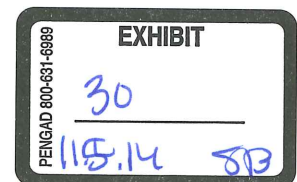


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

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

1. NAME: The Honorable Gordon G. Cooper
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Spartanburg County Judicial Center
180 Magnolia Street, Suite 901
Spartanburg, SC 29306
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 864-596-2501
2. Date of Birth: 1946
Place of Birth: Walhalla, Oconee County, S.C.
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 September 5, 1992, to Linda D. Cooper. Divorced from Carol D. Cronk (Cooper) on July 26, 1990. Moving party was Gordon G. Cooper on the grounds that the marriage was irretrievably broken. Three children.
6. Have you served in the military?
August 5, 1968-May 6, 1971. US Army (Counter Intelligence Special Agent, 801st MI Detachment, 6th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, Fort Bragg, NC) SGT (E-5) RA 12905016. Obligation fulfilled. Honorable Discharge.
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) Carson-Newman College - 1964-68, BA;
 - (b) University of Tennessee - 1971-73, DJ.
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.
 - (a) Florida, 1974;
 - (b) SC, 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) College- Member Alpha Phi Omega 1965-68;
 - (b) Law School-Member Phi Alpha Delta 1971-73;
 - (c) Law School-Active in the Legal Aid Clinic that provided free legal services to qualified residents of Knox County, Tennessee 1973.
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</u>
(a) 2008 Annual Judicial Conference	8/2008;
(b) 2009 Annual Judicial Conference	8/2009;
(c) 2010 Annual Judicial Conference	8/2010;



- (d) 2011 Annual Judicial Conference 8/2011;
 - (e) 2012 Annual Judicial Conference 8/2012;
 - (e) 2013 Annual Judicial Conference 8/2013;
 - (f) Masters-in-Equity Bench/Bar 10/11/2013;
 - (g) Masters-in-Equity Bench/Bar 10/12/2012;
 - (h) Masters-in-Equity Bench/Bar 10/14/2011;
 - (i) SC Bar Convention 1/20/2011;
 - (j) Masters-in-Equity Bench/Bar 10/08/2010;
 - (k) SC Bar Convention 01/21/2010;
 - (l) Master-in-Equity Conference 10/09/2009;
 - (m) 24th Annual Criminal Law Update 01/23/2009;
 - (n) SC Bar Convention 01/10/2008;
 - (o) Master-in-Equity Bench/Bar 10/10/2008.
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.
- Lectured at the bridge the Gap programs for the SC Bar CLE programs relating to the Master-in-Equity procedures.
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) US Supreme Court February 19, 1980;
 - (b) US District Court Southern District of Florida March 31, 1976;
 - (c) US District Court District of SC November 7, 1995;
 - (d) Admitted to Florida Bar May 10, 1974;
 - (e) Admitted to SC Bar June 7, 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) 1974-76 Associate with the Law Firm of Devitt, Geiger, O'Neal & Booth, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. General Practice;
 - (b) 1976-93 Private practice, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. General Practice;
 - (c) 1978-83 Assistant City Attorney, City of Oakland Park, Florida. Duties included advising all boards of the City, Police Department and attend all meetings of the City Council. Also, filed forfeiture actions on behalf of the Police Department relating to seized property. Also, handled appeals for the City of Oakland Park, Florida;
 - (d) 1993-February 10, 2004- Partner with the Law Firm of Johnson, Smith, Hibbard and Wildman, Spartanburg, SC, General Practice;
 - (e) February 10, 2004-Present-Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County.
15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any. BV.

22. Have you ever held judicial office?
- (a) February 10, 2004, appointed by Chief Justice Toal to serve as Special Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County;
 - (b) June 16, 2004, appointed by Governor to serve as Master-in-Equity for the term ending June 30, 2009;
 - (c) April 8, 2009, reappointed by Governor to serve as Master-in-Equity for the term ending June 30, 2015.

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.

Since being appointed as the Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County, I have handled approximately 10,000 foreclosure cases plus the general non-jury cases that were referred to me. In addition, I also serve as a Special Circuit Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit. In that capacity I handle probation revocations, restitution hearings, death settlements and minor settlements. Significant cases that were appealed are:

- (a) American General Financial Services, Inc. v Brown, 376 S.C. 580;
- (b) Protective Life Insurance Company v Fletcher Bright Co., 2008-UP-066;
- (c) Brian Lancaster v Launeil Saunders, 2006 UP 431;
- (d) State v Barlow Opinion 26294 (Filed March 26, 2007);
- (e) State v Stoudemire, 2007 UP 150;
- (f) DeShields Grading, Inc. v Ford Trust, 2012 MO 020;
- (g) Wells Fargo Bank v Baker, 2012 UP 551;
- (h) US Bank National v Johnson, 20120 UP 611;
- (i) Mertz v Corie Crest, 2013 UP 224;
- (j) Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District v Silver, 2013 UP 259.

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office?

Served as a Member and Chairman of the City of Wilton Manors, Florida Pension Board 1987-1990. Appointed by City Council. Have not held public office in SC.

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. None.

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

Unsuccessful candidate for Circuit Court Judge for 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Broward County, Florida, 1991.

27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? No.

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

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

30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

Former Partner with the Law Firm of Johnson, Smith, Hibbard and Wildman located in Spartanburg, SC. When a partner or associate of this law firm appears before me, I advise all parties of my former association with the firm on record. If the parties agree to my hearing the matter, the agreement is placed on the record. If a party objects to my hearing the matter, I recuse myself.

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? No.
36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? No.
37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? NA.
38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? No.
39. 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
40. 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.
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. 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.
44. 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.
45. 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.

46. 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.
47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
48. 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.
49. 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) Florida Bar- member;
 - (b) SC Bar-Member;
 - (c) Spartanburg County Bar-member.
50. 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.
51. 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. 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.

I was in private practice dealing with a wide variety of cases from 1974 until I was appointed to serve as the Master-in-Equity for Spartanburg County in 2004. This experience has given me the ability to deal with the wide range of cases that I hear. Also, the invaluable experience in private practice has given me the understanding and appreciation of pressures/issues that the attorneys appearing before me are dealing with on a day to day basis.

52. References:
 - (a) Roy R. Oates, Jr.
609 E. Main Street
Duncan, SC
(864) 949-6444
 - (b) Piero Bussani
Chief Legal Officer
Invitation Homes
901 Main Street, Suite 4700
Dallas, TX 75202
(972) 421-3621
 - (c) James Robinson
Officer and Assistant Manager, Bank of America
295 E. Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
(864) 208-1154
 - (d) Katherine L. O'Neill
Spartanburg County Administrator
Administration Building

Main Level, Suite 1000
366 North Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29303
(864) 596-2526

- (e) Hope Blackley
Spartanburg County Clerk of Court
Spartanburg County Courthouse
180 Magnolia Street, 2nd Floor Suite 500
Spartanburg, SC 29306
(864) 596-2591

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

Signature: Gordon G. Cooper

Date: July 25, 2014