



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

1. Judicial placement for which you are applying:

Court: Family Court
Circuit or Position: Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
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.

I currently serve as a part-time Beaufort County Magistrate Judge.

Personal

3. Name: The Hon. Larry Wayne Weidner, II

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Beaufort

Business Address: 6 Professional Village Circle, Beaufort, South Carolina 29907

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (office): (843) 521-0004
(cell): [Redacted]

4. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1963
Place of Birth: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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.

I served in the United States Marine Corps on active duty from 3 October 1988 until 30 November 1996 and attained the rank of Major. DD-214 attached.

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 17 December 1988 to Pamela Kelli (Pastore) Weidner, Director of Project Development for Bear Steele Global, Ltd. Co. / Paralegal at Weidner & Harper, LLC. Never divorced, two children.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

9. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

- (a) Dartmouth College, 1981 – 1985 Arts Bachelor in Economics modified with Government
- (b) Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain, Fall 1982 Language Study Abroad Term
- (c) University of Pennsylvania School of Law, 1985 – 1988 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) Wharton Rugby Football Club 1985 – 1988 (Vice-President 1986 – 1987, Captain and Coach, 1987 – 1988 season)
- (b) Penn Law Rugby Club (founding member) 1986 – 1988
- (c) Selected for Externship with Philadelphia District Attorney's Office – Fall 1987
- (d) Summer Law Clerk at Davis, Collingsworth and Weidner, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – June 1986 – August 1986
- (e) Summer Law Clerk at Jackson, Walker, Winstead, Cantwell & Miller, Dallas, Texas – May 1987 – August 1987

11. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I am not aware that I am currently a member of any rating organization. An internet search reveals the following: Martindale Hubble, Distinguished; Lawyers.com, 4.5. I believe that within the last five years, I was a member of Avvo and an internet search reveals an Avvo rating of 8.6. I do not believe I have a current membership/account with Avvo. I have no recollection of ever requesting a rating and do not know how these ratings were actually assigned.

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 Summary Court Judges' Association
- (b) South Carolina State Bar Association
- (c) Pennsylvania State Bar Association
- (d) Hilton Head Island Bar Association
- (e) Dartmouth Lawyer's Association
- (f) National Native American Bar Association
- (g) Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association
- (h) Aircraft Owners and Pilots Panel Attorney
- (i) Veteran's Administration Accredited Attorney
- (j) Federal Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney

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.

- (a) LinkedIn: [Redacted]
- (b) Facebook: [Redacted]
- (c) Nextdoor: [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?

It would not affect my use of social media. I currently use LinkedIn for professional networking purposes. My Facebook page is private and I use it principally to keep in touch with old friends and family members. I use Nextdoor to keep abreast of news in my neighborhood.

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) Disabled American Veterans (DAV) – Life Member
- (b) Association of Former Intelligence Officers
- (c) Alpha Delta Fraternity (Board Member)
- (d) Muscogee Creek Nation – Citizen
- (e) Lady's Island Professional Village Association – Board Member (Former)
- (f) Dartmouth College – Alumni Admissions Interviewer for South Carolina, 25 years
- (g) Beaufort Chamber of Commerce – Business member
- (h) Bluffton Chamber of Commerce – Business member

15. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

Growing up working on the farm with my grandfather instilled a healthy work ethic. Likewise, I believe that my training and experiences as a United States Marine Corps Officer will benefit me greatly. The Marine Corps instills discipline and attention to detail, demanding meticulous prior preparation and standardization in all matters. Additionally, the training in courtroom advocacy as a Marine Corps Judge Advocate was first rate. I believe that having been an active-duty Marine will provide me with unique insight into the struggles military families face and the conflicts which arise between military regulations and orders and Family Court rules and laws.

Serving on the Board of the Child Abuse Prevention Association provided me with a view into and better understanding of the issues presented in child abuse and neglect cases which I think will help me better navigate these types of cases. I have seen first-hand the confusion, fear and disorientation in a child's eyes when they have been taken into emergency protective custody. I have worked to better the care extended to abused and neglected children and I have worked to better the processes and systems in place to protect these children. This experience has taught me to better understand and see circumstances from the child's perspective which I think will be invaluable in making decisions as a Family Court Judge.

As a Native American, I have experienced first-hand the challenges of being part of a minority. This perspective will enable me to more deeply understand the concerns of underrepresented individuals who come before me if I am elected. It will also make me more attuned to the often unspoken apprehensions and sentiments they may carry with them into the courtroom.

Serving as a County Magistrate Judge has been an educational experience. After thirty-six (36) years practicing as an advocate and mediator, I have enjoyed the intellectual challenge of sitting on the Bench. The perspective is entirely different from that of an advocate. Concerns with protecting due process, civility and fairness take the forefront and drive the

decision matrix. I believe this prior judicial experience will assist me greatly if I am elected to the Family Court Bench.

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) The Hon. Jane D. Fender (retired), [Redacted]
 - (b) Mary Fran Quindlen, Esq., [Redacted]
 - (c) R. Nicholas Felix, Esq., [Redacted]
 - (d) Peter B. Scully, Esq., [Redacted]
 - (e) Stephen Meyer, 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.

Pennsylvania	Admitted 1988	Took the Bar Exam once
South Carolina	Admitted 1996	Took the Bar Exam once

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.

August – October 1989: Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island. Attended for certification as a Judge Advocate, intensive course of instruction in civil and military law and intensive trial advocacy training, to include National Institute for Trial Advocacy training (NITA) in preparation for certification as a trial (prosecutor) or defense counsel.

October 1989 – March 1990: Legal Assistance Officer, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. Provided general legal services (divorce, landlord-tenant, debtor-creditor, contracts, wills and estates, tax) to active-duty and retired service members and their dependents.

March 1990: Army Judge Advocate General's School, Charlottesville, Virginia. Law of War Course. Training in the Law of Armed Conflict.

August 1990: Advanced Trial Advocacy Course, Hastings College of Law, San Francisco, California. Advanced course in trial advocacy.

1990: Exact date unknown: Regional Defense Bar, Western Region, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy Course.

March 1990 – March 1991: Military Defense Counsel. Represented Marines and Sailors in Courts-Martials, both General and Special as well as in Administrative Discharge Boards and provided advice to Marines and Sailors facing Non-Judicial Punishment.

March 1992 – September 1992: Military Justice Officer/Senior Trial Counsel: Senior Prosecutor for Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area and the Third Marine Aircraft Wing. Prepared, managed and prosecuted all criminal cases for Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. Responsible for case management and oversight of trials conducted at three other Marine Corps Air Bases. Advised commanders on all aspects of military criminal law. Responsible for the Marines, Office and Enlisted, assigned to the Trial Office.

October 1992 – January 1994 and June 1994 – September 1995: Senior Defense Counsel, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, Beaufort Naval Hospital and all members of the recruiting service in the Eastern United States. Defended service members at both felony and misdemeanor jury and bench trials to include murder, rape, drug trafficking, larceny, child and spousal abuse. Managed and trained six attorneys and support staff. Performed all phases of trial practice (probable cause hearings, discovery, pre-trial negotiations, plea agreements, motions practice, jury selection, trial on the merits, sentencing, and post-trial appeals). Represented service members at administrative law hearings. Area of responsibility for both criminal trials and administrative law hearings included Parris Island, Beaufort Naval Hospital, and all members of the recruiting service in the Eastern United States. Also provided defense services to Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort.

1993 – Exact date unknown: Regional Defense Bar, Eastern Region, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy Course.

January 1994 – June 1994: Senior Legal Assistance Officer, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, Beaufort Naval Hospital. Managed and supervised two attorneys and four support staff. Provided general legal services to active-duty and retired service members and their dependents. Areas of practice included: wills and estates, landlord-tenant, collection practice, consumer protections, tax and family law. Counseled and prepared service-members for appearance in State Magistrate and Family Courts.

1995 – Exact date unknown: National College of District Attorneys, Evidence of Violent Crime Course.

October 1995 – December 1996: Special Assistant US Attorney/Review Officer/Article 32 Investigating Officer. Designated by United States Marine Corps and Department of

Justice as Special Prosecutor. Responsible for prosecuting all civilian criminal offenders within local federal jurisdiction under the auspices of the United States Attorney's Office in federal courts. Review all courts-martial and non-judicial punishments for legal and factual sufficiency. As quasi-judicial Preliminary Hearing officer, investigated offenses committed by military service members and recommended form of charges and level of courts-martial for military offenses committed aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, the Eastern Recruiting Region and the Beaufort Naval Hospital.

December 1996 – July 1997: Solo Practitioner in a law firm focusing on Family Law, Criminal Law and Military Courts-Martials.

July 1997 – Present: In private practice and partner in a law firm. The name of the Firm has changed slightly over time, but I have been practicing in the same practice, and until he recently became the Beaufort County Master in Equity, with the same law partner, since I left active duty with the United States Marine Corps. Through the years, the name of the firm has changed chronologically as follows: Law Office of Larry Weidner, LLC; Weidner & Wegmann, LLC; Mikell, Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC; Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC; and most recently Weidner & Harper, LLC. My practice has always been heavily focused on Family Law, and has included criminal defense, both State and Federal, defense in Military Courts-Martials, defense in Administrative Discharge Boards and defense in Federal Aviation Administration Enforcement Actions. Over time my practice has narrowed to primarily focus on Family Law and to a lesser extent Federal Criminal Defense. Through the years as a private practitioner, I have managed employment issues, managed the physical structure of the firm, fulfilled office management duties, managed IOLTA accounts, operating, trust and escrow accounts, reconciliation of those accounts, handled payroll, accounts receivables and payables, addressed building issues, ordered office supplies, purchased office equipment, effectuated wire transfers, etc.; all of the tasks attendant to operating a law firm.

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 would estimate that on average approximately 80% of my time for my 28-year career as a private practitioner has been spent representing clients in divorce/separate maintenance, equitable division of property, child custody and related matters in Family Court. I have represented clients in contested litigation in practically every aspect of family law. I have litigated and mediated nearly every facet of equitable division, including identity and divisibility of assets, the marital versus non-marital character of assets, and the divisible value and manner of division of assets. I have litigated and mediated child custody and alimony cases for the entirety of my career as well. Finally, I have served in many cases over the years as a Guardian ad Litem for children enmeshed in Family Court litigation.

Earlier in my career, I represented clients in adoptions. Most of those adoptions were stepparent adoptions, most often involving military families. I have not represented any client in an adoption case in the past five years, but I am familiar with the processes and procedures.

Likewise, earlier in my career, I handled abuse and neglect as well as juvenile justice cases, most to which I was appointed or when I agreed to handle appointments for colleagues. Since the adoption of the contract appointment process, I have handled few abuse and neglect or juvenile justice cases, though I have had them occasionally on my private docket. I have also handled school disciplinary hearings. There is significant overlap between these areas and that portion of my practice which is concerned with criminal defense, and I believe I have a good working understanding of the mental health and educational processes and the challenges that impact children in a given matter.

I believe my experience in working with clients, opposing counsel, guardians, mental health professionals, business professionals, serving as a guardian and my extensive trial experience and my overall experience as a practicing lawyer provide me with the background and training to sit as a judge in Family Court. I believe I possess the ability to be an attentive listener, to make fair and reasonable inquiries, to research, when necessary, to assess credibility, to understand medical and mental health testimony and reports, to understand financial documents and reports, to understand educational documents and to follow the law in any particular case.

I have been a Certified Family Court Mediator since 2007 and in the past five years I have mediated over 100 family law cases. Those cases have included complex custody, visitation, alimony and equitable division issues.

Over the past five years, I have averaged approximately 30 appearances per year in Family Court. These proceedings have included a broad spectrum of matters, ranging from brief, uncontested hearings, such as those for the approval of settlement agreements, to complex, multi-day contested trials.

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

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: Approximately 12 times per year.
(b) state: Approximately 30 appearances per year.

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: 5%
(b) criminal: 15%
(c) domestic: 80%
(d) other: nominal

22. During the past five years:

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

95%

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

8. This number includes complete trials and does not include contested hearings such as Rules to Show Cause or Sentencing Hearings and does not include cases over which I have presided as a Judge.

- (b) 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.

None

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

None

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

Sole Counsel

- (f) For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, during the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

95%

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) Digiovanna v. Digiovanna. This case spanned a total of 11 ½ years and required representation in Magistrate's Court, Family Court and in the Master-in-Equity's Court. The Parties were living together when my client received a personal injury settlement of over \$500,000.00. The Husband, then boyfriend, took control of the money and began filtering it through various accounts and purchasing property. The Parties married, had a child together (my client had one child from a prior marriage) and then on Valentine's Day 2013, the Husband restrained my client and held a gun to her head in front of their children for which he was later convicted. The case involved child custody, visitation, forensic custodial evaluations, spousal and child support, complex financial analysis and forensic accounting because of the Husband's attempts to conceal assets through up to 20 different bank and investment accounts. There were multiple attempts at mediation. Because the Husband had purchased

properties premarital from accounts in his name only, with my client's money, he claimed the properties were his separate property. I judged it strategically in my client's favor to bifurcate the case, settling the matters which could be settled in Family Court and pursuing recovery of my client's interest in the alleged premarital properties in Circuit Court under a constructive trust theory. The case settled favorably for my client after a very contentious four-day trial involving voluminous documents and acrimonious testimony. The case was significant because it required me to research deeply into the rules for the various courts and procedures and strategize how the rules and procedures could be woven together to obtain a favorable outcome. Likewise, it required me to develop a deeper understanding of forensic accounting and psychology, discovery rules and enforcement of those rules, analysis and management of a vast amount of documentary evidence and management of a case over a term of years which drew upon nearly the full breadth of my prior training and experience.

- (b) Perkins v. Huntshorse-May. Op. No. 2019-UP193 S.C. Ct. App. May 29, 2019. This case involved application of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act in the Family Court. My client was an active-duty Marine stationed aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, South Carolina when the Family Court issued a Rule to Show Cause requiring the Marine's attendance at a hearing scheduled for 15 December 2016 in Beaufort, South Carolina. My client was served on 5 December 2016 and contacted me for assistance as her duties with the Wounded Warrior Battalion – West would not permit her to travel to Beaufort on the date required. I explained to her the proper procedure for requesting a stay, which she followed. The Court nevertheless denied the stay and I immediately filed a Return seeking to have the action dismissed. That relief was also denied and my client was held in contempt and sentenced inter alia to a fine and confinement for 365 days. On appeal, the Family Court order was reversed and vacated. This case is significant because it made clear to me again how important it is for our Courts to understand the interplay between the Federal and State laws as they affect our servicemembers, especially areas where there is a large military presence.
- (c) Smith v. Jurjans. This case originally began in 2006 as a divorce case which included allegations of physical abuse. At the time, the parties had one child, not yet two years-old and the mother and child had been residing near her parents. Sadly, shortly after the litigation commenced, the mother passed away and the case was dismissed. Two years would pass, and the child resided with his Maternal Grandparents the entire time. Then in the Spring of 2008, the father began demanding custody of the child. I was retained by the Maternal Grandparents to seek to obtain custody of the child whom they had raised up to that point. The stakes were high as the child had special needs and the father was not at all versed in the child's needs nor was he positioned to care for a young child with special needs. Fortunately, in the Spring of 2008, the Supreme Court issued an opinion in Marquez v. Caudill, 376 S.C. 229, 656 S.E.2d 737 (2008) which stood for the proposition that the presumption that the best interests of a child is to be in the custody of its biological parent could be challenged and elaborated on the concept of a psychological parent. I agreed to pursue this case in light of the

Supreme Court's decision. Ultimately, after intense litigation involving complex psychological evaluations and medical evidence, the matter was settled and the child remained with his Maternal Grandparents. The case was significant because it forced me to improve my understanding of psychological and medical evidence, particularly as it relates to the best interests of a child, and it allowed me to pursue an emerging theory of custody law.

(d) Ekonomakis v. McPherson. I was appointed as the Guardian ad Litem for a little boy whose parents were divorcing. Both parents were United States Marine Officers and both parents had received permanent change of station orders. The mother had been ordered to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California and the father had been ordered to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. The case was difficult because both parents were loving, stable and enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the child. Ultimately, the Court ordered the child into the custody of his father. The case is significant because I believe the outcome was heavily influenced early on by a lack of understanding on the part of counsel of the delicate and sometimes confusing conflict between the Marine Corps' rules and regulations and the Family Court rules and laws. This case highlighted for me just how difficult the decisions of a Family Court Judge can be.

(e) Barker v. Barker. This case involved a divorce between a United States Marine and his civilian wife. At issue was the correct methodology for dividing disposable military retired pay under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Act. I had been in a long-running discussion and debate with a close colleague for years about this very technical matter of law. We had taught continuing legal education courses on the topic and enjoyed a friendly disagreement. My colleague was called as an expert in the case and our repartee was highly technical, intriguing and challenging. The issue was resolved favorably for my client and that year the National Defense Authorization Act and the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations were modified to codify the division algorithm.

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) Perkins v. Huntshorse-May. Op. No. 2019-UP193 S.C. Ct. App. May 29, 2019. Handled in collaboration with Co-Counsel who was familiar with the Appellate Rules and Procedures and I handled the technical legal issues presented by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

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.

None

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.

I was appointed and took the Bench as a Beaufort County Magistrate Judge on 7 May 2025.

The Jurisdictional limitations for a South Carolina County Magistrate generally are:

Civil: In cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$7,500.00.

Criminal: A fine not exceeding \$500.00, imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.

Magistrates also issue arrest and search warrants, set bail (with exceptions) and conduct preliminary hearings.

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.

As I have been on the Bench only a short time, I have not issued any particularly significant orders or opinions.

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) Pennsylvania State Courts – 15 December 1988

(b) United States District Court, Eastern District Pennsylvania – 8 August 1989

(c) Military General and Special Courts-Martial Courts – 13 October 1989

(d) Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces – 13 October 1989

(e) South Carolina State Courts – 4 June 1996

(f) United States Supreme Court – 13 September 1996

(g) United States District Court, South Carolina – 11 February 1997

(h) Veterans Administration Accredited Attorney – 9 June 2023

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) From 1998 – 2007: Adjunct Professor of Aviation Law, Airline Labor Relations, Aviation Regulation and Business Law for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

(b) 4 December 2014: Continuing Legal Education for the South Carolina Bar: “Military Pension Division.”

- (c) Exact dates unknown: Legal Assistance and Family Law Courses for active-duty Marine Judge Advocates as East Coast Reserve Liaison to the Deputy Judge Advocate for Legal Assistance for the United States Marine Corps.
 - (d) Exact date unknown: Continuing Legal Education for the Beaufort County Bar on Mediation.
 - (e) February 2022, Exact date unknown: Presentation on mediation to the Sea Island Rotary Club.
 - (f) Spring 2002: Instructor of required legal topics at the Port Royal Reserve Police Officer's Academy.
 - (g) Exact dates unknown: Instructor in the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Advanced Trial Advocacy Courses while on active-duty with the United States Marine Corps.
30. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- Report provided.
31. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- None.
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) Decree of Divorce, 15-DR-07-493 filed 23 February 2017.
 - (b) Decree of Divorce, 16-DR-07-1375 filed 27 July 2018.
- For each of these documents, I received instructions from the judge to draft the orders with findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting legal precedent and I wrote these orders according to the judge's instructions.
- Copies provided.
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.

I have never held public office other than judicial office.

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 was the Defendant in the case of South Carolina Department of Transportation v. Larry W. Weidner, et al., 2001-CP-07-01461. This was a condemnation action when the State took a portion of my property by eminent domain in order to widen a road. The case was settled by payment of eminent domain funds by the State on 15 September 2003.

My name is listed in the county records as a Plaintiff in the case of William Schwartz, et al. v. Circle Supply, et al., 2002-CP-07-01071. I have no knowledge of this case and to my recollection I never filed nor was I ever served with any pleadings. The disposition is listed as withdrawn or settled by the parties on 23 June 2004.

I am listed in the county records as the Plaintiff in three cases, 2007-CP-07-02425, 02426, and 02427. These cases reflect the entry of Transcripts of Judgment. I have no recollection of these cases and I believe they most likely are the result of an entry of judgment for attorney's fees in favor of my law firm as a result of my representation of a client in a Family Court matter. All three were entered and ended on 28 August 2007.

I was the Plaintiff in the case of Larry W. Weidner, II v. Don Aldrich, 2008-CV-07-1041078. This case was filed as a result of personal injuries I sustained in a vehicle collision as a fault of Mr. Aldrich. The case was settled on 1 October 2008.

I am incorrectly listed in the county records as a Defendant in the case of Selena Barksdale v. MEI, LLC, et al., 2009-CP-07-02950 which was a foreclosure action. This was a case stemming from a divorce wherein I represented the Wife. The Husband and his business were being sued. As I recall, my client was an officer in the company and was therefore named. I am correctly identified as the Defendant's Attorney in the associated transfer case which was disposed of on 7 December 2011.

I was the Plaintiff in the case of Larry W. Weidner, II v. Wade Lawrence and Christina Lawrence, 2018-CV-07-10400069. This was a Rule to Vacate in order to evict tenants for nonpayment of rent. The case was dismissed when the renters vacated on 20 February 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 carried malpractice insurance from December 1996 when I entered private practice to present. The current policy has an extended reporting period or tail that is retroactive to 31 December 2013. If I were to retire from active practice, to include being elected to the Bench, I am eligible for an unlimited or permanent extended reporting period/tail from the retroactive date forward in perpetuity and at no cost. My current policy coverage is \$1,000,000.00 with a \$5,000.00 deductible.

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.

Statement provided.

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. Extension filed for 2024. Estimated payment due \$0.

- (e) 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.

- (f) 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.

No.

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.

Weidner & Harper, LLC. March 2025 to present. Partner in a law firm.

Bear Steele Global, Ltd. Co. May 2015 to present. Member and Chief Executive Officer. Responsibilities include all aspects of managing and operating a minority Native American, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business providing engineering and construction services primarily to the Federal Government.

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

No.

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.

BES Construction, LLC. 2002 – 2005. I was a Member and Chief Executive Officer of a company providing construction related services. I was responsible for all aspects of managing and operating the business.

Phoenix Developers and Contractors, LLC. 2005 – 2015. I was a Member of a company which provided construction related services. Along with the two other members of the company, I was responsible for all aspects of managing and operating the business.

Bear Steele Global, Ltd. Co. 2015 to present. I am a Member of a minority-Native American, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business providing engineering and construction services. As the Chief Executive Officer, I am responsible for every aspect of the management and operation of the company.

47. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

I am the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Bear Steele Global, Ltd. Co. BSG is a Native American minority, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business providing engineering and construction services.

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?

Less than \$100.00 for postage and paper for printing the application.

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.

2020 – Kelly Loeffler, US Senate – \$250.00

2024 – Tom Davis, SC State Senate – \$1,000.00

Nikki Haley, US Presidential race – \$75.00

2025 – 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.

I am aware of no financial arrangements or business relationships which I have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest as a sitting Family Court Judge. Were I to perceive a potential conflict, I would recuse myself.

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or

(c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

N/A

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

None.

56. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

Broker statements provided.

57. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

No.

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

No.

59. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No.

60. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No.

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: _____