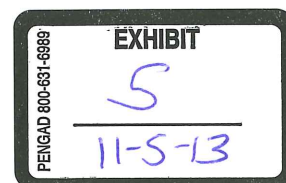


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR RETIRED JUDGES/JUSTICES**

- NAME: The Honorable Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.
- BUSINESS ADDRESS: 16 North Brooks Street  
Post Office Drawer 699 (Mailing Address)  
Manning, SC 29102
- BUSINESS TELEPHONE: (803) 435-2450
2. Date and Place of Birth: 1941; Sumter County
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 July 20, 1968, to Margaret Barringer Bland. Never divorced; two children.
6. Briefly describe your continuing legal or judicial education since your last screening.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SCCJC/Judges Conference	5/6/2009;
(b) SCAJ/Annual Conference	8/6/2009;
(c) SCCA/2009 Annual Judicial Conference	8/19/2009;
(d) SCSA/2009 SC Solicitor's Association	9/28/2009;
(e) SupCt/SC Conference on Lawyer & Judicial	10/22/2009;
(f) SC BAR/Civil Law Update	1/22/2010;
(g) SC BAR/Criminal Law Update – Part 2	1/22/2010;
(h) SCCJC/SC Circuit Court Judges Association	5/5/2010;
(i) SCSA/With Great Power Comes Great	9/26/2010;
(j) SCLR/Law & Democracy	10/21/2010;
(k) ODC/SC Conference on Lawyer	10/26/2010;
(l) SCDTAA/43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting	11/11/2010;
(m) SC BAR/Criminal Law Section	1/21/2011;
(n) SC BAR/Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section	1/21/2011;
(o) SCCJC/SC Circuit Court Judges' Conference	5/4/2011;
(p) SCAJ/2011 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/4/2011;
(q) SCCA/2011 Annual Judicial Conference	8/17/2011;
(r) ODC/SC Conference on Lawyer	11/1/2011;
(s) SCDTAA/Annual Meeting	11/3/2011;
(t) SC BAR/Part 2 Criminal Law Section	1/20/2012;
(u) SC BAR/Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section	1/20/2012;
(v) SCCJC/Annual Circuit Court Judges' Conference	5/2/2012;
(w) SCAJ/2012 Annual Convention	8/2/2012;
(x) SCCA/2012 Annual Judicial Conference	8/22/2012;
(y) CJLC/SC Conference on Lawyer and Judicial	11/7/2012;
(z) SCDTAA/Annual Meeting	11/8/2012;
(aa) SC BAR/Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section	1/25/2013;
(bb) SC BAR/Part 2: Criminal Law Section	1/25/2013.



7. Have you practiced law or served as a mediator or arbitrator since your retirement from the judiciary?

I have not practiced law since my retirement and do not intend to return to the practice. I have served as a mediator and arbitrator in both the state and federal courts.

8. List your positions of employment on and/or appointment to the bench chronologically. You are not required to list dates of employment or appointment prior to your last screening.

(a) Circuit Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 1;

(b) Retired/Active Circuit Court Judge;

(c) Mediator/Arbitrator.

9. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service. No

10. Provide a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

(a) Identify all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings. See Attachment;

(b) Identify each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

N/A

11. Since your last screening, have you 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

12. Since your last screening, have you, to your knowledge, been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No

13. Since your last screening, has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Since your last screening, have you defaulted on a student loan? Since your last screening, have you filed for bankruptcy? No

14. Since your last screening, have you been sued, either personally or professionally? No

15. Since your last screening, have you, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, been sanctioned for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or found to have committed such misconduct? No

16. Since your last screening, have you been criticized, whether informally or in a matter taken to a disciplinary authority, for the manner in which you treated litigants or attorneys before you on the bench? No

17. Describe your personal policy for the acceptance of food, meals, beverages, lodging, transportation, entertainment, social hospitality, or other things of value from an attorney, a group of attorneys, or from other individuals.

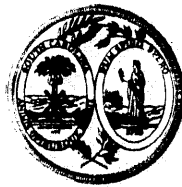
I do not accept gifts or social hospitality that is extended to me simply because I am a judge. I do accept normal gifts for holidays, birthdays, etc. which come to me from life-long friends and friends who have known me before I became a judge. When I receive an invitation from a lawyer or law firm to accept social hospitality, I try to ensure that other judges are involved. I would not accept a gift or social hospitality from any lawyer or law firm while I had any matters involving that law firm under consideration. I do attend the conventions of the plaintiff and defense bars held each August and November.

18. Have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? No
19. 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.  
I do not know of any information that would negatively impact my screening process.
20. For the last fully completed calendar year, itemize the income, expenses, fees, payments, or additional benefits exceeding \$500, in the aggregate, received by you or a member of your immediate family from South Carolina state and local entities. List the type, source, and amount or value of the benefit. Be sure to list any expense reimbursement you received separately from your income. See Attachment
21. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property. N/A
22. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. N/A

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

Signature: Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.

Date: 6/28/13



State of South Carolina  
The Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit

Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.  
Active Retired Judge

September 17, 2013

Jane O. Shuler, Esquire  
Chief Counsel, Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
104 Gressette Building  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Jane,

On the basis of the SLED report (copy attached) on my background, I am herewith amending my answer to Question 14 of my Personal Data Questionnaire to reflect two Federal District Court lawsuits that were filed, but dismissed before they were served. As a result of never having been served, I had no prior knowledge of either suit.

The case brought by Kenyordo Grissett vs. Thomas Cooper, Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, may be against me if it involved allegations of misconduct in 1997. I last served as Administrative Judge in the Fifth Circuit from January 1-December 31, 1997. I have presided since then on many occasions in the Fifth Circuit, but never as Administrative Judge.

The case brought by Willie Moses Anderson appears to be against me, since it arose in my county, although I don't know who Mr. Anderson is.

I am attaching a copy of the report as a part of this amendment for more detailed information. Please let me know if I need to provide anything else.

Thank you for your many courtesies throughout this process.

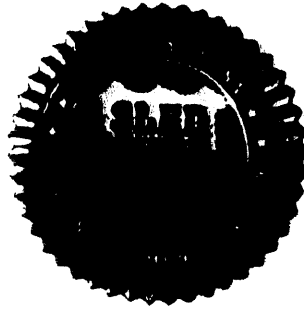
Sincerely,

  
Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.

Encl. Sled Report

P.S. I will be available all week to talk about the two reversals we discussed via telephone last week.

# SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



NIKKI R. HALEY  
Governor

MARK A. KEEL  
Chief

To: File 37-13 -0004  
From: Gennie Jacobs  
Re: Background for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.  
Date: August 13, 2013

The United States District Court, District of South Carolina; Columbia, SC, records reflects the following cases involving Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.:

The following cases were listed under Thomas Cooper:

4:05-CV-01341 is a civil rights case that involves the plaintiff, prisoner Kenyordo Grissett vs. Thomas Cooper, Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. This case was dismissed against Judge Cooper on July 25, 2005, without issuance and service of process.

8:06-CV-03338 is a civil rights case that involves the plaintiff, prisoner Willie Moses Anderson vs. the State of South Carolina, Manning Police Department, Clarendon County Sheriff's Department, and attorney Thomas Cooper. December 7, 2006, Order directing the Clerk of Court not to authorize the issuance and service of process. This case was dismissed against the defendants on January 4, 2007.

TWJ  
Amendment to P.D. #14

