



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 9

1. Name: The Honorable Jennifer Blanchard McCoy

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

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

Yes. I am currently serving as Circuit Judge, At-Large, Seat 9.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 100 Broad Street, Suite 348, Charleston, SC 29401

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (office): (843) 958-5066  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1980  
Place of Birth: Atlanta, GA  
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, I have not served in the military.

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 June 19, 2010 to Peter Michael McCoy, Jr.  
Never divorced, three 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 Georgia, 1998-2002, Bachelor of Arts in English, 2002
  - (b) Charleston School of Law, 2004-2007, Juris Doctor, 2007
- 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) Judicial internship for the Honorable Sol Blatt, Jr., Federal District Judge for the District of South Carolina, 2005-2006.
  - (b) Law clerk to A. Peter Shahid, Jr., general practitioner, 2006-2007.
  - (c) Summer clerk at the South Carolina Office of Appellate Defense, Summer 2006
  - (d) Summer clerk at Pierce, Hems, Sloan & McLeod, LLC, Summer 2005
- 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 2007
  - (b) I took the attorney's exam in Georgia in 2009 but did not receive the required score. I did not re-take the exam.
- 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) Upon graduating from law school in 2007, I clerked for the Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr. While his chambers are in Moncks Corner, Berkeley County, we traveled all over the state during my tenure, including Charleston County, Hampton County, and Florence County. Judge Dennis was the chief administrative judge for both Common Pleas and General Sessions during my clerkship. This involved extra duties as his clerk, including scheduling status conferences, communicating with counsel on cases, preparing scheduling orders, and reviewing filings.
- (b) From August 2008 until June 2011, I worked as an associate attorney for Carlock, Copeland & Stair, LLP, a civil litigation firm in Charleston. I had a varied case load, but my experience there was generally insurance defense work. I handled car wrecks, declaratory judgment actions, dram shop cases, construction negligence cases, and various types of professional negligence cases including architects, engineers, doctors, and lawyers. I was responsible for the handling of files, supervised when necessary by a partner.
- (c) From September 2011 through June 2015, I served as an assistant solicitor at the Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in Charleston. I handled mainly narcotic cases from the North Charleston area, and also various other crimes including burglary, armed robbery, domestic violence, and attempted murder cases. On average, I managed about 300-400 open warrants at a time. I tried several cases to verdict before a jury.
- (d) From June 2015 until April 2018, I served as a Part-time Magistrate Judge in Charleston County. I heard evictions, claim and delivery actions, small claims cases, public sales, and criminal matters arising from the College of Charleston Office of Public Safety. Administratively, I was responsible for the day-to-day activity of the court and I managed two clerks and two constables in the office. I am also responsible for supervising the court accounts, including daily deposits and record keeping.
- (e) In November of 2015, I started my own firm, the Law Office of Jennifer McCoy, LLC. Generally, I handled criminal defense cases that arose outside of Charleston County as well as Federal cases.
- (f) Since April of 2018, I have served as a Circuit Judge. I hear civil and criminal matters, and I am currently serving as the Chief Administrative Judge for Civil purposes for the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

**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: **OMITTED as directed**

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these

practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
  - (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.
  - (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.
12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench? **OMITTED as directed**
- (a) federal:
  - (b) state:
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? **OMITTED as directed**
- (a) civil:
  - (b) criminal:
  - (c) domestic:
  - (d) other:

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? **OMITTED as directed**

- (a) jury:
- (b) non-jury:

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

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

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

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. **OMITTED as directed**

- (a)
- (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. **OMITTED as directed**

- (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.

Yes. Currently, I am a circuit court judge, occupying At-Large Seat 9. I was elected by the South Carolina Legislature on February 7, 2018. My chambers are in Charleston County, where I reside, but I travel throughout the state as directed by Court Administration. I hear both criminal and civil matters, and I am currently serving as the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes for the Ninth Judicial Circuit (Charleston and Berkeley Counties).

I also served as a part-time magistrate judge in Charleston County from 2015-2018. I was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley with South Carolina Senate confirmation. As a

magistrate, I set bonds for criminal offenses, heard evictions, claim and delivery actions, small claims cases valued up to \$7,500, public sales, and misdemeanor-level criminal matters arising from the College of Charleston Office of Public Safety.

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) Ex Parte Builders Mutual Insurance Co., Supreme Court of South Carolina, decided May 13, 2020, 2020 WL 2464838. This appeal arose after a two-week trial over alleged construction defects for a condominium development in Charleston County. After years of litigation, in pre-trial motions, insurance companies for several of the remaining defendant contractors moved the court to intervene at trial, thereby seeking to have a “seat at the table” during the trial and be able to inquire the jury regarding any verdict to determine if the negligence deemed by a jury would be covered under their policies. I ruled against the interveners, and they appealed. The Supreme Court affirmed my decision and ruled that the insurers could not intervene as a matter of right.

(b) Bouchelle Incorporated v. Canopus US Insurance, Inc. (Unpublished Opinion, South Carolina Court of Appeals, No. 2018-001353). I granted summary judgment in favor of an individual insurance agent sued by his insured. The Court of Appeals affirmed, holding there was no viable breach of contract action between the insured and the insurance agent.

(c) Housing Authority of the City of Charleston v. Jane Doe. The housing authority sought to evict a tenant (mother) whose son was arrested for a crime which occurred off of the housing premises because I ruled in favor of the tenant, finding the facts were distinguishable from those in Dep’t of Housing and Urban Development v. Rucker, 535 U.S. 125 (2002).

(d) State v Jamie Robinson – Order denying Defendant’s motion for reconsideration of sentence and motion for a new trial following conviction by a Beaufort County jury for voluntary manslaughter and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime

(e) Griffith v. ISL Development – Order following a bench trial in Charleston County on breach of contract action involving question of whether emails between parties constituted offer and acceptance

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, 2007;

(b) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, 2008

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.

I spoke to the Charleston Lawyers' Club at a CLE in 2019. The segment was "Tips from the Bench" to a group of young lawyers about general practice pointers in circuit court.

I served on a Q&A panel for the Charleston County Bar in 2019.

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.

None to date.

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.)

Not applicable.

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.

As a lawyer, I was rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. I am not aware of any ratings since becoming a member of the judiciary.

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) Member, American Bar Association.

(b) Member, South Carolina Bar Association.

(c) Member, Charleston County Bar Association.

(d) Member, South Carolina Circuit Court Judges' 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.

While serving as a part-time magistrate from 2015-2018, I operated the Law Office of Jennifer McCoy, LLC. I only handled cases that did not interfere with my duties as a magistrate. I registered this LLC in 2015 and I was the sole proprietor.

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.

From Fall 2002 to Spring 2003, I was a teacher for Charleston County School District at the former Garrett Academy high school in North Charleston. I taught English/Language Arts to students who had previously failed the required test to graduate from high school.

From Spring 2003 to Fall 2004, I was a paralegal at Pierce, Hems, Sloan & McLeod, LLC where I worked on discovery for mass toxic-tort litigation.

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?

I have no such 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 have not personally made any such contributions in the past four years. My husband, Peter McCoy, Jr., donated \$250.00 to Lin Bennett for House in 2016, \$500.00 to Sylleste Davis for House in 2018, and \$500.00 to Tommy Pope for Congress in 2017.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

None known. If any potential conflict arises, I would strictly abide by the canons of judicial conduct and immediately disclose and recuse myself, if appropriate.

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 known.

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 known.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

None.

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

No.

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

No.

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

No.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

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.

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. I am familiar with the rule.

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) Rhett C. Dunaway, [REDACTED]

- (b) Matthew V. B. Cochrane-Logan, [REDACTED]
- (c) Emily Ayers, One Carriage Lane, Building I, [REDACTED]
- (d) Elizabeth Riddle, [REDACTED]
- (e) Caroline Rucker, [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.

Instagram: @jenniferbmccoy; Twitter: @JenniferMcCoySC; Peloton: UGA29412

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

I have an Instagram account (which has been inactive since February) and a Twitter account, as well as a LinkedIn profile, which is also inactive. I am not on Facebook. I rarely use social media, and mostly only read news stories on Twitter. I will remove all social media if called upon to do so.

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) Circuit Court Judges' Association (2018-present)
- (b) Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors (2014-2016)
- (c) Former President, Charleston Lawyers Club (2014-2015)
- (d) South Carolina Summary Court Judges' Association (2015-2018)

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 father was a WWII Marine Veteran and homebuilder and my mother worked as a school teacher and administrator. A strong work ethic has been instilled in me as a result. I worked hard in school in order to obtain jobs that would enable me to learn and make connections to the legal world. My experience working for two judges I admire has shaped my judicial personality. From Judge Blatt, I learned to treat all who appear before me with courtesy and respect. Judge Dennis taught me to appreciate the positions of the attorneys before me and the delicate balance between clients, attorneys, and a fair decision. My most humbling and educational life experience to date is motherhood. Being a parent has given me better

insight into intrinsic personality differences, as well as patience, perspective, and the ability to prioritize the most important things in life.

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: \_\_\_\_\_