

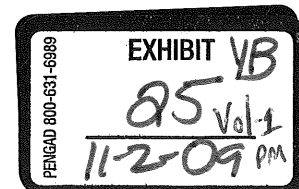
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Circuit Court, At-Large, seat 8

1. NAME: Ms. Jennifer Peters Wilson
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Myrtle Beach Municipal Court
1101 Oak Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
E-MAIL ADDRESS: jwilson@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843.918.1373
2. Date of Birth: 1955
Place of Birth: Charleston, 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:
I was divorced in 1992. I was the moving party and the divorce was granted on the ground of one year separation. I was also granted a divorce on December 2, 2008, on the ground of one year separation. I was the moving party. Two children.
6. Have you served in the military? No
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) Spelman College, Atlanta Georgia, August 1973 to May 1977. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.
 - (b) Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, New Jersey- August 1977 to May 1980. I received a Juris Doctor Degree.
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, May 1981; I took the bar exam twice
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.

While at Spelman I was a member of the Political Science Club in 1974-76, and the Spelman Glee Club. I also became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1976. From January through August of 1976, I participated in the Cooperative Education Program at Spelman. I spent this time working at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington. I received



twelve (12) credit hours and was paid a stipend. In law school I was a member of the Black Association of Law Students

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/06;
(b) Ethics 2000	12/13/05;
(c) Ethics Seminar	01/25/09;
(d) 24 th Annual Criminal Law Updates	01/23/09;
(e) Law Office Technology	01/22/09;
(f) Criminal Domestic Violence Update	11/21/08;
(g) SC Black Lawyers Summit and Retreat	10/30/08;
(h) Judicial Selection in SC	9/17/08;
(i) SC Summary Court Judges Annual Seminar	09/3/08;
(j) SC Summary Court Judges Annual Seminar & Convention	09/06/07;
(k) Domestic Violence and the Criminal	11/09/06;
(l) SC Summary Court Judges Annual Seminar	09/13/06;
(m) SC Summary Court Summer School	07/10/06;
(n) 21 st Annual Criminal Law Update	01/27/06;
(o) SC Summary Court Judges Annual Seminar	09/07/05;
(p) SC Summary Court Judges Annual Seminar	09/09/04.

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

- (a) I have lectured at the SC Bar Program "Bridge the Gap" for new lawyers.
- (b) I have made presentations on the topics of appellate advocacy and domestic relations to lawyers attending the Annual SC Bar Meeting
- (c) I lectured at the SC Black Lawyers Summit on practice in Municipal Court
- (d) I lectured at the Horry County Bar Seminar on practice in Municipal Court

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

- (a) S.C. Appellate Practice Handbook (S.C. Bar CLE 1985), Contributing Author;
- (b) Marital Litigation in S.C., Roy T. Stuckey and F. Glenn Smith (S.C. Bar CLE 1997), Editorial Board;

13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

- (a) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina in 1977;

- (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1980.
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina in 1981;
 - (d) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Courts of South Carolina in 1981;
 - (e) Also admitted to practice before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1982.
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 worked at Neighborhood Legal Assistance in Beaufort, S.C. 1980-1981. However, I did not make any court appearances until after I was admitted to the bar on May 17, 1981. Prior to that date, I performed paralegal duties.
 - (b) 1980-81 Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program, Beaufort, South Carolina. Represented indigent defendants in Family Court, Court of Common Pleas, and administrative agencies.
 - (c) 1981-82 Law Clerk to the Honorable Ernest A. Finney, Jr., Sumter, South Carolina. Assisted the Court in civil and criminal matters. Prepared orders and other research materials.
 - (d) 1982-83 Palmetto Legal Services, Orangeburg, South Carolina. Represented indigent defendants in Family Court, Court of Common Pleas, and administrative agencies.
 - (e) 1983-85 Department of Health and Environmental Control General Counsel's Office, Columbia, South Carolina. Represented the Department before the Board, hearing officers and the Court of Common Pleas.
 - (f) 1986-88 Horry County Public Defender's Office, Conway, South Carolina. Represented indigent defendants in General Sessions Court, including numerous felony cases.
 - (g) 1988-89 Kelagher, Bass, & Connell, PA, Surfside Beach, South Carolina. Associate in major law firm. Handled family court, civil and criminal cases.
 - (h) 1989-92 Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office, Conway, South Carolina. Prosecuted felony cases in General Sessions Court. Became chief drug prosecutor for Horry and Georgetown counties.
 - (i) 1992-95 PPM Cranes, Inc., Conway, South Carolina. Counsel for manufacture of mobile cranes. Major responsibility was to monitor product liability litigation nationwide. Hired and supervised local counsel, prepared discovery requests, attended all mediations, settlement conferences and trials. Made recommendations to the CEO and CFO of settlements.

- (j) 1995-2000 Jennifer Peters, Attorney at Law, Conway, South Carolina. Solo family, civil, and criminal practice.
- (k) 2000-present Chief Judge for the Myrtle Beach Municipal Court, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

I was appointed the first full time Chief Judge in January 2000. Not only do I preside over proceedings in court, I also serve as department head with administrative duties such as supervising court staff and three part-time judges, preparing annual budgets and scheduling court. I preside over bench trials, jury trials, preliminary hearings, bond hearings and motion hearings. I supervised implementation of the Case Management System(CMS) recommended by Chief Justice Toal.

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.

For the past nine years I have served as the first full time Chief Judge for the Municipal Court of Myrtle Beach. I preside over jury and non-jury trials, preliminary hearings, roster meetings as well as bond hearings for all General session's offenses except murder and burglary first degree. I also supervise the court staff and three part time judges. As chief judge I am responsible for administrative issues such as preparing annual budgets, hiring and firing of staff and evaluations. I supervised the implementation of the Court Management System (CMS) instituted by the Chief Justice. These required hours of training for all judges and staff while conducting daily trials and bond hearings twice per day. Additionally, I was successful in adding three positions to our budget to handle the increase in caseload and work due to the CMS. Prior to becoming a judge, I handled hundreds of felony cases both as an assistant solicitor and as an assistant public defender including one death penalty case on each side of the bar.

I also represented criminal defendants while in private practice. As for my civil experience, I was counsel for a major crane company for four years where I supervised product liability litigation in the United States. While I did not actually try the cases, I participated in completing all written discovery, attended and participated in all settlement conferences, mediations and trials. The company was self insured for one million dollars. I also tried numerous

civil cases while in private practice, most of which were personal injury cases brought on behalf of injured parties. During my time with legal aid and with DHEC, I appeared in civil court as well.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?

I am not rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

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

- (a) federal: 0;
(b) state: Bi-monthly.

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

The percentages of my practice refer to the last five years prior to becoming a judge.

- (a) civil: 20%;
(b) criminal: 35%;
(c) domestic: 45%.

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

The percentages of my practice refer to the last five years prior to becoming a judge.

- (a) jury: 20%;
(b) non-jury: 80%.

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

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) State v. Louis Barlow- As a young public defender, it was a dream come true to be appointed to a capital case. Mr. Barlow was charged with stabbing an eighty year old woman thirty-two (32) times with a ball point pen after robbing her as he held a knife to her neck. This case was significant because it was my first and only capital case as a defense attorney. Barlow ultimately plead guilty to a life sentence.
- (b) State v. Cleveland Eaddy-I prosecuted this death penalty case with the deputy solicitor. Mr. Eaddy was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. It was significant because it was a capital case.
- (c) Michael Burgess v. Valerie Bradley- This was a highly contested custody case where my client, the father, prevailed. The defendant appealed and the case was dismissed.
- (d) State v. "Top Cat" Richard Allen. "Top Cat" was known as a major drug dealer. I prosecuted the case and defendant was found guilty and sentenced to twenty-five (25) years in prison.
- (e) United States Marine Corp v. James Smith- Staff Sergeant Smith was charged with raping a fellow marine's wife. I appeared at the Article 31 hearing before the Judge Advocate General in Paris Island. The charges

were dismissed. It was significant because I learned about military procedures and law.

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. None.
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. None.
22. Have you ever held judicial office? Yes.
I was appointed on December 28, 1999 by the Myrtle Beach City Council to serves as full time Chief Judge for the Municipal Court for a four-year term. I was reappointed in January 2004 for a second four-year term. We have jurisdiction in criminal matters where the maximum penalty is thirty days or one thousand dollars.
23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions. N/A
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No.
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. None.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
Yes. In 2005, I was a candidate for Circuit Court at-large seat #12. I was found qualified but not nominated.
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? No.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the commission.
30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. None.
31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.

33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?

Several tax liens were filed in the past as a result of my ex-husband's law practice. However, all have been released except for taxes due for the year ending December 2006 in the amount of approximately \$ 50,000.00 plus interest. Pursuant to my Divorce Decree and Property Settlement, my ex-husband is responsible for paying these taxes by the end of 2009.

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? I

I was sued for defaulting on a student loan. The loan was paid in full in 1984.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.

39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.

40. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.

41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.

42. 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? None.

43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
45. 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.
46. 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;
 - (b) South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association;
 - (c) National Bar Association;
 - (d) Horry County Bar Association
 - (e) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
 - (f) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association
47. 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) Conway Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.;
 - (b) Board of Directors for the Horry County Chapter of the American Heart Association;
 - (c) Conway Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc;
 - (d) Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Conway.
48. 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 was raised in a family of six children with working parents. We were taught that if given the opportunity and willingness to work hard, we could excel at anything. While growing up in Walterboro in the 50's and 60's, I questioned whether I would be given an opportunity to practice what my parents taught me. I decided in high school that I wanted to be a lawyer. I worked my way through college and law school to realize my dream. As a young girl who was well read, I believed the Constitution applied to me as well as everyone. I feel my calling in life is to make sure every person I serve in my professional capacity believes the same thing. In the courtroom over the past 28 years I have attempted to prosecute fairly, defend vigorously, and judge impartially and respectfully. I am proud to be a part of our great system and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our state as a Circuit Court Judge.
49. References:
- (a) William R. Benson

Vice-President
The Conway National Bank,
Post Office Drawer 300
Conway, SC 29528

- (b) Brad Dean
President and CEO
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Post Office Box 2115
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578
- (c) David R. Gravely, Esq.
Bellamy Law Firm
Post Office Box 357
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578
- (d) Doug Wendel
8704 N. Ocean Blvd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
- (e) Reverend Cheryl Adamson
7137 Brownsway Shortcut Road
Conway, SC 29527

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: Jennifer P. Wilson

Date: August 10, 2009