

**Citizens Committee Report/S.C. Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee Report
Court Family Court, 11th Circuit Seat 3**

**Candidate's Name: Robert E. Newton
Spring Screening 2012**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. <u>Constitutional Qualifications:</u> A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.			X
2. <u>Ethical Fitness:</u> A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			X
3. <u>Professional and Academic Ability:</u> A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			X
4. <u>Character:</u> The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			X
5. <u>Reputation:</u> Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			X
6. <u>Physical Health:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.			X
7. <u>Mental Stability:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.			X

EXHIBIT
1
4-17-12
PENGAD 800-631-6989

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			X
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			X

Related Comments:

1. Constitutional Qualifications:

2. Ethical Fitness:

The Committee believes that Mr. Newton is highly ethical.

3. Professional and Academic Ability:

The Committee was very impressed by Mr. Newton's outstanding ability as an attorney in private practice. We believe his professional and academic ability is outstanding.

4. Character:

The Committee was most impressed by Mr. Newton's sincere, passionate and impeccable character. We believe his character is outstanding and above reproach.

5. Reputation:

Mr. Newton enjoys a most outstanding reputation among his peers as an able and very experienced family court attorney, mediator and arbitrator.

6. Physical Health:

7. Mental Stability

8. Experience:

The committee is very impressed by Mr. Newton's exemplary experience. He has spent 23 years as a practicing attorney in the family court. We were also impressed by his experience as a family court mediator and arbitrator

9. Judicial Temperament:

This Committee found that Mr. Newton possesses wisdom, humility, and profound common sense. He is passionate, committed and dedicated to serving our state. We are certain that Mr. Newton's judicial temperament would be most outstanding.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Committee was honored to interview Mr. Newton. We strongly believe that Mr. Newton is most eminently qualified to serve on the Family Court. We are most confident he would serve our state in an exemplary manner.

John Grantland
Committee Chair's Name

Date

Robert E. Newton
Candidate's Name

Citizens Committee Report/S.C. Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee Report

Court Master in-Equity, Lexington County, Seat _____

Candidate's Name: **James O. Spence**

Spring Screening 2012

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
<p>1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.</p>			X
<p>2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.</p>			X
<p>3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.</p>			X
<p>4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.</p>			X
<p>5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.</p>			X
<p>6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.</p>			X
<p>7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.</p>			X

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
<p>8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.</p> <p>9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.</p>			X
			X

Related Comments:

1. Constitutional Qualifications:

2. Ethical Fitness:

The committee found that Judge Spence is considered highly ethical.

3. Professional and Academic Ability:

Outstanding in every respect.

4. Character:

The committee was most impressed by Judge Spence's sincere and humble commitment to service. His impeccable character is above reproach.

5. Reputation:

Judge Spence has a most outstanding reputation among lawyers, litigants and the community.

6. Physical Health:

7. Mental Stability

8. Experience:

The committee recognized and appreciated Judge Spence's past experience as the Master-in-Equity for Lexington County.

9. Judicial Temperament:

Outstanding in every respect. We truly appreciated Judge Spence's humility, sincerity and sense of humor. He is the epitome of judicial temperament.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

We were honored to interview Judge Spence and thoroughly enjoyed our interview. We are all very proud he is one of State's Masters-in-Equity. We believe he is an asset to our state judiciary, and we all feel that his service to our State has been outstanding and honorable in every way. He is most eminently qualified to continue his outstanding service as Master-in-Equity for Lexington County.

John Grantland
Committee Chair's Name

Date

James O. Spence
Candidate's Name

**Pee Dee Citizens Committee Report
15th Judicial Circuit Master-in-Equity
Candidate's Name: Honorable Joe M. Crosby
Spring Screening 2012**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. <u>Constitutional Qualifications:</u> A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		X	
2. <u>Physical Health:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
3. <u>Mental Stability:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
4. <u>Ethical Fitness:</u> A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			X
5. <u>Professional and Academic Ability:</u> A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			X
6. <u>Character:</u> The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			X
7. <u>Reputation:</u> Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			X

Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
		X
		X

8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.

9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.

Related Comments:

1. Constitutional Qualifications:

2. Ethical Fitness:

3. Professional and Academic Ability:

4. Character:

5. Reputation:

6. Physical Health:

7. Mental Stability:

8. Experience:

9. Judicial Temperament:

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Judge Crosby is well-respected in the Georgetown community, both on a personal and judicial level. Attorneys appearing before him have high praise for Judge Crosby, even when he rules against their positions, and we find this to be indicative of his high level of professionalism, temperament and legal ability.

Diane Rabon Bagnol
Committee Chair's Name

3/26/12
Date

Honorable Joe M. Crosby
Candidate's Name

**Citizens Committee Report/S.C. Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee Report
 Court 10TH CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT Seat 2
 Candidate's Name: KAREN BALLENGER
 Spring Screening 2012**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. <u>Constitutional Qualifications:</u> A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.			XX
2. <u>Ethical Fitness:</u> A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			XX
3. <u>Professional and Academic Ability:</u> A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			XX
4. <u>Character:</u> The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			XX
5. <u>Reputation:</u> Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			XX
6. <u>Physical Health:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.			XX
7. <u>Mental Stability:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.			XX

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
<p>8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.</p> <p>9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.</p>			XX XX

Related Comments:

1. **Constitutional Qualifications:**
2. **Ethical Fitness:**
3. **Professional and Academic Ability:**
4. **Character:**
5. **Reputation:**
6. **Physical Health:**
7. **Mental Stability**
8. **Experience:**
9. **Judicial Temperament:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

NANCY JO THOMASON
Committee Chair's Name

4-2-12
Date

KAREN BALLENGER
Candidate's Name

**Citizens Committee Report/S.C. Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee Report
 Court 10TH CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT Seat 2
 Candidate's Name: SCOTT SPROUSE
 Spring Screening 2012**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. <u>Constitutional Qualifications:</u> A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.			XX
2. <u>Ethical Fitness:</u> A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			XX
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7. <u>Mental Stability:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.			XX

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Related Comments:

1. **Constitutional Qualifications:**
2. **Ethical Fitness:**
3. **Professional and Academic Ability:**
4. **Character:**
5. **Reputation:**
6. **Physical Health:**
7. **Mental Stability**
8. **Experience:**
9. **Judicial Temperament:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

NANCY JO THOMASON
Committee Chair's Name

4-2-12
Date

SCOTT SPROUSE
Candidate's Name