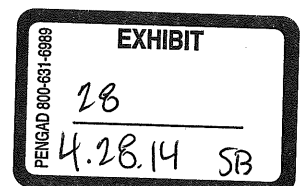


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Family Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

1. NAME: Ms. Huntley Smith Crouch  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 809 S. Lake Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (803) 951-0389
2. Date of Birth: 1972  
Place of Birth: Florence, SC
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 on May 18, 1996 to Charles "Chuck" Martin Crouch, Jr. Never divorced; three children.
6. Have you served in the military?  
I have not served in the military.
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) The College of Charleston (graduated in three years) 1990-1993; BA in English;
  - (b) The USC 1991, 1992; summer school classes;
  - (c) The USC School of Law; 1995-1998; JD.
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.  
SC - 1998
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) The College of Charleston:  
Graduated in three years;  
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; 1992-93;  
President's Highly Distinguished List; 1992;  
President's List (all semesters); 1990-93;  
English Club; President; 1993;  
Kappa Alpha Theta; Scholarship Chair; 1991, 1992 and 1993.
  - (b) The USC School of Law:  
Research Assistant, David G. Owen, Carolina Distinguished Professor of Law, assisted with research and editing Owen, Products Liability Law, West, 2005, 1997-1998;  
Moot Court Bar; Associate Justice Writing and Research, 1997-98;  
Wrote problem for the 1997 Second Year competition;



Craven Moot Court Team; competed at UNC, Chapel Hill;  
SC Trial Lawyers Student Chapter; Secretary;  
Phi Delta Phi;  
Dean's List, 1997.

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) Advanced Family Law	02/10/10;
(b) Everything You Want to Know About Everything	02/19/10;
(c) Medical Malpractice from A-Z	02/25/10;
(d) Training for Attorneys Appointed in DSS cases	05/14/10;
(e) Social Security Disability	08/27/10;
(f) What Family Court Judges Want You to Know	11/12/10;
(g) In the Best Interests of the Child	01/28/10;
(h) Divorce Litigation from Start to Finish	08/12/11;
(i) Handling Abuse and Neglect Cases	11/18/11;
(j) Lawyer Mentoring Program	03/01/13;
(k) The 2013 Guardian ad Litem Training Update	03/11/13;
(l) 2013 Family Court Bench Bar	12/06/13;
(m) Attorney Ethics CLE	12/17/13;
(n) Solo and Small Firm's Guide to Maximizing Cash Flow	01/10/14;
(o) Solo and Small Firm's Guide to Staffing Problems	01/10/14;
(p) 2014 Guardian ad Litem Training Update	01/31/14.

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

No.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have not written any books or articles, but as a research assistant for David G. Owen, Carolina Distinguished Professor of Law, I assisted with research, writing chapters and editing Owen, Products Liability Law, West, 2005.

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.

Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1998.

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) 1998-99 - Law Clerk to the Honorable Wyatt T. Saunders, Circuit Court Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit
- (b) 1999-2010 - Brown, Jefferies & Boulware; contract attorney with general practice firm.
- (c) 2010-14 - Cofield Law Firm: associate attorney hired to create Family Law division in general practice firm.

- (d) 2014-present Cofield Law Firm: partner in five attorney general practice firm heading up Family Law division.

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 had the opportunity to handle divorce actions involving simple divorces with very little property division to highly contested actions involving grounds for divorce and division of assets exceeding a million dollars. I have brought and defended actions involving military divorces and division of property in military divorces. I have handled divorces involving all statutory grounds except for the ground of desertion. Several of the divorce actions in which I have been involved have involved issues in Magistrate's Court, Probate Court, Bankruptcy Court, and Social Security Disability, and my background working in two general practice law firms has aided me in understanding the issues to be addressed in those legal arenas. Additionally, in multiple cases, I have been required to attend domestic abuse hearings and file for ex parte emergency or expedited relief.

Child Custody: Typically, a majority of the divorce cases that I have handled also involved issues of child custody and children's issues. I have represented clients whose children ranged from infants to teens, and I have represented parents of adult disabled children and special needs children. I have represented military parents in custody cases. Many of my cases have involved post-divorce modifications based on a substantial change in circumstances. In addition to bringing and defending cases, I also serve as a Guardian ad litem, and as such, I have addressed issues in private cases involving drug and alcohol abuse, parental alienation, mental health concerns, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Adoption: With regard to adoption cases, I have served as Guardian ad litem and as counsel for a party in private adoption cases and step- parent adoption cases, involving termination of parental rights, both contested and uncontested. One of the more interesting cases that I handled was an adult adoption case in which a adult wished to be adopted by his former step-father and his former step-father's current wife. The case involved issues of notice and military issues.

Abuse and Neglect: I have been appointed in abuse and neglect cases and in those cases have addressed issues such as custody, visitation, child support, and termination of parental rights. Several interesting issues which have been raised and/or litigated in my representation of parties in abuse and neglect cases include: jurisdiction under the UCCJEA and the impact of emergency jurisdiction when SC is not a home state; appointment of an attorney for the minor children when the recommendation/investigation of the Guardian ad litem does not track with the children's wishes under S.C. Code Ann Section 63-7-1620 (2); motion to remove the Guardian ad litem; and motions to return the children and dismiss the action for failure to prosecute and timely comply with statutory requirements in abuse and neglect cases.

Juvenile justice/juveniles: I have not had the opportunity to litigate or defend a case involving juveniles. On several cases, I have advised clients regarding truancy issues and

hearings. Additionally, my experience and service as a Guardian ad litem in private cases and as representative for parents in abuse and neglect cases has given me insight into some of the concerns and issues arising under the Juvenile Justice Code, ranging from drug and alcohol use by a minor to reports and evaluations relating to the juvenile.

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.?

I have never pursued a rating with any legal publication.

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

- (a) federal: I have appeared for Administrative Hearings before a Federal Agency on average one to two times per year;
- (b) state: My appearance in state court varies, but on average, primarily with regard to my practice in Family Court, I appear anywhere from one to four times a week. There are weeks when I may not have a hearing and weeks where I may have up to six hearings scheduled.

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

- (a) civil: 8%;
- (b) criminal: 0%;
- (c) domestic: 90%;
- (d) other: 2%.

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: 1%;
- (b) non-jury: 99%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? In cases brought in Circuit Court, I served as associate counsel. In cases brought in Family Court, I served as sole counsel and chief 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) Wilson v. Dyess

This was a post-divorce action in which I represented the Father. The case began as a contempt action which was tried in family court. Issues involved in the contempt portion of the case related to the adult disabled child's social security benefits and accounting as required under the prior order. The father prevailed. It became clear that the adult disabled child's needs were not met, and a separate action was brought in Probate Court. The results of the Probate action were also favorable to Father, requiring a third action in Family Court to modify custody of a second child and address issues of child support. This case is significant from a legal standpoint, because it spanned two courts and had issues of federal law involved in the contempt action. Without being able to represent the client fully in both family and probate court, I would not have been able to achieve the satisfactory results that were obtained. Interestingly, the Family Court judge in the contempt action refused to order that the Social Security disability benefits for the minor child be redirected to be paid to the Father, citing his inability to order a federal agency to take that action. As noted below in the Fink v. Fink case, a Family Court judge can issue such an

order. From an emotional standpoint, this case will always hold a special meaning for me, because of the family and the special needs child. The result obtained was necessary and fulfilling.

(b) Fink v. Fink

This case involved a divorce on grounds of adultery, equitable apportionment, custody of two small children, visitation, and child support. This case is significant, because the Husband/Father had a personal injury settlement and worker's compensation settlement that were at issue in the case. He also had Social Security disability benefits. Father failed to comply with the Court's orders, and a contempt action was tried in the midst of the divorce litigation. Father wasted assets. Ultimately, Mother received custody of the children, and Father was denied any contact or visitation with them after a contested hearing. This case is significant, because the only funds that were available to Mother for child support was Father's social security disability check. Father would not comply with the order of the court to pay child support through the Clerk of Court and was evading service for additional contempt charges. I filed a motion on behalf of Mother to have Father's disability check garnished and redirected to the Clerk of Court for payment of Father's child support and arrears. The sitting Family Court judge, who had been a judge for more than twenty years, stated he had never had an attorney ask for that relief. He was skeptical that the federal agency would comply with a state court judge's order; however, he issued an order that Social Security Administration redirect Father's disability check to the account established with the Clerk of Court for payment of child support. Social Security Administration accepted the order, and Mother began receiving the disability payments as child support.

(c) Godwin v. Godwin

This divorce action is still pending; however, I have tried a contempt portion of case, prevailed, and successfully argued against the Defendant's Motion for Reconsideration. The case is significant in that already there are eight orders issued. Issues have involved proper service and the effect of filing a Notice of Appearance without preserving 12(b) defenses, along with joinder of a paramour as a party-defendant to prevent the disposal of marital assets and property which were transferred to the paramour. The case is also significant in that the parties have appeared in Magistrate's court multiple times, Family Court in the divorce action and the domestic abuse action which preceded it, and the transfer and dismissal of a separate action filed by the Defendant in another county.

(d) A significant Social Security case before the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review involved a 42 year old Mother and Wife who was denied benefits for a period of over three years while I prepared her file, met with doctors, and obtained opinion letters as to her disability. After the claimant's physician noted that the claimant was considering a procedure which would leave her paralyzed due to the extensive and debilitating pain, and after the claimant was admitted to a hospital for a suicide attempt, we were finally able to have a review on the record granted and given an expedited hearing. The claimant was successful in having her benefits granted. This case was significant for all of the reasons set forth, and because the claimant to this day, is still extremely appreciative and grateful. Even after more than three years of active representation, a fee petition was required, and a portion of

the fees were erroneously sent to the claimant. The claimant did not hesitate in paying the remainder of the attorney fees. This was a life changing case, and arguably a life saving case, for the claimant.

- (e) A second significant Social Security case involved a young 23 year old man. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia. He had taken co-workers hostage, claiming he was God and his workers would bow down to him. After extensive interaction with his treating physicians and experts, I was able to successfully obtain disability benefits for him after multiple denials. This case is significant because he is the youngest claimant I have successfully assisted in receiving benefits. Additionally, it is significant in that, due to the nature of his illness, this case illustrates the importance of observing others and gauging their reactions and triggers.
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.  
I have assisted in writing briefs for multiple appeals, but I have not personally handled any civil appeals.
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.  
I have not personally been involved in any aspects of a criminal appeal.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?  
I have not held any judicial office.
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?  
I have not ever held public office.
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?  
No. I have not been a candidate.
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.  
While saving money to attend law school, I worked as a litigation paralegal from 1993 until 1995.
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.  
I am unaware of any such arrangements that could give rise to a conflict of interest.
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. I have never even had a speeding ticket issued against me.

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?  
No.  
Have you ever defaulted on a student loan?  
No.  
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?  
My current coverage is \$1,000,000.00 with a \$2,500.00 deductible and I have been covered since the beginning of my employment with Cofield Law Firm. As a contract attorney, coverage was under the firm's policy. 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 rarely engage in the use of social media. I have been featured on several news stories and websites related to my involvement with Snack Sacks through Lexington United Methodist Church and People magazine's All Stars Among Us in which I was a national finalist. Additionally, and most recently, I was interviewed by several television stations and articles were published related to those interviews regarding my position on the Lexington 1 School District's new grading policy, Grading For Learning. I do not use LinkedIn or Twitter. I rarely use Facebook and do not post on Facebook. I do not accept friend requests for social media sites. I have a private Instagram account which I use to monitor my children's friends and activities. There would be very little impact on social media sites if I were elected judge.
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?  
No.
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.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions.

I know of no such charges or allegations, as I’m not a public official, member or employee.

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.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions

I know of no such charges or allegations.

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.

At the time of completing this application, I have no expenditures. It is anticipated that I may spend money on letters of introduction, printing charges, and postage.

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.

There have been no such contributions.

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? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?

No. I have asked friends for contact numbers for members of the General Assembly so that I may introduce myself as a candidate at the appropriate time, and I do not know of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on my behalf.

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 Association;

(b) Lexington County Bar Association.

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) School Improvement Council, Lexington 1 School District; 3 years;



- (b) Lexington United Methodist Church, Snack Sacks program; nationally recognized in People Magazine's Allstars Among Us campaign. Also was the recipient of a grant to help expand the program after submitting a favorable application. Currently send home approximately 290 bags of healthy snacks each weekend for school aged children in need;
- (c) Lexington Life magazine's Best In Lexington Family Lawyer 2013;
- (d) SC Bar, Judicial Qualifications Committee member.

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 grew up playing in the law library, back when there were such things, in my father's law firm. I would pull the books from the shelves, pretending that I was a great lawyer like my father, preparing to argue a landmark case. That was in the fifth grade. As a child, I thought my father was the greatest attorney. As an adult, I still believe that, but now I understand that it is not his skill at arguing a case before a jury which makes him great, but it is his approach to his practice and his treatment of his clients. Even after practicing for over forty years, he still approaches every case as if it is the most important case and every client as if he or she is the most important client. All of this is to say that as an attorney, I mimic the very best attributes that I learned from my father. I treat my clients with respect. I approach every case, no matter the size, no matter the issue, very seriously. I am sensitive to the fact that my clients have entrusted me with some of the most important aspects of their lives—children, homes, futures. Recently a judge informed my client that, as always, your attorney is well-prepared. That is one of the greatest compliments I could have. I am a planner. I planned on finishing college in three years. I planned on practicing law with my father, who as I stated above, is the greatest teacher and mentor, while I learned to be the kind of lawyer I am and while I raised my children. I planned on practicing law and establishing myself in the community. And, I planned on becoming a judge.

In addition to being influenced in my career by my father, I was also influenced by the late Honorable Wyatt T. Saunders. I served as his very first law clerk when he took the bench in Circuit Court. My employment with Judge Saunders created in me a great respect for the behind the scenes in a courthouse. I understand the importance of keeping a docket and being ever mindful of the Court's time and, likewise, the attorneys' and litigants' time. I understand taking matters under advisement and filing the MUA reports. I created a system of keeping up with due dates for orders. I know the organizational pitfalls to avoid.

Perhaps the lesson that will serve me best as a judge, though, is that one garners respect when one gives respect. As a judge, I want the litigants and their representatives to leave the courtroom knowing they were treated respectfully and fairly by an ethical and knowledgeable judge. I believe my experience as a researcher, writer, student, advocate, Guardian ad litem, and philanthropist lends itself to my being that judge.

52. References:

- (a) Margaret B. Mitchum  
664 Rawl Road  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803.821.2800
- (b) The Reverend Dr. Miyoung Paik  
Lexington United Methodist Church

309 East Main Street  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803.359.6838

- (c) Lauren C. Brearley, Esquire  
408A S. Waccamaw Avenue  
Columbia, SC 29205  
803.603.6576
- (d) J. Bradley Baker, Esquire  
Law Office of J. Bradley Baker, LLC  
403 East Main Street, Suite E  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803.356.2800
- (e) Richard N. McIntyre, Senior Vice President  
First Reliance Bank  
801 North Lake Drive  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803.996.4901

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

Signature: Huntley Smith Crouch

Date: March 7, 2014

Huntley Smith Crouch  
151 Buck Drive  
Lexington, South Carolina 29072

April 25, 2014

Senate Ethics Committee  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

House Ethics Committee  
Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Andy Fiffick, Esquire  
Chief Counsel, Labor Commerce & Industry Committee  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
407 Blatt Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Judicial Candidate, Family Court, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Campaign Expenditures


To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that at the time of my initial application, I had not spent any funds on my campaign. Since that time, I have incurred costs associated with my campaign. The purpose of this letter is to update my initial application and disclose those expenditures as follows:

Stationary/Candidate Postcards:	\$120.20
Postage:	19.60
Nametag:	<u>10.60</u>

**Total expenditures to date: \$150.40**

Respectfully submitted,



Huntley Smith Crouch