JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Chief Justice, Supreme Court

1. NAME:

The Honorable Costa M. Pleicones

ARE YOU CURRENTLY SERVING IN SOME CAPACITY AS A JUDGE? (INCLUDES MUNICIPAL, MAGISTRATE, ETC.)

Yes, Associate Justice, Supreme Court

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

1231 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(office): (803) 734-1438

2. Date of Birth:

1944

Place of Birth:

Greenville, SC

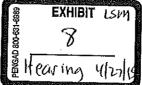
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?

Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married to Donna Singletary Pleicones on August 14, 1965. Never divorced. Two children.
- 6. Have you served in the military?
 - Yes. 25 November 1968 1 March 1973, Active Duty US Army; 1 March 1973 1 March 1999, US Army Reserve; Colonel (0-6); XXX-XXXX. Retired. Honorable.
- 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) Wofford College, 1961-1965, AB English;
 - (b) USC Law School, 1965-1968, 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. South Carolina, 1968. Only took one bar exam.
- 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) Legislative Council in Law School.
 - (b) Dean's list and fraternity in college.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

Conf	erence/CLE Name		Date(s)
(a)	7 th Annual Civil Law Update		01/23/09;
(b)	NCBE Conference		04/09;
(c)	JMSC CLE		07/31/09;
(d)	SCAJ Annual Convention		08/06/09;
(e)	Annual Judicial Conference		08/19/09;
(f)	SC Bar Tort Law Update		11/13/09;
(g)	NCBE Conference	S FYHIRIT LOIM	04/05/10;



71.5	aa nee nettee mee aee	00/00/10			
(h)	SC Bar Bridge The Gap	08/02/10;			
(i)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/18/10;			
(j)	SC Bar Criminal Law	01/21/11;			
(k)	SC Bar Trial & Appellate Advocacy	01/21/11;			
(1)	Northwestern University - JEP	03/28/11;			
(m)	NCBE Conference	04/28/11;			
(n)	Supreme Court Historical Society	05/19/11;			
(o)	Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference	06/24/11;			
(p)	Pound Justice Institute	07/09/11;			
(q)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/17/11;			
(r)	Southern Region High Court Conference	09/15/11;			
(s)	SC Bar Masters-In-Equity 2011	10/14/11;			
(t)	SC Bar Criminal Law	01/20/12;			
(u)	SC Bar Trial & Appellate Advocacy	01/20/12;			
(v)	NCBE Conference	04/19/12;			
(w)	Research Fundamentals	07/11/12;			
(x)	SC Bar Bridge The Gap	07/30/12;			
(y)	SCAJ Annual Convention	08/12/12;			
(z)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/22/12;			
(aa)	Southern Region High Court Conference	09/27/12;			
(bb)	SCDTAA Annual Meeting	11/08/12;			
(cc)	SC Bar Dispute Resolution Section	01/24/13;			
(dd)	SC Bar Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section	01/25/13;			
(ee)	SC Bar Criminal Law Section	01/25/13;			
(ff)	SC Bar Senior Lawyers Division	01/26/13;			
(gg)	Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference	06/27/13;			
(hh)	SCDTAA Summer Meeting	07/25/13;			
(ii)	SCAJ Annual Convention	08/01/13;			
(jj)	SC Bar Bridge the Gap	08/05/13;			
(kk)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/13;			
(11)	SCDTAA Annual Meeting	11/07/13;			
(mm)	8	01/02/14;			
(nn)	SC Bar Criminal Law	01/25/14;			
(00)	NCBE Conference	05/01/14;			
(pp)	DRI Seminar	07/17/14;			
(qq)	NFJE Seminar	07/18/14;			
(rr)	SC Bar Bridge the Gap	08/04/14;			
(ss)	SCAJ Annual Convention	08/07/14;			
(tt)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/14;			
(uu)	James Lee Otis Lecture (ABOTA)	09/19/14;			
(uu) (vv)	SCDTAA Annual Meeting	11/06/14;			
(ww)	SC Bar	01/23/15;			
(xx)	SC Bar	01/23/15,			
	Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational				

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
 - (a) On 01/18/12 I spoke to the Richland County Paralegals Association;

- (b) On 01/22/12 I participated in a YLD breakfast meeting;
- (c) I judged a regional moot court competition at the CSOL on 02/04/12, and imparted appellate practice pointers to the participants;
- (d) On 06/30/12 I spoke to a national meeting of clerks of court;
- (e) On 09/12/12 I lectured to an ethics class at USC Law;
- (f) On 10/05/12 I lectured to the annual DNR CLE;
- (g) On 10/19/12 I made a presentation on social media to a national YLD conference;
- (h) On 03/16/13 I was the keynote speaker at the Charleston Hibernian Society banquet. While not strictly law related, a significant part of the address related to judicial selection;
- (i) On 04/01/13 I delivered a lecture to a USC law class on the Constitution;
- (j) From 04/12/13 04/20/13 I headed a US delegation under the sponsorship of the USDOJ and the Justice Academy of Turkey, in Ankara and Istanbul, to advise Turkish officials on American practices with regard to guilty pleas;
- (k) On 07/12/13 I lectured to the SC Criminal Lawyers Association on preservation of issues in appellate practice;
- (l) In July 2014, I appeared on a panel in Chicago with Judge Richard Posner, and Judge Bernice Donald at the DRI Convention. The topic was effective brief writing;
- (m) On 03/04/14, I judged the USC Moot Court Competition;
- (n) On 01/23/15, I judged the Black Law Student Association Moot Court Competition;
- (o) Additionally throughout my tenure as a trial and appellate judge I have been called upon to speak before professional, school, and business groups almost every month. I do not keep specific records on those appearances, but of significance is my selection in June of 2006, for a USAID mission to the Republic of Azerbaijan, to lecture 54 judicial candidates on western legal ethics.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

None

- 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) 1968 South Carolina Supreme Court, Bar #4479;
 - (b) 1968 United States District Court, District of SC;
 - (c) 1969 United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces;
 - (d) 1977 United States Supreme Court;
 - (e) 1990 United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- 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) <u>June 1968 November 1968:</u> Preparation of course materials for proposed South Bar Review Course:
 - (b) November 1968 March 1973: Active Duty United States Army. Legal experience included Chief of Military Justice, Trial Counsel (Prosecutor), and Deputy Staff

Judge Advocate;

- (c) <u>March 1973 February 1975:</u> Assistant Public Defender for Richland County, South Carolina. Duties entailed defense preparation for and trial of indigent persons accused of criminal offenses. Cases ranged from murder charges through Magistrate and Municipal Court offenses;
- (d) February 1975 February 1976: Private Practice with Law offices of N. Welch Morrisette, and Independent Contractor with Richland County Public Defender Agency. Private Practice duties entailed preparation and trial of federal and state civil matters. Independent Contractor duties continued Public Defense duties, but limited to defense of major crimes;
- (e) <u>February 1976 March 1977:</u> Chief Deputy Public Defender, Richland County, South Carolina. Duties included supervision of personnel, in addition to the preparation and trial of major criminal charges such as murder, armed robbery, etc.;
- (f) March 1977 January 1981: Private practitioner in general civil and criminal practice with the firm of Harrison and Pleicones, Columbia, South Carolina. Additionally served as Assistant County Attorney for Richland County (August 1977 December 1978) and as County Attorney for Richland County (January 1979 January 1981). Duties included representing Richland County in litigation matters, advising County Council and supervising staff of twelve;
- (g) <u>January 1981 June 1991:</u> Sole General Practitioner (January 1981 October 1984). Partner in Lewis, Babcock, Pleicones & Hawkins (formerly Lewis, Babcock, Gregory & Pleicones) of Columbia, South Carolina (October 1984 June 1991). The firm grew in that time from four to thirteen lawyers and engaged in major civil litigation (both plaintiff and defense litigation). Served as a member of three person executive committee of the firm. Other responsibilities included legislative monitoring and liaison work with the South Carolina General Assembly for two large trade associations. Additional duties as Municipal Judge for the City of Columbia from September 1982 through March 1988;
- (h) <u>July 1991 March 2000:</u> Resident Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina:

At all times during my years as a lawyer my emphasis was heavily on trial practice.

- (i) March 2000 Present: Associate Justice, Supreme Court of South Carolina, Scat #2.
- What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, <u>Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.</u>? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.
 - My last <u>Martindale-Hubbell</u> rating was "AV" and had been at that level for a number of years. I am not sure if the other rating organizations existed when I practiced law.
- 17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
 - (a) federal:
- 5 times per year on average;
- (b) state:
- 95 times per year on average.
- 18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
 - (a) civil:
- 70% (includes administrative practice);
- (b) criminal:
- 10%;
- (c) domestic:
- 20%.

- 19. 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:

10%.

These percentages represent only matters in <u>trial</u> courts that were actually submitted to a fact finder for resolution.

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

Most often served as sole and/or chief counsel.

- * The five year period for questions 17 19 is 1986 1991. I was elected to the bench in 1991 and have not practiced since.
- 20. 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) <u>Southern Bell v. Steven W. Hamm</u>, 306 S.C. 70, 409 SE2d 775 (1991) 60 USLW 2294, 126 P.U.R. 4th 535, 9 ALR 5th 1131.
 - I believe this case was the first in the United States to judicially approve "caller ID" telephone service. Important constitutional questions were implicated e.g., right to privacy. I argued and won the case in the trial court, and was the principal author of the brief to the South Carolina Supreme Court. I did not argue this case there, as I was pending swearing in to the circuit court. The Supreme Court affirmed;
 - (b) <u>Funderburk v. Funderburk</u>, 281 S.C. 246, 315 SE2d 126 (Ct App 1984); on cert to SC Supreme Court 286 S.C. 129, 332 SE2d 205 (1985).
 - The Supreme Court reversed the trial court and the Court of Appeals in ruling that jurisdiction of a contractual agreement's voluntary nature was properly before the Family Court, and not the Circuit Court. I did not handle the trial, where my client did not prevail but did handle the appellate stage, with co-counsel. Our client prevailed, and the decision was helpful to the bench and bar in clarifying jurisdictional matters:
 - (c) <u>Barnwell v. Barber-Coleman Co.</u>, 301 S.C. 534, 393 SE2d (1989).

 The Supreme Court held that punitive damages are not recoverable in a cause of action based solely upon the theory of strict liability. This questions was certified to the Court by the United States District Court. I was involved <u>only</u> at the State Court as the author and proponent of an <u>amicus</u> brief filed on behalf of my client, a trade association of property and casualty writers;
 - (d) Russo v. Sutton, S.C., SE2d 750 (1992).

 In December of 1990, I tried this case in Common Pleas Court in Richland County and secured a large verdict for the plaintiff. The case is significant because on appeal the defendant's argument as to the non-viability of the cause of action (alienation of affections) was accepted by the Supreme Court, which prospectively did away with the cause of action. This did not affect my client's right to recovery;
 - (e) State v. Motes, 264 S.C. 317, 215 SE2d 190 (1975).

 I represented Mr. Motes at trial and on appeal. He was convicted of murder largely upon the testimony of his estranged wife, who was allowed to testify over our objection. The case is significant because in interpreting our statute on first impression, the Supreme Court (and of course the trial judge) ruled that the privilege

belonged to the testifying spouse, not the one testified against.

- 21. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). I do not have access to the briefs in these cases owing to age or to physical separation from the repositories, I was the, or a principal counsel in each case.
 - (a) Funderburk v. Funderburk, 281 S.C. 246, 315 SE2d 126, (Ct. App 1984); quashed by South Carolina Supreme Court after grand of certiorari, 286 S.C. 129, 332 SE2d 205 (1985);
 - (b) Hamm v. Southern Bell, 305 S.C. 1, 406 SE2d 157 (1991). Note: This is <u>not</u> the case referred to in 20(a) above;
 - (c) <u>Peoples Federal Savings and Load Association v. Myrtle Beach Retirement Group,</u> Inc. et al., 300 S.C. 277, 287 SE2d 672 (1989);
 - (d) <u>Dale v. South Carolina Tax Commission, et al.</u>, 276 S.C. 110, 276 SE2d 293 (1981). I appeared on behalf of Richland County, another party to the suit;
 - (e) <u>Truett v. Georgeson</u>, S.C. ____, 258 SE2d 499 (1979).
- 22. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).
 - (a) State v. Monroe, 262 S.C. 346, 204 SE2d 433, (1974);
 - (b) State v. Thomas, 264 S.C. 159, 213 SE2d 452 (1975);
 - (c) State v. Motes, 264 S.C. 317, 215 SE2d 190 (1975);
 - (d) State v. Sweet, 270 S.C. 97, 240 SE2d 648 (1978);
 - (e) <u>State v. Watson</u>, 81-MO-232, S.C. Supreme Ct (1981); cert denied 454 US 1148, 71 L.Ed.2d 301 (1982).
 - * Owing to the age of these files and the fact of several intervening moves, I do not have access to the briefs. I will endeavor to find them and supplement this response. I was chief or sole counsel in each of these cases.
- 23. Have you ever held judicial office? Yes.
 - (a) <u>March 2000 Present:</u> Associate Justice, Supreme Court of South Carolina. Elected by the General Assembly of South Carolina. Appellate Jurisdiction, state court of last resort:
 - (b) <u>July 1991 March 2000:</u> Circuit Court Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit of South Carolina. Elected by the General Assembly of South Carolina. General civil and criminal jurisdiction;
 - (c) <u>March 1982 September 1988:</u> Municipal Judge, City of Columbia, South Carolina. Criminal jurisdiction only up to a maximum of 30 days in jail, or a \$200 fine.
- 24. If the answer to question 23 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.
 - (a) Colleton Prep Academy, Inc. v. Hoover, Universal, Inc., 379 S.C. 181, 666 SE2d (2008).
 - I wrote a dissent in this case explicating the "economic loss rule". The significance is that the dissent was subsequently adopted as the majority opinion in <u>Sapp v. Ford</u>

Motor Co., 386 S.C. 143, 687 SC2d 47 (2009);

- (b) <u>Arthurs rel. Estate of Munn v. Aiken County</u>, 346 S.C. 97, 551 SE2d 579 (2001). Articulation of the "public duty rule" in South Carolina;
- (c) <u>State v. Downs</u>, 361 S.C. 141, 604 SE2d 377 (2004).

 Affirming death penalty holding no deprivation of right to jury on sentencing following entry of an unconditional guilty plea. Case involved interpretation of <u>Ring v. Arizona</u>, 536 U.S. 584, 122 S. Ct. 2428, 153 L.Ed.2d 556 (2002);
- (d) Sweetser v. South Carolina Department of Insurance Reserve Fund, 390 S.C. 632, 703 SE2d 509 (2010)
 Case involved the efficacy of policy language regarding offset of worker's

compensation benefits against UIM coverage;

- (e) <u>State v. Jones</u>, 343, S.C. 562, 541 SE2d 813 (2001). Portion of opinion regarding the admissibility of scientific evidence.
- 25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No.
- 26. 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. Officer (Colonel), United States Army reserve, 1973 1999. Beginning in August 1993, I served as Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer from 1st United States Army to the South Carolina National Guard and militia in South Carolina. Prior to that I was Commander of the 12th Military Law Center. The commanders of 1st Army and of the 120th ARCOM were my supervisors. All duties were military in nature.
- 27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? Yes. 1982 primary election for Richland County Council. 1994 and 1995 campaigns for Supreme Court. 2014 campaign for Chief Justice.
- 28. 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?

 None, other than military service since college graduation.
- 29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?

 No.
- 30. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 31. 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.

 Through 1993 I received payments from my former law firm for services performed prior to leaving. I reported these payments. I recused myself on all cases involving this law firm while I still owned a building with its members. I sold my interest in the building in August of 2009. I continue to recuse on any case involving my former law partners in which they were involved prior to August 2009.
- 32. 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; N/A

- 33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?

 No: N/A
- 34. 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; No; No; N/A
- 35. 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?
 - (a) C. W. Haynes v. Powers, et al. 88-CP-40-4427

 As a member of my law firm, we obtained a judgment against a person whose mortgage was subsequently foreclosed. As judgment creditors, we were necessary parties to the foreclosure:
 - (b) Anthony Eubanks v. Judge Pleicones, et al. c/a No. 3: 94-1531-17BD

 I had no idea this lawsuit existed until I was served with a copy of the order dismissing it. Apparently, a defendant in a criminal case protested my order to give hair samples and bodily fluids. The case was dismissed;
 - (c) I learned during my 2000 judicial race that a lawyer named David Butler had filed a complaint in Lexington County against me and my law firm. Since the complaint was never served, the action was never commenced according to law, and I never knew it existed until JMSC staff pointed it out to me. This must have occurred at sometime around 1989-1990, as I had briefly represented Mr. Butler's wife in her domestic relationship with Mr. Butler, who is now deceased. It is an ethical violation to file but not serve a complaint. I assume the complaint was long ago stricken;
 - (d) <u>Dell Carter v. William Walter Thompson</u>, Associate Solicitor, Costa Pleicones, Associate Justice, and Joseph Derham Cole, Circuit Judge, US District Court (Columbia) #3:04-CV-00772-TLW.

 Suit by a prisoner that was dismissed <u>without service of process</u> on 04/13/2004. I obviously never knew this case existed until the SLED report in my last judicial race;
 - (e) <u>William C. Reed v. Supreme Court of South Carolina</u>, #7:01-CV-00724-HMH Suit by a <u>pro se</u> defendant against all members of the Supreme Court. Dismissed <u>without service of process</u> on 04/17/2001. Same as (d) above;
 - (f) <u>James Benton v. Pleicones, et al.</u>, #2:99-CV-02437-CMC Prisoner suit filed against me as circuit judge, the solicitor, the court reporter, the defense attorney, all officers and witnesses at his trial. Dismissed <u>without service of process on 09/02/1999</u>. Same as (d) and (e) above.

There may be other such cases as (d), (e), and (f) above but I have never been served with any lawsuits.

- 37. 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: No: N/A
- 38. 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? Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your

current malpractice policy.

N/A

- 39. 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.?

 No; N/A
- 40. 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)?

 Yes.
 - (a) 1984 1991: Alliance of American Insurers. A trade association of property and casualty writers. The association was based in Schaumburg, Illinois, but I was supervised by James Purcell, the regional manager in Atlanta.
 - (b) c. 1981 1990: South Carolina Association of Convenience Stores. A trade association of convenience store owners and suppliers. Supervised by Carol Davis, Columbia, SC, Executive Director.
- 41. 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? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.
- 42. 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.

 No: N/A
- 43. 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.

 N/A
- 44. 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.
 - (a) \$82.81 Postage for 169 announcement letters to members of the General Assembly, 02/05/2015
 - (b) \$53.74 Stationery and envelopes for letters
 - (c) Letters prepared by a friend (Connie Grugan) on private computer at no cost to me or the state.

Total To Date: \$136.55

45. 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. N/A

- 46. 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; N/A
- 47. 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; N/A
- 48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?

 No: N/A
- 49. 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? Yes. I wrote a general letter announcing my intention to seek this position to all members of the General Assembly on February 5, 2015. Since six members of the Commission are also members of the General Assembly, the answer to this question must be "yes." Also, the letters of recommendation required by this application are addressed to the Chair of the Commission, Other than these contacts, the answer is "No."
- 50. 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) South Carolina Bar At one time I was a member of the House of Delegates;
 - (b) Richland County Bar no office held.
- 51. 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) Charter member John Belton O'Neall Chapter (Master of the Bench), American Inns of Court. Resigned 2003;
 - (b) Order of AHEPA. An anti-discrimination and fraternal organization. Current member:
 - (c) Honorary Doctorate, Wofford College, 2002;
 - (d) Honorary Doctorate, University of South Carolina, 2005;
 - (e) Kappa Alpha Order Court of Honor;
 - (f) Palmetto Patriot Award, Adjutant General of South Carolina;
 - (g) Legion of Merit, Secretary of the Army;
 - (h) Matthew Perry Civility Award, Richland County Bar Association;
 - (i) Elected by South Carolina Methodist Conference to Wofford College Board of Trustees for term 2013 2017.
- 52. 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.
 - My parents were the best people I ever knew. Our family finances were modest, but my parents stressed respect, hard work, and the importance of education. I took those lessons to heart and have always sought to treat everyone with dignity and respect. I work hard and

take my position, but not myself - very seriously. I believe I am a very good judge.

53. References

- (a) Fitzhugh King, Senior VP, NBSC PO Box 1457 Columbia, SC 29202 800-708-5687;
- (b) Mary Ann Crews, J. E. Eubanks and Associates
 1 Windsor Cove, Suite 305
 Columbia, SC 29223
 803-252-5646;
- (c) Joe Taylor, Jr. 146 State Street West Columbia, SC 29169 803-765-2448;
- (d) Russell D. Zimmerman 5225 Clemson Avenue, # 218 Columbia, SC 29206 803-787-8786;
- (e) Ann L. Furr 2714 Preston Street Columbia, SC 29205 803-767-0569.

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

Signature: s/Costa M. Pleicones

Date: February 25, 2015