

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

1. NAME: The Honorable William Thomas Sprott, Jr.  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P. O. Drawer 180, (115A South Congress Street)  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 803-712-6734
2. Date of Birth: 1945  
Place of Birth: Winnsboro, SC
3. Are you a citizen of SC? Yes  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes
5. Family Status: Married January 10, 1987, to Jeanne Frost Wardlaw. Never divorced, one child.
6. Have you served in the military?  
US Army from September 1968 to August 1970. Medical Service Corp, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., XXXXXXXX, 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) Clemson University, 1963 to 1967, BS;
  - (b) USC, 1967-68, to enter army;
  - (c) Tulane University School of Law, 1970-73, 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.  
Admitted to practice in SC on November 3, 1973
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) ROTC, College, 1963-67, Platoon Leader;
  - (b) Hall Monitor, college, 1965-66;
  - (c) Band, College, 1963-67;
  - (d) Methadone Program, Law School, 1972;
  - (e) Phi Delta Phi, Law School, 1973;
  - (f) Tulane Rugby Club 1972-73.
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) Annual Family Court Judges Conference	04/17/13;
(b) Family Law Seminar at SC Bar Convention	01/25/13;
(c) SC Family Court Bench/Bar Conference	12/07/12;
(d) Mini-Summit on Justice for Children	12/06/12;



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|------|--|-----------|
| (e)  | Annual Judicial Conference                     | 08/22/12; |
| (f)  | SCAJ Annual Convention – Family Law Seminar    | 08/02/12; |
| (g)  | Annual Family Court Judges Conference          | 04/18/12; |
| (h)  | Family Law Seminar at SC Bar Convention        | 01/20/12; |
| (i)  | SC Family Court Bench/Bar Conference           | 12/02/11; |
| (j)  | Annual Judicial Conference                     | 08/17/11; |
| (k)  | SCAJ Annual Convention –Family Law Seminar     | 08/04/11; |
| (l)  | Annual Family Court Judges Conference          | 06/01/11; |
| (m)  | Family Law Seminar at SC Bar Convention        | 01/21/11; |
| (n)  | SC Family Court Bench/Bar Conference           | 12/03/10; |
| (o)  | Mini Summit on Justice for Children            | 12/02/10; |
| (p)  | Annual Judicial Conference                     | 08/18/10; |
| (q)  | SCAJ Annual Convention – Family Law Seminar    | 08/05/10; |
| (r)  | Annual Family Court Judges Conference          | 04/22/10; |
| (s)  | Family Law Seminar at SC Bar Convention        | 01/22/10; |
| (t)  | SC Family Court Bench/Bar Conference           | 12/04/09; |
| (u)  | National Judicial College                      | 10/04/09; |
| (v)  | Annual Judicial Conference                     | 08/19/09; |
| (w)  | SCAJ Annual Convention – Family Law Seminar    | 08/06/09; |
| (x)  | Annual Family Court Judges Conference          | 04/22/09; |
| (y)  | Family Law Seminar at SC Bar Convention        | 01/23/09; |
| (z)  | SC Family Court Bench/Bar Conference           | 12/05/08; |
| (aa) | Annual Judicial Conference                     | 08/20/08; |
| (bb) | SCAJ Annual Convention – Family Law Seminar    | 08/07/08; |
| (cc) | Orientation School for New Family Court Judges | 06/04/08; |
| (dd) | Annual Family Court Judges Conference          | 04/23/08. |
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) SC Supreme Court, November 3, 1973;
- (b) US District Court, September 26, 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.
- (a) 1973–86: Sole practitioner, Winnsboro, SC - General practice including domestic, real estate, criminal, estates, served as municipal judge;
- (b) 1986–87: Partner with McDonald and Sprott, Winnsboro, SC - General practice primarily involving real estate, served as special referee and municipal judge;

- (c) 1987-97: Partner with McDonald, Sprott, Spong and Clarkson in Winnsboro, SC, - General practice with emphasis on real estate and estates, served as special referee, temporary Administrative Law Judge, and municipal judge;
  - (d) 1997–2001: Sprott and Clarkson, of counsel;
  - (e) 2001-08: Sole practitioner, Winnsboro, SC - emphasis on real estate and estates, special referee, County Attorney for Fairfield County from 2002–08;
  - (f) 2008–present: Family Court Judge, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Seat #2, - Served as Chief Administrative Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit for several years.
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.

Last available rating was AV by Martindale-Hubbell

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.

I was a Municipal Judge for the Town of Winnsboro from 1981-97 and was appointed by Town Council. This court has jurisdiction to try cases arising under municipal ordinances and criminal cases made under State law where the penalty did not exceed \$500.00 or 30 days. The court has the authority to issue arrest and search warrants, conduct preliminary hearings and set bail.

I was a temporary Administrative Law Judge during the interim just prior to the creation of the Administrative Law Court in 1992. My hearings were limited to those contesting the issuance of beer and wine licenses, and permits to sell liquor. I was appointed.

I was a Special Referee in many matters until 2008, being appointed by the Clerk of Court in default matters, and by the Circuit Judge in contested matters. Most of the cases were for the partition of realty, foreclosure of mortgages, and suits to quiet title. In these matters I was given the same powers and authority of a Circuit Judge with appeal directly to the Appellate or Supreme Court.

I have been a Family Court Judge since February 25, 2008, to the present. I was elected by the legislature. The Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters involving family relationships including marriage, divorce, legal separation, custody, visitation rights, termination of parental rights, adoption, support, alimony, division of marital property and change of name. It has jurisdiction over minors under seventeen alleged to have violated local or state laws, and in some instances it has concurrent jurisdiction with magistrate or municipal courts. It further has jurisdiction over matters relating to abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults which involves the Department of Social Services.

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) Wilfred Allen Woods v Etta Catherine Woods, 2010-DR-06-472. This was an alimony modification case;
- (b) Christopher Tyler Anderson v Ashlee Gay Neal (2010-DR-29-694) 2013-000485. This was a custody, termination of parental rights case;
- (c) John W. Ankney v Nancy L. Ankney,(2009-DR-40-0802) 212-UP-179, This was an alimony modification case affirmed by the Appellate Court;

- (d) Linda Rose Barber v. Daryl Scott Barber, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert Donald Barber, (2009-DR-40-0736) 2010-164206, Opinion No. 5096. This was for divorce, equitable division and awarding wife the benefit of husband's survivor benefits plan;
- (e) SC Department of Social Services v M.R.C.L, R.L. and G.L. Opinion No. 27007, 390 S.C. 329, 701 S.E.2d 757 (Ct. App. 2010). This was a termination of parental rights case which was reversed by the Appellate Court, and the Supreme Court reversed the Appellate Court.
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. 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.  
I have had no other employment while I have been a Family Court Judge.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?  
Yes. In 1980, I announced as a candidate for the Family Court judgeship in the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit created upon the death of William Hare, and cleared the judicial screening committee. Prior to the election, I withdrew my candidacy. Thomas B. Barrineau of Winnsboro was elected the Family Court Judge.
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?  
Prior to practicing law, I served in the US Army from 1968 to 1970. I was a teacher's aide in the Beaufort, SC school system from 1999 to 2001.
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.  
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? 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? No 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? N/A

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.?  
I am an active member on Facebook and became a member when serving in a judicial capacity. My continued use of it would not be affected.
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.” 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.”  
I know of no charges or allegations against me or any other candidate.
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? No  
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) SC Bar Association;  
(b) Fairfield County Bar Association, Secretary from 1974 to about 1980. President from 2006-07;  
(c) SC Conference of Family Court Judges (2008 to present).
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. Winnsboro Cotillion

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.

I began practicing law in 1973, and since then I have served in several judicial capacities and have been exposed to many areas of law. I served as a municipal judge, a temporary Administrative Law Judge, a Special Referee, and a Family Court Judge. I am still learning. I think my reputation is good, I enjoy my work, and I am honored to serve and humbled by the confidence others have placed in me. I wish to continue to serve my State in this fashion.

52. References:

- (a) Robert Drake  
First Citizens Bank, (Banker)  
111 South Congress Street  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
803-635-4617
- (b) John S. McMeekin  
P. O. Box 518  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
803-635-4116
- (c) John E. James, III, Esq.  
P. O. Drawer 329  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
803-635-4234
- (c) Dr. J. Lynne Douglass  
208 Evans Street  
Winnsboro,, SC 29180  
803-381-6854
- (e) Esther J. Baughman  
158 Locust Circle  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
803-635-4193

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

Signature: William Thomas Sprott, Jr.

Date: July 23, 2013