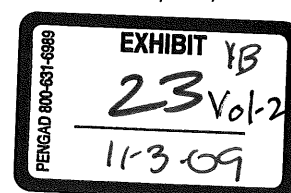


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Family Court, 7th Circuit, Seat #3

1. NAME: Ms. Usha J. Bridges
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Post Office Box 8036
Gaffney, SC 29340
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (864) 487-4510
2. Date of Birth: 1960
Place of Birth: Cherokee County, South Carolina
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 on March 12, 1984, to Allie Bridges, Jr. Never divorced, five 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) University of South Carolina: 1977-81 B.A. Political Science;
 - (b) University of South Carolina 1981-82 academic and immaturity;
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law August 1990- December 1992 J. D. Law.
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 1993.
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) Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority 1978-81;
 - (b) Alpha Phi Alpha Sweetheart 1977-81.
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) SCJA Annual Convention	09/04/2003
(b) Guardian Ad Litem Training	03/05/2004
(c) SCJA Annual Meeting	09/09/2004
(d) Revised Lawyer's Oath	09/07/2004



- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| (e) | Children's Issues in Family Court | 03/18/2005 |
| (f) | Judicial Oath of Office | 09/09/2004 |
| (g) | Legislative Reception & Seminar | 03/09/2005 |
| (h) | SCJA Annual Meeting Municipal | 09/07/2005 |
| (i) | Children's Issues in Family Court | 03/17/2006 |
| (j) | Hot Tips From the Coolest | 09/22/2006 |
| (k) | Children's Issues in Family Court | 03/23/2007 |
| (l) | (STOP) Domestic Violence Criminal Justice System | 08/29/2006 |
| (m) | SCJA Summer School | 07/08/2007 |
| (n) | (STOP) Domestic Violence | 08/23/2007 |
| (o) | SCJA Annual Convention | 09/06/2007 |
| (p) | Traversing the Ethnical Minefield
Ex-parte Communications | 06/27/2008 |
| (q) | SCJA Annual Convention and Seminar | 09/03/2008 |
| (r) | 2008 Public Defender Conference | 09/29/2008 |
| (s) | STOP Domestic Violence Coordinated | 11/13/2008 |
| (t) | Assisting the Volunteer Guardian | 04/03/2009 |
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. No, I have not.
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.
Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina in 1993.
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) April 1993-November 1993, Fletcher N. Smith, Attorney at Law, Greenville, South Carolina, General Practice;

(b) December 1993-June 1996, Fulltime Public Defender, (hired as juvenile public defender, although I assisted the other public defenders and did general sessions work as well as represented the volunteer guardian ad litem for the abuse and neglect cases;

(c) July 1996-present, Contract public defender for juveniles, represents the volunteer guardian ad litem for abuse and neglect cases, part-time municipal judge (since 1999) for the City of Gaffney, basically alternating week-end jail duty for warrants and bonds, practice consist mainly of Family Court work, ie divorces, child support, child custody equitable division cases.

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are 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 had extensive work in the Family Court involving all cases which may appear in the Family Court. Court is typically held in Cherokee County on a rotation of every other week. Normally, Monday mornings are set aside for juvenile court. I handle from as few as three cases up to ten to fifteen depending on the docket. Tuesday is set aside for the Department of Social Services. As I represent the Governor's Office Volunteer Guardian ad Litem, I am normally in Court all day with various cases. I am normally on all of the cases unless there is a conflict and at which time the case is returned to the Clerk for an appointment from the bar. From January 2009 to June 2009, I have attended 115 hearings in which I represented the guardian ad litem, I represented 62 juveniles and I have had 227 court appearances for private matters. These numbers are a good reflection of my case load and my court appearances.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?

I am listed but I am unsure of a rating.

Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.

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

- (a) federal: 0;
(b) state: 70%.

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

- (a) civil: 0%;
(b) criminal: 1% less than;
(c) domestic: 99%.

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

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

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

- (a) jury: associate;
(b) non-jury: sole counsel.

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) Dawkins vs. Dawkins, equitable division. This case was significant because the parties had a lot of assets and it resulted in a 31/2 day trial in which I prevailed in the trial court. The case was appealed to the South Carolina Appellant Court and is currently awaiting arguments before the Supreme Court of South Carolina;
 - (b) Wolfe vs. Wolfe et al, termination of parental rights and adoption. This case was significant because, I lost on trial level, the case was appealed and as a result it was reversed and remanded. It was Unpublished Opinion No. 2007-up-459. My clients were eventually able to adopt the child which was a happy ending for all;
 - (c) State vs. Valerie Taylor, criminal. My client was charged with a 1978 murder. At the time of the crime, she was a male and had subsequently had a sex change operation. I was able to negotiate a plea to involuntary manslaughter;
 - (d) State vs. Dora Lynn Black, criminal. My client was charged with Burglary 1st, and Assault and Battery with the intent to Kill. After a 2 day jury trial, my client was found not guilty of all charges;
 - (e) DSS vs. Amy Waters. This was case in involved the death of one child at the hands of the mother. We were pretty sure that the two year old sibling witnessed the murder and we successfully terminated the parental rights of the mother for this child. Additionally, as result of information obtained we were able to protect other children.
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. **If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).** 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. **If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).** None.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
I currently am a municipal judge for the City of Gaffney. I have held this position since July 1999 and I was appointed initially by the mayor to fill in temporary for a part-time judge who was suffering from some health issues. Sadly, he did not recover and I have been reappointed through the course of years. The jurisdiction is limited to criminal summary court and my duties entail doing week-end jail duty although I am sometime called upon to fill in for the chief municipal judge.
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? 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?

I have not held public office although I ran an unsuccessful bid for the school board in 1994 or 1995. I filed a report with the State Ethics Commission.

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. Not applicable.

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

I was a candidate for school board and was defeated by an incumbent school board member.

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?

- (a) Prior to attending law school, I worked as an insurance agent for the following companies:

Liberty National Insurance - licensed insurance agent 1986-88;

United Insurance Agency - licensed insurance agent 1988-89;

Capital One Insurance Agency - licensed insurance agent 1989-90.

As an insurance agent, I sold and serviced various insurance products.

- (b) Rutledge College, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Admissions Counselor 1984-85;

I recruited and enrolled students in school.

- (c) South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

Information Specialist 1983-84;

I worked at The South Carolina Welcome Center greeting visitors and promoting tourism in the State of South Carolina.

28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.

29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.

31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law,

regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?
None.

32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.

33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities?

Yes. There was a tax lien for not paying enough taxes @ 2000 or 2001 in the amount of \$500.00 that was eventually paid.

Have you ever defaulted on a student loan?

Yes In the 1980s I had student loans in the amount of \$1385.00. It was paid in the 1980's.

Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.

34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? No.

36. 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.

I sent out letters to the House and Senate Members introducing myself.

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? No.

43. 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.
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) Cherokee County Bar Association;
 - (b) South Carolina Bar 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.

I am currently completing a second term on the Board of Visitors at the University of South Carolina. Unfortunately because of scheduling I have not been a very active member.

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 currently hold several titles but the one that is most important to me is the title of mother. Upon reentering law school in 1990, I had three children ages 5, 3 and 1. My husband was a long distant truck driver so for the most part I was a student, mother and father. We made it. Since coming back home to Gaffney, I have a good practice and I feel that I've done a good job in raising my children. My oldest child, graduated from North Greenville University and she got married in September 2008 and they are expecting their first child in January 09. The oldest son attends school at Limestone College and also maintains a fulltime job at Nestles. Hopefully, he will graduate in May 2010 with a degree in accounting. The third child attends Spartanburg Community College and works part time at Food Lion. This semester, he is an education major but this is subject to change. Samantha is the fourth child. She attends school at Granard Middle School where she is on the yearbook staff, head cheerleader and a member of the BETA Club. Lastly is Garrison. He is eight years old and in the third grade. He participates in sports and loves school. And I am still married to the father of my children after twenty-five years. I will not venture to say that all has been peaches and cream but I feel that in dealing with my marriage, my children and my career, I have been blessed to have much in sight into the real world. We are active members of

Indian Hill Baptist Church and my mother is the pastor. My parents divorced when I was 11 years old. They remarried when I was 22 years old. I know first hand the effects of divorces on families and I feel that I have valuable insight into family matters that will truly be an asset to the family court bench. Life has a way of being the test teacher.

49. References:

- (a) Joseph L. Mathis, Esquire
210 South Limestone Street, Suite 1
Gaffney, South Carolina 29304
(864) 489-6052
- (b) William G. Rhoden, Esquire
221 East Floyd Baker Blvd.
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340
(864) 489-8128
- (c) Kim Ellison
412 Wall Street
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340
(864) 487-0145 or (864) 908-2797(cell)
- (d) James Taylor
Post Office Box 2109
Gaffney, South Carolina 29342
(864) 487-8507
- (e) Kenneth Edwards (banker)
311 South Limestone Street
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340
(864) 487-8900

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: Usha J. Bridges

Date: 8/9/09

ATTORNEY AT LAW

USHA J. BRIDGES
PO BOX 8036
122 NORTH PETTY STREET
GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29340

Telephone 864-487-4510
Fax 864-487-4540

October 8, 2009

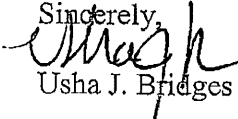
VIA E-MAIL
janesshuler@scsenate.gov

Jane O. Shuler
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Ms. Shuler:

Please find enclosed amendments which I have made to the following PDQ. Question #14 should be amended to note that I was a full time Public Defender in Cherokee County, South Carolina. As to question #29, please omit the information and add that a separate financial net worth statement is attached. Also, as to question #40, it should be amended to note that the total cost to me for postage was \$72.16 for the mailings of the letters to the House and Senate members introducing myself.

Additionally, I amended my Ethics Statement to note that in addition to following the protocol, by asking one of the attorneys to draft the order and after letting the other attorney or pro se litigate review the order, then I would have them submit it to me. After which, I would review it and if it conforms to my instructions, I would sign it and return to the submitting attorney with instructions to insure that it is promptly filed.

Sincerely,

Usha J. Bridges

UJB/kdm
enclosures

cc: . via e-mail: katherinewells@scsenate.gov
Katherine Wells
Staff Attorney
SC Senate Judiciary Committee
Post Office 142
Columbia, SC 29202

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29340

Telephone 864-487-4510
Fax 864-487-4540

September 15, 2009

Jane O. Shuler
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I am requesting to amend question 34 on the PDQ because I did not include the following cases:

1. Green Tree Servicing, LLC as successor in interest to Conseco Finance Servicing Corp. as successor in interest to Green Tree Financial Servicing Corporation vs. Stephen Henson; Jan P. Phillips n/k/a Jan P. Henson; Citifinancial, Inc.; Usha J. Bridges; and Joseph Mathis,
007-CP-11-007
Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff
2. Corey Edwards 227109 vs. State of South Carolina, Donald Letteer Public Defender, Usha Bridges Public Defender, Jan Pittman Probation Agent,
96-CP-11-312
Named as defendant, action dismissed
3. Carolina State Bank, formerly Chesnee State Bank vs. Darrell E. McGowans, Sandra J. McGowans, now Sandra J. Pope and Usha J. Bridges,
98-CP-11-75
Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff
4. The Bank of New York as Trustee under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of February 29, 1996, Series 1996-A vs. Vincent Price, Joseph L. Mathis, and Usha J. Bridges,
99-CP-11-255
Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

5. Niles McCullough vs. Roger Dale McCullough, Billy A. McCullough, Jr, Rita M. Pace, Vickie M. Kirby, David C. McCullough, Michael McCullough, Mary C. Wyatt, Rebecca R. Garrett, Patricia McCullough, Michael Wayne McCullough, Christopher Mark McCullough, Debora Lynn Spoone, Emma Jarvis McCullough, the Estate of Lola T. McCullough & Usha J. Bridges, as Guardian ad Litem for any missing or unknown heirs of Lola T. McCullough,
01-CP-11-600

Guardian ad Litem for unknown heirs

6. Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-FF4, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-FF4 vs. Stacy b. Davidson; Jody D. Davidson; Usha J. Bridges, Esquire; Jeffrey Gettys a/k/a Jeffrey Milan Gettys; Kristin Gettys; Callie M. Guthrie; Kate M. Guthrie; and David Gettys,
2006-CP-11-11503

Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

7. CitiFinancial Mortgage Company, Inc., a New York Corporation *aka* Associates Home Equity Services, Inc. *aka* Ford Consumer Finance Company, Inc. vs. Craig Bernard Copeland, Jack L. Baker, Spartanburg Methodist College, Usha J. Bridges and South Carolina Department of Revenue
2006-CP-11-121

Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

8. CitiMortgage, Inc. successor by reason of merger with CitiFinancial Mortgage Company, Inc., a New York corporation *aka* Associates Home Equity Services, Inc. *aka* Ford Consumer Finance Company, Inc. vs. Craig Bernard Copeland, Jack L. Baker, United States of America by and through its agency the Internal Revenue Services, South Carolina Department of Revenue, Usha J. Bridges and Spartanburg Methodist College,
006-CP-11-724

Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

9. Chase Home Finance LLC vs. Jeremy D. Martin and Usha J. Bridges,
2008-CP-11-249

Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

10. American Community Bank vs. Robert L. Coleman, Overhead Door Co. of Greenville, The Floor Show, Inc., CEMEX Construction Materials, L.P. Ned L. Polk, Sr., The Palmetto Bank, Usha J. Bridges, Horizon Forest Products,
2009-CP-11-0007

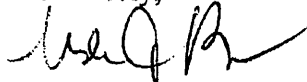
Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

11. The Bank of New York as Trustee for Equity One Inc. Mortgage/pass
through certificate series #2005-A
2008-CP-11-320
Named as creditor defendant, judgment for plaintiff

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to call.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Usha J. Bridges', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Usha J. Bridges