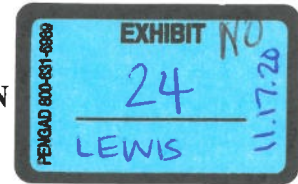


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2020



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

Judge of the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 12

1. Name: Mrs. Regina Hollins Lewis

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Not Applicable.

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: 3700 Forest Drive, Suite 400, Columbia, South Carolina 29204

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803.790.8838
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1964
Place of Birth: Columbia, 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#: SCDL# [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 – Not Applicable.

6. Family Status:

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Family Status: Married on December 10, 1990 (civil ceremony) and on October 19, 1991 (religious ceremony) to Irving Lionel Lewis.

Never divorced, two children.



7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

- (a) University of South Carolina, 1980 – 1984, Bachelor of Science;
- (b) University of Maryland, 1984 – 1987, Juris Doctor;
- (c) I have not attended any institution without receiving a degree.

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) Member, Black Law Students Association; 1984 – 1987;
- (b) Law Clerk, House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic-Law Clerk, Summer 1985 and Summer 1986;
- (c) Clinical Law Program, Third year, 1986-87.

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) Maryland, 1987, Took Bar Exam Once;
- (b) South Carolina, 2000, Took Bar Exam Once;
- (c) I have not taken any other state bar exams.

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) Law Clerk, Orphans' Court of Baltimore City (September 1987 to October 1988).

Served as law clerk to Three Judge Panel. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

- (b) Associate, Venable, Baetjer, and Howard, Baltimore, Maryland (October 1988 to September 1989).

Assisted in defense of large products liability actions, including asbestos litigation. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this entity, including management of trust accounts.

- (c) Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law (Spring 1993 semester).

Instructed approximately 75 students in the course, Domestic Relations. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

- (d) Adjunct Professor Law, University of Baltimore School of Law (Spring 1992 and Fall 1992).

Taught and supervised third year law students in the Family Law Clinic. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

- (e) Staff Attorney, House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic (September 1989 to May 1992).

Represented victims of domestic violence in civil protective order, divorce, and custody proceedings; participated in clemency project on behalf of incarcerated battered women who killed or assaulted abusive partners/spouses and successfully obtained clemency on behalf of eight such women; conducted training of pro bono attorneys as well as community education and training. In this position, I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

- (f) Director, House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic (May 1992 to July 1994).

Directed clinic staff of 12 attorneys, legal advocates, pro bono coordinator and assistants in Baltimore and Prince George's County offices. Hired, supervised and trained staff; supervised clinic litigation; managed budget and reports to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, authored and reviewed grant proposals on behalf of the Legal Clinic; advocated on behalf of victims of domestic violence with members of the Maryland Legislature. As Director, I was responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Clinic, including supervising attorneys and staff,

budgeting and managing compliance with federal and state agencies including the Legal Services Corporation.

- (g) Assistant Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division and Criminal Appeals Division, Office of the Attorney General, State of Maryland (August, 1994 - August 1999).

Civil Litigation Division - Represented State of Maryland, its agencies and employees in civil jury and bench trials and civil and criminal appeals, habeas corpus litigation in federal and State courts, including drafting and filing of pleadings, taking and defending depositions, preparation of clients and witnesses and presentation of cases in court. Defended claims of race, sex, age, and disability discrimination, alleged inmate Eighth Amendment violations, and other constitutional and tort claims. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

Criminal Appeals Division – Represented State of Maryland in criminal appeals and federal habeas corpus proceedings; conducted research; wrote briefs, filed and argued motions; presented oral argument in Court of Special Appeals and Court of Appeals of Maryland and United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; reviewed and edited briefs for all divisions of the Office. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

- (h) Member, Nexsen Pruet Adams Kleemeier, LLC, Columbia, South Carolina (January 2003 – June 2007).
Special Counsel, Nexsen Pruet Jacobs & Pollard, LLC, Columbia, South Carolina (July 2000 – January 2003).

Represented corporations and other organizations in various employment litigation matters in federal and state court, including claims of age, race, and gender discrimination, breach of contract and other claims; engaged in negotiation and participated in mediation of disputes; argued cases in the South Carolina state and federal courts and in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; represented clients in jury trials in federal court; prepared position statements on behalf of employer clients for submission to the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in response to charges of discrimination; reviewed and revised employee handbooks; provided legal advice and counsel in employment and other matters; conducted training on employment law issues including Title VII, the Family Medical Leave Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. I was involved in administrative management only to the extent that I managed the staff who worked with me. I was not involved in financial management of the entity.

- (i) Member, GaffneyLewis, LLC (formerly Gaffney Lewis & Edwards, LLC), Columbia, South Carolina (June 2007 – present).

Represent national retailers in premises liability, false imprisonment, pharmacy professional liability and other tort causes of action in state and federal courts; advise and represent individual and business clients in tort and employment related matters in state and federal court including Title VII claims of discrimination, and claims of wrongful termination and defamation; represent clients in administrative proceedings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and/or South Carolina Human Affairs Commission; conduct internal investigations on behalf of organizations related to claims of discrimination and harassment; act as mediator in civil litigation matters, primarily in the areas of tort and employment. I am involved in the administrative and financial management of the law firm, including the management of the firm's trust account along with my partners.

- (j) Adjunct Professor, University of South Carolina School of Law (Fall 2014, Fall 2015 and Fall 2016 Semesters).

Taught Trial Advocacy to class of 12 to 16 students; developed syllabus and instructed students on all phases of presenting a case at trial; provided feedback on mock trial exercises performed by students. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this agency.

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.

Not Applicable

- (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.

Criminal Experience: As an assistant attorney general, I represented the state of Maryland in criminal appellate cases from in or around mid-1996 until in or around July 1999. My practice consisted of writing approximately eight appellate briefs per month and appearing before the Maryland appellate courts for oral argument an average of two to three times per month when the courts were in session. The appeals addressed a broad range of issues arising from the trials of criminal cases, including rulings by the trial court on motions to suppress evidence, the admissibility and sufficiency of evidence at trial to support convictions, preservation of issues for appellate court review and assessment of harmless error.

Civil Experience: During the past twenty years, I have primarily represented corporations in a broad range of civil matters, including negligence, wrongful death, professional negligence, defamation, false arrest, and malicious prosecution and employment causes of action in the South Carolina state and federal trial and appellate courts. I have also represented individuals in actions for negligence, wrongful termination, breach of employment contracts, and discrimination pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- (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: I am currently lead counsel in a wrongful death case pending in federal court and am counsel of record along with other lawyers in my firm in approximately five other federal court matters. I have appeared in federal court for

motions practice or engaged in motions practice via teleconference approximately five to seven times during the past five years as my practice in these cases has consisted primarily of conducting discovery, including written discovery and depositions and mediation of the matters to settlement.

- (b) State: I am counsel of record in an average of approximately fifty state court matters at any given time. I have appeared in state court an average of seven to ten times during the past five years, including appearances at a bench trial that I tried to conclusion along with co-counsel, and a jury trial that I commenced trying along with co-counsel and was resolved during trial. My practice in these cases has consisted primarily of conducting discovery, including written discovery and depositions, and mediation of the matters to settlement.

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: 60%
(b) criminal: 0
(c) domestic: 0
(d) other: 40% (Alternative Dispute Resolution – Mediation)

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: No cases went to a jury in the last five years as all cases scheduled for jury trials were resolved prior to trial. One matter proceeded to trial but was resolved on the second day of trial and thus did not proceed to a jury.
(b) Non-jury: I have tried one bench trial in Circuit Court in the past five years.

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

I have served as chief counsel in matters on which I've worked with a junior partner or associate and have also worked as co-counsel with my partner with whom I founded the firm.

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) Estate of Dorinda Williams v. Walmart – Court of Common Pleas, Horry County.
This case arose out of the death of Plaintiff's decedent at the Walmart store in Horry County after loss prevention associates attempted to detain Decedent and her daughter after they shoplifted. Decedent and her daughter fought the loss prevention associates and Decedent suffered a heart attack and died during the incident. I represented the loss prevention associates along with my partner. In January 2013,

the case was tried to a jury and defense verdicts were entered in favor of all defendants. The case was significant because it was a wrongful death case and our clients were very concerned about the possibility of personal liability. It was meaningful and fulfilling to me to have been able to work with the young men to prepare for and present at trial and to ultimately obtain exoneration on their behalves.

- (b) In the Matter of the Complaint C2014-156, J. Samuel Griswold, Ph.D. v. Curtis M. Loftis, Jr. Before the South Carolina Ethics Commission

I handled this matter as Chair of a Hearing Panel while serving on the South Carolina Ethics Commission. The matter arose out of the hiring on an attorney who was a close friend of the State Treasurer to represent the State of South Carolina as co-counsel in litigation in which substantial claims by the State were pending against a bank in which millions of dollars were in dispute. The issue presented was whether the respondent violated South Carolina ethics laws by using his official position to affect the economic interest of the hire attorney/friend when he authorized the employment of the attorney and sought the approval of the Attorney General of South Carolina. I chaired the hearing of the matter at which the panel heard pre-hearing motions and received testimony and other evidence from the parties.

Thereafter, I deliberated along with the other members of the panel and wrote the opinion on behalf of the panel. We conclude that the respondent violated State ethics law and issued a public reprimand. As Chair of the panel, I was the primary author of the opinion. This matter was significant because it allowed me to act in a quasi-judicial role and to, as a neutral, hear and assess both sides of a matter, to make findings of fact and to apply the law to reach a conclusion in the same manner that judges must assess the matters before them. It was an interesting and challenging process and the experience would benefit me if elected to the position of judge.

- (c) Webb v. Sowell, 387 S.C. 328 (2010), overruled, 396 S.C. 647 (2012) – Supreme Court of South Carolina

This case presented the constitutional question of whether a Family Court order directing a non-custodial parent to pay college expenses violated the Equal Protection Clauses of the United States and South Carolina constitutions. I was associated in this appeal by a family court practitioner to write the brief. The case was significant because it presented an interesting constitutional question and the argument on behalf of our client was against precedent. The research for and writing of the brief was both interesting and challenging. It was most exciting to receive the opinion, in which the Supreme Court of South Carolina found in our client's favor and held that the requirement was unconstitutional. Although the decision was ultimately overruled in a subsequent decision of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, it was a fascinating experience to have participated in the appeal.

- (d) Matter of Tyrone Gilliam, Review and Report to Governor Parris N. Glendening. This matter arose out of a sentence of death that was imposed upon defendant Tyrone Gilliam for a murder committed in 1993. In 1998, while I was an assistant attorney general for the state of Maryland, I was assigned to assist the Governor in assessing Gilliam's appeal for clemency by reviewing the case and advising the Governor regarding the record, including the sufficiency of the evidence. I conducted the review and provided my findings to the Governor, after which the death sentence was upheld and Mr. Gilliam was executed. The case is significant because it was a death penalty case and the gravity of the assignment was tremendous for me. For my work on the matter, I received the Attorney General's Exceptional Service Award in or around 1999.
- (e) Knott v. State, 349 Md. 277 (1998). As an assistant attorney general in Maryland, I handled this appeal, which arose from the trial of a defendant in an orange jumpsuit after the trial court denied a request by the defendant's counsel for a continuance to allow the defendant to obtain civilian clothing. The defendant was convicted and appealed the conviction, arguing that he was deprived of the presumption of evidence by being compelled to proceed in prison garb. The intermediate appellate court upheld the conviction, finding that the issue was not preserved for appeal. The case was assigned to me after the Court of Appeals of Maryland granted certiorari. As a young attorney, I suggested that the issue be conceded as I anticipated that there was a strong likelihood that the intermediate appellate court would be reversed given the precedent holding that requiring a defendant to be tried in prison garb deprives him of the presumption of innocence. I was concerned that there would be no viable argument to support the conviction if the preservation argument was not successful. The chief of the division declined to concede and I proceeded with the appeal. After much research, I identified supporting case law and was able to submit a brief that presented viable arguments on both the preservation and substantive issues. Although the Court of Appeals reversed the decision below and held that the defendant was entitled to a new trial, the process was a valuable one. It taught me the importance of thoroughly analyzing an issue before making a determination regarding the viability of a position.

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) Solanki v. Wal-Mart Store #2806, Court of Appeals of South Carolina, August 20, 2014, 410 S.C. 229 (2014);
- (b) Jones v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Court of Appeals of South Carolina, November 28, 2012, 2012 S.C.App.Unpub. LEXIS 782;
- (c) Doe v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Supreme Court of South Carolina, June 27, 2011, 393 S.C. 240 (2011);
- (d) Guider v. Churpeyes, Inc., Court of Appeals of South Carolina, August 14, 2006, 370 S.C. 424 (2006);
- (e) Charleston v. Young Clement Rivers & Tisdale, LLP, Court of Appeals of South Carolina, June 21, 2004, 359 S.C. 635 (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) Fischer v. State, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, September 26, 1997, 117 Md.App. 443 (1997);
- (b) Pappaconstantinou v. State, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, January 6, 1998, 118 Md.App. 668 (1998);
- (c) Knott v. State, Court of Appeals of Maryland, April 14, 1998, 349 Md. 277 (1998);
- (d) Mora v. State, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, November 25, 1998, 123 Md.App. 699 (1998);
- (e) Skrivanek v. State, Court of Appeals of Maryland, October 12, 1999, 356 Md. 270 (1999).

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

No.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

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

Not Applicable.

20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

Court of Appeals of Maryland	December 22, 1987
United States District Court for the District of Maryland	July 14, 1989 (Inactive)
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit	October 5, 1994
Supreme Court of South Carolina	May 24, 2000
United States District Court for the District of South Carolina	October 16, 2000

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

- (a) I presented at the 2019 SC Defense Trial Attorneys' Association Program, "Trial Superstars" at which a mock trial was presented.
- (b) I presented at the 2019 SC Bar Program of the Employment and Labor Law Section, "Recent Developments in Employment Law."
- (c) I presented at the 2019 Office of United States Attorney Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association and South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Narcotics Commanders School Program, "Employee Relations (Grievances and Supervisory Liability)."
- (d) I presented at the 2019 Morris College Faculty-Staff Institute Program, "An Overview of Employment Discrimination Laws."
- (e) I presented at the 2018 Program of the National Association of Minority and women Owned Law Firms Trial Practice Group Webinar, "Putting a Face on the Company in Litigation: Successful Strategies for Maneuvering the Minefield of Employee Depositions."
- (f) I presented at the 2018 SC Bar Employment Law Seminar, "Recent Developments in Employment Law."
- (g) I presented at the 2018 Conference of Federal Trial Judges sponsored by the SC Federal Bar Association and the ABA National Conference of Federal Trial Judges at which a mock hearing was presented pursuant to Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- (h) I presented at the 2018 Strafford Webinar, "Managing Jurors in Catastrophic Personal Injury Claims."
- (i) I presented at the 2017 Program, "Reducing the Risk of Liability: What Not to Say and Do."
- (j) I presented at the 2014 (approximate year) SC Bar Program, "Top Lawyers Tackle Evidence."
- (k) I presented at the 2013 SC Bar Program, "Rainmaking Bootcamp for Attorneys."
- (l) I presented at the 2013 SC Bar Program Dispute Resolution Section Seminar, "Mediating Money: Managing the Realities of Traditional Bargaining."
- (m) I presented at the 2010 SC Bar continuing legal education ("CLE") program, "It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Civil Procedure."
- (n) I presented at the 2010 Trial Advocacy Program co-sponsored by the South Carolina Bar and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy
- (o) I presented at the 2009 (approximate date) – Presentation (upon information and belief the presentation was made at conference of South Carolina Magistrate Court Judges), "When Electronic Communications Come Back to Bite: Or Can They?"
- (p) I taught Domestic Relations in the Spring 1993 semester as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law.
- (q) I taught and supervised students in the Spring 1992 and Fall 1992 semesters at the University Baltimore School of Law Family Law Clinic.
- (r) I taught Trial Advocacy in the Fall 2014, Fall 2015 and Fall 2016 semesters at the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Note: This list includes all presentations for which I have documentation, but is not all-inclusive. I have presented numerous times over the past 30 years, including presentations to clients and other organizations and no longer have documentation or recollection of all presentations.

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

The report will be uploaded.

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

Labor and Employment Law for South Carolina Lawyers, Fifth Edition, Vol. II (South Carolina Bar – CLE Division Bar 2019), Contributing Author, “Alternative Dispute Resolution;”

The Battered Woman Syndrome: Justice Through Expert Testimony, Vol. 5, No. 10 National Bar Association Magazine 12 (October 1991)

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.)

The writing samples are attached. The first is an appellate brief, for which I was the primary author. I was associated to write the brief by another attorney, Joe W. Underwood, who handled the case in Family Court. I drafted the brief and it was reviewed by Mr. Underwood who, along with me edited the brief before it was finalized and filed.

The second writing sample is an opinion written when I was a member of the South Carolina Ethics Commission and acted as chair of a hearing panel. I was the primary author of the opinion and wrote the initial draft. Thereafter, the other two hearing panel members, Julie J. Moose and Twana Burris-Alcide, reviewed and edited the brief along with me before the opinion was finalized and submitted.

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.

AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell;
Super Lawyers 2017-2020;
Legal Elite of the Midlands, 2014, 2017.

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) John Belton O’Neal Inn of Court-President Elect, 2020-21;

- (b) South Carolina Bar;
Chair, Judicial Qualifications Committee (in or about 2006 -2007);
Member, Board of Governors (2008-2009);
Newsletter Editor, Employment and Labor Law Section (in or about 2004-2006);
- (c) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association;
- (d) National Bar Association;
- (e) Claims and Litigation Management Alliance;
- (f) National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms;
- (g) National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals;
- (h) Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers;
Diversity Liaison, State Committee.

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 served as a Commissioner on the State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission from April 2014 through March 2017. I was appointed to the position by Governor Nikki Haley. I timely filed all required reports with the Commission during the period that I 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.

No.

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.

No.

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.

Yes. I am a founding member and currently have a 50% ownership interest in the law firm of Gaffney Lewis LLC. The firm focuses its practice in the areas of litigation and mediation and represents corporations and individuals in a broad range of matters, including tort and employment matters.

My duties as a 50% owner include overseeing all operations of the firm along with my law partner, including finances, personnel and managing client relationships. I was a founding member of the firm in July, 2007.

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 – Not Applicable.

33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

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

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

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

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy. A tax lien was imposed in my husband’s name briefly in 2010 after we inadvertently neglected to pay a state tax bill. My recollection is that the amount due was approximately \$1600.00. The amount was paid shortly after we received notice of the lien. The tax lien currently shows only under his name and there is no listing of a tax lien under my name, but my recollection is that we filed taxes jointly and thus, the lien would be applicable to me as well. Documentation showing satisfaction of the lien is submitted herewith.

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 – 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.

Dick Harpootlian	\$1,000.00
Ronnie Sabb	\$1,000.00

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.

I am not aware of any financial arrangements that could result in a possible conflict of interest. My business relationship with my law firm could result in a possible conflict of interest or an appearance of impropriety. To avoid such a circumstance, I would not preside over matters involving my law firm.

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 – Not Applicable.

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.

I have never been sued by a client. I have personally filed two small claims actions against home renovations contractors arising out of disputes regarding renovation work that was performed in my home that was improperly performed in the first instance and improperly performed and not completed in the second instance. The first matter was filed in the Richland County Magistrate Court in 2013, Case Number 2012CV401102981, against Eric Praileau and Praileau Flooring and was resolved prior to trial. The second matter was filed in the Kershaw County Magistrate Court in 2017, Case Number 2017CV2810101558, against Zack Cooper Builders and Rick Worley and resulted in the entry of a default judgment against the contractor.

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 malpractice insurance for the duration of my private practice of law. The current liability limit is \$2,000,000.00 with a \$5,000.00. I have never been covered by a tail policy.

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

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

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

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) David Williams, Esquire
Williams and Williams Attorneys at Law

[REDACTED]

- (b) Greg Harris, Esquire
Harris & Gasser, LLC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- (c) I.S. Leevy Johnson, Esquire
Johnson Toal & Battiste, PA.

[REDACTED]

- (d) Susi P. McWilliams, Esquire
Nexsen Pruet, LLC

[REDACTED]

- (e) John D. Clark, Esquire
Clark Law Firm

[REDACTED]

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

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

LinkedIn	Regina Hollins Lewis
Facebook	Regina Hollins Lewis
Twitter	Gigi8184 (@rhollinslewis
Instagram	Regina Hollins Lewis

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

My use of social media would not be affected to a large degree as I my current use is generally limited to maintaining contact with close friends and family and celebrating milestones and accomplishments with them. I do currently “like” Tweets of political and media figures that I follow as well as comment on reality television as a form of entertainment. If elected, I would refrain from the use of social media in those aspects.

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) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated;
Chair, Cotillion Workshop Committee
Co-Chair, Anniversary Gala Committee
- (b) South Carolina Legal Services, Board of Directors: 2018-present
- (c) John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court, President-Elect 2020-21
- (d) Fellow, Liberty Fellowship

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.

After inwardly considering the pursuit of a judicial appointment for many years, I have decided to take the opportunity now for many reasons. First, I have been fortunate to have accomplished the career goals on which I focused during the 32-plus years that I have been practicing law. My practice has included both public service and private sector work and I have experience in civil, criminal and appellate areas of the law. I am ready to re-enter public service and give back to the legal profession in a way that capitalizes on my personal experience.

Second, my life experiences over nearly fifty-six years have allowed me to develop and apply the values that my parents worked hard to instill in me during their lifetimes and those values would enable me to be an asset to the bench. My parents taught me many things, among them that: 1) anything worth doing is worth doing right; 2) hard work, dedication and determination are not negotiables; 3) I should always know that I am as good as everyone else but never better than anyone else; and 4) in all things to do my best and then let go and let God.

My parents did not only speak of these values, but exemplified them. My mother was a hairdresser for many years. When I was three years old, my brother, who was six, was floundering in first grade so much so that his teacher told my mother he would likely have to repeat first grade. My mother would not hear of it. She became laser focused and began to work with my brother every day while I watched and learned from it all. Not only did my brother successfully pass the first grade, but I also learned to read at three through her efforts.

My mother's work with us inspired her to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education in her mid-forties. It took many years and often meant that she had to take me with her to her night classes but she persevered. She obtained her bachelor's degree in the same year that my brother graduated high school and dedicated the rest of her life to educating children.

My father was a brick mason but had skills far beyond masonry. When I was eight years old, he took me and my brother to a piece of property he had inherited in Blythewood, South Carolina. He had dug a foundation and he told us that this was the site for our new home that he was going to build.

For the next five years, my father worked construction jobs while my mother worked as a teacher's aide. When he had enough money saved, he would take a break from the construction job and would work on building our house and would then return to work. When I was thirteen, the house was completed and we moved. My parents proudly announced that they had no mortgage and that the house had been "built cash." I did not really understand what that meant at the time and was simply excited to have moved to a big, beautiful new home. It was not until I was an adult that I understood and appreciated the magnitude of what my parents had done. These examples of work ethic and determination have remained with me throughout my life and I have tried to replicate them in my legal career.

I began my legal career in Maryland (where I had attended law school). I have worked in public service, both as an advocate for victims of domestic violence and as a government attorney, representing the state of Maryland in civil and criminal matters. My father passed away while I was living in Maryland. Thereafter, I returned to South Carolina along with husband and two young daughters to be close to my mother. After taking time to study for the South Carolina bar, I obtained a position as special counsel at Nexsen Pruet law firm. Tragically, my mother died suddenly and unexpectedly on my second day at the firm. This was the most devastating loss I had ever experienced and it was difficult to manage the debilitating grief while working to establish myself with what I hoped would be an excellent reputation at a new firm. I credit those values that my parents instilled in me with being able to move forward through that grief and to ultimately make partner at the firm in 2003 and believe that this experience of pushing through a most difficult time will also benefit me if I am elected.

I worked with great lawyers and enjoyed my years at Nexsen Pruet, but always held the dream of owning my own firm and so in 2007, I joined two dear friends and formed the law firm in which I practice today. After thirteen years, I am proud of the culture of diversity at my firm and believe my experience in operating a business and managing the law firm has afforded me experience that would be critically important to the role of a Circuit Court judge.

I would like to return to serving the public in a judicial capacity because it will allow me to apply the legal and life skills that I have acquired to help ensure equal justice under the law. If elected, I will work tirelessly to do just that.

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: _____