

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
2025**

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:

Court: Supreme Court
Circuit or Position: Associate Justice
Seat: Seat 2

2. Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge (to include municipal, magistrate, etc.)? If so, state the position. If part-time, please indicate.

I currently hold the same position: Supreme Court, Seat 2

Personal

3. Name: The Honorable John Cannon Few

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

None

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Oconee

Business Address: 1231 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): None
(office): (803) 734-1925
(cell): [Redacted]

4 Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1963
Place of Birth: Anderson, SC

5. 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

6. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]
Voter Registration Number: [Redacted]

7. Have you served in the military? No

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.

8. Family Status:

(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

Married

(b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

April 13, 2025
Karlen Kay Senn
Attorney

(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.

I married the former Jane Ellen Scott in Greenwood on August 9, 1986. I filed for divorce in the Family Court of Laurens County on the grounds of one year's continuous separation. The divorce was granted on that basis on December 9, 2005.

I married the former Stephanie Leonard Yarbrough in Charleston on October 12, 2019. She filed for divorce in the Family Court of Oconee County on the grounds of one year's continuous separation. The divorce was granted on that basis on April 11, 2022.

(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.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

9. 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)	Duke University	1981-85	A.B. English and Economics
(b)	U.S.C. School of Law	1985-88	J.D.

10. 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.

I served on the South Carolina Law Review, and served as Student Works Editor of the law review my third year.

11. 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.

Martindale-Hubbell—AV

12. 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) At various times in the past, at the insistence of former Chief Judge Lockemy, I and other members of the Supreme Court have been members of the American Bar Association. At this time, I am not an active member of the ABA.

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

I have several social media accounts.

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

(a) Facebook	[Redacted]
(b) Instagram	[Redacted]
(c) X (Twitter)	[Redacted]
(d) LinkedIn	[Redacted]
(e) Threads	[Redacted]
(f) YouTube	[Redacted]

I use other Apps that have "social media" features, such as Venmo, AllTrails, OpenTable, rental apps (AirBNB, VRBO), and music apps (Spotify, Pandora), but I do not use any of the social media features of those apps.

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 used social media for over 15 years. As I wrote in my 2015 application, "I use these social media sites primarily as an observer. When I have posted in the past, it has usually been with some photograph of or experience with my children." Still, I am always very careful about anything I might post, understanding that the

formal provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the informal guidelines of proper judicial discretion apply to me in all of my activities at all times. I restrict my posting to information about or photographs of my family and justice-related issues. As an example of the latter category, I will sometimes re-post or "like" items from the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission, which I chair, in an effort encourage lawyers and others to promote access to justice. In recent years, my use of social media has been primarily to access news and other current events, with the occasional posting of family information and pictures.

14. 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) I am the chairman of the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission.
 - (b) I am a member of and moderator for Liberty Fellowship.
 - (c) I was a member of the inaugural class of the Rodel Institute Judicial Fellowship from 2022 to 2024.
 - (d) Several of the Inns of Court consider members of the Judiciary to be honorary members of the Inn, and invite us to their functions. Since I left Greenville in 2019, however, I have not been an official member of any Inns of Court.

15. 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 know of none that should be disclosed.

16. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of 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 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 5 original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*
 - (a) R. Michael "Mikee" Johnson
[Redacted]
 - (b) Harold W. "Trey" Gowdy
[Redacted]

- (c) Gary E. Clary
[Redacted]
- (d) D. Max Dorsey II
[Redacted]
- (e) Julius Fridriksson, Ph.D.
[Redacted]

Experience

17. 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.

South Carolina 1988

I took the bar exam one time and passed.

18. 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) 1989-1997 private civil practice with my late father, J. Kendall Few
- (b) 1997-2000 private civil practice by myself
- (c) 2000-2010 Circuit Court Judge
- (d) 2010-2016 Chief Judge, South Carolina Court of Appeals
- (e) 2016-present Justice, Supreme Court of South Carolina

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 19-25. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 19-25 should be answered based on your experience *prior to serving on the bench*.

19. 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, 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.

20. 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:

21. 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:

22. 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? For the purposes of this question, resolved includes settlement, plea, 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?

(e) Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, second chair, or co-counsel?
(f) 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?

23. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in trial court, 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)

24. 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)

25. 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)

26. 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.

Yes. I served as a Circuit Court Judge from July 1, 2000 to February 3, 2010. From that date until February 9, 2016, I served as the Chief Judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals. From February 9, 2016 until today, I served as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

I was elected to each position by the General Assembly.

The jurisdiction of the Circuit Court is defined generally by article V, section 11 of the South Carolina Constitution and more specifically by the General Assembly in title 14, chapter 5 of the South Carolina Code.

The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals is defined generally by article V, section 9 of the South Carolina Constitution and more specifically by the General Assembly in title 14, chapter 8 of the South Carolina Code.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined generally by article V, section 5 of the South Carolina Constitution and more specifically by the General Assembly in title 14, chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code.

27. If the answer to question 26 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

- (a) Owens v. Stirling, 443 S.C. 246, 904 S.E.2d 580 (2024)
- (b) State v. Price, 441 S.C. 423, 895 S.E.2d 633 (2023)
- (c) Crenshaw v. Erskine College, 432 S.C. 1, 850 S.E.2d 1 (2020)
- (d) State v. Williams, 427 S.C. 246, 830 S.E.2d 904 (2019)
- (e) Paradis v. Charleston County School District, 433 S.C. 562, 578, 861 S.E.2d 774, 782 (2021) (Few, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part)

28. 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	1988
(b) US District Court, D.S.C.	1989
(c) US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit	1990
(d) US Supreme Court	1995

29. 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.

Yes. In the past, I kept a detailed list of all the legal presentations I made. When I filed my application for the Supreme Court in 2015 and 2016, I included 131 specific presentations between the year 2000 and the date of my last application, which was in the spring of 2016. In part because members of the General Assembly criticized me (some jokingly; some not) for taking up so much space (10 full pages) in my application with this list, I stopped keeping a list of all legal presentations. So, following the instructions in the "Candidate Instructions" memo, here is a brief description of the dozens of courses I have taught or lectures I have given since the spring of 2016:

- (a) I teach a 2-hour, semester-long class each fall at the USC Rice School of Law entitled Advanced Evidence.
- (b) In approximately 2006, working with the S.C. Bar, I designed an annual, all-day continuing legal education seminar (CLE) on the law and practice of evidence called "It's All A Game." I organized and presented at this CLE every year until

approximately 2020 when I turned the responsibility for organizing it over to now-Circuit Judge Daniel Coble.

- (c) I have given a number of CLE presentations at local chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and the southeastern chapter of ABOTA on one occasion in Destin, Florida. I gave the ABOTA James Otis Lecture in the House Chamber on September 13, 2019.
- (d) I have given CLE presentations at most of the South Carolina Bar annual conventions and several South Carolina Judicial Conferences since my election to the Supreme Court in 2016.
- (e) I have given several CLE presentations to local bar associations around the State, including the Rock Hill Bar, and the Hilton Head Island Bar, the Greenwood Bar, and at least twice at the Greenville Bar's Annual CLE.
- (f) I have spoken on numerous occasions to the South Carolina Magistrate Judges Association in both Myrtle Beach and Columbia.
- (g) In the first several years after 2016, I gave numerous CLE presentations through the South Carolina Bar, such as at the annual Criminal Law Update and what used to be an annual program related to the new 5th edition of South Carolina Law of Torts. I cut back significantly in the past five years on making CLE presentations through the South Carolina Bar.
- (h) I have given several CLE presentations to South Carolina attorney groups such as the Solicitors' Conference, the Public Defenders Association, the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Defense Trial Attorneys Association (Civil), the Injured Workers Advocates, and the Association for Justice.
- (i) I have been invited to give several CLE presentations to out-of-state legal groups, such as:
 - Federation of Corporate & Defense Counsel, Charleston – March 10, 2017
 - DRI Appellate Advocacy Meeting, Las Vegas – March 15, 2018
 - SCAJ "Auto Torts" Seminar, Atlanta – November 30, 2018
 - Pound Civil Justice Institute, virtual national meeting – July 11, 2000
 - Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Asheville – August 13, 2021
 - SEABOTA, Destin, FL – September 17, 2021
 - ABA Appellate Judges Education Institute, Boston – November 15, 2024

I incorporate by reference the 131 individual CLE presentations I made from July 2000 to 2015 which I listed on my 2015 and 2016 applications for the Supreme Court. If the Commission wishes me to supplement this answer with those 131 presentations, or with more detail on the dozens of presentations I have made since 2016, I will be happy to do so.

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

- (a) The Courage of a Lawyer, ABA Litigation Journal, Winter 2013. This article was also published in *Voir Dire*, the magazine of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and in *South Carolina Lawyer*.
- (b) artofevidence, <http://artofevidence.wordpress.com/>
This is a blog I used to publish for my students, formerly at the Charleston School of Law, then at the USC School of Law. Due to a miscommunication with Wordpress, I did not renew the web address and it is—as far as I know—no longer available.
- (c) Appellate Advocacy—"Speaking Frankly", Foreword to *Charleston Law Review*, volume 5 number 1 (Fall 2010).

I have not published any other books or articles since I became a judge in 2000.

- 32. 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 and 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.)
- 33. 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

Personal Conduct

- 34. 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 of the following: federal law or regulation; state law or regulation; 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.]

- 35. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No

36. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

Yes. My name is sometimes listed as a defendant in federal lawsuits I never find out about because I am not served. The following are the lawsuits of which I am aware.

Douglas M. Thompson, an inmate in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, sued the Court of Appeals and others in U.S. District Court. I have seen the complaint, but I have not been served with it. I do not know the status of this case.

I was sued in U.S. District Court by Michael A. McKeown, who I believe is an inmate who plead guilty before me. The case was dismissed on summary judgment.

I was sued by Donald Strable in U.S. District Court for \$21 million. The allegations arose out of my having been assigned as administrative Circuit Judge for all the lawsuits he filed against other judges. Because the case was filed *pro se*, he was not allowed to serve me without the permission of the Federal Court, and that permission was denied. The case is over.

I was listed as a defendant in Rochester v. L. Casey Manning, 2004-MC-00008. However, I was never served with a summons and complaint and never participated in the case. I have no idea what the allegations against me were. As far as I know, the case has been dismissed.

A former client of mine, Newco Electrical Supplies, Inc., and one of its owners James H. Vaughn Jr., sued me and my co-counsel in the case. The case was filed in Greenville County, case number 03-CP-23-3354. The case was dismissed on my motion for summary judgment.

I was served with a Petition for a Writ of Prohibition in the Supreme Court of South Carolina in regards to my role as the assigned judge in State v. Jerry Buck Inman, a death penalty case in Pickens County. The Court assigned the case to another judge in a written Order.

In 2007, I was sent a copy of what appeared to be a pleading filed by Glen Laconey, a defendant in a case before the South Carolina Supreme Court alleging the unauthorized practice of law, in which I had been assigned to be the Special Referee. I do not believe this was a lawsuit, I have no reason to believe it was ever filed, and I was never served with a summons.

I was named as a defendant in Fishbourne v. Murdaugh, et al., 3:24-cv-4472-JFA. I was never served. The suit was dismissed on February 11, 2025.

I was able to pull the following list from PACER, the online filing platform for the District of South Carolina:

1:10-cv-01441-RBH	McKeown v. County of Greenville et al	filed 06/07/10 closed 10/25/11
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2:04-mc-00008	Rochester v. Massing, et al	filed 02/02/04 closed 02/03/04
3:15-cv-00547-MGL	Hunter v. Haley et al	filed 02/05/15 closed 04/23/15
6:04-cv-00195-TLW	Strable v. Few	filed 01/22/04 closed 04/26/04
6:09-cv-02381-RBH	Twitty v. Nationwide Insurance Comp et al	filed 09/08/09 closed 10/25/11
6:13-cv-03516-TMC	Martin v. Miley	filed 12/20/13 closed 04/24/15
8:10-cv-02829-JFA	Latimer v. McCall et al	filed 11/01/10 closed 04/21/11
8:11-cv-00209-JFA	Latimer v. McCall et al	filed 01/24/11 closed 04/21/11
2:21-cv-00567-BHH	Gray v. Forsythe et al	filed 02/25/21 closed 08/17/22
9:22-cv-02486-MGL	Washington v. Few et al	filed 08/01/22 closed 04/20/23
9:23-cv-01146-MGL	Washington v. Few et al	filed 03/23/23 closed 10/26/23

Otherwise, I do not recall ever being sued.

37. 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.

Not applicable

38. Have you ever, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct with or with a finding of misconduct? 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.]

39. 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

Financial

40. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes the below in detail. Note that a net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.

- (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.

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

41. (a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years? If no, please provide details.

Yes. However, I sought and received an extension for filing my 2024 returns due to the circumstances described in my answer to question 41(c).

(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 ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details.

No. However, the following events occurred regarding my 2019 federal tax return.

As I do every year, I retained an accountant to prepare my federal and state returns for 2019. The accountant completed the returns and I mailed the federal return to the IRS for filing. I paid the amount the accountant calculated I owed with the filing of the return: \$2012. I cannot remember if I included a check or paid the amount electronically. Four years later, on August 8, 2023, the IRS wrote me acknowledging receipt of \$26,368 in tax payments, but contending, "We have no record of receiving your tax return." As directed, I had my accountant provide the IRS with the return the accountant prepared years before. Nineteen months after that, on March 3, 2025, the IRS sent me a notice stating (1) I owed \$8298.20 for the 2019 tax year, (2) it had applied the \$1246 refund I was due for 2023 to that amount, and (3) "the amount you owe for December 31, 2019 is \$7052.20." The notice provided no explanation why the accountant's calculation to the contrary was mistaken, and provided no specific due date for the payment of those funds. I immediately turned the notice over to my accountant for him to determine whether he miscalculated the amount of taxes I owed or—as I suspect—the IRS miscalculated the taxes I owed. It is my understanding the accountant was promptly in touch with the IRS to determine the reason for the additional charge, but that the accountant heard

nothing from the IRS in return. On May 12, 2025, the IRS sent me another notice stating "we have not received your overdue tax after sending several notices to you. You must pay your balance immediately or we may levy (seize) your property." I immediately paid the \$7052.20 the IRS claimed was due. I have no record of the "several notices" referenced in the May 12 document. My accountant remains in contact with the IRS to determine the reason for the additional charge. I still do not know whether the discrepancy resulted from my accountant's error or the IRS's error, but it remains my expectation that the IRS will ultimately repay me the \$7052.20. All amounts the IRS contends were due, however, are paid.

42. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details.

No. In full disclosure, however, the USDOE reported to credit agencies that I was "delinquent" in April of 2025. While this information is not responsive to your question because it was not a "default," you will see it on my credit report, so I am going to go ahead and disclose it. First, I was not delinquent, but through its own error USDOE charged me for payments that were not due and did not notify me of the charges. Second, I learned of the erroneous charges in May of 2025, and immediately cleared the matter up. USDOE itself then correctly noted the accounts were current. I did not learn of this report to credit agencies until August 4, and though I have requested USDOE to correct the error it acknowledged to me that it made, it has refused to correct their mistake in making the initial report.

43. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults.

No

Conflict of Interest

44. 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.

(a) I served as Adjunct Professor, and later Distinguished Visiting Professor, at the Charleston School of Law from the summer of 2008 until the summer of 2012. I taught Evidence and Advanced Evidence. It was a part-time position. My supervisor was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, first Nancy Zisk and later Margaret Lawton. For this work, I was paid a salary and given a per trip expense reimbursement.

(b) In the fall of 2012, I began teaching Advanced Evidence at the University of South Carolina Rice School of Law. I teach the same class each fall, and will teach it again this fall, 2025. I am paid a salary for my work. My supervisor has been the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, first Colin Miller and currently Susan Kuo.

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

I ran unsuccessfully for the Supreme Court of South Carolina in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

46. 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.

When I am in Columbia or traveling, I rent my home in Oconee County on platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO. Since I started doing this in the fall of 2022, I have received rental "payouts" totaling \$55,874.58, not all of which is rental revenue because that figure includes cleaning fees that I must in turn pay to the cleaning crew. If the Commission desires any additional information, I am happy to provide it.

Other than this, I have not engaged in any other occupation, business, or profession.

47. 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

48. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code Section 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code Section 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

49. 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 Section 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

50. 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?

None

51. 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 4 years. If you participate in any employer-mandated contributions to a PAC or any other political entity, please describe and note your personal involvement in contributions. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

I have not made any political contributions since I was in private practice over 25 years ago. My wife—whom I married on April 13 of this year—made several contributions to members of the General Assembly many months before we were married, but has made none since then. Because she was not "a member of my immediate family" at the time she made those contributions, I do not believe this question calls for their disclosure. If the Commission would like them disclosed, however, I have already compiled them and I am happy to disclose them.

52. Have you or 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

53. 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.

There are none.

54. 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.

None

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.

Not applicable

55. 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

56. 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.

None

57. 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

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

No

59. 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

60. 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, I have not requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly. Over the last several months, I have personally talked to several Representatives and Senators in general terms about the fact that I am up for reelection in 2026. All of those conversations were conducted in compliance with applicable law, including section 2-19-70. Since the opening of the filing period on July 21, I have met with several additional Representatives and Senators, again conducting those conversations in compliance with section 2-19-70.

61. Are you familiar with the 12 days' rule as provided by Section 2-19-25, 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

62. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or 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

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: _____