# JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. NAME: Ms. Alice Anne Richter-Lehrman

BUSINESS ADDRESS: The Richter Firm, LLC

622 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-849-6000

2. Date of Birth: 1977

Place of Birth: Charleston, SC

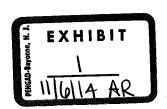
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.

- 5. Family Status: Divorced on September 11, 2009, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court, Charleston County. Grounds: One year continuous separation. Alice Richter-Lehrman was moving party. One child.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No, 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) USC, August 1995-December 1996, no degree obtained (transferred for internship scholarship opportunity);
  - (b) Catholic University of America, January 1997-July 1997, no degree obtained (transferred for degree program);
  - (c) UNC, Chapel Hill, August 1997- May 1999, BA, International Studies;
  - (d) USC School of Law, August 1999-May 2002, 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, 2003. I took the Bar exam in July of 2002 and in February 2003. I elected to take the July 2002 bar even though I was very sick with pneumonia. I had worked very hard to prepare for the exam and was eager to move forward so I took the test in spite of being very ill. I passed the February 2003 Bar Exam.

- 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) Undergraduate:
    - 1. United States Senate Intern, Office of Senator Strom Thurmond, Summer 1996 and January-May 1997, Washington, D.C.;
    - 2. English Speaking Union Parliamentary Scholar, The Parliament of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Summer 1997, Westminster/London, England;
    - 3. St. John Newman Catholic Student Center Association, 1997-99.



- (b) Law School:
  - 1. Phi Delta Phi Legal Ethics Fraternity inducted 1999;
  - 2. Student Assistant to Professor Robert Felix, assisted in editing Conflict of Laws;
  - 3. Text and SC Tort Law Supplement for 2002;
  - 4. Received the CALI Award in 2002 for Private International Law.
- 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)	Attorney and GAL Custody and Visitation Training	01/30/09;		
(b)	Tax-Exempt Organizations: The Changing Regulatory Environment	06/29/09;		
(c)	Good Legal Writing for Attorneys	09/25/09;		
(d)	2009 Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	09/30/09;		
(e)	14th Annual Probate Court Seminar	12/15/09;		
(f)	GAL Training	01/29/10;		
(g)	Something Old, Something New, Don't Make the Judges Blue!	04/16/10;		
(h)	Lay Guardian Ad Litem and New Attorney			
	Guardian Ad Litem Trainings	11/12/10;		
(i)	In the Best Interest of the Child: The 2011 Guardian ad Litem Training			
	and Update	01/28/11;		
(j)	2010 Richland County Bar Ethics Seminar	02/16/11;		
(k)	Taking Children Out of the Fire	06/17/11;		
(1)	Beach Erosion & Property Protection	12/02/11;		
(m)	16th Annual Probate Court Seminar	12/13/11;		
(n)	GAL Training and Update	01/27/12;		
(o)	The State of the Judiciary in (SCWLA)	08/07/12;		
(p)	Law Practice Diversity: Leadership, (SCWLA)	10/05/12;		
(q)	2013 Guardian ad Litem Program Training and Update	02/01/13;		
(r)	Relocation Law in Family Court	07/17/13;		
(s)	Bankruptcy Issues for Guardian ad Litems	08/21/13;		
(t)	How We Do What We Do: Start to Finish	09/18/13;		
(u)	GAL Role in Mediation/Arbitration and Settlement Conference	10/16/13;		
(v)	GAL in Schools	11/20/13;		
(w)	Yikes! I've just gotten a DSS appointment	12/03/13;		
(x)	18th Annual Probate Court Seminar	12/12/13;		
(y)	Practical Tips: Fee agreements and ethics	12/31/13;		
(z)	High Risk Issues	04/16/14;		
(aa)	What Family Court Practioners Need to Know	05/09/14;		
(bb)	GAL's Representing Special Needs Children	05/21/14;		
(cc)	TBD by Chief Justice Jean Toal	06/26/14;		
(dd)	Family and Probate Court Mediation Certification Training and	07/10/14;		
	Advanced Negotiation Workshop CLE	07/14/14.		
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- Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
  - (a) As an Adjunct Professor I taught Legal Research Analysis and Writing at Charleston School of Law in 2009-10;

- (b) I have assisted in organizing the Charleston Guardian Ad Litem Association monthly lunch CLE programs for some time now, have lead or served as a panelist on several panel discussions at these CLE's and have presented at a CLE on the Guardian's Role as an Advocate.
- 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 SC in 2003;
  - (b) Admitted to practice before the US District Court, District of SC in 2011;
  - (c) Also admitted to practice before the US Bankruptcy Court, District of SC in 2011.
- 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.

Following my graduation from law school I clerked for the Hon. Diane S. Goodstein in the SC Circuit Court for the First Judicial Circuit. My husband then accepted a job which required that we move to Charlotte, North Carolina, where I worked as a contract attorney at Moore and Van Allen's Charlotte Office. I worked at MVA with partners and associates on various litigation teams to assist in the defense of several large corporate clients involved with complex multi million dollar business/corporate litigation.

Subsequent to the birth of my son in 2004, I began remotely doing work in early 2005 for Richter and Haller, LLC in Mount Pleasant, SC, mostly on civil cases involving complex legal issues. I moved back to the Charleston area in 2005 and have continued to work with The Richter Firm, LLC to the present. I have worked on very complex civil matters in both State and Federal courts in SC over the years of my practice and have also been involved in handling civil cases involving multidistrict litigation. I have handled cases in administrative courts, bankruptcy courts (in both bankruptcy and adversarial proceedings), criminal courts, probate courts, and family courts in SC. Upon coming to work at my current firm my practice quickly began to develop into primarily family and probate work with some continuing involvement with civil and criminal matters. Today, I handle the Family Court caseload at The Richter Firm and my practice is predominated by work in probate and family court cases.

I have achieved Certification as a Family Court Mediator and am enjoying this new aspect of my practice.

Additionally, I have taught Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing at The Charleston School of Law from 2009-2010 and very much enjoyed the experience.

14.(a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

As an advocate and as a Guardian ad Litem, my work in the Family Court has been both challenging and rewarding. Clients come to me with their most difficult problems and most personal family crises.

I have assisted clients in divorce and equitable division cases ranging from uncontested or simple matters to extremely complex and contentious matters and am very comfortable handling this type work. My divorce work over the years includes cases based on most, if not all of the Statutory grounds for divorce in SC. I have dealt with cases involving adultery, abandonment, the parties having lived separate and apart for one year, physical abuse, and habitual drug/alcohol abuse and understand that oftentimes multiple issues exist in an individual case. I am also conversant and have handled cases involving complicated equitable division issues both in cases where there were substantial assets and where the assets were quite limited. I have represented clients in litigating when there are substantial assets involved and/or when there are disputes as to whether assets or property are marital in nature including representing third party defendants alleged to have an interest in property/assets which are marital in nature. My cases often require that multiple experts are involved, and where forensic accountants and/or other financial experts are needed. I have learned to identify and address issues that arise in equitable division matters and to deal with these issues effectively for my clients.

My child custody work overlaps to some extent with the cases for divorce and equitable distribution I handle. I am involved in child custody as a Guardian ad Litem in private actions involving child custody and also through my representation of parents in actions involving custody and in custody modification actions. Over the years of my practice I have found that my work as a Guardian ad Litem, first in DSS cases prior to the implementation of the volunteer GAL program and changes to the Statutory provisions, and then as a Guardian in private custody cases, has been extremely meaningful to me and I have established myself as a strong advocate for children and families through this work. I have been involved as a Guardian ad Litem in private cases involving custody issues resulting from divorce, changes of circumstance, and due to children having been removed from the custody of their parents because of abuse and neglect. I have represented clients in custody actions involving numerous issues that weigh in a custody determination, including drug and or alcohol misuse/abuse, exposure of child(ren) to inappropriate activities and/or content, exposure of child(ren) to a paramour or paramours; alienation of child(ren) by one parent as to the other, and attempts to remove the child(ren) from the jurisdiction without knowledge of the other parent, among other issues.

I have represented parties in TPR and adoption cases involving DSS and in private adoption matters. I do not take on large numbers of these type cases but have familiarity with the issues that arise in these cases but will continue to maintain a high level of knowledge in this area through educational opportunities, reading case law and statutes, and through other opportunities to learn about this area of family law.

Over my years of practice I have represented parties in DSS abuse and neglect cases both through appointment and as private counsel. I have served as Guardian ad Litem in DSS abuse and neglect cases, and I have experiences in which I was serving as the Guardian ad Litem in private cases and had issues of abuse and/or neglect arise which led to DSS becoming involved. I am knowledgeable in this area of the law and will continue to increase my knowledge as I have detailed above.

My experience in dealing with juvenile cases is not as extensive as my experience in other areas as I have not prosecuted and have taken on limited criminal defense work in the family realm. I have had several cases in which there were juvenile issues involved to some extent and I am committed to increasing my knowledge of this area of family law by observing other Family Court Judges hearing these cases, reading, attending continuing education opportunities focused on juvenile issues, and taking other opportunities to gain experience with these type cases.

I have been through a divorce in the SC Family Courts and am now raising a child while practicing law full time; I know personally the challenges faced by those appearing in Family Court. Unlike other areas of law, my Family Court practice has enriched my life and allowed me to help others. As a Family Court Judge, I will apply my experience as an advocate, as a client, and as a Guardian ad Litem, as well as my experience in other areas of the law, with fairness, compassion, and dignity while seeking to uphold the highest judicial standards for the benefit of all who appear before me.

- 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.? I have not yet sought to become rated.
- What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years? 16.
  - (a) federal:

Occasional:

(b) state: Frequent.

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

20%:

(b) criminal: 5%;

(c) domestic: 50%;

(d) other: 25%, Probate/Trust and Estate.

- 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?
  - jury: (a)

Jury trials are requested by my office in most, if not all, of the civil and criminal cases handled in my practice. The number of these cases is not voluminous as our firm accepts and handles a smaller number of cases which involve more complex legal and factual issues and which, as a result, require a great deal of legal work over a longer period of time. The majority of these cases settle prior to trial;

(b) non-jury:

All of my work in Family and Probate Court is non-jury. Over the past several years my practice has evolved to the point where the majority of my work is now done in Family and Probate Court.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?

In the Civil and Criminal cases I most frequently worked as chief or associate counsel with a team of attorneys in my firm and/or with co-counsel from other firms. In the Family Court cases I most often serve as sole counsel. I have, at times, worked as co-counsel or chief counsel in Family Court cases. In Probate Cases I have served almost exclusively as sole counsel. I have occasionally served as co-counsel with an attorney from another law firm in complex Probate matters.

- 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) Meredith Hastings v. Earl Carrara; Case No.: 2009-DR-10-4327-My firm and I represented the father of a minor child with special needs in this case brought by mother which sought to increase the amount of child support and to alter several other child related issues which had been previously adjudicated. This matter involved complex financial issues and required extensive work with accounting experts. It also dealt with difficult issues relating to procedural issues;
  - (b) Allan Carl Ranta v. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah a Corporation Sole, Most Rev. Raymond W. Lessard, J. Kevin Boland, in his capacity as the Bishop of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah, a Corporation Sole, and Wayland Yoder Brown; Case No.: 2006-27-143-We represented the Plaintiff who was a child victim of sexual abuse in bringing suit against the Catholic Diocese of Savannah, Georgia as well as other parties. This case involved very complex procedural and substantive legal issues including those relating to repressed memory and a statute of limitations defense. This was a difficult case legally, procedurally, and factually due to the emotional nature of sexual abuse and the identities of the parties involved. After months of contentious litigation, settlement was reached with the Diocese and church officials through multi day mediation;
  - (c) Robert Edward Turner, IV v. Leslie Larrison Turner and Leslie Larrison Turner v. Blair Selden Turner; Case No.: 2012-DR-10-1020-We represented the Plaintiff, and third party Defendant in a hotly contested case for change of custody of the minor children. We were able to successfully achieve a modification of custody which increased children's time with Plaintiff Father and prevailed on numerous difficult procedural and legal issues including Defendant's Motion to Seal this high profile case;
  - (d) Anita Knox v. TRW & Associates, Inc., Commercial Roofing Solutions, LLC, Gramercy Capital Corp. d/b/a Gramercy Realty, Emcor Facilities Services, Inc., and Liquid Plastics, Inc.; Case No.: 3:11-cv-218-CMC-I, along with attorneys in my firm and co-counsel, represented multiple Plaintiffs suffering personal injury after exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace. Successful negotiation resulted in settlement with all Defendants. Multiple experts for medical and financial issues were used to determine how each Plaintiff was negatively impaired due to their exposure. Each Plaintiff required a life care plan to determine damages and long term needs for physical, mental, and financial considerations;
  - (e) <u>SC Department of Social Services v. Jonathan Evans, Jr., Jennifer Meyer, Mary Meyer, et all; Case No.: 2013-DR-10-2419-I represented the mother and maternal</u>

grandparents of the minor child in a DSS abuse case. The minor child was injured and placed into the custody of a third party while extensive investigation of how the injury occurred took place. After much negotiation and agreement with DSS we constructed a treatment plan to return the minor child to the custody of the mother.

- 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.
  - (a) Yelsen Land Company, Inc., Appellant v. The State of SC and the State Ports Authority, Respondents in the SC Supreme Court 03/14/12 (Opinion No. 27103) Yelsen Land Company, Inc. v. The State of SC and the State Ports Authority, Op. No. 27103 (S.C. March 14, 2012);
  - (b) <u>Jane Doe, Appellant v. Charles Smith</u>, Charleston County School District and James Island High School, Respondents in the SC Court of Appeals 06/30/14 <u>Jane Doe v. Charles Smith</u>, et al., Op. No. 2013-000084 (S.C. Ct. App. June 30, 2014).
- 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 handled any criminal appeals.

- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? No.
- 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. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. Not applicable.
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 35. Have you ever, in SC or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or been found to have committed such misconduct? 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. 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?

I have never practiced or worked without malpractice coverage. I was covered by Moore and Van Allen's policy when I worked with them as a contract attorney. I have been covered by an ALPS policy throughout my practice in SC. The Richter Firm, LLC's coverage is \$2,000,000.00 each claim/\$4,000,000.00 aggregate, and the deductible is \$1,000.00 for each claim.

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.?

To my knowledge I am only active on Facebook and I will deactivate or close my account upon election to the bench. I have no knowledge of any other memberships, activity, featuring or depictions of or by me on any other social media or similar types of internet sites but would ensure that any such activity ceased immediately if I was informed that the same existed.

- 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. No.
- 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. No.
- 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 as to both parts of the question.
- 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) Charleston County Guardian ad Litem Association (Organizing Committee);
  - (b) SC Women Lawyers;
  - (c) Charleston County Bar;
  - (d) SC Bar Family Law Section.
- 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.
  - (a) Town of Mount Pleasant SC Planning Commission (appointed 5-2011 5-2015);
  - (b) Florence Crittenton Programs of SC Board of Directors (Board Secretary);
  - (c) Junior League of Charleston;
  - (d) Saint Mary's Catholic Church Altar Society;
  - (e) Porter Gaud School Parents' Guild;
  - (f) UNC at Chapel Hill-General 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.

I literally grew up around the legal profession as my father was a Family and Circuit Court judge and later returned to his private law practice during my childhood. I love the law and have always wanted to become an attorney. I see the opportunity to serve our state as a member of the judiciary in the Family Court as the culmination of the work I have done over the course of my lifetime through my education and career.

I have worked hard to gain an excellent education, both as an undergraduate and in Law School. I have sought out opportunities to gain diverse work experience in the realm of government and public service in the SC Senate, The U.S. Senate in Washington D.C., and the British Parliament at the Palace of Westminster through a sought after English Speaking Union Scholarship and have gained an immense appreciation for our system of government and for the body of laws created through the legislative process. I have also gained a unique appreciation of our common law judicial system through my summer studies at the University of Vienna School of Law in Austria while I was a student at the USC School of Law in Columbia. The program there was taught by faculty from the University of Vienna and from Loyola University-New Orleans School of Law and focused on the European

Union Law and on Civil versus Common Law Systems. I was also able to hear Justices from the US Supreme Court speak as part of this program and was impacted by each of these individual's emphasis on judicial service as the highest form of public service available within the legal profession. I agree with them; I believe public service is a duty and would be so honored to serve our state as a member of the judiciary.

My career has provided me with a broad and deep body of experience and I have continually worked to ensure that my knowledge of the law is thorough. I have maintained involvement in my community and have been blessed with wonderful family and friends who are a source of strength to me. Throughout my career I have made it my goal to uphold the highest level of ethical and professional standards in my work and in all my community and personal undertakings. If elected I will continue to make this my goal and will incorporate the Judicial Canons and professional standards into my life. I will endeavor to serve humbly and honorable and to be a credit to our state, the legal profession, and the judiciary.

## 52. References:

- (a) Carl L. Solomon Solomon Law Group P.O. Box 1866 Columbia, SC 29202 (803)391-3120
- (b) Prof. John Freeman 2329 Wilmot Avenue Columbia, SC (803)254-4667
- (c) Honorable James B. Edwards 100 Venning Street Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 (843)884-3493
- (d) Anne Frances Bleecker Bleecker Law Firm, LLC P.O. Box 30245 Charleston, SC 29417-0245 (843)571-2725
- (e) Sally Altman, Bank of SC P.O. Box 538 Charleston, SC 29402 (843)724-1500

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

Signature: Alice Anne Richter-Lehrman

Date: August 5, 2014

# THE RICHTER FIRM, LLC

Attorneys & Counselors at Law 622 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Lawrence E. Richter, Jr.
Alice Anne Richter Lehrman
Aaron E. Edwards
Patrick T. Napolski\*

\*Also licensed in IL

Telephone: (843) 849-6000 Telefax: (843) 881-1400

September 10, 2014

POQ #1

VIA EMAIL JaneShuler@scsenate.gov

AND U.S. MAIL

Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel Judicial Merit Selection Commission Post Office Box 142 Columbia, SC 29202

In Re: Family Court, Ninth Circuit, Seat 2

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am writing to advise that I have recently moved to a new residence and to request that you please update my contact information. My new home address is Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464, which is in Charleston County.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Alice Richter Lehrman

ARL/lwh

# THE RICHTER FIRM, LLC

Attorneys & Counselors at Law 622 Johnnie Dodds Boulevard Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Lawrence E. Richter, Jr.
Alice Anne Richter Lehrman
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Telephone: (843) 849-6000 Telefax: (843) 881-1400

October 14, 2014

VIA EMAIL JaneShuler@scsenate.gov AND U.S. MAIL

Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel Judicial Merit Selection Commission Post Office Box 142 Columbia, SC 29202

In Re: Family Court, Ninth Circuit, Seat 2

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am writing to amend my answer to number 34 of the Personal Data Questionnaire. I inadvertently failed to include information regarding a suit in which I am named as a defendant/lienholder in my professional capacity.

I was appointed by the Charleston County Probate Court to serve as GAL and Attorney in a Guardianship and Conservatorship case and an Order for Attorney Fees was entered (please see attached). These fees were unpaid at the time of my client's death and the Personal Representative was subsequently sued in a foreclosure action by Bank of America. Several creditors who had pending claims against estate proceeds were named as defendants by Bank of America; I was among these. My understanding is that at this point the foreclosure case has been stayed by a bankruptcy filing and resolution is not imminent.

I apologize for the error and hope that the information provided is sufficient to resolve any questions. I am happy to provide any additional information which may be helpful and to answer any questions you, or the Commission, may have. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Alice Richter Lehrman

ARL/lwh Enclosure

Cc: J.J. Gentry (via email <u>JJGentry@scsenate.gov</u> and U.S. Mail)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)
COUNTY OF: CHARLESTON	in the probate court  ):
IN THE MATTER OF:	STATEMENT OF CREDITOR'S CLAIM
IN THE WATTER OF.	12 AU0 29 (311: 32 CASE NUMBER: 2012-ES-10-001202
Decedent's Date of Death (if known):	5/18/2012
Decedent's cast Maining Address.	
Creditor: Alice Richter Lehrma	an
Address: The Richter Firm, LL	LC
Telephone: 843-849-6000	Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
Basis of claim:	
Attorneys fees/GAL fee from case no. 20	10-GC-10-069, Please see attached Order of October 13, 2011.
Amount of claim \$ 2,911.55	
Date claim will become due (if not already	/ due): , 20 .
Nature of uncertainty as to amount of clai	m and due date, if any:
,	•
Description of any security as to claim:	
	An Rill II
	Signature: (like ruchfu Jehn Title: Attorne GAL for Drade &
	Date: 24 august 2012
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NOTOHOTIONS. Object of Co.	

INSTRUCTIONS: Claims must be filed with the Probate Court of this county and delivered or mailed to the Personal Representative appointed to administer the estate (see section 62-3-803, 62-3-804, and 62-3-806 on next page.)

## SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS AMENDED

### § 62-3-803. Limitations on presentation of claims.

"(a) All claims against a decedent's estate which arose before the death of the decedent, including claims of the State and any subdivision thereof, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, if not barred earlier by other statute of limitations, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented within the earlier of the following dates:

- (1) one year after the decedent's death; or
- (2) within the time provided by Section 62-3-801(b) for creditors who are given actual notice, and within the time provided in Section 62-3-801(a) for all creditors barred by publication; provided, claims barred by the nonclaim statute at the decedent's domicile before the giving of notice to creditors barred in this State are also barred in this State.

(b) All claims against a decedent's estate which arise at or after the death of the decedent, including claims of the State and any subdivision thereof, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent, unless presented as follows:

- (1) a claim based on a contract with the personal representative within eight months after performance by the personal representative is due;
- (2) any other claim, within the later of eight months after it arises, or the time specified in subsection (a)(1).
- (c) Nothing in this section affects or prevents:
  - (1) any proceeding to enforce any mortgage, pledge, flen, or other security interest upon property of the estate; or
  - (2) to the limits of the insurance protection only, any proceeding to establish liability of the decedent or the personal representative for which he is protected by liability insurance, or
  - (3) collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for expenses advanced by the personal representative or by the attorney or accountant for the personal representative of the estate."

#### § 62-3-804. Manner of presentation of claims.

"Claims against a decedent's estate may be presented as follows:

- (1) The claimant may deliver or mail to the personal representative a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed, and must file a written statement of the claim, in the form prescribed by rule, with the clerk of the probate court. The claim is deemed presented on the first to occur of receipt of the written statement of claim by the personal representative or the filing of the claim with the court. If a claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due must be stated. If the claim is contingent or uniquidated, the nature of the uncertainty must be stated. If the claim is secured, the security must be described. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, and the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate the presentation made.
- (2) The claimant may commence a proceeding against the personal representative in any court where the personal representative may be subjected to jurisdiction, to obtain payment of his claim against the estate, but the commencement of the proceeding must occur within the time limited for presenting the claim, and the claimant must file a written statement of the claim as in (1) above, with the clerk of the probate court. No presentation of claim is required in regard to matters claimed in proceedings against the decedent which were pending at the time of his death.
- (3) If a claim is presented under subsection (1), no proceeding thereon may be commenced more than thirty days after the personal representative has mailed a notice of disallowance with warning of the impending bar; but, in the case of a claim which is not presently due or which is contingent or unliquidated, the personal representative may consent to an extension of the thirty-day period, or to avoid injustice the court, on petition presented to the court prior to the expiration of such thirty-day period, may order an extension of the thirty-day period, but in no event may the extension run beyond the applicable statute of limitations."

### § 62-3-805. Allowance of claims.

"(a) As to claims presented in the manner described in Section 62-3-804 within the time limit prescribed in Section 62-3-803, the personal representative may mail a notice to any claimant stating that the claim has been disallowed. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative changes his decision concerning the claim, he shall notify the claimant. The personal representative may not change a disallowance of a claim after the time for the claimant to file a petition for allowance or to commence a proceeding on the claim has run and the claim has been barred. Every claim which is disallowed in whole or in part by the personal representative is barred so far as not allowed unless the claimant files a petition for allowance in the court or commences a proceeding against the personal representative not later than thirty days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance if the notice warms the claimant of the impending bar. It is the responsibility of the personal representative to notify the claimant if a claim is disallowed.

(b) Upon the petition of the personal representative or of a claimant in a proceeding for the purpose, the court may allow in whole or in part any claim or claims presented to the personal representative or filed with the court in due time and not barred by subsection (a) of this section. Notice in this proceeding shall be given to the claimant, the personal representative, and those other persons interested in the estate as the court may direct by order entered at the time the proceeding is commenced.

- (c) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a personal representative to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate is an allowance of the claim.
- (d) Unless otherwise provided in any judgment in another court entered against the personal representative, allowed claims bear interest at the legal rate (as determined according to SECTION 34-31-20(A)) for the period commencing thirty days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired unless based on a contract making a provision for interest, in which case they bear interest in accordance with that provision "

ALSO SE TITLE 62, ARTICLE 3, PART 8 (I.E., SECTIONS 62-3-801 ET SEQ.)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLIN	NA.	)	IN THE PROBATE COURT COMMITMENT DIVISION
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON		)	CASE NO. 2010-GC-10-069
IN THE MATTER OF		)	
		)	ORDER FOR ATTORNEY FEES
	1	)	
		)	

I find Alice Richter Lehrman was appointed by this Court as attorney and guardian ad litem for in the above guardianship/conservatorship action; that on September 29, 2011, Ms. Lehrman submitted an affidavit in support of attorney's fees and a detailed statement of legal services rendered in the above matter, that Ms. Lehrman devoted 15.9 hours of her time at \$150.00 an hour and accrued costs in the amount of \$526.55; and that her legal fee of \$2,911.55 is appropriate and is approved by this Court.

THEREFOR IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Ms. Lehrman's attorney fee of \$2911.55 is approved and that the conservator pay Ms. Lehrman that amount within of the date of this order.

Tamara C. Curry, Probate Court Judge

Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston, South Carolina

CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA