



**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. Chadwick D. Pye

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

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: 172 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (864) 583-5658  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1972  
Place of Birth: Spartanburg, 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.

I have never served in the military.

6. Family Status:

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

Divorced

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Not Applicable

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

Not Applicable

- (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.

Divorced on November 6, 2012; Holly B. Pye was the moving party; Seventh Circuit Family Court, State of South Carolina, Divorce granted on One Year's Continuous Separation.

- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

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) College of Charleston 1990 to 1994. Bachelor of Science in Sociology  
(b) Cumberland School of Law at Samford University 1995 to 1998. Juris Doctor

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) Honor Court Judge 1996 through 1997. (Served as a judge when students were accused of violating rules of the Honor Code.)

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 1998  
I took the 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) Smith & Haskell Law Firm, LLP. (Associate Attorney 1998 to 2000). I worked as a trial lawyer defending Spartanburg County, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Tindall Concrete, Norfolk Southern RR and other governmental entities through the Insurance Reserve Fund. I also handled all of the DSS cases that were assigned to all of the lawyers in the firm. I was not involved in any administrative or financial management of this law firm. The firm was Spartanburg.

(b) Law Office of Robert M. Holland, P.A. (Associate Attorney 2000 to 2002). I worked as a trial lawyer handling primarily divorce, equitable division of property, custody, adoptions, DSS defense and defense of juveniles in Family Court. I also handled personal injury, criminal defense (including defending juveniles in Family Court), workers' compensation, business litigation, and social security disability cases. I was not involved in any administrative or financial management of this law firm. The firm was in Spartanburg.

(c) Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. (Associate Attorney 2002 to 2005). I started out in the workers' compensation defense group where I defended companies when employees filed cases due to on the job injuries. When that group disbanded and moved to another firm, I was asked by HSB to stay and move into their complex litigation group due to my extensive trial experience. I was not involved in any administrative or financial management of this law firm. The firm was in Greenville.

(d) Chadwick D. Pye, LLC (Sole Practitioner 2005 to 2007). I worked as a trial lawyer handling divorce, equitable division of property, custody, adoptions, DSS defense and defense of juveniles in Family Court. I also handled personal injury, criminal defense (including defending juveniles in Family Court), workers' compensation, business litigation, and social security disability cases. I was solely responsible for the firm's administrative and financial management. The firm was in Spartanburg.

(e) Pye & Talley, P.A. (Partner 2007 to 2009). I worked as a trial lawyer handling divorce, equitable division of property, custody, adoptions, DSS defense and defense of juveniles in Family Court. I also handled personal injury, criminal defense (including defending juveniles in Family Court), workers' compensation, business litigation, and social security disability cases. I was jointly responsible for the firm's administrative and financial management. The firm was in Spartanburg.

(f) Chadwick D. Pye, LLC (Sole Practitioner 2009 to the Present). I work as a trial lawyer primarily handling divorce, equitable division of property, custody, adoptions, DSS defense and defense of juveniles in Family Court. I also handle personal injury, criminal defense, workers' compensation, business litigation, and social security disability cases. I am solely responsible for the firm's administrative and financial management. My firm is in Spartanburg.

**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.

I was first introduced to Family Court in 1998 immediately upon beginning my legal career. I was in a firm with three other lawyers who focused solely on civil litigation. In addition to my civil litigation practice, I was assigned all of the firm's DSS appointments for all of the attorneys in the firm. I enjoyed my time in Family Court because I felt as though I was making a difference in the lives of real people. I left that firm and went to work for Robert Holland who had a very high end domestic practice and he was considered one of the top Family Court lawyers in the Upstate. I handled every level of divorce from the very simple to the very complex involving assets in the tens of millions of dollars.

While working with Robert Holland I handled hundreds of divorce and custody cases involving asset division, alimony and child support. I also handled all of the firm's DSS defense cases involving abuse and neglect. Because Bob was so inundated with Family Court work, I also handled the personal injury, workers' compensation and criminal defense cases. I had several cases being defended by attorneys at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. while I worked with Bob. I formed great relationships with those attorneys and had some success against them in court. When a spot opened on the workers' compensation team I was asked to join them. It was an offer I could not pass up. I enjoyed my time as a workers' compensation attorney at HSB; however, HSB decided to get away from that type of work and I was asked by my supervising attorney to leave and go to another firm to do workers' compensation. At the same time, I was asked by HSB management to stay as I was told they needed my trial experience in the complex litigation group. I decided to

stay. After spending some time in the complex litigation group I realized that my trial skills were not being used as I was mostly just writing briefs and handling motion hearings.

I left Haysworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. and started my own firm, Chadwick D. Pye, LLC because I wanted to be in the courtroom representing real people with real problems. As a sole practitioner just starting out, I had to take whatever came in the door as I was determined to make my firm a success (and I had a wife and two small children counting on that). My Family Court practice immediately picked back up from my time with Robert Holland. Since leaving HSB I have handled thousands of divorce, asset division, custody, and support cases of all levels. I have also handled civil cases of all types in Magistrate Court and the Court of Common Pleas from bench trials to jury trials. Additionally, I have tried criminal cases in Family Court representing juveniles and defended people in abuse and neglect cases. I have also handled criminal cases in Magistrate Court and General Sessions Court.

In the past five years, I have appeared in Family Court on average approximately six times per month. Just yesterday I had two hearings in Family Court. Not only has my professional experience prepared me for the position of Family Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in my hometown of Spartanburg, but my personal experiences have as well. I have personally been through a divorce. I have personally sat in that courtroom as a client and a litigant with my family and assets being split up. Fortunately, I have maintained an excellent relationship with my ex-wife and we co-parent extremely well and share our children and their activities with each other one hundred percent. Additionally, and unfortunately, I have personally been involved in a DSS case and a nasty divorce involving a family member. My sister and her husband became addicted to drugs and had an abusive marriage. It became necessary for me to step in and obtain custody of my teenage niece as it came down to my home or foster care. She joined me and my two teenage sons as family and I am happy to report that she is now in college on an academic scholarship. She plans to attend law school.

In closing my response to this question, I have to say that I truly believe that I bring as much or more experience both professionally and personally as anyone possibly can bring to the job of Family Court Judge.

- (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.

Not Applicable

- (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.

Not Applicable

- (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.

Not Applicable

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: Once every two months in front of Social Security Disability judges.
  - (b) state: Six to seven times per month
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: 35%
  - (b) criminal: 10%
  - (c) domestic: 55%
  - (d) other: 0%
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: 30%
  - (b) non-jury: 70%

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) Lona Boice v. Rodney Bishop, C.A. No.: 2012-DR-10-1808. The parties divorced in Spartanburg in 2009 and the mother received primary custody with the father having every other weekend visitation. The mother moved to Charleston, SC and re-married shortly after the divorce. When the child was 12 years old, the relationship between the mother and the child had become very volatile with the child being verbally abused and, as a result, she suffered psychological trauma and started down a very bad path making poor decisions. The father drove to Charleston and picked up the child and brought her back to Spartanburg. The mother filed this action in Family Court to get the child back. The father retained me and I would commute to Charleston for hearings. I ended up getting full custody of the child for my client and the child turned her life around for the better.

(b) Jeffrey Kenneth Sellars v. Sheila Marie Sellars, C.A.No.: 2014-DR-42-2241. In this matter I represented the husband. The parties came to me together and informed me that they were going to divorce and the husband wanted me to represent him and the wife did not wish to obtain counsel. They had been high school sweethearts, were married for over 25 years and had two emancipated children together. The husband wanted to be very fair to his wife. I drafted a property settlement and separation agreement that both parties happily signed. The agreement gave the wife \$100,000 in cash (paid by the husband's father), all of the furniture in the house, three cars that were paid for, and all of her retirement account which was approximately \$50,000. The husband was keeping the fully mortgaged house, one vehicle that was a company vehicle (he worked for his father), and he had no retirement. The wife decided to obtain a lawyer who called me and said they were not taking the deal because the lawyer felt she could get substantially more for her client. I explained that I believed she was giving her client bad advice but we were nevertheless sent into two years of litigation. After two years of fighting and tens of thousands of dollars spent by both sides, the result of the case was that the wife received one-half of the furniture in the house, one car, \$25,000 in cash and the \$5,000 left in her retirement because she withdrew money for attorney's fees. The reason this case stands out to me is that my client and I tried to be very fair to his wife and it exposes a flaw in the practice mindset of many lawyers today. Instead of doing what's best for their client, it is more of a competition to see who can beat the other lawyer and make money doing it. Her lawyer was very unreasonable and talked her client into being unreasonable too. At the mediation, after everything was signed I showed the mediator my original agreement and when he compared it to the deal they had just settled for after two years he couldn't believe it.

(c) Sheila Carter v. Nathaniel Carter, C.A. No.: 2018-DR-42-2982. In this matter I represented the wife in a divorce, custody and asset division case. When she came to me, I was the third lawyer she had retained in this matter and she was getting one day per week of visitation that was supervised by her father. She had no overnight visitation with her two children ages 13 and 15. She had been placed on disability and her husband was getting the checks for the children from her disability. When we finished the case, she had joint custody, week to week visitation and she began receiving the disability checks for her children. This lady was truly a good person who had nobody to fight for her and her children's time with her. This case is very important to me because I was able to restore her

relationship with her children and assist her financially by getting the checks redirected to her.

(d) Raquel Martinez. v. Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office SCWCC No.: 0515098; 2017-CP-42-03726. This case started back in 2005 and is STILL going on today. I represented Deputy Martinez in this workers' compensation case against her former employer. Deputy Martinez was one of the first deputies on the scene when a Greenville County Sheriff's Deputy backed over his two-year-old daughter crushing her under the police cruiser. Deputy Martinez knew the other officer as he was formerly with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Martinez asked her supervisor if she could leave the scene as she was very uncomfortable processing it. She was not allowed to leave. A few days later Deputy Martinez had a complete nervous breakdown and destroyed the inside of her home, destroyed her patrol car, and was seen running down the street in her neighborhood almost nude. She was later found by her father and EMS worker crouched behind some bushes acting as though she was holding a child. She kept repeating "please don't let them hurt her". I filed a mental-mental claim with the SCWCC. The carrier for the Sheriff's Office denied the nervous breakdown was related even though the Sheriff's Office supported her claim. Over the past 15 years this case has been in front of SCWCC Full Commission several times where we lost there and in front of the Single Commissioner. It has been in front of the Circuit Court several times where we have won every time. Throughout this I have even saved Deputy Martinez from one of her suicide attempts as I kept her on the phone while my assistant called 911 and had the police go get her. This case has been to the SC Court of Appeals where we have received favorable rulings. Now it is about to be heard by the SC Supreme Court where I pray we can get some justice for this kind lady. In the meantime, I was able to get her on Social Security Disability because due to her mental condition she will never be able to maintain gainful employment.

(e) Edward Charles Garrett v. Spartanburg Three Schools, SCWCC No.: 1312357. This was a workers' compensation case in which I represented Mr. Garrett, a school maintenance man. Mr. Garrett injured himself and the District admitted the case and paid his medical bills and provided him with temporary total disability benefits while he was out of work. When it was determined that Mr. Garrett had reached maximum medical improvement, the employer filed a Form 21 to stop payment of benefits. Mr. Garrett and the attorney for the District had to appear at a hearing for the Commissioner to determine whether benefits could be stopped. Mr. Garrett didn't believe in lawyers and lawsuits so he did not originally obtain counsel and appeared alone. The attorney submitted 122 pages of medical records to the Commission as part of his pre-hearing brief. Mr. Garrett did not hand up any as he did not understand the process. Being concerned that Mr. Garrett did not have the education or understanding to go forward, the Commissioner refused to hear the case and recommended that Mr. Garrett hire an attorney. He hired me two days later and I sent in a notice of representation. As soon as defense counsel receive my notice he asked that another hearing be schedule immediately, and it was. In the meantime, I immediately began gathering all of Mr. Garrett's medical records, even though I had the ones submitted by the other lawyer, I wanted to obtain my own set. My medical submissions became due to the SCWCC quicker than the records came in.



I submitted the records that I had in a timely manner and three days later a set of records came in from the authorized treating doctor. As I compared those records to the ones submitted by defense counsel I discovered that the records from only one visit throughout all of his treatment had been left out by the attorney. Ironically, that one visit is the one wherein the carrier's own doctor stated that Mr. Garrett was permanently and totally disabled from his accident. I immediately sent in a supplemental brief to the SCWCC and the attorney and explained that I had just received this record and it had been left out of the employer's records at the first hearing and for the upcoming hearing. Incredibly, defense counsel objected to the evidence as being late. At the hearing, the Commissioner agreed that the records of the employer's own doctor could not come in because they were late. I was extremely upset at the poor ethics of this attorney and, frankly, also with the poor ethics of the Commissioner. However, the Commissioner was not an attorney, so the Bar had no control over him and his behavior at the hearing. In fact, he became angry that I suggested an ethical violation by opposing counsel and denied my client's case calling my client dishonest.

I am writing about this case as it will forever stand out in my mind as to what our legal system has become with lawyers who lack ethics and just want to "win" at all costs and judges who are willing to turn a blind eye to protect lawyers in large firms who may have some political power. This behavior by the lawyer and the Commissioner was extremely detrimental to a man who was just trying to work, get better, finish up his case and get back to what he had done for the last 23 years. Instead, I had the unfortunate obligation of turning in a fellow member of the SC Bar for an ethics violation. I could not turn in the Commissioner because the Bar does not govern him as he is not a member of the SC Bar. I never knew what happened with my complaint as the Office of Disciplinary Counsel said it was confidential.

If the General Assembly honors me by electing me to the bench, I will never let my ethics be compromised for any reason and I will always honor the General Assembly by doing what is right under the law and will always seek to do justice.

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) SC Dept. of Social Services v. Gernetta J., et al., SC Court of Appeals,  
Decided: December 9, 2010. Not reported.
  - (b) Moore v. Benson, et al., SC Court of Appeals,  
Decided: September 22, 2010, 700 S.E.2d 273, 390 S.C. 153 (S.C. App. 2010).
  - (c) Levi v. Northern Anderson County EMS, et al., SC Court of Appeals  
Decided: June 30, 2014, 409 S.C. 374, 762 S.E.2d 44 (S.C. App. 2014).
  - (d) Martinez v. Spartanburg County, et al., SC Supreme Court,  
Decided: January 8, 2014, 406 S.C. 532, 753 S.E.2d 436 (S.C. 2014)
  - (e)
  
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.
  - (a) Not applicable
  - (b)

- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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.

I have never held judicial office.

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
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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, 1998;
- (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 1999;
- (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 1999.

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.

No

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

See Attached

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

None

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.)

See Attached

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 "Top Rated Lawyer" in Litigation for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability;
- (b) Top 5% of Americas Most Honored Professionals;
- (c) The last time I paid to be listed and rated in Martindale-Hubbell I had not been practicing long enough to receive an AV rating; however, I did received the highest rating available for the time I had been practicing which was BV.

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 Association
- (b) South Carolina Association for Justice

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.

I have never held public office.

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.

This is the first time I have ran for any judicial or public office.

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) I currently own The Firm Fitness Center, LLC in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I started that business in March 2018. I am the sole owner of that business. It is a gym that provides free weights and pin stack equipment for weight training. We also provide cardio equipment for endurance training and weight loss as well as group fitness classes. Other than the gym that I own, practicing law is the only work I have done.

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) I currently own The Firm Fitness Center, LLC in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I started that business in March 2018. I am the sole owner of that business. It is a gym that provides free weights and pin stack equipment for weight training. We also provide cardio equipment for endurance training and weight loss as well as group fitness classes. Other than the gym that I own, practicing law is the only work I have done.

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: See Attached

(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.**

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?

Not Applicable

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.

(a) Shane Martin – State Senate - \$500 – 9/19/2016

(b) Mike Fowler – State House - \$100 – 9/28/2016

(c) Glenn Reese – State Senate - \$100 – 9/30/2016

(d) Catherine Templeton – Gubernatorial Candidate - \$300 – 5/5/2017

(e) Shane Martin – State Senate - \$500 – 1/28/2019

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;

None

- (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

None

- (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: Not Applicable

- (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.

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.

Household Finance Corp. v. Jerry L. Jones, et al., 2005. Although when you look at the public index it shows me as a "Defendant" right under Palmetto Bank, I was actually the attorney for The Palmetto Bank. I was not a defendant. I represented them when named in this lawsuit because they were a creditor of Mr. Jones when Household Finance sued him. The case was resolved with some, but not all, of the creditors being paid.

Chadwick D. Pye, et al. v. Leonard Mazur, et al. 2009. Although when you look at the public index it shows me as a "Plaintiff", I was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of Terry Fred Lawson. The case was resolved by mutual settlement.

In Re: Scott F. Talley, 2011. This was a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case. I was listed as a Defendant in this matter as I was a creditor. The case was filed November 21, 2011 and the discharge was on December 20, 2012.

Albert B. Jolley, Jr., et al. v. Joe L. Wells, Jr., et al. 2012. I was named as a defendant in this lawsuit because Mr. Wells defaulted on a loan with the plaintiff in this case and I was a creditor of Mr. Wells at that time which caused me to be named in the lawsuit. I had a lien on some property pledged as security to a loan I provided to him. He had also pledged this property to others as security. The case was resolved with some, but not all, of the creditors being paid.

Judith A. Gillespie v. Albert B. Jolly, Jr., et al. 2012. . This is a companion case to the one above. I was named as a defendant in this lawsuit because Mr. Wells defaulted on a loan with the plaintiff in this case and I was a creditor of Mr. Wells at that time which caused me to be named in the lawsuit. I had a lien on some property pledged as security to a loan I

provided to him. He had also pledged this property to others as security. The case was resolved with some, but not all, of the creditors being paid.

Chadwick D. Pye v. Thomas Rance Cartee, 2013. Mr. Cartee came into my neighborhood and broke into at least 10 cars one night and stole money and personal property from the cars. As part of his criminal sentence, he was ordered to pay restitution and this is how that is listed on the public index. Mr. Cartee made payments through the State while incarcerated.

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 carried malpractice insurance for the first several years that I practiced law. I have not carried malpractice insurance for the past several years as I determined that the coverage provided by those policies would not be of benefit to me in my areas of practice.

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.

My younger sister went through a divorce involving domestic abuse and drugs. She had three minor children at that time. DSS took her three children. My parents took in the two youngest children and I was asked to step in and take custody of my teenage niece. As part of the process, DSS had to visit my home, interview me and my two sons and do a background check on me. I passed everything and was awarded custody of my niece. I am happy to report that she blended beautifully into my home and is now in college on a scholarship and plans to attend law school in the future.

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 received a pledge or conditional pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to my election for the position I am being screened. I have also not received the assurance of an public official or employee that they will seek a pledge on my behalf from a member of the General Assembly.

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 that any third parties contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf. I have personally sent out several letters to members of the General Assembly introducing myself as a future candidate for the position I am seeking. In the letter, I simply provided some background of professional and personal qualifications and experiences.

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?

I am familiar with this rule.

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) The Honorable Alvin Johnson

[REDACTED]

(b) Robert E. Davis, Esquire

[REDACTED]

(c) Sidney P. Mitchell, Esquire

[REDACTED]

(d) William B. 'Kip' Darwin, Esquire

[REDACTED]

(e) Ms. Morgan C. Cooper

[REDACTED]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?

Yes

If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform.

Facebook: Chad Pye  
Chad Pye, Attorney at Law  
The Firm Fitness Center

Instagram: @thefirmspartanburg

Twitter: @thefirmspartanburg

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

If elected to serve as a Family Court judge I would shut down my law firm Facebook account. I really don't post anything personal or opinionated on my personal Facebook page, I just share funny or inspirational videos or stories. My gym Facebook, IG and Twitter would not be affected at all as I only advertise classes, clothing, and supplements we sell and I post pictures of some of our members in the gym working out.

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) The Piedmont Club
- (b) The Carolina Country Club

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 am a lifelong resident of Spartanburg and have been practicing law throughout the Upstate for almost 22 years. A substantial portion of my practice has been devoted to Family Court litigation.

According to many, Family Court is an often-brutal area of law to practice; however, it is an area where I truly feel as though I can make a meaningful difference where it counts, with families. People come to Family Court during some of the worst times of their lives as they are in a marriage that is not working and facing an uncertain future with respect to the people they hold dearest, their children.

I have been involved in every facet of family court litigation. I have handled divorces, custody disputes, visitation, alimony, child support, adoptions, defense of DSS cases, and defense of juveniles who appear in family court for criminal matters. Unfortunately, I have also experienced things from the other side as a party in a divorce with two children involved. I have also experienced stepping in and obtaining custody as an uncle of my teenage niece when foster care was the next option during my sister's divorce with DSS involved. I am happy to report that my niece finished high school as an honor student and is attending college on a scholarship. Finally, I am open minded as I have an older brother who is homosexual and is married to another man. It is something I have grown up with in my life and they are both two of the finest gentlemen I know. I think these experiences will help me bring a well-rounded perspective to the Family Court. I would be honored to serve our citizens as a resident Family Court Judge.

I would always remain respectful of the attorneys who appear in front of me as well as the litigants. I have worked my entire life and I am from a working-class family. I believe that I would bring a unique life experience to the bench that I would apply to my decision-making process. I have always been an independent person and would not be swayed by who is in front of me; rather, I would always apply the law to the facts as they are presented.

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: \_\_\_\_\_