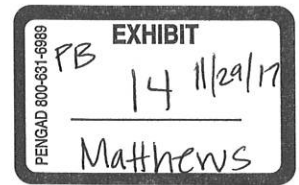


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Six Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. Name: Mrs. Debra A. Matthews

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: 206 S. Congress Street, Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (803) 635-6000  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: 1957  
Place of Birth: Trenton, New Jersey  
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#: SCDL [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.

Family Status: Married on December 3, 1989 to Raymond R. Matthews, Sr.  
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) Pan Am University (1985 – part time)
  - (b) Ocean County College (1987-1990- transferred)
  - (c) Stockton State University (1991-1994) - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
  - (d) Widener School of Law (1995 – 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, 2001 – one time - admitted
  - (b) NJ/PA dual state bar exam – one time – never admitted
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.  
I participated in Moot Court competition. I was a full time Wife and Mother of two minor children during law school and had little time for extra activities.
10. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| (a) Probate Bench Bar   | 09/05/2012 |
| (b) Probate Bench Bar   | 09/07/2012 |
| (c) Bankruptcy Practice in the District Court                   | 11/16/2012 |
| (d) Family Court Bench Bar                                      | 12/07/2012 |
| (e) BANKLA Annual Convention and Seminar                        | 05/03/2013 |
| (f) Stewart Title Insurance Professionals Seminar               | 11/11/2013 |
| (g) Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners        | 09/26/2014 |
| (h) Attorney Ethics and Alternative Fee Agreement               | 01/27/2015 |
| (i) Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners        | 09/25/2015 |
| (j) South Carolina Family Court Bench Bar                       | 12/07/2015 |
| (k) Tort Law Update   | 02/12/2016 |
| (l) SCAJ 2016 annual Convention                                 | 08/04/2016 |
| (m) Family Law Intensive  | 10/21/2016 |
| (n) 26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Criminal Practice in South Carolina | 02/24/2017 |
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.

No, but I coached Mock Trial team at Richard Winn Academy.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. 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.  
I have not written or published any books or articles. See attached legal writings.
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, 2001
  - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 2001
  - (c) US Bankruptcy Court, District of SC, 2002
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) Self-employed attorney since admission in 2001.
  - (b) I have been a sole practitioner since admission in 2001. I opened a general practice in Winnsboro shortly after being admitted in 2001. I employed associate attorneys on two occasions for short periods of time. At the outset of my career, I immediately began practicing in the Family Court. A large part of my practice focuses on family court cases. My first court appointment was a DSS abuse and neglect case with a companion criminal case. I have continued practicing in the Family Court, handling most all kinds of family court cases, including divorces, custody, child support, abuse and neglect, name changes and adoptions. I was a contract attorney with South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense representing parents and vulnerable adults in DSS cases from 2013 to 2015. I have served as a mediator, court appointed guardian ad litem and have represented juveniles in Family Court.
  - (c) In 2002, I began practicing in the United States Bankruptcy Court handling consumer bankruptcy filings for Chapter 7 and 13 clients. In 2015 I tapered my bankruptcy practice, and currently have three pending cases in the Bankruptcy Court.
  - (d) I have represented clients in criminal matters, workers compensation, personal injury, social security disability, estate planning, probate and real estate closings since 2004.
  - (e) I was certified as a Family Court Mediator in July, 2010 and Circuit Court Mediator in September, 2010.
  - (f) For most of my career I have handled the administrative and financial management including trust accounts. I employed one book keeper to handle financial affairs

since opening my firm. My staff normally handles payments from clients who come in the office to make a payment (accepting payments and giving receipts).

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.

(a) On average over the past five years, I estimate 3 to 5 times per month appearing before a Family Court Judge.

(b) Divorce: I represent clients in divorces on fault based grounds including adultery, physical cruelty and habitual drunkenness, as well as no fault divorces of residing separate and apart continuously for one year.

In one divorce case involving jurisdiction, I represented a husband who resided in Fairfield County and his spouse filed for divorce, equitable distribution, custody and child support in the State of Florida. We retained Counsel in Florida to file a limited appearance to contest jurisdiction in the Florida Court. The wife lived in Florida for the requisite six months, but that was not enough to bring the husband under Florida jurisdiction to dissolve the marriage and address the real property. The parties lived in Florida for six months while the husband was in the Coast Guard. Thereafter, the parties moved to South Carolina, purchased a home and lived here for four years. The Florida Court did not have jurisdiction over the husband or equitable distribution of the real property situated in South Carolina. The Florida action was dismissed and we filed suit in Fairfield County where the case was ultimately resolved.

In a recent divorce action, I represented the wife who had a child born outside of the marriage. The parties submitted to DNA, and with the guardian's investigation the husband was declared not to be the biological father of the minor child. We were able to negotiate and settle the case with the parties obtaining a divorce on the statutory grounds of living separate and apart for one year.

(c) Equitable division of property: Equitable apportionment was usually involved in most all of the divorce cases that I handled. The assets were both personal and real acquired during the marriage and owned at time of filing, including assets which were transmuted. I have experience in obtaining appraisals for real property, businesses and retirement. I have dealt with accountants and appraisers. I have handled divorce cases where parties were also involved in Chapter 13 bankruptcy

proceedings involving personal assets, debts and real property. Having handled bankruptcy filings, I am privy to how income and assets are handled by the Bankruptcy Trustee and Court as it relates to Family Court. I understand what disposable income is in Bankruptcy and Family Court. Since mandatory mediation was implemented, most of my cases settle.

(d) Custody: I have handled many cases involving child custody disputes. I have tried cases utilizing expert witnesses and guardians. During one particular child custody case, we employed a private investigator who witnessed a Mother leave in the early morning without the three minor children. The three minor children, ages 6, 8 and 9 were left home alone. The private investigator witnessed a taxi cab arrive at the home and take the children to school. At an expedited hearing, we presented evidence to the Court of the mother leaving the children home alone to take a taxi to school. In the best interests of the children, the Family Court granted temporary and permanent custody to the Father.

(e) Adoptions: I have handled many adoptions, including family member, step-parent and non- family member adoptions. I understand the process of searching the Responsible Father Registry, the Central Registry for abuse and neglect, obtaining family adoption home studies, including with the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, as well as the importance of the guardian ad litem. The most recent adoption that I handled was finalized in April, 2017. The child was placed with my clients by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, but they did not terminate parental rights. The biological Father consented to the adoption but the biological Mother did not consent. The paternal rights of the biological Mother were terminated and the Court approved the adoption.

(f) Abuse and neglect: As a contract attorney with Indigent Defense, I was appointed to represent many parents and vulnerable adults in abuse and neglect cases. I have knowledge of the statutes and procedures. In one particular contested abuse case, we retained an expert who opined that the child who was injured had a metabolic bone disease. After many hearings, we settled the case and the parents were reunited with their children.

(g) Juvenile justice: I have represented several juveniles in family court. In one particular juvenile case, the incident took place on school grounds. We were able to present evidence from school personnel of the juvenile's academic and athletic record. We were able to show that while the incident occurred at school, (the complaining party) employees of the school gave very good reports about the juvenile.

- (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.

- (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.
- (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.

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.

I am not rated.

**\* 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: 10%
- (b) state: 90%

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: 15%
- (b) criminal: 5%
- (c) domestic: 80%
- (d) other:

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: 5%
- (b) non-jury: 95%



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) Trapp v. Stewart, et al. I represented Larry Walter Stewart (Stewart) in an election protest in Fairfield County. Stewart ran against incumbent Mikel Trapp (Trapp) for County Council District 3 seat. The official vote tally for Stewart was 485 and Trapp 489, a margin of four votes. I filed the protest alleging irregularities and a hearing was held in front of the Fairfield County Board of Canvassers (FCBC). We presented evidence to show five electors voted in the wrong district. The FCBC granted a new election. Trapp filed an appeal to the State Election Commission convening as the State Board of Canvassers (SBC). The burden to set aside the election results were incredibly high, especially since the general rule in South Carolina is the presumption is in favor of sustaining contested election results. I had no previous knowledge of election laws, but researched, read and prepared myself in the law. SBC upheld the decision of the FCBC on December 1, 2014. Governor Nikki R. Haley granted a new election on December 19, 2014. On March 3, 2015, Stewart won County District 3 seat. It is my understanding that this was the first time an election had ever been overturned in Fairfield County.

(b) Jang v. Ahn, 2015-CP-20-023. I represented Chang Soon Ahn, the Personal Representative (PR) in this Probate Estate case, The PR is the Decedent's sister. At the time of death Decedent lived with his sister in California, but owned properties in South Carolina. The PR incurred various expenses to repair and sell the properties. The PR's son, Michael Jang (Jang) disputed the expenses and alleged the PR waived her statutory commission because during negotiations she offered to waive those fees. At trial, the Probate Court granted reimbursement of the PR's expenses and her commissions. Jang appealed and for the first time he argued implied waiver which was not argued in the lower court. After the hearing in the Appellate Court, both sides submitted proposed orders and the Judge affirmed the Probate Court's decision and executed our proposed order. It is significant that the Appellate Court did not disturb the lower court's findings of fact regarding expenses and the statutory commission, nor did it allow the issue of implied waiver.

(c) SCDSS v. Benjamin, et al., 2016-DR-40-3397. I was retained by the biological Father in this abuse and neglect action. The Father did not qualify for a court appointed attorney. DSS removed the child who tested positive for marijuana, from the biological Mother. Mother testified during trial that she tried to complete her treatment plan, but she had trouble getting in touch with DSS and the guardian ad litem. She further testified that her work schedule prevented her from completing her treatment plan. We were able to show that the Mother's testimony was untruthful, especially in light of the fact that four months had passed since implementation of the treatment plan before she began employment. The Court granted permanent custody to the biological Father. The significance of this case is "honesty in the courtroom" and through cross examination the Court was able to determine the credibility of the Mother.

(d) SCDSS v. Smith, et al., Appellate Case No. 2017-000784. I represent the biological

Mother in this case which is pending a hearing in the South Carolina Supreme Court. During the initial case, the biological Mother's counsel passed away, and I was court appointed on June 2, 2015 by order of York and Union County Court. Although I did not contract for appointments in York or Union, I accepted the appointment. The case had already gone up to the Appellate Court on two different issues before I was appointed. This complex litigation case has eight attorneys and two guardian ad litem. At a pretrial hearing on June 4, 2015, the case was set for a 10 day trial beginning July 20, 2015. The child was removed by emergency protective custody and placed with foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dalsing (Dalsings). The Dalsings are licensed foster care parents in Rock Hill. The biological father was incarcerated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The paternal Grandmother intervened in the DSS action in Union County, and Dalsings filed a private adoption action in York. Both actions were consolidated for trial in Union. Both parents signed specific Consent and Relinquishments. My client executed a Consent and Relinquishment for the Dalsings to adopt her child, and the biological Father executed a Consent and Relinquishment for his Mother to adopt the child. The Family Court terminated the parental rights of both parents, and found the permanent plan and the best interest of the minor child was adoption by Dalsings. One Issue raised at trial and on appeal is standing in accordance to Youngblood v. S.C. Dep't of Soc. Servs., 402 S.C. 311; 741, S.E.2d 515 (2013). More specifically, whether the Dalsings had standing in light of Youngblood. The Court of Appeals overturned the Family Court's ruling and the case is now pending to be heard at the South Carolina Supreme Court. There are currently proposed amendments to S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-60 pending in the Senate. The amendment specifically addresses who has standing to petition to adopt, including parents who have executed consents.

(e) Pineda v. Pineda, 2012-DR20-0153. In this private custody case, I represented the paternal Aunt and Grandparents of two minor children against the biological mother. The biological father was killed and the presumption is the biological mother would have custody of the children. The trial Court found the Plaintiffs degree of attachment with the minor children met the factors as stated by the South Carolina Supreme Court in Marquez v. Caudill, 376 S.C. 229; 656 S.E.2d 737 (2008), declaring the Plaintiffs the psychological parents of the minor children. Plaintiffs were granted full custody of the minor children. We had to employ translators at trial. As a side note, I recently saw my clients and the children are doing well.

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.
  - (a) Jang v. Ahn, Court of Common Pleas, Fairfield County, July 20, 2015, 2015-CP-20-023
  - (b) Trapp v. Stewart, et al., State Board of Canvassers, December 1, 2014.
  - (c) SCDSS v. Smith, et al., Appellate Case No. 2017-000784, pending a hearing at the South Carolina Supreme Court.
  
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.  
Yes, I applied for the Winnsboro Municipal Court position in 2003 and Fairfield County Magistrate.
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.  
(a) Spencer Gifts - Marketing (1976-1978)  
(b) Electronic Data Systems –Secretary (1978-1980)  
(c) Dolby Laboratories – Marketing (1980-1984)  
(c) Real Estate Agent (1985)  
(d) RDJ Properties (current rental business)  
(e) Partner with my husband in Residential Builder’s business which is no longer in business due to his health issues, however I still currently hold a South Carolina Residential Builder’s License.  
(Dates are estimates to the best of my recollection)
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.  
We own rental homes in Winnsboro. Typically I prepare lease agreements, collect rents, and file evictions.

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

My practice is very diverse with a focus on family court. Many other areas of law overlap and are relevant to issues in family court cases. I practice in the area of bankruptcy and real estate which may affect debts and assets in family court. I represent social security disability clients who may also have child support issues. As a sole practitioner, I studied and successfully practiced family law for over sixteen years. I have an excellent track record as a family court litigator. I have experience working with experts and guardians in family court cases. I continue taking continuing legal education courses in family law as well as other areas of the law. I am a certified Mediator in both Family Court and Circuit Court. I believe that I am well respected by both Family Court Judges and Attorneys. I feel that I am well balanced with the appropriate temperament to serve as a Family Court Judge.

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.  
We have rental properties in Winnsboro and I would have a conflict with previous or current tenants. I would recuse myself of any potential conflict of interest involving tenants.
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?  
[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? No  
Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? No  
Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No  
If so, give details.
36. Have you ever been sued by a client? No  
Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? Yes  
  
If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.  
(a) In 2005, I was a Plaintiff in a case against Tru Vista, Verizon, and Chief of Police, Town of Winnsboro. TruVista settled (confidential settlement) and the remaining Defendants were dismissed.  
(b) I have filed four eviction cases in the Fairfield County Magistrate Court, 2/7/2012, 11/10/2014, /5/2/2016/7/4/2014.
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?  
No  
  
Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?  
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.  
Yes, I have been covered by malpractice insurance since January 2002, current policy per claim is \$1,000,000 and aggregate is \$2,000,000 with a \$1,000 deductible. I have never been covered by a tail policy.
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?

I am a member of LinkedIn with only a profile page. I have never posted anything on LinkedIn. I have never had Facebook or Twitter. To the best of my knowledge, I have never been featured on social media. I do not use social media, therefore my use would not be affected in any judicial capacity.

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?  
(a) \$21.20 two fingerprint cards  
(b) \$8.00 postage  
(c) \$5.00 paper and ink
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.  
(a) Luke Rankin \$250  
(b) Tommy Pope \$250  
(c) Mia McLeod \$250
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?  
No  
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

**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?  
No

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.

I have not done any campaigning. I have not asked anyone to campaign on my behalf. To the best of my knowledge, no one has campaigned on my behalf, if anyone has campaigned for me, they have done so on their own initiative. Friends and colleagues know that I am running for the position.

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?  
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?  
No, I have not contacted anyone on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. I am not aware of anyone acting on my behalf contacting any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about my candidacy or intent to become a candidate.

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) SC Bar Association
  - (b) Fairfield County Bar Association
  - (c) SC Association for Justice
  - (d) SC Bankruptcy Law Association
  - (e) SC Bar Pro Bono Program

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) SC Bar Pro Bono



- (b) Finance Committee – St. Teresa Church
- (c) Secretary - Mid County Water Board
- (d) Coach and Judge Volunteer– Mock Trial
- (e) Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Board
- (f) Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender Selection Panel

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.

I have been married for over 27 years and raised two sons. My sons are 25 and 26 years old and are very successful in their own business. I have been self-employed since 2001, having opened and built a successful law firm including purchasing my office building in 2002. I have served as a Certified Mediator in family court cases and as a guardian ad litem in custody disputes. I have practiced in many areas of the law, not just family court. I experienced a hotly contested divorce and custody battle between my parents, and as the oldest sibling of four, I was in the center of the litigation being pulled by both sides. I understand the importance of children being protected in family law disputes.

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) Eddie Wingard, Vice President  
First Citizens Bank  
111 S. Congress Street  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
(803) 635-1963
- (b) Kenneth B. Wingate, Esquire  
Sweeny Wingate & Barrow P.A.  
PO Box 12129  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 256-2233
- (c) Nathan J. Sheldon, Esquire  
Law Office of Nathan J. Sheldon  
331 E. Main Street, Suite 200  
Rock Hill, SC 29730  
(803) 909-9343
- (d) Brad Douglas, Major

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office  
PO Box 387  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
(803) 635-411

- (e) William B. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman Fairfield County Council  
2895 Kincaid Bridge Road  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
(803) 718-3877

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (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.
- None

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.

N/A

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.

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.

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_