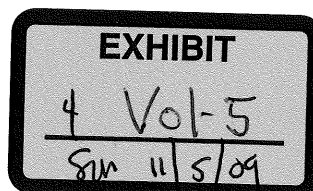


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Family Court Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2.

1. NAME: Ms. Lisa A. Kinon
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P.O. Box 406
Conway, SC 29528
E-MAIL ADDRESS: lkinonj@sccourts.org
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-915-8989
2. Date of Birth: 1958
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.
5. Family Status: Married on May 16, 1981, to Samuel Christopher Kinon. Never divorced, two children.
6. Have you served in the military? N/A.
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 Wisconsin-Superior; 9/76 - 5/78
(Transferred to University of South Carolina);
 - (b) University of South Carolina; 8/78 - 5/80; Graduated with a B.S. Degree in Management and a B.S. Degree in Marketing;
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law; 8/82 - 5/85; graduated with a Juris Doctor.
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.
Admitted to the practice in the State of South Carolina in November 1985.
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.
During college and law school, I was unable to become involved in any extracurricular activities due to employment which I held to pay for my schooling. Since graduation from law school, I have been active in a variety of activities.
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) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/22/09
(b) Family Court Judges Conference	4/22/09
(c) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	6/3/09
(d) S.C. Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section	1/24/08
(e) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/25/08
(f) Family Court Judges Conference	4/23/08
(g) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	6/4/08
(h) SCTLA Annual Convention	8/7/08
(i) Judicial Conference	8/20/08
(j) SCASA Law Day	9/17/08
(k) SC Family Court Bench/Bar	12/5/08
(l) Horry County Family Court Seminar	12/17/08
(m) Family Court Bench/Bar	12/7/07
(n) Horry County Family Court Seminar	10/11/07
(o) Annual Solicitor Conference	9/26/07
(p) Annual Judicial Conference	8/22/07
(q) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	7/11/07
(r) Family Court Judge's Conference	4/25/07
(s) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/26/07
(t) Horry County Family Court Seminar	12/14/06
(u) Annual Solicitor's Conference	9/24/06
(v) Annual Judicial Conference	8/23/06
(w) Mini Summit on Justice for Children	8/22/06
(x) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	7/10/06
(y) Family Court Judge's Conference	4/26/06
(z) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/27/06
(aa) Horry County Family Court Seminar	12/9/05
(bb) S.C. Family Court Bench/Bar	12/2/05
(cc) Annual Judicial Conference	8/24/05
(dd) Family Court Judge's Conference	4/27/05
(ee) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/21/05
(ff) Horry County Bar Oath	12/8/04
(gg) Horry County Family Court Seminar	12/8/04
(hh) Family Court Bench/Bar Seminar	12/3/04
(ii) Supreme Court Judicial Oath of Office	8/19/04
(jj) Annual Judicial Conference	8/19/04
(kk) S.C. Bar Family Law Section	1/23/04
(ll) Family Court Judges Conference	4/28/04

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.

(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 participated as a Panelist in a Round Table Discussion of Business Valuation in S.C. Family Court at the Litigation Conference in Columbia, S.C. 2008;
 - (d) I made a presentation at the 2007 S.C. Annual Solicitor's Conference on the Roles and Duties of a Guardian ad Litem;
 - (e) I made a presentation on May 19, 2008 at the S.C. Department of Education, S.C. Center for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Pee Dee Truancy Roundtable Meeting on Truancy from a Judge's Perspective;
 - (f) I made a presentation on May 22, 2009, at the Department of Social Services Paralegal Seminar on Mediating DSS Protective Services Cases;
 - (g) I make presentations at the annual Horry County Bar Family Court Seminar each year on various Family Court topics;
 - (h) I have made presentations at the Clerk of Court's Annual Conference in 2008 and 2009;
 - (i) I made a presentation at the 2008 Trial Lawyers Conference.
 - (j) I make a presentation on Trying a Merits Case at the New Judge's Orientation School each year;
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.
All courts of the State of South Carolina, November 1985.
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.
15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell? Not individually rated.
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.
Yes; serving continuously as a Family Court Judge since July 1995.
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.
- (a) Jane Addis Hunnicutt v. Stanley Phillip Hunnicutt 2003-DR-26-296
(Permanent Periodic Alimony award)
Appealed Opinion 2006-UP-024 filed January 12, 2006
Order and Opinion of Court of Appeals Attached;
 - (b) Miller L. Love, Jr. v. Ann B. Love 2003-DR-26-651
(Ex-wife's relationship tantamount to marriage- grounds for terminating ex-husband's alimony obligation)

Court of Appeals Opinion 4077 filed January 23, 2006

Order and Opinion of Court of Appeals Attached;

- (c) In the Interest of Jose' Augusto Mendez Hernandez 2005-JU-26-1084 & 1085
(Juvenile guilty plea for the charge of Reckless Homicide)
(Not appealed)
Final Order Attached;
- (d) Bethany Leigh Cornelison v. Bruce William Helm 2007-DR-26-2624
(Common Law Marriage)
(Not appealed)
Final Order Attached;
- (d) Rochelle E. Anderson v. James David Anderson, Jr. 2007-DR-26-2584
(Inclusion of marital home in marital property for equitable apportionment in long term marriage)
(Not appealed)
Final Order Attached.
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? 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? 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?
South Carolina National Bank; 8/80-7/82. (Employment following undergraduate school until entering Law School)
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.
I would resolve any possible conflict of interest by not hearing any of these cases.
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? 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?

I was sued personally by a pro se litigant in Federal Court "under the jurisdiction of the American Flag of Peace for the United States of America July 22, 1996. "The litigation was dismissed by the Federal Court Judge under Rule 12 (b) (6), Fed. R. Civ. P. by Order dated October 8, 1996.

Copies of the Complaint and the Order of Dismissal are attached.

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? 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) South Carolina Bar Association-House of Delegates 6/88 -6/90; 7/90-6/93;
 - (b) South Carolina Bar Association-Board of Governors 6/88-6/90; 7/90-6/93;
 - (c) Horry County Bar Association 1985-Present
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. None.
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.
 - (a) President of the S.C. Conference of Family Court Judges; 2007-2008;
 - (b) Vice President of the S.C. Conference of Family Court Judges; 2006-2007;
 - (c) Secretary/Treasurer of the S.C. Conference of Family Court Judges 2005-2006;
 - (d) Certified Family Court Mediator; 1994;
 - (e) University of South Carolina School of Law; "Compleat Lawyer" Award, Silver Award, 1994;
 - (f) South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Service Award, 1992
 - (g) South Carolina Business and Professional Women-Young Careerist, District III, 1987;
 - (h) South Carolina Business and Professional Women-Young Careerist, Georgetown, 1987;
 - (i) American Jurisprudence Award - Evidence, 1985.
49. References:
 - (a) Delane E. Stathos
843-248-5795
Fist Citizens Bank
1200 Third Avenue
Conway, SC 29526
 - (b) Phillip E. Thompson
843-915-8558

Horry County Sheriff
1301 Second Avenue
Conway, SC 29526

- (c) Melanie Huggins
843-915-6739
Clerk of Court for Horry County
1301 Second Avenue
Conway, SC 29526
- (d) Joy Turbeville
843-902-8801
718 Sweetbriar Lane
Conway, SC 29526
- (e) H.T. Abbott, III
843-488-4697
907 Applewhite Lane
Conway, SC 29526

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: Lisa A. Kinon

Date: 8/5/09

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Lisa A. Kinon
Business Address: P.O. Box 406
Conway, SC 29528
Business Telephone: 843-915-8989

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge?
I would like to continue serving the people of the State of South Carolina as a Family Court Judge. I believe there is no more important job in public service than a Family Court Judge. As a Family Court Judge, I deal with the most emotional, personal, heart wrenching issues touching the very core of the lives of the litigants who appear before me. A Family Court Judge's job is extremely difficult, but also extremely rewarding if, in any small way, I can ease the burden facing those litigants by rendering a decision which will allow them to move forward with their lives.
Dealing with juveniles is an extremely difficult aspect of a Family Court Judge's job, but may also be extremely rewarding. It particularly touches my heart when a juvenile appears back before me to say they have learned the path they were on was destructive and have changed the course they wish their life to take.
The most enjoyable aspect of my job as a Family Court Judge is in the area of adoptions and I truly relish the opportunity to grant an adoption whenever the opportunity presents itself. Those are very special occasions in Family Court and I cherish them.
I would like to continue to serve the people of the State of South Carolina in any way that I can by continuing to serve another term as a Family Court Judge.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
Ex parte communications are ordinarily inappropriate. I have procedures in place in my chambers to deal with attempted ex parte communications.
If a litigant contacts my office by telephone, my staff is instructed to inform them that Judges, under the Canons of Judicial Ethics, are not

allowed to speak to litigants under any circumstances except in the courtroom on the record.

If an attorney calls my office wishing to discuss a case, the opposing attorney is conferenced in on a conference call. If a conference call is not possible at that time, one is scheduled for a later time when all attorneys are able to participate.

If an attorney comes to my chambers to discuss a matter, the opposing attorney is contacted by telephone and we discuss the matter by speaker phone. If the opposing attorney is not available, a conference call is set up for a later time so that all attorneys may participate.

I also have a procedure to handle any written ex parte communications received in my office. If a litigant writes a letter to my office, my staff has a standard form letter, which is sent to the litigant explaining that Judges are not allowed to speak with litigants outside the courtroom. A copy of the litigant's letter along with my standard form letter, are filed in the Clerk of Court's file on that case. A copy of the letter from the litigant and my form letter of response are mailed to the opposing attorney or opposing litigant and a copy is also sent to any attorney for the litigant who wrote the letter.

There are certain occasions when circumstances may require ex parte communications with a Family Court Judge. On those occasions, an attorney is usually seeking some sort of Ex parte Emergency Order. The determination whether to issue those particular orders is based solely on the documents presented by the attorney. The attorney will present to my office the Summons, Complaint, Motion, Supporting Affidavits and proposed Order. I consider those documents in determining whether or not to issue the proposed order. All of the documents are then placed in the Clerk of Court's file so if there is ever any question as to how the order was issued, all of the documents are available for review.

6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?

I have had several lawyer-legislators appear before me and recusal has never been an issue. Former law partners and associates have appeared before me. I have served as a Family Court Judge since 1995 and do not feel it is necessary that I recuse myself on those cases. However, if the issue ever presented itself, I would carefully consider it.

7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion?

I would give deference to a request for recusal and have done so in the past. I believe it is so important that the Judicial System not only be impartial, but also appear to be impartial. I would probably be inclined to grant such a motion for recusal under those circumstances.

8. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

Whenever there is any appearance of impropriety because of any financial or any social involvement in any matter, I recuse myself and allow another judge to hear that matter. In Horry County, we have at least two judges presiding each week. This allows the rosters to be switched between the judges so there is no appearance of impropriety or any inconvenience to the litigants due to rescheduling.

9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

I accept no gifts. I accept normal social hospitality.

10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?

The Canons of Ethics, as well as the Rules of Professional Conduct, require under certain facts and circumstances the misconduct be reported to the appropriate commission.

11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions which, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated? No

12. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench? No

13. Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle the drafting of orders?

I handle that situation in one of three ways.

I may make a ruling from the bench in the courtroom, on the record, with all parties present. I instruct one of the attorneys to prepare a proposed order for my consideration. The attorney preparing the proposed order must provide the proposed order to the opposing attorney prior to

submission of the proposed order to me for my consideration.

I may take the attorneys into my chambers following the conclusion of a case and instruct them to prepare a proposed order for my consideration. The attorney preparing the proposed order must provide the proposed order to the opposing attorney prior to submission of the proposed order to me for my consideration.

I may also take the case under advisement. I then issue a detailed letter of instruction to one of the attorneys instructing that attorney to prepare a proposed order for my consideration. A copy of the letter of instruction is forwarded to the opposing attorney so there is no ex parte communication. The letter of instruction requires the proposed

order to be exchanged with the opposing attorney prior to submission of the proposed order to me for my consideration.

In any of these situations, if an attorney has a question regarding the proposed order, a conference or conference call is scheduled.

Once the proposed order is received in my office, my secretary reviews it and I review it. Any changes I deem necessary are made prior to signing it. I reserve the right to prepare my own orders if I deem that to be appropriate and, have done so in the past.

14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

Each week I have a roster of the cases for that particular term of court. Each case has an individual case sheet or sheets where I make detailed notes of the proceedings. At the end of the week the roster along with the attached note sheets are given to my secretary. Once an order in a particular case is received and signed a notation is made on my roster that the order has been signed.

If the order has not been signed within two weeks, my secretary calls the office of the attorney instructed to prepare the order. If the proposed order is not received in three weeks, a letter or e-mail is generated to that attorney's office instructing them to provide the proposed order to my office by a certain date. A copy of this letter or e-mail is also forwarded to the opposing attorney. If the order is not received in my office by that date, I prepare the order myself.

Court Administration requires each judge to submit a thirty-day report listing any orders under advisement more than thirty days. I rarely report any orders outstanding for more than thirty days unless the case has been extremely complicated, difficult and lengthy. Even in that event, I make every effort to have the order signed within sixty days.

15. What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case?

I review the Court file prior to holding any hearing in which a Guardian ad Litem is involved to determine if all of the statutory requirements have been met. If the Guardian ad Litem has failed to comply with any of the requirements, I will address that prior to the hearing with the parties and the Guardian ad Litem.

16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

I do not believe judges should set or promote public policy. I believe a judge's job is to rule on the facts of a case according to the existing laws in this state and to uphold the public policy of this state.

17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?
I have spoken at Continuing Legal Education Seminars and I take every opportunity to speak to organizations with regard to the legal system. regularly speak to classes who have toured the courthouse, the lay guardian ad litem for the Department of Social Services, the Juvenile Auxiliary Probation Officers, and on the issue of mediation in Abuse and Neglect cases.
18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this?
I do not feel being a judge strains personal relationships.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
No
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No
21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?
Yes, and historically have extra hours to carry forward yearly for additional credits.
23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?
I feel the appropriate demeanor for a judge is to be attentive, courteous, patient, give each and every person the opportunity to present his or her case, and courteously maintain control of the courtroom.
24. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day?
I believe judges must be aware that all of their activities, seven days a week and 24 hours a day, may impact the public's opinion and perception of the Judiciary.
25. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?
Anger, on the part of a judge, is never appropriate with any member of the public, any attorney, or any litigant.
26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? None

27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign?
My secretary helped complete the application process.
28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No
29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No
30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No
31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No
32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes

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

s/ Lisa A. Kinon

Sworn to before me this 11th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 06-29-2016