

STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

**CANDIDATES FOR THE
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
EDITED PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

NOTICE: The information requested herein is needed to assist the Committee in its investigation of candidates for the Public Service Commission. This questionnaire is the initial step in the investigation of your candidacy. A completed questionnaire should be returned to the Committee as soon as possible, but in any event no later than noon, 12:00 p.m., on Monday, March 26, 2018. (Use and attach separate sheets, if necessary.)

PLEASE SPECIFY THE SEAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING (THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE): Sixth

1. Full Name: Mr.
Ms. **Florence Plowden Belser**

Home Address: **20 N Dukes St
Summerton, SC 29148**

Business Address: **South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201**

6. List each institution of higher learning you attended, including dates of attendance and degrees awarded. Please provide an official transcript prior to your screening hearing. If you left any institution without receiving a degree, state the reason for leaving.

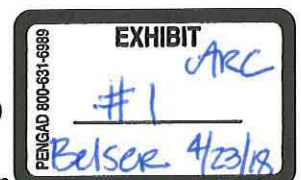
**University of South Carolina, School of Law – August 1984 to May 1987 –
Degree: Juris Doctor**

College of Charleston – August 1979 to May 1983 – Degree: Bachelor of Science

College of Charleston – August 1983 to December 1983 (completed student teaching)

7. List any continuing education courses or other professional education or training programs that you have attended in the past five years.

2/2/2018 SCAARLA 2018 Annual Administrative Law
10/31/2017 Ethics and Administrative Law (ORS and PSC annual class)
9/15/2017 Ethics CLE for USC School of Law Fall 2017 Reunions
9/15/2017 Attorneys for the Governor and the State Ethics Commission
8/18/2017 Information Privacy



11/18/2016	Freedom of Information Act
10/21/2016	Appellate Advocacy
10/14/2016	Ethics and Administrative Law (ORS and PSC annual class)
8/19/2016	Working with Victims
2/19/2016	SCAARLA 2016 Annual Administrative Law
10/16/2015	SC Public Employee Benefit Authority: Serving Those Who Serve SC
10/2/2015	ORS Ethics & Administrative Law (ORS annual class)
9/18/2015	Protecting Consumers in South Carolina
7/17/2015	Fundamentals of Persuasion in Written Advocacy
6/19/2015	ORS 2015 Legal Retreat/CLE
4/22/2015	The New Coal Ash Regulations
9/19/2014	Workplace Issues & Privacy Seminar
9/12/2014	ORS Ethics & Administrative Law (ORS annual class)
8/22/2014	Natural Resources & Environmental Law
7/28/2014	Regulatory Compliance Option re Section 111(d)
7/23/2014	111(d): Nest Steps for States
3/25/2014	Nit, Grit, and Wit: Tales and Talk on Ethics, Substance Abuse and Mental Health in the Legal Profession
10/4/2013	ORS Ethics & Administrative Law (ORS annual class)
7/8/2013	SNL Knowledge Center Training – Principles of Power Valuation
6/25/2013	Cost Allocation – Topics and Issues
5/28/2013	Fundamentals of Gas and Electric Utility Rates
3/15/2013	ORS 2013 Legal Retreat/CLE

8. Have you been employed or held any position in any of the following areas?

- (a) energy issues
- (b) telecommunications issues
- (c) consumer protection and advocacy issues
- (d) water and wastewater issues
- (e) finance, economics, and statistics
- (f) accounting
- (g) engineering
- (h) law

Please provide the duration of your employment or service and details about the nature of the work or the position.

In March 1993, I started work with the Public Service Commission as a staff attorney. In 1999, I was named Deputy General Counsel and in 2003 was named Executive Assistant to the Commission. During my tenure with the Public Service Commission, I represented the Commission Staff in cases before the Commission and drafted pleadings, briefs, and proposed orders. I also advised the Commission as a body and Commissioners individually on matters of law and issues arising on proceeding involving jurisdictional utilities.

In October 2004 I joined the Office of Regulatory Staff as General Counsel. In this capacity, I advise agency management on legal matters related to the agency's jurisdiction and operations; work on procurement matters and contracts; represent the agency in proceedings before the Public Service Commission and courts; draft pleadings, briefs, proposed orders, and legal documents; and provide legal advice to the ORS staff members.

During my tenures with the Public Service Commission and with the Office of Regulatory Staff, I have worked on cases and matters involving regulated public utilities in South Carolina. The cases and issues have concerned all of the regulated utility industries, including electric utilities, natural gas utilities, water and wastewater utilities, telecommunications utilities, and motor carriers. As an attorney representing first the Commission Staff and more recently the Office of Regulatory Staff, I have worked with issues and responded to matters involving accounting, finance, economics, and to some degree engineering.

9. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates of service, branch of service, highest rank, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release.

No

10. Have you ever held public office? If so, provide details, including the office, whether elected or appointed, the length and dates of your service. Also, state whether or not you timely filed reports with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty. If so, provide details, including dates.

No

11. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, provide details, including dates.

No

12. Please list in chronological order any employment of you by any governmental agency (whether full time or part time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise). Provide dates of employment, name of employer, name of supervisor, and major job responsibilities.

**October 2004 to Present -- General Counsel, SC Office of Regulatory Staff
Columbia, SC (Supervisor: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire)**

Job duties include

- **advising agency on legal issues related to administrative law, state government, ethics, contracts, property, state procurement, and employment law;**
- **representing agency in proceedings before all courts in South Carolina, state agencies, federal courts, and federal agencies;**
- **assisting in developing agency's position in administrative matters before state and federal agencies;**
- **drafting pleadings, briefs, and orders; researching and monitoring legislation at**

the federal and state levels;

- assisting with planning and implementing agency's required annual Ethics/Administrative Procedures Act training, including setting curriculum/agenda, speakers and teaching.

January 2003 to October 2004 – Executive Assistant, Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (Supervisor: Chairman, Randy Mitchell)

Job duties included

- advising Commissioners on issues related to pending cases;
- assisting Commissioners in developing positions in cases by reviewing the record and law in the proceeding and in drafting motions concerning those positions;
- drafting orders memorializing Commission decisions;
- assisting with setting agenda for weekly Commission meeting;
- advising Chairman or presiding officer at hearings on procedures, points of law, or rulings;
- tracking and analyzing legislation affecting the Commission.

October 1999 to January 2003 -- Deputy General Counsel and March 1993 to October 1999 -- Staff Attorney -- Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (supervisor: F. David Butler, General Counsel)

Job duties included

- representing the Commission at all levels of the judicial system;
- drafting orders, memoranda, pleadings and briefs;
- providing legal advice to Commissioners and to staff members.

July 1991 to March 1993 -- Assistant Solicitor, Third Judicial Circuit, Sumter, SC (Supervisor: Wade S. Kolb, Solicitor)

Duties included

- prosecuting criminal cases in General Sessions Court;
- preparing criminal cases for trial or other disposition;
- interpreting state statutes and state and federal case law to advise law enforcement

March 1988 to June 1990 -- Judicial Law Clerk for Honorable James "Mac" Morris Manning, SC

Duties included

- legal research and writing memoranda and orders;
- reviewing pleadings and documents;
- assisting with docket control and monitored cases for compliance with time frames set by Court Administration

13. Please list in chronological order any occupation, business, or profession in which you have been engaged or employed (other than serving in a public office or being employed by a governmental agency). Please briefly note the nature of your work during each period.

July 1990 – July 1991 -- Associate with John E. Miles, Esquire, Sumter, SC

Duties included

- legal research and writing;
- drafting pleadings and legal documents;
- preparing for and assisting with trials;
- interviewing clients

November 1987 – February 1988 -- Long term substitute teacher, Clarendon Hall, Summerton, SC

Taught 7th grade English, geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II and 6th grade English, spelling, reading, and Bible

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

No

15. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships that you currently have or have had in the past that could pose a conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any financial arrangements or business relationships which could pose a conflict of interest with serving as a Commissioner on the South Carolina Public Service Commission. However, if confronted with a conflict of interest, I would disclose the conflict to the Commission and to the parties and would recuse myself from the matter under consideration.

22. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(14)? If so, please provide the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No

23. Since your decision to seek a position on the Public Service Commission, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value, as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(1), from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal? If so, please specify the item(s) received, date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal providing the item(s).

No

27. Please list the amount and recipient of all contributions made to members of the General Assembly within six months of filing this questionnaire.

None

28. Have you directly or indirectly requested a pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened?

No to both parts of this question.

29. Have you or has anyone on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy for the position of Public Service Commissioner? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor (if applicable), donor, and date of solicitation and/or receipt.

No

30. List all professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.

Member of the South Carolina Bar Association

31. List all civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five (5) years.

- **St. Matthias Anglican Church, Summerton, SC**
- **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 35, Summerton, SC**
- **Director - American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State, Columbia, SC**
- **Trustee - Clarendon Hall Land Trust, Summerton, SC**
- **Life Member - College of Charleston Alumni Association, Charleston, SC**

32. State any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on you, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for a position on the Public Service Commission.

I believe that the knowledge and experience gained in my twenty-five years of working on cases and issues within the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission provide a strong background to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Service Commission. I am familiar with the ethical rules imposed on the Commissioners and employees of the Public Service Commission and will conform my conduct to those rules. It is my desire to serve the State of South Carolina, and I will do my best to ensure that decisions are upon the facts of the case and applicable law.

33. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom references could be required. Also, provide this Committee with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature. A photocopy, facsimile, or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation will not be accepted.

- 1) **Thomas W. Cooper, Jr. - Manning, SC**
- 2) **Banker Letter**
- 3) **Elizabeth T. Ducworth - Summerton, SC**
- 4) **Edna R. Rowe - Summerton, SC**
- 5) **Hon. Molly M. Spearman - Columbia, SC**

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

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

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE NOTE: S.C. CODE SECTIONS REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT ARE ATTACHED