



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR RETIRED JUDGES/JUSTICES**

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:

Court: Circuit Court

Position: Active/Retired Judge

Seat #:

2. Name: The Honorable Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.

Name that you are known by if different from above

(Example: A Nickname): Tommy Cooper

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Clarendon

Business Address: 3 West Keitt Street
Post Office Drawer 699 (Mailing Address)
Manning, SC 29102

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803-435-2450
(cell): [Redacted]

3. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1941

4. 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.

5. SCDL# or SCHD#: SCDL#[Redacted]

6. Family Status:

- (a) Are you single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated?
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name.
- (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 NOT full-time students, also include the occupation and employer of each child.

Married July 20, 1968 to Margaret Barringer Bland

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

7. List your positions of employment on and/or appointment to the bench chronologically. You are not required to list dates of employment or appointment prior to your last screening.

Retired/Active Circuit Court Judge

Mediator/Arbitrator

Adjunct Instructor

8. Have you practiced law or served as a mediator or arbitrator since your retirement from the judiciary? If so, please describe. I have not practiced law since my retirement and do not intend to return to practice. I have served as a mediator and arbitrator in both the state and federal courts.

9. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. See attached.

10. 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.

11. A net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement. 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.

See attached.

Note: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

12. Since your last screening:

(a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the intervening years? If no, please provide details. Yes.

(b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes? If yes, please provide details. No.

(c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If so, please provide details. No.

(d) Have you defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details. No.

(e) Have you filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, as well as proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults. No.

13. For the last fully completed calendar year, itemize the income, expenses, fees, payments, or additional benefits exceeding \$500, in the aggregate, received by you or a member of

your immediate family from South Carolina state and local entities. List the type, source, and amount or value of the benefit. Be sure to list any expense reimbursement you received separately from your income.

Joseph S. Rice School of Law State of SC	Adjunct Instructor Mileage/Subsist Allow	\$16,000.00 \$ 7,536.38
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14. Describe your personal policy for the acceptance of food, meals, beverages, lodging, transportation, entertainment, social hospitality, or other things of value from an attorney, a group of attorneys, or from other individuals. I accept complimentary registration, food and lodging for annual conventions for the Association for Justice and SC Defense Attorneys' Association. I accept normal hospitality from friends, but not from lawyers likely to appear before me, and never in excess of \$150.00.
15. 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.
16. 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 that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; 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.

N/A

17. 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

18. Since your last screening, have you 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 for which a fine of \$125 or less was imposed.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above,

any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

19. Since your last screening, have you, to your knowledge, been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain. No.
20. Since your last screening, have you been sued, either personally or professionally? If so, give details. No.
21. Since your last screening, have you, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, been sanctioned for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or been found to have committed such misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition.

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

22. Since your last screening, have you been criticized, whether informally or in a matter taken to a disciplinary authority, for the manner in which you treated litigants or attorneys before you on the bench? If so, give the details and the reasons why you believe you were the target of such criticism. No.
23. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, 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 have a personal Facebook account. It has no reference to my position as a former judge or active/retired Circuit Judge. I rarely use it for any purposes other than congratulatory messages (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) I never use it to comment on current events or political issues.
24. Provide any other information which 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. I hope that my continued service as a retired/active Circuit Judge and as Adjunct Instructor at Joseph S. Rice School of Law and Arbitrator/Mediator would reflect positively on my candidacy. I am not aware of any issues that would have a negative impact.

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 _____, 2025.

(Notary Signature)

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

