



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
2021**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:      Circuit Court  
First Judicial Circuit  
Seat 1

1.      Name:              Mr. Heath Preston Taylor

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

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

No

Home Address:              [REDACTED]

Business Address:      3227 Sunset Boulevard, Building E, Suite 101  
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169

E-Mail Address:              [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home):              [REDACTED]  
(office):              (803) 926-2205  
(cell):                      [REDACTED]

2.      Date of Birth:              [REDACTED] 1972  
Place of Birth:              Columbia, South Carolina  
Social Security Number:      [REDACTED]

3.      Are you a citizen of South Carolina?

Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?

Yes

4.      SCDL#:                      [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.
- (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.

Married on June 28, 2003 to Julie Hartley Taylor

Two children: 

Divorced on October 11, 2001 from Lauren Kendall Corley, Richland County Family Court, Mr. Taylor was the moving party, One Year's Continuous Separation.

No 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) Newberry College  
1991 – 1995  
B.A. History, *Summa Cum Laude*
- (b) University of South Carolina School of Law  
1995 – 1998  
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) Law clerk for the firm now known as Moore Taylor Law Firm, PA from April of 1996 to November of 1998.
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  
One
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) In November of 1998, I became an associate in the firm now known as Moore Taylor Law Firm, PA in West Columbia, South Carolina and became a partner in 2000. Initially, I had a diverse practice which included automobile insurance defense, criminal defense, personal injury, domestic litigation, general civil litigation, workers' compensation and administrative law matters. By 2001, my practice became focused on criminal defense, with an emphasis on DUI defense, personal injury and workers' compensation. During my time at Moore Taylor, I served as an assistant prosecutor for the Town of Irmo. Additionally, I served as Associate Municipal Judge for the City of West Columbia from November 7, 2000 to December 3, 2002. As a partner, I was involved in administrative and financial management of the firm. I was not involved in the management of trust accounts.
- (b) In September of 2006, I became a partner in the Taylor Law Firm LLC. My practice remained focused on criminal defense, with an emphasis on DUI defense, personal injury and workers' compensation. I also began handling more appellate cases and began representing business entities in matters before the administrative law court. I am a contract attorney for the Town of Springdale and represent indigent defendants in its municipal court and serve as the county attorney for Calhoun County. In July of 2017, I assumed management of administrative and financial matters for the firm including management of the firm's trust account. Additionally, during this time, I served as the South Carolina Senate Judiciary Chairman's designee to the South Carolina Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee from July 25, 2017 through January 2, 2019.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current**

**position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.

Not Applicable

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

In nearly 23 years of practice, I have handled virtually every type of criminal case ranging from routine traffic tickets to murder. Although civil in nature, I participated as second chair in the litigation of a capital murder post-conviction relief proceeding wherein co-counsel and I essentially relitigated the entire sentencing phase in which the defendant was sentenced to death. A significant portion of my practice includes defending persons accused of Driving under the Influence in both summary courts and the Court of General Sessions and I have represented numerous defendants accused of Felony Driving Under the Influence involving both death and great bodily injury. Additionally, I have substantial experience in cases involving property crimes, assault and battery, domestic violence, controlled substance offenses and criminal sexual conduct. Finally, I also have experience in representing criminal defendants in federal court in cases involving child pornography, counterfeiting, controlled substances and fraud against the government.

Throughout the course of my career, I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil matters in magistrate's court, the Court of Common Pleas and federal court. I have represented individuals as well as business entities as plaintiff's counsel. While the bulk of my plaintiff's practice has involved representing plaintiffs in motor vehicle accidents, I have also represented plaintiffs in cases involving landlord-tenant matters, dram shop liability actions, medical negligence, construction defects, fraud, contract matters and business disputes. I am currently representing a plaintiff in an industrial accident which includes complex questions regarding negligence and South Carolina's statutory employer-employee doctrine.

Likewise, I have represented numerous individuals as well as business entities as defense counsel in civil cases. Representation of individual defendants include cases involving motor vehicle accidents, assault and battery, defamation, contract matters, fraud and property disputes. I have defended small businesses in general business litigation, construction cases, the Trade Secrets Act, the Unfair Trade Practices Act and matters in which injunctive relief was sought. I have also defended a large infrastructure construction company in a complex matter which required the use of and cross-examination of multiple expert witnesses.

Some of the experience cited above is beyond five years but has been included to demonstrate the breadth of my criminal and civil experience over the course of my legal career. It is impossible for me to state with certainty the frequency of my appearances before a Circuit Court judge over the past five years. Depending on my case load over different periods of time, the frequency could be as much as two to five times per week to as little as two to three times 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.

Not applicable

- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

Not applicable

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

- (a) federal: One appearance per month

(b) state: Two to five appearances 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: 25%
- (b) criminal: 70%
- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: 5%

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: 90%
- (b) non-jury: 10%

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

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) State v. Nehemiah Wayne Dixon, 2013-GS-32-02379, 02380 & 02381

Mr. Dixon was initially charged with Accessory After the Fact to Attempted Murder. He refused to cooperate with the State with regard to providing the name of the shooter in a drive by shooting and was indicted on charges of Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime and Criminal Conspiracy. Mr. Dixon was alleged to have been present during the drive by shooting and the State prosecuted the case under the accomplice liability doctrine as no witness observed him possess or fire a gun. The case was tried to verdict and Mr. Dixon was acquitted on the charges of Attempted Murder, Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime and found guilty of Criminal Conspiracy. He received a probationary sentence. This case is significant as it demonstrates my ability to litigate serious cases in General Sessions Court and my understanding of the relevant evidentiary and procedural rules in cases that often appear before Circuit Court judges.

(b) Stephen Corey Bryant v. State of South Carolina, 2011-CP-43-00901

I served as second chair co-counsel in this capital post-conviction relief matter. The defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to death in a bench trial. Co-counsel and I

essentially relitigated the entire sentencing phase of the case. The case is significant because it exposed me to capital litigation and the extraordinary demands capital cases place upon solicitors, defense counsel and judges.

- (c) Charles D. Corley v. United Contractors, LLC, South Carolina Department of Transportation, Mabey, Inc. and Robert C. Smith, 2013-CP-32-03379

I served as co-defense counsel for United Contractors, LLC in a complex matter wherein United Contractors, LLC and the other defendants were alleged to have been responsible for damage to a historic home caused by vibrations from road construction activities. The case involved a significant number of fact witnesses, construction experts and geotechnical experts. Originally scheduled for two weeks, the case was settled after six days of trial. The case demonstrates my ability to understand and manage complex litigation in Common Pleas court.

- (d) Jacob S. Jackson v. Eastman Chemical Company and Mundy Maintenance Services and Operation, LLC, Case No. 5:17-01015-JMC

I represent the plaintiff with regard to injuries he sustained in an industrial explosion. The case presents complex negligence questions as well as the application of South Carolina's statutory employer-employee doctrine. The case is presently pending appeal in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case is significant as it demonstrates my ability to handle complex civil issues that may appear before Circuit Court judges.

- (e) Palmetto Princess, LLC v. Town of Edisto Beach, 369 S.C. 34, 631 S.E.2d 68 (2006).

I represented the plaintiff in a declaratory judgment action challenging the constitutionality of a local ordinance prohibiting casino boats. The defendant appealed the Circuit Court's finding that the ordinance was unconstitutional and I handled the appeal before the South Carolina Supreme Court. The case demonstrates my ability to litigate constitutional issues and my understanding of appellate advocacy.

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) Sanders v. S.C. Dep't of Motor Vehicles, 431 S.C. 374, 848 S.E.2d 768 (2020).  
(b) S.C. Dep't of Motor Vehicles v. Brown, 406 S.C. 626, 753 S.E.2d 524 (2014).  
(c) S.C. Dep't of Motor Vehicles v. McCarson, 391 S.C. 136, 705 S.E.2d 425 (2011).  
(d) Oblachinski v. Reynolds, 391 S.C. 557, 706 S.E.2d 844 (2011).  
(e) Carroll v. S.C. Dep't of Public Safety, 388 S.C. 39, 693 S.E.2d 430 (Ct. App. 2010).

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) State v. Elwell, 403 S.C. 606, 743 S.E.2d 802 (2013).
  - (b) State v. Vinson, 400 S.C. 347, 743 S.E.2d 182 (Ct. App. 2012).
  - (c) State v. Kelly, Op. No. 2019-MO-013 (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed March 13, 2019).
  - (d) State v. Lippard, Op. No. 2011-MO-003 (S.C. Sup. Ct. filed January 18, 2011).
  - (e) State v. Causey, Op. No. 2011-UP-104 (S.C. Ct. App. filed March 15, 2011).
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.
- (a) Part-Time Associate Municipal Judge, City of West Columbia  
November 7, 2000 – December 3, 2002  
The jurisdiction included cases arising under municipal ordinances and all traffic and criminal offenses which are subject to a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both, as well as certain driving offenses in which the Legislature granted jurisdiction to summary courts which exceeds the above cited limitations. Municipal courts have no jurisdiction to hear or decide civil cases.
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) None
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, 1998;
  - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 1998;
  - (c) U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2004.
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 have lectured at the 2005 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers DUI Defense Seminar.
  - (b) I have presented at the 2008 South Carolina Court Administration Magistrate Orientation School.
  - (c) I have lectured at the 2008 Lorman Strategies in Defending DWI and DUI Cases Seminar.
  - (d) I have lectured at the 2008 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.



- (e) I have presented at the March 2009 South Carolina Court Administration Orientation School for Magistrates.
- (f) I have lectured at the 2009 South Carolina Bar Trial of a Domestic Violence Case Continuing Legal Education Program.
- (g) I have presented at the July 2009 South Carolina Court Administration Orientation School for Magistrates.
- (h) I have lectured at the 2009 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Municipal Judges and Magistrates.
- (i) I have presented at the March 2010 South Carolina Court Administration Magistrate Orientation School.
- (j) I have presented at the July 2010 South Carolina Court Administration Magistrate Orientation School.
- (k) I have lectured at the 2010 South Carolina Court Administration 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Intensive Training School for Municipal Judges and Magistrates.
- (l) I have presented at the South Carolina Bar South Carolina Traffic and DUI Updates Continuing Legal Education Program.
- (m) I have lectured at the 2011 Lorman Strategies in Defending DWI and DUI Cases Seminar.
- (n) I have presented at the March 2011 South Carolina Court Administration Magistrate Orientation School.
- (o) I have lectured at the July 2011 South Carolina Court Administration Summary Court Orientation School.
- (p) I presented the 2011 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.
- (q) I have presented at the 2011 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates.
- (r) I have presented at the 2012 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates.
- (s) I presented the 2013 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.
- (t) I have presented at the 2013 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates.
- (u) I have lectured at the 2013 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (v) I presented the 2014 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.
- (w) I have presented at the 2014 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates.
- (x) I have lectured at the South Carolina Prosecution Coordination Commission 2014 South Carolina Solicitor's Association Annual Conference.
- (y) I have presented at the 2014 South Carolina Court Administration Mandatory School for Summary Court Judges.
- (z) I have lectured at the 2014 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (aa) I presented the 2015 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.

- (bb) I have presented at the 2015 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates.
- (cc) I have lectured at the 2015 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (dd) I lectured at the 2016 South Carolina Bar Annual Convention during the Criminal Law Section.
- (ee) I have presented at the 2016 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges.
- (ff) I lectured at the 2017 South Carolina Prosecution Coordination Commission Summary Court Judges' DUI Training.
- (gg) I presented the 2017 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.
- (hh) I have lectured at the 2017 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (ii) I have presented at the South Carolina Bar 2018 Criminal Law Practice Essentials.
- (jj) I presented the 2018 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention.
- (kk) I presented at the 2018 South Carolina Bar Criminal Trial Demonstration: Cold-Blooded Custody.
- (ll) I have lectured at the 2018 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (mm) I organized and moderated the criminal law presentation at the 2019 South Carolina Bar Annual Convention.
- (nn) I have presented at the South Carolina Bar 2019 Criminal Law Practice Essentials.
- (oo) I have lectured at the June 2019 South Carolina Bar LEAPP Ethics School.
- (pp) I have presented at the 2019 South Carolina Court Administration Intensive Training School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges.
- (qq) I have lectured at the September 2019 South Carolina Bar LEAPP Ethics School.
- (rr) I have lectured at the 2019 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (ss) I presented the 2020 South Carolina Association for Justice Criminal Law Legislative Update at the South Carolina Association for Justice Young Lawyers Seminar.
- (tt) I have presented at the August 2020 South Carolina Court Administration Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges.
- (uu) I have lectured at the 2020 South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Annual Reese I. Joye DUI Defense Seminar.
- (vv) I have presented at the March 2021 South Carolina Court Administration Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges.
- (ww) I have presented at the 2020 South Carolina Administrative and Regulatory Law Association Seminar.
- (xx) I have lectured at the 2021 DUI Defense Lawyers Association Seminar.

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

See Attachment A

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

(a) Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus: Drunk Science or Junk Science?, The Justice Bulletin, Winter 2011.

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 B and C

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.

- (a) Martindale-Hubbell – AV Preeminent  
(b) Super Lawyers Rising Stars – Criminal Defense: DUI/DWI – 2012  
(c) Super Lawyers – Criminal Defense: DUI/DWI – 2020  
(d) Super Lawyers – Criminal Defense: DUI/DWI – 2021

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
- House of Delegates, Criminal Law Council Section Delegate – 2020 – 2021
  - Immediate Past Chairperson, Criminal Law Council – 2019 – 2020
  - Chairperson, Criminal Law Council – 2018 – 2019
  - Chairperson-Elect, Criminal Law Council – 2017 – 2018
  - Vice Chairperson, Criminal Law Council – 2016 – 2017
  - Secretary, Criminal Law Council – 2015 – 2016
  - Criminal Law Council Member – 2012 – 2021
- (b) Lexington County Bar
- (c) South Carolina Association for Justice
- Criminal Section Chair – 2009 – 2021
- (d) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Past President – 2020
  - President – 2019
  - President-Elect – 2018
  - Vice President – 2017

- Past President – 2011
  - President – 2010
  - President-Elect – 2009
  - Vice President – 2008
  - Legislative Committee Chair or Co-Chair – 2010 – 2021
- (e) National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- (f) National College for DUI Defense
- (g) DUI Defense Lawyers 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.

I served as part-time Associate Municipal Judge for the City of West Columbia from November 7, 2000 to December 3, 2002. During that period, I was a partner practicing law with the firm now known as Moore Taylor Law Firm, PA. As a partner, I had no supervisor.

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

No

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

No

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

I assist in the management of a hunting club known as Devil's Orchard Hunt Club in Calhoun County, South Carolina. The hunting club is located on property owned by or leased from my family. All funds collected through memberships are used to pay real property taxes, insurance, lease payments, maintenance and agricultural expenses. I am not

compensated by the hunting club and realize no economic benefit other than the recreational use of the hunting club property. My duties include oversight of agricultural operations, property maintenance and management of all financial obligations. The operational account is in my name and I am the sole signatory on the account. The hunting club is not a for-profit enterprise and exists for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities for family and friends. I have served in this capacity from 2013 to the present.

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

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

No

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

None

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

- (a) Paula Calhoon - \$500.00
- (b) Margie Bright-Matthews - \$500.00
- (c) Kirkman Finlay, III - \$1,000.00
- (d) Dick Harpootlian - \$1,000.00
- (e) Brad Hutto - \$1,000.00
- (f) Gerald Malloy - \$500.00
- (g) Mandy P. Norell - \$500.00
- (h) Russell Ott - \$1,000.00
- (i) Luke Rankin - \$500.00
- (j) Ronnie Sabb - \$500.00

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

No

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

None

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

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

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

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and

(c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

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

None

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

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.

I have been covered by malpractice insurance since November of 1998. I have never been covered by a tail policy.

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

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

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

No

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.



I have contacted various legislators to inform them of my intent to run for this seat and have informed colleagues, friends and family of my intent to run for this seat. I have not asked any individual to campaign on my behalf.

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) Deborah B. Barbier, Esquire

[Redacted]

- (b) E. Bart Daniel, Esquire

[Redacted]

- (c) Amy Lohr Gaffney, Esquire

[Redacted]

- (d) Samuel R. Hubbard, III, Esquire

[Redacted]

(e) Stanley L. Myers, Sr., Esquire



See Attachment D

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) Heath Taylor – Facebook

(b) HPTaylor31 – Instagram

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 do not anticipate any change to my use of social media if I am serving in a judicial capacity. The platforms are used to keep in contact with friends and family.

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) None

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.

I have been fortunate to have been exposed to virtually every type of case that comes before Circuit Court judges. I understand the legal profession. I understand the lawyers that would appear before me. Most lawyers are conscientious and well-prepared. Some are not. Some relish a battle in the courtroom and some fear it.

I have felt the sinking feeling of moving from the bottom to the top of a Common Pleas roster and knowing my weekend would be spent preparing for trial. I have felt the exhilaration of a favorable jury verdict and crushing defeat of an unfavorable verdict after every ounce of effort and energy was poured into the case. I have made the lonely walk from the courtroom after a client received a lengthy sentence and felt the pride when a client

conquered his or her drug habit. I have settled civil cases and received a verdict that changed lives. I have settled cases where no one was satisfied but it made sense to put everyone out of their misery. I understand that many private practitioners are also small business women and men. They have employees that depend on them and in lean times, are the last to get paid. Lawyers are real people and sometimes have real problems like those they represent. They have families and personal lives that demand their attention. Sometimes, they pay more attention to their clients and their businesses than themselves.

I also understand the citizens that would appear before me. Whether they admit it or not, most are scared. They are scared of a system they do not understand and intimidated by the bench and black robe. They need their lawyers to help them to navigate our system of justice. They depend on their lawyers to obtain whatever manner of justice they are seeking and deserve a fair and impartial judge. They are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and an even-tempered, courteous judge helps alleviate the stress and emotion often present in our courtrooms.

I understand the practice of law and the clients for whom it exists. The lawyers that appear in Circuit Court and the citizens that depend on them deserve judges that understand them. I appreciate the gravity of the cases over which Circuit Court judges preside. I understand and appreciate the pressure and emotions the lawyers, litigants and victims experience in a courtroom setting. I have the experience and understanding of our judicial system and the people who comprise it to be an effective Circuit Court judge. I believe my exposure to the variety of cases that appear in Circuit Court as well as my experience in representing real people in real cases qualifies me to hold the office of a Circuit Court judge.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_