



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
2023**

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

1. Name: Mr. William Grayson Lambert  
Court of Appeals  
Seat 9

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.) No

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland

Business Address: Office of the Governor  
South Carolina State House  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): 803-734-2100  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1986  
Place of Birth: Columbia, South Carolina  
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:
  - Married on July 10, 2010, to Mary Elizabeth Ward Lambert (pediatrician)
  - Never divorced, three children
  - [Redacted]
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) University of Virginia  
2005-2009  
Jefferson Scholar (full-tuition, merit-based scholarship)  
Bachelor of Arts, Politics, *with honors*
  - (b) Duke University School of Law  
2009-2012  
Mordecai Scholar (full-tuition, merit-based scholarship)  
Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*
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) *Duke Law Journal*, 2010–2012  
Staff Editor, 2010–2011  
Executive Editor, 2011–2012
  - (b) Moot Court Board, 2010–2012  
Dean’s Cup Coordinator, 2011  
ABA National Moot Court Competition, Regional Champion, 2011 and 2012
  - (c) Federalist Society, 2009–2012
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
  - (a) South Carolina (2013) (1 time)
  - (b) North Carolina (2012) (inactive) (1 time)
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character

changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

- (a) Law Clerk, Hon. Dennis W. Shedd, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2012–2013

I handled traditional law clerk duties, including drafting bench memoranda, assisting in oral-argument preparation, and drafting and editing opinions. I was not involved in administrative or financial management in this role.

- (b) Associate, McGuireWoods LLP, 2013–2017

My first job after clerking was focused on civil litigation. I was fortunate, while a young lawyer at a large firm, to have the opportunity to do substantive work on dispositive motions and discovery motions in significant matters. By the end of my time at the firm, about a quarter of my work was in appellate proceedings. I was not involved in administrative or financial management in this role.

- (c) Partner (2021), Associate (2017–2020), McNair Law Firm, P.A./Burr & Forman, LLP, 2017–2021

My practice at McNair (which became Burr & Forman while I was there) was again almost exclusively civil. I had a goal to build an appellate practice, and my work grew from about 25% appellate work to almost exclusively appellate work by the end of my time there. The trial court work I did usually focused on novel or complex legal questions or high-value disputes. I was not involved in administrative or financial management in this role.

- (d) Senior Litigation Counsel, Office of Governor Henry McMaster, 2021–present

I joined the Governor’s Office specifically to handle his litigation. The majority of that litigation involves novel legal questions in high-profile cases. Many of those cases proceed quickly through trial court and into the appellate courts. I am not involved in administrative or financial management in this role.

**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: Given the nature of my appellate practice, most of my appearances are in written form. I have been counsel in 18 cases in federal courts of appeals in the past five years (typically as lead counsel), as well as counsel on three amicus briefs (again typically as lead counsel). I have argued three appeals in the Fourth Circuit during that time. In the U.S. Supreme Court, I have led two and participated in drafting three amicus briefs, and I was counsel of record in two U.S. Supreme Court cases.  
  
In federal district court, my appearances in court have all been to argue major motions. I have typically handled several of those types of motions per year over the past five years.
  - (b) state: My state court practice mirrors my federal practice. I have been lead counsel in 13 cases in the South Carolina Supreme Court in the past five years, and I have

argued five of those cases. I have also led five amicus briefs in the South Carolina Supreme Court in the past five years. I have been lead counsel in 15 cases in the South Carolina Court of Appeals in the past five years, and I have led one and participated in another amicus brief in that time.

In circuit court, I have been co-counsel in one bench trial, and I have argued a wide range of motions, averaging between eight and ten per year, over the past five years.

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: 99%
  - (b) criminal: 1%
  - (c) domestic:
  - (d) other:

14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 10%
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? One.
  - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? (Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.) None.
  - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? None.

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? I most often served as chief counsel for appellate proceedings and as co-counsel for trial proceedings.

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial? N/A

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) Andino v. Middleton, 141 S. Ct. 9 (2020): This was the culmination of the COVID-related voting cases in which I represented the members of the S.C. Election Commission. After the district court enjoined the State's witness requirement for absentee ballots for the 2020 general election, we appealed. The Fourth Circuit initially granted our motion to stay the injunction, but the en banc court vacated that order and denied the motion. We sought emergency relief in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court granted that relief, which meant the witness requirement remained in effect for the 2020 general election.

- (b) Planned Parenthood South Atlantic v. State, No. 2023-000896 (S.C.): This case involves a challenge to the 2023 Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act. The General Assembly enacted this statute in response to the divided Supreme Court decision that the 2021 Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act was unconstitutional. The circuit court quickly enjoined the 2023 Act, and we immediately appealed. I was the principal author of the Governor's brief, and I argued the case on his behalf on June 27, 2023. The case is pending, as we await a decision from the Supreme Court.
- (c) Disability Rights S.C. v. McMaster, 24 F.4th 893 (4th Cir. 2022): This case was a challenge to the budget proviso that prohibited school districts from using state funds to impose mask mandates on students. The district court enjoined the Governor and others from enforcing the budget proviso, and we appealed. We raised jurisdictional and merits argument. After I argued the case in the Fourth Circuit, that court held that the district court lacked jurisdiction to enjoin the Governor. After losing on appeal, the plaintiffs essentially gave up on the case on remand against other defendants. Therefore, the budget proviso protecting students from mask mandates enforced with state money remained in effect.
- (d) Owens v. Stirling, 438 S.C. 352, 882 S.E.2d 858 (2023): This case challenged the constitutionality of the firing squad and electrocution as methods of execution under article I, section 15 of the South Carolina Constitution. The circuit court held both methods were unconstitutional, and we appealed, arguing that the original understanding of the Constitution makes clear that both methods are constitutional. I argued the case in the Supreme Court, which remanded part of the case for more information on the efforts of the Department of Corrections to obtain lethal injection drugs while holding the remainder of the appeal in abeyance. Proceedings on remand are stayed in light of the recently enacted shield statute, as the Department of Corrections attempts to obtain the drugs necessary for carrying out an execution by lethal injection. This case is significant because it will determine whether and how the State can carry out lawfully imposed death sentences for convicted murderers.
- (e) Brannon v. McMaster, 434 S.C. 386, 864 S.E.2d 548 (2021): The Governor ended South Carolina's participation in federal unemployment benefits during the COVID pandemic in an effort to encourage people to fill the more than 80,000 open jobs across the State. People who had been receiving those benefits challenged the Governor's authority to end the State's participation in that federal program. I argued this case on appeal, and the S.C. Supreme Court held that the Governor did in fact have the authority under state law to make the decision he did. This case meant that people were incentivized to get back to work, rather than to stay at home and collect extra benefits from the federal government.

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) Planned Parenthood South Atlantic v. State, 438 S.C. 188, 882 S.E.2d 770, (2023)

- (b) Pinckney v. Peeler, 434 S.C. 272, 862 S.E.2d 906 (2021)
  - (c) League of Women Voters v. Andino, 849 F. App'x 39 (4th Cir. 2021)
  - (d) Bailey v. S.C. Election Comm'n, 430 S.C.268, 844 S.E.2d 390 (2020)
  - (e) Pershing, L.C.C. v. Kiebach, 819 F.3d 179 (5th Cir. 2016)
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) State v. Troutman, No. 2017-002224, 2020 WL 2213643 (S.C. Ct. App. May 6, 2020)
  - (b) United States v. Rivers, 576 F. App'x 282 (4th Cir. 2014)
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.
- No.
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.
- N/A
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) United States Supreme Court (03/25/2019)
  - (b) United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (10/30/2019)
  - (c) United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (05/16/2013)
  - (d) United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (05/19/2015)
  - (e) United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (02/26/2021)
  - (f) United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (02/08/2021)
  - (g) United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (03/10/2015)
  - (h) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina (12/13/2013)

- (i) United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina (08/21/2013)
  - (j) United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina (05/08/2015)
  - (k) United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas (11/12/2015)
  - (l) South Carolina (11/18/2013)
  - (m) North Carolina (8/24/2012) (inactive)
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 planned and delivered, with another partner in the firm, a CLE for associates on legal writing at Burr & Forman in 2021.
  - (b) I planned the Trial & Appellate Advocacy Council's 2023 South Carolina Bar Convention CLE about legal writing, and I moderated a panel of four judges discussing how to be a better writer.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- The past five reports are attached.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) *Lawsuits and Legislative Leadership*, SC LAWYER 26 (July 2019) (with Brad Wright)
  - (b) *Getting from Award to Judgment: Where to Confirm or Vacate Arbitration Awards*, SC LAWYER 26 (July 2018)
  - (c) *The Necessary Narrowing of General Personal Jurisdiction*, 100 MARQ. L. REV. 375 (2016)
  - (d) *Unmixing the Mess: Resolving the Circuit Split over the Brillhart/Wilton Doctrine and Mixed Complaints*, 64 U. KAN. L. REV. 793 (2016)
  - (e) *Focusing on Fulfilling the Goals: Rethinking How Choice-of-Law Regimes Approach Statutes of Limitations*, 65 SYRACUSE L. REV. 491 (2015)
  - (f) *Toward a Better Understanding of Ripeness and Free Speech Claims*, 65 S.C. L. REV. 411 (2013)



- (g) *Keeping the Inference in the Adverse Inference Instruction: Ensuring the Instruction Is an Effective Sanction in Electronic Discovery Cases*, 64 S.C. L. REV. 681 (2013)
- (h) Note, *The Real Debate over the Senate's Role in the Confirmation Process*, 61 DUKE L.J. 1283 (2012)

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) Brief of Governor McMaster, *Planned Parenthood S. Atl. v. State*, No. 2023-000896 (S.C. June 14, 2023)
- (b) Brief of Petitioners, *Owens v. Stirling*, No. 2022-001280 (S.C. Oct. 27, 2022)

My writing samples are the Governor's Supreme Court briefs from *Planned Parenthood South Atlantic v. State* and *Owens v. Stirling*. I was the principal author of both briefs, and the structure of the arguments and vast majority of the writing and legal citations are mine. Co-counsel in each case offered wordsmithing and proofreading suggestions, along with a few additional citations.

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.
- (a) Super Lawyers, Rising Star: Appellate
  - (b) Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch: Appellate, Commercial Litigation

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
  - Trial and Appellate Advocacy Council, 2018–present
  - Immediate Past Chair, 2023–present
  - Chair, 2022–2023
  - Chair-Elect, 2021–2022
  - Secretary, 2020–2021
  
- Young Lawyers Division
  - Community Law Week Co-Chair, 2019–2022

Out-of-State Representative, 2015–2017  
iCivics Committee, 2013–2014

Practice and Procedure Committee, 2014–present

- (b) Federalist Society, 2013–present
- (c) Fourth Circuit Rules Advisory Committee, 2017–2023  
Chair, 2021–2023
- (d) New Lawyers Division, Duke Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, 2012–2017  
Chair, 2016–2017  
Vice Chair, 2015–2016

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.

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.

No.

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.**

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

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?

(a) \$43.19, Paper, May 4, 2023

(b) \$27.53, Envelopes, May 4, 2023

(c) \$151.20, Stamps, May 4, 2023

(d) \$360.59, Printing services, June 7, 2023

I have reported these expenditures by letter the House and Senate Ethics Committees.

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. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

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.

None.

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.

The only potential conflict that could arise is from my employment with the Office of the Governor, Burr & Forman, and McGuireWoods, if a case came before the Court of Appeals on which I had worked before becoming a judge. In that situation, 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.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

N/A

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?

N/A

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.

I have never been sued by a client.

When I was a law clerk, I was sued by a disgruntled litigant who apparently knew he could not sue the judges who decided his case but believed he could sue the law clerks. The case was dismissed, and the Fourth Circuit affirmed the dismissal. See Willis v. Marchant, 521 F. App'x 269 (4th Cir. 2013).

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.

N/A

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.

I sent an introductory letter to members of the General Assembly regarding my intention to run for the Court of Appeals, I have spoken with members of the General Assembly about the fact that I was planning to run for this seat and my qualifications.

I have not asked third parties to campaign for me, and I am not aware of anyone who has.

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) Governor Henry McMaster  
Office of the Governor  
[Redacted]
- (b) The Honorable Dennis W. Shedd, Retired  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit  
[Redacted]
- (c) Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas  
First Presbyterian Church  
[Redacted]
- (d) Celeste T. Jones  
Burr & Forman LLP  
[Redacted]
- (e) Lana H. Sims, Jr.  
Lana Sims Mediation  
[Redacted]

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

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

LinkedIn: [Redacted]

Twitter: [Redacted]

I use LinkedIn to keep up with friends from college and law school and to stay up to date with the professional lives of those colleagues and friends. I have not posted on the site since joining the Governor's Office.

I have never posted on Twitter. I use it some for work-related topics, but I primarily use it to follow news and sports.

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 do not anticipate that my use of social media would change if I were serving in a judicial capacity. I do not post or otherwise interact with other users. If, however, I ever determined that even my passive use of social media could reasonably be interpreted as impacting my judicial duties, I would deactivate my accounts.

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) First Presbyterian Church  
Deacon  
Sunday School class moderator and teacher  
Youth basketball coach

(b) Forest Lake Club

(c) Palmetto Club

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 excited about the possibility of serving as a judge on the Court of Appeals for three reasons. First, it is an opportunity to serve the State. Public service is important—that is one of the primary reasons I left private practice to join the Governor’s Office. Serving on the Court of Appeals would provide a new and exciting way to continue my public service.

Second, serving on the Court of Appeals would allow me to use the skill set I have developed. I have been involved in more than 80 appeals in every context—from appellant to respondent to amicus to emergency motions to oral arguments. This has taught me how to carefully study the record, effectively analyze the case law, rigorously construct a logical argument, and precisely and concisely put pen to paper. These same skills are necessary as a judge.

Third, judges perform a critical role in society. The rule of law provides order and stability, and courts ensure that the rule of law always prevails. That said, the judicial role is limited to resolving only cases that are brought to the courts. It is not a policymaking role, and judges must be careful to respect the separation of powers.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_