

Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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MEDIA RELEASE

November 15, 2018

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission found the following judicial candidates qualified and nominated at the public hearings held November 12–November 15, 2018:

Court of Appeals

Seat 1

Blake A. Hewitt, Conway, SC
The Honorable Alison Renee Lee, Columbia, SC
The Honorable Jerry Deese Vinson Jr., Florence, SC

Seat 3

The Honorable John D. Geathers, Ridgeway, SC

Seat 4

The Honorable Paula H. Thomas, Pawleys Island, SC

Circuit Court

5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 **The Honorable DeAndrea Gist Benjamin**, Columbia, SC

7th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 **The Honorable Joseph Derham Cole**, Spartanburg, SC

9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 **The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson**, Charleston, SC

9th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2 **Meredith L. Coker**, Charleston, SC
The Honorable Bentley Douglas Price, Charleston, SC
The Honorable Dale E. Van Slambrook, Goose Creek, SC

10th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 **The Honorable Rivers Lawton McIntosh**, Williamston, SC

At-Large, Seat 2

Ryan Kirk Griffin, Sumter, SC
John Patrick (Jack) Riordan, Greenville, SC

At-Large, Seat 14 **The Honorable R. Keith Kelly**, Spartanburg, SC

At-Large, Seat 15 **The Honorable Maite Murphy**, North Charleston, SC

At-Large, Seat 16 **The Honorable Donald Bruce Hocker**, Laurens, SC

Public hearings for the remaining judicial positions will resume on Monday, November 19, 2018, and continue through Thursday, November 29, 2018.

As a reminder, the record remains open until the final report is issued at 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Accordingly, judicial candidates are not free to seek or accept commitments until that time.

The election is currently scheduled for Noon on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

Correspondence and questions should be directed to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows: Erin B. Crawford, Chief Counsel, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, (803) 212-6689 or Lindi Putnam, JMSC Administrative Assistant, (803) 212-6623.