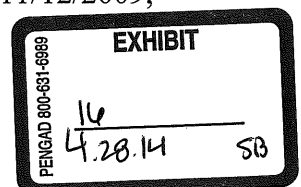


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit Court, Tenth Judicial Circuit, 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 SC? Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?
Yes
5. Family Status: Married to Mary Stoudemire Sprouse on June 4, 1994. 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) USC School of Law, 1986-8, JD Degree 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 SC 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</u>
(a) SCAC Local Government Attorney's Institute	12/12/2008;
(b) Legal Education Seminar	05/01/2009;
(c) Prosecuting the Impaired Driver	05/27/2009;
(d) Domestic Violence & Coordinated Community Response	11/12/2009;



- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| (e) | SC Local Government Attorney's Institute | 12/19/2009; |
| (f) | The Impaired Driver: Nuts & Bolts of DUI Prosecution | 05/19/2010; |
| (g) | Victim's Advocate Training | 05/22/2010; |
| (h) | Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System | 04/19/2011; |
| (i) | Ethics of Email in Law Practice | 06/10/2011; |
| (j) | The Ethics of Legal Writing | 07/22/2011; |
| (k) | Handling Divorce Cases from Start to Finish | 10/05/2011; |
| (l) | Legal Ethics of Attracting and Selecting Clients | 12/8/2011; |
| (m) | Oconee Bar Legal Education Seminar | 04/13/2012; |
| (n) | What Family Court Judges Want | 05/11/2012; |
| (o) | Gun Rights and Laws in SC | 06/18/2012; |
| (p) | Enhancing Law Enforcement Ability for Convictions | 06/19/2012; |
| (q) | Prosecuting the Impaired Driver | 06/20/2012; |
| (r) | Prosecuting the Impaired Driver | 6-12/13/2013; |
| (s) | Ethics Opinions Every SC Attorney Should Know | 06-28-2013. |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- (a) 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;
- (b) I spoke to a community group in Westminster on probate law in the early 2000s as well. Again, I cannot recall the exact date;
- (c) I conducted two classes in American Legal History at Clemson University in the Spring of 2005. This was a collaborative effort of the Howell Legal Society at Clemson, wherein Clemson alumni working in the legal profession took various topics and were responsible for a lecture on each topic. My topics were the development of the legal system during the antebellum era and the growth of civil and political rights during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.
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.
- (a) 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;

- (b) 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;
- (c) 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;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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;
- (f) Stoudemire & Sprouse, P.A. - January 1997 to present. My practice is the same, but the name of the firm changed again;
- (g) 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;
- (h) City of Walhalla, Municipal Judge - February 1996 to present. I was appointed by the City Council of Walhalla. I hold court weekly (some weeks we have two traffic courts). I have general summary court criminal jurisdiction cases brought by the Walhalla Police Department. I also sign warrants and hold bond hearings. I do not have a supervisor, but answer directly to the City Council of Walhalla;
- (i) 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 of 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 of 1998;
- (j) 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;
- (k) Town of Salem, Municipal Judge - July 2011 to present. I serve in the same capacity for the Town of Salem. I hold court once a month.

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, whether you represent plaintiffs or 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 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.

I have represented clients in Circuit Court since 1990 and have a wide range of experience there.

My General Sessions practice is varied. Most clients in this area of law eventually decide to plead, but some choose to take their case to a jury trial. I have represented numerous individuals in General Sessions Court. I have served as co-counsel in three cases where our client was charged with murder. Each of these cases involved multi-day jury trials. I have been sole counsel in many serious criminal cases, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Criminal sexual conduct cases (including crimes involving minors);
- (b) Trafficking in crack cocaine;
- (c) Manufacture of marijuana, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, crack and various other drugs;
- (d) Assault and Battery (including the common law Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature pre-statute);
- (e) Attempted Murder;
- (f) Kidnapping;
- (g) Carjacking;
- (h) Burglary 1st Degree;
- (i) Statewide Grand Jury drug case;
- (j) Forgery;
- (k) Larceny;
- (l) Driving Under the Influence. The large majority of these are in Summary Court;
- (m) Various other traffic offenses such as Driving Under Suspension and Habitual Offender;
- (n) I have been the attorney for a PCR applicant.

My role as Municipal Judge allows me to review the criminal statutes regularly, Since I handle warrants and bonds. I have conducted preliminary hearings in the past, although in recent years, the Oconee Magistrate's office has heard all preliminary hearings at a central location.

I also have handled a wide variety of cases in Common Pleas, some of which resulted in jury trials. Each civil case involves discovery prior to trial. I am familiar with the rules governing discovery. Some cases involve motions for summary judgment and motions on the pleadings. I have represented clients in the following types of cases:

- (a) Personal injury plaintiffs in automobile accident and premises liability cases;
- (b) Defendants in personal injury cases;
- (c) Mechanic's lien cases over the years, including having some cases where I represented the homeowner, some where I represented the general contractor and some where I represented a subcontractor. Most of these type cases involve some dispute over workmanship. I have tried these cases both jury and nonjury;

- (d) I have done some mortgage foreclosure work, although that has not been a significant part of my practice;
- (e) Property disputes such as easements, road closures, covenants and restrictions cases and trespass cases;
- (f) Breach of contract cases (also including specific performance cases);
- (g) Partnership dissolution;
- (h) Our firm has represented the landowners in several condemnation cases, where I participated in the trial of the case with my partner. I also have filed a condemnation case for the City of Westminster.

I have served as arbitrator and special referee in different Common Pleas cases on occasion. I also have been appointed Guardian ad litem for an incapacitated person in a Common Pleas case.

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.

BV Martindale Hubbell

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 thirty 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. My appearances in Common Pleas is less frequent, although I have tried both jury and non-jury trials in Common Pleas during the last five years on a variety of issues. I tried a nonjury breach of contract case two weeks ago in Common Pleas. 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. I recently presided over the first jury trial ever held in the Town of Salem.

17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?

- (a) civil: 5%;
- (b) criminal: 15%;
- (c) domestic: 75%;
- (d) other: 5%.

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last 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?

I serve as sole counsel the overwhelming majority of the time, although my partner and I have tried several major criminal and civil cases together.

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 SC 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. My client was charged with four counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor 1st degree. There was a companion DSS case in Family Court that was helpful in exposing weaknesses in the State's case. I was able to obtain a plea deal with the prosecution wherein they recommended, and my client received, probation;
 - (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? 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 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.

N/A

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?

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 during the time that I have been a Municipal Judge as outlined above. I also have been a Family Court Mediator since 2006

26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?

(a) 2000 - I ran for the Tenth Circuit Family Court Seat 2. I withdrew from the race prior to the election. I was deemed qualified by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission;

(b) 2009 - I announced an intention to run for the Tenth Circuit Family Court Seat 2, but withdrew my name prior to screening;

(c) 2012 - I ran for the Tenth Circuit Family Court Seat 2. I withdrew from the race prior to the election. 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 1985-1986 school year. I worked for the SC Tax Commission as a law clerk from 1987-1989 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.

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.
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? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
No.
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?
I have been covered by malpractice insurance throughout my practice of law. Our firm is covered by CNA, Lawyers Professional Liability Policy, Policy #169903213 with limits of \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 and a deductible of \$5,000.
I have not been covered by a tail policy
38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.?
I am not a member of any social media site such as the ones listed in the question above. Handling a large number of domestic cases where Facebook evidence has been used to show misconduct has made me very wary of these type sites. I will not be a member of such sites to avoid the appearance of impropriety. I believe that a Judge who is "friended" on a social media site could be put in an awkward position should a lawyer also on the site appear before him or her in court.
39. 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.
40. 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?
None.
41. 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."
None.
42. 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."
None.
43. 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.

44. 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.
45. 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.
46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact 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.
47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?
No.
48. 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.
49. 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 | 1990 - present; |
| (b) | Oconee County Bar Association (President 1997) (Treasurer) | 1990 - present; |
| (c) | SC Trial Lawyers Association | 1993 - present; |
| (d) | Association of Trial Lawyers of America
American Association for Justice | 1993 - present; |
| (e) | SC Summary Court Judges' Association | 1998 - present. |
50. 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
Sunday School Teacher; |
| (c) | IPTAY, 1986-present
(IPTAY Representative 1994-2005); |
| (d) | The Oconee Assembly, 1994 - present
(Board member 2012 - present); |
| (e) | City of Walhalla, Coach
Boys' basketball 1996 - present
Baseball 2007 - present |

I also coached the Walhalla middle school-aged boys basketball team in a summer league sponsored by the City of Seneca in the summer of 2013.

I also was an assistant travel baseball coach for the Walhalla 10 & Under Team in the summer of 2012.

I will be a coach for a Seneca-based AAU boys basketball team in the Spring and Summer of 2014;

- (f) City of Walhalla Recreational Advisory Board 2001-04;
- (g) Howell Legal Society, Clemson Alumni Association 2004-05;
- (h) CColonels Club 2004-present.

51. 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.

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

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

52. References:

- (a) The Honorable Mike Crenshaw
Sheriff of Oconee County
415 South Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
(864)638-4111
- (b) The Honorable Diane Head
Mayor, Town of Salem
5A Park Avenue
Salem, SC 29676
(864) 944-2819
- (c) The Honorable Rick McCormick
Mayor, City of Westminster
P.O. Box 399
Westminster, SC 29693
(864)647-3200
- (d) The Honorable Danny Edwards
Mayor, City of Walhalla
206 North Church Street
P.O. Box 1099
Walhalla, SC 29691
(864) 638-4343
- (e) Mr. Allen White
Vice President
Oconee Federal Savings and Loan
P.O. Box 1039
115 North Second Street
Seneca, SC 29679
(864)882-2765

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: R. Scott Sprouse
Date: February 24, 2014