

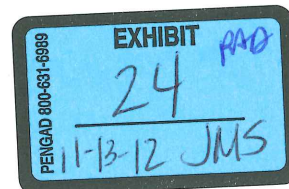
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 16

1. NAME: Mr. William Vickery Meetze  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 180 N. Irby St. MSC-N  
Florence, SC 29571  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-665-3055
2. Date and Place of Birth: 1968; Columbia, SC
3. Are you a citizen of SC? Yes  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes
5. Family Status: Married, January 23, 2010, to Anna Braddock Meetze; never divorced; no children
6. Have you served in the military? No military service
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) Wofford College, 1987-91, BA;
  - (b) Walter F. George School of Law (Mercer University) 1995-98 JD.
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
 

SC, 1999 and have been a member continuously since that time. The SC Bar is the only one I have taken and I took that exam twice.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) SAE Fraternity- Wofford College-Treasure Jr. Year & Vice President Sr. Year;
  - (b) Have been a part of Palmetto Boys State program since 1986.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
 

Conference/CLE Name	Date(s)
(a) SCACDL Spring Seminar	05/16/2007;
(b) Public Defender Conference	09/24/2007;
(c) Public Defender Conference	09/29/2008;
(d) SC Bar Criminal Law Update	01/23/2009;
(e) Public Defender Conference	09/28/2009;
(f) Public Defender Conference	09/27/2010;
(g) Omnibus Crime Reduction Act	11/22/2010;



- (h) Capital Case Litigation Phase II 05/01/2011;
- (i) Public Defender Conference 09/26/2011;
- (j) Capital Case Litigation Initiative 04/30/2012.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

As a member of the Staff of Palmetto Boys State I have a been a Co-Dean of the Boys State Law School for the past ten years. During that time I have taught both Civil and Criminal Law to the boys who sign up for the law school in order to prepare them for the Boys State bar exam which is administered during the week.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. I have not published any books or articles.

13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1999.

14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

a) Law Clerk for the Honorable James E. Brogdon Jr., August 1998-August 1999.

During my time as a Law Clerk, Judge Brogdon was Chief Administrative Judge in both the Twelfth Circuit and Third Circuit. He was assigned to some complex litigation civil cases while I was his law clerk. He was also assigned to numerous terms of Common Pleas Court both jury and non-jury. Along with the civil court, he also presided over many terms of General Session Court. My experience with Judge Brogdon allowed me to see an outstanding Judge at work and the example he set was the perfect combination of judicial temperament and patience.

(b) Sixteenth circuit Solicitor's Office—August of 1999-June of 2002

I served as an Assistant Solicitor in General Sessions Court and prosecuted non-drug related case ranging from the misdemeanor level up to felony cases that carried maximum terms of imprisonment of up to fifteen years. The cases I prosecuted included numerous DUI's, grand larceny, white collar crimes, strong arm robbery, violent and non-violent burglary in the second degree and many others. I gained great experience in trying cases and dealing with the victims of crime which helps develop the patience required to be a good Circuit Court Judge.

(c) York County Public Defender's Office—June 2002-August 2006

I served as an Assistant Public Defender and represented criminal defendants in all levels of criminal offenses. I handled all kinds of drug

cases anywhere from possession to trafficking. I also defended all types of violent and non-violent crimes including all degrees of burglary, lewd act with a minor, criminal sexual conduct, armed robbery and murder. During part of my time in the York County Public Defender's office I also worked in Magistrate's Court in Rock Hill as well as Fort Mill City Court.

- (d) Florence County/Twelfth Circuit Public Defender's Office—August 2006-Present. In August of 2006 I got an opportunity to come back home and be with my family so I accepted the job as an Assistant Public Defender in the Florence County Public Defender's Office. In this office I continued the work I was doing in York County, however; I did expand my experience to a degree in that I began filling in every now and then defending juvenile's in Family Court. Also, I started handling a higher concentration of what I would consider more serious and violent crimes. I still have a wide ranging and large case load, but I, along with the Head Circuit Defender am handling a majority of the murder cases in our office. Also, Since August of 2011 I have expanded my responsibility to include public defender work in Marion County as well. My experience in both counties of the Twelfth Circuit have included jury trials in cases involving drugs, murder, csc with a minor and others and otherwise defending individuals charged with all levels of criminal offenses.

- 14.(b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area.

I have been practicing criminal law in General Sessions Court since August of 1999. I was a prosecutor in the Sixteenth Circuit for a little under three years and during that time I prosecuted individuals charged with non-drug related criminal offenses that carried a penalty of up to fifteen years in prison. In August of 1999 I began work as an Assistant Public defender in York County representing individuals charged with all different varieties of General Sessions offenses. As an Assistant Public Defender I represented people charged with lower level misdemeanors all the way up to armed robbery, burglary first degree and murder. In 2006, I was given an opportunity to come back home and work in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I accepted a position in the Florence County Public Defender's Office and have worked there since that

time. I have continued defending individuals charged with all types of offenses, however; I have a much larger concentration of A,B, and C felonies at this point. I tried the case of State v. Syllester Taylor where my client was not present for his trial. He was being tried for possession with intent to distribute cocaine base 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. I made a motion to suppress the drugs which was denied at the trial level, however; on appeal, the Court of Appeals reversed that ruling.

My primary experience in civil matters has been as a law clerk for the Honorable James E. Brogdon, Jr. Judge Brogdon was the Chief Administrative Judge for both the Twelfth Circuit and the Third Circuit during my one year Clerkship. I was able to observe many terms of Common Pleas Court both jury and non-jury. During that year Judge Brogdon was also assigned some complex litigation and I was able to work on and gain valuable experience.

Even though I do not have much by way of experience practicing law in Common Pleas Court, I have no reservations regarding my ability to serve as a Circuit Court Judge and do so very well despite that inexperience. First of all, my entire career has been as a trial attorney and as a result I am very familiar with the rules of evidence and those rules function in both General Sessions and Common Pleas Court. I am also familiar with the rules of civil procedure and that will serve me well as a Circuit Judge in Common Pleas Court. Also, the fact that I don't have much experience in civil court also means that I don't come into the job with any biases or pre-conceived ideas with regard to one type of case or another. I am perfectly suited to Judge these matters objectively which is imperative to effective service as a Circuit Judge. I am also smart enough to know that I don't know everything. I am not arrogant or condescending. I treat people with the respect that we all deserve. Even though my legal experience is primarily in General Sessions Court, It has provided me with the opportunity to deal with the public and help to forge the ideals of character and patience. It is a humbling profession in spite of the fact that it takes a well honed variety of skills to perform it well. It is humbling by virtue of the fact that hard work and diligent preparation are guarantees of nothing. You can work extremely hard, try a very good case and still not get a favorable verdict. That is hard to grasp and makes it very humbling. Recognizing that there is no room for arrogance in the court room and displaying the proper characteristics of patience and temperament make me an outstanding candidate for a spot on the Circuit Court Bench.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.
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: > 99%;
  - (c) domestic: < 1%;
  - (d) other: 0%.
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: 10%;
  - (b) non-jury: 90%.

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

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) State v. Syllester D. Taylor (694 S.E. 2d 60, 2010) I handled this a case at the trial level. It was trial in absence where I preserved all motions and eventually the conviction was reversed by the Court of Appeals.
  - (b) State v. Tavario Brunson This was a very high profile case in Florence County that I tried along with another attorney. Mr. Brunson was convicted of murder and really had no defense. It is important because it illustrates everyone's right to a defense and I personally believe that we did a really great job trying the case in the face of overwhelming evidence.
  - (c) State v. Ralph Thompson This was a case in York County where Mr. Thompson was charged with several counts of forgery. It was a case where Mr. Thompson gave a statement to police regarding where he had gotten the check. It was the kind of story that on its face sounded made up and that is exactly what the police and prosecutors believed he was doing. However, through my investigation of Mr. Thompson's story and the presentation we made at trial, the jury returned a not guilty verdict within ten minutes. It is important because it just shows that sometimes when people can't seem to get anyone to believe you, if you stick to the truth things can work out sometime. The remaining forgery charges Mr. Thompson had were dismissed without having to go to trial.
  - (d) State v. Robert Johnson Mr. Johnson was charged with numerous counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. This is a case that really illustrates the whole process from investigation, to charges being filed, to negotiations and eventually a trial. Mr. Johnson did go to trial and he was convicted. I worked hard to get him an offer that I believed was appropriate and fair. Mr. Johnson did not agree and he went to trial. This was a very serious case in Florence County as Mr. Johnson had been suspected of this type of activity for a while without sufficient evidence to charge him. Even though I did not win the trial, it

is another case that I worked very hard on and did a great job of trying the case.

(e) State v. Montez Barker This is a pending death penalty case in which I been appointed lead counsel. It is important by the nature of the offense and the fact that a man's life is literally on the line. Obviously the case is still pending so it may not exactly qualify to be talked about in this section. However I have never been involved in a more important or serious case and felt like it would be appropriate to include it even though it is still pending.

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

I have not handled any civil appeals.

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

I have not handled any criminal appeals from General Sessions Court. General Sessions Appeals from the Public Defender's Office are handled through the Office of Appellate Defense. I have handled one appeal from a case I had in Fort Mill City Court. That appeal was heard during a non-jury term in York County in front of The Honorable John Calvin Hayes, III. I was successful in overturning the decision from the city court.

22. Have you ever held judicial office? No

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.

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?

I have never held a 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. Not applicable

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

I applied twice for the job of Head Circuit Defender for the Twelfth Circuit. It is a job that is earned through a process where candidates are interviewed by a circuit wide panel of local bar members. That panel will nominate a candidate to the SC Commission on Indigent Defense for their acceptance. I was not nominated for the position either time.

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 was a life insurance salesman for Jefferson Pilot Life in Columbia from 1992-93. After that I worked as an equipment operator at Wild Dunes Links golf course on the Isle of Palms, SC. I held that position from 1993-95 when I went to law school.

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. There are none that come to mind.
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? Not applicable
38. 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
39. 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
40. 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." I have no such knowledge.
41. 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." I have no such knowledge.
42. 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.  
I have not made any such expenditures.

43. 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 no contributions by me or in my behalf to anyone.

44. 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 I have not.

45. 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

46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No

47. 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

48. 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;

(b) Florence County Bar.

49. 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.

I have been involved with Palmetto Boys State since 1986 and have been on the staff of Palmetto Boys State since 1991. In 1987 I was awarded by the staff the honor of being the outstanding junior counselor for that year and in 1995 I was honored as the recipient of the Page Nelson Keesee scholarship. During my time on the staff of Boys State I have served as a party advisor, a County advisor and I currently am one of the operations supervisors, the Co-dean of the Law School and starting in 2013 I will be Co-Program Coordinator.

50. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

I was fortunate to grow up in a stable, loving and supportive family. When you are young you assume that everyone's family is just like yours. As you grow up and gain life experience you learn that is not the case. You learn that people are different. Socioeconomic backgrounds are different as well as family histories and other things as well.



As I grew up and particularly when I got to high school I was exposed to these differences. I had been taught and recognize that different doesn't mean better or worse it just means different. Just because someone is different doesn't mean they should be treated differently. I always tried to treat people the same regardless of their family background or grades or anything else. I always made friends easily and was always a good judge of character. If you were of sound character and a genuine and decent person then that is what I cared about. Because of that I always had a variety of friends from diverse backgrounds. That has always been a strength of mine and it is a strength that I believe has helped prepare me to be a Judge.

During school I always had a summer job and that job was always working on the maintenance crew of a golf course. I even did the same work after college on a full time basis for two and a half years. It taught me great work ethic and it provided me with friends that I would not have otherwise had. They were people that grew up different from me. They didn't have bank accounts, they paid their bill with cash on pay day and they knew that they would never go to college. I always took those things for granted but having the diverse group of friends that I have has helped me gain a keen perspective on life and on people. These same people who are different from me in so many ways, when you get to know them you find out they love football. They love to play golf. They love their families. They are funny and they laugh and they cry just like the rest of us. And even though I grew up in a family of college educated and what I would consider successful parents, no one in our family ever looked down at any of my friends or anyone else because of what they did for a living or because of where they lived or what their parents did. I was very fortunate to have the parents I had to teach me how to live and how to judge people and situations.

They knew that because of how they raised me that if I became friends with a particular person, they trusted my judgment of that person and knew they were good regardless of any other circumstance in their background. I believe that in life it is important to treat everyone the same way you would like to be treated and to not judge people without getting to know them first. I have been fortunate to have been raised just that way and was given the freedom to make my own judgments about people and other things.

In life I have had all, kinds of experiences and I have known all kinds of people. I have also been fortunate enough to have been involved in the Palmetto Boys State program for the past twenty-seven years. The friends and influences that I have had as a result of my involvement in that program have provided a valuable combination of leadership and communications skills.

Those skills as well as the influences of my parents, my friends and my diverse life experiences have joined with my legal experience to provide me with the characteristics of patience, temperament, knowledge and communication that make for an outstanding member of the Judiciary. I am

humbled to have this opportunity and am confident in my ability to serve with honor and integrity that the job requires.

51. References:

- (a) Ms. Frances Brown (Banker)  
214 N. Main St.  
Marion, SC 29571  
843-423-1000
- (b) James E. Brogdon, Jr.  
P.O. Box 4625  
Pinopolis, SC 29469  
843-615-1926
- (c) Brian M. Gibbons  
140 Main St.  
Chester, SC 29706  
803-519-6406
- (d) Scott P. Floyd (843)  
180 N. Irby St. MSC-N  
Florence, SC 29501  
843-665-3055
- (e) Frank White  
3118 Devon Rd.  
Florence, SC 29505  
843-610-0505

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

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

Signature: William Vickery Meetze

Date: August 7, 2012

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Circuit Court  
(New Candidate)

Full Name: William Vickery Meetze  
Business Address: 180 N. Irby St.  
MSC-N Florence, SC 29501  
Business Telephone: (843) 665-3055

1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?

Since I enrolled in Law School I have had a desire to one day become a Circuit Court Judge. I would often talk about becoming a Judge with my grandfather and he would always say that Judges serve to protect the Constitution among other things of course. Those early conversations planted the seeds of this ambition and even in early job interviews when the people interviewing me would ask about my ambitions; I would tell them I would like to be a Circuit Judge one day. During my entire career I have been dedicated to public service and it is a calling I feel strongly about. Being elected a Circuit Court Judge would allow me to continue in that mission. I believe it is a job that suits me well. My biggest strengths as an attorney and a person in general are my leadership ability, patience, communication and temperament. I think those are all qualities that make for an outstanding Judge and fuel my desire to achieve that goal.

2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No

4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes

5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?

I don't believe that *ex parte* communications are appropriate and should not take place without the knowledge and consent of the opposing party. I believe there are circumstances where *ex parte* communications may be necessary. Examples of that would be for scheduling purposes or emergencies, however; those communications should only be held where no advantage is gained and all parties are informed of the nature of the communication as well as given an opportunity to respond.

6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?

I would not recuse myself from a case simply because a current

legislator or former co-worker was appearing before me. I don't think those are appropriate grounds for a recusal. Many of the communities we live and work in are small and relationships are developed. However, those relationships don't interfere with or influence decisions and at work. If there was some kind of ongoing business relationship or if a case was called in front of me that I had previously been involved in, then I would recuse myself. Otherwise the Judicial process would not function properly or efficiently if Judges weren't hearing cases because of prior work relationships. My feeling is that a Judge should only recuse himself or herself from hearing a case under special circumstances and that would be my philosophy as a Judge.

- 7: If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion?

If one or both parties felt it would be appropriate for me to recuse myself from a case, then, whether I felt it was necessary or not, I would grant the motion and remove myself from the case.

8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

Certainly I would try to avoid any kind of impropriety if I were elected to the Circuit Court bench. If the apparent impropriety was involving a case that was before me, I would try to clear up the impropriety or misconception, and then I would remove myself from hearing the case. Much of the time, perception is reality and the appearance of impropriety would create an issue that would best be served by stepping down regardless of whether or not there actually is an impropriety.

9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

I would not accept any gifts or the like if I were a Circuit Court Judge. That goes along with avoiding the appearance of impropriety.

10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?

If I were to receive information indicating that a lawyer and/or judge had committed a violation, I would take appropriate action. More than likely, that action would be to talk directly with the lawyer and/or judge. If I were to have knowledge that another judge had committed a violation that raised a substantial question as to that judge's fitness for office, I would inform the appropriate authority. Similarly, if I were to have knowledge of a violation by a lawyer that called into question that lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer then I would also inform the appropriate authority.

11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be re-evaluated? No

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? No

13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

I think it would differ depending on the circumstance. If it were a fairly basic order I would have the party making motion draw up the order. If it were complex ruling on an important motion then I could see myself doing the order to make sure it was clear and all the points I wanted to make were in the order.

14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

I would keep a detailed calendar with reminders of all deadlines. Essentially I would stay on top of all the deadlines that I would have. I would understand that if a deadline is missed it would ultimately be my responsibility. With that being the case, with all the technology we have today there would be no excuse for missing any deadlines and organization would be the key to keeping on top of deadlines.

15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

Decisions should be made based on the law and not on any personal or political considerations. It is not the job of a Circuit Judge to promote an agenda or to set public policy, it is to follow the law and protect the Constitution. Judges should not have an effect in setting or promoting public policy.

16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

I would welcome the opportunity to serve on committees that worked toward bettering the Judicial and or legal system. I would enjoy the opportunity to speak at various conventions and or conferences to teach on various aspects of the law.

17. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you address this?

I do not believe it would strain personal relationships with my spouse, friends or other relatives. Were I to be elected there would be times when I would travel to other Circuits and would be away from home more than I am at this point. However I am very fortunate to have a very supportive and this is an endeavor that we are venturing on together and understand there may be adjustments should I be fortunate enough to be elected but as a family we are prepared for that and look forward to the opportunity.

18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

a. Repeat offenders: There are many considerations that go into

sentencing various offenders. However, in general, a repeat offender would be in line for a harsher punishment than a first time offender.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the circuit court): By virtue of the fact that the Juvenile would be eligible to be waived to Circuit Court means that the offense is a serious matter. I would take into consideration all of the factors involved including the person's age, the seriousness of the crime and the number of victims involved and how they were affected.

c. White collar criminals: I would try to sentence white collar criminals the same way I sentence any other individual charged with a crime. I would take into consideration the prior record of the defendant, the seriousness of the offense, the number of victims, how much harm the victim suffered and any recommendations made in the case.

d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: Again, an individual's background is a factor to consider when sentencing. It is simply one of many factors to consider. There are many people from disadvantaged backgrounds that do not find themselves in General Sessions Court. They live as law abiding citizens all of their lives and are never in trouble with the law. However, some people do grow up in a culture where life on the streets means living outside of the law. Where I grew up with two parents who both went to college some people grow up with one parent or no parent or parents who are in prison. It doesn't mean those people should be punished any less for crimes they commit but there are certainly individuals whose influences growing up were negative and leads to some of the problems that they face in their own lives. The main consideration with how to sentence these or any criminal defendant would be the defendant's prior record and seriousness of the crime.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: I believe that justice should be fair and should be tempered with mercy. Elderly and/or sick individuals should not be excused for their wrongdoings, however; fashioning a sentence that would allow them to be able to seek proper help and treatment that they need would be a priority whenever possible in cases dealing with the elderly or infirmed. However, some charges are of such a serious nature that regardless of what the mitigating factors may be, the individual who committed that crime is going to have to go to prison.

19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No
21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes

23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?  
I believe a calm and even temperament is the appropriate demeanor for a Judge. Emotions can impact decisions and the court room is no place to be led by ones emotions. Judges are human and humans can be emotional. However, Judges are also professionals and it is the professional side that needs to manifest itself in the court room rather than the emotional side. It may be easier said than done, but I believe that a calm and respectful approach is the appropriate manner in which to conduct oneself from the bench.
24. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day?  
I think they should apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. No one is perfect and we can always better ourselves, but I believe that patience and civility are the appropriate characteristics to employ in the court room and I feel the same way with regards to the proper way to conduct oneself outside the court room. My father always told me that you can never go wrong being nice to people and I try to live by that motto.
25. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or pro se litigants?  
I know that it is hard to say never, however; I believe that expressing anger in a court room towards a lawyer or a pro se defendant is unprofessional and inappropriate. Patience and respect should be shown at all times. Losing your temper can lead to bad decisions and regretful actions. Everyone in the court room looks to the bench to set the standard for what is appropriate and anger is not the appropriate way to deal with attorneys or pro-se litigants.
26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? \$0.00
27. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? Not applicable
28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No.
29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No.
30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No.

32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted?  
Yes

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

William Vickery Meetze

Sworn to before me this 7 day of August, 2012.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 10/17/17 \_\_\_\_\_



## William Vickery (Vick) Meetze

311 Lipscomb St. • Marion, SC 29571

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September 7, 2012

Ms. Jane O. Shuler  
South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
104 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat #16

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am writing to amend the Sworn Statement submitted for the above referenced Judicial Seat. Specifically, I wish amend my response to the following question in the manner set forth below:

Question #26: I prepared and mailed and information sheet in support of my candidacy and incurred the following costs.

- (a) \$124.80 on paper, printing, and envelopes; and
- (b) \$90.00 on postage.

In separate letters, I have notified both the House and Senate Ethics Committees of the expenditures made in my campaign.

Sincerely,



William Vickery Meetze

## William Vickery (Vick) Meetze

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September 11, 2012

Ms. Jane O. Shuler  
South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
104 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat #16

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am writing to amend the Sworn Statement and Personal Data Questionnaire I submitted for the above referenced Judicial Seat. Specifically, I wish to amend question number 26 of my Sworn Statement and question number 42 of my Personal Data Questionnaire in the manner set forth below:

As it pertains to both questions, I purchased materials, prepared and mailed an information sheet in support of my candidacy and incurred the following costs.

- (a) \$141.36 at office depot on paper, envelopes and postage; and
- (b) \$73.44 on postage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and if there is any further information needed please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

William Vickery Meetze

# William Vickery (Vick) Meetze

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October 19, 2012

Ms. Jane O. Shuler  
South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
104 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat #16

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am writing to amend the Sworn Statement and Personal Data Questionnaire I submitted for the above referenced Judicial Seat. Specifically, I wish to amend question numbers 6 & 8 of my Sworn Statement and question numbers 5(b), 5(c), and 34 of my Personal Data Questionnaire in the manner set forth below:

As it pertains to the Sworn Statement:

**Question 6.** A Judge should always avoid the appearance of impropriety and should disqualify him or herself anytime the Judge's impartiality can reasonable be called into question. In a case where a lawyer-legislature were to appear in front of the me, that in and of itself would not be cause for me to disqualify myself. However, If the other party's attorney believed that my partiality may reasonably be called into question, then that attorney would have an opportunity to be heard on the matter and if that party felt recusal would be appropriate, then I would disqualify myself to avoid the appearance of any impropriety, even if my personal feeling was that my impartiality was intact.

As it pertains to the portion of question 6 dealing with former associates or law partners appearing before me, I am answering that question as it relates specifically to my situation. Being that I currently work in a public defender's office and I have always worked for a government agency of some kind, if a prior associate were to appear before me, I would not disqualify myself simply because I used to work with that attorney in a government agency. A lawyer in a government agency does not ordinarily have an association with other lawyers employed by that agency. Therefore I would not disqualify myself simply because of that fact. However, I would disqualify myself if my impartiality were reasonably called into question because of such association or if the case before me was one that I had personally been involved. Ordinarily, where a Judge had been in a law firm, having former associates or law partners appear before you would be cause for disqualification based on the judge's impartiality being reasonably

called into question. Under my circumstance, coming from a government agency, it would not be automatic disqualification unless my impartiality was reasonably questioned.

**Question 8.** A judge should disqualify himself any time his impartiality can reasonably be called into question. In a case where I knew that my wife or another close relative that was currently residing in my household has some kind of economic interest in the controversy, or they have some interest more than de minimis that could be affected by the proceeding then I would disqualify myself in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety and because that is a situation where my impartiality could reasonably be called into question. That is particularly the case where the relative in question is a party to the proceeding or an officer of the party, is a lawyer in the proceeding, or is a material witness. If it were the case that the attorney was affiliated with a law firm that my wife or close relative also had an affiliation with, then the decision as to whether or not to disqualify myself would not be automatic. However, disqualification would be appropriate if the interest of the relative in question was more than de minimis and my impartiality could reasonably be called into question.

As it pertains to my personal data questionnaire:

**Question 5(b).** I have never been involved in a divorce or divorce proceeding.

**Question 5(c).** I do not have any children.

**Question 34.** When I submitted my personal data questionnaire back in August of 2012, I was unaware of having ever been named as a defendant in any prior action. I can assure you all that I in no way meant to mislead the Commission. However, I have been informed that a former client of mine did file a suit against me in Federal Court sometime prior to September 3, 2010. The case number was 1:10-cv-01890-JMC. On September 3, 2010, a Federal Magistrate Judge issued a report recommending that the case be dismissed without prejudice and without service of process. The client's name was McIver Rembert Feagin, Jr. I was never served with process in that matter and was never made aware of the suit in any way. I have now had an opportunity to review the order from United States District Judge Michelle Childs. In that order, Judge Childs followed the Magistrate's recommendation and dismissed the Complaint without prejudice and without service of process. That order was signed on December 10, 2010. I do not know what the allegations contained in the complaint were as I have not had an opportunity to review that document and the case was handled without me ever having any knowledge of or involvement in the proceedings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and if there is any further information needed please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

William Vickery Meetze