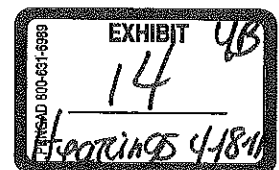


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3

1. NAME: Ms. Catherine C. Christophillis  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 920 N. Main St.  
Greenville, SC 29609  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (864) 242-2060
2. Date of Birth: 1954  
Place of Birth: Stillwater, Oklahoma
3. 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
5. Family Status: Married on May 14, 1978, to Constantine S. Christophillis, Jr. Never divorced; three children.
6. Have you served in the military? No
7. 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) St. Petersburg College, 1972-73, AA degree;
  - (b) Florida State University, 1973-75, BS degree in Government;
  - (c) University of South Carolina Law School, 1975-78, JD degree.
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina, 1978
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) At St. Petersburg College 1972-73, performed in school and community theater productions and worked at Maas Brothers Department Store and at Veterinary Hospital at Clearwater;
  - (b) At Florida State University 1973-75, performed in school theater productions, member and officer in Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and worked as student assistant in Business School;
  - (c) At USC Law School 1975-78, elected representative in student government and student liaison to the faculty, chairman of Law Day Committee, and worked as intern at 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office.



10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) Greenville County Bar - Year-End CLE	02/11/11;
(b) SCB - Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	11/22/10;
(c) CNA Risk Management - Building A Solid Foundation A General Practice Webinar	10/27/10;
(d) SCWLA - Ethics Update – 8 Easy Ways to Lose Your Bar License with E-mail	02/17/10;
(e) Greenville County Bar - Year-End CLE	02/12/10;
(f) SCB - Guardian Ad Litem Update	01/29/10;
(g) Greenville County Bar - Year-End CLE	02/13/09;
(h) SCB - Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	02/11/09;
(i) SCWLA - Attorney Ethics & Discipline	01/28/09;
(j) SCB - Tips from the Bench	02/15/08;
(k) Greenville County Bar - Year-End CLE	02/08/08;
(l) Non-Profit Corporations from A-Z	02/09/07;
(m) Greenville County Bar - Civil & Criminal Law Update	12/08/06;
(n) SCB - Family Court Bench/Bar	12/01/06.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

- (a) Taught Family Law course at Greenville Technical College;
- (b) Taught Legal Research course at Greenville Technical College;
- (c) Lectured on child abuse and neglect to South Carolina Bar seminar
- (d) Lectured on child abuse and neglect to social service workers, mental health workers, and law enforcement conferences;
- (e) Lectured on child abuse and neglect to National Association of State Legislators conference in Nashville, Tennessee;
- (f) Trained Guardian Ad Litem in Greenville, SC, for governor's Lay Guardian Program;
- (g) Instructed teachers of Greenville County School District on child abuse issues;
- (h) Trained prosecutors, legal service attorneys, law enforcement, medical personnel, social and mental health workers, drug treatment personnel, and others regarding protocol for drug-impaired infants throughout all South Carolina judicial circuits;
- (i) Lectured on insurance fraud at South Carolina Bar seminars, Association of South Carolina Claimants Attorneys for Workers' Compensation conference, and various conferences of insurance industry personnel;
- (j) Trained prosecutors, law enforcement, social service, and mental health workers and others regarding investigation and prosecution of violations

of the Omnibus Adult Protection Act throughout all South Carolina judicial circuits;

- (k) Lectured on vulnerable adult exploitation under the Omnibus Adult Protection Act to annual conference of Probate Court Judges at Fripp Island.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (South Carolina Jurisprudence (S.C. Bar CLE 1993), Contributing Author of the "Children and Families" topic of Volume 21.
13. 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 state courts, 1978;
  - (b) South Carolina federal courts, 1978;
  - (c) US Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 1981.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) Christophillis Law Offices, 1978-85 – handled primarily private cases in family court and small percentage of cases in criminal court and civil court
  - (b) Solicitor's Office of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, 1985-92 – ran child abuse and neglect case unit, which involved handling child abuse and neglect cases for SC DSS in family court and prosecuting all child abuse and neglect cases in general sessions court; started domestic violence protocol and handled domestic violence prosecutions
  - (c) Culbertson, Christophillis & Sauvain, PA, 1992-95 – handled private cases in family court exclusively
  - (d) SC Attorney General's Office, 1995-2000 – started first insurance fraud prosecutions for the state of South Carolina and handled insurance fraud prosecutions throughout South Carolina; wrote and trained prosecutors, legal service attorneys, law enforcement, medical personnel, social and mental health workers, drug treatment personnel and others regarding protocol for drug-impaired infants throughout all South Carolina judicial circuits; director of elder abuse division, prosecuted violations of the Omnibus Adult Protection Act throughout all South Carolina judicial circuits, and trained prosecutors, law enforcement, social service and mental health workers and others regarding investigation and prosecution of violations of the Omnibus Adult Protection Act throughout all South Carolina judicial circuits.
  - (e) Catherine C. Christophillis, Attorney At Law, 2000-present – handle private family court cases; serve as Guardian Ad Litem in private

custody cases; serve as Family Court Mediator; handle a very small percentage of criminal and civil cases

(f) In addition to the above, my legal experience includes the following appointments:

- (1) Chairman, State Child Fatalities Committee (1988-95);
- (2) Chief Justice appointee, South Carolina Family Court Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules Committee (1990);
- (3) Gubernatorial appointee, Joint Legislative Committee on Children, and Chairman, Subcommittee for Child Abuse and Neglect (1992-96);
- (4) Gubernatorial appointee, Governor Carroll Campbell's Property Tax Reform and Accountability Advisory Committee (1994);
- (5) Gubernatorial appointee, Maternal, Infant and Children's Committee (1990s);
- (6) General Assembly's Joint Committee for Drug-Impaired Infants (1997);
- (7) Federal Court United States Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel (2000).

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:

(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 has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

In the practice areas of divorce and equitable division of property, child custody and adoption, during the above-stated years in private practice, I have handled numerous cases involving divorce, equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, child support, and separate maintenance and support. In these areas, I have negotiated settlements, drafted settlement agreements, handled contested trials, handled uncontested cases, mediated disputes in these areas and served as GAL in contested custody and adoption cases.

In the practice areas of abuse and neglect and juvenile justice, I ran the child abuse and neglect unit of the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office, which involved handling all the DSS cases in family court and circuit court, negotiating settlements, and trying contested cases. In the course of handling that unit, associated juveniles were involved in prosecutions I handled. As part of my private practice, I represented juvenile offenders at detention hearings, adjudication hearings, and contested trials.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.  
Rated BV by Martindale-Hubbell.
16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?  
(a) federal: 0;  
(b) state: I am in family court very frequently during an average week. Of my court appearances, I would estimate 90% to be in family court and the remaining 10% in circuit court, master's court, summary court or probate court.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?  
(a) civil: 9%;  
(b) criminal: 1%;  
(c) domestic: 90%.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?  
(a) jury: 2%;  
(b) non-jury: 98%.  
Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole counsel
19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.  
(a) State v. J. C. Rice – This case that I prosecuted in 2000 before a jury in General Sessions Court in Union County was significant because it was the first trial and conviction under the Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult, S.C. Code Section 43-35-85.  
(b) State v. John Frank Williams – This murder case that I defended in 1983 before a jury in General Sessions Court in Greenville County resulted in a not guilty verdict and was significant because of difficult circumstances and issues, especially the defendant's admission of shooting the victim in self-defense.  
(c) State v. Sherry Pace, 337 S.C. 407, 523 S.E.2d 466 (Ct.App. 1999) – This case that I prosecuted before a jury in General Sessions Court in Greenville County was significant because it was the first trial and conviction under the Insurance Fraud Act, S.C. Code Section 38-55-530(D).  
(d) Nasser-Moghaddassi v. Moghaddassi, 364 S.C. 182, 612 S.E.2d 707 (Ct.App. 2005) – This is a family court case in which I was involved as Guardian Ad Litem for the parties' three minor children at the trial level. The case was significant because it was the first time the Court of Appeals applied the *Patel* standards by finding that my investigation as

GAL for the children was independent, balanced and impartial. See Patel v. Patel, 347 S.C. 281, 555 S.E.2d 386 (2001).

- (e) State v. Whitner, 328 S.C. 1, 492 S.E.2d 777 (1996) – As director of the Child Abuse and Neglect unit of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office, I initiated the first prosecutions in the state of women who gave birth to drug-impaired infants under the child abuse and neglect statute, S.C. Code Section 20-7-50. This case was significant because the State Supreme Court held for the first time that the word “child” as used in the statute includes viable fetuses.
20. 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. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).
- (a) Jerry Fowler v. Southern Bell - won personal injury verdict in US District Court, which was upheld on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit (unpublished);
- (b) Loftis v. Loftis, 286 S.C. 12, 331 S.E.2d 372 (Ct. App. 1985).
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). None
22. Have you ever held judicial office? No
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? 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?
- Yes; I was elected to Greenville City Council At-Large, 1993-95. I timely filed my report with the State Ethics Commission during that time period.
25. 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. N/A
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- I ran for Greenville County Council in 1984. In the Fall of 2008 and in the Fall of 2009, I ran as a candidate for Family Court Judge, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Seat #6 and #2, respectively, was found qualified and was recommended on each occasion to the General Assembly by the JMSC, but I withdrew prior to each election.

27. 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?  
From August 2006 to October 2009 I owned the historic Northgate Soda Shop, which has been located at 918 N. Main Street, Greenville, SC, for the past 60 years.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. 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. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None
31. 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 federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No to all 3 questions.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?  
Yes. In 1984 as a first mortgage holder I was joined as a party defendant in a foreclosure action brought by the second mortgage holder against the landowner; the action was dismissed shortly after filing.
36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No
37. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No
38. 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 § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No
39. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you

- have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
40. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that “[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None
  41. 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. None
  42. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None
  43. 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? 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 to both
  44. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No to both
  45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No
  46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No
  47. 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) Greenville County Bar;
    - (b) South Carolina Bar.
  48. 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, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
    - (a) Board member of Greenville Transit Authority (Mayoral appointee);
    - (b) Chairman of North Main Street Traffic Study Committee (City Council appointee);
    - (c) Chairman of Board of Centre Stage South Carolina;
    - (d) Board member of Upstate Community Mediation Center;
    - (e) Member of Junior League of Greenville and Junior League Singers;
    - (f) Greenville Kiwanis Club;
    - (g) Recipient of Metropolitan Arts Council Volunteer Award;



(h) Graduate of Leadership South Carolina.

49. 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. .

Thirty-four years ago, when I was a second-year law student, my father gave me the book Simple Justice. This book chronicled the historic case of Brown v. Board of Education, published the year of my birth. My father inscribed in the book, "On balance, the law profession has helped salvage the most noble hopes we see all too dimly – you have chosen well." Simple Justice has stayed on my desk ever since, and my father's words "noble hopes" have permeated throughout my life and career.

I have always found noble hopes in helping families one case, one child, one parent, and one grandparent at a time. These hopes, fueled by compassion, tenacity, and an understanding spirit, have guided me through 32 years of advocating for families by handling their divorces, their custody battles, their separations, and other challenges in Family Court.

These hopes have made me an advocate for children who have been abused or neglected. They have taken me to the State House to testify for the "Homicide by Child Abuse" and Child Fatalities Statutes, which I wrote. These hopes took me to Nashville as a speaker before the National Conference of State Legislators to present the intervention protocol for drug-impaired infants, which I developed.

These hopes took me to Washington, DC, to testify before Congress about the success of the protocol. These hopes took me to all of our State's judicial circuits to educate and train multi-disciplinary teams.

Abused and neglected adults are often an overlooked segment of our population. Their hopes took me again to all 46 of our counties, training and educating teams on intervention and prosecution on their behalf. It took me back to Washington, DC, to present our protocol before the US Attorney General.

In the early 1990's, I recognized the potential of mediation before it was implemented in South Carolina. I received my 40 hours of training and certification in Atlanta when it was not yet available in South Carolina and helped write the rules that we now use in our state. Today, mediation is recognized as an integral part of our Family Court system, having succeeded in offering an alternative means of resolving very difficult cases.

These noble hopes guided me through service as an at-large member of Greenville City Council and as an active volunteer for many different civic and non-profit groups.

These noble hopes have especially allowed me to serve my God as a member of the choir and as a former Sunday School teacher at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Greenville.

Most importantly, these noble hopes are found in the love of my family, my three children, and my husband of 32 years. My father spoke of

"noble hopes we see all too dimly," but my life experience has allowed me to see noble hopes most brightly. They shine steadfastly. My hope is now to serve the citizens of South Carolina as a Family Court Judge and help deliver "Simple Justice."

50. References:

- (a) Knox White, Esq.  
Mayor, City of Greenville  
PO Box 2048  
Greenville, SC 29602  
(864) 240-3276
- (b) Joe Watson, Esq.  
644 E. Washington St.  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(864) 467-0380
- (c) Ken Porter, Esq.  
PO Box 4277  
Greenville, SC 29608  
(864) 235-9613
- (d) Bobby Mann, Esq.  
819 E. North St.  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(864) 242-4995
- (e) D. Michael Holmes  
Vice President, BB&T  
PO Box 408  
Greenville, SC 29602  
(864) 242-8026

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: Catherine C. Christophillis

Date: February 23, 2011