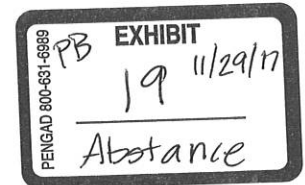


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



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

1. Name: Mrs. Angela W. Abstance

Name that you are known by if different from above: None
(Example: A Nickname):

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

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 319 Washington Street, Post Office Box 621, Barnwell, SC 29812

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-259-9006
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1975
Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? I am a citizen of South Carolina.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes, I have
been a resident of South Carolina for the past five years.

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: DL# [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 July 19, 1997 to Robert Manning Abstance, III.
Never divorced; Three children.

[REDACTED]

- [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.
I have never served in the military.
 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) Furman University, 1994-1998, Bachelor of Arts;
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1998-2001, 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.
 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) Environmental Law Journal, Fall 1999-Spring 2001.
 10. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
I have included my continuing legal education reports for the last five years as a separate attachment.
 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.
I have not taught any courses or given lectures at conferences.
 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.
 - a) "Are Employer Credit Checks on the Way Out?" (South Carolina Lawyer, November, 2013);
 - b) Appellant's Final Brief: Patricia Fickling v. City of Charleston, 372 S.C. 597, 643 S.E.2d 110 (S.C. Ct. App. 2007). I was co-counsel in this case and was responsible for writing the brief. My co-counsel, E.T. Moore, Jr., reviewed the brief and provided minor editorial changes.

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, 2003.

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) The Moore Firm, LLC, 2001-2008.

I was an associate attorney at The Moore Firm, LLC, in Barnwell, South Carolina. During this time, I practiced in the areas of family law (including divorce, custody, visitation, equitable distribution, adoptions, domesticating foreign adoptions, defending parents in SCDSS cases, and representation of the volunteer GAL program in DSS cases), civil litigation and personal injury, probate, real estate, post-conviction relief cases, Social Security disability cases, and other general practice matters, including drafting wills. I practiced in state and federal courts and participated in civil appeals, including writing appellate briefs. At that time, I was not responsible for the financial management of the firm. My work involved extensive client contact, legal writing, court appearances, representation in depositions, and interaction with other attorneys and judges.

b) South Carolina Department of Social Services staff attorney, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, 2008-2011.

In this position, I was the sole attorney responsible for handling abuse and neglect cases for the Department of Social Services in Colleton, Hampton, and Allendale Counties. In that capacity, I was usually in court at least three weeks each month. I regularly tried contested cases involving issues of abuse and neglect, including physical and sexual abuse cases where entry of Defendants on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect was at issue. I was responsible for managing the docket, scheduling cases to be heard in a timely manner, presenting and trying cases in court, supervising the paralegals who assisted in the legal department, ensuring correct data was entered into the case management system, and interacting with attorneys and caseworkers.

c) Abstance Law Firm, L.L.C., 2014- Present.

I currently operate a solo law practice in my hometown of Barnwell, South Carolina, in which I am responsible for the administrative and financial management of my practice, including the trust account. I supervise a part-time administrative assistant. I am a certified Family Court Mediator. I am a 608 contract attorney with the Office of Indigent Defense, and I appear regularly in Family Court defending parents in abuse and neglect cases in the Second and Fourteenth Circuits. I also handle private Family Court cases and regularly serve as guardian ad litem in private court cases. I handle guardianship/conservatorship cases in Probate Court, and I also serve as guardian ad litem for minors or unknown heirs in Probate Court when needed. I regularly interact with clients, attorneys, judges, guardians ad litem, and Family Court and Probate Court personnel. I also draft Wills and Deeds for clients. I have a small percentage of personal injury cases.

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.

I have practiced in Family Court since I was admitted to the Bar in 2001.

DIVORCE/CUSTODY/EQUITABLE DIVISION OF PROPERTY: I have represented mothers and fathers in divorce cases based on both fault and no-fault grounds. Many of the divorce cases I have handled included issues of custody of minor children, and virtually all of them had issues of the equitable division of property. I have handled divorces in which the parties earned minimum wage (or even imputed minimum wage) and had few assets to divide as well as cases in which the parties had substantial assets, including real property, second homes, and retirement or investment accounts. I believe my background in handling real estate transactions prepared me to understand complex property issues (including notes, mortgages, liens and title issues) and helped me represent my clients in these matters. I have also served as a certified family court mediator in divorce cases, often focusing on the issues of equitable division, custody, child support, and visitation. I have served many times as a guardian ad litem in private custody cases. In custody cases, I have had experience with the use of custodial evaluations, psychological evaluations, and expert medical testimony to assist the trier of fact in making determinations of custody.

ADOPTION/TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS: I have handled termination of parental rights actions (both private actions and SCDSS actions), private adoptions (including domestication of foreign adoptions) and numerous abuse and neglect cases (representing SCDSS and representing indigent parents). I have represented parents in seeking to terminate the parental rights of another parent and have defended parents in TPR actions. In fact, I was recently appointed to represent an indigent parent in a TPR case and was successful in having that action dismissed. I have represented adopting parents and was able to domesticate two foreign adoptions over the years.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT: As a former staff attorney for SCDSS, I am knowledgeable in all aspects of abuse and neglect cases. In that capacity, I appeared almost weekly in Family Court for approximately three years. I routinely handled cases of physical neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, and tried numerous contested cases, some of which involved the issue of whether to place a Defendant's name on the Central Registry of Abuse and Neglect. As a DSS attorney, I would

prepare a docket that could include anywhere from five to fifteen cases to be handled in one day. On occasion, I would handle a full docket in Colleton County from 9:30 a.m. until noon, then I would drive to Hampton to handle a full docket at 2:00 p.m. The experience of remembering the different facts in each case and clearly communicating to the presiding Judge the summary of the case as well as the parties and issues involved in an organized, understandable manner was good practice for the rigors of the Family Court bench, where judges are expected to assess and evaluate multiple cases in an expedient manner on a daily basis. I have tried cases of alleged sexual abuse and/or physical abuse, some of which took multiple days and involved witnesses that included law enforcement officers, doctors, SLED forensic experts, forensic interviewers, and psychologists. In those cases, I have had contested motions hearings to admit hearsay testimony under South Carolina Code section 19-1-180. I have qualified witnesses as experts and have cross-examined experts.

Prior to serving as attorney for SCDSS, I represented the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem program for Barnwell and Bamberg Counties. In that capacity, I represented volunteer guardians ad litem in abuse and neglect cases and advocated for the best interests of the children involved.

In the last three years since I opened my own practice, I regularly appear in Family Court in both private cases and DSS cases. I usually appear in court for multiple hearings at least three weeks each month. On days when I appear in DSS court, I often handle multiple hearings in one day.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: This is the only area in Family Court in which I do not have significant experience. In the Second Circuit, most of our cases are handled by the Public Defender's office. However, I plan to make arrangements to meet with the attorneys who handle these cases for the Solicitor's office and the Public Defender's office to discuss the procedure, and I also plan to sit in on several terms of court to observe these cases. I will also carefully review and study the applicable statutes and case law. However, I have handled cases for DSS in which the subject children have companion cases with DJJ, and have reviewed the evaluation reports and other records from DJJ facilities in connection with these matters. Because of this overlap in cases, I do have some familiarity with the juvenile justice process, despite not practicing in this area.

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

I am not a member of any legal rating organization and have not requested any such rating.

* **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: I have not appeared in Federal Court in the past five years.

(b) state: I appear regularly in Family Court several times per month, often having court at least three weeks each month. On days when I appear in DSS court, I will handle multiple hearings per day.

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: 6%

(b) criminal: 3%

(c) domestic: 72%

(d) other: 19%

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: I have not had any jury trials in the past five years. Less than ten percent of my current cases are in circuit court or magistrate court.
 - (b) non-jury: Over 70% of my practice involves family court hearings and trials.

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) Patricia Fickling v. City of Charleston, 372 S.C. 597, 643 S.E.2d 110 (S.C. Ct.App. 2007). In this case, co-counsel and I represented the appellant, Ms. Fickling, who was injured when she fell in a hole in a sidewalk in Charleston. The trial court ruled on directed verdict that the sidewalk was owned by the State so the City of Charleston had no duty to inspect or maintain the sidewalk. Further, the trial court found the City had no actual or constructive notice of the defect. However, the Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case to the trial court because Fickling had presented evidence that (1) the City of Charleston exercised some control over sidewalks within the City (even those not owned by the City); (2) the City had voluntarily undertaken to field complaints about sidewalks and to repair them; (3) and that the hole had been there for some length of time prior to her fall. Because this evidence was presented, the Court found the trial court erred in granting a directed verdict and remanded the case. This case recognized that even though the City did not own the sidewalk where Fickling was injured, the City could be held liable under the common law or a theory of a voluntary undertaking.

(b) SCDSS v. Sheree W. et al. 2012-UP-164.
In this case, I represented SCDSS in a contested removal hearing, and the Defendant appealed the order of removal. This case is significant because it involved multiple witnesses including law enforcement, paramedics, forensic experts from SLED, and medical doctors. In this case we dealt with issues concerning the chain of custody when introducing evidence, whether SCDSS could forgo reasonable efforts to reunify the family, and the qualification of expert witnesses.

(c) SCDSS v. Jane Doe, et al., Case Number: REDACTED, available upon request.

I recently defended a parent in a contested removal hearing in an abuse and neglect action brought by the South Carolina Department of Social Services. In this case, SCDSS was seeking to forgo reasonable efforts to reunify the family based upon the parent's mental deficiency. In a lengthy trial, I cross-examined the psychologist who performed the psychological evaluation and was able to show the testing was not appropriate for the Defendant because of the parent's I.Q. level, and DSS failed to show the Defendant had a diagnosable mental deficiency that prevented the parent from caring for the child. The court recognized that DSS must offer to the Defendant services that were appropriate for her disabilities.

- (d) SCDSS v. Jane Doe, John Doe, et al., Case Number: REDACTED, available upon request.

In this case, I defended a grandparent who was accused of sexually abusing the grandchildren. SCDSS was seeking a finding of sexual abuse and to enter the Defendant on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect. This case involved an extensive, contested hearing on SCDSS's motion to introduce hearsay testimony under South Carolina Code section 19-1-180. The subsequent trial lasted three days and involved testimony from a forensic interviewer, an expert in child abuse assessment and treatment, a law enforcement officer, a counselor, DSS caseworker, foster parents, and service providers. I extensively researched the law concerning forensic interviews, which has developed significant changes recently, and those changes were important in the testimony and cross-examination of forensic interviewers in this case.

- (e) N.L. v. A.L., Case Number: REDACTED, available upon request.

I represented a father in a private case where the mother brought an action for custody. In that case, the toddler had suffered a broken leg and a skull fracture on two separate occasions within about a month's time, both of which occurred in mother's care. Mother alleged the skull fracture occurred while the child was with father. I deposed the doctor who treated the child and was able to narrow the time frame to show that the child's injury could not have happened in the care of the father. In that case, we also obtained a custodial evaluation, which involved psychological evaluations for each parent. The use of experts in this case allowed us to retain custody, supervise visitation for the other party, and ensure the safety of the minor child.

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) Patricia Fickling v. City of Charleston, Court of Appeals, March 12, 2007. Fickling v. City of Charleston, 372 S.C. 597 (2007); 643 S.E. 2d 110 (S.C. Ct.App. 2007). I represented Ms. Fickling as co-counsel.
- (b) Atkins v. Horace Mann Insurance Company, Court of Appeals, February 21, 2008. Atkins v. Horace Mann Ins. Co., 376 S.C. 625, 658 S.E.2d 106 (S.C. Ct.App. 2008). I represented Mr. Atkins as co-counsel.

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.

I have not handled any criminal appeals.

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.

I have never held judicial office.

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.

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.
I have never held a public office.

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.
I have never been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office.

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.

I served as the Executive Director for the Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce from January of 2016 until February of 2017 while also managing my own law practice. In that capacity, I was responsible for organizing networking events for members, recruiting new members, planning and handling fundraisers, presenting monthly reports to the Board of Directors, and various other duties as needed. I visited our member businesses, organized the Annual Meeting, helped members publicize their events, and responded to other requests from members as needed.

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.
I own and operate my own law practice, which involves managing client files, appearing in court, handling the operating and trust accounts, etc. I am not involved in the management of any other business enterprise, but I currently serve on the Board of the Barnwell County Public Library as vice-president.

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

I believe I am qualified to serve as Family Court Judge. I believe I possess the requisite knowledge, experience, and understanding of the law. I read closely, think critically, and have excellent writing skills. I am able to draft compelling briefs and orders. I am knowledgeable regarding the Rules of Evidence, and I communicate well. I maintain high professional standards and am courteous and respectful to clients, opposing counsel, and litigants. I understand that people who enter the Family Court are often at their most

vulnerable, and they are litigating issues of utmost importance. They deserve our patience as we deal with these issues.

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.

I currently rent office space from a lawyer in Barnwell who was also my former employer from 2001 until 2008. If this attorney appeared before me in a domestic case, I would disclose to all parties this former association and allow them the opportunity to request recusal. If the parties requested recusal, I would recuse myself. If this attorney appeared before me for an approval of an agreement and both parties were represented by counsel and wanted to proceed, I would most likely proceed with the approval of an agreement. I most likely would not hear a contested trial involving this attorney if the parties had any concerns whatsoever.

My mother and father in-law have rental apartments in Bamberg County. I do not have any interest in their real estate holdings and do not derive any income from them. I do not believe there would be a conflict of interest if any of their tenants appeared in my court, but if a conflict of interest were to arise, I would allow the parties the opportunity to litigate the matter before another Judge.

I am not aware of any other business or financial arrangement which could present a conflict of interest in the Family Court setting. I would attempt to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest in all cases.

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 tax liens have been filed against me. I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy.
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.
I have recently been named as a Defendant in a lawsuit in Federal Court arising from my former service on the Board of Barnwell County First Steps. (Ethel T. Faust v. Barnwell County First Steps To School Readiness Partnership, A South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation d/b/a Barnwell County First Steps, et al., Case Number 1:17-cv-00926-JMC-SVH, filed April 11, 2017.) A former employee has filed a lawsuit alleging racial discrimination in connection with the termination of her employment. Although any involvement I had with the employee was pursuant to my service as a volunteer Board Member, the plaintiff filed suit against the Board and two of its members individually, including myself. A motion to dismiss has been filed on my behalf for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
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.
I have never been investigated by the Department of Social Services and have never been entered on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect.
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 am covered by malpractice insurance. I have carried my own malpractice insurance coverage since August 18, 2014. The coverage limits of my policy are \$500,000.00 and my deductible is \$2,500.00. When I was in private practice from 2001 until 2008, I was covered by the firm's insurance policy. I have not 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 currently on Facebook. If elected, I would take steps to limit friends on my Facebook account to eliminate the potential for conflicts of interest. I am not on LinkedIn or Twitter.
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.
I have never been employed as a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal.
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.
I have not accepted anything of value from any lobbyist or lobbyist's principal.
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.

I have not requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly for the election to this position, directly or indirectly. I have not been offered any conditional pledge of support. I have not received any assurances of any public officials or employees that they will seek any pledge for me or on my behalf.

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.
I have not asked anyone to campaign for me at this time. The only actions I have taken are to request letters of recommendation required for the application.
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, I am familiar with the 48-hour rule.
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 one on my behalf has solicited or collected funds to aid in promoting my candidacy.
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.
I have not contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, and no one has done so on my behalf.
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, 2001-present
 - (b) Barnwell County Bar Association
 - (c) Former member, South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association
 - (d) Former member, South Carolina Women's Lawyers 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) Rotary Club of Barnwell County
- (b) Barnwell County Library Board, Vice-President
- (c) First Baptist Church of Denmark, South Carolina
- (d) Barnwell County First Steps Board (former member)
- (e) Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce, former Executive Director, current member

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 grew up in Barnwell County, South Carolina. My father was a self-employed mechanic, and my mother worked as a lab technician at the Savannah River Site. I have two younger sisters. My parents worked hard and expected the best from me. They encouraged good grades in school and celebrated my academic accomplishments. My father worked long hours building his business, and my mother worked shift work. As a result, I learned to be independent, diligent, and responsible. I was the first person in my immediate family to attend college. I graduated from Furman University in Greenville, and I went on to law school at the University of South Carolina. After graduating from law school, I returned to my hometown to practice law. Practicing in a small town has its unique opportunities and challenges. I work with people who have substantial resources and assets as well as those who make minimum wage and struggle to make ends meet. I work among my family and friends, and I enjoy being able to help people with their problems. I recognize the challenges our litigants face in a rural area like Barnwell, where access to drug treatment services and mental health services are limited. Within the course of a day, I might negotiate a contract worth hundreds of thousands of dollars for a local business person and then assist an indigent defendant with his Family Court case. I strive to treat each person I meet with dignity and respect, and I aim to bring that empathy and respect to the Family Court bench. Litigants in Family Court are struggling through the most difficult circumstances in their lives. They are under great stress and are often worried about their children and their assets. Children are displaced from their homes, and they endure significant changes that affect them greatly. It is important to ensure the best interests of children are protected, that spouses can present their claims and be heard, and that assets are divided fairly so that people can leave the court with confidence in our judicial system, even if they are not happy with the result. A Family Court judge should be mindful of the due process rights of litigants as well as the needs and best interests of the children whose lives are being decided in the courtroom.

Managing my own law practice requires discipline, diligence, time-management skills, and hard work. I believe these qualities are strengths I can bring to the Family Court Bench. I also believe that because of my years of handling divorce and custody cases and my work as a staff attorney for SCDSS handling abuse and neglect cases, I have experience

in almost all areas of Family Court which prepares me for the position. In the area of juvenile justice, I plan to study and work with our local practitioners in that area to gain the knowledge necessary to handle those issues prior to serving on the bench, if elected.

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) Pauline Smith, banker
 - (b) E. T. Moore, Jr., attorney
 - (c) Pete Kulmala, attorney
 - (d) Jessica Brillhante, attorney
 - (e) Michael C. Tanner, attorney

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.

I am not aware of any interest in real property which would present a conflict of interest in serving as Family Court Judge, and I am not aware of any real property interest held by a member of my immediate family that meets these requirements.

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.

N/A

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: _____