

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

1. Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.

No.

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

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) From July 2012 to November 2012, I was a law clerk for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.
- (b) From November 2012 to July 2017, I was an assistant solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. I handled a wide range of cases ranging from drug offenses and DUIs to armed robbery and kidnapping. I co-counseled three murder cases and tried several other felony and misdemeanor cases. From 2014 until 2017, I was the lead prosecutor for the Columbia Homeless Court. I also organized a committee of health care professionals to address the chronically homeless in seeking solutions for their recovery, which was called Homeless Coordination.
- (c) From July 2017 until August 2021, I served as a full-time Magistrate Judge in Richland County. In this capacity, I handled both civil and criminal cases, which included bond settings, preliminary hearings, mediation, civil and criminal jury trials, transfer court, and more. In June 2018, I was appointed as the Associate Chief Judge for Richland County. As the Associate Chief Judge, I handled the majority of administrative issues at Central Court. I was appointed as the Municipal Judge for Arcadia Lakes from May 2020 to August 2021.
- (d) In August 2021 I opened my own law firm. I focus on DUI defense, criminal defense generally, and civil litigation (both plaintiff work and defense).

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

11. Please answer the following:

(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.

As an assistant solicitor, I spent nearly every single week in the court room handling criminal cases. In criminal court, I managed different cases from beginning to end – from bond settings, to preliminary hearings, to guilty pleas and motions, to jury trials. I tried three murder cases with co-counsel, and I also co-counseled a "castle hearing" to determine immunity from prosecution of a murder. I tried multiple other cases to verdict.

The most rewarding experience of my time as an assistant solicitor was being part of the creation of South Carolina's first Homeless Court. This partnership among prosecutors, judges, public defenders, and many more, helped folks transition out of homelessness and back into society. Because of the great work the court did, I worked with local health officials to create Homeless Coordination, which was focused on the top homeless folks in the City of Columbia. Our group coordinated together to create a list of the 20 most frequently arrested and hospitalized homeless people and to help them get off the streets and give them an opportunity to seek treatment.

As a full-time Magistrate Judge, I also handled criminal cases from beginning to end. I presided over both jury trials and bench trials for criminal court, bond settings, preliminary hearings, guilty pleas, and motions. As a Magistrate, I also handled civil cases. This ranged from civil motions,

mediation, bench trials and jury trials. I have presided over dozens of full-length jury trials with attorneys on both sides. These trials require knowledge of the rules of evidence and an efficient application of those rules.

In addition to the civil experience from Magistrate Court, I have received over 30 CLE credit hours in the last year of reporting.

I have recently opened my own law firm handling both criminal and civil matters. I have experienced firsthand the stresses and responsibilities that come with owning a solo law practice and working with clients.

Whether I was presiding over a summary judgment motion, castle hearing, guilty pleas, or representing a client in court, I have come to understand that a judge might not have all the answers, but they need to be able to know where to find the answers, and do so quickly. Every day in court, I had to say no, yes, guilty, not guilty, and much more. Being decisive and making decisions that upset people is not easy, but I did that for over four years as a Magistrate.

I think it is extremely important for all judges to be very knowledgeable about the court rules and also empathetic to attorneys appearing before them. One area I constantly focus on is understanding what an attorney is going through as they represent a client. I am always aware of the issues that arise with attorneys and running a law practice. This includes uncooperative clients, the family of clients, running a small business, and many other issues. By understanding and seeing the attorney's position, I will be a better judge and make the system as a whole more effective and judicious.

I am extremely fortunate to have some of the most respected lawyers in our state as both close friends and mentors. They have taught me since my first day as an assistant solicitor to treat other attorneys with respect and understand where they are coming from. As a solo practice attorney, this advice and mentorship has been invaluable and will continue for the rest of my career.

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

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 served as a full-time Magistrate Judge for Richland County from July 2017 to August 2021 and as a Municipal Judge for Arcadia Lakes from May 2020 to August 2021. Magistrates generally have jurisdiction in criminal cases that do not carry more than a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail. In civil cases, Magistrates are generally limited to cases not exceeding \$7,500 in the amount in controversy. Municipal judges generally have jurisdiction over criminal cases that do not carry more than a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail.

This is a supplemental answer that gives additional information to the prior answer:

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.

U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina

This is a supplemental answer that gives additional information to the prior answer:

- 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.
 - Richland County Bar Association, Annual Ethics CLE: Virtual Courts and Ethical Dilemmas (presented with former Chief Justice Costa Pleicones) (October 2021)
 - 2021 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: Guilty Pleas (September 2021)
 - 2021 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: Ethics: Judges and Social Media (September 2021)
 - <u>Daubert/Council & Expert Testimony:</u> CLE S.C. Bar (August 2020)

This is a supplemental answer that gives additional information to the prior answer:

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

In 2020, I ran unsuccessfully for Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 12. I was not screened out.

This is a supplemental answer that gives additional information to the prior answer:

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?

\$110 on postage.

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

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.

See attached statement.

This is an amended answer that replaces the prior answer completely:

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 August 1, 2021. My policy is with George Johnson Insurance and is as follows:

Limit of Liability

\$1,000,000 Each Claim

\$1,000,000 Aggregate

Deductible

\$5,000 Per Claim