

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



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: South Carolina Court of Appeals, Seat 8

1. Name: The Honorable Jerry Deese Vinson, Jr.

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

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

Yes. Family Court Judge, Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 181 N. Irby Street, Suite 2800 Florence, SC 29501

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): 843-665-3079  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1960  
Place of Birth: Camden, 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.

Married.

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

Flora Sue Lester Vinson. Married September 14, 1991. Federal Administrative Law Judge, Social Security Administration.

- (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.

Divorced on June 6, 1991; Susan C. Vinson; Twelfth Judicial Circuit Family Court; Florence County, Adultery.

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

None.

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.

Francis Marion College, 1978-1982, B.S. Biology  
University of South Carolina School of Law, 1982-1985, J.D.

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

While in Law School, I was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and assisted in editing Gavel Raps, the Law School newspaper, in 1985. I also served as a research assistant to Professor Stravitz in 1985.

9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina, 1985.

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.

From August 1985 until April 1986, I practiced as an associate with Haigh Porter in Florence, South Carolina. My responsibilities primarily involved mortgage foreclosure actions and real estate transactions.

From April 1986 until July 1987, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable John H. Waller, Jr., Circuit Judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. My responsibilities involved assisting Judge Waller with research and reviewing Orders and other documents presented for execution by Judge Waller.

From July 1987 until April 1992, I practiced as an associate with Turner, Padgett Graham and Laney, P.A. in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil litigation in State and Federal Court, primarily related to defense of insureds in personal injury, premises liability and business litigation.

From April 1992 until December 1992, I practiced as an attorney with the Fallon Law Firm in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil litigation, primarily representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

From January 1993 until January 2001, I was a shareholder with the Vinson Law Firm, PA, in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil and domestic litigation, including personal injury cases and business litigation, as well as divorce and custody actions. I also represented the Department of Social Services as a contract attorney for four (4) years during this period of time, litigating all abuse and neglect cases.

In January 2001, I joined McDougall and Self, L.L.P as a partner, practicing in the Florence, South Carolina office. My practice was limited to Family Court litigation.

On February 4, 2004, I was elected by the Legislature to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Family Court Seat, Three. I have served in that position since July 1, 2004.

**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.

- (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.
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: | 0%   |
| (b) | state:   | 100% |
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:    | 2%  |
| (b) | criminal: | 0%  |
| (c) | domestic: | 98% |
| (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:     | 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) Connie Wiggins Skipper v. Douglas Skipper, 95-DR-21-2241. This matter was a divorce case in which the primary issues were equitable distribution and alimony. Husband and wife had been married for 32 years during which time the husband had worked for Southern Bell and the wife had been a full-time homemaker. During the pendency of the action, the husband accepted an early retirement. I was able to demonstrate to the Court that the wife was entitled to half of his retirement as part of the equitable distribution and also that the Court should impute income to him. I utilized a vocational expert who testified that the husband could have continued to earn \$3,500.00 per month. The Court utilized this figure in setting alimony. The husband appealed this case, but later dismissed his appeal. The husband also filed bankruptcy. I was able to protect the equitable distribution award, alimony and the attorney's fees awarded from discharge in bankruptcy.

(b) Larry Foster v. Betty Foster, 02-DR-21-390. This was an alimony reduction action in which I represented the wife, who had been awarded substantial equitable distribution and alimony at the time of the divorce. The husband claimed a loss in income in the several years preceding the filing of the action, using his tax returns as evidence. I was able to demonstrate that there had been no change in his lifestyle and that he had continued to spend the same amount or more than he was spending at the time his original alimony obligation had been set. The Court did not modify the alimony payment based upon the husband's decrease in income, reflected in his financial documents, as his spending habits and lifestyle reflected a higher income. The Court slightly reduced the alimony based upon employment which my client had undertaken just prior to the final hearing in this matter. This outcome was affirmed on appeal.

(c) Maria Parker Doughty v. John Harrell Doughty Jr. 02-DR-21-835. This was a divorce case where the only issue ultimately litigated was related to custody. The father attempted to demonstrate that the mother was morally unfit and was the less-involved parent. Both parties had flexible work schedules which permitted them to spend significant time with the children. Utilizing a child counselor, the testimony of my client, and the efforts of the Guardian ad Litem, I was able to demonstrate that the mother was the more-involved parent and was morally fit. I also was able to demonstrate that the father had entered into a course of conduct intended to alienate the children from the mother. Following a two day trial, the mother was granted sole custody of the children.

(d) John & Mary Smith v. SCDSS. This was an administrative hearing before the South Carolina Department of Social Services Hearing Panel involving foster parents. The Department of Social Services had raised allegations that Mr. and Mrs. Smith, foster parents within the Department of Social Services system, had abused a foster child in their care. Substantial medical testimony, along with the factual testimony from numerous witnesses, was presented concerning injuries to the foster child. Following the one day trial of this matter, the Hearing Panel determined that the Smiths had not abused the foster child. (I have not disclosed the actual names of my clients as this is not a matter of public record.)

(e) Debbie Eddings v. Harold David Eddings, 98-DR-21-326. This was a divorce action in which the primary issues were equitable distribution and health insurance/alimony. The wife had a preexisting condition which made the purchase of health insurance extremely difficult and expensive. While the marriage had lasted for less than three years, the husband had convinced the wife to resign from her job with Amtrak while he continued to work. After the husband committed adultery, which led to the demise of the marriage, the wife was especially concerned about continuing health insurance coverage. I was able to convince the court to award, in essence, medical alimony. The award provided that the husband would make COBRA payments for the wife's coverage until the COBRA benefits ended, and then he would begin to pay a monthly amount for health insurance premiums unless, or until, the wife became eligible for group benefits, died or remarried. While this order was not appealed, the husband subsequently brought an action for reduction or termination of alimony. The Family Court denied the husband's request.

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) Larry Foster v. Betty Foster, South Carolina Court of Appeals, Unpublished decision filed March 15, 2004

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) 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.

Yes. From July 1, 2004 to present, I have served on the Family Court for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I have been elected three times by the Legislature for this position.

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) The State v. Tyquan Jared Amir Jones, 709 S.E.2d 696, 392 S.C. 647 (Ct. App. 2011)

This appeal arose from a waiver hearing held in 2006. The juvenile pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter following the waiver of jurisdiction from the Family Court. The Court of Appeals noted that the trial court had properly considered all of the Kent factors, and also took into account the lack of opportunities and the environment in which the juvenile had lived. Noting that the record contained a great deal of evidence supporting the Family Court decision, the Court of Appeals affirmed the waiver of jurisdiction.

- (b) Michael Ashburn v. April Rogers and SCDSS Child Support Division, 420 S.C. 411, 803 S.E. 2d 469 (Ct. App. 2017)

In this case involving the disestablishment of a paternity order, the Court of Appeals clarified certain principles of collateral estoppel and res judicata. The court held that, despite the fact that the father had been afforded opportunities for paternity testing before and after the paternity order, he was not precluded from seeking relief.

- (c) Sandra K. Jackson v. Franklin Jackson, Op. No. 2011–UP–110 (Ct. App. Filed March 16, 2011)

This appeal arose from an award of equitable distribution and alimony as set forth in the trial court's divorce decree. In its unpublished decision, the Court of Appeals found that the Family Court properly considered the relevant factors in apportioning marital property, making extensive written and oral findings regarding the factors. The Court of Appeals also affirmed the award of alimony, again finding that the court properly considered the relevant factors in determining the amount of alimony. This case was significant because it required me to weigh the husband's ability to continue working in juxtaposition with the wife's diminishing ability to work due to a chronic health condition. I also had to take into account the non-marital property of the wife when determining her income and needs.

- (d) Punam Hiral Gopaldas v. Hiral Ranjit Gopaldas, 2009-DR-21-2483 and 2011-DR-21-1255

This divorce case primarily involved issues of custody and equitable distribution. Shortly before the scheduled final hearing, the mother and maternal grandmother were found murdered in the former marital residence. The parties' two year old child was present at the time of the murders. Following the homicides, the Department of Social Services became involved. There was significant public and press interest in this case, particularly after the father was charged with the double homicide. The matter was brought before me on an emergency motion related to custody. As DSS was a party to the action and there was a need to protect the child and the families, I instituted a gag order and sealed the file during the pendency of the action. I also retained jurisdiction to ensure that the child would be protected throughout the ongoing criminal investigation, especially with regard to multiple forensic interviews.

(e) Christina Lynn Lowry v. Thomas Lowry, 2011-DR-21-1277

This case demonstrated the demands placed on the court by self-represented litigants. The plaintiff represented herself in this two day custody case. The defendant was represented by counsel. The plaintiff, who was well-educated, faced significant challenges in presenting her case for custody. The experienced family court litigator representing the defendant properly challenged the plaintiff throughout the presentation of her case. As a trial judge, I could not assist the plaintiff in presenting her case. It was, however, vitally important that I obtain as much information as possible concerning the best interest of the parties' children. This is the challenge that is frequently presented in self-represented litigation. Through thorough and appropriate questioning by the guardian ad litem and the court, I was able to obtain significant information which ultimately led me to conclude that it was in the children's best interest for the plaintiff to be granted primary custody.

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.

Admitted to practice in South Carolina on November 21, 1985.

Admitted to practice before the United States District Court on July 29, 1987.

Admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit on October 30, 1987.

Admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court on June 17, 2002.

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) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/12/97
(b) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	8/28/98
(c) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/24/99
(d) Family Law Ethics Seminar	12/4/99
(e) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/15/00
(f) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/21/01
(g) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/20/02
(h) Ethical Issues in Appointed Cases	10/18/02
(i) Guardian Ad Litem Certification	1/10/03
(j) SC Bar Cool Tips Seminar	4/25/03
(k) Children's Law Seminar	10/14/05
(l) SC Bar CLE – Panel Discussion – New Tools for the Family Court	1/27/06
(m) SC Bar CLE - Children's Issues in Family Court – Relocation: A New Approach	3/17/06



(n) 2006 Orientation School for New Judges	7/10/06
(o) Charleston County Family Law Seminar – Observations from the Bench	11/17/06
(p) Children's Issues in Family Court – Guardian ad litem Reports What's in It for Me?	3/23/07
(q) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Ten Things Lawyers Need to Know about Temporary Hearings	9/21/07
(r) Children's Law Project Seminar on Abuse & Neglect	11/16/07
(s) SC Bar CLE - Tips from the Bench – Divorce and Separation – The Devil is in the Details: Checklists as Tools	2/15/08
(t) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases – a Work in Progress	9/19/08
(u) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Thoughts from the Bench – Top Ten Basics All Lawyers Need to Know	9/19/08
(v) Children's Law Center Conference – Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases	10/31/08
(w) SC Bar Convention - Family Law Section-Advantages of the New Financial Declaration	1/23/09
(x) SCDSS CLE - Attorney Training – Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases -Panel Discussion	2/27/09
(y) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners - Common Evidentiary Issues: Oops! I Did It Again	9/18/09
(z) Training for Attorneys Appointed in Abuse & Neglect Cases	1/15/10
(aa) SC Bar - Children's Law Committee Seminar– Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect cases	1/23/10
(bb) SCCFCJ Conference – Best Legal Practices	4/22/10
(cc) Guardian ad Litem training on Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases	5/17/10
(dd) SC Bar – Solo & Small Firm Seminar – What Every Lawyer Should Know About Family Court	9/24/10
(ee) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Trial Tips from the Bench	10/1/10
(ff) Child Support Enforcement CLE – Best Legal Practices in Abuse and Neglect Cases	10/29/10
(gg) Family Court Judges Mini Summit on Justice for Children – Best Legal Practices in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases	12/2/10
(hh) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	6/8/11
(ii) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	9/16/11
(jj) SC Bar Family Court Judges Bench/Bar – Effective Pre-Trial Practice in a Small Market	12/2/11
(kk) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	5/31/12
(ll) VIP SCNYTD – SCDSS Independent Living Conference Youth Speak Workshop – Panel Discussion	6/8/12
(mm) SC Supreme Court Institute – Panel Discussion – Overview of the South Carolina Courts	6/19/12
(nn) Forum on Judicial Independence & Diversity LWVSC	8/7/12
(oo) SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners –	

	Show Your Love: Ten Suggestions for a Happier Relationship with Your Judge	9/28/12
(pp)	Francis Marion University Criminal Justice Class – Lecture on Juvenile Justice	11/20/12
(qq)	SCAJ Annual Conference – Rules of Procedure – Order of Protection	8/1/13
(rr)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	5/31/13
(ss)	SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – New Rule on Temporary Hearings: Page Limitations, Time Limitations, Exceptions to the Rule	9/27/13
(tt)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	6/19/14
(uu)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar – Just the Factors Ma’am: Attorney Fees	9/26/14
(vv)	SCCA Orientation School for New Judges - Alimony	6/4/15
(ww)	SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Relationships: the Practitioners Professional Responsibility	9/25/15
(xx)	SCCA Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	6/2/16
(yy)	SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – Ain’t Misheavin: Conduct, Lawyers Oath, Rule 9	9/23/16
(zz)	South Carolina Summit on Access to Justice for All – Self-Represented Litigants	10/24/16
(aaa)	Twelfth Circuit Tips from the Bench	10/28/16
(bbb)	Children’s Law Seminar	11/4/16
(ccc)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges - Alimony	5/4/17
(ddd)	SC Bar Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners – And It Is So Ordered: Order Details	9/22/17
(eee)	SC Bar Family Court Judges Bench/Bar – Standardizing “Standard” Visitation: A View from the Bench	12/1/17
(fff)	Children’s Law Center – Raising the Bar for Children	4/13/18
(ggg)	SCCA Orientation School for New Judges - Alimony	5/17/18
(hhh)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar – Amuse Bouche	9/21/18
(iii)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges – Alimony	5/29/19
(jjj)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar – Seven Habits of Highly Effective Family Court Litigators	9/20/19
(kkk)	SC Bar CLE – Panel for Improving Temporary Hearings	10/6/19
(lll)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges – Alimony	6/9/20
(mmm)	View from the Bench – Indigent Defense – via WebEx	6/12/20
(nnn)	SC Bar LRE Mock Trial Competitions, Presiding Judge for regional, state and national	7/04 – present

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

See attached JCLE reports.

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

I have prepared seminar materials for a majority of the seminars at which I have spoken.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

(a) South Carolina Family Court, Memorandum of Order (2005)

(b) South Carolina Court of Appeals, Appellant's Brief (2003)

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.

Martindale-Hubbell 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

-Judicial member (Current)

-House of Delegates (Past member)

-Family Law Section Council - Chair (2001 - 2002) (Past member)

-Law Related Education Committee (Current member) - Chair (2010 - 2012)

(b) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association (Current member)

(c) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (Current member)

-Served on Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2011

-Finance Committee member from 2010 to 2016

(d) South Carolina Family Court Judges Association (Current member)

-President (2012 - 2013)

-President Elect (2011 - 2012)

-Secretary/Treasurer (2010-2011)

(e) Bench/Bar Committee (2005-2017) (2020 - Current Member) - Chair (2012-2014)

-Best practices Subcommittee - Chair and Co-Chair (2009 to 2017)

(f) Governor's Task Force for Adoption and Foster Care (2007 to 2008)

(g) American Bar Association - Judicial Division (Past member)

(h) Family Court Judges Advisory Committee (2010-2013)

(i) Pee Dee Inn of Court (Current 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.

None.

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

Yes. Court of Appeals, Seat 3, 2019.

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.

Other than part-time positions held while in high school, college and law school, I have not engaged in any occupation other than, serving as a judicial law clerk, practicing law and holding my current judicial seat.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

No.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No.

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

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

- (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?

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.

None.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
  - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
  - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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

No.

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.

No. I was a party to the divorce action referenced in Question 6.

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 been covered by a tail policy through ALPS since July 1, 2004, for which I pay annual premiums.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

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

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No.

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No.

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No.

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

(a) John W. Waller



[REDACTED]

(b) Karl A. Folkens

[REDACTED]

(c) Richard Reich

[REDACTED]

(d) John Turner

[REDACTED]

(e) Ken Jackson

[REDACTED]

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

I have a Facebook presence under a pseudonym which I primarily utilize to view photographs of my goddaughters.

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

Facebook. Desi Lister

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 have not posted any item on my Facebook account. I do not use private message function. I do not respond to other users' posts.

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) Confirmed Communicant at St. John's Church and former Vestry Member

- (b) Member, and Past President, of Francis Marion University Alumni Association
- (c) Former member and Vice-Chair of Francis Marion University Foundation Board
- (d) Graduate of Leadership Florence
- (e) Recipient of Francis Marion University Outstanding Member of Alumni Association (1997)
- (f) Kiwanian of the Year (1994)
- (g) Participant at National Security Seminar, United States Army War College (2007)
- (h) Recipient of Francis Marion University John S. Boyce Award (2010)

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.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as a family court judge for the past 16 years. I am very grateful to have been afforded this opportunity for service to my state and to its citizens.

I take my judicial oath very seriously, and find that it serves as a constant reminder that my conduct, both inside and outside the courtroom, influences the perception of our judicial system. I remain mindful of the significant impact that the decisions I make as a judge have upon the lives of the persons appearing before me.

Before starting law school, I worked as a bag boy, bus driver, theater usher, janitor, and delivery person. In my legal career, I have served as a circuit court law clerk, an associate at a large firm, a member of a small firm, and a family court judge. These experiences have broadened my perspective on life and enhanced my appreciation for those who are involved in our legal system. These varied life experiences, I believe, have also made me a better person and a better judge.

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 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

Alexis G. Pearce  
(Notary Signature)

Alexis G. Pearce  
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: 3-30-26