

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

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:

Court: Family Court

Circuit or Position: 14th Circuit

Seat: Seat 3

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: Ms. Scarlet B. Moore

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Greenville

Business Address: 100 Hillcrest Square, Laurens, SC 29360; P.O. Box 17615, Greenville, SC 29606

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):

(office): 864-214-5805; 864-681-5640

(cell): [Redacted]

4 Date of Birth: [Redacted]/68

Place of Birth: Asheville, N.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? 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.

I am divorced

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

(c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

(d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.

Date of Divorce Decree: October 31, 2017; I was the moving party; Greenville County Family Court; One year living separate and apart

(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) UNC-Asheville; 1985-1990; Mass Communication major, Political Science minor
(b) LSU Law Center; 1998-2001; Juris Doctor

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) Wex Malone Inns of Court, based on my performance at the trial advocacy program at LSU (2000)
(b) Research Assistant for Professor George W. Pugh, who authored the case notes to the Louisiana Handbook on Evidence Law. My duties were to research appellate cases addressing evidentiary assignments of error. (1999-2000)

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.

N/A

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) Louisiana Bar Association, since 2001
 - (b) South Carolina Bar Association, since 2004
 - (c) Massachusetts Bar Association, since 2019
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]

LinkedIn -- [Redacted]

Instagram – [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?

If I were elected to the family court bench, I would want to keep a social media presence and use similar to what I have now within the requirements of the judicial canons – which mainly includes posts regarding sports, vacations, and other activities.

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) Greenville County Bar Association
 - (b) Laurens County Bar Association
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.
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) Robert Cone, Esq., [Redacted]

- (b) Heather Hite Ewing, Esq. [Redacted]
- (c) Hervery Young, Esq. [Redacted]
- (d) Ashby Jones, Esq. [Redacted]
- (e) James "Jim" Thompson, Esq. [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) Louisiana, 2001
- (b) North Carolina – I took the bar exam once in 2003, but I was unsuccessful and was not admitted.
- (c) South Carolina, 2004
- (d) Massachusetts, 2019

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.

1. Tomeny & Fisher (2001) – I clerked for this plaintiff's personal injury firm following my graduation from law school in May, 2001. I worked there for approximately six (6) months, handling matters related to personal injury lawsuits, such as appearing at depositions, writing memorandums in opposition to summary judgment motions, meeting with clients, and negotiating settlements.
2. Hon. Judge Bonnie Jackson (10/2001 – 07/2002) – I served as a law clerk for Judge Jackson, a criminal court judge in Baton Rouge, LA. My responsibilities were to assist the Judge, conduct research regarding criminal matters, and prepare legal documents on behalf of the Judge.
3. East Baton Rouge Parish Public Defender's Office (07/2002 – 01/2004) – I served as an Assistant Public Defender, representing criminal clients in District Court – including appearing at arraignments, sanity hearings, plea hearings, sentencing hearings, and motion hearings.
4. Unemployment period (01/2004-09/2004) – I moved to South Carolina from Baton Rouge, LA., and used this time to study for the South Carolina bar exam, and to seek employment.
5. SCDSS (09/2004 – 06/2007) – I served as an in-house attorney representing SCDSS in Family Court in abuse/neglect cases. I appeared in multiple counties during this time – Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Newberry, and Greenville.

6. Lander University (08/2004-08/2011) – I served as an adjunct professor, teaching one (1) course per semester, including Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Constitutional Law, Judicial Process, and Desegregation and the Law from 2004 – 2007. In 2007, I was hired full-time to teach courses in Criminal Justice Management, and law-based topics in Sociology and Political Science, such as the classes referenced above, and including Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, Criminal Justice Systems, Society and Law, Liability for Police Officers, and Juvenile Delinquency.
7. Scarlet B. Moore, Attorney at Law (08/2007 – present) -- I opened a private practice in 2007, and am currently still in private practice but have not accepted new retained clients since January, 2024, due to my full-time employment with Laurens County Public Defender – my employer has permitted me to finish my private cases concurrently with my employment as a public defender. In private practice, I performed contract work for SCDSS from 2007 to 2023. My work for SCDSS entailed representing the agency in multiple counties in abuse/neglect matters in trial and appellate courts, including the S.C. Supreme Court. In addition to my DSS contracts, I have handled matters of all description in approximately thirty-seven (37) counties in South Carolina Family Courts – including DJJ actions, divorces, legal separation, custody and visitation actions, name changes, child support matters, alimony actions, contempt matters, termination of parental rights and adoptions, equitable division of marital estates, and a motion to dismiss regarding alleged violation of wiretapping laws. I have been retained by private clients for representation in Family Court, and have taken appointments from S.C. Legal Services for indigent clients seeking representation in Family Court matters. I have also had a contract with the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals from 2008 to 2024, writing appeals on behalf of indigent federal criminal defendants for the CJA panel. In addition to these practice areas, I have performed contract work through the “608” program through the Office of Indigent Defense, on behalf of criminal defendants. Prior to the inception of the 608 contract program, I accepted appointments in criminal courts in Greenville, Spartanburg and Laurens, on behalf of criminal defendants. Lastly, I represented private appellate clients in appeals in the South Carolina Court of Appeals, and the South Carolina Supreme Court. My practice areas have remained consistent since 2007. I have solely handled the financial affairs of my practice, including administration of my trust IOLTA account.
8. Charlotte School of Law (2011-2013) – I served as an adjunct professor teaching criminal law and criminal procedure courses, and civil rights litigation.
9. Laurens County Public Defender (1/8/24 – Present) – I serve as a Senior Public Defender for Laurens County (as well as other counties in the 8th Circuit including occasionally in Greenwood, Abbeville and Newberry), representing indigent criminal defendants as well as juveniles accused of violation of state and/or municipal ordinances in DJJ matters in Family Court.

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.

For nineteen (19) years during my practice, I appeared in a Family Court in the State of South Carolina on at least a weekly basis – sometimes daily, depending on the week. Abuse and Neglect: Through my association with S.C. Department of Social Services for nineteen (19) years, I have appeared in thirty-seven (37) counties of South Carolina (including Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, and Jasper counties), representing the agency in child abuse/neglect actions in trial and appellate courts. Through my work with SCDSS, and my experience in Family Court, I developed a successful private Family Court practice. Divorce and Equitable Division: One of my most significant wins at the S.C. Court of Appeals was in the case of Buist v. Buist, Opinion No. 4982 (S.C. Ct. App., filed June 6, 2012), in which the appellate court reversed the equitable division of the marital estate by the trial court in Greenwood, S.C. I have handled a significant number of divorces - into the hundreds – including matters regarding equitable division of marital estates. In 2019, I was successful in securing an emergency order for my client, the Wife, to have the proceeds of a house closing deposited into my trust account. She was concerned that since the house was solely in the Husband's name, he would abscond with the proceeds. The result of this case is that the Wife received a settlement from the proceeds. I have assisted most of my family court clients with the completion of financial declarations, which detail the property at stake in equitable division. I also have two (2) appellate court wins in the area of alimony – Deen v. Deen, Memorandum Opinion No. 2021-MO-007 (S.C. Supreme Court 2021), in which the Supreme Court reduced the alimony obligation of my client, the ex-Husband; and Hill v. Hill, Unpublished Opinion No. 2023-UP-099 (S.C. Ct. of Appeals 2023), in which the Court of Appeals reversed and retroactively terminated the alimony obligation of my client, Wife; Child custody: As stated, I have appeared in hundreds of divorce actions in the Family Courts of South Carolina, and have represented clients in child custody actions. I have represented at least one (1) client successfully at the S.C. Court of Appeals in a bid to reverse a custody award in the case of Huggins v. Pritchett, Unpublished Opinion 2015-UP-369 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed July 22, 2015), in which the appellate court reversed the custody order of the trial court, and restored custody to my client, the Mother. This was a child custody “change in circumstances” action filed by the Husband. I represented the Wife at trial. My client had sole custody of both of her children, however the trial court split custody of the children following trial. I appealed on behalf of my client, and the child custody order was reversed by the S.C. Court of Appeals – a rare occurrence in South Carolina law. I felt confident that the order would be reversed by the appellate court, as the

trial court based its order on the preference of an eleven (11) year-old child – a clear violation of South Carolina case law. I have represented Husbands and Wives, as well as served as a guardian *ad litem* in several cases representing the interests of children of family court litigants. Adoption: I have handled multiple private adoption matters on behalf of adoptive parents, and have served as a guardian in private adoptions. Perhaps my most significant win at the S.C. Supreme Court was the opinion in Swain v. Bollinger, Opinion No. 28078 (S.C. Supreme Court filed January 5, 2022), in which the Supreme Court permitted my client, a maternal grandfather, to terminate the parental rights of the biological father and adopt his grandchild while keeping the rights of the biological mother (my client's daughter) intact. Swain expanded significantly the options for permanent adoptions for children in South Carolina according to the best interests of each individual child and the realities of each child's family. Juvenile Justice: I have represented children accused of violations of state and municipal law in multiple counties (Union, Laurens, Newberry, and Greenwood) for approximately five (5) years; in addition, through my work with SCDSS, I have had involvement with dually-involved children in the DJJ/DSS systems. I also taught the course Juvenile Delinquency at Lander University for multiple semesters – one of my favorite and best-received classes.

- (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: My only appearances in federal court are by filings with the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals from 2008-2023. I do not appear in federal district court on behalf of clients.

(b) state: weekly in Family Court; monthly in Court of General Sessions

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? N/A

(a) civil: 5 percent

(b) criminal: 30 percent

(c) domestic: 65 percent

(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? Approximately 90 percent

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 1 in General Sessions; many (approximately 30) in Family Court while representing SCDSS primarily in TPR/Adoption matters.

(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. 1 in General Sessions

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? None

(e) 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? N/A

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) Buist v. Buist (410 S.C. 569, 574, 766 S.E. 2d 381, 383 (S.C. 2014) – this was an appeal of a equitable division and award of attorney's fees by the family court of Abbeville. I won a significant victory for my client at the appellate court, by the court reversing the trial court's award to the Wife of approximately \$125,000 to resolve equitable division. The award of attorney's fees against my client was affirmed by the S.C. Court of Appeals, however I determined that the reasoning behind the court's decision was incorrect. I filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari in the S.C. Supreme Court, which was granted. Although the Supreme Court affirmed the award of attorney's fees against my client on other grounds, the Supreme Court agreed with my conclusion that the reasoning of the S.C. Court of Appeals was incorrect. This case represented my first oral argument at the S.C. Supreme Court. I represented Mr. Buist

for approximately eleven (11) years, and the case was finally resolved in an order from Hon. Judge Matthew Turner on April 29, 2019, which order was not appealed by the parties. The case is significant to me due to the length of time I represented Mr. Buist, the favorable result we won in the S.C. Court of Appeals, the fact that the case was heard in the S.C. Supreme Court on my Writ petition, and the fact that this case represented my first oral argument at the S.C. Supreme Court. (Also significant and meaningful to me is that I appeared at the Supreme Court with my mentor, the legendary C. Rauch Wise, as opposing counsel.)

(b) Huet de Guerville v. Huet de Guerville, Order in Appellate Case No. 2023-000387 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed June 21, 2023) – In this matter, I represented a Father who sought to suppress recordings of phone conversations between my client and his minor child in a pending “change in circumstances” family court custody action, which implicated “wiretapping” as well as a family court order awarding my client private reasonable telephone communication with his son. As I had never handled a matter like this case, I researched the issue and learned that the procedure for challenging illegally-obtained recordings via alleged wiretapping was through a motion to suppress filed in the S.C. Court of Appeals prior to a family court trial. I researched the issue and wrote a motion to suppress which was granted by the S.C. Court of Appeals. As a result, my client was able to secure a favorable settlement of the custody issues and was awarded significant attorney’s fees and costs.

(c) SCDSS v. Walls, Unpublished Opinion No. 2016-UP-482 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed Nov. 16, 2016); Memorandum Opinion No. 2017-MO-018 (S.C. Filed October 25, 2017) – this was an appeal of a termination of parental rights action. SCDSS filed a TPR action against the parents, and the trial court ordered the parents’ rights to be terminated. I handled this matter at the S.C. Court of Appeals (affirmed in an unpublished opinion without oral argument), and the S.C. Supreme Court (which latter Court ordered oral argument). The facts of this case represent one of the most heartbreakingly scenarios for DSS caseworkers: the medical evidence and expert testimony established that an infant only a few months old suffered very serious non-accidental injuries and trauma. However, the parents had no explanation for the cause of the injuries. Throughout my career with SCDSS, I handled multiple of these types of cases at the trial and appellate levels. They are challenging from an evidentiary standpoint, because there are no video recordings for the court to determine exactly how the child sustained the injuries. However, in representing SCDSS, the position of the agency has consistently been that the parents are ultimately responsible for the welfare and safety of their child(ren). I had the privilege of arguing this position at the S.C. Supreme Court in 2016. The Court of Appeals affirmed the termination of the parents’ rights, and the Supreme Court ultimately concluded that the Writ of Certiorari was improvidently granted – thus affirming the opinion of the Court of Appeals, cited above. However, in a compelling footnote the Supreme Court held that although the cert petition would be dismissed, the agency had proven the grounds for TPR by clear and convincing evidence. This was significant to me personally, because in prior trials and appeals I had not been completely successful in holding the parents responsible for very serious unexplained non-accidental traumas to their child,

despite my belief that termination of both parents' rights under these facts was warranted under South Carolina law.

(d) Dendy v. Gamble, Opinion No. 6100 (S.C. Court of Appeals filed February 12, 2025) – this case was an action filed in Richland County Family Court by maternal grandparents seeking custody and/or visitation of a minor child who was in the legal custody of the maternal aunt and uncle. I represented the aunt and uncle on appeal. The matter proceeded to a multi-day trial, after which the trial court kept custody with the aunt and uncle, but awarded visitation to the grandparents under the theories of *de facto* custodian, psychological parent and the grandparent visitation statute, as well as awarded attorney's fees to the grandparents. In a significant published opinion applying and addressing the visitation theories/statutes referenced *supra*, the S.C. Court of Appeals reversed the order of the trial court and held that the record did not reflect compelling circumstances justifying overruling the presumption of the soundness of the parenting decisions of the aunt and uncle in restricting contact between the child and maternal grandparents. The Court of Appeals also reversed the award of attorney's fees in favor of the grandparents, and ultimately awarded fees and costs in favor of my clients, the prevailing aunt and uncle.

(e) Swain v. Bollinger, Opinion No. 28078 (S.C. Supreme Court filed January 5, 2022), -- perhaps my most significant win at the S.C. Supreme Court was this opinion in which the Supreme Court, in reversing both the trial court and the S.C. Court of Appeals, permitted my client, a maternal grandfather, to terminate the parental rights of the biological father and adopt his grandchild while keeping the rights of the biological mother (my client's daughter) intact. Swain significantly expanded the options for permanent adoptions for children in South Carolina according to the best interests of each individual child and the realities of each child's family.

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) Huggins v. Pritchett, Unpublished Opinion 2015-UP-369 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed July 22, 2015)

(b) Buist v. Buist (410 S.C. 569, 574, 766 S.E. 2d 381, 383 (S.C. 2014))

(c) SCDSS v. Walls, Unpublished Opinion No. 2016-UP-482 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed Nov. 16, 2016); Memorandum Opinion No. 2017-MO-018 (S.C. Filed October 25, 2017)

(d) Swain v. Bollinger, Opinion No. 28078 (S.C. Supreme Court filed January 5, 2022)

(e) Zortea v. Zortea, Unpublished Opinion No. 2017-UP-281 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed July 12, 2017)

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) U.S. v. Kenneth Shannon, Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, No. 17-4500 (6/6/18) – unpublished opinion.

(b) U.S. v. Fortino Maldonado-Guillen, Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, No. 16-4365 (3/31/17) – unpublished opinion.

- (c) U.S. v. Richard Elmer Sundblad, Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, No. 16-4787 (10/3/17) – unpublished opinion.
- (d) U.S. v. Chee Davis, Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, No. 16-4787 – opinion is pending.
- (e) U.S. v. Timothy Crockett, Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, No. 18-4658 (6/14/19) – unpublished opinion.

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. N/A

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. N/A

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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) Louisiana – all state courts, October 5, 2001
- (b) South Carolina – all state courts, May 5, 2004
- (c) South Carolina Federal District Courts -- April 7, 2008
- (d) Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals – March 27, 2008
- (e) Fifth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals – May 2, 2011
- (f) United States Supreme Court – February 22, 2011
- (g) Massachusetts – all courts, June 26, 2019

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 taught law courses at Charlotte School of Law from 2011 – 2013. I taught courses related to Civil Rights Litigation, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure.
- (b) In 2019, I gave a lecture regarding the definition of “neglect” pursuant to S.C. law at a SCDSS CLE.
- (c) I taught classes at Lander University from 2004 – 2011 in the following particulars: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Constitutional Law, Judicial Process, Society and Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Desegregation and the Law, Criminal Justice Systems, and Comparative Criminal Law Systems.

- (d) I taught a CLE family law course at the 2024 SCAJ Convention in Hilton Head Island, S.C. regarding Protecting a Client's Interests In The Event of an Appeal.
- (e) In 2021, I gave a lecture at a SCDSS CLE titled "Failed Adoptions: The Impact of *DSS v. Wiseman*."

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

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.)

Attached

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.

I have never been sued by a client. I am a named party defendant personally in a matter filed in superior court in Providence, Rhode Island in July, 2023, in which I am the beneficiary for a trust that is being contested by a previous beneficiary. The Plaintiff named me as a party defendant due to my status as beneficiary. The Plaintiff is now deceased, but has failed to answer discovery submitted on behalf of the Trustee for over a year. The matter is still pending.

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 been covered by malpractice insurance since 2012 for my private practice. I have not been covered by 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
(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
42. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details.

Yes, I have defaulted on a student loan in the past – however my loans are current, and rehabilitated as of July, 2016, and I have not missed a payment since rehabilitation for nine (9) years.

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

Yes – I ran for an at-large family court seat in 2019 in South Carolina, but withdrew my application after being found qualified by the S.C. Bar Committee.

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) Express Clothing Store (Store Manager) – 1991 – 1994 – I managed a retail clothing store in several malls in North Carolina.
- (b) Procomm Studio Services (Account Executive) – 1994-1998 – I scheduled audio sessions for radio and TV audio services for a company located in Asheville, N.C.

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.

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 to all subparts

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

N/A to all subparts

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

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: _____