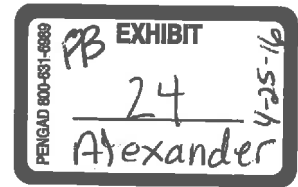


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: The Family court, Family Court Judge, Seat 4, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

1. Name: Mr. James Crayton Alexander
Mrs.
Ms.

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Jim Alexander

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 107 E. Main Street, PO Box 618, Pickens, South Carolina 29671

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home) [REDACTED]
(office): 864 898-3208

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1949
Place of Birth: San Diego, California
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Family Status: Married on April 16, 1971 to Linda Sue Whitlock Alexander.
Never divorced, three children.

[REDACTED]

6. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number, present status, and the character of your discharge or release.

Yes, I served in the United States Air Force on active duty from 1974-1978. The highest rank attained was Captain and I received an honorable discharge. [REDACTED]

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) I attended The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina from 1967 to 1971 and I graduated and received a Bachelor of Arts degree on May 29, 1971.
- (b) I attended The University of South Carolina Law School from 1971 and to December of 1973 and I graduated, receiving a Juris Doctor degree on December 31, 1973.

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.

- (a) I took and passed the Bar examination in South Carolina and was admitted to practice law in South Carolina on May 15, 1974. I have only taken a Bar examination in South Carolina and I passed the examination on the first try.

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) At The Citadel, I attained the rank of a cadet first lieutenant and was M company executive officer in 1970-1971.
- (b) I was a member of the Summerall Guards in 1970-1971.

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

- (a) Social Security Disability 08/27/2010
- (b) Annual Title Seminar (TIPS) 11/15/2010
- (c) Annual TIPS Seminar 11/07/2011
- (d) Everything You Need to Know about Ethics 01/13/2012
- (e) I have been exempt from CLE requirements since 2012.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

- (a) I taught an off campus business law class while I was in the Air Force in Valdosta, Georgia in approximately 1976 for Troy University for one or two years.
 - (b) I taught an on campus night business law class at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina from approximately 2002 until 2004.
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) South Carolina, 1974
 - (b) US District Court for the district of South Carolina, approximately 1980.
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) I served in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the US Air Force from 1974-1978. I advised the base commander on military legal issues, advised military personnel on civil issues, and served as a prosecutor for military courtmartials. I served as an area defense counsel representing airmen who were charged with violations of the Uniform code of Military Justice.
 - (b) I joined the Law Office of John Bolt Culbertson in Greenville, SC in 1978 as an associate attorney. Eventually, this arrangement was changed to a partnership of Culbertson, Christian, Moorhead, and Alexander, and I was one of the partners. This firm was a general practice law firm. I represented clients in the Family Court for domestic litigation and juvenile adjudications, handled civil cases involving auto accidents, workers compensation accidents, and other general civil litigation, and defended clients charged with criminal offenses in General Sessions Court. The partnership ended in 1983.
 - (c) I formed a partnership with Capers Bouton in 1983 in Greenville, SC, and we practiced as Bouton, Bouton, and Alexander. My law practice continued to be substantially the same. This partnership ended in 1987 and I accepted an offer to join a firm in Pickens, South Carolina.
 - (d) I joined the firm of Coyle and Hughes in 1987, practicing with Redmond Coyle and Murray Hughes. This firm was involved in Family Court litigation, Social Security litigation, personal injury litigation, criminal defense work, and real estate closings. My primary areas of practice were in Family Court domestic relations cases, personal injury cases in Common Pleas Court, and assisting Mr. Coyle as the Pickens County Public Defender. In that capacity, I primarily represented appointed clients in juvenile adjudications in the Family Court. This firm ended in 1991 and I formed a partnership with Mr. Coyle in 1991.

- (e) Mr. Coyle and I practiced as Coyle and Alexander until 2002, with my areas of work being substantially the same, with the addition of some real estate work. After Mr. Coyle resigned as public defender, I continued to handle General Sessions cases and juvenile adjudications in Family Court.
- (f) I practiced as a sole practitioner from 2002 until my son, Steven L. Alexander, joined the firm in 2003. During 2002-2003, I handled the same type of cases that I previously handled, and added social security disability work and became a licensed Title Insurance agent. I also began working as the City Attorney for the City of Liberty, SC. After Steven L. Alexander joined the firm in 2003, my practice was substantially the same with the exception of General Sessions cases which Steven handled. I no longer represent defendants in DSS cases as Steven is the contract attorney for the volunteer Guardian program in Pickens County. I do handle DSS cases representing defendants on occasion if I already represent a client on another matter, and Steven would be conflicted out of the case anyway. I represent the volunteer guardians in DSS cases when Steven has a scheduling conflict. We now practice as The Alexander law Firm, LLC.

15. Please answer the following (if you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is 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.

I have practiced in the Family Court on a regular basis since 1978. I have handled many contested cases involving divorce, child custody, visitation and placement, equitable division of marital property and debts, abuse and neglect cases involving DSS, and juvenile adjudication. Handling cases in the Family Court has always been a substantial part of my practice. I estimate that up to 40% of my practice in any given year involves Family Court cases, and most of these cases have contested issues. During my partnership with Mr. Coyle, I handled many juvenile adjudications, although now my son handles those types of cases as that is one of his interests. I have had a lot of experience in practically every type of situation that can come into the Family Court. I have been in cases involving DSS throughout my career, appointed and privately retained. My son is the attorney for the volunteer guardian program in Pickens County and I will substitute for him representing the guardians and have been able to keep up with that area of the Family Court. I have an extensive background in the Family Court in all types of cases and I believe that this experience has prepared me to deal with any issues as a Judge.

- (b) 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.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity.
 - (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Judge, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law Judge Court.
16. 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.

I did not participate in legal rating organizations. However, I checked Martindale-Hubbell and there is one rating from a client of Preeminent 5.0 out of 5.

*** Retired justices/judges and justices/judges applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 17–22. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 17-22 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.**

17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
- (a) federal: I handled one case in Federal District Court and that case settled and did not involve a Court Appearance. I appear in front of Social Security Administrative Law Judges for social security disability cases on an average of 20-25 times per year.
 - (b) state: I have an active trial practice and I am in the Family Court or Common Pleas Court an average of one to two times per week.
18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
- (a) civil: 40
 - (b) criminal: 0
 - (c) domestic: 40
 - (d) other: 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: 10%

(b) non-jury: 90%

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

I serve most often as sole Counsel

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) Childers vs. Childers (Anderson County Family Court, citation unknown): The parties were divorced and the mother received custody of two children. Subsequent to the divorce proceeding, I represented the father in bringing a substantial change of circumstances action as to custody of the youngest child who was a teenage. Numerous contested hearings over a long period of time were held. Settlement negotiations were very difficult because of the extreme personality differences of the parties. One party was extremely strong willed and the other party was very submissive. However, the case was eventually settled by an agreement. The lawyers had developed a good and amicable relationship during the case and this helped with reaching a settlement. The lawyers would not give up and negotiated a settlement, not just that the parties could live with, but that actually satisfied both parties. The significance is that this is an example that a case has a much better chance of being settled by agreement if the lawyers involved act professional and with courtesy and have a good working relationship with each other.

(b) Dodgens vs. Duke Energy 2011-CP-39-1097: This case involved litigation over the location and number of docks on one piece of lake front property on Lake Keowee and the right of Duke Energy to regulate these matters. Lake Keowee is a manmade lake and is publicly regulated by Duke Energy. By its very nature, lake front property owners and Duke Energy are often involved in emotional and contentious issues, particularly if the land has been handed down through a family who owned land prior to the creation of the lake. In Pickens and Oconee counties some families still believe they were unjustly deprived of their land when the lake was created and still harbor deep emotional animosity toward Duke Energy. My client had three docks on their lakefront property and Duke Energy wanted this one tract of property divided into three separate tracts, which would substantially increase their taxes. This was a contentious case. Issues of recusal of the trial Judge came up but the case was eventually tried non-jury and an order was issued that essentially gave some relief to each party, which did not satisfy either party.

There are two significant points for this case. Throughout this emotional and contentious litigation between the parties, the other lawyer and I developed a good working relationship and we did not allow the emotionally contentious nature of the litigation to get between us or affect us. Both of us handled this case from a professional standpoint and we both treated all lawyers, litigants, and witnesses with the courtesy

required. This good working relationship was important to a successful resolution of this case. After the order was issued, both sides filed motions for reconsideration. While the trial judge was considering both motions, the other lawyer and I were able to schedule a settlement conference and we were able to settle this case and reach an agreement with which my clients were completely satisfied and that allowed them to get on with their lives in a positive way. This agreement was only possible because of the good relationship developed by the two lawyers. This is a lesson that I learned early in my practice and it has always proven to be true. Lawyers can disagree without being disagreeable and when lawyers act in a professional and courteous manner, they do their clients a great service. A second significant point is that I was able to be involved in a case where a potential conflict of interest for the trial judge came up and I was able to experience how that potential conflict was involved. This experience will assist me in resolving similar future situations.

(c) Young vs. Young 2004-DR-39-832: The Court had issued a final divorce order that divided marital property. A contempt action was filed against my client in 2009 which involved his actions as to the marital property distribution. My client was retired and this case involved substantial monetary amounts. The Court on its own raised a jurisdictional issue because the case involved a division of marital property in a prior final order. The Court found that it was without jurisdiction, even though the other party did not raise this issue, that it could not consider or determine his claims, found him in willful violation of the prior order, and imposed a significant penalty and sanctions. A notice of intent to appeal was filed. Subsequently, an agreement was reached at a settlement conference between the parties and attorneys and the appeal was dismissed. This is another case where the lawyers worked well together and shows that hard cases can be settled if lawyers get along with each other and do their job properly. Also, this case allowed me the opportunity to deal with a jurisdictional issue, not raised by the other party, but by the trial judge.

(d) First Citizens vs Chappell, 2009-CP-39-1144: A bank sued my client for a deficiency balance due on a loan in his name for a car that had been purchased for his ex-wife while they were married. The issue involved the interpretation of sections of the Uniform Commercial Code as to whether the contract was only a financing agreement (client's position) or whether it was a hybrid document that also included a sales agreement (bank's position). The statute of limitations was either 6 years (bank wins) or 3 years (client wins because the bank waited 5 years to file). This was a case of first impression in South Carolina on the issue presented as neither lawyer could find any South Carolina cases on point. The case was tried non-jury in Common Pleas Court and resulted in judgment in favor of my client. The bank chose not file an appeal. This case allowed me to be involved in a case of first impression on a legal issue and obtain some experience in how a trial Judge handles that issue.

(e) Moroney vs. Moroney, 2014-DR-39-90: This Family Court case involved two parties who had prior marriages with both having significant property at the time of this marriage. The issues involved identifying the marital property and debts to be divided, transmutation of pre-marital property into marital property, and other like issues. There was a lot of personal property of substantial value and real issues as to what was marital. The case did not settle at mediation but did settle on the day of trial when the lawyers and the 2 parties held a joint settlement conference and the 2 parties essentially resolved the

remaining issues and settled the case. This case is significant because it shows that some cases have a better chance to settle if the parties sit down together and talk to one another. Most mediation sessions are done without the parties ever talking to one another and being in separate rooms because that just sometimes makes a bad situation worse. This procedure works in most cases but there are some cases, such as this one, where the parties themselves are better able to settle a case and we as lawyers need to be able to recognize those situations, and get out of the way. The other significance is that both lawyers were well prepared for a trial and this showed me once again what I already knew, that good trial preparation facilitates good settlements.

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.

(a) OHC Properties, LLC vs. Dewey E. and Starr Pajela, 2007-CP-39-1067. I represented the Pajelas in Pickens County and filed an appeal on their behalf when the Trial Judge granted summary Judgment to plaintiff. After I filed appellant's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter to be Included in The Record on Appeal, the plaintiff conceded that the order of the trial Judge should be vacated and the case should be remanded for trial. The Trial Judge approved this agreement and the case was remanded. Eventually, the case settled.

(b) The Cliffs at Keowee Community Association, Inc. vs. Roger L. and Lynne O'Donald and Cornerstone National Bank, 2001-CP-39-1808. I represented the O'Donalds and a motion for summary judgment was granted in favor of the plaintiff and defendants O'Donald appealed. The Court of Appeals upheld the Trial Court in an unpublished opinion, citation unknown.

(c) Ed Frierson, IV, Virginia Frierson, and Allie S. Frierson vs. David L and Patricia Watson and Carolina First Bank, 2002-CP-39-1808. I represent the Friersons and my Motion for Summary Judgment was granted by the trial Judge and defendants Watson appealed. The Court of Appeals upheld the trial Court in a published opinion, 271 S.C. 60 (S.C.App. 2006).

(d) Matthew H. Willimon and Elizabeth Willimon vs. Jake Gilstrap, Thomas R. Gilstrap, Sr., John Gilstrap, Yvonne G. Smith, Jason A. Smith, and Patricia Gilstrap, 2012-CP-39-144, Op. No. 2016-UP-202 (S.C.Ct.App. filed January 20, 2016) . I represented the plaintiffs in a right of way issue. After a bench trial, the Judge issued an order which granted certain relief to both parties. Plaintiffs appealed and the Court of Appeals affirmed in an unpublished opinion.

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.

None

23. 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.

No, I have never held judicial office.

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.

N/A

25. 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? If so, give details, including dates.

No, I have never held public office.

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.

I have never served as a Judge.

27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

(a) Yes, I was a candidate for seat 5 of the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 2013-2014.

(b) I was a candidate for seat 1 of the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 2014-2015.

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? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

I have engaged in the practice of law as my occupation since 1974 and currently practice as The Alexander Law Firm, LLC. However, I do have real estate investments and own real property, either in my name or through an LLC. These businesses currently include SAJ Properties, LLC, WAL Properties, LLC, and Storage on Jameson, LLC. Past businesses include Alexander Mobile Home Park, S and W Properties, LLC, and Pelham Creek Investments, LLC.

29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

(a) I am the sole member of WAL Properties, LLC which owns real property and rents and sells those properties. My role is to handle all matters involving these properties.

- (b) I am one of three members of SAJ Properties, LLC which owns real property and rents and sells those properties. I coordinate the general office affairs and the other two members handle all other aspects, and also assist in management duties. We employ a leasing agent to handle a majority of the properties.
- (c) I am one of two partners in the ownership and rental of a house, 119 Sadie Drive, Easley, SC. I do not have any management responsibilities for this unit.
- (d) I am one of four members in Storage on Jameson, LLC, which owns a house and storage buildings. I do not have any management responsibilities for this LLC.
- (e) I am one of two members of The Alexander Law Firm, LLC. This is my law practice. This LLC also owns one additional parcel of real property which is rented out.

30. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(Your response to this question may state “see attached”).

See attached.

(A net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

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.

I have a family connection or I am good friends with all other members of the real estate businesses in which I am involved. That personal connection and family connection would disqualify me from hearing any case in which they are involved, as a party or witness. A tenant in one of the properties that I personally handle would disqualify me as I would be deriving income from that person. I do not know the tenants who live in properties handled by a leasing agent and those tenants will probably not know that I am an owner. However, I do know the property locations and if I became aware of such a situation, I would be required to disclose this and disqualify myself since that person is paying me money in the form of rent. My banking institutions would not normally be involved as a party in Family court but if my personal and business bankers were involved in a case as parties, that would require recusal as I only do business with bankers that I know very well and consider friends. If they were involved as witnesses, that would require disclosure and recusal if a

party objected. I could not hear a case in which my son was involved, directly or indirectly, as a lawyer. I have three ex-partners and one ex-associate still practicing law. However, these lawyers do not practice in the Family Court so a recusal issue should come up, unless these lawyers were parties or witnesses. If so, I would disclose the relationship and act accordingly. My continuing relationship with two of these lawyers would require recusal. In general, I would recuse myself from hearing any case required by the rules and which would bring the justice system into disrepute and the impartiality of the decision in question. In general, when a potential conflict arises from my financial arrangements or business relationships, my philosophy is that it is better to err on the side of caution and recuse yourself.

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? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$125 or less was imposed.

■

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

I have never been so investigated.

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? If so, give details.

I have not been involved in any of the above situations.

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? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates and resolution.

Yes on a personal basis but I have not been sued or named as a defendant on a professional basis.

(a) I sold a house and lot and took back a second mortgage on real property in Greenville County. The buyer did not pay the first mortgagee and that institution sued to foreclose on the first mortgage and named me as a party since I held the second mortgage. No relief was requested or granted against me. The foreclosure was completed in approximately 1999 and I do not know the case citation.

(b) I have obtained Family Court Orders requiring a person to pay me attorney fees. I am aware of at least 2 cases whereby such a person failed to pay their mortgage on a home and a foreclosure resulted and I was named as a defendant because that person owed me attorney fees. No relief was requested or granted against me. Two cases involved persons named Lingerfelt and Arnold. There may have been other similar situation. I

have never been sued because of any debt that I have had. I do not know the case citations.

- (c) I was added as a defendant in a case in Oconee County, but no relief was requested against me. I represented an estate in a wrongful death case against a second estate (murder-suicide involving a wife and husband) that resulted in an undivided interest in real property being signed over to me as my attorney fee. A Court order was required to sell real property owned by both estates and I agreed to be added as a defendant for complete relief and the property was sold. The clerk of court was required to sign the deed and I was added as a defendant solely to get that authorization by an order dated March 25, 2014. The case citation is Teresa M. Cox, personal representative of the Estate of Walter L. Johnson vs. Peter Delfino, individually and as personal representative of the Estate of Janie Delfino Johnson, Ronnie Delfino, and Morgan Ellis, and James C. Alexander, 2011-CP-37-620 (Companion case No. 2004-CP-37-636).

36. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition.



37. 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? If so, give the details.

I have never been so investigated.

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? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I am covered by malpractice insurance and have been so throughout my legal career. My current policy has a deductible is \$5,000 and limits are \$500,000/\$1,000,000. I have never been covered by a tail policy.

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.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

My Law Firm has an internet website for legal business purposes only and I am featured on that site. Otherwise, I do not participate in any of these named activities and to my knowledge have not been so featured or depicted on any other site. There would be no effect if I was serving in a judicial capacity.

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)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

I have never been so employed or acted.

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.

I have not accepted any such items.

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. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

No such action, charges, or allegations have been made against me and I do not have any knowledge as to any other candidate.

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. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

There have been no formal charges or informal allegations against me and I do not have any knowledge as to any other candidate.

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.

I have spent approximately \$90.00 on printing costs and postage.

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.

I have not contributed to any member of the General Assembly since the announcement of my intention to seek election to this judgeship.

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? If so, give details.

Note: Attached are (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, and (3) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

No, I have not, directly or indirectly, made such a request or received such an assurance.

47. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details.

I have complied with section 2-19-70(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976.

48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No, I have not so acted nor has anyone on my behalf.

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?

I have been informed that Representatives Murrell Smith and Todd Rutherford are now members of the Merit Selection Commission. I do not know when these appointments were made but I was not aware of their appointment until after the legislative session started in January of 2016. I did send emails to Representative Murrell Smith on November 6, 2015 and again on January 3, 2016 and to Representative Todd Rutherford on November 1, 2015 and on January 3, 2016 to announce my intention to run for this seat and discuss qualifications. These contacts were before I became aware that a change had been made as to the membership of the Commission and that Representatives Murrell Smith and Todd Rutherford had been added. I have had no contact since January 3, 2016 and none since I became aware of the membership change. Otherwise, my answer to this question 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) I belong to the South Carolina Bar Association.
(b) I belong to the American Bar Association.

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) I am a member of First Baptist Church of Pickens.

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. 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 have been involved and worked with people in many ways, including through my Church and civic organizations. I am a member of Pickens First Baptist Church and have served as a deacon, member of many committees, and as a Sunday School Teacher. I have taught an adult Sunday School class for many years. One committee on which I served is the benevolence committee which involved me in a part of society in a personal way whereby I saw families in need and which in many cases involved dysfunctional families. This experience has given me much insight into the dynamics of family relationships. I served on the Pickens Recreation Commission which oversees all youth programs in the Pickens area, and I have coached many youth sports teams. Seeing and dealing with the problems of children and parents in youth sports was challenging but rewarding, and eye opening. These experiences were and still are invaluable in helping me deal with people on a personal level and has helped me relate better to my clients and their legal problems.

53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly.

(a) Karen G. Pruitt, 210 Werner Street, Central, SC 29630, 864 639-1800

(b) Kelvin R. Kears, 1128 East Main Street, PO Box 1504, Easley, SC 29641 864 855-9666

(c) Jeff Turner (Banker), Carolina Alliance Bank, 10515 Anderson Road, Easley, SC 29642 864 335-4804

(d) Brian K. James, 609 West Main Street, PO Box 93, Easley, SC 29641, 864 859-5918

(e) Sean J. Hinton, 859 Pendleton Street, PO Box 9, Pickens, SC 29671, 864 878-1184

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or
- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

I have no such interest.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Not Applicable to this candidate.

55. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None, neither I nor any member of my immediate family has taken any such action.

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: James C. Beltramo
Date: 03/01/2016