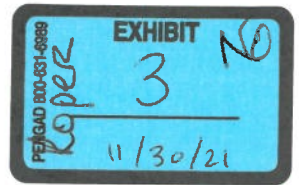


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2021**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

1. Name: The Honorable Karen Sanchez Roper

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes, Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial
Circuit, Seat 4

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 214 E. Main St., PO Box 215, Pickens, SC 29671

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 864.898.5860
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1969
Place of Birth: Valdosta, GA
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge. No

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 6, 1994 to Kenneth Scott Roper. He currently is employed as the Pickens County Administrator.

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). N/A
- (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. N/A
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child. [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) University of Georgia, 1987 – 1991, Bachelor of Arts
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1991 – 1994, 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.
 - (a) Moot Court Bar, University of South Carolina School of Law, 1993-1994
 - (b) Finalist, J. Woodrow Lewis Moot Court Competition, University of South Carolina School of Law, 1993
 - (c) Team Captain, National Moot Court Competition, Region V, Atlanta, GA, 1993
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.
South Carolina, admitted 1994 on first examination.
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) Associate, Laddaga, Crout & Drachman, P.A., Charleston, South Carolina, 1994-1997. Handled general civil litigation, primarily focused on debt collection and domestic litigation.
 - (b) Owner/Partner, Roper Law Firm, LLC, 1997-2016. Handled primarily domestic litigation, probate matters, and local government representation. I shared administrative and financial management responsibilities, including management of trust accounts, with my law partner.

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. Yes. Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 4, elected by South Carolina General Assembly May 2016 for the term July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2022.

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) Jane and John Doe v. Nikki Gardner, Jeremy Gardner, and SCDSS, Order Terminating Parental Rights, 2018-DR-39-1151, 2018-DR-39-971; Appellate Case No. 2020-00168 and 2020-000254, Unpublished Opinion No. 2021-UP-192 & -193, Filed June 2, 2021. This action for termination of parental rights was filed by the foster parents of one minor child. This child was the fifth child exposed to drugs by biological parents, each instance necessitating a DSS action that resulted in either loss of permanent custody or termination of parental rights and adoption. Foster parents previously adopted two of biological parents' other children. Although biological parents had a decade-long history of severe drug addiction and child abuse, DSS opposed termination and advocated that parents be awarded custody due to their completion of the DSS treatment plan. Biological parents began unsupervised visits with the child, but shortly thereafter, the child tested positive for methamphetamines. Biological parents denied any drug abuse and subsequently produced negative drug tests. After hearing a multi-day trial, I terminated parental rights, finding that these parents' long history of abuse and neglect and their long history of severe drug addiction, coupled with the child's recent positive drug test, made them highly unlikely to provide a safe home for the child. The Court of Appeals reversed my decision, finding that because parents completed treatment services, the child's positive drug test did not constitute clear and convincing evidence to support termination of parental rights. The Court of Appeals remanded the case for another permanency planning hearing, scheduled later this month, to consider additional evidence that has occurred since trial. In the intervening time since trial, DSS changed its position and filed a new action for termination of parental rights based upon allegations that the biological parents have resumed drug use.
- (b) Kaitlin Whitesell v. Jeremy Whitesell, Final Order, 2016-DR-46-746, Appellate Case No. 2017-002601, Opinion No. 5771, Filed August 26, 2020; 431 S.C. 575, 848 S.E.2d 588 (Ct. App. 2020). This was an action for modification of custody and child support, which was vigorously contested in a multi-day trial. Father appealed my decision, and the Court of Appeals affirmed my decision in a published opinion.
- (c) SCDSS v. Carla Bennefield, Joe McWhite, Sr., and Jamie Crider, Order Terminating Parental Rights, 2016-DR-23-3328, Appellate Case No. 2017-000289, Unpublished Opinion No. 2017-UP-431, Filed November 9, 2017. This was an order terminating parental rights to a minor child, which mother appealed. The Court of Appeals affirmed my decision in an unpublished opinion.
- (d) Shaundra B. Daily v. Julian D. Daily, Final Order, 2015-DR-39-184; Appellate Case No. 2017-00119, Opinion No. 5801, Filed February 10, 2021; 432 S.C. 608, 854 S.E.2d 856 (Ct. App. 2021). This was an action for modification of custody and visitation action based upon mother's relocation, and including several actions for contempt and attorney's fees. The Court of Appeals affirmed my decision as modified to provide more specific visitation terms and increasing my award of attorney's fees to mother.

- (e) In the Interest of Dylan L.M., a Juvenile Under the Age of Seventeen, Appellate Case No. 2019-000619, Unpublished Opinion No. 2021-UP-052, Filed February 24, 2021. This was my first instance of presiding over a contested trial in a juvenile matter, where the juvenile was accused of criminal sexual conduct with a minor, involving the testimony of a minor child, expert witness testimony, and a Jackson v. Denno hearing. The appeal was dismissed.
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, 1994;
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 1995;
 - (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 1995.
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. Yes.
- (a) Family Court Judges Panel Discussion, Greenville County Bar Year End CLE, 2021
 - (b) Virtual Fireside Chat Re: Women’s History Month, SC Bar Diversity Committee, 2021
 - (c) Overview of Child Abuse & Neglect, Pickens United, 2019
 - (d) Tips from the Bench, Greenville County Bar Year End CLE, 2018
 - (e) Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program Training, Pickens County, 2018
 - (f) Multiple lectures on family law and our legal system at various level public schools in Pickens County, 2016 – 2021
 - (g) Prior to being elected to the bench, I gave presentations on Identifying Representation Issues, Representing Defendant Parents in DSS Abuse and Neglect Actions, and Strategizing Solutions, at CLEs sponsored by the Children’s Law Center
 - (h) Prior to being elected to the bench, Trial of a Divorce Case, Divorce Litigation from Start to Finish, National Business Institute
 - (i) Prior to being elected to the bench, Debt Collections Law, National Business Institute
 - (j) Prior to being elected to the bench, I taught a six-week legal education course for students enrolled in a paralegal studies program in the 1990s, but I do not recall the name of the sponsoring entity.
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. I have not published any books or articles.
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.) N/A

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. I do not have a rating by any legal rating organization.
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) SC Bar
 - (b) Pickens County Bar
 - (c) Greenville County Bar
 - (d) Family Law Section
 - (e) SC Women Lawyers
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. I have timely filed all reports related to my 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. None.
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. Yes.
- (a) Partner, Upstate Land Title, LLC, 2002-2016. Title insurance company co-owned with my husband and then-law partner, Ken Roper. Served as a licensed title agent for issuance of title insurance policies in conjunction with real estate closings. Corporation now dissolved.
 - (b) Partner, The Upstate Agency, LLC, 2009-2011. Insurance company co-owned with my husband and then law-partner, Ken Roper. Served as a licensed broker/producer for issuance of property/casualty/life policies. Corporation now dissolved.
31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service. No.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed. No.
33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
(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. 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? \$14.85 – personalized ID name badge
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) Rep. Neal Collins – contribution made by my husband, Ken Roper, May 2018 \$250; June 2018 \$250
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) I formerly was a partner in Roper Law Firm, LLC, with my husband, attorney Ken Roper. Upon my election to the Family Court bench in 2016, I withdrew as a member of the firm. My husband is now the County Administrator for Pickens County, and Roper Law Firm has ceased operations. I maintain a roster of former clients with Roper Law Firm, which my assistant and I regularly review for any potential conflicts of interest in my service as Family Court judge. In the event that any prior client appears before me, I disclose the relationship on the record and unless all parties waive any conflict, I recuse myself.
 - (b) I formerly was a partner in Upstate Land Title, LLC, and The Upstate Agency, LLC, with my husband, attorney Ken Roper. These companies issued insurance policies in connections with real estate closings, and both companies are now dissolved. In my service as Family Court judge, I have no knowledge of any former client appearing before me in court. However, if any potential conflict were to arise, I would disclose my former relationship on the record and recuse myself from hearing any matters unless the necessary waivers were provided.
 - (c) I formerly was a partner in South Azalea, LLC, with my husband, attorney Ken Roper. This company leased certain parcels of commercial real estate. Upon my election to the bench in 2016, I withdrew as a member. All commercial properties held by this corporation have been sold. In the event that any former tenants were to appear before me in court, I would disclose my relationship on the record and unless all parties waive any conflict, I would recuse myself.

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. N/A

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.
- None.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here. None.
43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received. No.
44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office? No.
45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

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

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain. No.
47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.
- (a) In 2002, I was named as a defendant in the matter of Jimmy G. Blakely v. Elizabeth G. Patterson, Ms. Faith Lee, Ms. Tunishia Gary, Ms. Jane E. Stewart, Ms. Karen Roper, Ms. Kimberly Pryor, Ms. Carolyn R. Nicholson, Ms. Gayle Cromer, Co-Conspirator, Kimberly T. Sullivan and the Administrator of Pelham Road Elementary School, case number 2002-CP-23-00451. This action was filed in the Greenville County Court of Common Pleas by an SCDC inmate, seeking damages under various allegations of libel, slander, false imprisonment, violation of due process, destruction of a family unit, and physical and mental cruelty, as a result of a DSS case involving his children. Mr. Blakely filed this action against me in my capacity as attorney for Greenville County DSS, as well as several other employees of Greenville County DSS and the state director of DSS at the time. This action was never served upon me, and I did not have knowledge of this lawsuit until informed of its existence as a result of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission background check in 2016. This case was dismissed by Judge Edward Miller on December 30, 2003, whereupon Mr. Blakely filed an appeal, which was subsequently dismissed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals on April 1, 2004.

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. Upon my election to the bench, I sent written notification to my Lawyer's Professional Liability Insurance carrier (The General Agency, CNA Insurance) that I had ceased the private practice of law. I understand that this activated coverage under the Non-Practicing Extended Reporting Period pursuant to my CNA policy terms.
49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.
- [Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]
50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details. No.
51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details. No.
52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative. No.
53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule? Yes.
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) Fmr. Sen. Larry A. Martin, [REDACTED]
- (b) Sheriff Rick Clark, Pickens County Sheriff's Office, [REDACTED]
- (c) Mr. Chris Bowers, Chairman, Pickens County Council, [REDACTED]
- (d) Mr. George N. Acker, [REDACTED]
- (e) Mrs. Lauren M. Murphy, Executive Vice-President, Pickens Savings & Loan Association, F.A., [REDACTED]

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) Twitter: @ksroper
- (b) Instagram: karen_ropers
- (c) Pinterest: karensroper
- (d) Houzz: karenroper

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity? Since my election to the bench, I de-activated my Facebook, LinkedIn, and SnapChat accounts. I maintain the social media accounts listed above, but with the highest privacy settings. I limit my postings and interactions in compliance with the Judicial Canons.

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) Pickens Presbyterian Church, member 2002-present
 - Trustee, 2016-2019
 - Elder, 2006-present
 - Clerk of Session, 2007-2009
 - Session, 2006-2009
 - Youth Leader, 2010-2015
 - Co-chair, Christian Outreach Committee, 2007-2009
 - Co-chair, Christian Education Committee, 2006-2007
 - Foothills Presbytery Disaster Assistance Team, 2005

- Habitat for Humanity Team, 2005
- CROP Hunger Walk coordinator, 2008
- Sunday school teacher
- (b) The Reserve at Lake Keowee, social club membership, 2020-present
- (c) Women United, Pickens County United Way, 2019-present
- (d) Pickens Women's Association, 2002-2019
 - President, 2011-2012; 2005-2006
 - Vice-President, 2010-2011; 2004-2005
 - Treasurer, 2008-2010
 - Chair, Scholarship and Benevolence Committee, 2014-2017
 - Co-chair, Azalea Festival Race Committee, 2013
- (e) Cannon Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, 2011-2016
 - Investments Committee, 2013-2015
- (f) Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center Board, appointed by Governor Haley, 2014-2016
 - Programs Committee, 2014-2016
- (g) Pickens Chamber of Commerce, 2015-2016

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.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve this State as a Family Court judge. When I sought this position almost six years ago, I expressed my belief that a Family Court judge plays a significant role in helping families achieve long term peace despite going through the painful process of a divorce, DSS intervention, or custody litigation. Since that time, my experience on the bench has only strengthened my conviction. My judicial experience over the past five years has enriched my knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by our citizens, many of which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each day in court I see families struggling with divorce, abuse, addiction, mental health, or unemployment.

My legal and volunteer experiences inform many of my judicial decisions. I previously served on boards for Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County and Pickens County First Steps, which opened my eyes to the needs of children in my county. Pickens Presbyterian Church has provided me wonderful opportunities to interact with children as Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, and Youth Group leader. Through my representation of the School District of Pickens County for 10 years, I handled student expulsion hearings and became familiar with the challenges facing our teenage youth. Representing DSS and indigent parents through the SC Commission of Indigent Defense raised my awareness about the dire circumstances of many parents who find themselves involved with child protective services. My service on the boards of Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health Center and Cannon Memorial Hospital Foundation helped me understand that access to vital

health services are necessary for so many of our families to raise healthy, well-adjusted children.

For most people, Family Court is also their first introduction to our judicial system. Most of our citizens will have only limited experience with the courts of General Session or Common Pleas; but even if an individual has not personally gone through a divorce, most likely each of us has a parent, child, or sibling involved in a Family Court case at some point in their lives. As such, we deal with extremely personal issues and the emotions in the courtroom can run very high. I have witnessed attorneys, and occasionally judges, fall into the trap of reflecting these emotions and unintentionally intensifying the anger and resentment that sometimes accompanies the dissolution of a marriage or the custodial arrangements for a child. I have seen litigants leave the courtroom feeling their position was ignored or disrespected. When litigants leave our courtrooms feeling overlooked or dissatisfied with the process, we lose an opportunity for the court's ruling to bring long term peace and resolution for that family.

In this highly charged atmosphere of Family Court, I believe it is vitally important to provide clear rules, clear boundaries, and clear expectations. Adherence to the Rules of Evidence and the statutes set by the General Assembly can eliminate much of the "unknown" for parties entering the courtroom. Uniformly enforcing these rules and requiring persons to conduct themselves with decorum helps establish clear boundaries for all parties. I attempt to set clear expectations for each hearing by assuring litigants that each will have the opportunity to be heard, that all parties and witnesses will be treated with dignity and respect, and that all parties will have equal access to their rights and rules under our court system. I firmly believe that abiding by clear rules, boundaries, and expectations results in better outcomes for our litigants, higher job satisfaction among lawyers and courthouse staff, and most importantly, better public perception of our judicial system as a whole.

Despite the many challenges faced by our communities, I firmly believe that stability can be preserved and children can be protected when families in our court system are heard, are treated fairly, and decisions are thoughtfully rendered. I would like to continue using my position as judge to have a positive impact on the lives of children and families, and hopefully be part of the solution to these problems.

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: _____