



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

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

1. Name: Mrs. Meredith Brooks Moss

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): M. Brooks Moss

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: 208 East Floyd Baker Boulevard  
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): 864-902-8396  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1975  
Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina  
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.
- (c) 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 March 5, 2016 to Michael Leighton

Michael Leighton works in several aviation areas including flight instruction, maintenance and director of operations for charter.

No children together.

Divorced on January 12, 2015, York County, S.C. Family Court, David Shytles was the moving party, One Year's Continuous Separation

Decree of Separate Support and Maintenance on March 30, 2012, Cherokee County, S.C. Family Court, Meredith Brooks Moss Shytles was the moving party.

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) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1997 – May 2000, JD;
  - (b) Goethe Institute, located in Staufen, Germany, June & July 1997, no degree sought;
  - (c) University of South Carolina Spartanburg, June 1994, Summer term, no degree sought;
  - (d) College of Charleston, August 1993 – December 1996, BA.
  
- 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) Pro Bono Board 1997- 2000;
  - (b) Pro Bono Award 1999;
  - (c) Phi Delta Phi – Events Coordinator & Chairman of Auction Committee; 1998-2000;
  - (d) Read a Book Program in local elementary school 1997-1999;
  - (e) Volunteer Guardian ad Litem, Richland County Guardian Program 1998-2000;
  - (f) Law Clerk for the South Carolina Department of Social Services Office of General

Counsel through the Kellogg Grant to increase efficiency in the adoption process.  
Assigned to Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee Counties, 1998-2000.

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.

(a) South Carolina, 2000; took 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.

**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.***

(a) 2000- 2003  
Kenneth L. Holland, PA; Associate.  
Civil Litigation; Worker's Compensation; Social Security; Family Law; and Probate.  
No administrative or management duties.

(b) 2001- 2005  
Cherokee County Department of Social Service; Contract Attorney.  
Abuse and neglect of minor children; Adult protective services; Termination of parental rights; Department of Juvenile Justice appearances when Department of Social Services involved.  
Solely responsible for administration and case management. Maintained billable hours and expenses for submission to the State of South Carolina for payment.

(c) 2003 – 2005  
M. Brooks Moss, PA  
Family law; including adoptions, child custody, child support, divorce, equitable distribution, name changes, adoption, separate support and maintenance and visitation.  
Worker's Compensation.  
Special Referee.  
Probate limited to wills, powers of attorney, guardianships and conservatorships.  
Solely responsible for administration and financial management.

2003-2005

Ross Law Firm; Subcontractor; City of Gaffney Prosecutor.  
No administrative or management duties.

- (e) 2005 May – 2006 March  
Cherokee County Department of Social Services.  
Abuse and neglect of minor children; Adult protective services; Termination of parental rights; Department of Juvenile Justice appearances when Department of Social Services involved.  
Solely responsible for administration and case management. No financial management.

- (f) 2006 April - Present  
M. Brooks Moss, PA

2006-2007  
Town of Cowpens; Contract Prosecutor.  
No administrative or management duties.

2006 – 2008  
Family Law, including adoption, termination of parental rights, child custody, child support, divorce, equitable distribution, name changes, separate support and maintenance, alimony and visitation; judicial bypass; minor emancipation.  
Guardian ad litem in paternity, custody, visitation, name changes, termination of parental rights and adoptions; guardian ad litem in Probate Court; guardian ad litem in Circuit Court; guardian ad litem in Department of Juvenile Justice matters.  
Special Referee.  
Probate limited to wills, powers of attorney, guardianships and conservatorships.  
Real estate transactions.  
Solely responsible for administration and financial management.

Department of Social Services; Contract Attorney in Termination of Parental Rights actions.  
Solely responsible for administration and case management. Maintained billable hours and expenses for submission to the State of South Carolina for payment.

2009 – 2017  
Family Law, including adoption, termination of parental rights, child custody, child support, divorce, equitable distribution, name changes, separate support and maintenance, alimony, visitation, judicial bypass, and minor emancipation.  
Guardian ad litem in paternity, custody, visitation, name changes, termination of parental rights and adoptions; guardian ad litem in Probate Court; guardian ad litem in Circuit Court; guardian ad litem in Department of Juvenile Justice matters;  
Special Referee.

Probate limited to wills, powers of attorney, guardianships and conservatorships.  
Discontinued real estate and contract with Department of Social Services.

Solely responsible for administration and financial management.

July 2014 – Present

Certified Family Court Mediator; mediated matters dealing with issues of adoptions, termination of parental rights, child custody, child support, visitation, grandparent visitation, parental alienation, mental health issues, divorce, equitable distribution, name changes, separate support and maintenance, tax issues, tax dependency, alimony, immigration issues, active and retired military matters, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, Department of Social Services matters, restraining orders, no adverse contact orders, orders of protection, attorney fees, and costs.

Solely responsible for administration and financial management.

2018 – Present

Guardian ad Litem in divorce, paternity, custody, visitation, name changes, termination of parental rights, adoptions, grandparent visitation, third party visitation, parental alienation, mental health issues, immigration issues, active and retired military matters, restraining orders, orders of protection, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, minor emancipation, Department of Social Services matters, Department of Juvenile Justice matters, Probate Court matters, Circuit Court matters; Judicial Bypass; Special Referee.

Probate limited to wills and powers of attorney.

Solely responsible for administration and financial management.

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.
- (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.

- (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.
- (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.
- (a) Family Court candidate:

I have experience with practically every aspect of Family Court, including issues of adoption, termination of parental rights, child custody, child support, visitation, grandparent visitation, parental alienation, divorce, equitable distribution, name change, separate support and maintenance, mental health issues, immigration issues, active and retired military issues, restraining orders, orders of protection, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental injury, tax issues, tax dependency, alimony, restraining orders, no adverse contact orders, orders of protection, attorney fees, Department of Social Services, and Department of Juvenile Justice. Many of these areas overlap in cases and thus several issues are addressed in one case.

I handled cases for divorce on the grounds of physical cruelty, abuse of alcohol/drugs, adultery, and one-year separate and apart as counsel for Plaintiff and Defendant.

As counsel and as a mediator, I address equitable division of assets including personal property, real property, titled property, untitled property, military retirement, state retirement, other retirement accounts, stocks, bonds, annuities, businesses, commercial property and even dogs. Periodically, the equitable division is only a division of debt.

My experience with child custody includes each type of custody, whether sole, joint or shared. My experience is not limited to parents, but also to grandparents, third party relatives and non-relatives. I address primary and secondary designations and designations as to the four primary areas relating to a child.

I worked with foster parents to conduct adoptions of legally free children in the foster care system without additional compensation above the amount paid by the state. Additionally, I have represented litigants and children in familial and non-familial adoptions, some of which require termination of parental rights actions.

As a former Department of Social Services attorney, I have eight years of experience handling issues of abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, mental injury and termination of parental rights. Thereafter, cases included representing those accused of abuse and/or neglect or working to protect a victim, whether a child or vulnerable adult. Additionally, I have continued involvement through custody cases that include an element of abuse and/or neglect, with the Department of Social Services as a party.

My role in the juvenile justice system includes, serving as Guardian ad Litem, representing juveniles, representing parents and representing third parties.

My experience in family court ranges from representing Plaintiffs, Defendants, third party litigants, serving as Guardian ad Litem and mediating.

My experience as a mediator has allowed me continuous involvement on a weekly basis with different aspects of family law and different fact scenarios, in which I am required to use current knowledge of the law to assist litigants in resolving their differences.

Prior to Covid-19, I made court appearances several times per week for many years. Currently I average a hearing per week, either WebEx or in person. I am in mediation, usually multiple times per week, which involves all matters that come before the family court.

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: None.
  - (b) state: Multiple hearings per week (prior to Covid-19).
  
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: 1%
  - (b) criminal: 0%
  - (c) domestic: 98%
  - (d) other: 1%
  
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: 0%
  - (b) non-jury: 100%

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

Sole counsel.

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.
  - (a) Hines v Mason, Cromer, Swygert & Doe; Cherokee County Family Court.  
This case was interesting due to the relationship of each of the individuals to the children and their positions as to custody based upon a will devising the children to certain parties. The biological mother of the minor children died from terminal cancer. I represented the maternal aunt and uncle and the maternal grandparents. Paternity of one child was determined after filing, but the biological father died prior

to the conclusion of the case. There was a custody dispute between the maternal grandparents, maternal aunt and uncle, two biological fathers and the stepfather. Issues of psychological parent, third party custodians, grandparent visitation and relocation were before the court. Health of the parties was at issue. Determinations as to which parties would work with the other parties regarding custody was at issue. Bonding experts were used to address the 'bond' to the parties to assist in determining best interest. The outcome of the three day trial was joint custody with the aunt and uncle being primary and the step-father being granted secondary with visitation. This ruling was especially interesting based on the requirements at that time for the court to grant joint custody and the prevailing party was not a parent or psychological parent.

- (b) Helms v Burke & Ledford; Cherokee County Family Court.  
Burke is the biological mother, and the Ledfords are the maternal grandparents. Helms is a non-relative single homosexual man whom I represented after the first attorney representing Mr. Helms died, and the second was relieved at the first hearing due to a conflict raised by the Ledfords. The minor child traveled between Helms and the Ledfords for almost two years. The minor child is a special needs child that required surgery. The Ledfords allowed Helms to handle the medical decisions, including surgery, but then changed their position and stopped visitation. Homosexuality was an issue raised by the Ledfords in court. Other interesting issues addressed were an absent mother, administration of health care without a custody order, and the standing of a psychological parent in comparison to grandparents. Helms was granted visitation as a psychological parent.
- (c) Department of Social Services v Tointigh, Cherokee County Family Court.  
I represented the Department of Social Services. Tointigh was the biological father who resided in the prison system of the State of Florida. The minor child was abandoned in South Carolina by the biological mother. Numerous issues arose dealing with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Action (UCCJA) and the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA). Other issues arose based upon Tointigh's claim of Indian heritage, which then necessitated discovery and addressing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Termination of parental rights was granted by the Family Court.
- (d) Harris v Dotson and Harris, Spartanburg County Family Court.  
Plaintiffs Harris are the paternal grandparents. Dotson is the biological mother. Defendant Harris is the biological father. I represented the minor children as Guardian ad Litem. The initial pleadings were a request for grandparent visitation rights based upon father's failure to exercise his court ordered visitation. This was the third action filed related to these children and numerous contempt actions were heard. Numerous issues arose including harassment, stalking, domestic violence, suicidal ideation, abuse and neglect allegations, and a move across state lines. The most notable issue was the grandparents claim of parental alienation by mother as to the grandparents. Both children were actively in therapy and the impact of the parental alienation evaluations was litigated. Experts were hired to assess and



address whether parental alienation existed and if parental alienation transferred to the paternal grandparents. Additionally, the legal standard of grandparent visitation and the unfitness of the mother were litigated. Ultimately, visitation as to the grandparents was denied and no finding of parental alienation as to the grandparents was made. Defendant Father's visitation was not altered by the court.

- (e) Shaw v Shaw, Spartanburg County Family Court.  
Plaintiff Mother brought the action against Defendant Father to modify a Virginia Family Court Order. I represented the minor child age 5 and at that time the parents had been in litigation more than half of his life. The Virginia order granted true shared custody and required the parents to agree as to all issues. Mother moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina with the child during the Virginia action. After the Virginia order, Father moved to Charleston, South Carolina. Despite living a few hours apart, the parents could not agree on any alterations to the Virginia visitation schedule. Mother filed this action and numerous allegations of physical abuse by Father and paternal grandmother arose. After five unfounded DSS investigations, a forensic evaluation, a multitude of individuals and medical providers interviewing the child, allegations of coaching, allegations of enmeshment, psychological evaluations, co-parenting therapists (3) unable to assist or refusing to assist due to one parent, and mental injury as to the child, this matter went to trial for five days. Custody was transferred to the Father immediately and I as the Guardian ad Litem, left the court room to go to the school and inform a six year old child he was leaving his primary home, school and friends. I assisted in the transition to the Father at the school and with a heavy heart knew that the difficult situation was the best for the 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) Cherokee County Department of Social Services v Sandra Martin and Ore'a Martin  
South Carolina Court of Appeals.  
Filed November 4, 1999.  
1999-UP-567
- (b) South Carolina Department of Social Services, Respondent, v Michael McFarland, Sr. and John Doe and Child: Sarah McFarland. Child: Michael McFarland, Jr.  
South Carolina Court of Appeals.  
Filed May 13, 2004  
2004-UP-316
- (c) John and Jane Doe & South Carolina Department of Social Services, Respondents, v Kelly M and Jeffery L, Defendants; In the Interest of D.L., a minor child under the age of 18.  
South Carolina Court of Appeals.  
Filed January 15, 2009  
2009-UP-049

(d) South Carolina Department of Social Services v Tina B., Timothy B., Mark D., Robert H., Michael S., and John Doe, in the interest of children under the age of 18.  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
Filed August 16, 2010  
2010-UP-386

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.

None.

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.

No.

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.

(a) Not applicable.

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.

State Courts of South Carolina, November 13, 2000.

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) Limestone University

July 1, 2020 - present

Limestone College recently changed names from Limestone College to Limestone University; Duties did not change.

(b) Limestone College 2014 - present

Adjunct Professor, Extended Campus Internet - Undergraduate Degree Program

Creating of online courses and teaching Business Law I LG315, Business Law II LG316, Legal Issues in Technology LG317.

Business law courses address branches of government, statutory law, common law, creation law, the court system, contracts, employment law, land lord tenant, trademarks, patents, law as to the internet, torts, damages, disability, insurance, Title VII of the Civil

Rights Act, American with Disabilities Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Equal Pay Act, and legal writing.

- (c) Limestone College; 2015 - present  
Adjunct Professor, Extended Campus Internet - Masters in Business Administration Program

When the Masters in Business Administration Program (MBA) program began, I created the course, compiled the book from numerous sources, and taught the Limestone College MBA course entitled Legal Issues in Business, BA560. The course is the required business law course that addresses all major aspects of employment law and the federal guidelines associated therewith.

I teach Legal Issues in Business BA560, but no longer handle course creation based upon Limestone hiring a full time professor.

- (d) Limestone College; 2003-2007  
Adjunct Professor, Classroom Instruction - Undergraduate Degree Program  
Taught Business Law I and Business Law 2. Business Law I focused on understanding the branches of government, how statutory law, common law, and case precedents occur, the appeals system. Business Law II focused on contract formation, rights, and remedies.

- (e) Presented on the topic of foster parent rights for educational hours for the Cherokee County Foster Parents Association.

- (f) Presented on the topic of the legal system in regards to Department of Social Services proceedings for educational hours for the Cherokee County Foster Parents Association.

- (g) Presented on the topic of grounds for termination of parental rights and adoption for educational hours for the Cherokee County Foster Parents Association.

- (h) Presented on the topic of what does 'substantial compliance' mean in regards to Department of Social Services treatment plans for educational hours for the Cherokee County Foster Parents Association.

- (i) Taught the legal portion of the Lay Guardian ad Litem training class for Cherokee County on numerous occasions when the courses were held in Cherokee County.

- (j) Presentations on wills, testamentary guardianship, and the inability to 'will' minor children regarding issues of custody and placement at Buford Street United Methodist.

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

CLE reports for 2014 through 2019 are attached.

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

I do not have any published articles.

I drafted the documents to be used as an outline by the attorneys in the Cherokee County Family Court for divorce and approval of agreements during Covid-19, including checklist, party affidavits, guardian affidavit, attorney statement and final order.

I created content and wrote several courses for Limestone College including the initial Masters in Business Administration course Legal Issues in Business BA.

I wrote several internal documents for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services regarding the legal requirements of their investigations and statutory time frames during my contract employment.

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.)

Two documents attached.

- (a) Preliminary expedited report of the guardian ad litem
- (b) Form for Mediated Agreement

One option for Christmas, summer, birthday and altering visitation is taken from the standard visitation schedule of Judge Tim Brown, which is a standard used in the Seventh Circuit.

The NACO language was provided by another attorney and used with their permission.

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, Peer Review, No rating
- (b) Avvo, 7.0

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 House of Delegates, representing the Seventh Judicial Circuit
- (b) South Carolina Bar Association, Children's Law Committee
- (c) Cherokee County Bar Association

- September 2018 – present; President
- (d) Spartanburg County Bar Association, Family Law Committee
- (e) Seventh Judicial Circuit
  - Pro Bono Committee
  - Public Defender Selection Committee; Cherokee County representative (former)
  - Cinderella Project (no longer active program)
- (f) Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
  - 2010, Second Vice President;
  - 2011, First Vice President;
  - 2012, President
- (g) South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association (former member)
- (h) American Bar Association (former member)

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.

Not applicable.

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

Previous judicial candidate in 2009; Withdrew prior to completing screening.

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) 1998-2000 South Carolina Department of Social Services  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Law Clerk  
Reported to Aphrodite Kondurus  
Assigned to Spartanburg, Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee Counties

- (b) 1993-1998, 2000 Kenneth L. Holland, PA  
Gaffney, South Carolina  
Law Clerk (during summers and school breaks),  
Reported to Ken Holland, former United State Congressman  
Drafted documents, reviewed medical records, answered discovery,  
met with clients, answered telephones, requested records, attended  
depositions and court with Ken Holland.
- (c) 1994- 1996 College of Charleston  
Charleston, South Carolina  
Student assistant to the President of the College of Charleston;  
Reported to the Honorable Judge Alex Sanders;  
Answered telephones, ran errands, aided with invitations and RSVPs  
for events.
- (d) 1993-1994 Sunshine House  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina  
Teacher in two year old classroom, after school care, summer  
lifeguard
- (e) 1988- 2000 Moss Mini Mart  
Gaffney, South Carolina  
Family business  
Ran register, stocking, inventory, bookkeeping, payroll, cleaning.

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.

- (a) M. Brooks Moss, PA; Officer, Registered Agent  
Sole owner and responsible for all aspects of corporation.
- (b) MereLeigh,LLC; Officer, Registered Agent  
Inactive Corporation.
- (c) Aloft Aviation Services; Officer, Registered Agent  
Aviation business operated by my husband Michael Leighton; no duties.

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) Confidential net worth statement is attached.
- (b) Schedule of assets and liabilities is attached.

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?

None.

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.

None.

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.

No financial arrangements exist.

I have worked with practically every Family Court attorney in the Seventh Circuit in opposition, as Guardian ad Litem or as a mediator. I do not feel that my working relationship with any attorney is a conflict of interest. However, should any attorney or litigant raise the issue, then I would recuse myself from the matter. Additionally, should a matter where I had any prior involvement come before the court, I would recuse myself from hearing that case, unless the attorneys and parties provide an express written and on record waiver of such conflict.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

None.



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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

[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.

(a) Family Court action: Separate Support and Maintenance  
Brooks M. Shytles v David L. Shytles, 2012-DR-11-112  
Agreement as to equitable division and child related issues  
Filed March 6, 2012; Completed March 30, 2012.

(b) Family Court action: Rule to Show Cause  
Brooks M. Shytles v David L. Shytles, 2012-DR-11-112,

2013-DR-44-503, 2014-DR-46-471

M. Brooks Moss aka Brooks M. Shytles filed a Rule to Show Cause against Defendant David L. Shytles

December 2, 2013 filed in Cherokee County;

January 7, 2014 transferred to Union County;

April 4, 2014 transferred to York County.

January 26, 2015 dismissed with prejudice.

- (c) Family Court action: Rule to Show Cause  
David L. Shytles v M. Brooks Moss a/k/a Brooks M. Shytles, 2012-DR-11-112, 2013-DR-44-503, 2014-DR-46-0471  
Defendant David Shytles filed Rule to Show Cause on M. Brooks Moss aka Brooks M. Shytles  
December 31, 2013 filed in Cherokee County;  
January 7, 2014 filed in Union County;  
April 4, 2014 transferred to York County and consolidated under 2014-DR-46-0471;  
January 26, 2015 dismissed with prejudice.
- (d) Family Court action: Divorce  
David L. Shytles v M. Brooks Moss a/k/a Brooks M. Shytles, 2014-DR-44-0002, 2014-DR-46-0471  
Agreement as to Divorce based upon one year separate and apart and child related issues  
January 7, 2014 filed in Union County;  
March 13, 2014 transferred to York County and consolidated under 2014-DR-46-0471;  
January 12, 2015 - Divorce granted based on one year separate and apart and agreement approved.
- (c) Probate Court action: Personal Representative of Estate and Trustee  
Meredith Brooks Moss v Alfred Randall Moss and Randon Anderson Moss  
2007-ES-11-021 & 2018-GC-46-00011  
Reopen estate due to property not being placed into trust prior to death.  
August 25, 2018 filed York County;  
February 5, 2019, Consent Order to sell property and divide assets.  
June 16, 2020; Consent Order transferring property not sold and reallocation of assets.  
Estate pending closure until stock is transferred to beneficiary. All other transfers complete.
- (d) Probate Court action: Personal Representative of Estate and Trustee  
Meredith Brooks Moss, individually and as Personal Representative of the Della Viola Brown Moss Estate v Alfred Randall Moss and Randon Anderson Moss  
2016-ES-11-128 & 2018-GS-46-00012  
April 13, 2016 filed in Cherokee County;  
January 3, 2018 transferred to York County;

February 5, 2019, Consent Order to sell property and divide assets.

June 16, 2020; Consent Order transferring property not sold and reallocation of assets.

Estate pending closure until stock is transferred to beneficiary. All other transfers complete.

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.

I have professional liability insurance.

I have had continuous coverage since November 2000.

My current policy limits are \$1,000,000 with a \$10,000 deductible.

I have never been covered by a tail policy.

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.

I was a licensed foster parent and investigated as to my licensure. I am unable to locate my records but I believe I was licensed from 2002 until 2009.

I am not on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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.

I have not requested nor am I aware of any individual contacting, seeking, receiving, or requesting a pledge or the assistance of any member of the General Assembly on my behalf.

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.

I have not requested any third party to contact any member of the General Assembly on my behalf. I have not conducted any campaigning for this election nor am I aware of any parties who have campaigned on my behalf.

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, I am aware of the 48 hour rule and read the information provided in the screening package.

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.

I have not contacted, requested any third party to contact, and am not aware of anyone making contact with a member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission relating to my candidacy or intention to become a candidate.

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) Ruth L. Cate

[Redacted address and phone number for Ruth L. Cate]

(b) Pete G. Diamadorus

[Redacted address and phone number for Pete G. Diamadorus]

(c) Allison P. Dunham

[REDACTED]

(d) Joseph L. Mathis

[REDACTED]

(f) Richard W. Vieth

[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.

Facebook, Brooks Moss (personal account)  
Facebook, M. Brooks Moss, PA (professional page)  
LinkedIn, Brooks Moss (professional page)  
Twitter, @mbmosslaw (professional account)  
Instagram, mbmosslaw (personal account)

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 would maintain my personal accounts but limit posting and ensure proper restrictions for access by individuals not personally known to me. I would use the platforms to keep up with family and friends. I currently have my pages restricted and do not post often. I actively participate in a fitness group and post only related to exercise and diet.

I would discontinue my professional Facebook page.

I would maintain my Twitter account but only for obtaining information, as I do not participate in tweeting.

I would update my LinkedIn page appropriately. I currently do not post and doubt that I would in the future. However, if I posted such would be limited to appropriate professional items.

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) Crime Stoppers of Cherokee County; Board Member
- (b) Oakbrook Parents Club; Board Member; Treasurer
- (c) Gaffney Little Theatre; Board Member
- (d) Law Day Essay Judging Panel
- (e) Chi Omega; Member
- (f) Career Fair Presenter and Class Instruction, Alma Elementary, Northwest Elementary and Oakbrook Preparatory;

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.

I have represented Plaintiffs, Defendants, third party petitioners, state agencies and children. I have been a Plaintiff and a Defendant. I have served as a guardian ad litem and had a guardian ad litem represent my children. I have mediated cases and been a litigant in mediation. I have worked with foster parents and I have been a foster parent. I have faced trials in the courtroom and personally. I am thankful for all of those opportunities, as it has given me different perspectives as to situations and educated me far beyond my formal education.

I have had the opportunity to work with all walks of life during my almost twenty years of practice. I have been threatened and screamed at. I have been thanked and hugged. I have experienced the many different emotions that occur in family court either personally or through the litigants and children.

I choose to practice in Family Court and my career is part of who I am. I enjoy going to work in the morning and the more challenging the day, the more I enjoy the work. I have practiced in every area of Family Court but choose to focus my practice serving as a mediator and guardian ad litem.

Serving as a mediator and special referee have provided me the ability to learn how to control my interactions with litigants, while observing the litigants. I understand the importance of facial expressions, body language, tone, and demeanor. I understand the importance of watching for signs of agitation and anger, to ensure continued success in the process. I recognize the importance of being decisive and courteous when issuing an order, relaying information, and explaining that compliance with the law is required.

My experience as a guardian ad litem has allowed me to view legal proceedings with a focus on the best interest of the child. I have had the opportunity to participate in numerous trials, including multi-day hearings. These hearings require me to carefully listen to all evidence presented and evaluate the information based upon the information I have as a Guardian and as it relates to the best interest of the child. I must consider evidence as well as the credibility of the individuals involved. Additionally, I spend a great deal of time working with children, counselors, therapists, school personnel, education specialists, custody evaluators, psychologists, psychiatrists, drug screening facilities and other medical providers. My involvement with those individuals and professionals has provided me knowledge and experience which better prepares me to address issues in Family Court and the best interest of a child.

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: \_\_\_\_\_