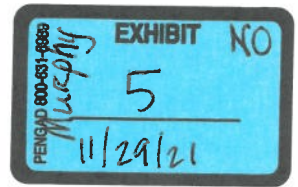


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2021**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, First Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable Michael H. Murphy, III

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. Dorchester County Magistrate, part-time.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 105 Carolina Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 843-761-0610
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1970
Place of Birth: Honolulu, HI
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#: 008695465 SCDL
Voter Registration Number: 185212706

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.
Yes. Current rank: 06/Colonel. Current M-day soldier (not full time).
(a) South Carolina Army Reserve National Guard, 1989-1995, 1997-present
(b) Mississippi Army Reserve National Guard, 1995-1997
(c) DD214s (3) attached as Exhibit A. Honorable.

6. Family Status:
(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated. Married

(b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Married on August 17, 1996 to Karin Elizabeth Murphy. Never divorced, three children. School Nurse (R.N.) with Dorchester County School District Two (2).

(c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

Not applicable.

(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.

Not applicable.

(e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

- i. [REDACTED]
- ii. [REDACTED]
- iii. [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) The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, 1989-1993, BS in Business Administration; and

(b) Mississippi College School of Law, 1995-1997, JD

i. Visiting student at South Carolina School of Law, 1997.

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) Mississippi College School of Law, Member of Student Council, 1996

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.

SC, 1998, once.

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) Wern Law Firm, North Charleston, SC
Associate, May 11, 1998 to November 1999
Personal injury attorney. Pursued recovery for clients involved in auto accidents, slip and falls, dog bites and other personal injuries.
- (b) Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Moncks Corner, SC
Assistant Solicitor, January 1999-March 2001
Prosecuted Misdemeanors and Felonies ranging from Forgery to Murder in General Sessions Court. I also prosecuted juvenile cases in family court during this time when the need arose.
- (c) Steinberg Law Firm, Goose Creek and Summerville, SC
Associate, March 2001-March 2007
Trial attorney, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Social Security Disability, Domestic (to include Juvenile Defense), and Criminal Defense
- (d) Quattlebaum and Murphy, LLP, Summerville, SC
Partner, March 2007-December 31, 2007
Trial attorney, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Social Security Disability, Domestic (to include Juvenile Defense), and Criminal Defense
- (e) Murphy Law Firm, LLC, Summerville, SC
Partner, January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2010
Trial attorney, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Social Security Disability, Domestic (to include Juvenile Defense), and Criminal Defense
- (f) Solo Practitioner
Contract attorney, September 2011 - 2014
 - i. Berkeley County Department of Social Services. Represented DSS in Abuse and Neglect Cases. October 2011 to December 2001. Moncks Corner, SC
 - ii. First Circuit Solicitor's Office. Prosecuted misdemeanors crimes in Dorchester County Magistrate court and later cases in Orangeburg County General Sessions Court. January 2012 to June 2012; October 2013 to March 2014. Summerville and Orangeburg, SC
- (g) Vannoy and Murphy, Moncks Corner, SC
Partner, January 1, 2014, to present
Trial attorney, Personal Injury, Worker's Compensation, Social Security Disability, Domestic(to include Juvenile Defense), and Veteran Disability.

Please refer to response in question eighteen (18) that outlines my judgeships and military occupation through the Judge Advocate General Corps.

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.

Divorce. I have extensive experience in divorce cases. Since I left the Ninth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office and joined Steinberg Law Firm, I developed and have grown an extensive family law practice. I have represented clients either as a Plaintiff or Defendant counsel and only as sole counsel. All grounds of divorce have been pursued or defended. I have argued and defended hundreds of motions in front of judges to include emergency motions, expedited motions, motions to compel, motions to quash, and other motions that arose prior to the hearing on the merits. I have resolved numerous divorces through agreement or contested trials. On several occasions, I have effectuated service on hard to locate defendants and if required, service through orders of publication. Finally, I have represented several clients either in separate support and maintenance actions and property settlement agreements.

Equitable Division of Property. As part of the divorces described above, numerous clients possessed substantial real and personal property and investment accounts. I have actively engaged in the discovery process, to include subpoenas, depositions, and written discovery, to get a clear picture of the adverse party's financial position to properly advise my client. I have also responded to the same request from the opposing party. I have drafted quit claim deeds, qualified domestic relations orders, and other transfer of ownership documents upon agreement or decision by judges to effectuate the equitable division of property. Further, I have drafted numerous orders dividing military spousal benefits.

Child custody. A substantial number of child custody issues arise during the divorce process above. On several occasions' pleadings addressed such allegations of habitual drunkenness, physical cruelty, and other areas of unfitness as a parent. On most occasions, my clients received either sole custody or primary custody of their child(ren). On occasions, although my clients were not awarded custody by the court initially, this changed either prior to or at the merits hearing.

Further, I have represented single mothers, as well as, non-custodial fathers. Representation of single mothers arose in situations where the non-custodial father would not return the child or a prior agreement between the parties was no longer applicable, such as the other party engaging in excessive alcohol or drug use. For non-custodial fathers, I have sought either custody of their minor child or visitation rights. This usually has occurred when the custodial mother, although allowing visitation before, suddenly stopped visitation.

Adoption. I have handled several termination of parental rights (TPR) cases followed by the adoption of the minor child(ren). My representation included contested and non-contested cases. On occasions I have defended TPR cases with, if successful, had a follow-on request for adoption. These cases were either privately brought or brought by the Department of Social Services. At the time of this submission, I have three (3) TPR/adoption cases pending.

Abuse and Neglect. For abuse and neglect, I previously was a contract attorney with the Department of Social Services. I handled abuse and neglect cases through Berkeley County at the Probable Cause Hearing, First Call Merits Hearing, Merits Hearing, Intervention Hearings, and Permanency Planning Hearing, either by agreement or contested. I worked extensively with the case workers in the preparation of the case and advised the caseworkers during the investigation.

While in private practice, I have defended numerous clients in actions brought by the Department of Social Services. As above, all stages of a DSS cases were handled (Probable Cause Hearing, First Call Merits Hearing, Merits Hearing, Intervention Hearings, and Permanency Planning Hearing). Further, I have attended numerous settlement conferences, and foster care review board meetings at local DSS offices and represented numerous clients subject to a DSS safety plan.

Juvenile Justice. When I was with the Solicitors Office Ninth Judicial Circuit, I prosecuted juvenile cases to include all status offenses and non-status offenses. When I entered private practice, I continued to practice juvenile justice but on the defense side.

I have represented juveniles on status offenses and non-status offense, to include armed robbery, burglary, criminal sexual conduct, truancy, incorrigible and runaway, to name a few. Representation included appearances at detention hearings, adjudications hearings and disposition hearings. On several occasions, I have represented juveniles at probation revocation hearings.

Other: I also represent clients in cases against the South Carolina Department of Social Services (child support enforcement division), child support modifications, child support arrears cases, and request for child support cases. I also have represented clients on rule to show cause cases. I have pursued and defended rule to show cause matters.

The frequency of my appearance before a family court judge is significant with my case load being eighty-five percent (85%) family law. I routinely appear in Charleston County, Berkeley County, and Dorchester County, with occasional appearances outside of the tri-county area. Prior to COVID-19 on average, I appeared in Family Court ten (10) to fifteen (15) times per month, if not more.

- (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.
Not applicable.

(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: 5 percent (Administrative Hearings)
- (b) state: 95 percent

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: 5 percent
- (b) criminal: 5 percent (Juvenile Proceedings in Family Court)
- (c) domestic: 85 percent
- (d) other: 5 percent

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: 0 percent
- (b) non-jury: 100 percent

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) Buchwalter case. The Buchwalter case is a fault-ground divorce and child custody case. The case started on an emergency basis as the wife was in the process of relocating the minor children to Georgia. Once notified that she would be leaving as evidenced by her packing the car with her and the children's belongings, faced with extreme time constraints, an ex-parte order was requested and granted preventing the

wife from removing the children from South Carolina. Further, the ex-parte order granted my client temporary custody of the minor children to include a non-biological child. At the time of service of the pleadings and ex-parte order, the wife had the children in the car packed up and was in the process of leaving for Georgia. We successfully stopped her relocation of the children to the State of Georgia, and received ex-parte custody of the children.

This began as a highly contested case with numerous parties involved, to include opposing counsel, guardian ad litem and biological father of my client's stepdaughter. The matter ended by agreement with my client retaining custody of all children, to include his stepdaughter under the de facto custodian principle. This matter arose after my redeployment from Kosovo and was my first contested action upon reentering private practice after a year-long overseas deployment.

- (b) Gage case. The Gage case involved child custody. The parties were not married so initial custody resided with the natural mother. I have represented Mr. Gage on several occasions during the years 2014 to 2020. In 2014, I represented Mr. Gage in the pursuit of visitation rights. I was successful but the case ended in a dismissal as both parties did not appear at the Final Hearing. Fast forward several years with Mr. Gage making substantial positive changes in his life. We filed an action requesting sole custody of the minor child of the case due to the mother engaging in frequent illegal drug use and having the minor child in an unsafe environment due to the exposure to criminals and criminal activity.

This case involved a total of four (4) temporary hearings to include an emergency hearing. The parties in this case operated under four (4) temporary orders. Mr. Gage in this action first shared joint-custody (week on/week off) of the minor child, but after several change of circumstances motions, Mr. Gage was awarded sole custody of the minor child with the biological mother receiving visitation at Mr. Gage's discretion on a final basis. Mr. Gage, as mentioned previously, made substantial positive changes in his life, and through perseverance this fact became known to the court ending in full custody for Mr. Gage.

- (c): Estes case. The Estes case did not begin well for my client. Prior to my representation, an order was issued against my client for criminal contempt that had her in custody at the local detention center.

Ms. Estes was married but her husband was not the biological father of her child. She left the marriage and took her biological child with her out of state to Louisiana. There existed a court order in place preventing this which gave rise to the criminal contempt noted above. Her now ex-husband received custody of her child under this court order.

I filed a motion requesting that the order be vacated, and custody returned to my client. We were successful. Thus began a highly contested child custody case. The action included several motions; a rule to show cause petition, appointment of guardian ad litem, mediation, and settlement negotiations throughout.

At the conclusion of the case, my client was allowed to return to the State of Louisiana with her minor child with her ex-husband receiving visitation rights.

- (d) Karabees case. I have represented Mr. Karabees on numerous occasions. The first representation included a protection from domestic abuse action with a corresponding Department of Social Service Abuse and Neglect matter. The matters

were resolved through reconciliation of the parties and the return of the minor child to the parties.

Unfortunately, there was a breakdown of the marriage with the wife filing against Mr. Karabees seeking sole custody of their child. This matter was resolved by agreement where the parties shared custody of the minor child.

While operating under this order, Ms. Karabees relocated out of state with the minor child. An action was filed seeking the return of the minor child. During the pendency of the action, Mr. Karabees was arrested for a serious criminal charge. Due to his pending criminal charge, the mother was no longer allowing his visitation with the minor child. We filed an action seeking divorce and return of the child. Numerous orders were issued to include an ex-parte order granting Mr. Karabees custody as the child was not returned to South Carolina initially. The matter was eventually resolved with the parties agreeing to share custody of the minor child.

Recently, another action was filed wherein the ex-wife sought emergency sole custody of the minor child. At the emergency hearing the relief requested by Ms. Karabees was denied with attorney fees awarded to my client. The matter is still pending.

- (e). Al-Dujail trial: During my deployment to Iraq, I was an attorney advisor for Iraq High-Tribunal (IHT). The IHT was responsible for trying the former regime of Iraq to include the former President Saddam Hussein. As part of this process, the Regime Crime Liaison Office (RCLO) advised the IHT to the point where they were able to conduct the first trial on October 19, 2005. Besides Saddam Hussein, the case involved several co-defendants, Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Taha Yassin Ramadan, Awad Hamed al-Bandar Al-Sa'dun, Abdullah Kadhem Roweed Al-Musheikhi, Mizher Abdullah Roweed Al-Musheikhi, Ali Daeem Ali, Mohammed Azawi Ali. During that time, I was present and actively engaged in conducting detainee operations, setting up defense counsel visits, administrative hearings, interrogations, and witness interview. I worked hand in hand with all branches of the military, federal agencies to include US attorneys, FBI, DEA, ATF, US Marshals Services, and the US State Department to include Embassy Staff. Further, I advised the Commanding General (CTF-134) and subordinate Commanders for Detainee Operations in Iraq on legal issues surrounding the detention of Saddam Hussein and high-ranking member of the former Iraq Ba'ath Party Regime in U.S. Custody. I oversaw High Value Detainee (HVD) operations for the RCLO. My responsibilities included scheduling all High Value Criminal (HVC) and High Value Detainee (HVD) defense counsel visits for 64 individuals, actively participating in weekly high-risk defense attorney pick-ups at Entry Control Point (ECP) 1 at Route Irish. I further planned, coordinated, and participated in innumerable air and convoy missions required to move the defendants, their international attorneys, RCLO staff, IHT Judges and Investigators between various detention centers and court facilities located near Camp Victory, Baghdad International Airport and the International Zone. I acted as the primary interface between CTF 134, U.S. Marshalls, other U.S. Police/Intelligence Agencies, Iraq Security Forces, and civilian attorneys representing defendants being held for various war crimes, genocides, and crimes against humanity.

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) None
 - (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) None
 - (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.
- (a) Associate Municipal Judge, Town of Summerville. Appointed. January 2015 to January 2019. Traffic and criminal cases within the municipality of Summerville. Jurisdiction over cases include a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both. Also, conducted preliminary hearings, bond hearings, jury trials, bench trials, and issued arrest and search warrants.
 - (b) Part-time Magistrate. Dorchester County. Appointed. September 23, 2020, to present. Jurisdiction includes all criminal offenses subject to the penalty of a fine, as set by statute, but generally, not exceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both. Further, responsible for setting bail, conducting preliminary hearings, and issuing arrest and search warrants. Civil jurisdiction when the amount in controversy does not exceed \$7,500.00. Routinely preside over rule to vacate and eviction proceedings.
 - (c) Certified Military Judge pursuant to Article 26 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and South Carolina Code §25-1-2455. Appointed. May 3, 2019, to present.
 Title 10 federal jurisdiction: Except as otherwise expressly provided, special courts-martial may try any person subject to the code for any noncapital offense made punishable by the code and, as provided in this rule, for capital offenses, to include dishonorable discharge, dismissal, confinement for more than 1-year, hard labor without confinement for more than 3 months, forfeiture of pay exceeding two-thirds pay per month, or any forfeiture of pay for more than 1 year.
 South Carolina jurisdiction: A military judge presides at all general and special courts-martial and has the same authority as a South Carolina Circuit Judge in General Sessions Court. Maximum punishment includes (1) dismissal, or dishonorable or bad-conduct discharge; (2) confinement of not more than twelve months; (3) a fine of not more than forty days' pay; (4) reduction of enlisted personnel to the lowest pay grade; (5) forfeiture of pay and allowances not to exceed forty days' pay; (6) a reprimand; (7) any combination of these punishments.

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
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- (a) South Carolina Supreme Court, May 11, 1998;
 - (b) United States District Court for the State of South Carolina, April 17, 2001;
 - (c) United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, June 7, 2018; and
 - (d) Veteran's Administration (VA), VA accredited attorney, May 7, 2018.
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 taught one semester of Business Law at Limestone College. The course was held at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) building in North Charleston, South Carolina.
 - (b) Throughout my twenty years as a judge advocate officer I have taught numerous courses on such subjects as Rules of Engagement (ROE), Standard Rules for the Use of Force (SRUF), Law of Armed Conflict, Code of Conduct, Detainee Operations, Ethics, Military Justice (State and Federal), Investigations, Domestic Operations, Equal Opportunity (EO), Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention (SHARP), and other topics.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
Attached as Exhibit B.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
Not applicable.
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.)
- (a) Sotzing v. Sotzing, 2020DR18-0333, Final Order with written agreement; and

(b) Mitchell v. Mitchell, 2021DR08-0049, Initial pleadings with ex-parte order and order of dismissal.

Attached as Exhibit 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.
Martindale-Hubbell 4.4/5.0 Peer Reviews Distinguished for High Professional Achievement
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;
(b) Dorchester County Bar;
(c) Berkeley County Bar; and
(d) Military Member South Carolina Bar
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.
(a) South Carolina Army Reserve National Guard. May 23, 1989, to present. Current position is military judge.
Responsibilities: Serve as a Military Judge for the South Carolina National Guard. Ensure Special and General Courts-Martial are in strict compliance with the South Carolina Code of Military Justice. Report on all criminal legal actions in the state and coordinates legislative amendments to the Military Code. When not in conflict with judicial duties, provide legal assistance to mobilizing Soldiers, specifically providing wills, powers of attorney, and other necessary documents. Screen mobilizing Soldiers to ensure fitness for deployment with no adverse legal consequences and, when appropriate, assist Soldiers in removing legal impediments to mobilization. Support deploying Soldiers and family members on such collateral issues as USERRA, SCRA, and Family Care Plans. Provide legal advice and assistance to Commanders and Soldiers as needed during DOMOPs. Maintains personal legal and military qualifications.
Supervisor: Brigadier General Jeffrey A. Jones
1 National Guard Road
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 299-4215
(b) Vannoy and Murphy. Partner, January 1, 2014, to present.

Responsibilities: Trial attorney in the areas of personal injury, worker's compensation, social security disability, domestic (to include Juvenile Defense), and veteran disability.

Supervisor: None

(c) Murphy's Law of South Carolina, Inc. January 1, 2011. Owner. I formed this entity after I left Murphy Law Firm, LLC (Question ten). General practice law firm handling legal cases in the areas of personal injury, worker's compensation, social security disability, domestic (to include juvenile defense), criminal defense, veterans' disability and contract work. Former names: Murphy's Law of Summerville, LLC and Murphy's Law of South Carolina, LLC

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.
Yes. Summerville Town Council District Four (4). The general election occurred in 2007.
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.
(a) South Carolina Army Reserve National Guard, 1989-1995, 1997-present
(b) Mississippi Army Reserve National Guard, 1995-1997
I began my career in the military as an enlisted member. My military occupation specialty code (MOS) started as 11B infantry. In the mid-90s, after certification training, my MOS converted to 11M, mechanized infantry. On April 25, 2000, I received a direct commission into the Judge Advocate General Corps, MOS 27A. As noted in response eighteen, I now hold the position of military judge, MOS 27B. Military Service Career attached as Exhibit D.
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.
Yes.
(a) Vannoy and Murphy, LLC. Law office. Partner. January 1, 2014, to present. General practice firm handling legal cases in the areas of personal injury, worker's compensation, social security disability, domestic (to include juvenile defense), and veterans' disability.
(b) Murphy's Law of South Carolina, Inc. January 1, 2011. Owner. I formed this entity after I left Murphy Law Firm, LLC (Question ten). General practice law firm handling legal cases in the areas of personal injury, worker's compensation, social security disability, domestic (to include juvenile defense), criminal defense, veterans' disability and contract work. Former names: Murphy's Law of Summerville, LLC and Murphy's Law of South Carolina, LLC.
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 to all questions.
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 at this time.
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.
- (a) As noted in my response to question 10, I am a former member of Quattlebaum and Murphy, L.L.P. and Murphy Law Firm, LLC. Two of my partners were my brother, Christopher J. Murphy and sister-in-law, Matie' D. Murphy. My brother is a member of the House of Representatives, District 98 and Chairman of the House Judiciary. My sister-in-law is a Circuit Court Judge, At Large Seat Number 15. My brother is a solo practitioner and rarely, if at all, enters Family Court. Yet, at no time will I hear a case of his or any future member of his firm. No exceptions. This would apply as well to my sister-in-law even though she does not engage in the practice of family law. If any potential conflict of interest arises in the future, I would immediately recuse myself from the matter. Further, I have represented several clients in Family Court. If elected, I plan to actively screen my case load once set and available by the clerk of court. Part of this process will be to screen the docket for former clients and adverse clients as well. If a conflict or appearance of one arises, I will recuse myself accordingly.
- (b) Long Rifle Investments. I am 50% owner of the property at 105 Carolina Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. My current practice, Vannoy & Murphy, is located here. If elected, I plan to keep my ownership interest in the property and contribute my share of mortgage payments, hazard insurance and property taxes. Although, not contemplated at this time, if my space is leased to another attorney and that attorney appears before me, I will recuse myself. Further, my law partner currently does not engage in family law. Yet, if this changes and he appears before me, I will recuse myself as well as, any future law partners he may acquire and/or associate attorneys.

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; None
- (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; None
- (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. Not applicable.

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.
Broker and account records attached as Exhibit F.

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.

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.

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.
Yes.

(a) July 15, 1987 - Driving Under the Influence - Fine, Community Service, and ADSAP

(b) December 21, 1990 - Minor in Possession of Beer - Fine

(c) December 30, 1989 - DUS - Fine

(d) June 6, 1992 -DUS 2nd – Fine.

I believe the above information is not reflected on my SLED background check. The only offense that I can see is the DUS 2nd which is located on the Dorchester County Public Index. All other information is taken from my South Carolina Bar application and security clearance application, Secret and Top Secret, for the United States Army.

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.
I have not.

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.
Yes.

(a) Matter Number: 18-DE-L-0098*, Unfounded - May 1, 2018, There was also, a fee dispute filed as well. Fee dispute was dismissed.

(b) Matter Number: 18-DE-L-0913*, Unfounded - December 12, 2018

*The Supreme Court of South Carolina Office of Disciplinary Counsel

(c) Natasha Lawrence v. Michael H. Murphy, III and Vannoy and Murphy

Law Firm, 2018CV08-10500473: Case dismissed with prejudice

October 30, 2018. Matter Number: 18-DE-L-0913 cited above was

brought by Ms. Lawrence as well.

(d) 2010CP18-0295. This was a foreclosure action on property that my late father owned. As a beneficiary of his estate, I was named as a party defendant along with all my other siblings. From my understanding the matter is resolved as the property was sold. The disposition date is May 11, 2011 (according to Dorchester County Public Index).

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.

Yes. While in private practice I have always maintained malpractice insurance. At no time have I had a tail policy.

Current policy: \$1,000,000.00 aggregate, \$500,000.00 per occurrence, \$5,000.00 deductible per claim

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.

I have not.

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 not.

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) Brigadier General Jeffrey A. Jones

[Redacted]

- (b) Michael R. Hitchcock

[Redacted]

- (c) Stanley L. Myers

[Redacted]

- (d) Peter D. DeLuca, Jr.

[Redacted]

(e) Debra K. Littlejohn



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.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michael.murphyiii.1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-h-murphy-iii-0b8a79132/>

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

LinkedIn: I have joined but I am not an active member.

Facebook: I joined Facebook to remain up to date with family and friends. I am also a member of numerous Facebook pages, such as, Citadel Alumni Network, Citadel Old Corps, Greenwave Wrestling, Positively Summerville, and other groups. I rarely post on Facebook or respond to posts. On occasions I have liked a post, either a family photo, photo of a friend or a major accomplishment. If elected I will still utilize Facebook. I will not accept friend requests from attorneys, litigators, or other persons that may appear in front of me or might be impacted directly by a decision of mine. Presently on Facebook, I have numerous attorneys that are friends of mine. Even though it is a current practice of rarely interacting on Facebook by posting, commenting, or "liking," I will be acutely aware of the impact such conduct would have while I am on the bench. It would be my practice to refrain from this conduct especially with those that appear before me. If at any time, I believe that my interaction with Facebook raises concerns while on the bench I will delete the account.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

(a) National Guard Association (State and Federal)(Life Member)

(b) Military Officers Association of America (Life Member)

(c) Citadel Alumni Association (Life Member)

(d) Citadel Brigadier Foundation

(e) Summerville Citadel Club

(f) Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) , Post 3137," Post on the Coast, Post judge Advocate. (Life Member)

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 am honored to be considered for a family court judgeship.

Except for a short period of time after birth and attendance at law school out of state, I have called South Carolina home, namely Dorchester County. All of my primary education occurred in Dorchester County. This was followed by The Citadel.

My early life experiences, followed by military service, professional degrees, marriage and fatherhood, developed an individual with humility, confidence, honor, integrity, knowledge, experience, and calmness. Since May 11, 1998, I have acquired the knowledge and experience to positively shape the lives of children and families throughout South Carolina.

I look forward to continuing this path as a family 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: //s// Michael H. Murphy, III

Sworn to before me this 15 day of July, 2021.

//s// Andrinna Tena Smith
(Notary Signature)

Andrinna Tena Smith
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: November 25, 2023