



## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE 2025

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:

Court: Family Court

Circuit or Position: 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit

Seat: 7

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. No

### **Personal**

3. Name:      Mr.  
                    Mrs. Kelly Pope-Black  
                    Ms.

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Berkeley

Business Address: P.O. Box 326 Campobello, SC 29322

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):  
(office):  
(cell): [Redacted]

4. Date of Birth: [Redacted]-1973  
Place of Birth: Greer, South Carolina

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? 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

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. Married on May 11, 2013 to Johnny "Jody" Harold Black, Jr.
- (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.

Divorced on May 18, 2011. Moving party was Kelly Pope, Seventh Circuit Family Court, State of South Carolina, One Year Continuous Separation.

- (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]

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) Presbyterian College, 1991-1995, B.S. in Political Science and Sociology
- (b) Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, 1998 – 2001, 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.

- (a) Dean's List
- (b) Advocate of the Year, 2000-2001
- (c) ABA National Trial Team – Regional Finalist
- (d) Tournament of Champions Trial Team – National Semi-Finalist
- (e) Order of Barrister
- (f) Albert C. Brewer Client Counseling Competition – Semi-Finalist
- (g) Haley Trial Competition – Spring 2000, Semi-Finalist
- (h) South Carolina Student Bar Association – President

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 – Distinguished, High Ethical Standard, last available rating

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) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
- (c) ADR Commission – South Carolina Supreme Court Appointment

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

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

Facebook – [Redacted]  
Instagram - [Redacted]  
TikTok - [Redacted]

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity? The use of my social media sites would not be affected by serving in a judicial capacity. The sites are mainly used to post dogs/cats needing homes, posts about my horses and to stay connected with family and friends. I occasionally post about the Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association where I am a board member.

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) Labor of Love Animal Rescue - volunteer
- (b) Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association – Board Member
- (c) South Carolina Hunter Jumper Association – Member
- (d) Progressive Showjumping Association – Member
- (e) United States Hunter Jumper Association – Member
- (f) Miss South Carolina Organization – Member

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.

In the seventh grade I tried out for my middle school basketball team. I thought it would be fun, not realizing the hard work and dedication it would require to be a part of the team. Two weeks into practices I wanted to quit the team. I begged, pleaded and at times has an awful attitude that kids that age can have when they do not get their way. My parents would not let me quit the team. If I started something, it was my responsibility to finish it. I ended up loving not only basketball, but volleyball too and used that passion as a way to help pay for college. My parents taught me that if you make a commitment, you keep it and work hard at it. They taught me to take responsibility for my actions. I remember my parents working

two jobs at times because that was what had to be done. I have a strong work ethic and an attitude of determination as a result of the lessons I learned from my parents.

My lesson in compassion began with volunteering. My passion as an advocate for victims began in college when I became a volunteer for SAFE Homes Domestic Abuse Shelter and Rape Crisis Center and The Children's Shelter in Spartanburg. I later expanded my volunteer work into other counties and organizations. The experience I gained as a volunteer lead to my first job after college with the Foothills Rape Crisis Center and later with the Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter.

My work at these organizations was filled with humbling and life changing experiences. While at Safe Harbor, the organization did not have the funds to support a separate staff office space. Therefore, our offices were in the shelter. At times that situation made it difficult to work because of the distractions, but it also allowed us to provide immediate support to the women and children staying at the shelter. There were times when difficult decisions had to be made to protect the children. The children I worked with taught me the value of life. I witnessed those children at one of the most painful times of their lives and most still found the strength and courage to want to trust and love again. They continue to inspire me. The gavel I had when I was a judge is engraved with a special message about those precious children.

My previous experiences as a family court judge have shaped me. When handling DJJ cases, I tried to encourage everyone to think outside of the box for resolutions. I wanted to find something the juveniles enjoyed or were interested in and incorporate it into their lives. I created a juvenile drug court to allow a path for juveniles to find their own answers to a better future. I think it is important to not only encourage change, but to give them the tools to make a change.

My life experiences have taught me to work hard, be determined, be compassionate and protect the voiceless. I have often referred to family court judges as the last line of defense in protecting the abused and neglected. I still believe that is true and want to continue work that protects children and encourages our youth.

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) Honorable Lisa Kinon; [Redacted]

(c) Scott Talley, Esquire; [Redacted]

(d) John B. White, Jr., Esquire; [Redacted]

(e) Drew Carroll, Esquire; [Redacted]

(f) Brandi W. McBee; [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.

- (a) I was admitted to practice law in South Carolina 2001. I only took the bar exam one time.
- (b) In 2002-2003, I was working for a law firm that had offices in SC and NC. I took the NC bar exam in 2002 and 2003, but did not pass.

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.

**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*.**

(a) Cunningham & Associates, Tega Cay, SC – I worked for Kevin Cunningham as an associate from August 2001 to April 2002. My practice focused on family law and personal injury representing both plaintiffs and defendants. I also handled the firm's DSS court appointed cases. I was not involved in the financial management of the firm.

(b) Cobourn & Saleeby, Spartanburg, SC – I was an associate with the firm from approximately May 2002 to November 2003. The primary focus of my work at the firm was plaintiff personal injury cases. While an attorney with the firm, I handled all the South Carolina litigation except for worker's compensation and social security disability. Cases ranged from motor vehicle collisions to wrongful death and third party worker's compensation claims. I handled most of the firm's DSS court appointed matters ranging from vulnerable adult issues to child custody and TPR cases. I was not involved in the financial management of the firm.

(c) Christian and Davis, Greenville, SC – I was an associate with Christian and Davis from November 2003 to October 2005. The firm focused on plaintiff personal injury matters. While an associate with the firm, I handled simple to complex motor vehicle collisions, tractor trailer collisions, medical malpractice, wrongful death, breach of contract and bad faith cases. I was not involved in the financial management of the firm.

(d) Babb and Brown, Greenville, SC – I was an associate with Babb and Brown from October 2005 to September 2007. The firm primarily focused on real estate issues. However, I handled all of the litigation for the firm, which included family law, personal injury, construction law, insurance law and homeowner association law. I worked in a variety of courts. Family law cases included contested and uncontested divorces, equitable division, alimony, child support and child custody. The personal injury matter ranged from simple motor vehicle collisions to complex medical malpractice/wrongful death cases. The firm also represented several residential homebuilders and I handled all of the litigation concerning these homebuilders that was not covered by their insurance carrier. I also represented homeowners in cases against builders alleging defective construction. In addition, the firm represented several homeowner associations. Any matters that needed to be litigated on behalf of the associations were handled by me. I was not involved in the financial management of the firm.

(e) Mooneyham Berry & Pope, LLC, Greenville, SC – In October 2007 the law firm of Mooneyham Flowers Berry & Karow, LLC was formed. In August 2008, David Flowers left the firm and it became Mooneyham Berry & Pope, LLC. Following my divorce in May 2011, I resumed my maiden name and the firm became Mooneyham Berry & Pope, LLC. Our firm represented clients throughout the state of South Carolina. My practice consisted of civil, family law and criminal defense work. The civil cases ranged from simple to complex. My areas of civil litigation included motor vehicle collisions, wrongful death, medical malpractice, business disputes and construction litigation. The family law cases included adoptions, equitable distribution and child custody. My criminal defense practice was a small and I only handled smaller cases. As a partner in the firm, I along with my fellow partners, were responsible for the day to day management of the firm. We had regular meetings to review the finances of the firm, including the trust account.

(f) South Carolina Family Court Judge At Large Seat 1 – I served as a family court judge from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2019. I presided over cases in the areas of custody, support, alimony, equitable distribution, divorce, adoption, abuse and neglect and DJJ (juvenile related crimes). In 2017, I started the first juvenile drug court for Spartanburg County.

(g) Kelly Pope-Black, LLC – Since July 1, 2019 I have been a mediator full time with a primary focus on family court matters. I have mediated a few civil matters and a couple of probate matters. To date, I average 191 mediations per year. My mediation practice is statewide. I conduct mediations handling child custody matters, TPR and adoptions to multi-million dollar equitable distribution matters requiring multiple days of mediation.

(h) Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office – From October 2020 to March 2022, I served as a part-time assistant solicitor in Solicitor Barry Barnette's office, while still maintaining my demanding mediation practice. I handled all of the juvenile cases in Cherokee

County. At the time that I took the position, the docket was behind and required extensive work to bring the cases within the 365 day rule for family court cases. Once the goal was reached of all cases being within the 365 day rule, I went back to mediating family court cases full time.

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.

Divorce and Equitable Distribution of Property – While a practicing attorney, a portion of my practice was dedicated to family law matters. As a trial attorney I handled contested and uncontested divorces, divorces on fault grounds, alimony issues and division of marital property. The marital estates ranged from small to high values to include numerous real estate properties, retirement and money market accounts. While a family court judge, I heard numerous contested matters related to all grounds for divorce, as well as, equitable distribution matters with marital estates ranging in values. As a mediator with a focus on statewide family court cases, I continue to be involved in divorces on fault grounds and the equitable distribution of marital estates that range in values. I have handled simple marital estates and complex multi-million dollar marital estates. I have mediated cases where the marital estate contains family owned businesses and multiple business and real estate holdings. I have also been appointed as a receiver of a marital business in a family court matter.

Child Custody – As a practicing attorney, I handled child custody matters and represented both mothers, fathers and grandparents. While a family court judge, I presided over custody cases varying in degrees of difficulty. There were cases involving allegations of abuse and neglect, munchausen syndrome and mental abuse. As a judge, I also tried child custody cases involving grandparents. As a mediator, I routinely handle family law cases involving child custody issues.

Adoptions – During my time as a practicing attorney, I handled adoption cases for adopting parents. Some of the adoption cases were for DSS foster parents where TPR had already been granted. Other adoptions I handled had a TPR component to them. As a family court judge, I presided over numerous adoption hearings. Some of those adoptions were also TPR cases with multi-day trials. As a mediator, I have mediated TPR and adoption matters. These are difficult cases to mediate and reach a resolution due to the nature of the case, but I have been able to successfully mediate two adoption matters.

Abuse and Neglect – My experience with abuse and neglect cases actually started prior to my becoming an attorney and judge. Prior to attending law school, I worked for the Foothills Rape Crisis Center and Safe Harbor Domestic Abuse Shelter. My work for these agencies focused primarily on children who were victims of abuse and neglect. During my legal career, I have handled court appointed DSS cases involving issues of abuse and neglect. In my civil work as an attorney, I represented victims of all ages that were victims of sexual abuse. As a judge, I presided over countless abuse and neglect matters there were through DSS cases and private cases.

Juvenile Justice – As a judge, I handled juvenile cases almost weekly. In 2017, I was one of three family court judges selected by Chief Justice Don Beatty to attend the Juvenile Justice Reform Summit in Nashville, TN. During my time on the bench, I developed a juvenile drug court as a means to divert youth from further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Juvenile drug court was held after hours once a month and was a collaboration between the Sheriff's Department, Solicitor's Office, Public Defender's Office and myself. In addition to handling juvenile cases while a family court judge, I also worked for the Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office after leaving the bench. My position was part-time and the focus was to work on the juvenile docket for Cherokee County and bring the docket current with all cases being less than 365 days old.

- (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: none  
(b) state: bi-weekly (as an attorney); daily (as a judge)

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: 1%  
(b) criminal:  
(c) domestic: 99%  
(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? For the past five years, I have been a full time family law mediator. I did spend a year and a half as a part-time juvenile prosecutor making court appearances every other week. Prior to being a family law mediator, I was in court almost daily as a family court judge.

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? I am not sure of the number of cases that were settled or went to trial. As a family court judge, I tried countless cases. While an assistant solicitor, the juvenile cases were routinely worked out with a plea or dismissed.

(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. I have tried so many cases as a family court judge, I am unsure how many settled after the Plaintiff presented their case. While an assistant solicitor, the juvenile cases were routinely worked out with a plea or dismissed.

(c) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? None as there are no jury trials in family court.

(d) Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, second chair, or co-counsel?  
Sole 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) Hilliard v. Mitchell Contractors, Inc. f/k/a Mitchell Contractors Interiors, Inc. and Parkway Plaza, LLC 2006-CP-23-6203

This was a case involving a young lady that was sexually assaulted at work. The case involved claims of negligent hire, negligent supervision, negligent retention and negligent security. After an extensive discovery phase, the case was settled prior to trial. This case was significant because it brought to light deficiencies in the security and hiring procedures of the defendants. It also provided an avenue for my client, the plaintiff, to begin the healing process by knowing her courage to pursue the case resulted in possible changes to company policies by the defendants. The case also gave the plaintiff the financial means to continue therapy to deal with the emotional aftermath of the sexual assault.

(b) Adoptive Parents v. SCDSS, et al  
This was a Spartanburg County family court case where I represented foster parents in an action to terminate the parental rights of the birth parents and adopt the minor child. The child had been with the foster parents since 2009 when I filed the action to terminate and adopt in 2011. The case dealt with immigration issues in addition to the termination and adoption as the minor child had been born in Honduras. This case is significant because the foster parents were able to adopt the minor child they had been raising and brought stability to the life of the minor child.

(c) Gilliard v. City of Greenville, et al W.C.C. File No. 0627382  
This was a worker's compensation case for a deceased City of Greenville police officer. The officer became very sick while working for the City of Greenville. A worker's compensation claim was filed, but during the litigation of the case, the plaintiff died due to complications from his illness. His wife decided to continue the case on his behalf. The issue in the case was whether Mr. Gilliard contracted an occupational disease during his time as a police officer with the City of Greenville and did that disease cause his death. At the initial hearing, the plaintiff prevailed. However, that decision was overturned by the Worker's Compensation Commission. On behalf of the plaintiff, the decision was appealed and denied. This case is significant not only because of the complexity of an occupational disease case, but Mrs. Gilliard's strength following the death of her husband.

(d) Doe v. Harper, 2008-CP-37-111  
This was a repressed memory sexual assault case. I represented the plaintiff, who was female in her late twenties. The complexity of the repressed memory issue made this case significant. It was also important because the outcome relieved insecurities the plaintiff had with herself and also provided her with the financial means to continue her therapy related to the sexual abuse. However, the plaintiff had an emotionally troubled past that affected her choices in life as she got older. This case reminded me that a successful outcome in a case does not always provide closure for clients. On many occasions I have thought about this client and hope that she has found some form of inner peace.

(e) In 2003, I tried my first case. It was a motor vehicle collision case with disputed liability and damages. The case was tried in Cherokee County and I represented the plaintiff. The defendant was represented by a prominent and very experienced defense attorney. I cannot remember the case name, but what I do remember is that I lost the trial. This case is significant to me because I learned there are many things law school can prepare you for and many things it cannot.

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) Gilliard v. City of Greenville, et al, W.C.C. File No.: 0627382. The case was on appeal when I became a family court judge in 2013. The appeal was handled by my former law partner, Joe Mooneyham. I am not aware of the date of the final decision.

(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. Not applicable

(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.

June 30, 2013 to June 30, 2019 – Family Court Judge At Large Seat 1; elected by the General Assembly; jurisdiction was limited to South Carolina Family Courts

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) SCDSS v. Danielle Vess Headley and William D. Headley, Case No. 2015-DR-42-1877

(b) Paulo I. Zortea v. Anne C. Zortea, n/k/a Anne C. Spearman, Case No. 2014-DR-42-213.  
Appellate Case No. 2017-UP-281

(c) Robert Lee O'Shields, Sr. v. Robert L. O'Shields, Jr., as Personal Representative of the Estate of Mariann Geier O'Shields, Case No. 2014-DR-42-0895.

(d) SCDSS v. Janet Bright, et al. Case No. 2014-DR-42-3156. Appellate Case No. 2017-UP-293.

(e) Matthew and Terra Coyle v. Wilmer and Lilyana Garcia. Case No. 2014-DR-11-400.  
Appellate Case No. 2018-UP-051.

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) State Courts of South Carolina – 2001

(b) US District Court for the State of South Carolina – 2004

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.

- (a) I made a presentation at a NBI sponsored CLE "Applying the Rules of Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know" on December 14, 2011.
- (b) I made a presentation at a NBI sponsored CLE "Plaintiff's Personal Injury from Start to Finish" on January 28, 2010.
- (c) In 2010, I wrote and presented a program to the SC Upstate Paralegal Association on effective use of evidence at trial.
- (d) I made a presentation at a NBI sponsored CLE "Obtaining the Best Settlement for Personal Injury Clients" on January 22, 2008.
- (e) I sat on a panel at the 2013 Family Court Bench/Bar Seminar representing a new judges' perspective on family court.
- (f) I sat on a panel with fellow judges at the 2014 South Carolina Guardian Ad Litem Annual Conference in Columbia.
- (g) I sat on a panel of judges as a speaker at the 2014 CLE "As Family Court Judges See It: Top Mistakes Attorneys Make in Litigating Divorce" presented by NBI.
- (h) I was a speaker along with other family court judges at the 2013 SC Bar Annual Conference.
- (i) I spoke about family court mediations at the 2024 South Carolina Family Court Judges Annual Conference.
- (j) I spoke at the 2024 South Carolina Association of Justice Conference about Family Law Mediation Practices.
- (k) I spoke at the 2025 Greenville Bar Year End CLE about Best Family Law Mediation Practices.

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

See Attached

31. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. N/A

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.)

Please see attached writing examples from when I was a family court judge. One case has two orders as a portion was remanded, so both orders from that case are included.

On the Zortea Order, I was the primary author. I provided a memorandum to the attorneys of my specific findings and language to be included in the order. Attorney Bob Holland included my findings and language into the order submitted to the court for signing.

On the Coyle Orders, I was the primary author. I provided a memorandum to the attorneys of my specific findings and language to be included in the order. Attorney Jim Thompson included my findings and language into the order submitted to the court for signing.

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. N/A

## 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.

(a) In 2007 the law firm of Mooneyham Flowers & Karow, LLC was formed. In August 2008, David Flowers left the firm. Following his departure, David Flowers sued me personally for monies he claimed the law firm owed him. In addition, he sued me for a business loan made to Eric Karow. William Herlong represented me on both matters and is allowed to discuss the cases. The cases were dismissed.

(b) Booker, #297590 v. SCDSS, et al, 2012-CP-35-20 is a case where I was a defendant. I was court appointed to represent an inmate in a DSS action regarding his parental rights.

I met with him before the first hearing at the courthouse because he was incarcerated. Following the hearing, he asked me to go to the lobby, get a package from his mother and deliver it back to him. I had learned the package supposedly contained a cell phone. I refused to make the exchange and he became very upset with me. I immediately filed to be relieved as counsel, which was granted. New counsel was appointed within 10 days. The plaintiff made a claim against me for legal malpractice, which was dismissed. Paul Agnew represented me on this matter and is allowed to discuss the case.

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.

I am currently covered by malpractice insurance and have always carried malpractice insurance except when I was a family court judge July 2013 – June 2019. I have never had a tail policy.

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

(c) 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. Yes

I have had state and federal tax liens instituted against me, but they have been paid and released. These tax liens were incurred prior to 2011 and have all been resolved and paid in full.

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

During law school I obtained some private loans to supplement my federal student loans. In 2007, one of the private loans was sent to a collection agency. This was during the time I was experiencing a high risk pregnancy with my daughter, who was born in April 2007. I paid the outstanding balance in full in 2007 and the debt was satisfied.

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.

None

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

Yes, in 2019 I was unsuccessful as a candidate for re-election to Family Court At Large Seat 1.

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.

- (a) Foothills Rape Crisis Center, Anderson, SC – I worked for the FRCC from August 1995 to August 1996. This position was through the AmeriCorp program. My responsibilities included developing safety awareness programs for K-12 for Anderson, Abbeville and Oconee Counties. I would make presentations at schools, churches and civic organizations for grades K-6 based on a program helping children define between a good touch and a bad touch. For grades 8-12, the program was geared towards prevention of date abuse and date rape. In addition to developing, coordinating and presented these programs, I would also provide counseling and support to children and teens that were victims of physical and sexual abuse.
- (b) Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter, Greenville, SC - I worked from Safe Harbor from August 1996 until August 1998. My responsibilities continued to focus on presenting safety awareness programs to grades K-6 and date abuse prevention program for grades 8-12. I was also responsible for coordinating volunteer efforts. In coordination with my awareness programs, I provided counseling and support to children and teens that were victims of physical and sexual abuse. This work included children that were staying at the shelter as well as children in the community. Following my work at Safe Harbor, I attended law school. Prior to leaving for law school, my goal was to implement a date abuse prevention program that was approved by the Greenville County School District. I co-wrote “The Megan Project” that was approved for use in the Greenville County School District.

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.

I am the sole member of Kelly Pope-Black, LLC, which is my legal business for family law mediations.

I am the sole member of Glassy View Farms, LLC, which is the business that I use for my horse show expenses and horse care and upkeep.

I am the sole member of Ali Publishing, LLC, which was formed for my daughter's songwriting career. She was a minor when she needed a publishing company formed, so it was created with me as the member. However, she is now 18 and the LLC is currently being transferred to her name.

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?

- (a) \$140.40 for postage on July 23, 2025;
- (b) \$131.10 for copies of resume on July 20, 2025;
- (c) \$63.01 for two name badges on August 3, 2025.
- (d) I have mailed letters reporting my expenditures to date to the House and Senate Ethics Committees, attached hereto as an Exhibit.

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. None

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 mailed out a letter of introduction to members of the General Assembly on my behalf and excluded any member that serves on the Judicial Merit Screening Commission.

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: \_\_\_\_\_