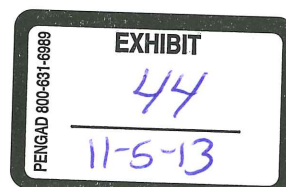


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5

1. NAME: Ms. Tarita A. Dunbar  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: SC Department of Social Services  
Child Support Division  
PO Box 17799  
Greenville, SC  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 864-282-4664
2. Date of Birth: 1961  
Place of Birth: Manning, 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 on November 25, 1989, to Vernon F. Dunbar.  
Never divorced; three children.
6. Have you served in the military? N/A
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) Georgetown University BA 1980-86;
  - (b) Southern University Law School 1986-87;
  - (c) transferred to USC School of Law in 1987-89, receiving Juris Doctor.
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 admitted to practice law in 1990. I took the Bar Exam three times in SC.
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. None
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) Ethical Issues for Lawyers in the Electronic Age	02/28/08;
(b) Masters in Cross Examination	listed 02/13/09 and 12/13/00;
(c) 18th Annual Criminal Practice in SC	02/27/09;
(d) Training for Child Support	11/09/09;
(e) Greenville County Bar CLE	02/12/2010;
(f) SCDSS Child Support Enforcement	06/04/2010;
(g) Domestic Violence	07/29/10;
(h) Practice Tips for DSS Adoptions	10/29/2010;
(i) The SC Ethics Act	06/04/2010;
(j) Annual Ethics & Professional	12/02/2011;



- (k) US Sentencing Guidelines 11/10/2011;
  - (l) FOIA Law and Issues 11/18/2011;
  - (m) SC Law Review 03/01/2013;
  - (n) Contempt after Turner 05/30/13.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
    - (a) I have lectured at the 1900 SC Bar Program “Bridge the Gap” for new lawyers;
    - (b) I have made presentations on the topics of appellate advocacy and domestic relations to lawyers attending the 1900 Annual SC Bar Meeting.
  12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. N/A
  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. N/A
  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) Cromartie Law Firm basic family practice, simple divorces, (1990-91);
    - (b) Director of Research and Legal Counselor on SC Senate Corrections and Penology Committee(1993-94);
    - (c) Contract Attorney with the SC Labor Licensing and Regulation(advised Board Members of the statutes and regulations and wrote orders ( 2002-03);
    - (d) 2005-2006 Attorney with Department of Social Services Child Abuse and Neglect;
    - (e) Attorney with SC Department of Social Services Child Support Division (2006-Current).
  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. N/A
  16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
    - (a) federal: 0;
    - (b) state: I appear in Family Court at least three times a month.
  17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
    - (a) civil: 0%;
    - (b) criminal: 0%;
    - (c) domestic: 100%;
    - (d) other: Served as Director of Research and Legal Counselor for Committee on Corrections and Penology in the SC Senate, served as contract attorney for SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.
  18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
    - (a) jury: 0%;
    - (b) non-jury: 100%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
  - (a) Tried termination of parental rights cases in Family Court;
  - (b) Tried Abuse and Neglect cases representing the Department of Social Services;
  - (c) Tried cases involving child support;
  - (d) Tried case involving custody and visitation;
  - (e) Tried a case in probate court.
20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. None
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. N/A
22. Have you ever held judicial office? No
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? N/A
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. N/A
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? N/A
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? N/A
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? 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.? 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." N/A
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." N/A
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. N/A
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.
52. References:
- (a) Katie Bolt  
(864) 275-5690
  - (b) Harry Shaw  
(843) 991-0336
  - (c) Clinton Rowand  
(864) 385-4510
  - (d) Shields Cochran  
(864)250-1503

(e) Shane Williams  
(864)552-4621.

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

Signature: Tarita Andrea Dunbar

Date: 8/7/13

**AMENDED RESPONSES TO PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Amended response to question number 9.

I worked my way through college. I had on campus jobs at Georgetown University. I worked on the mayoral campaign of Patricia Harris in 1982 against incumbent Mayor Marion Berry. I also interned at television station WJLA-TV working under senior anchor Paul Berry in the Community Service Programs, "Crimesolvers" and "Seven on Your Side" while in college. I interned at the Richland County Public Defender's Office from 1987-1988 while attending law school and participated in the Black Law Students' Association.

Amended responses to question number 19. (a-e).

(a) I litigated or tried a termination of parental rights case. I had to prove by clear and convincing evidence there was repetitive abuse and neglect which made it reasonably unlikely that the home could be deemed safe within twelve months. The children were removed from the home because of mother's continued involvement with a physically abusive boyfriend and evidence of continuous domestic violence in the home even during the time the children were in DSS custody. The mother denied having contact with the boyfriend. I called the mother as my first witness anticipating that she would deny under oath that she had continued to maintain a relationship with her abusive boyfriend. My next witnesses were at least six law enforcement officers detailing their calls and investigations to the mother's home for domestic violence between the boyfriend and her before and after the children had been removed from the home.

(b) I was involved in a Removal Hearing in which a teenage girl alleged that her stepfather had attempted to sexually assault her. There was an additional charge of neglect because the parents had permitted the child to be absent from school without excuse. Mother argued she was homeschooling daughter and that daughter was lying about stepfather's sexual advances and abuse. Stepfather was represented by a former solicitor and mother was represented by separate counsel. I prevailed on finding educational neglect and abuse for risk of sexual offense.

(c) One of my child support cases involved determining if the parties' prior divorce decree addressed the issue of child support. My petition requested establishing child support. Opposing counsel argued that the divorce decree had addressed the issue of child support, and therefore, my pleadings should have instead requested child support modification. If the issue of child support had been addressed

previously, then the subsequent pleading must involve a request to modify an order of support. Accordingly, I needed to plead and to prove substantial or material change of circumstance to modify a prior order. I requested the court to permit the agency to amend the pleadings if it determined the prior decree properly addressed the issue of child support. I further argued that my request to amend the pleadings would not prejudice the other party.

(d) Represented a mother who left her child in the care of the biological father and his parents for a period of time. The biological father filed an action seeking permanent custody. The issue involved whether the mother's emotional issues were relevant to her fitness to share custody or have unsupervised visitation.

(e) Tried a case in probate court regarding whether a will had been altered and was valid.

Amended response to question number 41.

I have no knowledge of any formal charges or informal allegations against me or any other candidate for violations of provision S.C. Code Section 8-13-700.

Amended response to question number 42.

I have no knowledge of any formal charges or informal allegations against me or any other candidate for violation of S.C. Code Section 8-13-765.

Amended response to question number 49. (a)

I am a member of the South Carolina Bar.

I am a member of the Greenville County Bar Association.

Amended response to question 51.

My work experience as an attorney for South Carolina Labor, Licensing and Regulations involved providing legal advice to the numerous professional licensing boards during hearings regarding the suspension and revocation of licenses and issuance of fines. My position with South Carolina Labor Licensing and Regulation allowed me to take part in deliberations concerning the decision regarding someone's professional license. I drafted orders on behalf of the Board reflecting the findings of facts and conclusions of law.

Next, I began work as an attorney representing the state of South Carolina in abuse and neglect and adult protective services. Presently, I work in the Department of Social Services Child Support Division. My current position commonly places me in the unique position of being objective and unbiased because I am not an advocate for the custodial or noncustodial parent. My job is to protect the state's interest while being fair and objective to the parties with regard to the child support needs of the custodial parent and the ability to pay from the perspective of the noncustodial parent. My primary job duties require me to be fair and objective with both the noncustodial parent and custodial parent. I serve people from all financial, social and cultural backgrounds. I am in court on average three days per week negotiating and litigating cases involving contempt and paternity, and establishing and modifying child support orders. This experience has sharpened my legal and analytical skills, and has equipped me to listen intently and not prejudge. I always make certain that I am fair to both sides after listening to the account of each party.

In 2005, former Governor Mark Sanford appointed me to serve as a Human Affairs Commissioner to the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. My quasi-judicial duties included reviewing findings and approving decisions regarding complaints of employment discrimination filed against state agencies of state government.