



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court Judge, Sixteenth Circuit,  
Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. Thomas H. White IV  
Mrs.  
Ms.

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

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

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Union County Courthouse, 210 W. Main Street, Union, SC 29379

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): 864-429-1635  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1957  
Place of Birth: Oconee Memorial Hospital, Seneca, 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.

N/A

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.

Date of marriage: 12-18-1982  
Spouse's name: Ann Brueckner White  
Occupation: Volunteer extraordinaire and part-time administrative assistant for Providence Presbytery in Rock Hill, SC

- (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.



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.

Clemson University, August 1975-May 1979, B.A. in Political Science with High Honor  
University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1980-May 1983, J.D.

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.

During my attendance at law school, I focused on my studies and my law clerk duties with the Columbia law firm of Rogers, McDonald, McKenzie, Fuller & Rubin.

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 1983. I took the SC bar exam one time. I have not taken the bar exam for any other state.

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.

I was in the private practice of law in Union, SC from the time of my admission to the South Carolina Bar in 1983 until February 24, 2014 when I began my duties as a Family Court Judge. Initially, I was hired in 1983 as an associate with the law office of William E. Whitney, Jr. I was an associate with this office from 1983 to 1985. In 1985, I became a partner and the firm name was changed to Whitney & White. This association remained intact from 1985 through 1988. In January, 1989, Pete G. Diamaduros joined the firm and the firm name was changed to Whitney, White & Diamaduros. This partnership remained intact from 1989 through August, 1992. In August, 1992, Sammy G. Diamaduros joined the firm and the firm name was changed to Whitney, White, Diamaduros & Diamaduros. In May 2000, Pete G. Diamaduros, Sammy Diamaduros and I established the firm of White, Diamaduros & Diamaduros. This partnership remained intact from May 2000 until February 21, 2014. Throughout my legal career, I maintained a general practice. My areas of practice have included domestic litigation, criminal defense, civil trial law, real estate transactions, and a modicum of trust and estates. I assumed primary administrative and financial management of Whitney & White in 1985 and remained primary until the formation of White, Diamaduros & Diamaduros in 2000. Pete G. Diamaduros was the managing partner of that firm, but he and I consulted with each other on administrative and financial matters on a regular basis until I took the bench in February, 2014.

I have served as Family Court Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, from February 24, 2014 to present.

**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 have served as Family Court Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, continuously since February 24, 2014.

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) *Hein v. Bernson*, 2017-DR-46-01001 (Relocation case) No appeal
  - (b) *Chappell v. Kay*, 2018-DR-46-00197 (Adoption case) No appeal
  - (c) *Wright v. Wright*, 2014-DR-46-02810 (Contempt action) Affirmed in Unpublished Opinion No. 2019-UP-328
  - (d) *Aikey v. Dehart*, 2013-DR-46-02292 (TPR by grandparents) Affirmed in Unpublished Opinion No. 2015-UP-570
  - (e) *Fernanders v. Johnson*, 2008-DR-11-00703 and JR#56788 (Complex child support/social security, reconciliation case) No appeal

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.

Admitted to practice in all South Carolina state courts 11-16-1983  
Admitted to practice in Federal District Court in 1989

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 served as a presenter on two separate occasions at continuing legal education seminars sponsored by the SC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. My presentations covered the general topic of case investigation and preparation for rural lawyers in economically-challenged locations.

(b) I have been a frequent guest speaker in public school classrooms in Union County, SC over the years on law-related topics and on law-related careers. In particular, I have participated as a regular presenter in the Opportunity Fair program at the middle school and high school levels in Union County, SC public schools. These presentations have been particularly focused on educating students regarding our legal system, the advantages of a legal education, and employment opportunities in the legal field. I have also made classroom presentations regarding the U.S. Constitution and the S.C. Constitution as part of the Judges in the Schools program instituted by Chief Justice Beatty. I also made an international zoom presentation on adoption to a first grade class in Linz, Austria being taught by my youngest daughter!

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. 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 scholarly articles; however, as president of the South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2002, I did author three President's Columns in "The Advocate", the original newsletter for the organization.

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 have not sought a rating in Martindale-Hubbell or any such other rating service in over 32 years; however, to my recollection my last rating was "BV-Distinguished".

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) S.C. Bar Association
  - (b) S.C. Conference of Family Court Judges
  - (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.

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.

N/A

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

I was a candidate for Sixteenth Circuit Family Court Judge, Seat 1, in the fall of 1999. I was qualified and nominated, but voluntarily withdrew prior to the election.

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.

After graduation from college and extensive travel, I worked as a substitute teacher at Union High School during the fall semester of 1979. From late fall 1979 until July 1980, I worked as an associate for Milliken & Company at the EMMD Plant in Union County, SC. Neither of these jobs were ever intended as career paths, though career paths in each were offered to me by administration/management of each entity. I concluded my time with these positions in order to enter law school in August 1980.

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 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?

I have made no expenditures to date in furtherance of my candidacy.

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.

My wife, Ann B. White, contributed \$127.50 to the gubernatorial campaign of James Smith in 2018 while he was serving in the House. No other donations have been made to any member of the General Assembly.

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 unaware of any such financial arrangements or business relationships.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

Stock holdings and securities portfolios 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.

N/A

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

My administrative assistant has assisted me. I will provide her additional compensation for her assistance.

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.

Yes, on one occasion:

Virginia Braun and Douglas G. Braun v. Donna R. Atkinson, Individually and on behalf of New Horizon Realty, Thomas & Associates, Inc., Jeff Lawson, Individually and on behalf of the City of Union, and Thomas H. White IV. 2009-CP-44-0378

I was included as a party defendant due to my status as the loan closing attorney for the underlying real estate transaction. Plaintiffs were purchasing a home in a subdivision in the City of Union. Unbeknownst to me, plaintiffs intended to establish a daycare center in this home. Prior to my involvement with the closing, plaintiffs and the realtor had engaged in some research, including consulting with the building inspector with the City of Union, and determined that there would be no prohibition against a daycare operation at the location. I was engaged just a day or two prior to closing to search the title and close the residential mortgage loan for what I understood to be a residential purchase only, as neither plaintiffs nor any of the other defendants had advised me of any special circumstances or concerns. After closing, plaintiffs began preparation to open the daycare facility, only to meet with protest from neighbors. The neighbors alleged that such an operation would violate restrictive and protective covenants for the subdivision. Plaintiffs never challenged this assertion, but rather brought suit against the realtor, the city building inspector, and me. I was dismissed from the action via summary judgment.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I was covered by a tail policy from my previous private practice upon my election to the bench. I do not have a judicial malpractice policy.

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

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

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

No

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

No

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

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) Robert H. Jones, PhD, Executive VP/Provost, Clemson University, [REDACTED]
- (b) J. Carlisle Oxner, III, President, Arthur State Bank, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Isaac V. McKissick, SCC Union Campus, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Rose Lemmons-Berry, Providence Presbytery, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Beth Jeter Hrubala, Jeter Hrubala Wealth Strategies, [REDACTED]

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

No

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

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 closed my Facebook account when I was first elected. I have never been involved with any other such social media. I do not intend to use any such social media while 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.

(a) Member, former Elder and Deacon, First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA), Union, SC

(b) Trustee, Providence Presbytery, PC(USA)

(c)

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 confess that I am not perfect; however, I am diligent in my pursuit to perform my judicial duties in a fair, just, impartial, compassionate and respectful manner.

My beloved parents taught me to live my life on the foundational principle that all human beings are created equal and are entitled to be treated with fairness, dignity, courtesy and respect. I have lived my life by that foundational principle. My life circumstances have put me in positions where I have had opportunities to relate with people ranging from high

social standing and significant wealth to folks from third world countries who would be considered by many to live in circumstances that placed them as the “lowest of the low”. I have mined value from all of these experiences and relationships, and that value has served me well as I strive to be, and continue to be, a fair, just and equitable jurist.

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: \_\_\_\_\_