

## Laurie Traywick

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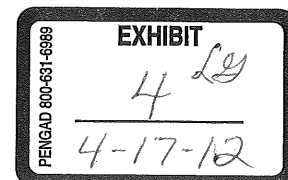
**From:** Scott Sprouse [rssprouse@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** Laurie Traywick  
**Cc:** Jane Shuler  
**Subject:** Re: Amendment for JMSC Public Hearing

Please amend my PDQ #26 as follows:

- a. I ran for Family Court Seat 2 in 1999. I went through screening and was deemed qualified by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in January 2000. I withdrew from the race prior to the election.
- b. I filed for Family Court Seat 2 in 2009. I withdrew prior to appearing at any interviews or public hearings.

If there is anything else that you need, please contact me. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Scott Sprouse



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Tenth Circuit Family Court, Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. R. Scott Sprouse  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P.O. Box 99  
Seneca, SC 29679  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (864) 882-1480
2. Date of Birth: 1964  
Place of Birth: Scottsboro, AL
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 June 4, 1994, to Mary Stoudemire Sprouse. Never divorced; two 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) Clemson University  
1982-86  
BA Degree in History and Political Science, December 1985  
Some graduate course in Spring 1986 Semester. Left graduate school to begin law school in August 1986.
  - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law  
1986-89  
JD May 1989.
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.  
Admitted in South Carolina on January 8, 1990.
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) Served in the Student Senate at Clemson University 1983-86; President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate in 1985-86.
  - (b) Member of the Clemson University Debating Team 1982-85.
  - (c) Student Bar Association, USC School of Law 1986-89.

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)	The ABC's of DUI - Critical Topics	05/16/2007;
(b)	Domestic Violence	08/23/2007;
(c)	Legal Education Seminar Oconee Bar	02/15/2008;
(d)	Prosecutorial Ethics in the Crosshairs	03/07/2008;
(e)	Prosecuting the Impaired Driver	05/15/2008;
(f)	Domestic Violence & Coordinated Community Response	11/13/2008;
(g)	SCAC Local Government Attorney's Institute	12/12/2008;
(h)	Legal Education Seminar	05/01/2009;
(i)	Prosecuting the Impaired Driver	05/27/2009;
(j)	Domestic Violence & Coordinated Community Response	11/12/2009;
(k)	SC Local Government Attorney's Institute	12/19/2009;
(l)	The Impaired Driver: Nuts & Bolts of DUI Prosecution	05/19/2010;
(m)	Victim's Advocate Training	05/22/2010;
(n)	Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System	04/19/2011;
(o)	Ethics of Email in Law Practice	06/10/2011;
(p)	The Ethics of Legal Writing	07/22/2011;
(q)	Handling Divorce Cases from Start to Finish	10/05/2011;
(r)	Legal Ethics of Attracting and Selecting Clients	12/8/2011.

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

I have spoken at the public library in Westminster as part of the Bar's public education program. I spoke on domestic law. I cannot recall the exact date, but it was in the early 2000s.

I spoke to a community group in Westminster on probate law in the early 2000s as well. Again, I cannot recall the exact date.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. N/A
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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC January 8, 1990.;
- (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court of SC March 26, 1991.
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.
- Barnes & Smith, P.A., Beaufort, SC

August 1989-March 1990

Associate for an insurance defense firm. I primarily did research and file management. This involved a large amount of discovery documents and briefs prepared for the partners.

Morgan Law Firm, Seneca, SC

April 1990-August 1991

Partner in a general practice. I began handling various general practice cases including domestic, criminal, real estate, bankruptcy and general litigation.

R. Scott Sprouse, Attorney at Law, Seneca, SC

August 1991-July 1992

I was a sole proprietor. I continued to handle the same types of cases but added social security and personal injury to my caseload. I also began sharing the City Attorney position for the City of Westminster in February of 1992.

Ross, Stoudemire, Ballenger & Sprouse, P.A.

July 1992-December 1994 Partner in general practice firm. My practice primarily involved domestic litigation, criminal cases, personal injury cases and City Attorney work for the City of Westminster. From the Fall of 1993 until early 1994, I served as a Hearing Officer for the ABC Commission.

Ross, Stoudemire & Sprouse, P.A.

January 1995-January 1997 My practice stayed virtually the same, but the name of the firm changed. I became the sole City Attorney for Westminster in January of 1995.

Stoudemire & Sprouse, P.A.

January 1997 to present

My practice is the same, but the name of the firm changed again.

City of Westminster, City Attorney

February 1992 to present I am involved with the City Council meetings, litigation of civil cases involving the City, and have prosecuted of criminal cases.

City of Walhalla, Municipal Judge

February 1996 to present, I was appointed by the City Council of Walhalla. I hold court weekly, and I have general criminal jurisdiction of summary court matters inside the city limits of Walhalla, I also have jurisdiction to sign warrants for offenses committed inside the city limits of Walhalla and to issue bonds for all offenses except those punishable by life imprisonment or death. I do not have a supervisor, but answer directly to the City Council of Walhalla.

City of Seneca, Interim Municipal

I served as Interim Municipal Judge for the City Judge, fall 1998 of Seneca for several months in the fall 1998. Seneca was in the process of selecting a full time Municipal Judge. The City Council asked me to serve as Interim Judge while they were going through the hiring process. I performed all the duties of Municipal Court Judge during this period. This job ended when the

Honorable Danny Singleton was appointed full time Judge in December 1998.

City of West Union, Municipal Judge

July 2007-March 2008; The City of Walhalla and the City of West Union entered into a contract wherein Walhalla would provide police protection for West Union. Accordingly, I was sworn in and began holding court in West Union. This job ended when Walhalla terminated its contract with West Union, who resumed having the Oconee County Magistrate's office handle its cases.

Town of Salem, Municipal Judge

I serve in the same capacity for the Town of July 2011 to present Salem. I hold court once a month.

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.

Divorce and equitable division of property—I have extensive experience in these matters. Divorce/separation cases are the majority of my practice. I have litigated many cases in which equitable division issues were contested. My experience ranges from cases in which the parties have negative equity in the marital estate all the way up to cases in which the parties have over \$1,000,000.00 in assets. Since January 1, 2007, I have handled 391 different domestic cases, the majority of which involved divorce. I also have litigated several common law marriage cases.

Child Custody---this issue exists in many of the divorce cases, although I have litigated many custody cases where the parties are already divorce or unmarried. I also have litigated a number of grandparental/third party custody actions in which the fitness of the parents is a main issue. I also have served a number of times as Guardian ad litem for minor children in contested Family Court cases. Since January 1, 2007, I have been appointed as Guardian *ad litem* in 5 contested custody cases.

Adoption---while this is not a large portion of my practice, I have handled several over the years and am aware of the proper procedure.

Child Abuse and Neglect---I have handled several abuse and neglect cases, some of which were "spin off" cases where I had been retained to represent a defendant in General Sessions Court who had been charged with criminal sexual conduct or lewd act on a minor. I have

handled several private custody actions that actually began as Department of Social Services (DSS) matters. I have had DSS as a party in several private cases since they were involved by issuing safety plans or filing their own actions.

Juveniles---I only have handled a handful of juvenile cases, but I am very familiar with the procedures. I have handled a contested case. My experience as Municipal Judge gives me a unique perspective on these matters since I deal with quite a few young people with traffic tickets and other offenses. Many times, there are multiple teenagers involved in a particular incident. Some are juveniles and some are seventeen years of age who are sent to Municipal Court, where I deal with the same factual situation as the Family Court does.

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.? BV Martindale Hubbell

**Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.**

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?

(a) federal: 0

(b) state: I average 3-8 hearings in Family Court per week when we have terms of Family Court. I have tried Family Court cases from as little a time period as fifteen minutes up to multi-day contested trials. I have appearances in General Sessions about every other term, as cases that I am able to work out pleas in are dealt with on the same day. I have tried a multi-day drug trial in General Sessions, along with handling a Statewide Grand Jury case. I have served as co-counsel in three different murder trials and a high profile criminal sexual conduct with a minor trial. My appearances in Common Pleas are less frequent, although I have tried both jury and non-jury trials in Common Pleas during the past five years on a variety of issues. I have tried personal injury cases, contract disputes, property disputes, collection actions, mechanic's lien/construction cases and some litigation involving the City of Westminster. I handle several jury trials (usually DUIs) in Magistrate's Court during the course of each year. I hold Court in Walhalla and Salem presently as Municipal Judge of each respective Municipality. I have presided over a number of jury trials

as Municipal Judge and preside over bench trials with regularity when defendants contest tickets.

17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 10%;
  - (b) criminal: 15%;
  - (c) domestic: 70%;
  - (d) other: 5%.

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: 5%;
  - (b) non-jury: 95%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?

Most often 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) Steven Ray Hammond v. Ruia Boggs & Garland Brewer, d/b/a B & B Mobile Home Park. 93-CP-37-61. I represented the Plaintiff in an action for personal injuries brought under the South Carolina Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. My client's leg was amputated as a result of the injuries that he sustained. I was able to settle this case for \$600,000 after mediation
  - (b) James A. Turner, Jr. vs. Oconee County, Joseph M. Sylvester and Marjorie V. Sylvester, Jack C. Prescott, Doris Freeman Prescott, and Bayshore Association, Inc.98-CP-37-77. This was a case involving a subdivision and litigation over an access road. The case was legally complicated and resulted in an appeal to the SC Court of Appeals.
  - (c) The State v. Robert McClure. 94-DR-37-663, 94-GS-37-0986, 95-GS-37-0429. My client was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor First Degree. I tried the accompanying DSS case in the Oconee Family Court. The DSS case uncovered evidence that led the Oconee County Solicitor's Office to re-evaluate the case. After extensive negotiations, a plea to Lewd Act on a Minor was entered in General Sessions Court for a probationary sentence.
  - (d) The State v. Robert Underwood. This was a case where my client was charged with four counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor first degree. This case involved a companion case in Family Court with the Department of Social Services. Through the litigation in Family Court, I was able to find inconsistencies in the allegations made by my client's

stepdaughters to the point that the case was resolved in General Sessions. My client received a probationary sentence.

- (e) Jackie L. Hunt v. Alfred Hunt. 97-DR-37-708. I represented the Plaintiff initially in a separate maintenance action and the subsequent divorce. The parties had approximately one million in assets (over \$750,000 in undisputed marital property). The case also involved the issue of periodic alimony, which I was able to secure for my client, along with forty-five (45%) percent of the marital property and attorney's fees. The Defendant filed a notice of intent to appeal, but dismissed the appeal after reviewing the transcript.
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.
- (a) James A. Turner, Jr. vs. Oconee County, Joseph M. Sylvester and Marjorie V. Sylvester, Jack C. Prescott, Doris Freeman Prescott, and Bayshore Association, Inc.98-CP-37-77. Court of Appeals opinion \_\_\_\_\_ issued \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.
- (b) Jesse Lee Crawford v. Sue Crawford 2006-DR-37-424 Decided without oral argument in unpublished opinion.
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. N/A
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
- I have served as Municipal Judge for the City of Walhalla (1996-present), the City of Seneca (Interim in Fall of 1998), the City of West Union (2007-2008) and the Town of Salem (2011 to present). These courts have basic summary court criminal jurisdiction, with general limitations (with some specific statutory exceptions) of 30 days incarceration and \$500.00 fine.
23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions. N/A
24. 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? N/A.
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.

I have worked as a general practice attorney (as noted above) during the time that I have been a Municipal Judge. I also have been a certified Family Court Mediator since 2006.

I have been a certified Civil Arbitrator since 1998.



26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?  
I ran for this Family Court seat in 2000 and was unsuccessful. I was deemed qualified by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.
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? .  
I worked as a laborer for Chipman Union, Inc., in Greene County, Georgia, during the summer when I was a student at Clemson University. I also was a tutor for the Clemson University Athletic Department during the 1985-86 school year. I worked for the SC Tax Commission as a law clerk from 1987-89 while I was a student at the USC School of Law.
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? None.
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.
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? No.
36. 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? 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.
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. However, I have been introduced to members of the General Assembly by third parties at various functions and receptions.
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) SC Bar;
  - (b) Oconee County Bar Association 1990-present (President 1997). (Treasurer);
  - (c) SC Trial Lawyers Association, 1993-present;
  - (d) Association of Trial Lawyers of America 1993-present  
American Association for Justice;
  - (e) SC Summary Court Judges' Association, 1998-present.
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) Seneca Sertoma Club, 1990-2009 (secretary 1991-92, Board member 1995-97);
- (b) St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1997-present Church Council, 1998-2004, 2008-11);
- (c) IPTAY 1986-present (IPTAY Representative 1994-2005);
- (d) The Oconee Assembly 1994 to present;
- (e) City of Walhalla, Coach Boys' basketball, 1996-present Baseball, 2007-present;
- (f) City of Walhalla Recreational Advisory Board 2001-04;
- (g) Colonels Club, 2004-present.

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. 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.

I am a certified Family Court Mediator, having completed the training at the SC Bar and receiving my certification on August 22, 2006.

I am an Eagle Scout. I was a member of Troop 312 Boy Scouts of America in Piedmont, South Carolina.

I feel that my service as a recreation coach has given me a unique perspective in dealing with children from various backgrounds. Many of the boys that I have coached come from divorced parents.

50. References:

- (a) David Smith, City Administrator  
City of Westminster  
100 East Windsor Street  
Westminster, SC 29693  
(864) 647-3232
- (b) Allen White  
Oconee Federal Savings and Loan  
813 By Pass 123  
Seneca, SC 29678  
(864) 882-0799
- (c) Bernie W. Ellis, Esquire  
McNair Law Firm  
P.O. Box 447  
Greenville SC 29602
- (d) Nancy Goehle  
City Administrator, City of Walhalla  
206 N. Church Street  
Walhalla SC 29691  
(864)638-4343.

(e) E. Delane Rosemond, Esquire  
P.O. Box 1498  
Seneca, SC 29679  
(864)888-8279.

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: R. Scott Sprouse

Date: February 29, 2012