



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

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

1. Name: The Honorable Daniel McLeod Coble

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

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

Circuit Court Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Home Address:
[Redacted]

County of Residence:
Richland

Business Address:
1701 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202

E-Mail Address:
[Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803-576-1773
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1987
Place of Birth: Columbia, 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.

No

6. Family Status:

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (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.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Married on November 9, 2013 to Kristen Karr Coble, law clerk for the Honorable George C. James, Jr. of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Never divorced, two 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) Clemson University August 2005 to May 2009, B.A. in Economics. Graduated May 2009.
- (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2009 to May 2012, J.D. Graduated May 2012.

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) Journal of Law and Education (2011-2012)
- (b) S.C. House of Representatives, House Judiciary Committee, Law Clerk (2010-2012)
- (c) Lewis & Babcock, Law Clerk (2011)
- (d) Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Law Clerk (2010)
- (e) Student Member, John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court (2011-2012)
- (f) Student Member, Phi Delta Phi (2011-2012)
- (g) Member of Community Relations Council (2011-2012)
- (h) William T. Howell Law School Scholarship (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) Admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 2012.
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) From July 2012 to November 2012, I was a law clerk for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.
 - (b) From November 2012 to July 2017, I was an assistant solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. I handled a wide range of cases ranging from drug offenses and DUIs to armed robbery and kidnapping. I co-counseled three murder cases and tried several other felony and misdemeanor cases. From 2014 until 2017, I was the lead prosecutor for the Columbia Homeless Court. I also organized a committee of health care professionals to address the chronically homeless in seeking solutions for their recovery, which was called Homeless Coordination.
 - (c) From July 2017 to July 2021, I was a full-time Magistrate Judge in Richland County. In that capacity, I handled both civil and criminal cases, which included bond settings, preliminary hearings, mediation, civil and criminal jury trials, transfer court, and more. In June 2018, I was appointed as the Associate Chief Judge for Richland County. As the Associate Chief Judge, I handled the majority of administrative issues at the Central Court. I was appointed as the Municipal Judge for Arcadia Lakes in May 2020.
 - (d) From August 2021 to January 2023, I was the owner of my own solo law firm, The Coble Law Group, LLC. I represented clients in both civil and criminal matters, and I practiced in Summary Courts and Circuit Courts. As the owner of my own law firm, I was solely responsible for the administration of running the business as well as handling all client matters.
 - (e) I am currently a Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

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. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?
 - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?
 - (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.)
 - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?

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?

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 was appointed as a full-time Magistrate Judge for Richland County in July 2017. Magistrates generally have jurisdiction in criminal cases that do not carry more than a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail. In civil cases, Magistrates are generally limited to cases not exceeding \$7,500 in the amount in controversy.

I am now serving as a Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

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.

Because I have only sat on the Circuit Court bench for about six months, I have not had any orders or opinions that have been heard by an appellate court at this point that I am aware of.

- (a) South Carolina Automobile and Truck Dealers Association v. South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, 2022-CP-40-05552. The Plaintiff (SCADA) filed a lawsuit against the Defendant (S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs) seeking a declaratory judgment regarding closing fee enforcement. The Defendant filed a counterclaim alleging civil conspiracy by the Plaintiff. I granted the Plaintiff's motion to dismiss the counterclaim on two grounds. First, the Defendant's counterclaim exceeded the statutory authority granted to the Department of Consumer Affairs. Second, the Defendant failed to state a claim for civil conspiracy.
- (b) State v. Haggins, Order 5469-2017-3 (Not Reported). The public defender filed a motion to dismiss for failure to comply with a speedy trial motion, Langford violation, and Rule 5 violation. I held a hearing and ultimately denied the motion to dismiss.
- (c) State v. Andrzejewski, Order 5469-2018-3 (Not Reported). In this case, I held a castle hearing on an assault charge. I wrote an order denying immunity under the Protection of Persons and Property Act.
- (d) Rodriguez v. McDaniel, Order 5469-2017-5 (Not Reported). After a civil trial, one party moved for sanctions against the other claiming that they violated ADR Rules. I denied the motion.
- (e) Rowe v. Osbourne, Order 5469-2018-14 (Not Reported). After a restraining order hearing, I granted the restraining order against the defendant. The defendant moved for a new trial based on new evidence. I denied the motion for a new trial after analyzing the required factors. This order was overturned on appeal by the Circuit Court Judge.

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, November 13, 2012
 - (b) U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, 2021
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) 2023 Mandatory Bond Court Program for Magistrates and Municipal Judges: *Bond Court Essentials* (May 2023)
 - (b) 2022 SCDTAA Annual Meeting: *Hot Button Evidentiary Issues in SC Courts, A Panel Discussion* (November 2022)
 - (c) He Said She Said: Hearsay - *Justice Clearinghouse* (October 2022)
 - (d) 2022 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: *Rules of Evidence* (September 2022)
 - (e) 2022 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: *Landlord Tenant* (September 2022)
 - (f) Search and Seizure Law and Terry Stops - *Justice Clearinghouse* (July 2022)
 - (g) S.C. Bar Leadership Academy: *Judicial Panel* (May 2022)
 - (h) Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges: *DUI – The Defense Perspective* (March 2022)
 - (i) 2022 SCSCJA Staff Seminar: *Ethical Responsibilities of Court Staff* (March 2022)
 - (j) 2022 It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence: *Course Planner and Moderator (Evidentiary Ethics: Ethical Strategies to Help Your Case)* (February 2022)
 - (k) The Evidence Primer: A Practical Refresher for Lawyers: *Best Evidence Rule* (January 2022)
 - (l) Richland County Bar Association, Annual Ethics CLE: *Virtual Courts and Ethical Dilemmas* (presented with former Chief Justice Costa Pleicones) (October 2021)
 - (m) 2021 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: *Guilty Pleas* (September 2021)
 - (n) 2021 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: *Ethics: Judges and Social Media* (September 2021)
 - (o) Daubert/Council & Expert Testimony: CLE – S.C. Bar (August 2021)
 - (p) 2021 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Harassment Training by the S.C. Attorney General's Office: *Restraining Orders in Magistrate Court* (May 2021)
 - (q) Understanding Evidentiary Issues: Court Education (May 2021)
 - (r) Judicial Canon 3: Ethical Issues in Magistrate Court: Court Education (May 2021)
 - (s) Midlands Mediation Center, Guest Speaker: MMC Spring Training 2021
 - (t) Ethics and Professionalism: Effective Relationships with the Court, Opposing Counsel, & Pro Se Litigants: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)
 - (u) Magistrate Court Series: Richland County Central Court: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)
 - (v) Residential Landlord Tenant Act: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)
 - (w) South Carolina Trial Evidence in Magistrate Court: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)
 - (x) Driving Under the Influence: DUI in Magistrate Court: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)
 - (y) Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure Law in Magistrate Court: *CLE - S.C. Bar* (April 2021)

- (z) Stanford Legal Design Lab, *Justice by Design*, Panelist (April 2021)
- (aa) Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges: Claim & Delivery (March 2021)
- (bb) Midlands Mediation Center, Guest Speaker: MMC Winter Training 2020
- (cc) Ever Evolving Evidence: *CLE – S.C. Bar* (August 2020)
- (dd) No-Knock Search Warrants: On-Demand CLE – S.C. Bar (June 2020)
- (ee) 2020 SCSCJA Staff Seminar: Evidence (*Postponed due to COVID-19*)
- (ff) 2020 It's All a Game: Top Trial Lawyers Tackle Evidence: Evidence in Magistrates Court (February 2020)
- (gg) South Carolina Impaired Driving Assessment: Adjudication of DUI Cases (October 2019)
- (hh) Leadership Columbia: South Carolina Judicial Systems (October 2019)
- (ii) Midlands Tech, Guest Speaker: Judicial Systems CRJ 220 (September 2019)
- (jj) A Guide to Prelims: On-Demand CLE – S.C. Bar (Fall 2019)
- (kk) S.C. Victims' Rights Week: The Bond Hearing Process – A Creative Approach (April 2019)
- (ll) South Carolina Bar Leadership Academy: Attorneys in Public Service (Running for Office) (March 2019)
- (mm) Orientation School for Magistrates and Municipal Judges: Landlord/Tenant (March 2019)
- (nn) Direct Examination Podcast: Episode 3: Judge Daniel Coble (March 2019)
- (oo) Midlands Tech, Guest Speaker: Judicial Systems CRJ 220 (October 2018)
- (pp) 2018 SCSCJA Judge's Seminar: Discovery (Brady/Rule 5) (September 8, 2018)
- (qq) S.C. Victims' Rights Week: A Walk Through the Criminal Justice System (April 2018)
- (rr) 2018 SCSCJA Staff Seminar: Criminal/Civil Trial Objections (March 2018)
- (ss) Columbia Homeless Court Training, Panelist (December 2014)
- (tt) Columbia Rotary Club, Guest Speaker: Columbia Homeless Court (June 2014)

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

1. Published Books

- (a) The General: The Life and Times of Daniel R. McLeod (submitted for publication)
- (b) Pocket Prelims: A Guide Book to Preliminary Hearings in South Carolina (S.C. Bar Publications, 2019)
- (c) Florida Rules of Evidence: Annotated for State and Federal Court (Lawyers & Judges Publishing, 2020)

- (d) Texas Rules of Evidence: Annotated for State and Federal Court (Lawyers & Judges Publishing, forthcoming 2024)

2. Articles, Essays, Book Reviews

- (a) *Rearranging the Apple Cart: Good-Faith Originalism and the Fourteenth Amendment: Review of "The Original Meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment: Its Letter and Spirit"* 15 CONLAWNOW 25 (2023)
- (b) *Per Se Inequality: A Review of Judge Richard Gergel's "Unexampled Courage"* 46 SEATTLE U. L. REV. SUPRA 1 (2023)
- (c) *Expert Testimony and Crawford* S.C. LAWYER (March 2023)
- (d) *What's in a Name, Anyway? Daubert/Council and Expert Testimony* S.C. LAWYER (September 2021)
- (e) *Ever Evolving Evidence* S.C. LAWYER (September 2020)
- (f) *@Posner_Thoughts - The Verified Account: A Review of Judge Posner's The Federal Judiciary: Strengths and Weaknesses* 41 LA VERNE L. REV. 2 (2020)
- (g) *Not Your Scalia's Textualism* JOTWELL (July 9, 2019) (reviewing Jeffrey Bellin, *Fourth Amendment Textualism*, Mich. L. Rev. (2019), available at SSRN)
- (h) *A Prosecutor's Credo, Robed Oracles, and Gideon's Angels: A Review of Doing Justice* HARV. L. & POL'Y REV. Notice and Comment Blog (May 28, 2019)
- (i) *Discretionary Life Sentences for Juveniles: Resolving the Split Between the Virginia Supreme Court and the Fourth Circuit* 75 WASH. & LEE L. REV. ONLINE 101 (2019)
- (j) *The Time in Between: A Response to A Theory of Civil Problem-Solving Courts* 67 BUFF. L. REV. D1 (2019)
- (k) *Severing the Severability Doctrine: Why It's Time the Supreme Court Finally Acknowledges, Clarifies, and Severs this Doctrine* 88 UMKC L. REV. 565 (2020)
- (l) *Permissible Inference or Impermissible Burden Shift: How the Supreme Court Could Decide State v. Glover* WASHBURN L.J. BLOG (Mar. 18, 2019)
- (m) *Following Friendly or Running to Rehnquist? A Review of Joan Biskupic's "The Chief"* 52 IND. L. REV. BLOG (April 19, 2019)
- (n) *Heart-Wrenching, Yet Hopeful: A Review of Judge William Alsup's 'Won Over'* THE RECORDER ON LAW.COM (April 5, 2019)
- (o) *I Recommend: Theodore Roosevelt for the Defense* JUDICATURE, BOLCH JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, DUKE LAW SCHOOL (May 2020)

3. Self-Published Books

- (a) South Carolina Trial Evidence: A Reference Guide to Common Evidentiary Issues
- (b) Search & Seizure in South Carolina
- (c) Deconstructing the DUI: A Brief Guide to DUI law in South Carolina, 2nd Edition
- (d) Federal Rules of Evidence: Annotated for the Fourth Circuit
- (e) South Carolina Rules of Evidence: Annotated
- (f) Everyday Evidence: State Court and Federal Court
- (g) Traffic Court in South Carolina: Offenses and Definitions

4. Other

- (a) Federal Rules of Evidence: An Introduction to Trial Evidence (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL'S LIBRARY INNOVATION LAB H2O, 2020) (Open Casebook)
- (b) Constitutional Law Precedents: Annotated and Abridged Cases from the Supreme Court (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL'S LIBRARY INNOVATION LAB H2O, 2022) (Open Casebook)
- (c) The Briefcase Lawyer, 2nd Ed. (*Chapter on Land-Lord Tenant Law*) (S.C. BAR PUBLICATIONS, 2022) (Book Chapter)
- (d) *Editor and Updater*, South Carolina Evidence by Danny Collins, 3rd Ed. (*forthcoming* S.C. BAR PUBLICATIONS 2024).
- (e) *Editorial Board Member*, A Guide to Civil Practices and Procedures in Magistrate Court by Judge Kenneth Southerlin (S.C. BAR PUBLICATIONS 2021).
- (f) *Editorial Board Member*, How to Try a Simple Auto Wreck Case by R. Allyce Bailey and S. Venus Poe (S.C. BAR PUBLICATIONS 2022).

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.

N/A

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 Association
- (b) Richland County Bar Association
- (c) S.C. Bar: CLE Publications Committee, (*Chair 2020*)

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.

None.

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

In 2012, I ran unsuccessfully for Columbia City Council District Three.

In 2020, I ran unsuccessfully for Circuit Court, At-Large.

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.

The only other potential type of other business would be the publication of two books and several self-published books.

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?

Postage: less than \$50 as of July 2023.

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.

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.

None.

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.

See attached statement.

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.

No.

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.

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) Joseph Berry, [Redacted]

(b) Joseph Bias, [Redacted]

(c) Leigh Leventis, [Redacted]

(d) John Steadman, [Redacted]

(e) Matthew Roberts, [Redacted]

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

No.

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) Summary Court Judge Mentoring Program (mentored three new judges)

(b) S.C. Bar: CLE Publications Committee

(c) 1L Mentoring Program (2016 - Present)

(d) UofSC Mock Trial Judge (2019, 2020)

(e) Tarantella 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 believe that my experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, Magistrate Judge, and now Circuit Court Judge, makes me well qualified to continue my service on the bench. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in the judiciary. Every day I am humbled to make such weighty decisions that have such a profound impact on people's lives, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. My goal is to always render a fair and just decision and to always listen to both sides before making my final decision. It is a humbling experience to work alongside such talented and experienced attorneys, and I hope that I continue to become a better and wiser judge if I have the opportunity to continue to serve.

As a prosecutor, I had the honor of being involved with South Carolina's first Homeless Court. This diversionary court gave second chances to many of our state's veterans who suffer from mental illnesses and drug abuse. As a prosecutor, my job was usually looking to seek justice which often involved sending people to prison. However, as the lead prosecutor for Homeless Court, our office was able to give people a second chance who deserved it and were turning their lives around.

I gained even more experience when I was sworn in as a full-time Magistrate Judge for Richland County. I was able to take off my hat as an advocate and sit as a neutral and independent arbiter of disputes. In a county as large as Richland, I handled hundreds if not thousands of bench trials and jury trials each year. I dealt with *pro se* litigants as well as extremely experienced attorneys. This experience gave me humility and a deeper understanding of our legal profession by seeing day-to-day operations of our court system.

While in private practice, I had the honor of representing clients and advocating for them in court. It was easy for me to say that I saw both sides as a Magistrate Judge, but by actually representing clients, I lived it every day.

I believe I am well qualified to continue to serve as a Circuit Court Judge and represent our judiciary. It has been an honor to serve the people of South Carolina in this capacity, and it would be an honor to continue to serve in this role.

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: _____