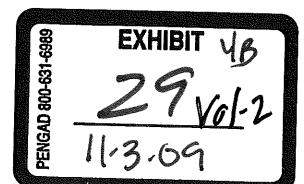


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Family Court, 13th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. William Marsh Robertson
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Robertson & Hodges, LLC,
PO Box 1885
Greenville, SC 29605
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 864-242-1090
2. Date of Birth: 1963
Place of Birth: Greer, 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 November 26, 1988, to Married Barbara Kessenich Robertson. Never divorced, three children.
6. Have you served in the military? I have never served in the military.
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) Washington & Lee University, 1981-85, B.A. degree (cum laude) in History;
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1985-88, J.D. degree.
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Are you a member in good standing in the states in which you are admitted? Has there ever been a time in which you were not a member in good standing? List the date(s) and reason(s) why you were not considered a member in good standing. 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.

I was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1988 after passing the bar exam on my first sitting, and have remained a member in good standing from that date to current. I have never been admitted nor applied for admission in another state.
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) College: Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity 1981-85, Intramurals Chairman; Honor Roll/Dean's List;
 - (b) Law School: Clerked for 3 separate law firms during 2nd and 3rd years and corresponding summers.



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) Greenville County Bar Year-end Conference	02/13/09
(b) 2008 SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/05/08
(c) Hot Tips From the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners	09/19/08
(d) Lawyer Communications as Officers of the Court and Drug Testing for Family Court Cases	02/26/08
(e) 2007 SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/07/07
(f) Hot Tips from The Coolest Domestic Practitioners	09/21/07
(g) Attorneys Ethics in Negotiations	02/21/07
(h) Sidebar: Family Law Case Update	01/19/07
(i) Criminal and Civil Law Updates	12/19/06
(j) SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/08/06
(k) Ethical Dilemmas for Advocates and Nuetrals in ADR	12/27/05
(l) Nuts & Bolts of Permanency Planning Hearings and Termination of Parental Rights	12/27/05
(m) SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/02/05
(n) Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Practitioners	09/23/05
(o) 2004 SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/03/04
(p) Ethical Considerations & Pitfalls for the Family Court Lawyer	12/01/04
(q) Hot Tips from the Coolest Family Law Practitioners	09/24/04
(r) Revised Lawyer Oath	09/10/04

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.

Yes. The names, dates, and titles of my presentations are listed below:

- (a) Lecturer, Domestic Practice, Hot Tips from the Experts, 1995, "Pentente Lite (Bifurcated) Divorces: Obtaining a Divorce Before the Final Order is Issued;"
- (b) Lecturer, Domestic Practice, Hot Tips from the Experts, 1996, "Issues and Strategies surrounding the 270-Day "Case-Striking" Rule;"
- (c) Lecturer, Domestic Practice, Hot Tips from the Experts, 1998, "The Alimony Payor's Right to Retire."

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

I have not published any books or articles. I did, however, serve on the Editorial Board for the following two books written by Roy T. Stuckey: Marital Litigation in South Carolina: Substantive Law, 3rd Ed. (SC Bar – CLE Division 2001) and Marriage and Divorce Law in South Carolina: A Layperson's Guide (SC Bar – CLE Division 2001).

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) All Courts of the State of South Carolina, November 16, 1988;
 - (b) United State District Court, March 23, 1990.
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) 1988 through 1990: Lewis, Lide, Bruce, and Potts, Columbia, SC. I was an associate in this law firm and practiced in a wide array of areas but with an emphasis on real estate law;
 - (b) 1990 through 1995: Robertson and Robertson, PA, Greenville, SC. – I practiced for this five-year stretch in a two-attorney partnership with my father, W.F. Robertson III. Our firm practiced exclusively in the area of family law;
 - (c) 1996 – 2009: Since the retirement of my father, I have continued practicing exclusively in the area of family law, either in sole practice or in the following two-attorney partnerships: Robertson & Quattlebaum, LLC; Robertson & Coleman, LLC; and currently, Robertson & Hodges, LLC.
- (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;
- Equitable Division of Property: Over my 18 years of exclusive family law practice, I have personally handled an estimated 1500 domestic relations cases. Of that amount, a high percentage has involved issues of equitable division. I have represented a wide range of clients, ranging from impoverished individuals with little or no net worth to multimillionaires with extremely complex marital estates. I have handled many cases in which I have been required work hand-in-hand with experts in the areas of taxation and business valuation, as well appraisers of a variety of property classifications including both real and personal property. I have questioned such experts in trial on both direct and cross-examination. I have drafted nearly every imaginable type of legal document involving equitable division, including motions, affidavits, pleadings, discovery documents, orders, memorandums of law, qualified domestic relations orders (QDRO's), and appellate briefs. In addition, as a prerequisite to my induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, I was required to pass rigorous national and state examinations on the more complex aspects of equitable division, including

sections on business valuation, defined contribution and defined benefit retirement plans, QDRO's, ERISA, federal taxation, and bankruptcy;

Child Custody: I have handled a substantial number of contested child custody cases, many of which have proceeded to lengthy and hard-fought trials on the merits. I have successfully represented many mothers and many fathers in these cases, as well as grandparents and other interested parties. I have handled cases involving relocation issues, interstate custody disputes, and cases with international custody concerns. I have served in the capacity as guardian ad litem for minor children, and have acted as mediator in dozens of contested custody/visitation cases. Through my role in these cases, I have gained vast expertise in this state's statutory and case law touching on all areas of child custody, as well as related matters of visitation, paternity, parental rights termination, child removal, modification, and child support. I have likewise achieved expertise in evidentiary, procedural, and jurisdictional matters relevant to child custody and placement disputes. Additionally, the comprehensive exams I passed in the application process for fellowship into the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers included sections on the most technical and complex areas of child custody law, including the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA), the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA), and the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction;

Abuse and Neglect: Although my experience in this area is more limited than in other areas of family practice, I have handled a number of abuse and neglect cases over the years, primarily through SCACR Rule 608 appointments. I have represented the parents of children for whom removal is sought, and have also served as the Guardian ad Litem for abused or neglected children;

Juvenile Justice: My involvement in these cases has been rare. However, given my widespread experience in other children's issues in family court, as well as my willingness and proven ability to learn new subject matter, I am quite confident that I can bring myself completely up to speed in this area of law before assuming the bench.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?

I maintain an AV rating, the publication's highest designation for legal ability and ethics.

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

(a) federal: None;

(b) state: Frequent.

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

(a) civil: 0%;

(b) criminal: 0%;

(c) domestic: 100%.

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

- (a) jury: 0%;
- (b) non-jury: 100%.

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

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters that 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) Miller vs. Miller, 99-DR-23-4733. This change of custody action was prompted by a custodial parent's relocation. I successfully represented the Plaintiff/father of two children, ages 7 and 4. Only a few months before filing, the parties had settled the contested issue of child custody as part of their overall divorce agreement. The father had agreed to concede primary placement of the children to the mother under the condition that he would receive an extraordinarily liberal visitation schedule. One day after the divorce, the mother accepted a marriage proposal to a man she had just recently met over the internet. The two married a month later and almost immediately relocated from Greenville to McClellanville, more than 250 miles away. We filed for change of custody. Following a three day trial featuring multitudes of exhibits and witness testimony, the court granted my client full custody of the children. The judge made this decision notwithstanding a recommendation to the contrary by the Guardian ad litem. The significant elements of this decision were: (i) the impact in child custody determinations of poor judgment by a custodial; (ii) the importance of environmental factors in child custody determinations; and (iii) the subordinate role of guardian ad litem recommendations in child custody determinations;
- (b) Ringler vs. Ringler, 98-DR-23-2362. This Greenville County case is significant for many reasons, not the least of which goes to its longevity and convolutedness. I represented the husband beginning in 1996. Both parties were retired at the time of filing. The case was ultimately filed in 1998, and the primary contested issues were divorce (my client alleged adultery by wife), alimony, and equitable division of a marital estate that included real and personal property and retirement benefits already in pay status. After a lengthy trial in 1999, a final order was issued in early 2000. The Court granted a divorce on no-fault grounds, denied the wife's alimony request, and divided the marital estate equally. Post-trial motions for consideration quickly followed. Wife then appealed. That appeal would involve approximately two dozen appellate motions, petitions, and returns, along with corresponding orders. Ultimately, my client and I were successful in having the appeal dismissed with an award of attorney's fees, but not until nearly six years had elapsed from the date my involvement in the case had begun;

- (c) Burch vs. Anderson, 97-DR-42-3322. This was a contested child custody case in Spartanburg County. I represented the Plaintiff/Mother, who initiated the action seeking only an order of child support. The father counterclaimed for custody based primarily on various accusations of unfitness on the part of the mother, including allegations of drug addiction and educational neglect. After a two-day trial, the presiding judge awarded my client primary placement of the child notwithstanding a recommendation by the Guardian ad litem that custody be awarded to the father. This case provides a good example of these principals: (i) the "primary caretaker" standard remains an important factor in child custody determinations, particularly where a previously uninvolved father decides to seek custody only after being served with a complaint seeking child support; (ii) a child's need for stability and consistency may outweigh allegations of parental misconduct (i.e., drug use) that occurred several years before the custody action was filed; and (iii) while a guardian ad litem is a useful tool in a contested custody case, the guardian's recommendation is to aid, not direct the Court, and the ultimate custody decision lies with the trial judge.;
- (d) Theisen vs. Theisen, 99-DR-23-2818. This was an extremely involved domestic relations case featuring extremely high net worth parties and the involvement of a virtual "who's who" of the top family court attorneys and experts in the state. I have chosen to include this case even though it was ultimately settled prior to a merits trial, simply because this case involved a magnified view of nearly every imaginable issue that family courts deal with in private litigation: fault-based divorce allegations, alcoholism and other "marital misconduct", contested child custody, contested visitation, contested child support beyond Guidelines limitations, contested alimony, equitable division of marital property (including substantial closely held business interests, retirement benefits, financial accounts, and real estate), transmutation, insurance matters, and attorneys fees. I was lead counsel for the Wife/Defendant. After many months of intense litigation that included countless motions, rules, interlocutory orders, depositions, written discovery and expert analysis, the case was settled at the conclusion of two full days of mediation;
- (e) Patsie C. Walker vs. Kenneth C. Walker, 94-DR-04-138: Following an Anderson County Family court order granting my client, the plaintiff/wife, a divorce, alimony, and an award of 50% of the net marital estate, the husband appealed. I represented the wife on appeal. The case was remanded back to the trial court, where ultimately the original order was upheld subject to a slight alimony reduction. The appellate opinion was unpublished, but the case was significant on the following points of law: (i) An award of alimony is appropriate where a

15-year marriage is destroyed by a husband's adulterous affair; (ii) husband's effort to bar wife from alimony based on allegation of adultery will fail where the evidence of infidelity is not clear and convincing; and (iii) an award of 50% if the marital estate is proper notwithstanding the fact that the alimony was based on part on the discrepancy in the parties' actual incomes and earning capacities.

20. List up to five civil appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
- (a) Kenneth C. Walker, Appellant vs. Patsie C. Walker, Respondent
[see answer (e) above];
 - (b) Roberta D. Ringler, Appellant vs. Jack W. Ringler, Respondent
[see answer (b) above].
- I have also handled a small number of other appeals that were settled, abandoned or otherwise ended at early stages of the appeal.
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. Please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter.
I have never handled a criminal appeal.
22. Have you ever held judicial office? Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court. I have never held judicial office.
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.
Not applicable.
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 never held public office.
25. List all employment you have 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? No.
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 that 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? 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? The answer to both questions is no.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally?

In 2007, BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation filed suit in the Dekalb County, Georgia against Robertson and Hodges, LLC, F/K/A Robertson, Hodges and Coleman, PA, seeking payments owed under a Yellow Pages advertising contract.

At the time the subject contract was entered, my law firm was known as Robertson, Hodges and Coleman, L.L.C. ("the L.L.C.") The L.L.C was a true limited liability corporation, formed with the assistance and counsel of a highly-regarded corporate attorney at the Nelson-Mullins law firm, with the prior consent and direction of our professional liability insurance carrier, the General Agency. The L.L.C. was properly registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State through the filing of Articles of Incorporation and Amended Articles of Incorporation. The L.L.C. had a written Operating Agreement in place, maintained a central firm bank account under the name, Robertson, Hodges, and Coleman, LLC, and filed corporate tax returns. The membership of the L.L.C. consisted of three individual professional associations: W. Marsh Robertson, P.A., Thomas T. Hodges, P.A., and Ann S. Coleman, P.A. ("the P.A.'s). From the firm's common L.L.C. bank account, certain shared firm expenses were paid. In addition, each individual attorney / P.A. maintained a separate operating account in the name of his or her own P.A. Each attorney's fees and revenues were routinely deposited into that attorney's own P.A. operating account, and each attorney routinely paid his or her own operating expenses from his or her own P.A. account. Each P.A. filed a separate tax return in addition to the jointly filed L.L.C. tax return. On or firm letterhead, proper designations were made as to our firm's corporate status and each individual attorney's professional association status.

One of the shareholders of the L.L.C., Ann S. Coleman, provided adoption services through her own Professional Association. At some point prior to retiring from the practice of law in 2005, Ms. Coleman entered into a contract with BellSouth to advertise her adoption services in the state of

Georgia. Without the knowledge or consent of the other two L.L.C. shareholders, she signed her individual name to a contract that identified the signor under the name of our L.L.C. rather than her individual P.A. Mr. Hodges and I had no knowledge at any time of the existence of the contract, nor of any alleged delinquency relating thereto. In 2005, Ms. Coleman retired from the practice of law. On November 18, 2005, Mr. Hodges and I filed with the Secretary of State a Member's Statement of Dissociation form a Limited Liability Company. In 2007, our firm, now properly registered and known as Robertson & Hodges, LLC, was contacted by BellSouth, who advised that Ms. Coleman had failed to make certain payments owed under her advertisement contract. Not knowing at the time that Ms. Coleman had signed a contract that apparently bound the L.L.C., we immediately contacted Ms. Coleman, who assured us she would "take care of it" on her own. After she failed to do so in a timely manner, BellSouth filed suit naming "Robertson and Hodges, LLC, F/K/A Robertson, Hodges, and Coleman, PA." as the defendant. Upon being served, I once again immediately contacted Ms. Coleman, and took it upon myself to promptly negotiate a resolution with BellSouth. Pursuant to the terms of settlement, my current firm, Robertson & Hodges, LLC, satisfied the negotiated delinquency amount in full, using funds provided by Ms. Coleman. The case was dismissed with prejudice.

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?

The answer to both questions is 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) Greenville County Bar Association;
 - (b) South Carolina Bar (Family Law Section);
 - (c) American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.
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) Christ Episcopal Church (Youth basketball coach);
 - (b) Greenville Little League (Youth baseball coach);
 - (c) Greenville Country Club;
 - (d) DeBordieu Club;
 - (e) Poinsett Club.

48. Provide any other information which 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.

Having practiced exclusively in the area of family law for over 17 years, I have appeared before dozens of different family court judges, each exuding a unique nature, style, and demeanor. Through this process, I have become acutely aware that judges truly are the product of their backgrounds and life experiences. If honored with the opportunity to serve as a family court judge, my primary goal would be to follow in the footsteps of the

judges I have admired most in my career. Those judges share a combination of qualities and traits that are quite simple in concept, yet perhaps less simple to achieve. They project high intellect and reason, and demonstrate a thorough comprehension of family law and procedure grounded on many years of experience in the field. They are diligent and industrious. They are analytical yet compassionate, with a keen sense of fairness. They are inflexibly honest. Perhaps most compelling, they are dedicated to our societies' families, and to the laws that have developed to preserve and protect our families, especially our children. If elected to serve on the family court bench, I am confident that through my own life experiences, I have the foundation to exemplify these qualities.

Knowledge and Experience: I began learning about law and the legal profession at an early age. My father, William F. Robertson III, was a distinguished family court lawyer, a past president of the South Carolina Trial Lawyer's Association, and one of the earliest Fellows in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. While a student, I worked after school and during summers for my father's law firm as a runner and later as a law clerk. I once wrote an appellate brief in a child custody case that my father successfully handled. In my third year of law school while taking a Domestic Relations class, I came to recognize that I had an affinity toward family law, and that I would ultimately dedicate my career to that field of law. Following law school, I remained in Columbia for two years to gain experience with an outside law firm, before returning to Greenville in June of 1990 to go into family law practice with my father. Since that date, I have handled an estimated 1500 family law cases, and to the best of my recollection have not handled a single case that did not fall under the jurisdiction of the family court. In the earlier years, I represented a large number of financially disadvantaged clients. As my career progressed, my practice steadily moved toward more complex family court litigation involving higher net-worth clients. In recent years, I have chosen to focus the majority of my practice on mediation of family law cases. This career, which has been specialized in subject matter yet diverse in clientele, has given me the opportunity to fully master this important area of law. With an extensive background as a counselor, litigator, and mediator in the family law arena, I consider myself uniquely qualified to take on the role of family court judge.

Honesty: As far back as I can remember, I have felt a strong sense of honesty, and a certain disdain for those that do not. My three sisters and I learned integrity from our parents, who have now been married for more than 45 years. In college, I had the good fortune to attend Washington & Lee University, an institution nationally renowned for its simple but stringent honor system. At W&L, students are taught on day one that there will be no lying, no cheating, and no stealing. Any violation of any of these principals, no matter how small or seemingly inconsequential, results in expulsion. In

four years, I never personally observed or experienced a single violation of the Honor Code. I was allowed to schedule my own exams and take them when and where I chose. I was able to leave valuable items unattended and unsecured without fear of theft. I was able to accept the word of my fellow students at face value. This environment of honesty instilled in me a sense of morality, fairness and trustworthiness that has carried on in all aspects of my life.

Industriousness and Diligence: I have always been a person with tremendous self-discipline and motivation -- traits that have enabled me to achieve the goals I have set for myself along the way. As a high school student, my work ethic enabled me to gain early-decision acceptance to an excellent university. In college, I pushed myself against tremendous competition to graduate *cum laude*, leading to my acceptance into law school. After a graduating law school and passing the bar exam, I entered private practice where I have achieved professional success, perhaps best evidenced by my 1999 induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. For most of my legal career, I have worked as a sole practitioner or in a two-person law firm. Success in the small-firm capacity requires one to be self-motivated, highly organized and efficient. These are skills that would transfer well to the family court bench.

Analytical Ability, Fairness and Compassion: My clients and colleagues alike have often complimented me on my ability to efficiently and effectively solve problems by breaking a set of facts down into its constituent parts to get to the heart of the matter, and from there to arrive at a logical, often creative solution. I have likewise been praised for my compassion and keen sense of fairness. After more than fifteen years in the trenches of family court litigation, I shifted the focus of my legal practice in recent years to mediation. This decision was made in large part to take advantage of my unique ability to quickly and comprehensively analyze factual circumstances, apply my extensive knowledge of the law to the facts and issues, and to facilitate a settlement from a neutral perspective, using my skills as a negotiator and communicator as well as my sense of compassion and fairness. This is not unlike what a family court judge is charged to do. I have thrived as a mediator, assisting in the settlement of dozens of highly contested cases. I am confident that I would thrive to an even greater degree as a family court judge.

Dedication to Family: More than anything else, I am a "family man." I grew up in a wonderful, close-knit family, and I am now blessed with an incredible family of my own. I have been married to my wife, Barbara, for nearly twenty years. Our three children, ages 16, 13, and 10, are my pride and joy. All three are exceptional human beings -- intelligent, motivated, diversely talented, and genuinely kind-hearted. My success as a parent far exceeds any success I have achieved in any other capacity in my life, and given a choice I would not have it any other way. In many ways, being a

family court lawyer has made me a better husband and father. Seeing first-hand the problems that other, less fortunate families must face helps me to better appreciate my blessings, and motivates me to strive to continually improve as both a spouse and parent. Likewise, being a husband and father has made me a better family court lawyer, and would no doubt prove invaluable to me as a family court judge in my quest to protect the rights and interests of all family members of this state.

49. References:

In March, 2008, I submitted to the JMISC letters of reference from the individuals listed alphabetically below. Copies of those letters have been included with my application materials package.

- (a) Robert T. Bockman
McNair Law Firm
PO Box 11390
Columbia, SC, 29211
(803) 799-9800
- (b) Pamela E. Deal
Deal & Deal, PA
PO Box 1764
Clemson, SC 29633
(864) 654-1669
- (c) Erroll Anne Yarbrough Hodges
McAngus, Goudelock & Courie, LLC
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 239-4031
- (d) Mark B. Kent
135 South Main Street, Ste 200
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 878-6367
- (e) Mindy Levy
Branch Manager, Wachovia Place
15 S. Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 467-2506

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: William Marsh Robertson

Date: 8/1/09