

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Family Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 4

1. NAME: The Honorable Wayne Morris Creech
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 300-B California Avenue (P.O. Box 1198)
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-719-4462 or 843-719-4436
2. Date and Place of Birth: 1951; Moncks Corner, 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 June 23, 1979, to Annette Lewis Cook Creech. Divorced on November 11, 1976, Berkeley County Civil Court Case # 76-CL-08-350, desertion, moving party Wayne Morris Creech, four children.
6. Have you served in the military? No.
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
(a) USC (1969-73) – BS Business Administration;
(b) USC School of Law (1973-76) – JD.
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.
SC - 1976
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.
Order of Wig and Robe – (March 1976-May 1976)
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Course</u>
8/22/2006	Mini-Summit on Justice for Children
8/23/2006	Annual Conference
12/1/2006	Family Court Bench/Bar
1/26/2007	SC Bar Family Law Section
4/25/2007	Family Court Conference
7/11/2007	Orientation School for Judges
8/22/2007	Annual Conference
4/23/2008	Family Court Conference
6/4/2008	Orientation School for Judges



8/20/2008	Annual Conference
8/19/2009	Annual Conference
4/22/2010	Family Court Conference
8/5/2010	SCAJ Conference 2010
8/18/2010	Annual Conference
12/2/2010	Mini Summit On Justice for Children
12/3/2010	Family Court Bench/Bar
1/21/2011	SC Bar Family Law Section
6/1/2011	Family Court Conference
8/17/2011	Annual Conference
12/2/2011	Family Court Bench/Bar
1/20/2012	SC Bar Family Law Section
5/2/2012	Family Court Conference

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 taught at the New Judge Orientation School from 2003 through 2009;
 - (b) I have made numerous presentations to the SC Bar Family law Section
 - (c) I have made numerous presentations at the SC Family Court Bench/Bar CLE meetings;
 - (d) I have made numerous presentations to the SC Family Court Judges Association at the Spring Conferences;
 - (e) I have spoken three times to Family Law Section at the Charleston School of Law about Family Law issues and the SC Family Court Bench Book project.
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) SC Supreme Court – November 1976;
 - (b) United States Federal District Court – January 1977.
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) Law office of H. N. West – Associate – August 1976–July 1977
Real Estate / Family Law;
 - (b) Dennis and Dennis – Associate – July 1977–January 1978
Real Estate / Family Law / Criminal Law / General Civil Litigation;
 - (c) Dennis, Dennis, and Watson – Associate – January 1978–November 1981
Real Estate/Family Law/Criminal Law/Municipal Law/ Civil Litigation;

- (d) Watson and Creech – Partner – November 1981–July 1983
Real Estate/ Family Law /Criminal Law/Municipal Law/Civil Litigation;
 - (e) Watson, Creech, and Tiencken – July 1983–January 1987
Real Estate/ Family Law /Criminal Law/Municipal Law/Civil Litigation;
 - (f) Watson, Creech, Tiencken, and West – January 1987–March 1987
Real Estate/ Family Law/Criminal Law /Municipal Law/Civil Litigation;
 - (g) Wayne M. Creech, Sole Practitioner – March 1987–September 30, 1988 Real Estate
- 14.(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.
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? Yes.
South Carolina Family Court –Ninth Circuit, Berkeley County Resident, Seat #4
- (a) Elected by the SC General Assembly April 27, 1988, to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable Warren H. Jolly from October 1, 1988–June 30, 1989;
 - (b) Re-elected May 3, 1989 for term from July 1, 1989–June 30, 1995;
 - (c) Re-elected May 25, 1995, for term from July 1, 1995–June 30, 2001;
 - (d) Re-elected February 7, 2001, for term from July 1, 2001–June 30, 2007;
 - (e) Re-elected February 7, 2007, for term from July 1, 2007–June 30, 2013.
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) SCDSS v the Father, the Mother and the Step-Father: Case # 88-Dr-10-0608
This was the most complex and lengthy trial of my 24 year career. It is a child abuse / Child Custody case that was transferred to SC from the state of Virginia because of adverse publicity that prevented a fair trial of the issues in Virginia. The case involved allegations of ritualistic child abuse and use the child abuse protection “under-ground railroad”. The case gained national and international attention. The trial court order was written by me. The decision was appealed but the appeal was ultimately dismissed by the S.C. Supreme Court.
 - (b) State v Annette Moody: Case # 92-JU-10-1738

This is the first S.C. case in which a legal custodian was found in criminal contempt of court for failing to supervise a juvenile released to the care of a custodian on "home detention". The criminal contempt sanction imposed was affirmed by the S.C. Supreme Court without comment in an unpublished opinion.

(c) Sharps v Sharps: 342 S.C. 71

In this case, Wife sought an increase in alimony after the emancipation of her children and cessation of child support. Husband claimed that emancipation of the children was a foreseeable future event at the time of the initial alimony award and could not be used as a changed circumstance justifying an increase in alimony. The SC Court of Appeals agreed with Husband and reversed my decision. The SC Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals, determined that though foreseeable, the impact of the emancipation of the children could not have been factored into the initial alimony calculation, and therefore the emancipation of the children could be used as changed circumstances for modification of the alimony initially awarded. The SC Supreme Court affirmed my decision.

(d) Latimer v Farmer: 360 S.C 375

In this child custody / relocation case, Father sought to move to Michigan with his children. Mother objected and sought custody or in the alternative denial of Father's right to move with the children. I granted Father's request for sole custody and allowed him to relocate to Michigan.

The S.C. Supreme Court upheld my decision and changed S.C. law to eliminate the longstanding "presumption against relocation". This case also contains the first reported instance of computer assisted visitation via webcam.

(e) In The Interest of M.B.H., A Minor Under The Age of Seventeen:

In this case M.B.H. (juvenile) pled guilty to two counts of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature (ABHAN). As part of the disposition of the offenses, the juvenile was required to register as a sex offender. The issue presented was whether there was "good cause" shown to require registry as a sex offender. The SC Supreme Court affirmed my decision to require registration and clarified the meaning of "good cause". The court found that in this context "good cause" means "only that the judge consider the facts and circumstances of the case to make the determination of whether or not the evidence indicates a risk to reoffend sexually".

24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. 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?

Moncks Corner Town Attorney – Elected by Town Council – November 1981–March 1987

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

I am on the Board of Directors of Buck Hall Development Corporation. I assist with management decisions related to the operation and conservation of an 825 acre plantation owned by the corporation. The corporation grows and sells timber. I own 31 shares of stock in the corporation. These shares have a collective value of about \$155,000.00. I have been on the board since August 2010. My term expires August 2013.

29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.
31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? None.
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? 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.

In March 2012, an action was filed in Federal Bankruptcy Court alleging that I had willfully violated the automatic stay available to Petitioners under Chapter 13 of US Bankruptcy law. I was served on Friday, March 23, 2012 with the summons and complaint. A hearing for emergency relief was scheduled for March 27, 2012. At the hearing, Plaintiff agreed to dismiss the action against me. See attached pleadings and Stipulation of Dismissal.

36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. 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? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy.
- I purchased a "tail" policy in 1988 when I was first elected to serve as a Family Court Judge and left the practice of law. No claims have ever been made under it.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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." None.
41. 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." None.
42. 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.
43. 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.
44. 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.
45. 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.
46. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.

47. 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.
48. 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) SC Bar Association;
 - (b) Berkeley County Bar Association
49. 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) First Baptist Church of Moncks Corner
 Sunday School Teacher:
 First Baptist Co-ed C Sunday School
 St. Johns Baptist Sunday School and
 The Bridge Assisted Living Bible Study Class;
 - (b) Freedom Church
 Community Group Leader:
 Two Rules Community Group;
 - (c) Charleston Southern University:
 Trustee 2008-11.
50. 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 a wide range of legal problem solving experience. I was in general practice for 11 years prior to my election to the Family Court Bench. During that time, I served as Town Attorney and Prosecutor for the town of Moncks Corner.
- I was elected to the bench in 1988 and have held court in at least 28 of the 46 counties in SC and have served as Chief Administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit and Berkeley County Family Court numerous times.
- I am the 2010 recipient of the Buchan, Brown, Jacobs Award presented by the SC Conference of Family Court Judges honoring integrity, professionalism, skill, compassion, spirit, optimism and courage.
51. References:
- (a) Pastor Shawn Wood
 Freedom Church
 P.O. Box 2301
 Moncks Corner, SC 29461
 843-478-3716
 - (b) Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Robert J. Jones
 724 Levee Drive
 Moncks Corner, SC 29461

- 843-899-1992
- (c) Doctor Harold N. West, Jr.
P. O. Box 247
Bonneau, SC 29431
843-825-2117
- (d) Angelia Bond
Wells Fargo Bank
P.O. Box 6995
Portland, Oregon 97228
843-761-8030 (local branch number)
- (e) Sheriff H. Wayne DeWitt
223 North Live Oak Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-719-4465

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: Wayne Morris Creech

Date: August 1, 2012