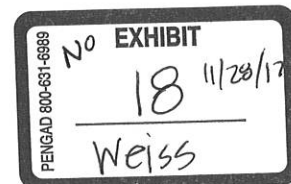


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 9

1. Name: Mrs. Heather Savitz Weiss

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname):

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 1000 Assembly Street; Columbia, South Carolina 29201

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-734-3196
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1975
Place of Birth: Lexington, South Carolina
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Family Status: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name; (c) if you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds; and (d) state the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Married on November 27, 1999 to Gregory Todd Weiss

Never Divorced, two children: [REDACTED]

6. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge. 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) University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; August 1992-May 1996, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and with Honors in Dramatic Art
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law; August 1996-May 1999, Juris Doctor

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.
 - (a) South Carolina 1999

9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) Pro Bono Board- member
 - (b) Student Bar Association- class representative
 - (c) Phi Delta Phi
 - (d) International Moot Court Bar
 - (e) Moot Court Bar, Order of the Barristers
 - (f) Women in Law
 - (g) South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association
 - (h) Palmetto Law Society
 - (i) Criminal Law Society

10. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
 - (a) 3/14/2017 Lectured on the human trafficking laws and prosecuting human trafficking cases at Francis Marion University for law enforcement.
 - (b) 1/17/2017 Lectured on human trafficking laws and the prosecution of human trafficking cases at Pee Dee Area Health Education Center in Florence for nurse practitioners.
 - (c) 10/26/2016 Spoke to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Conference about violent crime prosecution and how victim assistance can be crucial to the ultimate successful resolution to the case.
 - (d) 8/16/2016 Spoke and served as an organizer and facilitator at the Human Trafficking Statewide Summit for Circuit and Family Court judges and other stakeholders invited to participate from throughout South Carolina.
 - (e) 4/14/2016 Spoke to the Family Court Judges meeting discussing the human trafficking laws and raising awareness as to human trafficking in South Carolina.
 - (f) 3/2/2016 Spoke to the Safe Schools Summit on the human trafficking laws in South Carolina and raising awareness as to human trafficking in South Carolina.

- (g) 2/18/2016 Spoke at the Shed a Light Conference in Aiken regarding the human trafficking laws and what we are seeing in South Carolina and prosecution
- (h) 2/17/2016 Spoke to River Bluff High School students on human trafficking raising awareness and discussing the laws.
- (i) 10/23/2015 Presented on domestic violence laws at the Department of Juvenile Justice
- (j) 8/20/2015 Training for Lexington County on human trafficking and raising awareness of trafficking in South Carolina.
- (k) 8/17/2015 Taped two hours of domestic violence training on the law and questions concerning the application of the new law for the Criminal Justice Academy for law enforcement training throughout the state.
- (l) 11/5/2014 Presented to the insurance industry representatives about the insurance fraud laws and need for updates and the current state of insurance fraud in South Carolina.
- (m) 9/11/2014 Spoke at the Jail Administrators Conference on the lessons learned regarding inmate supervision and jail administration from the trial of Sheriff Sam Parker.
- (n) 10/5/2012 Presented in Spartanburg at a Domestic Violence Conference on domestic violence prosecution of law enforcement officers.
- (o) 11/16/2011 Served on a panel at the Prescription Drug Summit to represent the concerns and trends in cases in state court.
- (p) 11/9/2011 Presented to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Conference on insurance fraud laws, investigations and prosecution and presented with the Attorney General on Courtroom Preparation and Presentation Skills.
- (q) 11/7/2011 Spoke to the South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators Conference in Charleston regarding investigation and prosecution of insurance fraud cases and answer questions or concerns.
- (r) 5/11/2011 Lectured to the South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators at Colonial Life regarding the insurance fraud laws and their relationship to insurance fraud investigations.
- (s) 3/17/2011 Lectured to the South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators at the Fire Academy on insurance fraud laws and prosecution.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None
Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions.
See attached.
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) South Carolina, 1999
14. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the

administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

- (a) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office Law Clerk May-November 1999
Organized and prepared indictments and updated indictment pre-files.
Performed various duties as requested by attorneys and staff.
Maintained caseload left vacant by attorney leaving until licensed to prosecute the cases.
- (b) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office Assistant Solicitor 1999-2003
Worked with, developed and conducted training for law enforcement to understand the laws and needs of prosecutors on Driving Under the Influence cases and Elder Abuse laws.
Trained with the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Advocacy Center to become one of the first prosecutors in the State to assist the State Law Enforcement Division in investigating and prosecuting under the Computer Crimes Law.
Developed and conducted training with the State Law Enforcement Division on Computer Crimes.
Prosecuted thousands of cases involving primarily driving and property crimes in General Sessions Court.
- (c) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office Criminal Domestic Violence Court Coordinator 2003-2006
Worked with and developed court preparation training for the Richland County Sheriff's Department on the needs of prosecutors to successfully prosecute Criminal Domestic Violence cases.
Prosecuted hundreds of Criminal Domestic Violence cases in Richland County Magistrate's Court.
Supervised one investigator and two attorneys in the prosecution of all Magistrate level Criminal Domestic Violence cases in Richland County.
Worked with and trained law enforcement to understand the needs of prosecutors and foster communication between the two agencies.
Developed and conducted trainings on new laws, understanding procedures for both General Sessions and Family Court and clarifying the application of existing laws.
Worked on special projects as needed with the City of Columbia to include:
directly indicting and prosecuting an undercover drug operation in connection with the federal government;
working with city government and law enforcement to combat businesses allowing for violence and drug dealing utilizing the nuisance laws and the alcohol licensing;
meeting with community members to address specific crime and prosecution concerns and help them to become involved in the criminal justice process;
meeting with government leaders to address business and community concerns.
Assisted answering Freedom of Information Act requests.
Prosecuted thousands of cases including murders, armed robberies, drug and gang cases, financial cases, and burglaries.
- (d) S.C. Attorney General's Office Assistant Deputy Attorney General 2011-2016
Manage a team of the State Grand Jury/Prosecution Section of the office
Manage a criminal caseload

- Provide trainings on various topics as requested
- Director of the Insurance Fraud Division
- (e) S.C. Attorney General's Office Senior Assistant Deputy Att. Gen. January-March 2016
 - Manage the prosecution and State Grand Jury sections of the office
 - Manage a criminal caseload
 - Provide trainings on various topics as requested
 - Assist with drafting and promoting legislation including domestic violence, human trafficking and insurance fraud
- (f) S.C. Attorney General's Office Deputy Attorney General March 2016-present
 - Manage the criminal prosecution division of the office including General Prosecution, Violence Against Women Division, Insurance Fraud, Food Stamp Fraud, Internet Crimes Against Children, Medicaid Provider Fraud and Medicaid Recipient Fraud.
 - Review and prosecute select investigations and cases.
 - Assist with drafting and promoting legislation including human trafficking and insurance fraud
 - Review all incoming cases and assign to prosecutors and review and approve all declinations of investigations or charged cases.
 - Prosecuted first State Grand Jury Human Trafficking case
 - Speak to and provide training for various groups on domestic violence and human trafficking as well as other requested topics

15. Please answer the following (if you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable):

(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 and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years.

N/A

(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 and procedural knowledge 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. Please also indicate the

frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

Experience in Criminal Matters

My entire career involves the handling of criminal cases. Throughout my early career, I handled criminal cases focused primarily on driving under suspension, property crimes and driving under the influence. I focused on violent crimes with the Solicitor's Office including other cases of importance to the City of Columbia. Important cases included high crime areas, repeat offenders, a drug distribution operation and homicide cases. Throughout this time, my normal caseload was approximately 500. In 2011, I was offered the opportunity to work for the Attorney General's Office. This move provided the opportunity to transition from solely a prosecutor to a manager as well. I was responsible for approximately 40 cases throughout the State of South Carolina, but also for the management of four to six (4-6) other attorney's caseloads. The cases I prosecuted and supervised involved different areas of law such as tax evasion, insurance fraud, securities fraud, and the State Grand Jury that were all areas with which I was unfamiliar. I was challenged to learn areas of the law that included both criminal and civil elements. Additionally, I continued prosecuting violent and serious crimes throughout the State presenting the challenge of working with law enforcement, court personnel and citizens throughout the State. The following are a sample of the cases I handled over the past five years.

- (a) State v. Joseph Hellum was a tax failure to file case with a pro se sovereign citizen. The case challenged me to learn about tax law. I also learned about the sovereign citizens and how to present tax law to a jury so that they can understand the law and the challenges of a pro se defendant arguing for himself as a sovereign citizen. I tried this case with a Department of Revenue prosecutor to learn the law and prepare me to work on tax cases while the prosecutor at the Department of Revenue was deployed.
- (b) State v. Carl Rogers was a driving under the influence and failure to stop for a blue light case in Darlington County. The case was several years old before it was assigned to me. The defendant had fired several attorneys and sued prior attorneys, the previous prosecutors and law enforcement. There were depositions and civil filings to review in addition to the facts and evidence of the case. The challenge in this case was to get the case to court and resolved without allowing the defendant to delay the case any further. I had to ensure that the defendant was competent to stand trial as there was anecdotal evidence over the years that brought his competency into question. Fortunately, we were able to address each of the issues and work with defense counsel and the Court to bring the case to trial before a jury for several days and ultimately to a guilty plea.
- (c) State v. Claudette Hulsey was an insurance fraud and arson case where the defendant presented a story to the police of what she said happened implicating two unknown defendants with an alleged rape, robbery and arson. The entire Hartsville community was terrified of these criminals and rallied around Hulsey. Local law enforcement brought in SLED to assist in the investigation. Eventually, it became clear that there were no unknown defendants, but the whole crime was fabricated and staged. This trial presented a challenge often only experienced by defense

attorneys of trying to prove that the crime alleged did not occur. I worked closely with the behavioral science unit at SLED as well as local community members who did not want to believe the crime did not happen as reported. I had to deal with racial allegations in the community that was tearing the community apart. Ultimately, the State prevailed and Claudette Hulsey was convicted. There was concern in the community that the racially charged accusations would keep Hulsey from being tried or convicted. It was important to show the community that justice focuses on the facts and evidence and is not swayed by public emotion.

(d) State v. Larry Leo Fasenmyer was a criminal sexual conduct case with a minor involving a parent and child in Berkeley County. The child was a teenager at the time of the trial and wanted to make sure that the defendant had no rights to ever see his children again to protect the siblings. I was prepared for trial when the defendant decided to plead guilty. The plea agreement included prison time and termination of parental rights. The Court worked with the parties to enter the plea and sentence and move from Circuit Court to Family Court in the same day to terminate the father's parental rights with cooperation from DSS. This case utilized the many powers and options of the court system to seek justice for and protect the victims and ultimately allowing the victim to avoid testifying.

State v. Hiral Gopaldas was a double homicide case in Florence County. The defendant was charged with stabbing his estranged wife and mother-in-law to death in front of his three-year-old son. The custody case and divorce were pending in the Florence Family Court. This case presented issues in both the Circuit and Family Court from the first day and including criminal and family court attorneys. This was the most difficult case I have handled in my career. Local law enforcement made decisions early in the investigation that led to both local law enforcement and prosecutors being conflicted from the case. However, local law enforcement charged the defendant in the early stages of the investigation before SLED was assigned the case. As the investigation was progressing, the defense filed numerous motions in the Circuit Court to compel discovery while hearings and rulings were coming from the Family Court. The Circuit Court tried to protect the investigation while balancing the rights of the defendant. This case could teach many lessons on how our court system needs to be able to work together to seek justice for both the victims and the accused. There are also many lessons that could be taught about properly investigating and charging in a homicide case. The case concluded with me dismissing the homicide charges due to missing evidence and other issues that kept me from being able to even present the case to a grand jury. The case taught me about my role as a minister of justice who must be objective in a very emotionally charged case.

State v. Bernard Jenkins was a double homicide case in Jasper County. The son of a Jasper County Sheriff's deputy was charged in the murder. This case presented challenges of a small community rife with violent crime. Witnesses were terrified of testifying. They were afraid of retribution from the criminal element of the community as well as law enforcement considering the defendant's relationship to the Sheriff's Office. The first time the case was called to trial it was discovered that the defendant knew one of the jurors. On the second day of trial the Court addressed the concern and four jurors admitted to knowing the defendant, his family or other witnesses and said

they could not be fair and impartial. The judge had to declare a mistrial. The State moved for a change of venue which was granted by the court. The second trial was held in Hampton County. It was important to work with local law enforcement and the court to ensure the safety of the witnesses and the jurors and guarantee both sides a fair trial. The case presented numerous legal issues. Just before the defendant was to testify or rest, the defendant decided to plead guilty.

State v. Hope Hawkins was a homicide by child neglect case in Darlington County where a mother left her children alone in a mobile home that burned and killed all four of the children ages five and under. The case presented issues of weighing the neglect of the children leading to their death and the fact that the children were nourished and cared for as far as what was documented in the rest of their lives. The Hawkins case was extremely challenging to determine what justice is for the victims and the defendant. Ultimately, the defendant pled guilty.

Gotham City and Fantastic Shakers were both methamphetamine trafficking State Grand Jury investigations. Each case had more than a dozen defendants. The cases were investigated by local law enforcement with the assistance of SLED. They required testimony before the State Grand Jury that led to indictments and then the preparations of numerous scheduled trials. Each of the defendants was convicted and ultimately each one pled guilty. While they were both drug conspiracies, one dealt with drugs trafficked from Mexico and Georgia into South Carolina and required translators to assist with the prosecution. The second was locals who were creating methamphetamine in their homes and involved the pseudoephedrine registry and the danger to children and families of living around meth labs and methamphetamine addicts. These two cases contrasted how the same type of crime should result in different resolutions as the facts and circumstances of case dictate.

While this is a sampling of cases over the last five years, it demonstrates the requirement that prosecutors act as ministers of justice representing the State. Our code of ethics requires that we evaluate each case independently before even bringing the case to court. It must be determined that the facts and evidence can be presented to the court to prove the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This experience over the last eighteen years has best prepared me for presiding over cases as a judge in the Circuit Court.

Experience in Civil Matters

My experience in civil matters involves studying the civil aspects of the criminal laws I have prosecuted over the last several years. The civil aspects are especially important in the insurance fraud, tax and securities fraud cases. Insurance fraud is one of the only criminal offenses that provides for a civil remedy in lieu of prosecution. Many of the cases were resolved by a civil memorandum of understanding. I have experience working with the Freedom of Information Act requests as well as administrative law nuisance cases while at the Solicitor's Office. I currently supervise the Medicaid Provider Fraud Unit that is involved in both criminal and civil cases. I read over the global settlements and confer on the decisions to proceed with civil cases. I also supervise the attorney who handles our

civil forfeitures and work with him to get out proper notices as well as file the necessary documents in civil courts throughout the state. My depth of criminal trial experience, managing dockets and the fact that the rules of evidence are the same in both criminal and civil court have prepared me to preside in civil matters. Each challenge presented by new areas of law at the Attorney General's Office has given me the opportunity to study the law and seek advice from others just as the challenges of civil court will present. Most significantly, the new domestic violence and human trafficking laws have civil sections that are affected by the criminal laws and are important to victims and perpetrators even if the criminal cases are not prosecuted. I have had the opportunity to study these laws and present to various groups including lawyers, judges and advocates throughout the State. I have to explain how a victim can get a permanent restraining order in the court of common pleas and how a victim of human trafficking can file suit against the trafficker for damages. I have studied the civil court rules to be able to understand these laws and teach them to various groups. I have also kept up with both the civil and criminal advance sheets. I have begun taking continuing education courses in civil matters. I will continue to take advantage of the opportunity to observe civil court and ask questions and prepare before serving in the Court of Common Pleas.

While I was at the Solicitor's Office, I appeared in Circuit Court almost daily when court was in session. In the last five years, I have appeared in Circuit Court all over the state on an average of once a week.

(c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

N/A

(d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

N/A

16. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent 5.0

* **Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 17–22. If you are a judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 17-22 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: none
 - (b) state: weekly
18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 2%
 - (b) criminal: 98%
 - (c) domestic: none
 - (d) other: none
19. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench 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

20. 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. Sam Parker was a State Grand Jury public corruption investigation. This case was significant because it was the investigation of the elected Sheriff in a rural county while he was still in office. The State Grand Jury was necessary to subpoena evidence and provide testimony under oath of witnesses who were terrified or reluctant to provide information against a powerful elected official. Once the case was indicted it was necessary to make a plea offer that was fair without allowing political pressure or community frustration play into the decision. Ultimately, the plea offer was rejected and the trial took place in Chesterfield County. The trial presented issues of picking a fair and impartial jury in the County where the Sheriff was suspended from office pending the resolution of the indictment, but was also running for election in the Sheriff's race. While an extra-large number of jurors were summoned, it took a full day to seat the jury. The Court had to handle each question and the dozens of potential jurors' concerns individually. The trial took two weeks and the Court had to make decisions on keeping the jurors from coming in contact with witnesses and interested community members. Ultimately, the former Sheriff was convicted of multiple counts of misconduct including embezzlement and the Court had to determine an appropriate sentence resulting in the defendant going to prison. As a result of the felony and embezzlement convictions, Sam Parker can never run for Sheriff, be in law enforcement, or run for public office ever again.
 - (b) State v. Lexie Dial, III State v. Dial, 412 S.C. 121, 770 S.E.2d 767 (2015) was a homicide by child abuse case. The trial required expert testimony from a forensic pediatrician and pediatric ophthalmologist. It required me to learn about these areas of

medicine to facilitate the testimony to the jury. The victim's mother took the urn with her child's ashes to the stand, unbeknownst to me. The defense argued for a mistrial, but fortunately the judge recognized what was in her hand before the jury could have seen it. The case addressed the issue of law enforcement arresting a defendant outside of the county lines. My co-counsel was able to establish several different ways in which the arrest was proper. There was also an issue involving the local prosecutor and law enforcement which led to the case being conflicted in the first place. The biggest challenge of this case was handling the legal issues while still being able to present the facts to the jury in a way that they could understand them and make a decision. Lexie Dial was convicted of killing his baby son.

(c) State v. Roderquiz Cook State v. Cook, No. 2015-UP-270, 2015 WL 3536532 (S.C. Ct. App. June 3, 2015) was murder case in Lexington County where the defendant was charged and convicted of murder under the Felony-murder rule and hand of one is the hand of all theory of murder. The defendant was not actually present at the murder. The case required syncing the phone calls, video and testimony to prove the defendant's knowledge and culpability in planning and bringing about the ultimate murder. The jury was able to tie together the pieces of the case and convicted Cook of murder.

(d) State v. Charles Walter Koon State v. Koon No. 2002-UP-270, 2002 was a DUI case in Richland County. It was one of my first trials and it was shortly after the change in the DUI law requiring videotaping of incident scenes and field sobriety tests. The videotaping was not required if the car was not equipped with the recording device or it was inoperable. However, a form must be presented explaining why there is no video. The defense argued that because the form was not presented before the trial, the case should be dismissed. The Court ruled that as long as the form was presented before the case went to the jury it was proper. It was at this time I learned how important it is to study the law and argue for what I believe is right. The jury convicted Koon of DUI and even though this was an unpublished opinion, the precedent was used to support arguments for the same premise all over the State.

(e) State v. Trevonta Matthews was the first State Grand Jury human trafficking investigation. Matthews was also the first human trafficking case to go to trial in South Carolina. This investigation highlighted the challenges of a human trafficking investigation from the social media records and hours of phone calls that had to be reviewed to the reluctant and sometimes hostile victims who were often involved with different state agencies from DSS to DJJ. It also highlighted the lack of resources available to victims of human trafficking. The trial began, but the defendant pled guilty prior to the first victim's testimony. The amount of discovery and pre-trial motions highlighted the challenges these cases and digital evidence will present in the future.

21. 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.
None
22. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

None

23. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
No
24. If the answer to question 23 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
N/A
25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. 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? If so, give details, including dates.
No
26. 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
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.
No
28. 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? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.
My only profession has been as a lawyer. Prior to and during law school I worked as a runner for Sinkler Boyd, a receptionist and paralegal assistant for Gignilliat, Savitz and Bettis, an intern for the Director of the Department of Dramatic Arts at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an assistant to the producer for a professional theatre production in Columbia, SC, an assistant theatre instructor for the Tri-Dac Arts Consortium, a law clerk for the South Carolina Attorney General's Office in the Medicaid Fraud Division, a legislative assistant in the House of Representatives, and a summer camp counselor at Camp Ton-A-Wandah in Hendersonville, NC.
29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
No

30. Please explain why you think you meet the professional and academic ability criteria for the seat you seek.

I have appeared in the Circuit Court on at least a weekly basis since I began practicing law in 1999. I keep up with the advance sheets and participate in meetings and trainings where we review the changes in the case law and discuss approaches to continue prosecuting under the changes. I am constantly challenged by different areas of the law addressed in the Attorney General's office and have continued to study to be able to prosecute under these complex areas. I regularly train law enforcement, lawyers and the judiciary in different areas of the law, most recently domestic violence and human trafficking. I am comfortable in the Circuit Court and professionally I have been preparing to be able to serve from the Circuit Court bench. Academically, I have continued studying the law since graduation from law school, especially over the last few years in the Attorney General's Office as I have dealt with issues and laws that present unique challenges and issues that require continued study of the law to confidently present the cases in court.

31. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

32. 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 or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

None

33. 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? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations which are subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission. [All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

34. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.
[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]
35. 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? If so, give details.
No
36. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.
I have never been sued by a client as I have always worked for the State. I have been named in several Federal filings by Marie Assa'ad Faltas. I have never been served or appeared in the cases, but to my knowledge, each has been dismissed excluding the one that she just filed. I prosecuted Dr. Faltas for harassment that ended in a hung jury after a week-long trial. She has filed seven different cases naming me along with others involved in law enforcement, the judiciary and prosecution.
I am currently involved in a worker's compensation case for an incident that occurred at my office. The hearing for the case is scheduled for September 8, 2017.
37. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.
[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]
38. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.
No
39. 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? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.
N/A
40. 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.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?
Yes. I have an account on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. I use my accounts to monitor my children and to keep up with activities in the community on Facebook and

Instagram. I rarely post to the sites and never about work. I do not believe my social media presence would need to change at all, however, I would be careful not to like anything that could be perceived as relating to a decision I would make on the bench.

41. 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)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
No
42. 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? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal involved.
No
43. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?
None
44. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.
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 or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? 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? If so, give details.
No

Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, and (3) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

46. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No

47. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes

48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No

49. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No

50. 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) South Carolina Bar Association
- (b) Richland County Bar Association
- (c) South Carolina Solicitors' Association

51. 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) Pontiac Elementary PTO
- (b) Tree of Life Sisterhood
- (c) The Attorney General's Award of Excellence (2014)
- (d) Ernest F. Hollings Award for Excellence in State Prosecution (2014)
- (e) Governor's Appointee to the State Child Fatality Advisory Committee
- (f) Attorney General's Designee to the State Domestic Violence Advisory Committee
- (g) Special Assistant United States Attorney
- (f) Member of Governor's Domestic Violence Task Force
- (g) Tree of Life Congregation

52. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

"Treat everyone with respect. While you may not respect what the person has done or the choices made, each person must be treated with respect."

My parents instilled the meaning of this quote through words and actions. Learning to live the words of this quote has affected my entire career and would influence the type of judge I will be. I believe respect should be mutual and applies to all parties in the court including the prosecution, plaintiff, defense, witnesses, jurors, court staff and the public. The court system must maintain the confidence of the people and this can only be done by treating everyone who appears or may appear before the court with respect.

Respect also applies to the parties in each case. Since I started working at the Attorney General's Office I truly appreciate the challenge of appearing in court throughout the State. Preparing for each court appearance, ensuring I have spent the appropriate time getting to know the victims and witnesses in each case, and balancing the demands of court with my personal life in Columbia make me more understanding of the challenges of the private bar.

I have managed dockets in both the Solicitor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. As arbitration and mediation reduce the number of cases in Common Pleas, the number of cases in General Sessions Court continues to rise. Under Langford, the court is now responsible for the criminal docket. My experience makes me uniquely qualified to preside over General Sessions Court throughout the State as well as administer a criminal docket. Approaching each case with respect for the parties involved and knowing the challenges of the court system will provide me with the tools to be an effective jurist and administrator.

Finally, I am an involved parent and community member and I believe that it is possible to respect the profession and the demands of the court as well as maintain a personal life balance that will allow court to run smoothly and benefit all parties involved.

53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.*

(a) Kernard Redmond, Esquire

137 Main Street
P.O. Box 594
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843-623-3265

(b) Johnny Gasser, Esquire

1529 Laurel Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-779-7080

(c) John McIntosh, Esquire

1006 Lafayette Avenue
Cayce, SC 29033
803-260-5656

(d) Rabbi Sanford T. Marcus
6921 Sandy Shore Road
Columbia, SC 29206
803-920-2803

(e) Joel Lourie
2711 Middleburg Drive
Suite 208
Columbia, SC 29204
888-553-3323

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property: None
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

55. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

56. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

N/A

57. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

N/A

58. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

N/A

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: _____

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2017.

(Notary Signature)

(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____