



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

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

Administrative Law Court, Judge, Seat #3

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs. Debra Sherman Tedeschi
Ms.

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

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: 2600 Lee Road, Fort Jackson, SC 29207

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803.751.4558
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1967
Place of Birth: New Jersey
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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

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

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

No

6. Family Status:
- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated. Married
 - (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Married on December 30, 1995, to David John Tedeschi, Professor at USC
 - (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). n/a
 - (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. n/a
 - (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.



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) Rutgers College, 1985-1989, B.A., Computer Science major/English minor, cum laude
 - (b) University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 1993-1996, J.D., magna cum laude
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) Pitt Law Review, Managing Editor (1995-1996); Member (1994-1995)
 - (b) John J. Gibbons National Criminal Procedure Moot Court – Quarterfinalist (1996)
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
- (a) South Carolina, 1998
 - (b) Pennsylvania, 1997
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.

Litigation Associate in Private Sector, 1996-1998

- (a) Upon my graduation from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1996, I joined Pittsburgh's largest law firm, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, as a litigation associate. This large, international law firm is now known as K&L Gates. While an associate, I assisted in several commercial litigation matters, including cases involving employment law, intellectual property, and insurance coverage issues.
- (b) In 1997, my husband accepted a job as a Physics Professor at the University of South Carolina, and we moved from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Columbia, South Carolina. I became a litigation associate with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. From 1997-1998, I assisted in several commercial litigation matters, with a focus on product liability litigation.

Staff Attorney/Judicial Law Clerk at South Carolina Supreme Court, 1998-2004

- (c) I joined the South Carolina Supreme Court's Staff Attorney office in 1998 and served as a staff attorney for two years. My responsibilities included researching a wide variety of legal issues related to direct criminal appeals, petitions for writs of certiorari, and appellate motions. I drafted memoranda, opinions, and orders for the Court's review.
- (d) In 2000, I began my service as a judicial law clerk for Associate Justice John H. ("Johnny") Waller, Jr. I analyzed issues in all areas of law for cases on appeal and in original jurisdiction matters. The cases included matters of civil, criminal, domestic, and administrative law. I reviewed the records on appeal and the advocates' legal briefs, performed additional research, and then drafted bench memoranda for Justice Waller with recommendations on the legal issues. These memoranda were distributed to the other Court Justices for their review. In addition, I attended oral arguments, and drafted majority, concurring, and dissenting opinions for Justice Waller's review.

Dedicated Prosecutor for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, 2004-2005

- (e) In 2004, I was hired by South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster to be South Carolina's first dedicated prosecutor of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). In this role, I developed procedures to assist South Carolina law enforcement officers and prosecutors with effectively investigating and prosecuting ICAC matters. As a member of the Attorney General's Prosecution and State Grand Jury divisions, I prosecuted both child pornography and internet criminal solicitation cases. I provided specialized legal advice to SLED at the Computer Crime Center, trained law enforcement, and did public speaking as part of the community outreach function of the ICAC Task Force.

Adjunct Legal Writing Instructor, 2005-2006 (and also part-time 1999-2000)

- (f) I taught first-year law students at the University of South Carolina's School of Law legal writing and reasoning skills. The course topics included teaching students how to: (1) analyze and brief legal cases; (2) draft objective memoranda and persuasive briefs; and (3) effectively present an oral argument in court.

Judicial Law Clerk at South Carolina Supreme Court, 2006-2009

- (g) I returned to Justice Waller's chambers and worked again as a judicial law clerk until Justice Waller's retirement at the end of 2009. For duties, see subsection (d) above.

Member of South Carolina Supreme Court's Committee on Character and Fitness, 2010-present

- (h) Appointed by the Justices of the South Carolina Supreme Court. This Committee provides recommendations to the Court on whether applicants have the requisite qualifications and character to be admitted or reinstated to practice law in South Carolina.

Solo Practitioner, 2010-2012

- (i) At the beginning of 2010, I started my own law firm, The Tedeschi Law Firm, P.A. I focused my practice on Appellate Law, Administrative Law, Veterans' Disability Law, and Civil Litigation. As the only employee at my firm, I was fully involved with the administrative and financial management of this entity, and was fully responsible for the management of the Firm's trust account.

Assistant/Deputy General Counsel and Director of Appeals at the South Carolina Department of Employment & Workforce, 2011-2018

- (j) At the end of 2011, I returned to the public sector/State employment when I was hired as Assistant General Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW). I was promoted to Deputy General Counsel in 2012, and in 2015, I was given supervisory/management duties. As an attorney with DEW's Office of General Counsel (OGC), I handled an appellate case load before the Administrative Law Court (ALC), which involved defending DEW's final agency decisions when they were appealed to the ALC. These cases on occasion were further appealed to the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. For these appellate cases, I drafted briefs, motions, petitions for certiorari (or returns to petitions), and delivered oral arguments on behalf of DEW. Additionally, as Deputy General Counsel, I provided a wide variety of legal advice to the executive leadership team and other internal DEW clients on different matters including: state and federal regulatory/statutory compliance; information technology (IT) contracts and related issues, to include contract negotiation and management; legislation; and data privacy/confidentiality issues.

- (k) In February 2017, I was promoted to be the Director of Appeals. In that position, I was the head manager and supervisor of DEW's internal unemployment Appeals Department. I also served as Contract Manager for a multi-state consortium IT project.

Attorney-Adviser for the United States Army at Fort Jackson, 2018 – present

- (l) In July 2018, I became an Army Civilian with the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. In this position, I serve as a civilian attorney alongside active duty JAG attorneys and paralegals in the Fort Jackson Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) in the Administrative Law division. I provide legal advice and representation on federal employment and labor law matters affecting the Civilian workforce at Fort Jackson. These administrative law matters include Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) issues related to allegations of discrimination, collective bargaining, and grievance matters, Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) cases, and various other federal employment and administrative law issues. I serve as Agency representative in proceedings litigated before the EEO Commission (EEOC) and the MSPB, as well as in mediation proceedings. In addition, I frequently provide legal counsel directly to the commanders at Fort Jackson; negotiate and draft settlement agreements; and work closely with Human Resource personnel on employee discipline matters.

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience *prior to serving on the bench.*

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.
- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If

you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

From 2011 through 2017, I appeared frequently and consistently before all the current judges of the Administrative Law Court (ALC). These cases primarily involved appellate review of final DEW unemployment insurance (UI) decisions. Most of these were related to UI benefits, but some also involved businesses litigating an appeal on UI tax issues. I argued a wide range of issues at the ALC, both factual and legal. Additionally, on behalf of DEW, I litigated a Setoff Debt Act contested case hearing and appeared for a public hearing before the ALC on a DEW regulation that was being amended. As a result of this experience, I am familiar with the ALC Rules, which were also the frequent subject of motions filed in these cases. Also, when I was in solo practice, I litigated an appeal before Judge McLeod involving a social worker's license which was regulated by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

Since 2018 as a civilian Army lawyer, I have appeared before federal Administrative Law Judges, including ALJs with the EEOC and the MSPB.

- 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: ongoing appearances with federal administrative law judges since 2018 in labor and employment matters for the Army
 - (b) state: frequent appearances before the SC ALC judges from 2011-2017, as well as occasional oral arguments at the SC Court of Appeals and SC Supreme Court
- 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:
 - (b) criminal:
 - (c) domestic:
 - (d) other: 100% Administrative Law

14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 0%
 - (b) non-jury: 100%

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

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

- (a) Rest Assured, LLC v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, Mem. Op. No. 2015-MO-072 (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed Dec. 9, 2015).

In this unemployment insurance (UI) tax liability matter, the issue was whether Rest Assured's home health care assistants were misclassified as independent contractors by the business. At the agency level, DEW held the workers to be employees, and therefore, their wages were subject to UI tax contributions. This matter is significant to me because it was one of my first assignments when I began working at DEW. I litigated many procedural aspects of this case in the circuit court, ALC and the Court of Appeals. Then, the substantive matters were heard by the ALC, which upheld DEW's decision. The business appealed, and the Court of Appeals reversed in an unpublished decision. I drafted the petition for writ of certiorari, which was promptly granted by the Supreme Court. I then subsequently briefed and argued the case at the Supreme Court, where DEW's decision prevailed.

- (b) Nucor Corp. v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, 410 S.C. 507, 765 S.E.2d 558 (2014).

This case is significant because it reinforces the important principle of administrative law that when an appellate court is reviewing an agency's final decision under the substantial evidence rule, the appellate court is constrained to affirm when reasonable minds could reach the same result -- even if the appellate court itself would have come to a different decision as factfinder.

- (c) AnMed Health v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, 404 S.C. 224, 743 S.E.2d 854 (Ct. App. 2013).

In this case, a hospital discharged a human resources employee for failing to get a flu shot under the hospital's mandatory flu shot policy. When the employee applied for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, DEW found her eligible for benefits. The hospital appealed to the ALC which affirmed DEW's decision. The hospital then appealed to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals found that the hospital's policy was reasonable, but also found that the substantial evidence supported DEW's decision holding the UI claimant was eligible for benefits. This decision is significant for UI law because it establishes that even while an employer may properly discharge an employee pursuant to its reasonable health and safety

policy, the employee may nevertheless be entitled to UI benefits if the employee's reason for non-compliance with the policy was reasonable under the circumstances. This is significant decision for me personally because it was one of the first times I argued to the Court of Appeals.

(d) Jackson v Sanford, 398 S.C. 580, 731 S.E.2d 722 (2011).

In this appeal, I (along with James E. Smith, Jr.) represented Petitioner Darrick Jackson, Mayor of the Town of Timmonsville. This was a declaratory judgment action brought in the South Carolina Supreme Court's original jurisdiction to determine whether Governor Mark Sanford's veto of certain appropriations was unconstitutional. The Court held in favor of Mayor Jackson, finding that a Governor's line-item veto power allows a governor to veto "items,' which comprise both the designated funds and the object and purposes for which the appropriation is intended." Therefore, where the Governor had vetoed only the funds-related part of an item, that veto was held unconstitutional. This matter is significant to me because it involved an issue of major public importance -- the interpretation of a constitutional power of the executive branch. It also was the first time I argued a case in front of the South Carolina Supreme Court -- I presented the Reply portion of Petitioner's argument.

(e) Yonemura v. Tom Sawyer Productions, Inc., Case Number: 2010-CP-40-01188.

This case is significant to me because the plaintiffs, two young women, were my very first clients when I hung a shingle in 2010. It is also significant because it became my first (and only) civil jury trial. My clients ultimately did not prevail at trial, but they were pleased with my representation because they truly felt they had their day in court.

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) Rest Assured, LLC v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, Mem. Op. No. 2015-MO-072 (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed Dec. 9, 2015).
- (b) AnMed Health v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, 404 S.C. 224, 743 S.E.2d 854 (Ct. App. 2013).
- (c) Nucor Corp. v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, 410 S.C. 507, 765 S.E.2d 558 (2014).
- (d) Lippincott v. S.C. Dep't of Emp. & Workforce, Op. No. 2013-UP-056 (S.C. Ct. App. filed Jan. 30, 2013).
- (e) Jackson v Sanford, 398 S.C. 580, 731 S.E.2d 722 (2011)

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.

During my almost ten years of employment with the South Carolina Supreme Court as a staff attorney/judicial law clerk, I reviewed probably hundreds of criminal appeals matters,

including direct appeals and state habeas corpus actions in death penalty cases. However, I have not personally litigated any criminal appeals.

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

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

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)

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) U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania (1996)
- (b) Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1997)
- (c) Supreme Court of South Carolina (1998)
- (d) U.S. Supreme Court (2006)
- (e) U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (2010)
- (f) U.S. District Court of South Carolina (2011)

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. Yes.

- (a) At a CLE entitled JAG Grab Bag, hosted by the SC Attorney General's Office on August 16, 2019, I presented on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- (b) I presented at the annual South Carolina Administrative and Regulatory Law Association (SCAARLA) CLE in February 2018. My presentation was entitled: The "DISH" on DEW, Overview of the Agency & A Short Primer on Unemployment Insurance Appeals.

- (c) At the July 2017 Employment Law Essentials CLE, I gave the following presentation: Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims and Appeals - Background on UI and Practical Tips.
- (d) I lectured about administrative appeals in June 2016 at a summer course on Administrative Law at the University of South Carolina School of Law.
- (e) I organized and presented at a CLE sponsored by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office entitled "Do the DEW" in August 2015. The CLE covered an overview of the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) and information about Unemployment Insurance Claims and Appeals.
- (f) I lectured on the topic of Unemployment Insurance and Drug Testing at the annual conference for the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) in June 2014.
- (g) I lectured on the prosecution of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) at the South Carolina Solicitors' Association annual Conference in September 2004.
- (h) I taught Legal Writing to first year law students as an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law for the 1999-2000 and 2005-2006 school years.

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

See attached.

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

Identity Theft: A Primer, 19 S.C. Lawyer 20 (March 2008)

The Predicament of the Transsexual Prisoner, 5 Temp. Pol. & Civ. Rts. L. Rev. 27 (1995)

Federal Rule of Evidence 413: Redistributing "The Credibility Quotient." 57 U. Pitt. L. Rev. 107 (1995)

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

See attachments, two briefs:

(a) Petitioner's Reply Brief (Rest Assured v. SCDEW), SC Supreme Court, 2014;

(b) Respondent's Final Brief (AnMed v. SCDEW), SC Court of Appeals, 2012.

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

Served on the S.C. Bar's Professional Potential Task Force (2008-2011)

(b) South Carolina Women's Law Association

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.

n/a

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

Yes. In 2016, I applied for Administrative Law Court, Seat # 2. The JMSC found me qualified and nominated me as one of the three candidates. On January 26, 2017, I withdrew, and the Honorable Milton G. Kimpson ultimately won that seat.

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.

Yes. Prior to law school, I was employed as a computer professional. Upon my college graduation in 1989, I began a job with Andersen Consulting as a computer consultant/computer programmer. I worked for Andersen from 1989-1990. (This international consulting company is now known as Accenture.)

From 1991-1993, I worked for a small start-up company called Synapse Systems. This company sold medical billing software, and I supported the software in various ways, such as customer and sales support.

In August 1993, I began law school.

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.

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.

No to all three questions.

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?

I have not yet made any expenditures.

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.

I made monetary and in-kind contributions to the gubernatorial campaign of Rep. James E. Smith in 2018. However, he is no longer a member of the General Assembly.

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.

n/a

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

None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

n/a

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.

n/a

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.

n/a

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.

n/a

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

n/a

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) Robert J. Barham, [REDACTED]

(b) Tina Cundari, [REDACTED]

(c) Neil Adcox, [REDACTED]

(d) Warren Ganjehsani, [REDACTED]

(e) Brynn DeHay, [REDACTED]

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

Yes.

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

(a) Facebook: Deb Sherman Tedeschi

(b) LinkedIn: Debra Tedeschi

(c) Instagram: Deb Tedeschi (debteds4)

(d) Snapchat: Deb Tedeschi (debteds)

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 currently utilize my social media accounts primarily for personal communications and to stay connected with family, friends, and/or colleagues. If I served in a judicial capacity, I would limit my use of these platforms, and I would be vigilant to avoid any perception of political speech or activity.

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) Columbia Jewish Federation, current Board Member and co-chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council
 - (b) Tree of Life Congregation, Member; served on Board of Directors (2016-2019, and previously 2002-2013)
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.

My parents grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and I myself was born and raised in New Jersey. My dad never went to college; my mom went to community college to become a teacher after my two older brothers and I were all enrolled in school. I never imagined that someday I would move to South Carolina and plant my family roots here. I certainly never entertained the thought that I would become a South Carolina lawyer who would someday apply to become a judge. But, in 1992, after living and working for several years in New York City as a computer professional, I decided I wanted to change my life. I set my sights on going to law school, with the long-term goal of serving the public in some manner. That was the first step in a journey that led me to living in, and serving, the great state of South Carolina.

In 1993, I moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began law school. I thoroughly enjoyed law school. This is not always an easy thing to do given the rigor and competition inherent in the law school experience. However, I thrived in the environment and succeeded academically. Meanwhile, on a personal level, my boyfriend (who coincidentally also grew up in New Jersey) became my fiancé and then my husband during those three years of law school. After graduation, I began practicing as a lawyer in the private sector at the largest Pittsburgh law firm (K&L Gates). During my first year of practicing law, my husband was offered a job as an Assistant Professor in the Physics Department at the University of South Carolina. I was so happy and proud that he was fulfilling his career aspirations. Plus, I got a great job with Nelson Mullins, so we happily moved to Columbia, South Carolina in the summer of 1997.

One of the first things I learned about Columbia is how General Sherman burned it down on February 17, 1865. Well, with a middle/maiden name of Sherman, I started to wonder if I would fit in as a transplant in South Carolina. A wonderful thing happened though -- my husband and I embraced South Carolina and South Carolina embraced us. Within a year of moving to Columbia, I was working for the South Carolina Supreme Court, and I had attained my goal of practicing law and serving the public in some fashion.

Over the years, I learned to really live the state motto of "Dum spiro spero." South Carolina taught this Jersey girl to slow down a little bit and generally just be more optimistic about life. My law career has predominantly been focused on trying to use my law license to do good work. After having the honor and privilege of serving the S.C. Supreme Court for about six years, I left and began working as a dedicated prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The Attorney General at the time, Henry McMaster, wanted to tackle this tough issue and make quick and steady progress. I wanted to combine my background in computer science with being a lawyer. The idea that I would be protecting children also appealed to me given that I was now a mother of two young boys. Even though my work at the AG's office was over many years ago, I am extremely proud of the abundance of good work we got done in my relatively brief tenure as the first dedicated ICAC prosecutor.

From there my legal career took some more turns, all good ones. I taught legal writing, returned to the Supreme Court to again clerk for Justice Waller, and then after Justice Waller retired, I opened my own law firm. This certainly was another step in my journey that I had not envisioned even a couple of years earlier. Being a solo practitioner taught me so much about how wonderful the members of the South Carolina Bar are -- collaborative, professional, and helpful. I became a better attorney, a more resourceful and confident lawyer. I was able to help our veterans get the disability benefits they deserved, and also continued developing as an appellate advocate. Yet I missed serving the State of South Carolina, and at the end of 2011, I happily returned to state employment with the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW). This new cabinet agency, statutorily created in 2010, had formerly been the Employment Security Commission. My new job required a variety of legal skills -- appellate work, some criminal prosecution, and a variety of "general counsel" on other issues, many involving computer technology. All the steps of my legal career started to make sense to me, and I threw myself into working for DEW.

At DEW, I was promoted from Assistant General Counsel, to Deputy General Counsel, and ultimately became Director of Appeals. My many years of service to DEW enhanced my skills as an appellate advocate and further developed my proficiency in Administrative Law. In 2018, I was offered a new way to publicly serve and became an Army Civilian Attorney-Adviser with the Office of Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) at Fort Jackson. Since becoming an Army lawyer, I have continued to hone my skills as a practicing attorney in federal sector Administrative Law.

Having worked with many of this State's top judges for a good portion of my legal career, I am aware that being a judge is no easy task. Yet it would be a tremendous honor and privilege to be appointed as an Administrative Law Judge, thereby allowing me again to serve the great State of South Carolina.

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: _____