



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

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying: Judge
Court: Family Court
Circuit or Position: Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Seat: 4
2. Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge (to include municipal, magistrate, etc.)?
No. If so, state the position. If part-time, please indicate.

Personal

3. Name: Mr.
Mrs.
Ms. Rebecca West

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Lexington

Business Address: 203 West Main Street, Suite B, Lexington, South Carolina 29072

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):
(office): 803-957-0889
(cell): [Redacted]

4. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1975
Place of Birth: Biloxi, Mississippi
5. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.
6. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]
Voter Registration Number: [Redacted]
7. Have you served in the military? No. If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.
8. Family Status:

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

Family Status: Married on June 1, 2018, to Matthew Timothy Page. My husband is a Package Car Driver for United Parcel Service.

Divorced on September 2, 2011, from William Britton West, Fifth Judicial Circuit Family Court, Richland County, South Carolina. The divorce was granted on the ground of continuous separation for one year. Rebecca West was the moving party.

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) Lander University, 1993-1997, Bachelor of Science
 - (b) University of Mississippi School of Law, 1997-1999, Juris Doctor (2000)
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1999-2000. I attended the University of South Carolina School of Law as a visiting student.
- 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) Phi Delta Phi law school service organization 1998.
- 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.
 - (a) I was selected to South Carolina Super Lawyers in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024 and 2025.
 - (b) I was selected to South Carolina Legal Elite in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- 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 (2000-present);
 - (b) Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2015-present);

- (c) Member, South Carolina Bar Resolution of Fee Disputes Board, Eleventh Judicial Circuit (2015-present);
- (d) South Carolina Bar Continuing Education Committee (2007-2008);
- (e) Lexington County Bar Association (Member 2012-present; President 2014);
- (f) South Carolina Association for Justice (2014-present);
- (g) American Bar Association, Family Law Section (2012-present);
- (h) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association (2012-present); and
- (i) South Carolina Bar House of Delegates (Delegate, Eleventh Judicial Circuit 2018).

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

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

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 am active on Facebook. I have a profile on Instagram, BlueSky and LinkedIn, but I am not active on these platforms. I also have a law firm website for professional marketing. If I am elected, I would limit my connections on Facebook to family members and close friends. Although I am not active on Instagram, BlueSky or LinkedIn, my connections on these platforms would remain limited to family and close friends. If elected, my firm website would be removed and the hosting agreement would be terminated.

- (a) My Facebook profile is [Redacted]
- (b) My Instagram profile is [Redacted]
- (c) My Bluesky profile is [Redacted]
- (d) My LinkedIn profile is [Redacted]
- (e) My law firm website is [Redacted]

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) Mission Lexington Board of Directors (2020-present; Finance Committee 2024-present);
- (b) Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors (2020-present; Governance Committee 2020-present);
- (c) Brookland-Cayce High School Education Foundation (2014-present); and
- (d) Ole Miss Alumni Association (2000-present).

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.

The sudden loss of my mother to injuries sustained in an automobile accident was an event that shaped my temperament and personality. When I was six years old, my father began raising my younger brother and me on his own. We were taught to be independent and to persevere. My father provided us with stability despite the devastation we all experienced. When my father remarried, we formed a new family that proved to be as loving and stable as my first family. I have never considered my mother a “step” mother, but rather my “second” mother. She raised me as her own and modeled for me an exceptional work ethic. She taught me how to have a successful career and simultaneously provide a nurturing home for my children.

Because of these experiences, I developed discipline and a desire to work hard. I learned how to be calm and resilient when faced with difficult circumstances. These qualities have served me well in my law practice and will undoubtedly be an asset to me if I am elected to serve in the judiciary.

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) David C. Shea, Esquire
Shea & Barron
[Redacted]
- (b) Brooke Chapman Evans, Esquire
Evans & Turnblad, LLC
[Redacted]
- (c) Ashby Lawton Jones, Esquire
Ashby Jones and Associates, LLC
[Redacted]
- (d) William Benito Fortino, Esquire
Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm, PA
[Redacted]
- (e) Stephanie R. Fajardo, Esquire
The Fajardo Law Firm, LLC
[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 2000.
I took the bar exam one time and I only took the bar exam in South Carolina.

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) Oswald Law Firm, LLC
West Columbia, South Carolina
November 2000-May 2004
I worked as a law clerk for this general practice firm during my final year of law school and joined the firm as an associate/employee after graduation. I represented clients in personal injury actions, workers' compensation claims, Family Court actions, Probate Court and Federal Bankruptcy Court. I was sole trial counsel in many cases in the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas, Magistrate's Courts and Family Court. I also regularly represented claimants before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this firm.

(b) Masella Law Firm, P.A.
Columbia, South Carolina
June 2004-June 2009
I was initially hired as an associate and became a partner in the firm in approximately 2008. Upon joining the firm, I immediately focused my practice on family law and transitioned away from civil litigation, workers' compensation and bankruptcy. I ended my association with the firm upon receiving an offer to practice family law in Lexington, South Carolina. I was not involved with the administrative or financial management of this firm.

(c) Law Office of Richard Breibart, LLC
Lexington, South Carolina
July 1, 2009-May 31, 2012
I practiced solely in the Family Court during my time with the firm. In addition to my family law litigation practice, I began representing clients in appeals from the Family Court. I worked with as many as three family law attorneys and three staff members during my employment with the firm. I resigned my position immediately upon learning of Mr. Breibart's criminal activities. The firm dissolved upon Mr. Breibart's suspension from the practice on June 1, 2012. I was an employee attorney

and I was never involved with the administrative or financial management of this firm.

(d) Rebecca West, Attorney at Law, P.A.
Lexington, South Carolina
Formed May 31, 2012; Dissolved April 5, 2013
I formed this entity immediately upon resigning from the Breitbart firm. I practiced for approximately one week under this firm name. I stopped practicing under this firm name upon forming my current firm, Harling & West, LLC. I was the sole administrative and financial manager of this firm and I managed and oversaw the trust account.

(e) Harling & West, LLC
Lexington, South Carolina
June 7, 2012-present
My practice is dedicated solely to family law litigation, appeals and mediation. In 2024, I began increasing my family law mediation practice and I currently mediate approximately ten cases each month. My partner is Jonathan Harling. I have always been the administrative and financial manager of our firm and I manage and oversee the family law trust account.

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.

I have practiced solely in the Family Court for more than twenty years and I have been a certified Family Court mediator for nearly twenty years. I currently appear in Family Court three to five times each month and I mediate approximately ten family law cases each month, on average. I regularly represent clients in Family Court motion hearings. In the past five years, I have served as sole trial counsel in numerous Family Court merits hearings, several of which have lasted between four and nine days. In addition to my family law litigation and mediation practice, I regularly serve alongside trial counsel to handle post-trial proceedings and/or appeals taken from the Family Court. Since beginning my career, I maintain at least one pro bono client at all times.

I have represented clients in divorce actions that involve fault-based grounds and no-fault grounds. Divorce and/or separate maintenance are typically alleged in cases I handle. I have proven and defended allegations of adultery, habitual drunkenness and physical cruelty.

The majority of cases I handle involve equitable division. I have litigated and mediated cases involving marital estates with a wide range of size and complexity. Most of my litigation clients have average to high average net worth, but I have also represented clients and mediated matters for individuals with modest or low net worth. I have extensive experience identifying, valuing and allocating retirement and investment accounts, real estate and businesses. I have extensive experience working with consulting experts and trial experts such as Certified Public Accountants, Certified Valuation Analysts and real estate and personal property appraisers.

I have represented fathers, mothers, grandparents and non-relatives in contested child custody and visitation matters. My cases regularly involve a guardian ad litem and many of the cases I litigate and mediate involve therapists and psychological experts. I have represented clients in initial custody determinations and custody modification actions. I have handled routine and complex child support cases.

I have a mastery of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act and the enforcement and modification of out of state custody orders. I have successfully registered, enforced and modified orders from other states. I have served as South Carolina counsel in cases where an out-of-state resident sought dismissal of a custody action brought in our state.

My experience in abuse and neglect cases includes representing clients from the earliest stages of the Department's investigation through merits hearings on the finding of abuse or neglect. I have also represented clients in permanency planning hearings and judicial review hearings. I have intervened in Department cases on behalf of parents and non-parents, negotiated treatment plans on behalf of clients and helped clients navigate the social services system during an open case. I have represented clients before the foster care review board.

On several occasions, I have been appointed to serve as guardian ad litem in private custody cases. In that role, I conducted an investigation and reported my findings to the parties and the Family Court. I have also defended guardians ad litem in motions filed by a litigant seeking the guardian's removal and, on one occasion, I defended a guardian ad litem in a Family Court action filed by a parent.

I have been involved in several termination of parental rights matters, both in private actions and in the context of a Department of Social Services abuse and neglect case. I have limited experience in adoption cases, but I am familiar with the law in this area and I stay current on the appellate decisions related to adoption. I have not represented juvenile defendants in Family Court, though I have observed juvenile court proceedings.

(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: I have not appeared in federal court in the past five years.

(b) state: I typically appear in Family Court five times each month.

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: 0%

(b) criminal: 0%

(c) domestic: 100%

(d) other: 0%

22. During the past five years:

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

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

(c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? For the purposes of this question, resolved includes settlement, plea, judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.

- (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?
- (e) Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, second chair, or co-counsel?
- (f) For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, during the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

In the past five years, approximately 75% of my practice has been in trial court. Approximately six of my cases went to a trial resulting in a verdict. This is an unusually low number due to the Covid-19 court closures. None of the cases I tried resolved after the plaintiff rested. I do not practice before a jury. I serve as sole counsel in nearly all of my cases.

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) McComb v. Conard, 394 S.C.416, 715 S.E.2d 662 (Ct.App. 2011)
I was sole trial counsel for an un-wed mother who sought to relocate to Florida with her child over the father's objection. Both parents were college students when they had their daughter. They shared in parenting their child, but they chose not to marry. Father eventually moved to Charlotte for work but maintained a home in Columbia. Neither party filed for custody until Mother indicated that she wanted to move to Florida upon graduation from the University of South Carolina. Mother prevailed at trial and was permitted to relocate to Florida with the child. The South Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the Family Court's award of joint custody and permission for my client to relocate with the child. This was one of the first cases where the appellate court applied the Latimer relocation factors to an initial custody determination. Father benefitted from a trust valued in excess of \$1,000,000.00. This case was significant for me for several reasons. The parties had a substantial income disparity and I had to build the case using only my client's modest resources. This case involved a psychological expert, extensive discovery, an experienced opposing attorney and a multi-day trial.

(b) Sanderson v. Sanderson
391 S.C. 249, 705 S.E.2d 65 (Ct.App. 2010)
I was appellate counsel for Mr. Sanderson. I was not involved in the trial of the underlying case. Mr. Sanderson lost his job during the divorce litigation due to a company-wide reduction-in-force. The trial court imputed substantial income to Mr. Sanderson and set alimony and child support based on the imputed wage. I successfully challenged the amount of the imputed wage. The South Carolina Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case to the Family Court. I continued my representation of Mr. Sanderson on remand and I was successful in reducing the annual income imputed to my client from \$64,000.00 to \$15,072.00. I did not have the advantage of having tried the divorce case and several issues had not been preserved for appeal by trial counsel. This case was significant because, despite the significant limitations of the record, I was able to obtain substantial financial relief for my client.

(c) Lexington County Case

I represented Wife in a highly contested divorce that involved a fault ground of divorce, an initial custody determination, my client's request to relocate with the child to her home state of California and the marital/nonmarital character of certain assets and debt. I was sole trial counsel for Wife. Discovery was extensive and I took more than twelve depositions of lay and expert witnesses. A guardian ad litem conducted an extensive investigation. After a four-day trial where seventeen witnesses testified, three of whom were experts, I succeeded in achieving my client's goal of obtaining sole custody and relocating to California where her extended family lived. I also prevailed on the property issues and my client received a substantial fee award. I successfully defended Husband's motion for reconsideration. This case is significant because of the volume of discovery involved and the wide range of issues I successfully litigated on behalf of my client.

(d) Richland County Case

I represented Husband in a divorce action. This was a second marriage for both parties and each of them owned substantial assets prior to marrying one another. My client had the burden of proving the nonmarital character of assets he owned. Six years prior to marrying Wife, my client's company merged with a national company. In consideration for his interest in the merged company, my client received stock in the surviving company and agreed to work for the surviving company as a salaried shareholder/employee. Ten years into the marriage the company exercised the first of two calls of my client's shares. The company paid my client a substantial lump sum and signed a note to pay him the balance of the purchase price, plus interest, in annual installments. My client eventually invested the majority of these proceeds in several accounts. This case settled in mediation and my client retained all of his investment accounts, along with a supplemental retirement plan he received in consideration for a noncompetition agreement and his interest in a commercial property acquired just before the parties married. Without assistance from a consulting expert, I waded through thousands of pages of company documents, contracts, business records, bank records and tax records to track my client's shares and sale proceeds from the merger through to the investment account where he ultimately deposited the money. My attention to detail and ability to clearly explain a series of complex transactions convinced opposing counsel of the strength of my client's position and resulted in my client retaining over two million dollars of his nonmarital assets. The case tested my knowledge of the law, my ability to synthesize a large volume of information and my ability to persuade opposing counsel of the strength of my client's position.

(e) Newberry County Case

In this custody modification action, Mother sought sole custody of her two young daughters. The parties vigorously litigated for more than two years before I was retained by Mother. When Mother's first attorney encountered personal obligations that would conflict with trial, we worked together to maintain continuity for the client while I got up to speed and the first attorney transitioned out of the case. In just eight months, I prepared my client's case for a nine-day trial involving serious allegations

that Father behaved inappropriately around the children and allegations that Mother alienated the children from Father. Father was represented by two attorneys throughout the litigation and at trial. I prepared for trial and tried the case by myself. The court-appointed evaluator opined that Mother engaged in alienating behavior and that the children's relationship with Father was at risk as a result. I worked with a consulting expert to learn the weaknesses of the evaluator's methodology. I developed and successfully executed a strategy to discredit the evaluator at trial. The trial court awarded my client sole custody of the children. As sole trial counsel, I presented a case-in-chief of four lay witnesses, three expert witnesses and the guardian ad litem. I cross-examined six lay witnesses, seven expert witnesses and the guardian ad litem. This case is significant because it afforded me an opportunity to learn more about forensic assessment methods and work with and against experts in the field of child custody evaluations. The case was also a physical and mental marathon because of the length of the trial, the gravity of the issues presented and the intensity of my trial preparation.

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) Bristol v. Lipnevicius, 444 S.C. 373, 906 S.E.2d 618 (Ct.App.2024)
 - (b) Carter v. Carter, 443 S.C. 585, 905 S.E.2d 405 (Ct.App.2024)
 - (c) Gandy v. Gandy, 422 S.C. 340, 898 S.E.2d 208 (Ct.App.2024)
see also Gandy v. Gandy, Op. No. 28239 (S.C.Sup.Ct. filed November 6, 2024)
(Howard Adv.Sh. No. 43 at 10)
 - (d) Montgomery v. Montgomery, Op. No. 2019-MO-027 (S.C.Sup.Ct. filed May 29, 2019)
 - (e) Sanderson v. Sanderson, 391 S.C. 249, 705 S.E. 2d 65 (Ct.App. 2010)
25. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
26. Have you ever held judicial office? No. 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.
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)
 - (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) South Carolina, November 13, 2000
- (b) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, 2000
- (c) United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, March 17, 2022
- (d) Supreme Court of the United States, December 16, 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 collaborated with a Certified Public Accountant to write the materials and present the October 28, 2023, South Carolina Bar CLE program Family Law Intensive: Assets and Alimony and the April 22, 2022, All About Alimony: An Intensive Workshop. In these programs, we discussed how income-generating assets can impact alimony and we offered advice for how to identify these issues in practice.
- (b) On January 29, 2021, I wrote the materials and presented the case law update for the South Carolina Bar CLE program In the Best Interest of the Child: 2021 Annual Guardian ad Litem Training and Update.
- (c) On December 6, 2019, December 4, 2020, and December 1, 2023, I wrote materials and presented at Advanced Family Law Topics for the Bench and Bar, a South Carolina Bar CLE program. In 2019, I taught about forensic evaluations often used in family law litigation such as parenting evaluations, custody evaluations and psychological evaluations. In 2020, I taught special equity, a concept many practitioners misunderstand and find confusing. In 2023, I offered guidance on how to write an effective order.
- (d) On June 27, 2014, June 26, 2015, and August 11, 2017, I wrote materials and presented on trial preparation for Family Law Essentials, a South Carolina Bar CLE program.
- (e) I wrote materials and presented on the topic of grandparent visitation at the September 16, 2011, South Carolina Bar CLE Hot Tips for the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners.

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

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

- (a) CLE materials I prepared in 2014 were used in Chapter 13 of Family Law Essentials: A Primer for Private Practice Before the Family Court in South Carolina (South Carolina Bar CLE Division 2018); and
- (b) In 1997, the University of Texas at Austin published my senior thesis titled The South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission: Legal and Historical Analysis.

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.)

(a) I am the sole author of Writing Sample (1) Final Brief of Appellant; and
(b) I am the sole author of Writing Sample (2) Motion to Alter or Amend Final Order

33. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No. 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.

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? No. If yes, explain.

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

(a) Rebecca West and William West v. Flooring by Cogdill
2006 CP 40 1591
This was a subrogation claim my former husband and I filed against a company that installed carpet at our home. The installation contractor was negligent and started a fire that damaged our home. My homeowners' insurance carrier pursued the subrogation claim on our behalf and the case settled at mediation. The Defendant

paid us \$8,000.00 in damages and the case was dismissed on April 2, 2007. The Defendant did not file a counterclaim.

(b) Stella K. Black v. Harold Whitney Black, Whit-Ash Furnishings, Inc., Jim Edwards, Amanda Phillips, Rebecca West, The Masella Law Firm, Spector Soft Corporation

2007 CP 40 2204

During ongoing Family Court litigation, Mrs. Black filed a civil action against her estranged husband, his business, his private investigator, his employees, me, my law firm and a computer software corporation. I was one of three lawyers representing Mr. Black in the divorce action. Mr. Black ultimately settled the civil action with Mrs. Black and the case was dismissed on June 19, 2008. None of the other defendants, including me and my firm, contributed to the settlement and Mr. Black never sought contribution from me or the other defendants.

(c) Rebecca West v. Todd Morehead, Columbia City Paper, LLC and Paul Blake

2008 CP 40 0074

396 S.C.1, 720 S.E.2d 495 (Ct.App.2011)

I filed this case against a writer, newspaper and publisher who defamed me. I was the Respondent on appeal. Mr. Morehead wrote, and Columbia City Paper published, an article claiming I acted unethically in the Stella Black v. Harold Whitney Black divorce case, referenced in subsection (b) above. A Richland County jury determined that Todd Morehead, Columbia City Paper, LLC and publisher/owner Paul Blake defamed me. The jury awarded me actual and punitive damages and the Defendants appealed. The South Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the award of actual damages, but reversed the award of punitive damages. Both parties petitioned the South Carolina Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari which was granted on March 5, 2013. The matter settled immediately after certiorari was granted and the Defendants paid me damages of \$30,000.00. The case was disposed of on June 15, 2009. None of the defendants filed a counterclaim against me.

(d) Harriet A. Craig v. Law Office—Richard J. Breibart, LLC, Richard Breibart and Rebecca West

2012 CP 32 3679

Ms. Craig was a client of the Law Office of Richard Breibart. Ms. Craig was the victim of Mr. Breibart's scheme to defraud clients and steal their money. On August 12, 2013, Richard Breibart pleaded guilty in the United States District Court of mail fraud related to his theft of Ms. Craig's money. On March 5, 2014, the United States District Court imposed the maximum sentence of 63 months imprisonment and ordered him to pay \$2.4M in restitution. In this lawsuit, Ms. Craig alleged that I was negligent in my failure to discover Breibart's fraud. After a four-day trial, the jury found in my favor. No post-trial motions were filed and the Plaintiff did not appeal.

(e) Samuel M. Corley, as Trustee of the Martin L. Corley Marital Trust v. Rebecca B. West

2015 CP 32 0618

Mr. Corley, in his capacity as trustee of a marital trust, was a client of the Law Office of Richard Breitbart. Mr. Corley was a victim of Mr. Breitbart's scheme to defraud clients and steal their money. I was not involved in Mr. Corley's case. I did not know Mr. Corley. I did not do any legal work on behalf of Mr. Corley and I did not work on his case in any capacity. Mr. Corley alleged that I committed legal malpractice and breached a fiduciary duty to him in my failure to discover Mr. Breitbart's fraud. On August 5, 2016, the Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the case against me, with prejudice, pursuant to Rule 41(a), S.C.R.C.P. I did not pay any money to the Plaintiff, I did not commit malpractice and I did not breach any duty to Mr. Corley.

(f) Rebecca B. West v. Torus Specialty Insurance Company, First Indemnity Insurance Group, and John Doe Insurance Company

2017 DR 32 1223

I filed this claim against my professional malpractice carrier and the policy producer for breach of contract and bad faith in their denial of coverage in the Corley matter referenced in subsection (e) above. This bad faith claim was dismissed on February 9, 2018. Torus paid me \$20,000.00 and First Indemnity paid me \$5,000.00 in satisfaction of my claims.

(g) William Britton West (Defendant/Petitioner) v. Rebecca Brown West (Plaintiff/Respondent)

2011 DR 40 1969

My former husband filed a pro se contempt petition alleging various violations of our Marital Settlement Agreement related to his contact with our children. This contempt action was dismissed with prejudice on August 3, 2016.

(h) Rebecca West (Plaintiff/Petitioner) v. William Britton West (Defendant/Respondent)

2011 DR 40 1969

I filed this contempt action against my former husband on May 24, 2018, seeking enforcement of his child support obligation and his obligation to contribute to our children's uncovered medical expenses. The Family Court held my former husband in contempt and sentenced him to ninety days in jail which could be purged by his payment of \$2,620.37. The Family Court also added \$1,500.00 to my former husband's child support arrearage and required him to pay my attorney fees and costs of \$1,959.80. The order in this enforcement action was issued on August 22, 2018.

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 continuously since I was licensed in 2000. I have an extended reporting period endorsement dated June 26, 2012, related to the policy in effect when I worked for the Law Office of Richard Breibart.

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? No. 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? No. If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No. If so, give the details.

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.
(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.
(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.

I filed state and federal income tax returns for tax years 2019 through 2023. I regularly request an extension to file state and federal income tax returns and, on March 25, 2025, my husband and I filed for an extension to file our 2024 federal and state income tax returns. Our 2024 returns will be filed on or before October 15, 2025, when the extension expires. We owed no money with our 2024 extension requests and I am current on all state and federal estimated income tax payments.

I filed state and federal business tax returns for tax years 2019 through 2023. My businesses regularly request an extension to file state and federal tax returns and on March 11, 2025, my firm, Harling & West, LLC, and my s-corporation, West Main Family Law, LLC, filed for an extension of 2024 federal and state business tax returns. The 2024 returns will be filed on or before September 15, 2025, when the extension expires. Neither business owed money with the 2024 extension requests.

No business with which I am associated has ever been delinquent paying any federal, state or local tax.

I have never been the subject of any tax lien, nor have I been the target of any collection action.

42. Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? No. If so, please provide details.
43. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No. If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults.

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 was a candidate for Family Court Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 in the Spring of 2014. I was found qualified and nominated. I withdrew from the race on May 15, 2014. I was a candidate for Family Court Judge, At-large, Seat 2 in the Fall of 2019. I was found qualified and nominated. I withdrew from the race on January 28, 2020.

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? No. 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.
47. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Yes. Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
 - (a) Harling & West, LLC
Jonathan Harling and I formed this law firm in June 2012. I own 50% of the firm. I am the managing partner.
 - (b) West Main Family Law, LLC

I formed this S-corporation on January 2, 2015, for payroll, tax, health insurance and retirement investment purposes. I am the sole member. I do not practice law from this entity.

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)? No. If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
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? No. If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal involved.
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) On July 29, 2025, I spent \$.74 and on August 13, 2025, I spent \$2.22 for postage to mail documents required for the judicial application.
 - (b) On August 12, 2025, I spent \$28.33 for nametags.
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.
 - (a) Micajah Caskey, IV
\$1,000 on September 15, 2023
 - (b) Russell Ott
\$500 on April 30, 2024; \$500 on December 17, 2024; \$250 on June 19, 2025
 - (c) Chris Wooten
\$100 on October 19, 2022; \$1,000 on October 1, 2024
 - (d) Cal Forrest, Jr.
\$750 on May 8, 2024
52. Have you or anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No. If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

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 do not have, nor have I had in the past, a financial arrangement or business relationship that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position I seek to hold.

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.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not applicable.

55. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not applicable.

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? No. 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? No. If so, give details.

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? No. 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.

I have not asked anyone to campaign on my behalf. I know of no one who has campaigned for me on his or her own initiative. I have introduced myself to members and informed several members that I intended to run for this judicial seat.

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? No. If so, give details.

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 19th day of August 2025.

(Notary Signature)

(Notary Printed Name) Donna W. Gordon
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: May 30, 2027