

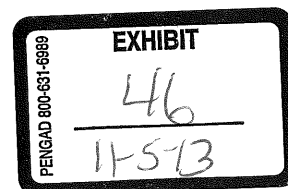
JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

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

1. NAME: Ms. Kathryn Walsh Gooch  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 630 Chesnee Highway  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (864) 345-1114
2. Date of Birth: 1968  
Place of Birth: Landstuhl, Germany (U.S. Army base)
3. Are you a citizen of SC? Yes  
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?
5. Family Status: Married on November 3, 2001, to Matthew Thomas Gooch. Divorced on February 1998; Kathryn Walsh Henthorne vs. Danny Michael Henthorne, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Family Court, on the grounds of adultery by Danny Michael Henthorne; three 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 School of Law (Columbia, SC) – 1991-94, Juris Doctor;
  - (b) USC, SC College (Columbia, SC) - 1986-89 BA, history, with Honors from SCC.
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 November 1994.  
The SC bar exam is the only bar exam I have taken. I took it once.
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) USC School of Law  
Environmental Law Journal, Business Editor (1993-94);
  - (b) USC  
SC College (honors college)  
USC at Oxford, Oxford University, Magdalen College – summer studies (1988)  
Golden Key Honor Society  
Residence Hall Advisor (Patterson dorm, (1989)  
Residence Hall Association President (Patterson dorm, 1987-88).
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(s)</u>
(a) Working Together in Achieving Positive Outcomes for Children	05/13/13;
(b) Sara Schuh Child Abuse Conference	04/18/13;



- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (c) | Special Issues in Child Welfare                               | 12/07/12; |
| (d) | 2012 Annual Conference  | 10/26/12; |
| (e) | Abuse and Neglect Cases: Training                             | 09/28/12; |
| (f) | Sara Schuh Child Abuse Conference                             | 04/19/12; |
| (g) | Annual Ethics & Professional                                  | 12/02/11; |
| (h) | 2011 Children's Law Conference                                | 11/04/11; |
| (i) | Annual Retreat  | 10/14/11; |
| (j) | DSS Immigration and Education                                 | 05/23/11; |
| (k) | 2011 Sara Schuh Child Abuse Conference                        | 04/07/11; |
| (l) | SC Mini Summit on Justice for Children                        | 12/05/10; |
| (m) | Sentencing Guidelines Seminar                                 | 10/04/10; |
| (n) | SCUPA 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar for Legal Professionals | 10/01/10; |
| (o) | 2009 SC Tort  | 12/04/09; |
| (p) | Probate Court Overview 2009                                   | 11/06/09; |
| (q) | SCUPA 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar for Legal Professionals | 09/25/09; |
| (r) | Rules, Rules, Rules – Success with Rules                      | 12/12/08; |
| (s) | 2008 SC Family Court Bench/Bar                                | 12/05/08. |
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) From August 2005 to May 2011, I taught as an adjunct instructor for Greenville Technical College. I taught business law and legal writing for the ABA-certified Paralegal Department, business law for the Management Department, and criminal law, criminology, and juvenile delinquency classes for the Criminal Justice Department. Topics of instruction included basic concepts of criminal law, constitutional law, contracts, UCC, torts, and remedies;
  - (b) I presented a continuing education seminar at the 2010 annual meeting of the SC Upstate Paralegal Association entitled, "Frugal Nellie's Helpful Tips" concerning best practices in litigation;
  - (c) I was the guest speaker at the August 2010 meeting of the SC Upstate Paralegal Association, regarding the preparation and use of witnesses in trial.
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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1994;
  - (b) Also admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in 1995;
  - (c) Also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 2002.
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) Upon graduation and after being admitted to the SC Bar in November of 1994, I worked as an associate attorney for Rolf M. Baghdady, P.A. in Columbia, SC. I assisted him in a multi-state and international practice that included federal and state

complex commercial litigation, consumer bankruptcy, small estate planning and administration, commercial lease collections, small business incorporations, immigration, and real estate.

- (b) I left that firm in January of 1996 and opened a solo practice in Simpsonville, SC. My practice consisted primarily of Family Court matters, including divorce, child custody, child support, visitation, adoption, and juvenile criminal cases. My practice also included Municipal and Magistrate Court criminal defense, construction litigation, contract and general litigation, and small estate planning and administration. I obtained a special certification as a Family Court Mediator. In 1998 I merged my practice with my father's solo practice, and we formed The Walsh Law Firm, LLP, continuing the same type of general practice.

As part of The Walsh Law Firm, LLP, I was a part-time contract public defender for juvenile defendants in the Greenville County Family Court. I met with accused juveniles and their families, negotiated with the Assistant Solicitor, prepared for trials, and otherwise represented juvenile defendants in delinquency hearings.

- (c) In May of 2003, my law partner/father retired, and we closed our office. I worked the next three months with the Spartanburg County Office of the Public Defender as an Assistant Public Defender, defending indigent defendants charged with General Sessions crimes and probation violations. I resigned in August of 2003 to take a position as a staff attorney with the SC Department of Social Services.
- (d) I worked as a full-time staff attorney with the Department of Social Services from August 2003 until July 2005. I left to stay home with my children but still worked as a part-time contract attorney for DSS from May through December of 2007. I was rehired as a full-time staff attorney in November 2010 and have worked there consistently until the present. My duties as a staff attorney consist of trying cases in the Family Court in proceedings involving child abuse and neglect, vulnerable adults, and termination of parental rights. I prepare cases for weekly trials, interview witnesses, issue subpoenas, and prepare pleadings and orders. I handle trials every week in a fast-paced environment, including examining and cross-examining witnesses, preparing and coordinating witnesses, handling exhibits, and making sound legal arguments to the Court.
- (e) From August 2005 through May 2011, I worked part-time as an adjunct instructor at Greenville Technical College. I taught business law and writing classes for the ABA-certified paralegal department, business law for the management department, and criminal law, criminology, and juvenile delinquency classes for the criminal justice department.

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.

- (a) From January 1996 until August 2003, my practice consisted heavily of Family Court matters, to include divorce, equitable division of property, and child custody. The cases I handled were diverse and interesting, including same-sex couples fighting over custody, couples divorcing after decades of marriage, folks disputing

the division of the few items of property they had because of need or greed, and spouses trying to find hidden assets. I also served as a Guardian ad Litem in many cases where custody was an issue, conducting thorough investigations, establishing relationships with children, working with families to find creative solutions, and making reports to the court.

- (b) I was certified as a Family Court Mediator, so I was also involved in several mediations where child custody and equitable division of property issues were resolved. I mediated several cases to agreement but also guided many couples to winnowing down the issues from what appeared to be overwhelming, to something manageable. I let my certification lapse only because I cannot use it as a full-time staff attorney with DSS.
  - (c) I served as a private Guardian ad Litem in approximately four adoption cases. As a DSS staff attorney, I have participated in many adoptions, representing the agency in favor of the adoption or opposing an intervening party's request for adoption if it conflicted with the placement determined by DSS to be more appropriate. I have also been successful in trying cases for termination of parental rights and am mindful of the need for a solid record so that a child can be adopted without appealable issues.
  - (d) For two years, I was the contract public defender for juveniles in Greenville County Family Court. I have in-depth experience with juvenile delinquency matters as a result of appearing in court two to three times per week for DJJ cases. I negotiated reasonable agreements but tried cases when necessary, including those charged with kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct, assault and battery, and malicious damage to property. Additionally, DJJ and DSS cases often overlap, so I am still frequently coordinating efforts to best address a family's needs in Family Court by identifying and applying resources of both agencies.
  - (e) As a DSS staff attorney, I have daily experience with child abuse and neglect proceedings. My cases include termination of parental rights, sexual abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, educational neglect, and mental injury. Additionally, I represent DSS in adult protective services cases where adults are declared to be vulnerable and in need of safe placement in the least restrictive environment.
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.  
I have not been rated.
16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
- (a) federal: 0;
  - (b) state: Since November 2010, I appeared in Family Court several times per week (an average of 12 – 18 cases per week between November 2010 and February 2012; an average of 8 – 10 cases per week since February 2012). Between January 2008 and November 2010, I appeared in Family Court on average of 10 times per year and in Magistrate's Court approximately 5 times total.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
- (a) civil: 5%;
  - (b) criminal: 0%;

- (c) domestic: 95%;
  - (d) other: 0%.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last 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) In the late 1990's, I represented a woman who, while in a long-term same-sex relationship, adopted a child. She was the sole adoptive parent. The child spent his first five (5) or so years considering my client and her partner as his parents. The couple separated, and my client, as the sole adoptive parent, took custody. As her relationship with the former partner continued to sour, she prevented the "other mother" from visiting. The former partner sued for visitation rights. We had a hearing in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Family Court, and the Court denied the request for visitation. The Court did not recognize same-sex relationships and determined, to paraphrase, "not to grant rights by the back door that our statute does not grant in the front door," meaning visitation rights for a non-biological parent.

This case was significant to me for many reasons. First, we litigated these issues long before there were any opinions in SC regarding psychological parents. Secondly, we litigated these issues many years before same-sex marriages became a "hot topic" in determining legal rights, especially as to custody. Finally, although I won this case in Court, I have often wondered how the appellate court would have decided the issue had the estranged partner appealed the case, and I have wondered how the case would be decided now, some fifteen (15) years later.

(b) Around 2000, I represented a husband whose five-month's pregnant wife was divorcing him on the ground of adultery. He did not contest it, nor did he contest her request for custody of their child and their unborn child. However, equitable apportionment of property, alimony, and child support were hotly contested. The couple's expenses vastly exceeded the husband's income, and the wife had a token job working for the same company as the husband. The wife had the ability but not the inclination to make an income comparable to her husband's, and they were both commissions-based incomes. Their previous house in an older, prestigious Greenville neighborhood had not sold before they bought and moved into a very large and very expensive house in an upscale new subdivision in the suburbs of Greenville. The wife requested possession of the new home, alimony, child support, and that the husband assume all debts and responsibilities of the former residence. My client requested a more equitable division of property and debts, which would mean selling both of the homes and having a more reasonable and practical division of property and debts. He also requested that the wife's income be imputed as greater than it actually was for purposes of computing alimony and child support.

While litigating these issues, the husband and wife resumed cohabitation and conjugal relations. The wife's attorney wrote me a letter, indicating that the parties

had “reconciled.” They stayed together until the second child was born, at which time the wife became upset that the husband watched a football game during her labor. She alleged that he continued his adulterous conduct, although she had no independent proof of continuing adultery. The wife forced the husband out of the home and filed for a second hearing for temporary relief.

I argued for the husband that the parties had reconciled and, consequently, his previous adultery could not be grounds for divorce after the reconciliation. The wife argued that their reconciliation had failed, and as such, she had not forgiven his previous adulterous conduct and could use it as the ground for divorce. She requested that the court make the property division considering the values as of the date of original filing.

The court determined that the reconciliation had not failed and made the property division by valuing the property on the date of the second separation; however, the court also found that the wife was entitled to a divorce on the ground of adultery based, in part, on his on-going relationship with a woman with whom he had had a previous relationship that the wife had shown to be adulterous before the reconciliation, even though she did not have proof of a sexual relationship after the second separation. The court also refused to impute a higher income to the wife but ordered the sale of both houses and an equal division of the resulting profit, if any.

This case is memorable because of the issue of when a reconciliation is a true reconciliation and a subsequent separation begins the property division and grounds for divorce anew, versus when it is a “failed reconciliation” and the original grounds for divorce and original property valuations remain intact.

(c) Before returning as a full-time attorney with DSS in 2010, I represented a defendant in a construction litigation case. My client worked for his father’s construction company throughout its existence and acted as a foreman, scheduler, framer, and punch-list laborer for the company. The father’s company built high-end homes, and in the 1990’s, they built a lovely, large home for a couple. My client had performed a fair amount of physical work on the home, helping with the framing, trim work, and punch list items. My client also accompanied his father in many of the discussions with the homeowners. After moving into the home, the homeowners had some complaints which they addressed with my client’s father, who in turn said to “tell [client/son],” who would take care of it.

Unfortunately, my client’s father died suddenly. Only after his death did my client realize that he and his sister were collectively 45% shareholders in their father’s company. They also discovered that they were officers in the company. Their later testimony revealed that they had received “bonuses” almost annually, and they signed paperwork that their father asked them to sign, but they never inquired as to the nature of the bonuses or the paperwork they had signed. It was revealed that the paperwork included annual minutes of the father’s company, which my client and his sister had signed unknowingly in the capacity of officers of the company.

Because of on-going problems with the home, the homeowner sued the father’s company, several subcontractors, and my client on nine separate causes of action, including breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and piercing the corporate veil. The homeowner, himself a Harvard-educated lawyer, hired a

Greenville-area team of Ivy League attorneys to pursue his civil action. The local area expert on piercing the corporate veil was hired as part of the Plaintiff's team. We participated in extensive written discovery, as well as several depositions.

My client was a simple, uneducated man with no money, no experience, and no business savvy. He had done what his father told him to do, and he tried to make the best of his father's business in finalizing and selling the remaining houses under construction after his father's death. He did not know whether his father had been using company or personal money to take trips, buy automobiles, furnish homes, or the like. He relied on the expertise of accountants to wrap up the business and close all accounts.

Unfortunately, it appeared that the father had been using business funds for personal matters. One of the problems in collecting evidence concerning his misuse of corporate funds (and the extent of my client's knowledge about it) was that the father's long-term live-in girlfriend destroyed all of the business records -- except for two trash bags full -- after his death. She testified that she did not destroy these "only because the shredder broke."

We had a two-day trial, which had been referred to the Master-in-Equity. Plaintiffs presented several 5" 3-ring binders filled with exhibits, while my client and I relied on my cross-examination of their witnesses regarding my client's participation and knowledge of events, and my client's testimony. He was not custodian of the business records of his father's company, nor did he sign any contract with the authority to bind the company. We used the exhibits introduced by the Plaintiff, and after a grueling trial, the Court ruled in favor of my client by dismissing the claims against him.

This case is memorable to me because we won on skill, knowledge, and ability, faced with high-priced Ivy League attorneys and litigants. I would like to think that we also had truth and justice on our side.

- (d) I represented DSS on a termination of parental rights ("TPR") case recently. The child who was the subject of our TPR case had been removed from the mother at birth because of the mother's extensive history of abuse and neglect as to her other children, as well as her failure to make any significant behavioral changes that would indicate her ability to provide a safe and loving home for this child. The mother was not offered a treatment plan at the removal hearing because of her history concerning the removal of her other children. DSS was allowed to forego reasonable efforts to try to reunify the family.

The father's relationship with the mother was a short-term, non-marital sexual relationship. His paternity was determined by genetic testing after the child's birth and after removal from the mother's custody. Shortly after the paternity determination, he requested custody. DSS' homestudy was unfavorable because of the father's criminal history and the DSS history with his live-in paramour. The father asked for a treatment plan. At the removal hearing, the Court determined that DSS would be allowed to forego reasonable efforts as to the father, as well as the mother; nevertheless, the Court found that there were certain things that the father would have been asked to do, had a treatment plan been ordered, and those tasks were incorporated into the order but not made mandatory. At the subsequent

permanency planning hearing, DSS was ordered for file for TPR within ninety (90) days.

DSS filed for TPR against the mother for severity and repetition of abuse and failure to remedy the causes for removal, and since the mother had eliminated all contact with the child after the removal hearing, DSS also asked for TPR on the grounds of failure to support, failure to visit, and abandonment. The only ground for TPR against the father was failure to remedy the causes for removal, and then that it would be in the best interest of the minor child.

The father argued that he had completed most of the suggested treatment plan. I presented evidence and argued that, although he may have completed some of the tasks, he still had not exhibited a significant change in his behaviors that would make the home safe for the child. In fact, he continued to engage in behaviors that presumably would be harmful to the child, such as smoking cigarettes when the child is allergic, failing to maintain stable income and housing, and failing to distance himself from a woman with a DSS child abuse or neglect history, evidencing a possible lack of protective capacity.

The court considered all of these factors and found that the best interest of the child would be for the parents' rights to be terminated. The termination of parental rights was granted. The father appealed the decision but later withdrew his appeal, and the child is now legally free to be adopted.

This case is memorable because of the arguments of the father who was not a legal custodian because he was not married to the mother, but who had no opportunity to display his protective capacity because the child was taken into emergency protective custody before the father had been given a chance to show he could provide a safe, stable home for the child. I believe that the court ruled in the best interests of the child.

- (e) I represented DSS in an alleged abuse situation. The victim child was one of a set of three-month old quadruplets with an older set of five-year old twin siblings. The mother was a college-educated former military woman who stayed home with the children and operated a small organizing business out of the home. The father, also college-educated, worked as an air traffic controller and was also formerly in the military, having served two tours of active duty.

The quadruplets had been born prematurely, and the victim child was the second to be released home. She experienced reflux problems and was reportedly difficult to feed, even after all of the remaining quadruplets were released home. On a Friday in June, the mother left the home to run errands while the father took care of the children. According to the father, he walked the mother to the door and when he came back into the house, he saw the child vomiting severely. When he rushed to her side, he noticed her head lolling to the side, she was having difficulty breathing, and she became nonresponsive. He "snatched her up" out of her seat, and he dialed 911 but was disconnected. He put the child on top of a table, began doing CPR, and redialed 911. The operator dispatched emergency response teams and directed the father through CPR over the phone. He had been trained in infant CPR, and when the 911 operator instructed him to perform "side CPR," he questioned what that was but followed her instructions in performing chest compressions while the infant was on her side. The CPR did not produce any noticeable response in the baby. The



emergency response teams arrived and rushed the baby to the ambulance. She was not breathing, and they had difficulty intubating her. After several attempts, they were finally able to intubate her, and they took her to Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

The doctors performed several tests on the child, including CT scans, but they could not read the results because the pediatric radiologist was not available over the weekend. The mother became dissatisfied with Spartanburg Regional, and because of her positive experience with Greenville Memorial's neonatal care unit after the quadruplets were born, she requested that the baby be transferred. The baby was transferred on Sunday along with her test results.

The child abuse pediatricians at Greenville Memorial were alarmed immediately. They discovered a significant subdural hematoma on the CT scan, severe scattered hemorrhaging in both retinas, and two fractured ribs, one at a healing age of approximately 2 weeks and one at a healing age of approximately 4 weeks. Other than the ribs, the remaining are classic symptoms of non-accidental head trauma, specifically "shaken baby syndrome." The parents' stories about what happened were also inconsistent with the notes from admission to Spartanburg Regional, which caused additional concern.

The doctors expressed concern about the safety of the remaining quadruplets, based on studies on twins indicating that when one twin is abused, it is highly likely that the other twin is also abused. Extrapolating that to quadruplets and the increased need for care of and the stress relating to caring for all four infants, the doctors asked that the parents consent to skeletal surveys for the other three infants. The skeletal survey is essentially an extensive series of x-rays, and the parents resisted having their children exposed to that amount of radiation. They would not consent, and they hired a lawyer.

I prepared an inspection warrant and obtained an affidavit from the child abuse pediatrician supporting the need for the skeletal surveys. Before filing the petition for the inspection warrant, I called the parents' attorney, and at his prompting and encouragement to be involved in the investigation stage, over the next several days we negotiated not only having the skeletal surveys but also having an extensive interview as part of our investigation. Although out of the ordinary to have attorneys involved during the investigation, the interviews of the parents involved the DSS investigator, the law enforcement investigator, me as attorney for DSS, and the parents' attorney. I found my involvement at the initial investigation very useful in later staffings within the agency when we were implementing safety plans and reaching a case decision.

I established a rapport with the parents' attorney that results in crafting a reasonable, workable safety plan that prevented removal of all six children, kept the children at home together, maintained a much-needed routine for the twins as well as the quadruplets, and established a complex network of alternative caregivers with protective capacity to provide a safe home for the children. We had a large meeting at the home of the family, involving the DSS investigator, multiple levels of supervisors, the program coordinator, the interim county director, attorneys for DSS and the parents, the parents, the group of alternative caregivers, and the family's

extended support system. I drafted a contract for the caregivers, parents, and DSS that became the safety plan to protect the children during our investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the case was indicated for physical abuse by the father (relating to the non-accidental head trauma) and physical abuse by an unknown perpetrator (relating to the broken ribs). The father entered an Alford acknowledgement to these findings, fully cooperated with DSS' recommendations for services, and the children remained in the home.

This case is memorable because it started as an almost-certain case for emergency removal of all six children, but it ended up as an intervention where all of the children remained in the home with their parents, and treatment services were successfully completed to make the home safe. I learned to use a creative approach to a unique and complex situation. I became an active (and, I hope, helpful) participant in the investigation, safety plan, and case decision process. I credit the parents' attorney who prompted me to take a different approach, and ultimately I think that the best result was reached for this family in these awful circumstances.

20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).

The only appeal I have handled personally is in the matter of Crotts v. Crotts, and it was an unpublished decision of the Court of Appeals. I think it was decided in 2003. The issue was whether the divorce granted to the husband (my client) on the ground of adultery was supported by sufficient evidence. The appellant (disgruntled wife) was successful in convincing the Court of Appeals that the husband (my client) had insufficient evidence to show by a preponderance of the evidence that she was committing adultery. The husband's evidence was that the alleged paramour resided in the home with the wife, and the wife referred to the alleged paramour as her "boyfriend." The Court of Appeals determined that, absent additional proof of a romantic relationship between the wife and the alleged paramour, this was insufficient proof to support a divorce on the ground of adultery. The Court of Appeals granted the wife's appeal, and the matter was remanded to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Family Court.

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. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). None.

22. Have you ever held judicial office? No.

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

From 1997 to November, 2001, I was elected as Council Member for Ward II of the Simpsonville City Council. I was elected twice, serving an unexpired term from 1997 until 1998, and being elected for a full four-year term in 1998. I timely filed my reports with the State Ethics Commission.

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? 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?
- (a) Since graduating law school, I have only been engaged in the practice and teaching of law and holding other public office with Simpsonville City Council;
  - (b) During law school, I was employed as a clerk for two years by Rolf M. Baghdady, P.A., from the fall of 1992 until he hired me as an attorney when I was admitted to practice law in November of 1994. In the summer of 1992, after my first year of law school, I worked as a waitress at Steak and Ale and also worked as a temporary administrative assistant through a temporary employment agency;
  - (c) I worked as an assistant paralegal for Wyche, Burgess, Freeman and Parham, P.A. from January of 1990 until I went to law school in August of 1991. I also worked part-time for the Greenville Braves from April until August of 1991, selling tickets;
  - (d) In college I was employed by the University of SC in jobs relating to the residence halls – residence hall advisor and then after-hours clerk for students who needed keys to their rooms or keys to the laundry area. I had a short-term telemarketing job for USC. During the summers I waitressed for two Greenville-area restaurants, the Alpine Deli and Swensen's.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?
- I am listed as Assistant Treasurer for Novus Builders, Inc., which is an S-Corporation incorporated by my husband in 2008. Novus Builders, Inc. is a residential and commercial construction company run and operated by my husband. I have no duties, responsibilities, obligations, or benefits. I have no decision-making authority in the business, and I do not have any voting rights. I have no ownership in the company. My term of service is annual.
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.
- As a staff attorney for DSS, there may be a conflict of interest only so far as hearing any issues relating to cases that I handled while with DSS. Because of the quick track to permanency that is the focus of DSS, I would anticipate that most cases I am handling now would be resolved in less than a year. I think it would be reasonable for me to avoid hearing DSS cases for the first twelve months as a judge. Otherwise, I am aware of no other financial arrangements or business relationships that I have or have had in the past that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position of Family Court Judge.
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?

In the late 1990's, I was unaware of a tax lien against me until the Simpsonville City Council Clerk of Court informed me that a wage garnishment had been issued against my City paycheck. I immediately investigated and resolved the issue of the tax lien. This was the same time period when I was going through a divorce and dissolving my financial ties to my husband. Since that time, there has been no other tax lien or collection procedure instituted against me by anyone.

I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy.

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?

To my knowledge, I have never been sued either personally or professionally in any court of law.

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?

I have never been investigated by the Department of Social Services.

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 have an old LinkedIn account that I would like to delete. It has been inactive for over 3 years. I have a Facebook account for personal use, which I would delete if elected to the judiciary.

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."

No such charges or allegations exist, to my knowledge.

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."

No such charges or allegations exist, to my knowledge.

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.

- (a) Postage; \$6.90; 8/1/13;
- (b) Stationery (business cards and note cards); \$120.00; 8/1/13;
- (c) Fingerprint cards (Sptbg. County Sheriff); \$10.00; 7/25/13;
- (d) Professional photograph, \$133.75; 8/1/13.

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) SC Bar Association – member since 1994;
  - (b) SC Women Lawyers Association – previous member and member for 2013;
  - (c) Rotary International – President of North Spartanburg Rotary Club (2013-14); President of Simpsonville Rotary Club (2001-02); Secretary of Simpsonville Rotary Club (1997-1999); Sergeant-at-Arms (1999-2000);
  - (d) Simpsonville Chamber of Commerce – VP of Governmental Affairs (1998-2000).
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.
- (a) North Spartanburg Rotary Club – member since 2012; President-Elect (2012-13); President (2013-present);
  - (b) Simpsonville Rotary Club – member since 1997; Secretary (1997-99); Sergeant-at-Arms (1999-2000); Group Study Exchange Team Leader (2001); President (2001-02); Rotarian of the Year (2001-02); Paul Harris Fellow;
  - (c) Five Oaks Academy PTO – President (2008-09);
  - (d) Horizon Presbyterian Church – member.
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
- With my experience, knowledge and skill, I will make an excellent Family Court judge. I have 19 years of practicing in and around the Family Court, and I have practical experience in almost all of the legal areas within the Family Court’s jurisdiction. My temperament and demeanor are suitable for being a fair, courteous judge.
52. References:
- (a) Palmetto Bank  
306 East North Street  
Greenville, SC 29615  
(864) 963-3671 (Panessa Dean, Simpsonville Branch Asst. Manager)

- (b) Katharine Brophy  
630 Chesnee Highway  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
(864) 345-1102
- (c) Cindy Britton  
540 Twin Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
(864) 580-8131
- (d) Thomas J. Quinn  
201 West Stone Avenue  
Greenville, SC 29609  
(864) 232-9590
- (e) Margaret A. Chamberlain  
Pettigru Street, PO Box 10184  
Greenville, SC 29603  
(864) 250-0505

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

Signature: Kathryn Walsh Gooch  
Date: August 6, 2013

116 Howard Circle  
Simpsonville, South Carolina 29681  
November 5, 2013-11-05

Jane Shuler, Esq.  
Judicial Merit Selection Commission  
Columbia, South Carolina

RE: Letter of Amendment


Dear Ms Shuler:

Please accept this request to amend PDQ # 43 to reflect campaign expenditures over \$100. My expenses are as follows:

<i>Postage</i>	\$ 6.90	8/1/13
<i>Stationery (business cards and note cards)</i>	120.00	8/1/13
<i>Fingerprint cards (Sptbg. County Sheriff)</i>	10.00	7/25/13
<i>Professional photograph</i>	133.75	8/1/13

Please let me know whether you have any questions or comments about these expenses.

Yours truly,



Kathryn Walsh Gooch