of Mr. Thompson's story and the presentation we made at trial, the jury returned a not guilty verdict within ten minutes. It is important because it just shows that sometimes when people can't seem to get anyone to believe you, if you stick to the truth things can work out and justice can be served.

(d) State v. Robert Johnson Mr. Johnson was charged with numerous counts of

criminal sexual conduct with a minor 2nd degree. This is a case that really illustrates the whole process from investigation, to charges being filed, to negotiations and eventually a trial. Mr. Johnson did go to trial and he was convicted. I worked hard to get him an offer that I believed was appropriate and fair. Mr. Johnson did not agree and he went to trial. This was a very serious case in Florence County as Mr. Johnson had been suspected of this type of activity for a while without sufficient evidence to charge him. Even though I did not win the trial, it is another case that I worked very hard on and did a great job of trying the case.

- (e) State v. Montez Barker This is a death penalty case in which I was appointed lead counsel. It is important by the nature of the offense and the fact that a man's life was literally on the line. Death Penalty cases take an extreme amount of work and dedication. You are working as a team with another attorney that has been appointed as second chair as well as fact and mitigation investigators not to mention my client's family was heavily involved as well. We were able to work hard and in the end were able to spare Mr. Barker's life by negotiating a plea for him where he would not face the death penalty. It takes a lot of work and relationship building to get a capital client to trust you enough to eventually agree that pleading guilty where you will be receiving a life sentence is in his best interest. That is what happened in this case and it is one of the most satisfying results I have ever had in a case.
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.
I have not personally handled any civil appeals.
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.
I have not personally handled any criminal appeals from General Sessions Court.
22. Have you ever held judicial office? I have never held judicial office.
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?
I have never held any public office.
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. N/A
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
(a) Candidate for Twelfth Circuit Public Defender, January 2008
I was not nominated for the position;
(b) Candidate for Twelfth Circuit Public Defender, December 2011
I was not nominated for the position;
(c) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 16 Fall of 2012
Qualified bur not nominated.
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?
(a) Life Insurance Sales (Jefferson Pilot Life) 1992-93;
(b) Equipment Operator Wild Dunes Links Golf Course 1993-95.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? I am not.
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.

There are 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? I have not.

32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? I have not.

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?

I was sued by a former client in Federal Court sometime prior to September 3, 2010. The case number was 1:10-cv-01890 JMC. On September 3, 2010 a Federal Magistrate issued a report recommending that the case be dismissed without prejudice and without service of process. The client's name is McIver Feagin, Jr. Because I was never served with process in the case prior to it being dismissed, I was unaware of the suit until the fall of 2012 when I had previously gone through the screening process for a Circuit Court Judgeship. When I was made aware of the suit in 2012, I had an opportunity to review the order from United States District Judge Michelle Childs. In that order, Judge Childs followed the magistrate's recommendation and dismissed the complaint without prejudice and without service of process. That order was signed on December 10, 2010. I do not know what the allegations contained in the complaint were as I have never had the opportunity to review that document and the case was disposed of without me ever having knowledge of or any involvement in the proceedings.

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? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? N/A. I am not in private practice.

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 am not active on any social media or any other internet site. I have a facebook account but it has been deactivated for over four years with no plans to re-activate. I have never had any other accounts with a social media website.

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.

I am not aware of any formal charges or informal allegations against me or any other candidates for violations of these provisions.

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.

I have no knowledge of any such charges or allegations against myself or any other candidate for violations of these provisions.

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.

(a) \$154.12 for envelopes, paper for cover letters and stamps at office depot on July 28, 2014;

(b) \$85.05 for printing an information sheet to mail to member of the Legislature on July 30, 2014.

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. I have not made any such contributions.

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? I have not.

46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?

I have not made any such requests and I am not aware of anyone making contact with any members of the General Assembly on my behalf.

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

I have not and neither has anyone on my behalf.

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?

I have not and no one has done so on my behalf either.

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.

Florence 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.

Palmetto Boys State Staff-Dean of the Law School and Operations and Program Director.

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.

I was fortunate to grow up in a stable, loving and supportive family. When you are young you assume that everyone's family is just like yours. As you grow up and gain life experience you learn that is not the case. You learn that people are different. Socioeconomic backgrounds are different as well as family histories and other things as well. As I grew up and particularly when I got to high school I was exposed to these differences. I had been taught and recognize that different doesn't mean better or worse it just means different. Just because someone is different doesn't mean they should be treated differently. I always tried to treat people the same regardless of their family background or anything else. I always made friends easily and was always a good judge of character. If you were of sound character and a genuine and decent person then that is what I cared about. Because of that I always had a variety of friends from diverse backgrounds. That has always been a strength of mine and it is a strength that I believe has helped prepare me to be a Judge. During school I always had a summer job and that job was always working on the maintenance crew of a golf course. I even did the same work after college on a full time basis for two and a half years. It taught me great work ethic and it provided me with friends that I would not have otherwise had. They were people that grew up different from me. They didn't have bank accounts, they paid their bill with cash on pay day and they knew that they would never go to college. I always took those things for granted but having the diverse group of friends that I have has helped me gain a keen perspective on life and on people. These same people who are different from me in so many ways, when you get to know them you find out they love football. They love to play golf. They love their families. They are funny and they laugh and they cry just like the rest of us. And even though I grew up in a family of college educated and what I would consider successful parents, no one in our family ever looked down at any of my friends or anyone else because of what they did for a living or because of where they lived or what their parents did. I was very fortunate to have the parents I had to teach me how to live and how to judge people and situations. They knew that because of how they raised me that if I became friends with a particular person, they trusted my judgment of that person and knew they were good regardless of any other circumstance in their background. I believe that in life it is important to treat everyone the same way you would like to be treated and to not judge people without getting to know them first. I have been fortunate to have been raised just that way and was given the freedom to make my own judgments about people and other things. In life I have had all, kinds of experiences and I have known all kinds of people. I have also been fortunate enough to have been involved in the Palmetto Boys State program for the past twenty-nine years. The friends and influences that I have had as a result of my involvement in that program have provided a valuable combination of leadership and communications skills. Those skills as well as the

influences of my parents, my friends and my diverse life experiences have joined with my legal experience to provide me with the characteristics of patience, temperament, knowledge and communication that make for an outstanding member of the Judiciary. I am humbled to have this opportunity and am confident in my ability to serve with honor and integrity that the job requires.

52. References:

- (a) Bryson J. Barrowclough
Moss Justice Center
1675-1E York Highway
P.O. Box 691
York, SC 29745
(803) 628-3031
- (b) Wallace H. Jordan, Jr.
626 West Evans St.
P.O. Box 2010
Florence, SC 29503
(843) 662-4474
- (c) Scott P. Floyd
Florence County Complex
180 N. Irby St. MSC-N
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 665-3055
- (d) James E. Brogdon, Jr.
P.O. Box 4625
Pinopolis, SC 29469
(843) 482-5385
- (e) Fran G. Brown
First Citizens Bank
214 North Main St.
Marion, SC 29571
(843) 423-1000

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

Signature: William Vickery Meetze

Date: August 5, 2014