



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
2020**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit,  
Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. Jonathan W. Lounsberry

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): N/A

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.  
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)

No.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: The Stevens Firm, P.A., 349 East Main Street, Suite 200, Spartanburg,  
SC 29302

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (864) 598-9172  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1980  
Place of Birth: Greenville, SC  
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#: [REDACTED]  
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. 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.

6. Family Status:

- (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 and occupation.
- I If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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 June 28, 2008, to Liza Juliet Lounsberry (Malone), RN with SC Department of Mental Health at Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center.

Never divorced, two children.



- 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) Wheaton College (1999-2001); No degree received; Left due to injury that prevented me from continuing to play on the Men's Varsity Soccer team.
  - (b) University of South Carolina (2003-2006); B.A., Philosophy; B.A., Political Science; Minor in Environmental Studies
  - (c) Charleston School of Law (2006-2009); J.D.
- 8. 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) Moot Court Board (2007-2009) (Competitor, John J. Gibbons Moot Court Competition, Seaton Hall, 2009)
  - (b) Student Bar Association Honor Council Member (2008-2009)
  - (c) MALABU: Maritime Law Bulletin (2007-2009)
  - (d) Phi Delta Phi (2007-2009) (Magister 2007-2008 and Clerk 2008-2009)
- 9. 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. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina (2009) (I took the South Carolina bar exam one time)

10. 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 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) Curphey & Badger, P.A. (Contract Attorney/Associate) (2009-2010): The general character of my practice was conducting real estate closings throughout the State of South Carolina. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.
  - (b) Hire Counsel (Contract Document Review Attorney) (2010): The general character of my practice was working on two document review projects for Nelson Mullins in Columbia, South Carolina between July 2010 and December 2010. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.
  - (c) Carolina Legal Associates (Contract Document Review Attorney) (2011): The general character of my practice was working on a document review project for Motley Rice Charleston, South Carolina in January 2011. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.
  - (d) McLaren & Lee (Contract Attorney/Associate) (2011-2013): The general character of my practice was assisting James T. McLaren and C. Dixon Lee, III, in litigating complex Family Court matters, including divorce, child custody, equitable division of property, multi-jurisdictional issues, 1980 Hague Convention matters, international family law issues, and the like. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.
  - (e) Melissa F. Brown, LLC (Associate Attorney) (2014): The general character of my practice was assisting Melissa F. Brown in litigating complex Family Court matters, including divorce, child custody, equitable division, multi-jurisdictional issues, and the like, as well as litigating my own Family Court matters. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.
  - (f) The Stevens Firm, P.A. (Senior Associate Attorney) (2015-present): The general character of my practice is assisting J. Benjamin Stevens in litigating and trying complex Family Court matters, divorce, child custody, equitable division of property, multi-jurisdictional issues, 1980 Hague Convention matters, 2007 Hague Convention matters, international family law issues and the like, as well as litigating my own Family Court matters. I am not involved in the administrative and financial management of the firm.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience *prior to serving on the bench.***

11. Please answer the following:

- (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) Divorce: I have acted as lead counsel and associate and/or co-counsel in matters involving divorce, as a single issue and as part of matters that involve alimony, child support, child custody, visitation, and equitable division of property. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in divorce actions involving statutory fault grounds, such as adultery, physical cruelty, and habitual drunkenness. I have not represented any litigants in a divorce action involving the statutory fault ground of desertion, but I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in actions involving a divorce being granted on the statutory ground of one-year's continuous separation. In the prosecuting and defending divorce actions, I am familiar with gathering requisite evidence to meet the various burdens of proof and with working with requisite experts necessary for the same.

My representation of litigants in divorce actions has included litigants who have been involved in both short-term and long-term marriages. I have regularly appeared before a Family Court judge on this issue in the past five years.

- (b) Equitable Division of Property: I have acted lead counsel and associate and/or co-counsel in matters involving equitable division of property. My experience with equitable division of property spans from the division of small marital estates to multi-million-dollar marital estates. In each of these instances I have dealt with the identification and valuation of various assets, including, but not limited to, real estate, closely held corporations, complex corporate structures, retirement accounts, pension plans, military retirement, stocks, professional practices, personal property, foreign property, and the like. In identifying and valuing these assets, I am also familiar with employing the services of various experts (e.g., forensic CPAs, appraisers, etc.), as well as reviewing both personal and business tax returns.

I have also acted as lead counsel and associate and/or co-counsel in matters involving non-marital property, including, but not limited, real estate, personal property, and the like. In dealing with the issue of non-marital property, I have experience in identifying such assets, determining whether the assets have transmuted into marital property or whether a party has a special equity interest in that property. I also have experience in dealing with actions where one or both parties are the trustee and/or beneficiary of trusts.

I have regularly appeared before a Family Court judge on these issues in the past five years.

- (c) Child Custody: I have acted as lead counsel and associate and/or co-counsel in matters involving child custody for parents (both male and female, married and unmarried) in child custody actions, including determinations of biological and legal paternity. I have also represented third parties seeking custody of children, including the complicated issues of psychological parents and de facto parents. My experience includes initial actions for child custody and modification actions of prior orders. I have dealt with child custody issues involving healthy children, children with special needs, and children ranging in ages from infancy to teenagers close to the age of emancipation. I have also prosecuted and defended litigants in matters involving the termination of parental rights.

I have experience in dealing with multijurisdictional issues under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act, including determining which State would have jurisdiction over the ensuing matter and the registration and enforcement and/or modification of foreign child custody orders.

I also have experience in litigating several 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction matters in both State and Federal Court.

Throughout the various types of matters discussed above, I have had to confront and address claims of physical abuse, neglect, parental alienation, parental gatekeeping, psychological parent, de facto custodians, and various jurisdictional issues. In doing so, I have worked with professionals (e.g., physicians, therapists, and teachers) and expert witnesses (e.g., psychological and forensic custody evaluators, counselors, etc.) in connection with these issues. I have also had to cross-examine expert witnesses regarding the above-referenced issues.

I have regularly appeared before a Family Court judge on these issues in the past five years.

- (d) Adoption: I have both a professional (as lead counsel and associate and/or co-counsel) and personal experience with adoption actions, which I believe gives a unique perspective on the issues involved from the perspective of a lawyer, as well as a litigant. These actions have involved both blood-relative/stepparent adoptions, as well as private adoptions. These matters have been both uncontested and contested, one of which was a trial that involved a termination of parental rights that lasted for five days (see below). I have also taken consents for several private adoptions as well.

I have appeared before a Family Court judge on several occasions regarding these issues in the past five years.

(e) Abuse and Neglect: I have not served as counsel of record in any abuse and neglect matters. However, I have gained some knowledge and experience in this area through my work in private cases where the parties have made allegations warranting the involvement of DSS. In 2014, I acted as the Principal Editor for the SC Children's Law Manual, which covers the statutes and procedures involved in abuse and neglect cases. However, as this area has not been a large part of my practice, I would further educate myself in this area by reviewing relevant statutes, regulations and procedures; attending CLEs; meeting with DSS staff and observing DSS proceedings; and seeking the advice of other Family Court judges experienced in this area.

(f) Juvenile Justice: I served as sole counsel of record in several Juvenile Justice matters, where I was appointed under Rule 608, SCACR. These matters ranged from issues of simple assault to criminal sexual conduct. In representing these clients, I have been successful in utilizing discovery requests and motions to either reduce the number of charges or have the matter dismissed entirely. After being appointed my first juvenile justice matter, I worked with the SC Bar to develop a distance learning CLE regarding the representation of a juvenile client in an appointed matter as there were very few resources available regarding the same. While it has not been a large part of my practice, I would further educate myself in this area by reviewing relevant statutes, regulations and procedures; attending CLEs; meeting with DJJ staff and observing DJJ proceedings; and seeking the advice of other Family Court judges experienced 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, and 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

I 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

12. 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: 1% – My appearances in federal court have been limited to the litigation of 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction matters.  
(b) state: 99% – I have regularly appeared in Family Court in the past five years regarding matters of divorce, child custody, visitation, support, and other related issues.

13. 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: N/A  
(b) criminal: N/A  
I domestic: 100%  
(d) other: N/A

14. 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: N/A  
(b) non-jury: 100%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?

During the past five years, I have carried a roster of clients where I served as sole counsel. During the past five years, I have also served as associate and/or co-counsel on various matters.

15. 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.

In effort to comply with Rule 1.6, RPC, Rule 407, SCACR, and existing court orders, the names of the parties have been reduced to initials or fictitious names. To the extent that I am able, I am happy to provide additional information, if such information is requested.

(a) State v. O., A Minor Under the Age of Seventeen, Case No.: 2012-JU-18-09, 2012-JU-18-10, and 2012-18-JU-374 (Family Court, First Judicial Circuit, Dorchester County): I was appointed to represent a minor in a pending juvenile delinquency matter. My client was charged with criminal sexual conduct with a minor, lewd act on a minor, and assault and batter in the second degree. I was successful in having the charge for a lewd act on minor nol prossed, as my client did meet the statutory age requirement for that charge. There was a motion hearing to deal with evidentiary issues (e.g., whether there should be a separate hearing to suppress certain evidence and requiring DSS to provide its file on their investigation into the matter) and two adjudicatory hearings. This matter also involved my client submitting to a psycho-sexual evaluation. After the evaluation, the Solicitor and I structure a plea where my client would plead to assault and battery in the second degree and the criminal sexual conduct was nol prossed. The plea was conditioned such that if my client completed certain requirements, he would not be required to register as a sexual offender.

(b) A. v. S., 2015-DR-42-2977 (Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Spartanburg County): I represented the defendant in this matter, which was an action instituted by a third-party seeking custody of a minor child from the biological father. Prior to retaining me as his attorney in July 2016, my client was represented by two other attorneys.

Prior to the action being filed the child's mother committed suicide while living in South Carolina. The defendant was able to obtain custody of the minor child following the mother's death, which resulted in the child's maternal grandfather first filing an action in Florida and then filing an action in South Carolina. A Temporary Hearing was held, and the Court granted the minor child's maternal grandfather temporary custody and granted the defendant limited visitation, as well as appointing a guardian ad litem.

The matter was heavily litigated, with both parties propounding discovery. In July 2016, I was hired as co-counsel after the litigation began to assist with mediation and, if necessary, the trial on the merits. The parties were unable to reach a settlement during mediation, and a Pre-Trial hearing was requested.

I made my Notice of Appearance in August 2016. At the Pre-Trial hearing, the plaintiff requested the ability to take video-taped de bene esse depositions of the majority of his witnesses who resided in Florida. I was successful in arguing that the plaintiff should only be able to take a limited number of de bene esse depositions. Ultimately, the plaintiff was able to take nine videotaped de bene esse depositions (although the plaintiff only took six of these depositions over a period of two days, which were later used during the trial on the merits). Also, as a result of the Pre-Trial Hearing, I became the defendant's sole counsel of record.



Following the taking of the depositions, there were several other motion hearings prior to the trial. From March 20–30, 2017, the matter was tried over a period of nine days, with the appearances of approx. 18 witnesses. The trial of this matter involved complex child custody issues (e.g., psychological parent, de facto custodian, the constitutional right to parent), complex evidentiary issues (e.g., the minor child’s mother was dead and the plaintiff sought the ability to use de bene esse depositions), and complex mental health issues (e.g., the plaintiff hired a nationally renowned mental health expert to conduct a parental fitness evaluation on the child’s maternal grandfather). The court found in favor of my client and also granted him a \$10,000.00 award in attorney’s fees and costs. The matter is currently on appeal, and I am not participating in the appeal.

- (c) B. v. L. et al., Case No.: 2016-DR-42-1006 (Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Spartanburg County): J. Benjamin Stevens and I represented one of the defendants (the biological father) in this matter (the other defendant appeared pro se), which was an action for a termination of parental rights and adoption, or custody in the alternative. An Emergency Hearing was held, and the Court granted the plaintiffs temporary custody, with the defendants having visitation at the discretion of the plaintiffs, as well as appointing a guardian ad litem.

We were hired to represent the biological father following the Emergency Hearing, at which he appeared pro se. The matter was heavily litigated, and there were several motion hearings over the course of the litigation, which, among other issues, concerned the application of certain case law to the matter, as well as whether the matter should have been bifurcated. Prior to the matter being set for trial, the defendant’s father filed a motion to intervene in the action, which was granted.

From October 30, 2017–November 6, 2017, the matter was tried over a period of five days, where I acted as lead counsel for our client. The trial of this matter involved the testimony of one mental health expert and one counseling expert, as well as various other witnesses. The court found in favor of the plaintiffs. The matter is currently on appeal, and I am participating in the appeal.

- (d) T. v. A., Case No.: 8:18-cv-02862-TMC (United States District Court for the District of South Carolina): J. Benjamin Stevens (Fellow, AAML/IAFL), Richard Min (Fellow, IAFL) and I represented the Petitioner as co-lead counsel in a 1980 Hague Convention matter seeking return of her minor child to Ireland (which was their last habitual residence).

The Petitioner is a citizen and resident of France and was married to the Respondent, who is a U.S. citizen in living in Ireland. The parties spent significant time living in both France and Ireland, and the Respondent ultimately filed a divorce action in Ireland. Prior to his filing a divorce action in Ireland, Ms. Torrent returned with the minor children to France.

As a result, the Respondent filed a 1980 Hague Convention in France seeking return on the minor children to Ireland. Following a lengthy trial-court process and appellate-court process, the minor children were ultimately returned to Ireland. Once the children were in Ireland, the Respondent absconded with the

minor children to the United States, hiding in various States, until he was located in South Carolina.

After learning the minor children were in the United States, the Petitioner hired an attorney admitted to practice in New York and France, who associated Mr. Min based on his experience in trying 1980 Hague Convention matters. Mr. Min contacted Mr. Stevens and me, as he had determined that the Respondent was in South Carolina. We filed the appropriate pleadings in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and the matter was tried over one day (December 2018), resulting in the minor children being returned to Ireland. The U.S. District Court also awarded the Petitioner an approximate total of \$67,247.46 in attorney's fees and travel costs.

- (e) R. v. S., Case No.: 2:19-cv-02521-RMG (United States District Court for the District of South Carolina): I represented the Petitioner in a 1980 Hague Convention Matter seeking return of minor child to Germany.

This matter consisted of one pre-trial hearing, the filing of several motions, including Motions to Make a Determination of German Law; Motion for Expedited Consideration and Issuance of Show Cause Order; and Motion for Summary Judgment.

The Court, *sua sponte*, sealed the record in this matter and appointed a Guardian *ad Litem*. The matter was resolved by a 1-day trial (November 2019), where, after the direct and cross-examination of my client, the Respondent settled the matter by agree to return the minor child.

Following Respondent's agreement to return the minor child, she subsequently refused to comply with the U.S. District's Order and obtained German counsel, who advised the U.S. District Court that Respondent did not need to return the minor child to Germany. This resulted in several telephonic hearings following the issuance of the final order; and, as a result, the Court allowed the Petitioner to come to South Carolina and pick-up the minor child.

16. 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) *Burke v. Lusk*, Appellate Case No.: 2018-000377, South Carolina Court of Appeals, (Unpublished Opinion).

(b) I acted as a consultant on *Grano v. Martin*, Case No.: 20-940-cv, which is pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

17. 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.

N/A

18. 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.

N/A

19. If the answer to question 18 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

20. 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, 2009

(b) U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, 2013

(c) United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2018

21. 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.

(a) I am a moderator and course planner at the 2020 SC Bar Program “CLE Essentials: Family Law”;

(b) I was a co-presenter for the 2020 Strafford Webinars “Dividing High Value Items in Divorce”;

(c) I was a panelist for “Trial Technology: Tricks of the Trade” panel at the 2019 American Bar Association Section of Family Law Fall CLE Conference in Austin, Texas;

(d) I was a presenter on the topic of “Rule: What’s Going On?” at the 2019 SC Bar Program Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners;

(e) I was a moderator, course planner, and lecturer at the 2019 SC Bar Program “CLE Essentials: Family Law”;

(f) I was a co-presenter for “Judge, What Do You Want to Hear? Presenting a Bench Trial” presentation at the 2019 American Bar Association Section of Litigation & Section of Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Annual Conference in New York City, New York;

(g) I was a moderator, course planner, and lecturer at the 2018 SC Bar Program “CLE Essentials: Family Law”;

(h) I was a moderator, course planner, and lecturer at the 2017 SC Bar Program “CLE Essentials: Family Law”;

- (i) I assisted with the Legal Eagle Squares Game Show presentation at the 2017 Horry County Family Court CLE seminar;
- (j) I presented on the topic of investigative tools and their uses at the 2017 SC Bar Program “Guardian ad litem Annual Training and Update”;
- (k) I participated in researching and drafting the questions for and assisting with the Hollywood Squares presentation on domestic relations and mental health issues at the 2017 Annual SC Bar Meeting;
- (l) I participated in researching and drafting the questions for and assisting with the Hollywood Squares presentation on domestic relations and procedural and evidentiary issues at the 2016 Annual SC Bar Meeting;
- (m) I lectured at all three of the 2016 SC Bar Program “Bridge the Gap” for new lawyers;
- (n) I presented on the topic of tech tips for trial lawyers at the 2015 SC Association for Justice Annual Meeting;
- (o) I presented on the topics of proper procedure for filing and serving domestic relations actions and the litigation of contempt actions at the 2015 SC Bar Program “CLE Essentials: Family Law”;
- (p) I lectured at all three of the 2015 SC Bar Program “Bridge the Gap” for new lawyers;
- (q) I presented on the topic of courtroom etiquette with the Honorable Dorothy M. Jones as part of the 2014 Professionalism Series at the Charleston School of Law;
- (r) I presented a review of recent SCOTUS rulings that affected family law at the 2014 SC Bar Program “Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners”;
- (s) I lectured at all three of the 2014 SC Bar Program “Bridge the Gap” for new lawyers;
- (t) I was a program co-chair for a presentation on the topic of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and its implementation in Asia for the 2014 ABA Section of International Law Program “International Families: Money, Children, and Long-Term Planning”;
- (u) I was a member of the planning committee for the 2014 ABA Section of International Law Program “International Families: Money, Children, and Long-Term Planning” Program;
- (v) I assisted James T. McLaren with a presentation entitled “How Litigation Apps Can Make You a Better Trial Lawyer” at the 2013 SC Association of Justice Annual Convention;
- (w) I assisted James T. McLaren with a presentation entitled “Using Technology to Present a Complex Equitable Division Case” at the 2013 American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Mid-Year meeting;
- (x) I presented on the topic of marital agreements and whether parties can contract out of the jurisdiction of Family Court for a 2013 SC Bar Distance Learning CLE Program;
- (y) I presented on the topic of being appointed a Juvenile Justice matter for a 2013 SC Bar Distance Learning CLE Program; and

(z) I assisted James T. McLaren with a presentation entitled “Technology for iPads and PC Laptops at Deposition and Trial” at the 2012 American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Annual meeting.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

In addition to the CLE courses listed on the separate attachment and above, I have attended the following institutes, seminars, and conferences, although I did not receive CLE credit for the same:

(a) Institute for Family Law Associates, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (6/20/2013–6/23/2013)

(b) Richardson Patrick Westbrook & Brickman Litigation Seminar (4/24/2014)

(c) Advanced Institute for Family Law Associates, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (6/19/2014–6/22/2014)

(d) Family Law Section, 2016 Annual SC Bar Convention (01/22/2016)

(e) Family Law Section, 2017 Annual SC Bar Convention (01/20/2017)

(f) Horry County Family Court CLE Seminar (02/13/2017)

(g) Family Law Conference, International Academy of Family Lawyers (4/20/2017-4/22/2017)

(h) The Pitfalls of Military Pensions: Congressional Override and the Supreme Court Decision in Howell, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Webinar (7/26/2017)

(i) Obergefell After Two Years: Update on Same-Sex Relationships in 2017, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Webinar (8/16/2017)

(j) Family Law Section, 2018 SC Annual SC Bar Convention (01/19/2018)

(k) Navigating the New Divorce Taxation Minefield: “Trumping” the Alimony Deduction and More! American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2/13/2018)

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

(a) J. Benjamin Stevens and Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Family Law Essentials: A Primer for Private Practice Before the Family Court in SC (SC Bar CLE 2018);

(b) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, The Family Court’s New Uniforms: Amendments to South Carolina’s Uniform Interstate Family Support Act and Adoption of the Uniform Deployed Parent Custody and Visitation Act (SC Lawyer January 2017);

(c) James T. McLaren and Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Division of Assets Held by Third Party Legal Entities in Domestic Relation Cases (International Academy of Family Lawyers Online News, June 2016);

- (d) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Tips for Using Technology Inside and Outside the Courtroom (Family Law Litigation Newsletter, ABA Section of Litigation, March 2016);
  - (e) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Using Technology Inside & Outside the Courtroom: Streamlining the Litigation Process and Enhancing the Impact of Evidence (Family Law Advocate, ABA Section of Family Law, Spring 2015);
  - (f) Kathryn Barton, LBSW, et al., SC Children’s Law Manual (Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Principal Editor, SC Bar CLE 2014); and
  - (g) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Marital Agreements: Can You Really Contract Out of Family Court Jurisdiction? (SC Lawyer 2013)
24. 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. The writing samples are for the Commission’s use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)
- (a) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, The Family Court’s New Uniforms: Amendments to South Carolina’s Uniform Interstate Family Support Act and Adoption of the Uniform Deployed Parent Custody and Visitation Act (SC Lawyer January 2017)
  - (b) Jonathan W. Lounsberry, Marital Agreements: Can You Really Contract Out of Family Court Jurisdiction? (SC Lawyer 2013)
25. 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.
- (a) Martindale-Hubbell AV rating (2015–Present); and
  - (b) Super Lawyers, Rising Star, Family Law (2019, 2020)
26. 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
    1. Delegate, Seventh Judicial Circuit, House of Delegates (2017-present)
    2. Chair, Practice & Procedure Committee (2016-2020)
    3. Chair, NextGen Committee (2018-2019)
    4. Co-Chair, Technology Committee, Young Lawyer’s Division (2017-2018)
    5. Member, Young Lawyer’s Division (2009-2018)
    6. Member, Practice & Procedure Committee (2009-Present)
    7. Member, Family Law Section (2009-present)

8. Member, South Carolina Bar Leadership Academy Committee (2016-2019)
9. Member, Judicial Qualifications Committee (2015-2017)
10. Member, International Law Committee (2014-present)

(b) American Bar Association

1. Vice-Chair (Membership), Family Law Committee, ABA Section of International Law (2018-present)
2. Member, Section of International Law (2018-present)
3. Subcommittee Chair/Newsletter Editor, Family Law Litigation Committee, ABA Section of Litigation (2016-present)
4. Member, Section of Litigation (2015-present)
5. Member, Section of Family Law (2010-present)

(c) Spartanburg Bar Association; and

(d) Greenville Bar Association

27. 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.

28. For sitting or former judges, 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

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

I was a candidate in 2018 judicial race for Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, but withdrew from the race for personal reasons. Shortly after I withdrew from the race, my mother's battle with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer ended in December 2018.

30. 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) Prior to attending the University of South Carolina on a full-time basis, I was employed at Hammond's Nursery (now closed) located in West Columbia and assisted with the sale and planting of palmetto trees through the Columbia metropolitan area. I was also employed as a convenience store attendant at a gas station located on the corner of Trenholm Road and Beltline Blvd in Columbia, SC. To my knowledge this business is no longer in business; although, I believe there is currently a gas station operating at that address.
  - (b) While attending the University of South Carolina (2003-2006), I was employed as a cook in several restaurants in Columbia, including, both Sticky Fingers Restaurant locations, which are now closed, and D's Restaurant & Bar, which I believe is no longer in business although there is a restaurant in operation at that address.
  - (c) While attending the University of South Carolina (2003-2006), I was employed as a "runner"/file clerk with the law firm of McLaren & Lee in Columbia, SC.
  - (d) While attending the Charleston School of Law (summer 2007), I was employed as a cook at Grill 225, which is located in the Market Pavilion Hotel.
31. 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.
- No.
32. 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.
33. 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 form 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.**

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the commission.

34. 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. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

No.

35. 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.

36. 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?

N/A

37. 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.

N/A

38. 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.

39. 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.

None.

40. 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 more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
  - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

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

41. 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

42. 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

43. 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

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

N/A

45. 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 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.

In approximately 2002, I received a ticket for reckless driving for speeding and taking a turn to quickly.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

47. 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.

No.

48. 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.

(a) When working for Curphey & Badger as an associate, it was my understanding that I was covered by the firm's malpractice coverage.

(b) When working for McLaren & Lee, I was covered by malpractice coverage through ALPS.

(c) When working for Melissa F. Brown, LLC, I was covered by malpractice coverage through ALPS.

(d) Since working for The Stevens Firm, PA, I have been covered by malpractice coverage through The Harford, Aspen American Insurance Company, d/b/a Lawyer's Protector Plan; AON Attorney's Advantage; and Markel Insurance Company with coverage limits of \$1,000,000.00 per claim/aggregate and a deductible of \$5,000.00.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, 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 sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. 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.

No.

51. 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.

No.

52. 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.

No.

53. 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.

54. 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.

No.

55. 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.*

(a) Hon. Dorothy M. Jones (Ret.)

[REDACTED]

- (b) J. Benjamin Stevens  
The Stevens Firm, P.A.

[REDACTED]

- (c) Allison P. Dunham  
Harrison White, P.C.

[REDACTED]

- (d) Stinson Woodward Ferguson  
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

[REDACTED]

- (e) Alexia Pittas

[REDACTED]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.? If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform. How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

Yes. The Stevens Firm, P.A. has a website where my image, professional and personal background are listed. If elected, my image and other information would be removed from the website.

I also have both private and work-related social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The Steven Firm, P.A. uses social media as a part of its marketing. If elected, I would limit my exposure on social media, or delete the accounts entirely to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

57. 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, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

- (a) Leadership Spartanburg (2016-2017)

- (b) Board of Regents, Leadership Spartanburg (2017-2019)
- (c) Vestry, Episcopal Church of the Advent Spartanburg (2020-Present)
- (d) Liturgy Commission, Episcopal Church of the Advent Spartanburg (2020-Present)
- (e) Children and Young Families Commission, Episcopal Church of the Advent (2020-Present)
- (f) Seventh Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee (2017-2019)
- (g) Self-Represented Litigation Family Committee, South Carolina Access to Justice Commission (2017-2018)
- (h) I was awarded a Merit Award from the Charleston School of Law in 2008.
- (i) I have been invited to and attended the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Fall Leadership Meetings and Editor's Symposiums for ABA Section of Litigation. I was unable to attend the 2019 Fall Leadership Meeting and Editor Symposium, and I am not sure of the status of the 2020 Fall Leadership Meeting and Editor Symposium due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (j) I have been selected to participate in the ABA Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy and plan on attending an upcoming session.
- (k) I participated in the South Carolina Lawyer Mentoring Program in 2016-2017.
- (l) I participated in the 2016 MDA Lock-Up which raised funds for children with muscle-debilitating diseases.

58. 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.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work for very accomplished Family Court attorneys. Doing so has allowed me to improve my knowledge and experience of Family Court law and the rules of procedure and evidence. As a result, my practice focuses on litigation of difficult, complex, and, sometimes, novel Family Court issues. It has also required me to stay abreast of changes and trends in family law, which in turn has allowed me to develop a passion for and a deep understanding of the same.

I have set high standards for myself and my practice, and I strive to attain these standards every day with every client. If elected, I would continue to stay abreast of changes and trends in family law, with the goal of increasing my passion for and deepening my understanding of family law.

Early on in my career, a mentor gave me the following maxim: If you take care of the law, then the law will take care of you. After being given that instruction, I have devoted a significant portion of my time to writing about and presenting on substantive family law issues and family court litigation. As a result of this work, I have served as Chair of the South Carolina Bar Practice and Procedure Committee (2016-2020) and continue to as

Vice-Chair and Subcommittee Chair for two separate American Bar Association committees. I feel very honored and humbled by these experiences. If elected, I plan to remain committed to bettering and/or improving the practice of law.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_