



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

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

1. Name: Hon. Cely Anne Brigman

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.)

Serving in Family Court, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 1 Public Square, Room 403  
Darlington, SC 29532

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (843) 398-4012  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1961  
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC  
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.

I have not served in the military.

6. Family Status:

Married on May 17, 2003 to Gregory Wendell Brigman (retired)  
Divorced on November 27, 2002, Fourth Circuit Family Court, State of  
South Carolina, one year separation, Richard Reynolds was the moving  
party.

Two children: [REDACTED]

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) Columbia College, Columbia, SC 1979 – 1983 Bachelor of Arts, Public Affairs
  - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law 1983-1985 Juris Doctor
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.
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 1986  
I sat for the bar exam in South Carolina one time.
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) Greene, Lockemy and Bailey 1986 – 1989. I was an associate attorney. My responsibilities involved Family Court litigation, civil litigation primarily representing plaintiffs in personal injury actions and limited criminal defense. I also performed residential real estate closings. I was not involved with administrative or financial management of this firm. I did not manage the trust account.
  - (b) Baker Law Firm 1989 – 2004. I practiced as an associate attorney. My responsibilities involved Family Court litigation, civil litigation primarily representing plaintiffs in personal injury actions, and residential real estate closings. I also handled cases in Probate Court. I was not involved with administrative or financial management of this firm. I did not manage the trust account.

- (c) In March 2004, I was appointed to fill a position as a part-time Magistrate for Darlington County. I served as Chief Magistrate. I left this position upon my election to the family court bench in 2015.
- (d) McDougall and Self May 2004 until November 2009. I practiced as an associate. My practice was limited to Family Court litigation. I was not involved in financial or administrative management nor did I manage the trust account.
- (e) Jebaily Law Firm November 2009 until June 2015. I practiced as an associate, limited to Family Court litigation and some matters in probated court. I was not involved with financial or administrative management nor did I manage the trust account.

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

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

over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

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

- 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:
  - (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?
  - (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?
  - (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.
  - (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.
  - (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.
- (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.

I was a part-time magistrate for Darlington County from 2004 until 2015. I was appointed by my legislative delegation. I presided over Criminal Domestic Violence court, civil matters in which the amount in controversy did not exceed \$7,500.00, and criminal matters that fell within the Magistrate's Court jurisdiction. I also presided over all jury trials held in the Hartsville area of Darlington County and I conducted bond hearings.

I have been serving as a Family Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit since 2015.

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) The cases I presided over in Magistrate's Court did not require written orders.
  - (b) Annie R. Jackson v. Sammy Lee Jackson, Louise Jackson, and Walter Williams, 432 S. C. 415, 853 S. E. 2d 344 (S.C. Ct. App. 2020)
  - (b) Alisha Rudick v. Brian Rudick, Appellate Case No 2016-002169 (S. C. Ct. App. August 21, 2019)
  - (d) Christopher K. Maddaloni v. Jacqueline Pidanick, Unpublished Opinion No. 2019-UP-337
  - (e) South Carolina Department of Social Services v. Jessica Rownd and Christopher Bass, Unpublished Opinion No. 2018-UP-371
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) Admitted to practice before the South Carolina Bar on May 21, 1986.
  - (b) Admitted to practice before the United States District Court on February 3, 1987.
  - (c) Admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court on April 18, 1994.
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) In the Best Interest of a Child: 2020 Annual Guardian ad Litem Training and Update January 31, 2020. I served on a panel of Family Court Judges addressing the judge's perspective and expectations of Guardians ad Litem.

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

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.)

None

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.

Rating not available

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) South Carolina Bar Association

(b)

(c)

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 other than judicial 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.

I have not had any additional employment while serving as a Family Court judge.

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

In 2011 I was a candidate for a Family Court seat for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. I came out of screening but withdrew prior to the election. The seat was filled by Hon. Salley H. McIntyre.

In the fall of 2012 I was a candidate for Family Court At Large Seat 4. I was found qualified but did not come out of screening.

In 2015 I was a candidate for Family Court, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1. I was elected by the General Assembly.

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.

I have never been engaged in any occupation, business, or professions other than the practice of law or other public office.

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.

I am not now nor have I ever been employed as a lobbyist.

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.**

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.

I have never had a tax lien or collection action instituted against me. I have never defaulted on a student loan or filed for bankruptcy.

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.

I have not.

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.

None

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 am not aware of any financial arrangements or businesses which I currently have or have had which could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest.

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

None

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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.

Account statements attached.

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.

I have not accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant .

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

I have not used my staff in this process.

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.]

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.

In the Matter of the Estate of Harley A. Newsome, Deceased v. Gena Phillips Ervin as Personal Representative of the Estate of Harley A. Newsome, Christine N. Tolson, individually and as Conservator for Sallie Louise Newsome, deceased, Cely Baker Reynolds as Guardian ad Litem for Sallie Louise Newsome, deceased, John H. Newsome, Sr. and John H. Newsome, Jr., Respondents, v. Kenneth L Amerson, Personal Representative of the Estate of Louise A. Newsome, 98-ES-16-355

This case arose out of a petition filed in Probate Court to authorize the sale of a parcel of real estate. The Conservator for Sallie A. Newsome petitioned the Probate Court to allow the sale of the real estate so that the funds generated could be used to provide for Mrs. Newsome's care. I was the Court appointed guardian ad litem for Mrs. Newsome who was in a nursing home.

The Petition for Sale was supported by an appraisal from a licensed real estate appraiser. The property was to be sold for the appraised value. The Probate Judge approved the sale which was finalized shortly thereafter.

Three months later, Sallie Newsome died. The Personal Representative of her estate filed a motion pursuant to Rule 60(b), SCRPC, to set aside the sale alleging the appraisal introduced at the hearing was inaccurate and that the property was worth more than indicated.

The Probate Court denied the motion. The Personal Representative appealed to the Circuit Court which upheld the ruling of the Probate Court. Upon appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals (no. 2003-UP-475), the decisions of both lower courts were affirmed.

Kenneth L. Amerson, Personal Representative of the Estate of Sallie Louise Newsome v. Gena Phillips Ervin, Personal Representative of the Estate of Harley A. Newsome, Christine N. Tolson, individually and as Conservator for Sallie Louise A. Newsome, deceased, Cely Baker Reynolds, as Guardian ad Litem for Sallie Louise A. Newsome, Deceased, John H. Newsome, Sr and John H. Newsome, 2002-CP-16-365

In 1998, the Probate Court approved the sale of certain real estate owned by Sallie Louise A. Newsome who was in a nursing home. The sale was approved. The order of the Probate Court was appealed and upheld by the Circuit Court and the Court of Appeals.

Sallie Louise A. Newsome died several months after the sale of the property. In 2002, the Personal Representative of her estate filed an action in circuit court in an attempt to set aside the sale of the property.

A motion for summary judgment was filed on my behalf in Circuit Court. The order granting summary judgment in my favor was appealed and certiorari was denied by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

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?

I am familiar with the 48-hour 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) Ellen Berry  
Dedicated Community Bank,

[REDACTED]

- (b) Rev. Ragland Coxe  
St. Matthew's Anglican Church

[REDACTED]

(c) Teresa Langley DuBose

[REDACTED]

(d) Joe S. Ervin

[REDACTED]

(e) Rangeley Bailey

[REDACTED]

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

I have an account on Facebook.

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

Cely Anne Brigman

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 limit my activity to posts relating to my children, grandchildren and friends. I avoid social and political issues. My use of Facebook has not affected my serving in a judicial capacity.

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.

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 thoroughly enjoyed my service on the Family Court bench and would be honored to serve another term.

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: \_\_\_\_\_