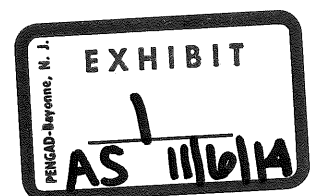


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit Court, Fourth Circuit, Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. Autrey Carmichael Stephens
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Fourth Circuit Public Defender
122 North McArthur Avenue
Dillon, SC 29536
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-841-1123 x 15
2. Date of Birth: 1954
Place of Birth: Dillon SC
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?
Yes.
5. Family Status: Married on September 27, 1980, to Robin Renee Smith Stephens. Never divorced, four children.
6. Have you served in the military? No.
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) USC, Fall 1972- December 1973; left to work and travel;
 - (b) USC, Fall 1977- May 1978; left to work;
 - (c) USC, 1988 -90, BA, History;
 - (d) USC School of Law, 1991-Dec. 1993, 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, 1994
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.
The only extracurricular activities in which I took part was working part-time jobs while in undergraduate and graduate school.
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) Blues, Bar-B-Q and Bar CLE	07/11/2008;
(b) 2008 Public Defender Conference	09/29/2008;
(c) OID Best Practices Seminar	02/20/2009;
(d) 2009 Public Defender Conference	09/28/2009;
(e) 2010 Public Defender Conference	09/27/2010;
(f) Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Act	11/22/2010;
(g) Lawyering mentoring Second Pilot Program	03/03/2011;



- (h) Capital Case Litigation Initiative 05/01/2011;
 - (i) Blues, Bar-B-Q and Bar CLE 07/08/2011;
 - (j) 2011 Public Defender Conference 09/26/2011;
 - (k) Lawyering mentoring Second Pilot Program 09/20/2012;
 - (m) 2012 Public Defender Conference 09/24/2012;
 - (n) Gideon at 50: How Far We've Come, How Far to Go 09/20/2103;
 - (o) 2013 Annual Public Defender Conference 09/23/2013.
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.
 - (a) All State Courts of SC, 1994;
 - (b) Federal District Court District of SC, August 18, 1997.
 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) March 30, 1994 to March 31, 1995 - Circuit Court Judicial Law Clerk;
 - (b) April 1995 to April 1996 - Richland County Public Defender, Criminal Defense;
 - (c) April 1996 to January 1997 - Fourth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Criminal Prosecution;
 - (d) January 1997 to February 29, 2008 - Sole Practitioner A.C. Stephens, P.C., Criminal Defense, Real Estate Closings, Civil Practice;
 - (e) March 2008 to Present - Chief Public Defender, Fourth Judicial.
 14. (a) 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.

Over my career, I have had experience with both the prosecution and defense of criminal cases. In March of 2008, I was selected as Chief Public Defender for the Fourth Judicial Circuit and selected again in March 2012 to continue in this capacity. During this time, I have personally tried criminal matters such as distribution of drugs, assault and battery with intent to kill and arson. I was also co-counsel with lawyers from the Office of Indigent Defense Death Penalty Trial Unit on two cases.

A considerable part of my responsibilities include assisting and training younger lawyers in my office in the proper manner of investigating cases, developing communications with clients, developing trial issues and strategy, preparing voir dire, and

selection of juries. In this capacity, I have served as co-counsel with several of the younger lawyers in our office. These cases included such issues as voluntariness of statements, search and seizure, videotaped buys, alibis, competency evaluations, self-defense and a complete lack of defense.

Prior to becoming Chief Circuit Defender, I was in private practice, which included representation of clients in both criminal and civil matters. My criminal practice included representation of defendants charged with murder, embezzlement of public funds, trafficking drugs and criminal sexual conduct.

I also represented plaintiffs as well as defendants in Common Pleas, as well as Magistrate's Court. While in private practice, I handled a variety of civil cases but my civil practice consisted primarily of personal injury cases and matters involving property law. These cases focused mainly on matters such as mortgage foreclosures, the representation of defendants in an action to apply restrictive covenants to the defendants' property, cases that involved partition of property and actions to quiet title, a variety of personal injury claims, small property claims for plaintiffs and defendants in magistrate's court.

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.

Never rated.

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?

(a) federal: 0;

(b) state: All appearances have been in state court.

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: 20%;

(b) non-jury: 80%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? I have been sole counsel, but most often assist as associate counsel with younger lawyers in the office.

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) Jackson et al v Hayes et al. (Dillon County) I defended an action in state court whereby plaintiffs sought to apply restrictive covenants to the neighboring property of the defendants. The case was tried in circuit court without a jury. The Defendants prevailed and were able to construct townhouses in which they realized a profit but also added a benefit to the neighborhood as well as addition to the city tax rolls;

(b) State v Charles Turner (Dillon County). The Defendant and his brother were charged with murder and were unable to make bail. The brothers were tried jointly and the defense was self-defense. The issue of prior difficulties between the parties was part of the defense. The jury acquitted both defendants;

- (c) State v Stacy David (Marlboro County). The Defendant was accused of embezzlement of public funds from the Marlboro County Clerk of Court. The case was prosecuted by the SC Attorney General's office. The case involved financial audits as well as issues of who had access to the funds. The charges were made in 1996 but it was 2002 before the case was tried. The case involved employees of the former Clerk of Court who were defeated for reelection, which caused political issues. The defendant was acquitted by a jury;
- (d) State v Earl Galloway (Marlboro County). The defendant was accused of drug trafficking. The defense was entrapment. The defendant and the sheriff who brought the charges had a history of personal animosity. The case was tried and the jury acquitted the defendant;
- (e) Hayes v Huggins (Dillon County). I represented the Plaintiffs in action for injuries suffered in an automobile accident. The case involved the usually issues of fault, proximate cause and damages. In this case the clients were hearing impaired which brought an added dimension to preparation and trial of the case.
20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. None.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. None.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
 Spring 1982, Acting Judge of Probate, Dillon County. I was appointed by the Governor according to statute, since I was serving as Clerk of Court for Dillon County. I served until the Governor appointed a replacement.
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. No significant decisions
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?
 January 1981 – March 1986, Elected Clerk of Court for Dillon County. All reports were timely filed.
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, Dillon County Judge of Probate, 1982;
 (b) Candidate, Dillon County Judge of Probate, 1986;
 (c) Candidate, SC House Seat 55, 2006.
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) Police Officer, City of Dillon, Sept 1975 - Dec 1976;
 (b) Deputy Sheriff, Dillon County, January 1977-August 1977; April 1979 - April 1980;
 (c) While I was attending college and law school I worked a variety of part time jobs:
 Capstone Cafeteria, washing dishes and assisting with catering
 Richtex Brick – labor
 Driving the USC Shuttlebus
 Security Guard
 Serving Legal Process for various attorneys
 Delivering Newspapers
 Law Clerk at the law firm of Gergel Burnette Nichols and Grant
 Law Clerk at the law firm of Walker Morgan and Manning;

- (d) Growing up in Dillon before and during high school I worked on my father's farm. Additionally, I was employed by two local gas stations and I also delivered flowers for a local florist.
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?
I was arrested for public intoxication in 1972 while in college. No formal charges were ever registered. I was released the next morning after paying a \$25 fine.
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?
A vehicle I owned was involved in an accident around 1984. I was not operating or riding in the vehicle at the time of the accident, and I am not sure if a lawsuit was filed before the case was settled.
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, and my name has never been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect.
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance?
I am not in private practice, but I have never been covered by a tail policy.
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.? None.
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.
- (a) Smith Rubber Stamps - Badge, \$11.34;
- (b) Fedex, Candidate Cards - \$ 442.79.
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?
- The only contact I have had was meeting and shaking hands in the State House lobby.
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) SC Bar Association;
- (b) Dillon County Bar;
- (c) SC Public Defender 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. 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.

My father was a decorated World War II veteran who was fortunate enough to receive his college degree from the University of SC. Immediately upon graduation he was employed as a rural letter carrier where he worked for 40 years. People who lived on my father’s route still tell me how you could depend on him delivering the mail every day at the

same time like clockwork. Also, during that time he operated a small farm. After having four children my mother commuted to St. Andrews College in Laurinburg and earned a degree and taught school until she retired. My parents instilled in us a good work ethic, the importance of church in our life, civic duty and caring for our neighbors. My parents worked every day, we attended church on Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and any special times. I remember my parents voted in every election because they felt it their duty as citizens. My parents visited neighbors in times of need. Most importantly my parents taught us the importance of a loving, caring, and loyal family.

These lessons and love guided and sustained me through the good times and the bad times I have experienced throughout my life. What I learned has continued to strengthen my marriage of 34 years.

My father told me that as far as life goes "you have to take it as it comes". Those few words have helped develop patience, understanding and caring for my children, my wife and my fellow human beings. But most importantly it gave to me the acceptance of myself as a person and that I must have patience, understanding and caring for me before I am able to have it for others.

52. References:

- (a) Charles R. Vance
First Bank
101 West Main Street
Dillon, SC 29536
843-841-0444
- (b) John D. McInnis, Jr. Attorney at Law
PO Box 1188
Dillon, SC 29536
(843) 774-8236
- (c) Mr. T. Patton Adams
Office of Indigent Defense
PO Box 11433,
Columbia, SC 29211-1433
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, SC 29201
803.734.1343
- (d) Honorable L. Casey Manning
PO Box 192
1701 Main Street, Room 214
Columbia, SC 29202-0192
(803) 576-1773
- (e) William P. Walker, Jr.
PO Box 949
135 East Main Street
Lexington, SC 29072
803.359.6194

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

Signature: Autrey Carmichael Stephens Date: August 7, 2014

A.C. Michael Stephens
700 Elizabeth Court B-5
Dillon, SC 29536
843.845.2876
Acstephens1022@gmail.com

PDA #43

August 1, 2014

Senate Ethics Committee
205 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, 29201

Re: Report of Expenditures
Judge of the Fourth Circuit
Resident Seat 2

Dear

Please accept this as my report of expenditures to date in furtherance of my candidacy for the above referenced judgeship.

FedEx	Information cards	442.79
Smith Rubber Stamps	Name Badge	11.34

Should there be anything further I can provide please let me know.

Sincerely,

A.C. Michael Stephens

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

Autrey C. Stephens
700 Elizabeth Court B-5
Dillon, SC 29536
Acstephens1022@gmail.com
843.845.2876

November 4, 2014

Mr. Robert Edward Maldonado
S.C. Senate
PO Box 142
Senate Judiciary Committee
Columbia, SC 29202
Fax: 803.212.6600

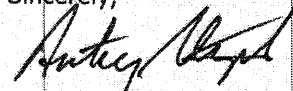
Re: Candidate Expenditures

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

Please accept this as a report on additional expenditures in the amount of \$127.15 made since the time of my application. Enclosed please find the receipts.

Should there be anything further please let me know.

Sincerely,


Autrey Stephens

DILLON MAIN PO
 DILLON, South Carolina
 295369998
 4518030536 -0097
 08/18/2014 (843)774-9481 09:12:42 AM

Product Description	Sales Receipt		Final Price
	Sale Qty	Unit Price	
(Forever) Star-Spangled Banner PSA Coil/100	2	\$49.00	\$98.00
Total:			\$98.00

Paid by:
 Debit Card \$98.00
 Account #: XXXXXXXXXXXX9476
 Approval #: 181113
 Transaction #: 347
 23 902980614
 Receipt#: 003696

Order stamps at usps.com/shop or call 1-800-Stamp24. Go to usps.com/clicknship to print shipping labels with postage. For other information call 1-800-ASK-USPS.

 Get your mail when and where you want it with a secure Post Office Box. Sign up for a box online at usps.com/poboxes.

Bill#: 1000303227408
 Clerk: 05

All sales final on stamps and postage
 Refunds for guaranteed services only
 Thank you for your business

HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER
 TELL US ABOUT YOUR RECENT
 POSTAL EXPERIENCE

Go to:
<https://postalexperience.com/Pos>

Or scan this code with your mobile device.



YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Customer Copy

If It's Paper
 1801 Bervais St
 Columbia, SC 29201-1947
 803-252-3636
 803-986-0035

Sales Receipt

Transaction #: 75430
 Date: 8/16/2014 Time: 3:41:36 PM
 Cashier: LD Register #: 1

Item	Description	Amount
77965	PARK AVENUE SINGLE 75 @ \$0.20	\$15.00
47442	STATIONARY BOXED WHITE	\$11.99
Sub Total		\$26.99
SC State Sales Tax		\$1.62
Local Option Tax Richland County		\$0.27
Total		\$29.15
VISA Tendered		\$29.15
Card: XXXXXXXXXXXX9476		
Auth: 016073		
Change Due		\$0.00



* 7 5 4 3 0 *
 Thank you for shopping
 If It's Paper

We hope you'll come back soon!