



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Supreme Court, Associate Justice, Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable Harris Bruce Williams
Name that you are known by if different from above: Bruce
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes
Business Address: P.O. Box 11629
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29211
Telephone Number: (Office): 803.734.2159
2. Date of Birth: 1956
Place of Birth: Columbia, 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 November 17, 1984 to Sharon C. Williams. Never divorced, two 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) Wofford College - 1974-1978, BA Degree in English and Government;
 - (b) USC - Summers of 1976 and 1977, summer classes;
 - (c) Cumberland School of Law, Samford University - 1979-80; Transferred to USC;
 - (d) USC School of Law - 1980-82, 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, admitted 1982
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) President of the Student Body - Wofford College, 1977-78;
 - (b) Student Representative to Wofford College Board of Trustees, 1977-78;
 - (c) Senior Order of Gnomes - Wofford College, 1977-78;
 - (d) Blue Key Honor Society - Wofford College, 1978;
 - (e) Intramural Sports - Wofford College, 1974-78;
 - (f) Mock Trial Competition - Finalist, USC School of Law, 1982.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
(a) Annual Judicial Conference	8/10-8/14;
(b) SC Association for Justice, Annual Conference	8/10-8/13;
(c) Part 2: Criminal Law Section	1/23/15;

- (d) Part 2: Criminal Law Section 1 /25/13;
 - (e) Part 2: Criminal Law Section 1/21/11;
 - (f) Part 2: Criminal Law Section 1/22/10;
 - (g) Family Court Bench Bar 12/5/14;
 - (h) SC Defense Attorneys Association: Annual Meeting 11/10-11/14;
 - (i) Birdies, Bogeys, Pars, and Professionalism:
What Golf Can Teach Lawyers about Winning with Integrity 11/6/14;
 - (j) Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners 9/26/14;
 - (k) SC Solicitors' Association Annual Conference 9/21/14;
 - (l) SC Solicitors' Association Annual Conference 9/26/10;
 - (m) National Association of Drug Court Professionals 5/28/14;
 - (n) National Association of Drug Court Professionals 5/30/12;
 - (o) National Association of Drug Court Professionals 5/2010;
 - (p) Hot Tips from the Coolest Lawyers 9/28/12;
 - (q) Current Issues in the Law 8/12/12;
 - (r) National Foundation for Judicial Excellence: Class Actions
and Aggregate 7/13/12;
 - (s) National Foundation for Judicial Excellence: Applied Science
& the Law-21st Century Technology in the Courts 7/15/11;
 - (t) National Foundation for Judicial Excellence: Annual Judicial
Symposium 7/16/10;
 - (u) Southern Region High Court Conference 9/15/11;
 - (v) Family Court Judges' Conference 6/1/11;
 - (w) Trial & Appellate Advocacy 1/21/11;
 - (x) Trial & Appellate Advocacy 3/05/10;
 - (y) 4th Amendment for Appellate Judges 3/10/10;
 - (z) Guardian ad litem Training, Civil Law Update 1/20/10;
 - (aa) Guardian ad litem Training, Civil Law Update 1/22/10.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- (a) I am an adjunct professor at the University of SC School of Law, teaching Family Law from 2012 to present.
 - (b) I have lectured at the SC Bar Program "Bridge the Gap" for new lawyers.
 - (c) I have given presentations on the topics of appellate advocacy and domestic relations at the annual SC Bar meeting, as well as numerous presentations at SC Bar CLE events.
 - (d) I have given presentations in the areas of appellate law and domestic relations for the SC Association for Justice's annual meetings.
 - (e) I have lectured to University of SC School of Law classes related to the following topics: alternative sentencing/drug court, abuse and neglect cases, domestic relations, and fundamentals of law practice and professionalism. I have also presented professionalism seminars to first-year students on the courts and civility.
 - (f) I have lectured to undergraduate and graduate level classes at the University of SC regarding juvenile crime, drug court, and courtroom procedures in SC.
 - (g) I have participated as a group leader in drug court training for new courts in programs sponsored by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

- (h) I have given numerous presentations at SC Solicitors' annual conferences concerning juveniles, case law updates, drug court, and civility in the courts. In addition, I have presented at the SC Public Defenders' Conference.
 - (i) I have had the opportunity to speak at locally sponsored CLE events on appellate advocacy, abuse and neglect cases, and guardian ad litem training.
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 1982;
 - (b) Admitted to practice before the US District Court for the District of SC in 1982.
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) 1982-1995 General practice of law with primary emphasis on family law and personal injury law;
 - (b) 1982-1991 Scott, Mathews, and Williams, P.A.;
 - (c) 1991-1995 Trotter & Williams, P.A.;
 - (d) 1991-1995 Part-time municipal judge for Irmo, SC;
 - (e) 1995-2004 Judge, SC Family Court;
 - (f) 1997-present Presiding Judge, Richland County Juvenile Drug Court;
 - (g) 2000-2002 Presiding Judge, Richland County Adult Drug Court;
 - (h) 2004-present Judge, SC Court of Appeals.
16. 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
17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
- (a) federal: low;
 - (b) state: high.
18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
- (a) civil: 30%;
 - (b) criminal: 5 %;
 - (c) domestic: 65%;
 - (d) other: 0%.
19. 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: 5%;
 - (b) non-jury: 98%.
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel

20. 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) Melvin v. Melvin - a contested divorce case in which the parties had a long-term marriage and disputed equitable distribution of military retirement benefits;
 - (b) Inman v. Inman - a custody case involving a mother who moved out of state;
 - (c) Oswald v. Oswald - a contested custody case involving child support, visitation, equitable distribution, and attorney's fees;
 - (d) Jackson v. Jackson - a domestic case in which custody was obtained for the mother, who had initially given up custody and visitation with her children;
 - (e) Bullard v. Ehrhardt, 283 S.C. 557, 324 S.E.2d 61 (1984) - in this case, our supreme court established the duty a store owner owes to invitees for criminal acts of third parties in negligence actions.
21. 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.
- (a) Marvin E. Davis v. Bernice H. Davis, Docket No. 83-DR-38-684 - brief filed with Supreme Court of SC on November 5, 1984;
 - (b) Oyler v. Oyler, 293 S.C. 4, 358 S.E.2d 170 (Ct. App. 1987) - participation limited to responsibility for oral argument and assisting in writing the brief;
 - (c) Bullard v. Ehrhardt, 283 S.C. 557, 324 S.E.2d 61 (1984);
 - (d) Francis June Rawl v. Roy Edwin Rawl, Sr., Docket No. 83-DR-40-4131 - participation limited to oral argument; brief filed September 13, 1985.
22. 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.
23. Have you ever held judicial office? Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
- (a) Assistant Town Judge, Irmo, SC - October 1991-June 6, 1995
Appointed by Town Council. Jurisdiction is limited to magistrate level criminal and traffic offenses. Duties included setting bonds for criminal defendants;
 - (b) SC Family Court Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Richland County, Seat 1, June 1995-June, 2004. Elected. Jurisdiction includes—but is not limited to—divorce, adoption, abuse and neglect cases, and juvenile cases;
I have also presided over the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court since its inception in 1997;
 - (c) SC Court of Appeals, Seat #2, June 2004-present. Elected. Jurisdiction over all appeals, except those reserved by statute to the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of SC;
 - (d) I was appointed a special Circuit Court Judge to preside over the Richland County Adult Drug Court, (2000-2002), and I continue to preside over the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court as an acting Family Court Judge.
24. If the answer to question 23 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) SC Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Truitt, 361 S.C. 272, 603 S.E.2d 867 (Ct. App. 2004);
 - (b) State v. Lynch, 375 S.C. 628, 654 S.E.2d 292 (Ct. App. 2007);

- (c) Hackworth v. Greywood at Hammett, LLC, 385 S.C. 110, 682 S.E.2d 871 (Ct. App. 2009);
- (d) Melton v. Medtronic, Inc., 389 S.C. 641, 698 S.E.2d 886 (Ct. App. 2010);
- (e) Miranda C. v. Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., 402 S.C. 577, 741 S.E.2d 34 (Ct. App. 2013).
25. 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.
No
26. 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.
Adjunct Professor, Family Law, University of SC School of Law - 2012-present
Supervisor: Jaclyn A. Cherry, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- (a) In 1994, I was a candidate for Family Court Judge. I was found qualified by the SC Bar and Judicial Merit Selection Commission. I withdrew prior to the election. I was then elected to the Family Court in 1995;
- (b) In 2003, I was found qualified by the South Carolina Bar in my effort to serve on the SC Court of Appeals. I was further found qualified and nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Another candidate won the election. I was then elected to the Court of Appeals in 2004;
- (c) In 2007, I was found qualified by the SC Bar in my effort to serve on the Supreme Court of SC. I was also found qualified and nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Another candidate won the election;
- (d) In 2009, I was found qualified by the SC Bar in my effort to serve on the Supreme Court of SC. I was found qualified but not nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.
28. 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
29. 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
30. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
31. 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.
My wife is co-owner with a lawyer of a parking space used for USC football games. I recuse myself in cases involving the lawyer.
32. 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?
Traffic violation for expired tags on spouse's car, July 1, 1995.
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?

- No
34. 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
35. 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, I was named a defendant creditor in a foreclosure due to a Family Court order awarding me attorney's fees owed by the defendant debtor.
37. 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
38. 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. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.
I maintained malpractice insurance throughout my time in private practice and, after my election to the Family Court bench in 1995, obtained a tail policy.
39. 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.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?
No
40. 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)?
(a) SC Funeral Directors Association, 1990;
(b) SC Society of Ophthalmology, 1990.
41. 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
42. 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." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.
None
43. 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." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.
None

44. 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
45. 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
46. 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
47. 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
48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?
No
49. 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
50. 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, 1982-present;
 - (b) Richland County Bar, 1982-present; Family Law Chair, 1993; Family Law Committee, 1991-1993;
 - (c) SC Conference of Family Court Judges, 1995-2004; President, 1999-2000; President-Elect, 1998-1999; Secretary-Treasurer, 1997-1998;
 - (d) SC Association of Drug Court Professionals; President, 2000-2001; 2008-2014; Board Member, 2006-present;
 - (e) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court, 2007-present;
 - (f) American Bar Association, 2010;
 - (g) Board Member, National Association for Drug Court Professionals, 7/2015-present.
51. 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) Matthew J. Perry Civility Award, presented by the Richland County Bar Association, 2012;
 - (b) Columbia Urban League Ethel M. Bolden Community Service Award, 2011;
 - (c) Palmetto Club;
 - (d) The Members Club at Woodcreek Farms and Wildewood.

52. 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 assisted in the design and implementation of the Richland County Juvenile Drug Court Program, a comprehensive drug treatment court for juvenile offenders with serious drug problems. I continue to preside over drug court on Monday evenings. We recently celebrated our 18-year anniversary for this program.

I am gratified and appreciative of the support and encouragement received from members of the Bar since serving on the Bench. I will continue in my efforts to serve the people of SC to the best of my ability.

My thirteen years of experience as a practicing lawyer, nine years of experience on the Family Court bench, and eleven years of experience on the Court of Appeals has been invaluable. I believe this experience, along with my service and involvement in the community, has given me significant perspective to serve on the Supreme Court of SC.

53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.

(a) John E. Montgomery, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law
University of SC School of Law
701 South Main Street
Columbia, SC 29208
803.777.3360

(b) S. Alan Medlin, David W. Robinson Professor of Law
University of SC School of Law
701 South Main Street
Columbia, SC 29208
803.777.7465

(c) The Reverend Robert C. Wisnewski
St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334.262.1937

(d) Mr. J. T. McLawhorn
President, Columbia Urban League
1400 Barnwell Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.799.8150

(e) Mr. Chuck Garnett
President, NBSC
1241 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803.929.2145

54. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or

- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.
None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

None

- 55. 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. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

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: s/Harris Bruce Williams

Date: August 6, 2015