

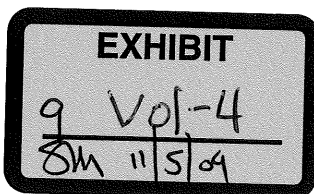
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Master-in-Equity, Clarendon County

1. NAME: Mr. William C. Coffey, Jr.
BUSINESS ADDRESS: PO Box 1292
Manning, SC 29102
E-MAIL ADDRESS: bill@coffeychandlerkent.com
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (803) 435-8847
2. Date of Birth: 1941
Place of Birth: Sumter, 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 November 28, 1963, to Elizabeth King Coffey.
Never divorced. Three children.
6. Have you served in the military? Yes, February 1966 through July 1968
Captain, Serial Number XXXXXXXX, Honorably Discharged
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) The Citadel, September 1959 through June 1963, BS-Business Administration;
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law – September 1963 through January 1966, 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 – Admitted 1966
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.

The Citadel, Cadet Captain, Chairman Honor Committee; University of South Carolina School of Law – USC Student Senate.
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 | 8/04, 8/05, 8/06, 8/07, 8/08; |
| (b) Annual Master in Equity Bench/Bar | 10/04, 10/05, 10/06, 10/07, 10/08; |
| (c) Security Title Seminar | 11/04, 11/06; |



- (d) Judicial Oath of Office 12/04;
 (e) Annual Trial Lawyers Convention 8/03, 8/04,8/05,8/06,8/07,8/08;
 (g) Chicago Title Underwriting-Fall Seminar 11/05.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? NO
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. NONE
13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 (a) South Carolina Courts, all levels – April 1966
 (b) U.S. District Court – 1968
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? AV
22. Have you ever held judicial office?
 (a) Masters in Equity for Clarendon County – filled unexpired term of Ralph F. Cothran, 4/1/03 through 6/0/04.
 (b) Elected Master in Equity for Clarendon County – 3/18/04 through 6/30/10.
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) Case No. 2002-CP-14-100 The National Bank of South Carolina Bank of South Carolina vs Cliff C. Brunson
 Order – Lien Satisfied by Sale Under Mortgage Foreclosure
 (b) Case No. 2001-CP-14-519 Travelers Bank & Trust vs Robert J. Felder, Mamie L. Felder, et al. – Order for Deficiency Judgment
 (c) Case No. 199-CP-14-037 Homegold, Inc. vs Michael Witherspoon and Homegold, Inc. – Report on Sale and Order Confirming Sale
 (d) Case No. 2001-CP-14-553 Citifinancial Mortgage Company, Inc. vs Leola Ragin Parks
 Report on Sale and Order Confirming Sale
 (e) Case No. 2002-CP-14-129 Homecomings Financial Network, Inc. vs Charles Ladson and South Carolina Department of Revenue – Referee’s Order and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale
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? 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? NONE
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?
Clarendon Memorial Gardens, LLC – Perpetual Care Cemetery, Managing Member and Owner
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.
The Master in Equity for Clarendon County is a part time position. In the event the firm I am employed represents a client in a case that would normally appear before the Master in Equity, a Special Referee will be appointed by the Circuit Court to decide the matter. I will not accept representation of a client for whom I have resolved an issue as Master in Equity.
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?
Yes – Case Number 2000-CP-14- 051 Dan Daniels vs W. C. Coffey, Jr. Action Dismissed with Prejudice on Motion of Plaintiff, no fault determined on my part and no payments paid.
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?
- In 2003 I was recommended by General Assembly members, Senator John C. Land, III and Representative Alex Harvin to fill the unexpired term of Ralph F. Cothran, and was appointed by the Governor to fulfill that term on the first day of April 2003.
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) Clarendon County Bar Association – President 1990 - 2008
- (b) South Carolina Bar Association – 1966 – Present - Member
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) Manning Rotary Club
- (b) Manning United Methodist Church

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 have been engaged in the practice of law in South Carolina for 41 years, principally in the areas of real estate, contracts and Probate. I have served as Master in Equity since 2004. This attorney experience, coupled with my service as Master since 2004 will be of value in my carrying out the duties of that position.

49. References:

- (a) Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.
Circuit Court Judge, Retired
PO Drawer 699
Manning, South Carolina 29102
(803-435-2450)
- (b) Bobby Pierce
Vice President
National Bank of South Carolina
PO Box 310
Manning, South Carolina 29102
(803-435-5100)
- (c) Pansy Ridgeway
former Mayor, City of Manning South Carolina
208 Fuller Street
Manning, South Carolina 29102
(803-35-8227)
- (d) John C. Usry
Certified Public Accountant
113 South Brooks Street,
Manning, South Carolina 29102
(803-435-4316)
- (e) Edward R. Frye, Jr.
CEO, Clarendon Memorial Hospital
PO Box 550
Manning, South Carolina 29102
(803-435-3240)

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: W.C. Coffey, Jr.
Date: August 6, 2009

William C. Coffey, Jr.
Master in Equity
for
Clarendon County

September 30, 2009

Mr. Joel M. Deason, Research Director
Senate General Committee
PO Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Personal Data Information, William C. Coffey, Jr. / Master in Equity for Clarendon County

Dear Mr. Deason:

I appreciated the opportunity of meeting with you on Tuesday the 29th of September regarding my candidacy for appointment as Master in Equity for Clarendon County. In reviewing my personal data, I failed to list my legal experience since graduating from law school. It is as follows:

14.

1. I practiced with Rogers & Riggs, Attorneys (J. R. Rogers, Jr. and Marion S. Riggs, 1968 through 1969). Engaged in general practice in Manning, South Carolina.

2. I began a solo practice at 8 South Brooks in Manning, South Carolina in 1969, including real estate, contracts, probate, family law, torts and criminal practice. The firm has continued at the 8 South Brooks Street location since that date and is a Professional Association consisting of Ray E. Chandler, Shaun C. Kent and me as partners and four associates.

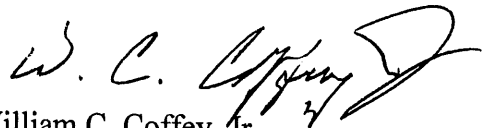
3. I served as City Attorney for the City of Manning for 30 years commencing in 1971 and as President as the Clarendon County Bar Association for approximately 10 years commencing in the early 1990's.

In further explanation of my response to Question 10 in the Sworn Statement included in the transcript, which is "Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations?" My yes answer resulted from my service as a member of the Finance Committee of the Manning United Methodist Church. As a member of this Committee, I was not directly involved in solicitation of funds, nor have I been involved in solicitation of funds for any organization since being appointed as Master. Based on this, I do not believe that my involvement in this activity violated Judicial Cannon 4C(3)(b)(i).

In response to our discussion of question 29 in the Sworn Statement portion of my application with is "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?" My initial response was a typographical error "NO" when it should have read "YES." I have been the only candidate for Master in Equity for Clarendon County since I applied for the position and I am aware of and have not violated the 48 hour rule.

If you need any further explanation of my responses contained herein or in my application, please contact me.

With sincere regards,


William C. Coffey, Jr.

WCC/cp

cc: Jane O. Shuler

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

Master-in-Equity
(Incumbent)

Full Name: William C. Coffey, Jr.
Business Address: PO Box 1292 (8 South Brooks Street)
Manning, South Carolina 29102
Business Telephone: (803)435-8847

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-appointed? YES
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?
Master in Equity for Clarendon County is a part-time position and I will continue to practice law.
3. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? YES
4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
I do not approve of *ex parte* communications with a judge unless it is an appropriate matter such as the expiration of a Mechanics Lien without suit having been filed and the need arises to dissolve the Lien and release Bonds that may have been posted.
I can envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated only in cases or irreparable harm or damage when I am convinced a party would be severely injured unless a Court Order is issued to prevent it.
5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?
I will recuse myself and have a Special Referee appointed in any case involving issues in which any member of my firm may be involved. I will consider each other case based on the facts and the parties before ruling as Master on an issue.
6. 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?
In most cases, I would grant the request of a recusal and suggest the appointment of a Special Referee.
7. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?
I will not accept gifts from participants, however, my firm does exchange Christmas presents with various law firms in the area, as

- well as clients, and I do not feel that I would be prejudiced as Master in Equity by allowing that practice to continue.
8. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a judge?
I would suggest that the aggrieved party report the same to the South Carolina Bar Association.
 9. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that need to be re-evaluated? NO
 10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? YES
 11. How do you handle the drafting of orders?
In routine Master cases, such as foreclosure, partition and quiet title actions, the attorneys involved draft orders once a ruling has been made in the case. I carefully review the draft order submitted to me to insure correctness of fact based on the evidence presented in the hearings and the conclusions of law presented in the proposed order.
 12. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
My secretary is employed through me by the County to monitor cases of the Master in Equity to determine that all deadlines are met on a timely basis.
 13. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?
I would not engage in judicial activism as Master in Equity. However, as a practicing attorney, I may be called on from time to time to help set or promote public policy.
 14. 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?
Actively encourage the members of the Bar appearing before me as Master in Equity to comply with the rules regarding Defendants rights and to insure that all parties are fairly represented.
 15. 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? NO
 16. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? NO
 17. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? NO
 18. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? NO
 19. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? YES

20. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?
I feel that a judge, at any level, should maintain control of the case before him and insure that litigation is limited to the facts and law of the case and not personalities of the litigants or the attorneys.
21. Would 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?
They apply to a judge in all circumstances at all times.
22. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?
Anger from the Bench should never be tolerated at any level.
23. 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
24. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign? NO
25. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? NO
26. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? NO
27. 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
28. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? NO
29. 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? NO

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

s/ William C. Coffey, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for S.C.

My commission expires: 12-21-2016