



JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2020

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Seat #3

1. Name: Mr. William Eugene Grove

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

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: 305 E. North Street, Suite 123
Greenville, SC 29601

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 864-467-8454
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1983
Place of Birth: Lumberton, NC
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 military service.

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 January 30, 2016 to Kathleen Lyall Grove. Lawyer.

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) Winthrop University, August 2001-December 2005. Graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

(b) Charleston School of Law, August 2006 – May 2009. Graduated with a Juris Doctorate.

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) Moot Court, 2008 & 2009. Competed in the Craven National Moot Court Competition in Chapel Hill, NC. Served on the Moot Court Board as Associate Justice of Internal Affairs. Served as a Moot Court coach for the Citadel Moot Court class.

(b) Student Trial Lawyer Association, Treasurer 2008-2009

(c) Phi Delta Phi, Charter member, 2009.

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. Admitted in 2009 after passing the bar on my first attempt. I am not admitted to practice in other states and have not taken a bar exam in another state.

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) November 2009 – August 2010. Litigation Attorney, Anastopoulos & Clore, LLC. I worked on civil cases which were in active litigation. I participated fully in the discovery process by requesting and responding to interrogatories, conducting depositions, etc. I filed and argued motions, and argued a case to verdict.
- (b) August 2010 – April 2012. Assistant Public Defender, Fourth Judicial Circuit. I represented some clients in each county of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, but my office and the majority of my clients were in Marlboro County. I handled all manner of General Sessions' offenses and represented clients at a variety of proceedings: bond hearings, preliminary hearings, motions hearings, arraignments, pleas, trials, etc.
- (c) April 2012 – July 2015. Assistant Public Defender, Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I represented some clients in both counties of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, but my office and the majority of my clients were in Florence County. I handled all manner of General Sessions' offenses and represented clients at a variety of proceedings: bond hearings, preliminary hearings, motions hearings, arraignments, pleas, trials, etc.
- (d) July 2015 – February 2019. Assistant Public Defender, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Representing clients in Greenville County in both General Sessions' and Magistrate Court. Represented clients at a variety of proceedings: bond hearings, preliminary hearings, motions hearings, arraignments, pleas, trials, etc. Mentored incoming Assistant Public Defenders to the practice of law and, specifically, the intricacies of public defense.
- (e) February 2019 – May 2020. Senior Level Lawyer, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. In addition to the duties described in section (d), I worked toward improving the efficiency with which our office handled court activities to include coordinating with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office and the members of the judiciary for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. Served as a team leader on a team with up to 5 lawyers and a legal assistant. Teams were created to improve intra-office efficiency with collaboration through regular meetings and better organizational structure.
- (f) May 2020 – present. Deputy Public Defender, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. In addition to the duties described in sections (d) and (e), I now work in a managerial capacity and handle some administrative tasks. Through regular meetings with the Circuit Defender, an administrative assistant, our office manager, and the Deputy Public Defender for Pickens County, we discuss, manage, and plan for the future of the office circuit-wide and try to anticipate needs while maintaining a client-centered approach. I provide input on administrative and budgetary decisions.

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.

My career for the past ten years has been dedicated exclusively to the practice of criminal law. In the past five years, I have defended hundreds of clients, including many trials in General Sessions Court. I have tried a number of cases as sole counsel, and others as lead counsel or co-counsel. I have had the opportunity to present a number of different issues to the Circuit Court, including but not limited to: challenging the admissibility of clients' statements under Jackson v. Denno; arguing for suppression based on violations of the Fourth Amendment; arguing for (and having granted) a mistrial based on inappropriate comments by a solicitor during closing arguments, and; preparing expert witnesses to testify. I have tried several cases to verdict in the past five years, and resolved more cases mid-trial or on the morning trial was scheduled to begin. Over the course of my ten-year criminal law career, I have tried cases to verdict as sole or lead counsel with charges including: murder; armed robbery; burglary first degree; burglary second degree; criminal sexual conduct second degree; criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature; felony DUI resulting in great bodily injury; reckless homicide; pointing and presenting a firearm; trafficking in cocaine base; and distribution of cocaine base, among others.

While my past ten years has been dedicated to the practice of criminal law, my first year of practice was dedicated exclusively to the practice of plaintiff civil litigation.

I had the opportunity to practice in the Circuit Court by arguing motions and trying a case to verdict. In my civil litigation practice, I also spent a significant amount of my time preparing files for litigation. I responded to discovery and conducted depositions. I interacted with opposing counsel and discussed strategic legal decisions with co-counselors.

My practice in both civil and criminal law has created a multitude of different scenarios through which I have had to navigate. My experience has created opportunities for me to establish an expansive base of knowledge from which I can draw while serving on the Circuit Court. I have also proven to myself, my colleagues, and my co-counselors, I have the work ethic and the intelligence to identify those things which I do not know and then learn and apply those things quickly.

My practice over the past five years has required an appearance before the Circuit Court two to five times per week during terms of General Sessions Court. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's terms of General Sessions Court in Greenville County are typically the first two weeks of a month. This means I appear in front of a Circuit Court judge anywhere from four to ten days per month.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
 - (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.
12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: I have never made an appearance in federal court.
 - (b) state: I appeared several times a week, almost every week, during the past five years. In Greenville County, General Sessions Court operates two weeks per month, on average. A public defender can expect to appear in court at least two or three days out of those weeks, if not all five. In weeks when General Sessions Court is not operating, Transfer Court, preliminary hearings, bonds, motions, and dispositions in Magistrate Court are all potential appearances which could be expected to occur multiple times per week.
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: 0%
 - (b) criminal: 100%

- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: 0%

14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

- (a) jury: 5%
- (b) non-jury: 95%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? Sole counsel, though on more significant cases it is common for sole counsel to select a second chair, so I have also frequently acted as either chief counsel or co-counsel on matters in the past five years.

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

- (a) State v. William Charles Chapman, 2014-GS-23-05820. This case was originally charged, indicted, and tried as Attempted Murder. Based on a prior conviction for a Most Serious offense, Mr. Chapman had been noticed by the State of their intent to pursue Life Without Parole (LWOP) were he to be convicted of Attempted Murder. Midway through the trial, Mr. Chapman and I were able to negotiate an agreement for the State to withdraw their LWOP notice and allow him the opportunity to enter a guilty plea to Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature with no recommendation from the State as to sentencing. After hearing mitigation on behalf of Mr. Chapman and hearing input from the victim of the assault, the Court sentenced Mr. Chapman to ten years of active incarceration. This case was significant in that, had Mr. Chapman not entered his plea, the defense was prepared to qualify an expert witness to present testimony regarding the credibility of eye-witness testimony, which was a significant portion of the State's case. This case was also served as a reminder that advocacy for a suitable resolution should not end simply because a trial has begun. A lawyer can both zealously represent a person in a trial and simultaneously advocate on their behalf for a reasonable compromise.
- (b) State v. Estella Ruiz Gomez, 2019-GS-01771A. This case involved an undocumented immigrant from a rural part of Mexico who was charged in the homicide of her newborn child. She was directly indicted for Voluntary Manslaughter and eventually entered a guilty plea and received an eleven year sentence. This case was significant as it was incredibly complex from many different angles: her native language was an indigenous Central American dialect which originally presented many challenges in communication; the nature of her original charge (Homicide by Child Abuse) is an incredibly sensitive charge with high emotions on every side, and; her undocumented status in this country created another challenge in advocating a suitable resolution for her and another layer of complexity to consider in terms of mitigation presented to the Court. As the father of young children, I could have easily been overcome with emotion at the facts or circumstances of this case. Instead, this case proved I have the ability to not allow

my personal life to interfere with my duties at work, a trait I will gladly bring with me to the bench, if elected.

- (c) State v. Jason Lamont Andrews, 2013-GS-21-0726. A case which began as a Felony DUI Resulting in Death went to trial as a Reckless Homicide where I acted as sole counsel. I inherited this case from an assistant public defender who left to enter private practice. A great amount of effort had already been put into this case prior to my assignment, and Mr. Andrews and I built upon that work. We were ultimately successful in convincing the solicitor he would be unable, due to evidentiary issues, to successfully present the case as a FDUI and it was directly presented as a Reckless Homicide. Mr. Andrews elected to proceed to trial and, after a trial which lasted several days, he was acquitted. This case allowed me my first opportunity into the complex realm of DUI case law and the procedures required to acquire, preserve, and present evidence in a DUI case. This case also required me to call a witness and qualify him as an expert for the purposes of entering the victim's toxicology report into evidence, which proved critical to our defense. My client in this case expressed continued confidence in my abilities, even as we waited on pins and needles for the verdict to be delivered, which in turn gave me confidence in myself as a trial lawyer.
- (d) State v. Wayne Albeon Scott, Jr., 2013-GS-21-0391. Mr. Scott was charged, indicted, tried, and convicted of murder. As sole counsel on this case, I raised a claim of immunity under the Protection of Persons and Property Act (the Act). At the time of the pre-trial hearing, there was very little case law available regarding the Act, which proved challenging. Ultimately, our motion for immunity under the Act was denied and we proceeded to trial. At a trial which lasted several days, we were able to present a self-defense claim and were able to block the State's request to charge for Voluntary Manslaughter, effectively creating an "all or nothing" scenario for the jury in its deliberation. This case was significant as it gave me experience in researching and presenting to a judge a defense in a then-new area of the law. It also provided an opportunity for creativity and critical thinking, to anticipate how the State would respond to our actions in presenting their case and simultaneously making sure Mr. Scott's defense was as clearly presented to the jury as possible.
- (e) State v. Elisha Townsend, 5102P0062867. Ms. Townsend was charged with Driving Under the Influence, .16 or more, 2nd Offense. After a review of the evidence and some negotiation, I filed a motion to dismiss the DUI case for the State's violation of 56-5-2953 of the S.C. Code. The Court heard argument, took the case under advisement, and ultimately dismissed the charge for the reasons set forth in my motion and argument. This case was a reminder that even with charges which may not carry lengthy prison sentences, it is imperative to ensure statutes are complied with and the law is followed. This case was also an opportunity to see a judge who, faced with a potentially unpopular ruling of dismissing a DUI charge, did not hesitate to apply the law as it is written.

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) I have not handled any civil appeals.
- (b)

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

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

- (a) As a trial-level public defender, any appeals which result from my efforts at the trial level have been handled by the Office of Appellate Defense. As such, I have not personally handled any criminal appeals, though I may be listed as the attorney of record at the trial level.

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

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

I have never held judicial office.

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

- (a) N/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) South Carolina, 2009;
- (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 2017.

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 worked on the faculty for PD 103, a multi-day CLE for assistant public defenders aimed at improving trial advocacy, in 2019.

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

These reports are attached separately.

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

N/A.

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.)

These samples are attached separately. I am the sole author of both samples. One of the samples is signed on my behalf by a coworker. It was a time sensitive Order and was drafted during a time when I was working from home, so I was not in a position to sign it myself.

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.

I have never sought membership or rating by a legal organization.

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) Greenville County Bar Association, Member 2015-present, Legislative Liaison, 2018-present
 - (b) South Carolina Bar Association, House of Delegates, Member, 2020-present
 - (c) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Member 2010-present
 - (d) Public Defender Association, Board Member 2019-present
 - (e) Haynesworth Perry American Inns of Court, Member, 2019-present.

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

I have never held public office.

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected

judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

N/A.

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

N/A.

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.

My only profession to date has been as a lawyer. I waited tables and worked summer and/or seasonal jobs during law school and college.

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.)

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

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

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

No.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

As of the date of this application, I have not spent any money in furtherance of my campaign.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

(a) My wife and I donated \$500 to Paula Rawl Calhoon during her 2018 campaign for the District 87 seat in the House of Representatives.

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 have none.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
(a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;

- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

My wife and I purchased our primary residence, 120 Rockingham Road, Greenville, SC 29607, in May 2020 for \$620,000 and it appraised for the same. Our home has an access easement for Duke Energy to allow access to power lines which run through a portion of our backyard, along with several neighbors' backyards in each direction. There is also an access easement for Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) for access to the Reedy River, which serves as the property line at the rear of our property. I disclose this information out of an abundance of caution, but do not believe it applies to the question asked.

A copy of a survey showing these easements is attached.

My wife jointly owns, along with her two sisters, a small parcel of land in Cherokee County, at 67 Calton Drive, Gaffney, SC, which adjoins government property. The land is small, currently undeveloped with no plans for future development, has never been rented or leased under their ownership, and I do not believe any public improvements have ever been made. I do not believe this creates a conflict of interest, and instead disclose this information out of abundance of caution and in the interest of full disclosure and transparency. Should a dispute ever come before which involved this land or an adjacent property which could even suggest a conflict of interest or jeopardize my impartiality, I would disclose my wife's interest in this land to the parties and then address whether anyone believed a legitimate conflict of interest might exist.

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.

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.

Not applicable.

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. I have notified members of the General Assembly whom I know personally, and who are not members of the JMSC, of my intention to seek election to Seat #3 in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. As it is a Greenville County seat, I have also contacted the members of the Greenville County Legislative Delegation (GCLD), again, none of whom are members of the JMSC, to introduce myself and announce my intention to seek election. I attended the July 13th meeting of the GCLD to introduce myself to the local delegation in person. I have also shared the news of my intention to run with members of both the local Bar and the statewide Bar. I have not sought a pledge or commitment, either directly or indirectly, and have restricted my comments to announcement of my intention to run and/or a general introduction.

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) Lucas Marchant, [REDACTED]

(b) John Mauldin, [REDACTED]

(c) Kate Weaver Patterson, [REDACTED]

(d) Frank Eppes, [REDACTED]

(e) Matthew Ozment, [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.

Yes. Instagram (@williamegrove), Twitter (@TheWillOfRights), and Snapchat (williamegrove). I use Instagram to keep up with friends and family, and share pictures of my kids and dogs. I use Twitter mostly to keep up with sports, sports teams, individual athletes, comedians, and friends and family. I use Snapchat, albeit very infrequently, to share and receive pictures of my family with a few friends and relatives.

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

If I were serving in a judicial capacity, I would discontinue the use of any social media account.

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) Christ Church Episcopal Parish Choir

(b) The Poinsett Club

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life

experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

As a general rule, if you are involved in Circuit Court, you are likely there for an unpleasant reason. You might have been injured in or are alleged to be at fault in an accident, are involved in a contract dispute, are either charged with a crime, alleging a crime has occurred against you, or are some sort of witness to either the alleged criminal or civil incident. The past eleven years have afforded me hundreds, and likely thousands, of opportunities to help resolve such disputes. On their face, some cases may appear small; perhaps the dollar amount in question is relatively low or the potential punishment for an alleged crime carries little-to-no jail time. In these instances, it would be easy to treat a case and, by extension, a party to such a case, flippantly. Over the past eleven years, I have always remained mindful that, even if a criminal case may not end up as a headline or if the value at stake in a civil case might appear insignificant to the untrained eye, to the parties involved the case is fiercely important and often personal. With that in mind, I have made a concerted effort to treat each case, whether it involved \$50 or \$50,000 and whether it involved the possible punishment of a small fine or life in prison, with diligence, empathy, and an abiding appreciation for the impact it will have upon my client. I intend to take this same approach with all parties appearing before the Circuit Court if I am fortunate enough to be found worthy of a seat on the bench.

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: _____