



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

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:
Court: Administrative Law Court
Circuit or Position:
Seat: 4
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.

Full-time Richland County Magistrate – Lykesland District

Personal

3. Name: The Honorable Barbara Wofford-Kanwat

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland

Business Address: 1403 Caroline Road Columbia, S.C. 29209

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (office): 803.576.2500 (office) or 803.576.2506 (direct)
(cell): [Redacted] (personal) or 803.429.5756 (work)
4. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1982
Place of Birth: Columbia, S.C.
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.
8. Family Status: Married on July 13, 2005 to Chandra Prakash Kanwat.
Never divorced, two children.
[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) University of South Carolina, Bachelors of Arts, 2000 - 2004

(b) University of South Carolina, Juris Doctor & International Master of Business Administration, 2005 - 2009

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.

James L. Petrigu Public Interest Law Society, Member and Treasurer, 2007- 2009

Pro Bono Board, Member, 2007- 2009

S.C. Journal of International Law and Business, Member, 2007- 2009

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.

I have not received any rating from any of these organizations.

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) S.C. Bar, Publications Committee, 2023 – Present

(b) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
Member, 2009 - Present (periodic breaks)
Board of Directors, 2021 - Present
Education Chair, 2023 - Present
Executive Board, Treasurer, 2024 - Present

(c) American Bar Association, Member, 2024 - Present

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

Yes, I have a social media presence.

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

Facebook
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Instagram
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Linked In
[Redacted]

Twitter
[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?

I need to be cautious in my use of social media in order to stay in compliance with the judicial canons.

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) University of South Carolina Women and Gender Studies Partnership Council

(b) University of South Carolina Rice School of Law Pro Bono Advisory Council

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.

Please see Attachment # 1 for my response to this question.

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.*

Please see the enclosed letter of recommendations from the following people:

(a) Linda Holshouser [Redacted]

(b) The Honorable Phillip Newsom [Redacted]

(c) Alicia Hutto [Redacted]

(d) Caroline Chambers [Redacted]

(f) The Honorable Renee Lipson [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) South Carolina, 2009, 1 time

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) S.C. Court of Appeals, Staff Attorney, 2009 - 2012

I worked as a staff attorney at the S.C. Court of Appeals for three years. During this time, I assisted with direct civil and criminal appeals. I also helped with post-conviction relief and Anders appeals. I periodically assisted with family court appeals including termination of parental rights cases. During my final year, I worked on many workers' compensation appeals.

(b) Richland County Magistrate, 2012 - Present

Richland County Magistrate – Central Court, 2012 - 2016

As a Central Court Magistrate, I handled primarily criminal matters including bond court, traffic court, domestic violence court, and preliminary hearings. I also assisted with restraining orders. I presided over civil and criminal jury trials periodically.

Richland County Magistrate – Lykesland District, 2016 - Present

As a district magistrate, I preside over mostly civil matters including eviction actions, summons and complaints, and claim and delivery. For criminal court, I preside over Richland County Ordinance violations and handicap parking violations. I also handle the Department of Natural Resources criminal cases arising out of Richland County.

At Lykesland, I manage three staff members – an office manager and two clerks. I am also responsible for managing Lykesland's finances and submitting monthly financial reports.

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:

- (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.

Since I joined the summary court bench immediately after leaving the S.C. Court of Appeals, I do not have experience appearing before the Administrative Law Court.

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: None

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?

As a staff attorney, I estimate that I assisted with the following appeals:

- (a) civil: 40%
(b) criminal: 50%
(c) domestic: 5%
(d) other: 5%

22. During the past five years:

- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?

As a summary court judge, my work requires regular court room appearances.

- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

As a summary court judge, the majority of my civil cases are resolved by bench trials.

- (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. N/A

The majority of criminal cases are addressed by pleas. Additionally, I estimate about a quarter of debt collection actions are settled outside of court.

- (c) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

As a summary court judge, jury trials are not frequently used to resolve matters.

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

N/A

(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?

As a staff attorney, I assisted only with appeals.

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) I have worked for the judiciary for my entire legal career.

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) I have worked for the judiciary for my entire legal career.

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) I have worked for the judiciary for my entire legal career.

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 currently hold a public office.

(a) Richland County Magistrate, Summary Court, Appointed, 2012 to Present

Summary court jurisdiction is limited to criminal offenses with sentences up to a \$500 fine or 30-days' imprisonment unless otherwise noted by statute. For civil matters, the court has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in certain matters such as evictions. The civil jurisdictional limit is \$7,500.

(b) Arcadia Lakes Municipal Judge, Municipal Judge, Appointed, 2018-2019

As a municipal judge, the jurisdiction is limited to criminal matters with a potential sentence of 30-days' imprisonment or \$500 fine.

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) Greer v. Ives, Case # 2018CV4011001989.
Plaintiff, a resident of New Hampshire, filed a summons and complaint against several parties arising from a dispute about real property in Aiken County. At trial, I dismissed the action, finding I did not have jurisdiction over this matter since it involved a dispute about real property in Aiken County. I subsequently denied Plaintiff's motion to reconsider based on the reasoning.
 - (b) Ozdener v. Fuller, Case # 2021CV4010600314.
Plaintiff, a dentist, filed a law suit against his former employer, Defendant, for discrimination and defamation. Defendant filed a counterclaim for breach of contract and abuse of process. I found in favor of Defendant on Plaintiff's claim as well as Defendant's counterclaim. Ultimately, I awarded Defendant the maximum jurisdictional amount of \$7,500.
 - (c) Hernandez v. Conrex Property Management, LLC., Case # 2023CV4010600630.
In this summons and complaint, Plaintiffs, former tenants, filed suit against Defendant, their former property manager, for their failure to return Plaintiffs' security deposit and provide essential services. Defendant filed a counterclaim for damages to the property. I found in favor of Plaintiffs.
 - (d) Hanks v. K.B. Enterprises, Case # 2024CV4010600233.
Plaintiff hired Defendant to move her belongings. After the move, Plaintiff realized Defendant had significantly damaged her belongings. Plaintiff filed a summons and complaint against Defendant. After a bench trial, I found in favor of Plaintiff for the maximum jurisdictional amount of \$7,500.
 - (e) Roesel v. Blakely, Case # 2024CV4010800483.
Plaintiff, a health insurance business on the Health Insurance Marketplace, filed a defamation claim against Defendant, who filed false reports regarding Plaintiff's business practices. Those reports resulted in Plaintiff losing several contracts with health insurance providers in South Carolina. I found in favor of Plaintiff in for the maximum jurisdictional amount of \$7,500.
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, 2009

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, I have taught, presented, and lectured on legal-related topics to various audiences.

- (a) I have taught evidence at the orientation school for new summary court judges' twice a year since 2017.

This is an all-day presentation that provides an overview of the S.C. Rules of Evidence to the new summary court judges.

- (b) I presented on contemporary evidence topics at the 2025 S.C. Bar "It's All A Game" CLE.

This one-hour presentation focused on contemporary evidence topics such as social media evidence and digital evidence.

- (c) I presented on hearsay to attorneys for the S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense during their evidence Zoom Series in 2025.

This one-hour presentation focused on hearsay, hearsay exemptions, and exceptions for attorneys.

- (d) I periodically present on the summary court system to various audiences.

These presentations focus on providing an overview of the summary court system to different audiences.

- (e) I periodically present on mindfulness in the legal profession to various audiences.

These presentations focus on providing tools for stress management to for lawyers and judges.

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

Please see Attachment # 2 for my CLE reports.

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

Evidence Guidebook: A Quick Reference for the Courtroom (S.C. Bar CLE 2024),
Author.

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 Attachment # 3 for my legal writing samples.

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.

(a) No, I have never held another public office position.

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.

I have not been investigated by any authorities for a violation of a criminal statute.

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.

I have not been sued by a client or named as a party in an action.

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 have never had malpractice insurance for private practice because I have always worked for the government.

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, I have not been investigated by Department of Social Services.

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.

Please see Attachment # 4 for this information.

- (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, I have timely filed my tax returns for the past 5 years.

- (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, I am not involved in any business.

(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, I have never had a tax lien or collection procedure against me.

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

No, I have never defaulted on my student loans. I paid off my student loans approximately one year after law school.

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

No, I have never filed for bankruptcy.

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) YMCA, Group Exercise Instructor, Multiple Supervisors, 2001 – 2019 (intermittent).

I taught yoga, cycle, and rep reebok group exercise classes.

(b) City Yoga, Yoga Instructor, Stacey Milner-Collins, 2011-2012.

I taught yoga classes.

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

No, I have not been a candidate for any of those positions.

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.

I have only taught group exercise classes as stated in question 44.

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, I am not involved in any business.

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, I have never been a lobbyist.

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, I have not accepted anything of value from a lobbyist.

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?

I have incurred \$20 in expenses for fingerprinting.

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.

No one in my immediate family including myself has made any contributions to General Assembly members.

We do participate in the Farm Bureau PAC because Farm Bureau provides our home and car insurance.

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 one has solicited any funds for my candidacy.

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.

I have no current financial arrangements or business relationships that would be a conflict of interest.

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

None of the potential conflicts listed below apply to me.

- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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.

No one in my immediate family has any contracts with the state or public agencies.

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.

Please see Attachment # 5 for my investments.

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.

I have not accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant who has or might appear before me.

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

No, I have not used my staff for assistance with this campaign.

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, I have not spoken with any legislator regarding this campaign or requested their support.

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 for this campaign. I have not done any campaigning yet for this candidacy.

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, I am familiar with this rule.

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, no one has contacted any member of the JMSC for me regarding this candidacy.

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: _____