



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 12

1. Name: The Honorable Daniel McLeod Coble

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

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

Full-time Magistrate Judge, Richland County

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 2500 Decker Boulevard, Columbia, SC 29206

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-576-2328
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1987
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.
No

6. Family Status: Married on November 9, 2013 to Kristen Karr Coble, staff attorney for the South Carolina Supreme Court.
Never divorced, one child.
[REDACTED]

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) Clemson University August 2005 to May 2009, B.A. in Economics. Graduated May 2009.
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2009 to May 2012, J.D. Graduated May 2012.

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) Journal of Law and Education (2011-2012)
 - (b) S.C. House of Representatives, House Judiciary Committee, Law Clerk (2010-2012)
 - (c) Lewis & Babcock, Law Clerk (2011)
 - (d) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Law Clerk (2010)
 - (e) Student Member, John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court (2011-2012)
 - (f) Student Member, Phi Delta Phi (2011-2012)
 - (g) Member of Community Relations Council (2011-2012)
 - (h) William T. Howell Law School Scholarship (2009-2012)

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) Admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2012.

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) From July 2012 to November 2012, I was a law clerk for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.
 - (b) From November 2012 to July 2017, I was an assistant solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. I handled a wide range of cases ranging from drug offenses and DUIs to armed robbery and kidnapping. I co-counseled three murder cases and tried several other felony and misdemeanor cases. From 2014 until 2017, I was the lead prosecutor for the Columbia Homeless Court. I also organized a committee of health care professionals to address the chronically homeless in seeking solutions for their recovery, which was called Homeless Coordination.
 - (c) From July 2017 until the present time, I have been appointed as a full-time Magistrate Judge in Richland County. In this capacity, I handle both civil and criminal cases, which includes bond settings, preliminary hearings, mediation,

civil and criminal jury trials, transfer court, and more. In June 2018, I was appointed as the Associate Chief Judge for Richland County. As the Associate Chief Judge, I handle the majority of administrative issues at our Central Court. I was appointed as the Municipal Judge for Arcadia Lakes in May 2020.

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.

As an assistant solicitor, I spent nearly every single week in the court room handling criminal cases. In criminal court, I managed different cases from beginning to end – from bond settings, to preliminary hearings, to guilty pleas and motions, to jury trials. I tried three murder cases with co-counsel, and I also co-counseled a “castle hearing” to determine immunity from prosecution of a murder. I tried multiple other cases to verdict.

The most rewarding experience of my time as an assistant solicitor was being part of the creation of South Carolina’s first Homeless Court. This partnership among

prosecutors, judges, public defenders, and many more, helped folks transition out of homelessness and back into society. Because of the great work the court did, I worked with local health officials to create Homeless Coordination, which was focused on the top homeless folks in the City of Columbia. Our group coordinated together to create a list of the 20 most frequently arrested and hospitalized homeless people and to help them get off the streets and give them an opportunity to seek treatment.

As a full-time Magistrate Judge, I also handle criminal cases from beginning to end. I preside over both jury trials and bench trials for criminal court, bond settings, preliminary hearings, guilty pleas, and motions. As a Magistrate, I also handle civil cases. This ranges from civil motions, mediation, bench trials and jury trials. I have presided over dozens of full-length jury trials with attorneys on both sides. These trials require knowledge of the rules of evidence and an efficient application of those rules.

In addition to the civil experience from Magistrate Court, I have received almost 50 CLE hours in civil credits over the past three years of reporting. I also taught a Magistrate CLE on criminal and civil trial objections.

Whether I am presiding over a summary judgment motion, castle hearing, guilty plea, etc., I have come to understand that a judge might not have all the answers, but they need to be able to know where to find the answers, and do so quickly. Every day in court, I have to say no, yes, guilty, not guilty, and much more. Being decisive and making decisions that upset people is not easy, but I have been doing this for over three years as a Magistrate.

I think it is extremely important for all judges to be very knowledgeable about the court rules and also empathetic to attorneys appearing before them. One area I constantly focus on is understanding what an attorney is going through as they represent a client. I am always aware of the issues that arise with attorneys and running a law practice. This includes uncooperative clients, the family of clients, running a small business, and many other issues. By understanding and seeing the attorney's position, I will be a better judge and make the system as a whole more effective and judicious.

I am extremely fortunate to have some of the most respected lawyers in our state as both close friends and mentors. They have taught me since my first day as an assistant solicitor to treat other attorneys with respect and understand where they are coming from. This advice and mentoring will continue for the rest of my career.

- (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: 30%
 - (b) criminal: 70%
 - (c) domestic: 0%
 - (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: 75%
 - (b) non-jury: 25%

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

Co-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) State v. William Wallace, 2013GS4004554; 4548; 8/15/14. I was second seat in this double murder case. It was a weeklong trial that involved dozens of witnesses and lengthy motions.
 - (b) State v. Frankie Brown, 2012GS4001088; 10/24/13. This was my first trial as first chair. I was able to strategize about the trial and make the final decisions. The jury deliberated for several hours, but we worked out a plea deal with the defense attorney before the jury returned a verdict.
 - (c) State v. Adrian Lawrence, 2012GS4006014; 7/6/15. I second seated this castle hearing with the Deputy Solicitor, where the defendant was charged with murder.

We were successful with the castle hearing and the defendant ultimately ended up pleading to a reduced charge.

(d) State v. Nickolas Richardson, 2013GS4006592; 10/31/16. I second seated this murder trial and gave opening statement and handled many witnesses.

(e) State v. Frank Singleton, 2013GS2800251; 3/12/14. I second seated this murder trial and gave opening statement and handled many witnesses.

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.

N/A

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

N/A

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

I was appointed as a full-time Magistrate Judge for Richland County in July, 2017, and I am serving presently. Magistrates generally have jurisdiction in criminal cases that do not carry more than a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail. In civil cases, Magistrates are generally limited to cases not exceeding \$7,500 in the amount in controversy.

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.

Because Magistrate Court operates very quickly, I usually rule from the bench and place any orders on the record from there. Over the past years as a judge, it is rare that I write orders, however these are a few significant ones.

(a) State v. Haggins, Order 5469-2017-3 (Not Reported). The public defender filed a motion to dismiss for failure to comply with a speedy trial motion, Langford violation, and Rule 5 violation. I held a hearing and ultimately denied the motion to dismiss.

(b) State v. Andrzejewski, Order 5469-2018-3 (Not Reported). In this case, I held a castle hearing on an assault charge. I wrote an order denying immunity under the Protection of Persons and Property Act.

(c) Rodriguez v. McDaniel, Order 5469-2017-5 (Not Reported). After a civil trial, one party moved for sanctions against the other claiming that they violated ADR Rules. I denied the motion.

(d) Rowe v. Osbourne, Order 5469-2018-14 (Not Reported). After a restraining order hearing, I granted the restraining order against the defendant. The defendant moved for a new trial based on new evidence. I denied the motion for a new trial after

analyzing the required factors. This order was overturned on appeal by the Circuit Court Judge.

(e) Neil v. Edelmayer, 2018CV4010600603 (Order from the bench). In this claim and delivery action, I awarded a judgment of \$200 to the plaintiff.

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, November 13, 2012

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) No-Knock Search Warrants: On-Demand CLE – S.C. Bar (June 2020)

(b) 2020 SCSCJA Staff Seminar: Evidence (*Postponed due to COVID-19*)

(c) 2020 It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence: Evidence in Magistrates Court (February 2020)

(d) South Carolina Impaired Driving Assessment: Adjudication of DUI Cases (October 2019)

(e) Leadership Columbia: South Carolina Judicial Systems (October 2019)

(f) Midlands Tech, Guest Speaker: Judicial Systems CRJ 220 (September 2019)

(g) A Guide to Prelims: On-Demand CLE – S.C. Bar (Fall 2019)

(h) S.C. Victims' Rights Week: The Bond Hearing Process – A Creative Approach (April 2019)

(i) South Carolina Bar Leadership Academy: Attorneys in Public Service (Running for Office) (March 2019)

(j) Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges: Landlord/Tenant (March 2019)

(k) Direct Examination Podcast: Episode 3: Judge Daniel Coble (March 2019)

(l) Midlands Tech, Guest Speaker: Judicial Systems CRJ 220 (October 2018)

(m) 2018 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: Discovery (Brady/Rule 5) (September 8, 2018)

(n) S.C. Victims' Rights Week: A Walk Through the Criminal Justice System (April 2018)

(o) 2018 SCSCJA Staff Seminar: Criminal/Civil Trial Objections (March 2018)

(p) Columbia Homeless Court Training, Panelist (December 2014)

(q) Columbia Rotary Club, Guest Speaker: Columbia Homeless Court (June 2014)

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

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

(a) Published Books

- i. Pocket Prelims: A guide book to preliminary hearings in South Carolina (S.C. Bar Publications, 2019)
 - ii. Florida Rules of Evidence: Annotated for State and Federal Court (Lawyers & Judges Publishing, 2020) (I am also working on two more books for L&J Publishing: South Carolina Rules of Evidence and Texas Rules of Evidence)
 - iii. Precedents: Annotated and Abridged Cases from the Supreme Court 1793-2019 (Submitted for publication)
- (b) Self-Published Books
- iv. Federal Rules of Evidence: An Introduction to Trial Evidence (Harvard Law School's Library Innovation Lab H2O, 2020)
 - v. Federal Rules of Evidence: Annotated for the Fourth Circuit (Independently published 2018)
 - vi. South Carolina Rules of Evidence: Annotated (Independently published 2019)
 - vii. The 4th: Fourth Amendment Law in South Carolina (Independently published 2018)
 - viii. Everyday Evidence: State Court (Independently published 2018)
 - ix. Everyday Evidence: Federal Court (Independently published 2018)
 - x. Deconstructing the DUI: A guide book to DUI law in South Carolina (Independently published 2018)
 - xi. Traffic Court in South Carolina: Offenses and Definitions (Independently published 2018) (Terry Leverette is coauthor)
 - xii. Court Rules of South Carolina: A Compilation of Legal Rules 2020 (Independently published 2020)
- (c) Published Articles, Essays, and Book Reviews
- xiii. Ever Evolving Evidence S.C. Lawyer (Forthcoming September 2020)
 - xiv. @Posner Thoughts - The Verified Account: A Review of Judge Posner's The Federal Judiciary: Strengths and Weaknesses 41 La Verne Law Rev. 2 (2020)
 - xv. Not Your Scalia's Textualism JOTWELL (July 9, 2019) (reviewing Jeffrey Bellin, Fourth Amendment Textualism, Mich. L. Rev. (2019), available at SSRN)
 - xvi. A Prosecutor's Credo, Robed Oracles, and Gideon's Angels: A Review of Doing Justice Harvard L. & Pol'y Rev. Notice and Comment Blog (May 28, 2019)
 - xvii. Discretionary Life Sentences for Juveniles: Resolving the Split Between the Virginia Supreme Court and the Fourth Circuit 75 Washington & Lee Law Rev. Online 101 (2019)
 - xviii. The Time in Between: A Response to A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts 67 Buff. Law Rev. D1 (2019)
 - xix. Severing the Severability Doctrine: Why It's Time the Supreme Court Finally Acknowledges, Clarifies, and Severs this Doctrine 88 UMKC Law Rev. (2020)
 - xx. Permissible Inference or Impermissible Burden Shift: How the Supreme Court Could Decide State v. Glover Washburn L.J. Blog (Mar. 18, 2019)
 - xxi. Following Friendly or Running to Rehnquist? A Review of Joan Biskupic's "The Chief?" 52 Ind. Law Rev. Blog (April 19, 2019)

- xxii. Heart-Wrenching, Yet Hopeful: A Review of Judge William Alsup's 'Won Over'
The Recorder on Law.com (April 5, 2019)
 - xxiii. I Recommend: Theodore Roosevelt for the Defense Judicature Bolch Judicial
Institute, Duke Law School (May,2020)
 - xxiv. Chasing the Chiefs: A Review of "The Chief Justices" by Daniel A. Cotter
Everyday Evidence Legal Blog (May 13, 2019) (From my personal blog)
 - xxv. A Letter from the Editor: When Can a Judge Write? 1 Cts. & Just. L.J. 9 (2019)
(From my law journal)
- (d) I write extensively for my legal blog, Everyday Evidence, which focuses on the rules of evidence, Fourth Amendment, civil/criminal case law, and more. I am also the founder and editor of the Courts & Justice Law Journal.
- (e) Magistrate Court Series Judge Kenneth Southerlin (SC Bar Publications forthcoming 2020), Editorial Board.
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.)
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.
N/A
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) Richland County Bar Association
 - (c) S.C. Bar: CLE Publications Committee
 - (d) S.C. Bar: Ethics Advisory Committee
 - (e) South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association, Member
 - (f) Richland County Magistrate Association, Treasurer
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.
In 2012, I ran unsuccessfully for Columbia City Council District Three.
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.
The only other potential type of other business would be the publication of two books and several self-published books. All royalties from these titles are donated.
31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
No
32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
No
33. Provide, as a **separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

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.

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.
No

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

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.

N/A

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) Dean Robert M. Wilcox, [REDACTED]

(b) Keith M. Babcock, [REDACTED]

(c) The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, [REDACTED]

(d) George B. Cauthen, [REDACTED]

(e) William C. Crantford, [REDACTED]

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

I currently run a legal blog called Everyday Evidence and am the editor and founder of the Courts & Justice Law Journal. I am active on Twitter and use this social media in accordance with the Judicial Canons. I also occasionally use LinkedIn to share my blog posts. I have a Facebook account, but I do not use it except to share the links to my blog posts. I am not friends with anyone on Facebook except my wife.

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

Twitter: @DanielMCoble and @CourtsJusticeLJ

LinkedIn: Daniel Coble

Facebook: Daniel Coble

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 am extremely aware of how social media can be misused by members of the judiciary. I recently participated in a "tweet-along" with the South Carolina Bar. I treat every blog post and social media post as a public message and always in concert with the Judicial Canons. I wrote an article for my law journal entitled "When Can a Judge Write?" where I discuss my views on a judge's role in regards to publications. I have no objection to reducing or stopping social media use if necessary.

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) Summary Court Judge Mentoring Program (mentoring three new judges)

(b) S.C. Bar: CLE Publications Committee (Present)

(c) S.C. Bar: Ethics Advisory Committee (Present)

(d) 1L Mentoring Program (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

(e) UofSC Mock Trial Judge (2019, 2020)

- (f) Affordable Housing Resources
- (g) Midlands Housing Trust Fund
- (h) United Way Financial Stability Council
- (i) Community Relations Council
- (j) Chair of CRC Young Contemporaries
- (k) Animal Mission
- (l) Shandon Neighborhood Council
- (m) Tarantella Club
- (n) Richland County Magistrate Association, Treasurer
- (o) Purple Ambassador, Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence
- (p) Trial Advocacy Certification, NDAA

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.

Since the summer of 2016, I have known that I would like to one day run for a Circuit Court seat. In the winter of that same year, I was fortunate enough to be approached by Senator John Courson about my interest in replacing Judge Kirby Shealy upon his retirement as a full-time Richland County Magistrate. At the time, I was considering the daunting task of starting a solo firm so that I could broaden my experience and become a better candidate for Circuit Court. However, I knew that an appointment as a full-time Magistrate Judge was the best opportunity for me to not only receive judicial experience and preside over jury trials but also to continue to serve in the public sector.

It was extremely humbling for Senator Courson to think of me for this position, and even more humbling that he believed that I could follow in the footsteps of such a respected judge. Knowing the high bar that Judge Shealy set, I have tried hard to work every single day to improve myself personally as a judge. There are many qualities that make a great judge, but I believe some of the most important ones are to know the court rules, have extensive trial experience, and to be empathetic and understanding to attorneys who appear before them. Over the past four years, I have focused every day on improving these qualities.

After a few jury trials as a presiding judge, I quickly learned that the judge keeps the trial moving and that they must know the court rules fluently. Especially the rules of evidence. I began to heavily study these rules and understand them as fluidly as possible. I first started a legal blog, www.EverydayEvidence.org, so that I could blog about the rules of evidence and share it with other judges. I then self-published four separate books on the rules of evidence (two for state and two for federal). These books are meant to simplify the rules of evidence and be used for trial attorneys: quick and easy references. Working with a book publisher, I have now written and published a book on the rules of evidence, Florida Rules of Evidence Annotated for State and Federal Court. I am also working with this publisher to write books for South Carolina and Texas on their rules of

evidence. When it comes to the rules of evidence, I am most proud of being invited last year by Justice Few to present at his annual CLE *It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence*. I have self-published several other books on court rules, search and seizure, DUI and more. I use these books to constantly improve my knowledge, understanding, and capability in court matters. During these past few years, I have also published nearly a dozen legal articles on a wide range of issues.

Knowing the court rules by heart doesn't mean much if you cannot apply them in an efficient and timely manner. While I tried many cases as an assistant solicitor, it was a complete shift to preside over a jury trial. Presiding over a jury trial is an entirely different experience, and one that takes time and repetition. I have presided over dozens of trials to verdict, both criminal and civil, with attorneys representing at least one side. I have presided over hundreds of bench trials, usually rendering verdicts immediately, but other times taking them under advisement. I am the mentor to three new summary court judges for the Supreme Court's Mandatory Mentoring Program, and the first thing I talk to them about is moving trials along. You won't always get it right, but you need to be efficient and knowledgeable so that every litigant has a fair day in court.

But what I believe is most important, more important than knowing the rules or the law, is the character and temperament of a judge. This means having empathy for attorneys who appear before you. I am fortunate to have some of the best and most experienced mentors surrounding me, and they taught me from the first day not to forget what it's like to be on the other side of the bench and how quickly a judge can develop "robotic." Many attorneys are in a solo firm, which means not only do they have to deal with the law and its application, but also with running a small business. I believe a judge should always be mindful of that, and I have. One year after my appointment, I was promoted to the Associate Chief Judge for Richland County in the summer of 2018. This means that I handle a majority of the administrative duties for our Central Court. And I am personally in charge of every single continuance request that comes through Central Court. Whether it is law enforcement, attorneys, solicitors, or anyone else, I have to decide whether to continue the case or deny the continuance request. Before COVID-19, I received continuance requests on a daily basis and I saw firsthand many of the issues that arise for private attorneys that can prevent them from making a court appearance. Handling continuances, legal issues, and other administrative issues that arise can often times be more difficult and time consuming than presiding over actual court cases. But a judge needs to be able to do both in order to run an efficient and competent court system.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as a Magistrate Judge, and I am humbled to be considered for a Circuit Court Judgeship.

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: _____