

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat #:

Family Court, Ninth Circuit, Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. Spiros Stavros Ferderigos
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 101 Meeting Street, Suite 330
Charleston, SC 29401
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-958-5150
2. Date of Birth: 1978
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. Married on April 24, 2004, to Laura Williams Ferderigos. Never divorced, three children.
6. Have you served in the military? I have not.
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) College of Charleston, 1996-2000, BA in Political Science and BA in History;
 - (b) USC School of Law, 2000-03, 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
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) College of Charleston, 1996-2000;
 1. Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society
 2. Golden Key National Honor Society
 3. Secretary, Pre-Law Society
 4. Standards Board Magistrate and Secretary, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity
 5. Scholarship Chair and By-Law Head Chair, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity;
 - (b) USC School of Law, 2000-03
 1. The Federalist Society
 2. Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity
 3. Vice President, Criminal Law Society.
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) 35 th National Conference on Juvenile Justice	03/09/08;
(b) Stewards of Children: The Child	05/12/08;
(c) Forensic Science for Prosecutors	04/24/09;
(d) Prosecuting Cases in Family Court	08/21/09;



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| (e) | Competency Hearings | 05/21/10; |
| (f) | Prosecuting Cases in Family Court | 08/16/10; |
| (g) | With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility | 09/26/10; |
| (h) | NADCP 17 th Annual Training | 07/17/11; |
| (i) | 2011 SC Solicitors' Conference | 09/25/11; |
| (j) | 2011 Judges and Attorneys Substance Abuse | 12/02/11; |
| (k) | Prosecuting Cases in Family Court | 08/24/12; |
| (l) | 2012 SC Solicitors' Conference | 09/23/12; |
| (m) | Family Court Prosecutors' Workshop | 02/13/13; |
| (n) | Substance Abuse and Lawyers | 03/14/14; |
| (o) | Solicitor's Training | 08/20/13; |
| (p) | Prosecuting in Family Court | 08/23/13; |
| (q) | 2013 SC Solicitor's Association Annual Conference | 09/22/13; |
| (r) | NADCP 20 th Annual Training Conference | 05/28/14; |
| (s) | Update on Criminal Electronic Monitoring and GSC Management | 06/13/14. |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
I have lectured at the 2011 Judges and Attorneys Substance Abuse Seminar as a panelist discussing Drug Court Programs.
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 on November 17, 2003;
- (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court on August 25, 2004.
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 Offices of Paul E. Tinkler, Charleston, SC
Civil Litigation, October 2003 to March 2007
Attorney for a civil litigation firm specializing in the field of domestic relations. Other areas of practice included personal injury, medical malpractice and business transactions. Complete autonomy in representing clients in a two lawyer firm;
- (b) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Criminal Litigation, March 2007 to present
Assistant Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Division.
Includes complete autonomy in the prosecution of Murder, Armed Robbery, Narcotic and Weapon related charges;
- (c) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Special Counsel to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court Program, January 2011 to present
Representative and member of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court Program. Sole Assistant Solicitor assigned to the program and intricately involved in the program's oversight, day to day affairs and recruitment;

- (d) Solicitor's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Managing Assistant Solicitor, June 2013 to present
Promoted to Managing Assistant Solicitor in addition to the duties of Special Counsel to the Ninth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Drug Court Program and general duties of an Assistant Solicitor in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

- 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.

I have been blessed to practice extensively in both fields of domestic relations and juvenile justice in Family Court. I have personally and solely handled a large caseload of domestic relations matters in my approximate three and a half years in private practice. These cases involved nearly every aspect of domestic relations law. For divorces, I handled contested and non-contested cases. These include cases of adultery, habitual drunkenness, one year's separation, common law marriage and annulment. I have handled equitable division cases with nominal financial estates as well as multi-million dollar financial estates. I have represented military spouses and drafted Qualified Domestic Relations Orders. I have handled both simple child custody cases and complex child custody cases. The simple child custody cases being when custodians agree on visitation and child custody. The complex child custody cases include a spouse who is hiding his or her abuse of narcotics or alcoholism, a spouse secretly exposing his or her young child to a paramour, one parent removing the child from his or her homestate without a court order, and non-custodians petitioning the court as the "psychological parent" to gain custody of a child over the biological parents. I have represented clients in Department of Social Services matters in cases of abuse and neglect, navigating those clients through the judicial process and treatment services they require for re-unification with their child and fighting to put the family unit back together in a safe and nurturing environment. I have also handled numerous Rule to Show Cause hearings in Family Court domestic matters, ensuring that my client's significant other or prior significant other follows the orders of the court.

For juvenile justice matters in Family Court, I have been an Assistant Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit for approximately seven and a half years. My prosecutions have resulted in numerous violent crime, non-violent crime and status offense adjudications that include Arson, Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, Burglary, Disorderly Conduct, Lynching, Runaway and sexual misconduct crimes to name a few. Examples of contested cases resolved by trial include two Murder convictions, Armed Robbery convictions, narcotic related convictions, and weapon related convictions. I also successfully tried a contested Waiver Hearing where a juvenile defendant was transferred to General Sessions Court to be tried as an adult for Murder, Assault With Intent to Kill and Escape from Prison. I have also had the pleasure of spearheading the re-formation of the Charleston County Juvenile Drug Court Program where I have seen children addicted to narcotics and alcohol literally turn their lives around and become productive citizens of our community.

The area of domestic relations law that I do not have personal experience in is adoptions. Although I have not represented a client in an adoption matter, I have personally

- observed numerous adoption hearings and would be comfortable as a presiding judge navigating through the statutes and case law relating to adoptions to ensure that the legal standards are satisfied and the best interests of the child are met.
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. None
 16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
 - (a) federal: None;
 - (b) state: Approximately three days a week for Family Court Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings.
 17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
 - (a) civil: None;
 - (b) criminal: 100 percent (Family Court Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings);
 - (c) domestic: None;
 - (d) other: None.
 18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
 - (a) jury: None;
 - (b) non-jury: 100 percent.

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 vs. Jones– I successfully prosecuted a contested juvenile delinquency Waiver Hearing resulting in the juvenile defendant being transferred to General Sessions Court to be tried as an adult for the charges of Murder, Assault with Intent to Kill and Escape from Prison. This matter is of significance as Waiver Hearings are one of the more complex and rare hearings to be held in Family Court. This matter is also of significance as I succeeded in bringing justice to a mourning family in a case where the court found that the juvenile defendant could not be rehabilitated after he hunted down a minor victim and shot the victim “execution style” in front of the victim’s sister. The same juvenile also repeatedly shot another minor victim resulting in permanent disfigurement. The family of the murdered victim desperately sought justice for the unnecessary death of their child. The other minor victim who was shot numerous times not only sought justice, but also feared for his safety should the defendant be adjudicated delinquent in Family Court where he could only be indeterminately committed for a period not to exceed his twenty-first birthday. By “waiving up” the juvenile defendant, the family of the murdered victim was able to receive the maximum justice afforded in our legal system, and the maimed second victim did not have to live in fear that the defendant would be released within a few short years of his conviction.
 - (b) Rawlins v. Rawlins – This domestic relations matter is of significance as I represented a mother who was completely blind-sided by her spouse’s adultery with exotic dancers, abuse of narcotics, devaluation and concealment of marital/business

assets, and attempts to transmute my client's substantial inheritance to marital property. Motions for Emergency Hearing, Rules to Show Cause, Motions to Compel and other relief had to be sought to protect the minor child and protect the sanctity of the marital estate. Through the proper use of these motions, I succeeded in protecting my client's minor child from her spouse's dangerous behavior, preserved the marital estate, and used financial experts and private investigators to ensure the court had the proper evidence to issue a fair and proper ruling. After hearing testimony from my financial experts, private investigator, and other witnesses; the court imputed a significantly higher income to the spouse than he reported, awarded my client permanent periodic alimony, granted a divorce on the ground of adultery, granted primary custody to my client, denied the spouse's demand to transmute my client's significant non-marital estate to marital property, and awarded my client attorney's fees and costs.

- (c) State vs. Williams and Gathers – This juvenile delinquency matter is of significance as I successfully prosecuted two juvenile defendants concurrently for Murder and received Murder adjudications against both defendants. This was a highly contested matter in which the juveniles denied shooting the victim when the victim came out to defend his younger brother who was being bullied by the defendants. By the end of the altercation, the victim was killed by a single gunshot wound to the head and another shot to the body. I worked diligently with police investigators to re-create the crime scene, analyze the possible trajectories of the bullets and offered into evidence audio recordings of the shots fired that ultimately led to the defendants being found guilty of Murder beyond a reasonable doubt. The Family Court's ruling was appealed by one of the defendants; however, the Court of Appeals affirmed the Murder adjudication in an unpublished opinion.
- (d) Schenkler vs. Schenkler – This matter is of significance as I represented a mother in a complex divorce case whose psychiatrist spouse had committed adultery by prescribing medications to and taking sexual advantage of his patients while they were under the influence of the medications. When I was retained to represent the mother in this action, she was aware of her spouse's obsession with pornography; however, she never imagined what our investigations would bring to light regarding his sexual exploits. Although the parties had a nominal financial estate, this matter became heavily contested as I fought for the safety of the minor children. As the evidence of his adultery and inappropriate behavior with patients began to solidify, the spouse unexpectedly left the country. After I successfully navigated through the procedural hurdles related to the spouse's flight during litigation, trial moved forward in the spouse's absence with my client being awarded custody of the children, a fair equitable division of the marital estate, restraining order from the spouse contacting the children, and the court granting my client attorney's fees and costs.
- (e) State vs. Felder – This juvenile delinquency matter is of significance as I successfully prosecuted a juvenile for numerous counts of Arson and Malicious Injury to Property after he intentionally entered a downtown residence at approximately 9:50 am, lit the drapes of the residence on fire and fled as the building collapsed from the flames. The fire spread to two additional residences and engulfed those homes as well. In total, five homes were damaged (three completely engulfed

in flames), numerous vehicles damaged, and pets of the homeowners trapped in the blaze were killed. Fortunately, all of the residents had just left and were not asleep in their homes as the flames quickly spread through the buildings. This was a complex matter as the juvenile defendant initially denied his involvement. Numerous investigations had to be completed to determine where the fire started and a search for witnesses or individuals with information about the crime. In addition to working with the police department, I had the additional role of consoling and providing legal guidance to the victims who had lost everything. With the help of the Fire Marshal, police interviews and police surveillance video near the area; I was able to convince defense counsel that the juvenile defendant would be found guilty at trial. The juvenile pled accordingly and was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, providing some closure to the innocent victims as they began the process of slowly putting their lives back together.

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) Callen vs. Callen, 365 S.C. 618, 620 S.E.2d 59, SC, 2005
Date of Decision: September 19, 2005
(Personally handled along with Paul E. Tinkler and Lori Stoney);
 - (b) Simmons vs. Simmons, 370 SC 109, 634 S.E.2d 1, SCApp., 2006.
Date of Decision: April 10, 2006
(Personally handled along with Paul E. Tinkler);
 - (c) Computer Products Inc. vs. JEM Restaurant Group, John E. McGrath, Monolith Software Solutions, Inc., and W. David Valmus, SC App., 2007.
Date of Decision: February 12, 2007; Not Published.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. None
22. Have you ever held judicial office? I have never held judicial office.
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? I have never held 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. 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?
I have not.
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?
I am a co-owner of Lantern Properties, LLC (2008 to present) and Old Towne Suites, LLC (2011 to present), both of which are Limited Liability Companies for rental properties. I am also a co-owner of 229 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401 in which I personally rent the first floor to Old Towne Grill and Seafood Restaurant. The remaining floors are short term residential units rented through Old Towne Suites, LLC.
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.

The only financial arrangements or business relationships I have or have had that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest relates to my residential rental company, Lantern Properties, LLC, of which I am a co-owner. A conflict may arise if a current or prior tenant were to appear before me in Family Court. I would resolve this conflict of interest by immediately recusing myself from the case as I would have previously made, or currently be making, a financial gain from a litigant before the Court.

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? There has not. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? I have not. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? I have not.
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 have not.
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? I have not.
36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? I have not. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
It has not.
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 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 a member of the social media site Facebook. The primary purpose of my social media account is to share family pictures with my friends and acquaintances, view my friends' family pictures and to follow posts from my children's school regarding upcoming events. If I were to serve on the judiciary, I would limit my account access to only family members and very close friends who would not appear before me in court. I believe a judge should be held to a higher standard regarding the appearance of impropriety and having "special relationships" with those who may appear before him/her in court. As such, I would not make my account available to any individuals that may appear before me.
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)? I have not.
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?

I have not.

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 have not had formal charges or any informal allegations as set forth above made against me or know of any against another candidate.

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 not had formal charges or any informal allegations as set forth above made against me or know of any against another candidate.

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. There have been no expenditures at this time.

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. There have been 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? I have not.

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?

I have not requested members of the General Assembly be contacted on my behalf nor am I aware of any friends or colleagues that have done so 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.

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 contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about my candidacy or intent to become a candidate, nor has anyone on my behalf.

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.

I am a member of the Charleston 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. 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.

First and foremost, I am a devoted husband and the father of three adorable children. My children are my life and I strive every day to set a good example for them and be the kind of father that they deserve. I believe that every child should have the same opportunities as my children and be raised in a nurturing and safe environment. I have devoted my legal career to the practice of family law because Family Court is the judicial arena where children are the primary focus of the law. Whether it is domestic relations where the "best interests of the child" is the cornerstone of the law, or juvenile delinquency proceedings that focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment; a Family Court judge is expected to make every effort within the law to protect children and attempt to bring normalcy in what is a tumultuous period in a child's life. A Family Court judge also has the duty to set appropriate boundaries for adult litigants whose lives have been turned upside down from divorce proceedings. I have personally observed how divorce proceedings can turn the most rational individuals into irrational litigants whose sole aim is to harm their spouse rather than seek the best interests of their children and reasonable financial resolution for their families. Throughout the chaotic mental, physical and emotional state that many individuals find themselves in during a domestic matter, it is up to the presiding judge to set appropriate boundaries that will foster litigants to move forward in a dignified manner and provide an opportunity for all parties to present the appropriate evidence before the court.

I am also the son of an immigrant father and mother. My father relocated to the United States of America from Greece as a teenager and became an American citizen in search of a better life for himself and his family. The unfair laws and lack of opportunity in his origin of birth crippled my father's ability to live in a dignified manner where he could raise a family and prosper through hard work. I have personally observed the unjust laws (or lack thereof) when visiting Greece where judicial verdicts are routinely given in favor of litigants who make the proper "contributions" to court officials, or observing officers imprison individuals with no warrant, no probable cause or any explanation whatsoever. I am very blessed that my father risked everything to seek a better life in the United States of America, a country where disputes are not handled in the streets or by a corrupt judiciary; but a country with a judiciary that allows all litigants from every walk of life, race and social status to have a truly fair trial. The necessity of a fair trial, following the rule of law, treating litigants with respect and a judiciary that is above reproach is something that is very dear to me and something that I will ensure should I be blessed with the opportunity to become a Family Court judge.

52. References:

- (a) The Honorable Irvin C. Condon
100 Broad Street, Suite 469
Charleston, SC 29401
843-958-5180;
- (b) Scarlett Wilson
Solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit
101 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843-958-1900;

- (c) Richard N. Buchanan, Esquire
1664-C Old Towne Road
Charleston, SC 29407
843-852-5255;
- (d) Jerry Theos, Esquire
17 ½ Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843-723-7491;
- (e) Ashley C. Shuler
Tidelands Bank
946 Orleans Road
Charleston, SC 29407
843-763-1315.

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

Signature: Spiros Stavros Ferderigos

Date: August 4, 2014