



HONORABLE ELIZABETH BIGGERSTAFF YORK
FAMILY COURT, TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SEAT 3
AMENDMENT TO PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
JULY 20, 2021 [DATE ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED]

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.

[Supplemental Response]

I was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1994.

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.

[Replacement Response]

- (a) From 1994 until 1995, I was a law clerk to the Honorable Don S. Rushing, a Circuit Court Judge. During six months of the year term, he was Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes (Criminal) Charleston County.
- (b) From 1995 until 1996, I was Assistant Solicitor for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, prosecuting cases in the General Sessions Court of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon and Marlboro Counties.
- (c) From 1996 until 2004, I worked at the Law Firm of Jennings and Harris, located in Bennettsville, South Carolina. I began as an associate and became a partner around 2001. The firm had a general trial practice. My personal practice included a focus on the Family Court, although I practiced in all trial courts. I was also a contract attorney for the South Carolina Department of Social Services, handling abuse and neglect cases for Chesterfield County beginning in 1996. On or about 1998, I was also an adjunct professor with Coker College, where I taught Business Law through their adult program. Additionally, I became a certified mediator for the Family Court in 2002. I assisted with supervising personnel and utilized the trust account.
- (d) From 2004 until 2006, I worked at the Law Office of Nancy Bailey, located in Florence, South Carolina. This practice focused almost exclusively on Family Court matters. As Florence was an initial mandatory-mediation county, I conducted mediations, including pro bono mediations for the Family Court during this time. I also continued to work as a contract attorney for the South Carolina Department of Social Services handling abuse and neglect cases for Chesterfield County. I assisted in supervising personnel and utilized the trust account.
- (e) From 2006 until 2016, I worked for the South Carolina Department of Social Services on a full-time basis, handling abuse and neglect cases for Darlington and Chesterfield Counties, and assisting in other counties. I was the supervising

attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit which consists of Darlington, Chesterfield, Dillon, and Marlboro counties.

- (f) In July of 2016, I opened the Law Office of Elizabeth York with a focus on Family Court matters and continue this practice at present. Also in July of 2016, I became a part-time Municipal Judge for the City of Hartsville which I also continue at present. I had a statewide contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services for abuse and neglect cases from July 2016 until July 2019. In July of 2019, I entered into a contract with the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense to handle defense of abuse and neglect cases in Florence and Dillon counties. I supervise personnel and have access to all accounts for the Law Office of Elizabeth B. York.

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.

[Replacement Response]

My professional experience has included a focus in the Family Court since 1996, and I have experience in each of the above-mentioned areas.

I represented the South Carolina Department of Social Services in abuse and neglect cases from 1996 until 2019. From 1996 until 2006, I had a contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services to handle abuse and neglect cases in Chesterfield County with assistance in other counties. In 2006, I became a full-time attorney for the South Carolina Department of Social Services as a managing attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit and continued in this position until July of 2016. In July of 2016, I began a statewide contract for the South Carolina Department of Social Services, often traveling to handle complex matters on their behalf. I continued with this contact until July of 2019. In July of 2019, I signed a contract with South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense to defend abuse and neglect cases in Florence and Dillon counties and this contract continues at this time. Abuse and neglect cases often overlap with matters with the South Carolina Department Juvenile Justice and adoption custody issues.

In 2016, I again entered private practice and continue to handle all types of Family Court matters in each of these categories and mediate these issues when appointed by the Court.

At a minimum, I have appeared in the Family Court once per week in 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.
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.
[Replacement Response]
I was appointed as a Municipal Judge for the City of Hartsville on July 1, 2016, and I presently serve in that capacity on a part-time basis. The Municipal Court has jurisdiction over criminal offenses and city ordinances where the punishment does not exceed thirty days.
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.
[Replacement Response]
I have been in private practice in the Law Office of Elizabeth York which focuses on family law while serving as a part-time municipal judge since 2016. In July of 2016, I began a statewide contract to handle abuse and neglect cases for the South Carolina

Department of Social Services, often traveling to handle complex matters on their behalf. I continued with this contact until July of 2019. In July of 2019, I signed a contract with South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense to defend abuse and neglect cases in Florence and Dillon counties and this contract continues at this time.

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

[Replacement Response]

Yes.

Unsuccessful candidacy for Family Court, At-Large Seat 8, in 2016.

I was found qualified but was not one of the three candidates who was nominated.

Unsuccessful candidacy for Family Court, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, in 2017. I was found qualified, and one of the three candidates nominated.

EB npw

10/22/21