

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

Sen. Luke A. Rankin, Chairman
Rep. Micajah P. "Micah" Caskey IV, Vice-Chairman
Sen. George E. "Chip" Campsen III
Sen. Overture Walker
Rep. Wm. Weston J. Newton
Rep. Leonidas E. "Leon" Stavrinakis
Mary Agnes "Molly" Hood Craig
Lanneau Wm. Lambert Jr.
John T. Lay
Peter D. Protopapas
Christian Stegmaier
The Honorable Joseph Monroe Strickland



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MEDIA RELEASE

September 17, 2026

The Public Hearings for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission have been scheduled to begin Monday, November 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for the judicial positions listed below that were newly created as per Act 154 of 2026:

Circuit Court

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 6

Derek A. Shoemake, Elgin, SC

10th Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

John P. Griffith, Anderson, SC

The Honorable Andrew K. Holliday, Salem, SC

Ashley A. McMahan, Columbia, SC

The Honorable Lindsey Satterfield Simmons, Seneca, SC

Blair L. Stoudemire, Walhalla, SC

Persons desiring to testify at public hearings shall furnish written notarized statements of proposed testimony, in accordance with the Procedural Rules of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. These statements must be received by **Noon, Monday, November 2, 2026**. The Commission has witness affidavit forms that must be used for proposed testimony. Statements should be mailed or delivered to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows:

Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel
104 Gressette Building
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

All testimony, including documents furnished to the Commission, must be submitted under oath, and failure to appear will result in a dismissal of the related complaint. Persons knowingly giving false information, either orally or in writing, shall be subject to penalty.

For further information about the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and the judicial screening process, the website is available at:

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/JudicialMeritPage/JMSCMainPage.php>

Questions concerning the hearing and procedures should be directed to the Commission at (803) 212-6623.