

**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: Mr. Sean Fredrick Keefer
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 1643B Savannah Highway, Suite 226
Charleston, SC 29407
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-364-3341
2. Date of Birth: 1966
Place of Birth: Gastonia, North Carolina
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 August 10, 1997, to Wendy Raina Johnson Keefer. Never divorced, No 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 – 1984-88 – BA - Journalism;
 - (b) USC – 1989-91 – Masters of Mass Communication;
 - (c) Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University – 1994-97 – 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, 1997. No other bar exams taken.
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. Various roles, including editor positions, in student media – 1985-88
 2. Campus Judicial Board – 1986-91
 3. Phi Delta Theta Fraternity Member – 1987-91;
 - (b) Graduate School;
 1. Phi Delta Theta - Graduate Assistant – 1989-91
 2. Graduate Internship - SC Aeronautics Commission – 1990-91;
 - (c) Law School;
 1. Student Honor Council – 1995-96
 2. Student Honor Council Attorney General – 1996-97.
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) Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/00;
(b) Ethics 2000	12/13/00;



- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| (c) | SC Bar DR Section Counsel Attended/Presenter | 1/24/2014; |
| (d) | Guardians in School | 11/20/2013; |
| (e) | Schoolin' the Newbies Attended/Presenter | 9/25/2013; |
| (f) | 2013 GAL Update | 8/15/2013; |
| (g) | Introduction to Court Annexed ADR | 7/19/2013; |
| (h) | What Works | 2/1/2013; |
| (i) | 2012 Judges and Attorneys Substance Abuse | 12/07/2012; |
| (j) | Using Early Neutral Evaluation in Family Court | 6/22/2012; |
| (k) | SC Bar Convention DR Section Counsel Presenter | 1/19/2012; |
| (l) | Taking the Children Out of the Fire
(Presented/Attended omitted inclusion on CLE report) | 6/17/2011; |
| (m) | Guardian ad Litem Program Workshop | 6/2/2011; |
| (n) | SC Bar Convention DR Section Counsel Presenter | 1/20/2011; |
| (o) | Family Mediation Training (Assistant Instructor) | 1/3-1/7-2011; |
| (p) | Mini Summit on Justice for Children | 12/2/2010; |
| (q) | SCDTAA Joint Meeting | 7/22/2010; |
| (r) | Representing the Volunteer | 5/7/2010; |
| (s) | Family Court Bench Bar | 12/3/2009; |
| (t) | Till Debt Do Us Part | 11/4/2009; |
| (u) | Collaborative Law Overview | 3/27/2009. |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- (a) I have lectured at the 1900 SC Bar Program "Bridge the Gap" for new lawyers;
 - (b) I have made presentations on the topics of appellate advocacy and domestic relations to lawyers attending the 1900 Annual SC Bar Meeting;
 - (c) I have presented at the last four SC Bar Conventions during the Dispute Resolution Section program. My topics have always been related to Family Law Dispute Resolution issues. This has also included moderation of panels related to the same issues. For the 2015 SC Bar Convention, I am in the process of organizing and moderating the entire SC Bar Dispute Resolution Section CLE to include course planning for the program;
 - (d) I was a presenter at the Charleston County Bar Family Liaison Committee's annual "Schoolin' the Newbies" seminar in September of 2013. I co-presented on the issues of Fast Track Custody Cases and Civility in the Practice;
 - (e) I have presented on the Fast Track Process at the Charleston County Family Court Liaison Committee's CLE "Taking the Children out of the Fire." My presentation was part of a panel designed to address the issues faced by children during litigation and strategies to remove them from conflict;
 - (f) I have guest lectured at the Charleston School of Law on the Department of Social Services abuse and neglect process and on mediation. Please note these were guest lectures as part of a class for other instructors.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) SC Appellate Practice Handbook (S.C. Bar CLE 1900), Contributing Author;
 - (b) Marital Litigation in S.C., Roy T. Stuckey and F. Glenn Smith (SC Bar CLE 1900), Editorial Board;

- (c) The Path to Alternative Dispute Resolution (Volume I–Issue I–Fall 2012 – Resolved– Journal of Alternative Dispute Resolution–Charleston School of Law) Author;
 - (d) The Trust (Old Line Publishing–2011) Author.
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 1900;
 - (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1900;
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1997;
 - (d) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court or the District of SC and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998.
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) 1997-2000 - The Mason Law Firm, PA
 My first legal employment post-law school was at The Mason Law Firm, PA. While I engaged in a variety of practice areas, including civil, real estate, criminal and probate, my focus was domestic matters. During my time with The Mason Law Firm, I was involved in virtually every type of domestic matter including, child custody, child support, spousal support, equitable distribution, divorce, DSS matters, juvenile criminal defense, adoption and name changes. During my first year of practice, I was trained as a Family Court mediator and following this I began to work as a mediator in the Family Courts.
 While at The Mason Law Firm, I handled all aspects of case preparation from intake to trial. This also included numerous and frequent court appearances in all aspects of Family Court matters with a concentration on custody, support matters (child and spousal), equitable distribution and alimony, to include temporary hearings, trials, and Rules to Show Cause. It was while at The Mason Law Firm that I was first exposed to juvenile justice cases as well as Department of Social Services matters from protective services, termination of parental rights and vulnerable adult perspectives. During my time with The Mason Law Firm, I represented with equal weight, both Plaintiffs and Defendants;
 - (b) 2000-2005 - Andrews & Shull, PC
 In 2000 I accepted a position as an associate attorney with the law firm of Andrews & Shull, PC, a firm with a focus on domestic relations. As a result of the firm's focus on family law matters, my practice and focus changed, accordingly allowing me more exposure to the Family Courts.
 In addition to continuing the concentration on Family Law litigation matters, I began to do private Guardian ad Litem work that I continue to this day.
 As a result of the domestic relations focus of Andrews & Shull, I was exposed to more complex domestic relations matters. Not only did I build my own practice, but through work with other attorneys in the office, I was regularly involved in complex litigation matters. This resulted in my involvement, both on

my own and as second chair, in numerous contested cases where resolution was reached through a variety of avenues including trial, direct negotiation, and alternative dispute resolution.

During my time with Andrews & Shull, I continued to be involved in a variety of Family Court cases. My criminal practice was minimized and replaced by my Guardian ad Litem work.

In addition to my regular Family Court litigation practice and Guardian ad Litem work, I continued to grow my dispute resolution practice by expanding my mediation practice and also beginning to do Family Court arbitrations. I also handled the firm's DSS appointments;

(c) 2006-2010 - Sean F. Keefer, LLC

In 2006, I opened my own solo practice. I continued to handle contested domestic matters, though the focus of my practice became alternative dispute resolution of Family Court cases. During this time, I also began to handle more Department of Social Services abuse and neglect cases, as well as termination of parental rights cases, regularly appearing on behalf of defendants or as a Guardian ad Litem for children. I continued with my private Guardian ad Litem work.

It was at this time that largely all of my other non-Family Court work ended thus allowing me to devote substantially all of my time to Family Court and Family Court related issues;

(d) 2010-PRESENT - Keefer & Keefer, LLC

In 2010, my wife left the law firm of Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd and the law firm of Sean F. Keefer, LLC became Keefer & Keefer, LLC. My Family Court work continued, though I ceased to represent Defendants in Department of Social Services cases following my accepting the position of Contract Attorney with the SC Guardian ad Litem Program. I served as the Contract Attorney for Berkeley County. In 2012, following my leaving the Berkeley County GAL contract attorney position I have focused my practice on domestic mediation and private Guardian ad Litem work. While mediation and Guardian work make up a large part of my practice, I still take contested cases in the Family Courts, assisting clients with adoptions, divorces, property division, custodial matters, post-separation/divorce support enforcement and modification matters and other issues.

Presently my law partner and Wife serves as the Contract Attorney for the Berkeley County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program which allows me to, as needed, appear in DSS cases to assist should she have conflicts.

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.

1. Divorce And Equitable Division Of Property

Since my admission to practice law in SC, I have represented clients involving every recognized ground for divorce in SC with the exception of desertion, though I still frequently have to address the particulars of the law as it relates to desertion. I have

represented clients on each side cases including one-year separation, adultery, physical cruelty and habitual drunkenness grounds.

In the area of equitable division of property, I have regularly and frequently been involved in cases involving the division of virtually any type of property or the division of near every form of debt. I have represented clients on both sides of the issues encountered in this area. My work includes counseling clients, discovery, working with experts, depositions, settlement negotiations, motions practice, litigation, trial work, drafting of agreements, and the enforcement of agreements. My involvement with equitable distribution has literally been across the spectrum of this area of practice. I have been involved as a litigator and mediator in complex cases of great financial worth but have also been involved in cases of small financial value but of great personal importance to the parties.

In my litigation practice I have prepared and handled such cases for trial, settled such cases through negotiation and mediation and have counseled numerous clients in this area.

In my dispute resolution practice, I have learned to expedite my understanding of these issues in order to assist the parties in reaching fair and equitable resolutions to their disputes. Often in mediations it becomes apparent that one party will need more time than the other, be it to understand the issues, to have their position heard or sometimes simply because they need time to think. I have learned to be attentive, responsive to concerns, firm in my opinion and respectful of the party involved in the mediation in these situations. I deal with this area of Family Law multiple times per week.

2. Child Custody

The volume and frequency of my work related to child custody mirrors that of my work in the area of equitable division.

I have represented clients in child custody matters who have never been married, those who have been married but are separating, parties with child custody issues who have been divorced, parties who have change of circumstances cases in existing arrangements or agreements, parties seeking to gain custody and parties faced with losing custody. I have been involved with parents, grandparents, and other relatives. This work has involved settlement negotiations, temporary hearings, discovery, depositions, litigation, dispute resolution, trials and Rules to Show Cause.

This issue regularly presents in my mediation practice requiring me not only to be involved with the parties and their attorneys, but frequently Guardians *ad Litem* involved in the cases. In mediation my work involves my quickly coming to an understanding of the issues and assisting the parties in reaching a resolution that will work not only for them but as to the best interest of the children. It is in this area that I am frequently called upon to help formulate visitation schedules, parenting plans, timesharing approaches and other issues related to child custody. As with equitable distribution issues, I have learned to, when asked, communicate information as to a parties' position without being defeatist or working to impede the progress of mediation.

As a result of my own Guardian *ad Litem* practice I deal with custodial issues from a Guardians point of view on a regular basis. I have conducted numerous investigations in this area that have included involvement with the parties, the minor child or children, friends, family, school officials, the clergy, medical professionals, and a variety of other professionals and others involved in this area. As a Guardian I have frequently testified at

trial which has given me the perspective of courtroom experience that is not always realized as an attorney in the Family Courts, as I have been subject to both direct and cross examinations as well as questions from the Court.

Through my work as a mediator, a Family Court practitioner and as a private Guardian *ad Litem*, I deal with the issue of child custody on a near daily basis.

3. Adoption

I have always handled adoptions as a part of my practice. I frequently serve as a Guardian *ad Litem* for children who are being adopted. In the last several years I have handled a number of adoption cases where I have represented adoptive parents in both step-parent and non-DSS adoptions, allowing me to stay active in this area.

4. Abuse and Neglect

From the time I began my practice, I handled Department of Social Services, (DSS), cases for both myself and for other attorneys in my and other firms. This included serving as counsel for named Defendants, serving as the Guardian *ad Litem* for subject children, serving as counsel for others appointed as the Guardians *ad Litem* and representing volunteer Guardians *ad Litem*.

From 2006 until 2010 I accepted DSS appointment referrals and served as counsel for Defendants and as a Guardian *ad Litem* for children in DSS cases as a regular part of my practice. During this time, I attended numerous merits hearings, permanency planning hearings, the occasional probable cause hearing, trials, including termination of parental rights, and frequent DSS mediations. Occasionally I was appointed as the attorney for volunteer Guardians *ad Litem*.

In 2010, I ended my referral practice and began to work as the contract GAL attorney for Berkeley County where I appeared in court generally twice a week for hearings where I represented volunteer Guardians in contested merits trials, permanency trials and termination of parental rights trials. I also represented Guardians at numerous DSS mediations. I held this position for almost 2 years.

I have also participated in numerous DSS mediations as counsel for a named party, for the Guardian *ad Litem* or as the mediator. In the capacity of assisting other attorneys for scheduling conflict purposes, I still occasionally appear at DSS hearings generally in the capacity of representing the volunteer Guardians.

5. Juvenile Justice

During the first years of my practice I regularly represented juveniles in the Family Courts. In recent years my juvenile justice practice has been minimal and the number of cases in which I have been involved has been much less than earlier in my career.

While my work in this area of law has not been as frequent as other areas, I am familiar with the procedures, laws and the practice area. I have regularly observed DJJ matters in the Charleston County Family Courts to better familiarize myself with the process, issues and manner in which the cases are handled. Based on the totality of my past work in this area as well as my recent and ongoing observations, I believe that I have a sufficient foundation to successfully and fairly serve as a Family Court Judge in juvenile justice matters.

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.?

BV – Martindale-Hubbell

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

(a) federal: 0%;

- (b) state: 100%.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 0%;
- (b) criminal: 0%;
- (c) domestic: 95%;
- (d) other: 5%.
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: 0%;
- (b) non-jury: 100%.

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

In the last five (5) years, I served either as sole counsel or as a Guardian *ad Litem* in these cases.

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) W. v. C. W. – 1999 – Charleston County Family Court

The issues presented in this case involved children's issues, equitable distribution, transmutation of property, spousal support and attorneys' fees. While part of the case was resolved through negotiations, the disposition of the marital home was left unresolved. Though the case resulted in a trial, I was able to assist my client in obtaining a favorable result in showing that transmutation occurred and, as a result, was able to assist my client in retaining possession of the residence for her and the then minor children. This matter remains significant as it was the first case that I handled from intake to trial entirely on my own;

(b) M. R. E. v. J. O. E. – 2010 – Charleston County Family Court

This was a post-divorce, spousal support termination/modification case. The Plaintiff brought the action seeking the termination of his previously established alimony obligation. While the Plaintiff was able to show a change of circumstances based on a reduction in his income, the critical issue was that of underemployment and voluntariness of this reduction.

Through careful and focused discovery and preparation for trial, my client was able to encourage a settlement that resulted in the establishment of a non-modifiable sum of permanent alimony. While the case could have resulted in a very drastic and life altering result for my client by termination of her alimony, the result not only concluded the matter, but likely served to keep the issue of her spousal support payments from later being revisited;

(c) T. C. v. S. C. – 2012 – Charleston County Family Court

In this post-divorce action, I represented a Mother against whom an action had been filed wherein the Father was seeking a change of custody based on a variety of allegations including the Mother's decision-making capacity and the minor child's performance at school. I assisted the Mother by successfully defending a Temporary Hearing where custody was not changed and child support was increased over the objection of the Plaintiff. Litigation continued and ultimately

the matter was settled in mediation in a fashion that resulted in no change of custody for my client, a further increase in child support and the payment of my client's attorneys' fees;

(d) J.M.B. v. E.W. – 2011 – Charleston County Family Court

I had the pleasure of representing a Father who had suspected for years he was the father of a minor child. The child's mother had given lip service to agreeing to a paternity test, but she never followed through and kept the Father from having a relationship with his child. Following the Mother's unexpected death, paternity was established.

At the time the action was filed, the minor child was living with the deceased Mother's Husband. The case began in a very heated fashion with the Husband indicating a claim for custody of the minor child. As litigation proceeded, I was able to work to establish counseling for the minor child and his Father. As the case continued, I was able to assist my client by shifting the focus of the case away from a potential trial and to one of focusing on a resolution that served the best interest of my client and his child. Ultimately, the case concluded with my client and his son being reunited and with care given to allow for and to foster the relationship the minor child had with his half-sibling;

(e) DSS v. C.B., J.D., C.L. and L.W. – 2008 - Berkeley County Family Court

I represented a Defendant Father in this Department of Social Services Termination of Parental Rights. My client, after a long blue collar-working career had retired and then become involved with the Mother, though they were never married. A child resulted from their relationship.

Through the child's life, my client had regularly been involved with her and had provided for her support. When the child was taken into DSS custody, the Mother hid this fact from the Father. Ultimately he learned of the DSS involvement and requested an attorney.

After I was appointed, I learned the Father did not want to have his parental rights terminated. A trial resulted.

The case was significant in that at trial I was able to show that both the Mother, through overt actions, and the Department of Social Services, through minimal contact with my client, had done little to allow my client to participate in the action at the child protective services stage. The Court denied the Department's request to terminate my client's parental rights and through my efforts I was able to assist the Father in preserving his relationship with his daughter.

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.

N/A, I have never handled any appeals.

21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

N/A, I have never handled any appeals.

22. Have you ever held judicial office? I have not 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 was a member of the City of Charleston Board of Zoning Appeals – Site Design from 2003 to 2005. My reason for departure was my resignation. The Mayor of Charleston appointed me to this board. I am not aware of any filing requirement with the State Ethics Commission and thus did not make any filings with the Commission.

In 2004 I was appointed to a citizens committee created to make recommendations regarding a potential smoking ban in the City of Charleston. The Mayor of Charleston appointed me to the Committee. While on the Committee, I served as chairperson. I served until the Committee concluded its work and made recommendations in 2004. I did not make any filings with the State Ethics Commission.

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. n/a
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?

In August of 2012, I applied for Family Court At Large Seat 4. I was determined by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to be Qualified but not selected.

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) Prior to law school, I worked for Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity located at 2 South Campus Avenue, Oxford, Ohio. This employment was from July 1991 until July 1993. I was employed as a leadership consultant. As part of my duties I traveled to college campuses across North America working with undergraduate members, university administrators, area alumni and other interested parties in providing leadership services designed to improve Phi Delta Theta at all levels;
 - (b) I worked at Circuit City as a sales associate from the summer of 1993 until the time I entered law school in 1997. I sold electronics in a retail sales position;
 - (c) During law school, I spent the summers of 1998 and 1999 as a summer law clerk with the then firm of Hearn, Brittan and Martin in Conway, SC;
 - (d) During law school, 1994-1997, I worked as a research assistant and computer lab monitor at the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law;
 - (e) Following my admission to practice law, I have occasionally earned an income as a photographer, musician and writer, though this work has never risen to more than occasional part-time.

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?

I am presently one of the two members of the law firm of Keefer & Keefer that I own and operate with my wife, Wendy Keefer. This firm has been in existence as a SC LLC since 2010 and is the successor entity to Sean F. Keefer, LLC of which I was the sole member.

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.

I am not aware of any financial arrangement or business relationship that would cause any conflict in the position for which I am applying. I will note that I am the registered agent for 9 current and one former SC business entities, all of which I assisted in forming during my practice. Should I obtain a position as a Family Court Judge, I would

work with each entity to have a new registered agent appointed. I would also, in the unlikely event a conflict was to arise, disclose the conflict and, based upon the totality of the applicable facts, make a decision as to whether I felt I could continue or if a recusal would be appropriate.

31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No.
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? No.
36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy?

I am currently covered by malpractice insurance and have carried it personally since 2006 when I first began solo practice. Prior to 2006 I was covered under the policy of the firm with which I was then employed.

My current policy has a \$1,000,000 limit of liability per claim. My deductible is \$5,000.00. I am not covered under a tail policy, but would obtain one if circumstances required.

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 on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. While I am a member, my involvement is minimal and I rarely post updates, photos or comments. I also have my own web page largely devoted to my literary work, though I do not regularly post there either. I am not aware of any postings where I have been featured or depicted on any of these or other sites; however, I have been mentioned on social network sites at times in the past, (e.g. birthday wishes, comments or other such messages).

If I am successful in obtaining a Family Court Judge position, I would ensure there was a complete separation of my social media/internet sites with any work I did as a judge. I would also ensure that any use of these sites, even in my non-work time, complied with the Judicial Canons of Ethics.

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 known.
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 known.
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.
- To date the only expenditures I have made have been postage for correspondence to the Judicial Merit Select Commission.
44. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.
- I have contributed \$250 to Leon Stavrinakis and \$250 to Peter McCoy. I believe my Wife may have agreed to contribute a similar amount to Jenny Horne as a host of an event to show women lawyer’s support for Ms. Horne.
45. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
49. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
- (a) SC Bar Association.
1. Member – Ninth Circuit Resolution of Fee Dispute Board – 2007-09
 2. Member – SC Bar Dispute Resolution Council – 2009-Present
 3. Secretary – SC Bar Dispute Resolution Council – 2012-13
 4. Vice-Chairman – SC Bar Dispute Resolution – 2013
 5. Chairperson Elect – SC Bar Dispute Resolution – 2013-14;
- (b) 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.

- (a) Mediation and Meeting Center of Charleston
 - 1. Board Member – 2008-12
 - 2. Board Treasurer – 2009-11
 - 3. Vice-Chair – 2011-12;
 - (b) SC Collaborative Law Institute
 - 1. Board Member – 2007-09
 - 2. Treasurer – 2008-09;
 - (c) Free and Accepted Masons – Oxford Lodge #67 – Oxford, Ohio.
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.

Through my career, I have been fortunate and privileged to regularly and frequently appear before many different Family Court Judges. From my experience and exposure to these individuals, I have formed the belief that a successful judge is one who is attentive, consistent, fair in applying the law, respectful of parties and attorneys and who will, when necessary, make a well reasoned decision, even if difficult.

I have been fortunate to have assisted numerous individuals at different stages of the Family Court process by serving as counsel, as Guardian for their children or even as a Guardian for parties, as mediator or arbitrator.

My time before numerous judges and working with so many in the Family Court process has educated me to understand that it is paramount to remember that while an issue may be crystal clear to an attorney or a judge because of his or her background and experience. Often for clients and parties this is their first exposure to the Family Court process. They simply do not have the same understanding of the process. I believe that this is a proposition that should be remembered by Family Court Judges and should guide them in a fair and consistent application of the law and in their dealings with parties who appear before them.

I believe that litigants come to the Court seeking and expecting a fair and consistent approach and that in performing their duties judges should not seek to be activist, but rather should strive for the consistent application of existing law.

Dockets may be heavy, but for each litigant his or her case is unique and often singularly import to them. I believe Judges should remember and be cognizant of this reality.

My background exposed me to virtually every type of case that could be heard by the Family Court. Through my work as a Guardian *ad Litem* I have even frequently found myself on the witness stand. The totality of my experience, I humbly submit, has created a foundation upon which a successful judicial career as a Family Court Judge can be built.

52. References:

- (a) Stuart A. Feldman, Esquire
9 Wesley Drive
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 763-5043
- (b) G. Edward Hawkins, III, Esquire
800 Wappoo Road
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 225-7565

- (c) Elisabeth Hoover, Esquire
400 Altman Street – Suite E
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 761-0538
- (d) Julianne Stokes, Esquire
180 Meeting Street – Suite 230
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 720-7416
- (e) USAA Federal Savings Bank
10750 McDermott Freeway
San Antonio, TX 78288-0544
(800) 531-8722

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

Signature: Sean Fredrick Keefer

Date: August 14, 2014

Keefe & Keefe, LLC

1643B Savannah Highway
Suite 226

Charleston, SC 29407

(843) 364-3341

(843) 225-7635 (facsimile)

scmediation@yahoo.com

October 28, 2014

South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Attn – Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel

Post Office Box 142

Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Sean F. Keefe
Candidate for Charleston County Family Court Seat 2
Personal Data Questionnaire Item 43 Update

Dear Jane:

Please allow the following to serve as an update to Item 43 of my Personal Data Questionnaire.

To date, since the time of the submission of my application, and in addition to the expenditures noted in my application in Item 43, I have spent approximately \$150 on postage, stationary and thank you cards related to my race.

If you have any questions please call or email.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,


Sean F. Keefe

/sk