

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 10

1. Name: Mr. Jeffrey P. Bloom
Name that you are known by if different from above: Jeff
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No
Business Address: 1911 Pickens St.,
Columbia, SC 29201
Telephone Number: (office): (803) 256-7001
2. Date of Birth: 1956
Place of Birth: Rochester, NY
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 August 10, 2012, to Karen Newell Fryar. Divorced on May 25, 2007; Jeffrey Bloom (self, as moving party); Richland County Family Court; One-Year's Separation. 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) Columbus School of Law, Catholic Univ., Washington, D.C.; Aug. 1980–May 1983; JD;
 - (b) State University College at Geneseo, NY; Aug. 1975–May 1978; B.A.–Political Science.
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.
 - (a) SC–1985;
 - (b) NC–1983;
 - (c) NY–2010.
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) Law school: Student intern, US Senate Committee on American Indian Affairs, 1982-1983; Student intern, Catholic U. Center for Political Studies 1981-82; Student radio–disc jockey;
 - (b) College: Political Science Club, 1975-78; Literary Club, 1976-78; Student Intern, National Assn. of Native American Affairs, Wash., D.C. Fall 1977.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SC Lawyer Mentoring Program	4/23/15;
(b) Reinventing How You Practice	2/10/15;



- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|
| (c) | Federal Criminal Practice | 10/30/14; |
| (d) | National Habeas Corpus | 8/14/14; |
| (a) | CJA Mini-Seminar | 5/2/14; |
| (b) | Federal Criminal Practice | 10/24/13; |
| (c) | CJA Mini-Seminar | 5/3/13; |
| (d) | Capital Case Litigation | 4/29/13; |
| (e) | Federal Criminal Practice | 10/20/11; |
| (f) | Multi-Track Seminar | 8/18/11; |
| (g) | CJA Mini-Seminar | 5/13/11; |
| (h) | Capital Case Litigation | 5/1/11; |
| (i) | Federal Criminal Practice | 5/28/10; |
| (j) | Capital Case Litigation | 8/12/10; |
| (k) | CJA Mini-Seminar | 5/7/10; |
| (l) | Sentencing Guidelines | 12/3/09; |
| (m) | Rich. Co. Ethics Seminar | 11/6/09; |
| (n) | Federal Criminal Practice | 10/29/09. |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- (a) Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of SC School of Medicine, 1999–2012;
 - (b) “Creating the Sentencing Argument,” Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, Charleston, SC, October 30, 2014;
 - (c) “Entrapment as a Defense: All You Need to Know and Then Some,” Federal Mini-Seminar, Columbia, SC, May 3, 2013;
 - (d) “Ethical Issues in Complex Litigation and Mental Health”, Capital Case Litigation Initiative, Litchfield Beach, SC, May 2, 2013;
 - (e) “Capital Pre-Trial Preparation: A Case Study”, Capital Case Litigation Initiative, Litchfield Beach, SC, May 2011;
 - (f) Arizona v. Gant (U.S. Sup. Ct. decision, April 21, 2009) and its Impact on Law Enforcement Automobile Searches,” Presentation to the First Circuit Law Enforcement Assn., June 4, 2009;
 - (g) “Legal and Practical Developments in Psychiatry and the Law,” Psychiatry and the Law Seminar for Graduate Fellows, University of SC School of Medicine, Wm. S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia, SC, March 2009;
 - (h) Adjunct Professor, USC College of Criminal Justice, 1998-1999. Taught: Constitutional Law; and American Criminal Court System;
 - (i) Numerous other CLE’s, seminars, and lectures, from 1990–present.
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: 1985;
 - (b) NC: 1983;
 - (c) US District Court of SC: 1993;
 - (d) US District Court of NC, Western Dist.: 2004;

- (e) Federal Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit: 2006;
 - (f) US Supreme Court: 2007;
 - (g) New York State: 2010;
 - (h) US District Court of NY, Western Dist.: 2010.
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) 1984–Brunswick County, NC; Juvenile Court;
 - (b) 1985–Neighborhood Legal Aid Assn., Conway, SC: Civil and Family Court;
 - (c) 1985-1992–Horry County Public Defender Office, Conway, SC. Began as an Assistant Public Defender. Served as Chief Public Defender 1988-1992;
 - (d) 1992-1999–Richland County Public Defender Office, Columbia, SC. Served as Chief Public Defender;
 - (e) 1999-Present. Private Practice. I have handled capital trial, appellate, and post-conviction cases, in both state and federal court. In February 2006, I began accepting appointments and assisting the Calhoun County Public Defender Office, St. Matthews, SC, which continued through 2014. For the past three years, I have been associated in civil litigation cases, assisting in cases involving general negligence, personal injury, and similar cases. I have also handled pro bono cases in civil court, including bankruptcy, landlord-tenant, magistrate court, workers compensation, and similar cases. I continue to donate more than 100 hours pro bono services annually.
15. Please answer the following (if you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable):
- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area.
- In criminal law, I have fourteen (14) years’ experience as a Public Defender, and sixteen (16) years’ in private practice.
- In civil law, I have the last sixteen (16) years handling complex post-conviction relief cases which operate under the civil rules, regarding discovery, pre-trial motions, and rules of procedure. Additionally, for the past three years, I have been associated in some civil litigation cases, assisting in cases involving general negligence, personal injury, and similar cases. I have also handled pro bono cases in civil court, including bankruptcy, landlord-tenant, magistrate court, workers

compensation, social security, and similar cases. I continue to donate more than 100 hours pro bono services annually.

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.

17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?

(a) federal: more than 40 cases;

(b) state: more than 100 cases.

18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?

(a) civil: 40%;

(b) criminal: 60%.

(c) domestic: 0

(d) other:

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: 25%;

(b) non-jury: 75%.

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

Chief 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) State v. Barnes, 2015 S.C. LEXIS 235 (S.C. July 1, 2015). Court affirmed Sixth Amendment right to counsel in a case also involving aspects of self-representation;

(b) State v. (Rita) Bixby, 373 S.C. 74, 644 S.E.2d 54 (2007). This case set the precedent in that a defendant charged as an accessory before the fact to murder cannot be subject to capital punishment as a principal;

(c) Kelly v. Ozmint, 7th Cir. Court of Common Pleas and S.C. Sup.Ct.; 5/24/06, cert. den., affirming Circuit Court's grant of relief (no reported decision). This case established a number of significant constitutional claims, including the constitutional mandate that *race* cannot play any part of the prosecutorial decision to seek the death penalty;

(d) Von Dohlen v. State, 360 S.C. 598, 602 S.E.2d 738 (2004). First SC Supreme Court case which adopted, interpreted and applied the US Supreme Court recent precedent of Wiggins v. Smith, 539 U.S. 510 (2003);

(e) Served as a Special Master in civil case of Hall v. Murphree (Case No. 08-CP-09-101).

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) Charping v. Ozmint, Mem. Op. 2006-MO-024 (S.C., July 3, 2006), affirming Circuit Court's grant of relief;

(b) Kelly v. Ozmint, 7th Cir. Court of Common Pleas and SC Sup.Ct.; 5/24/06, cert. den. On appeal by the State, Court affirmed Circuit Court's grant of relief;

- (c) Von Dohlen v. State, 360 S.C. 598, 602 S.E.2d 738 (2004). See #19 above;
 - (d) Lawrence v. State, 1st Circuit Court of Common Pleas and SC Sup. Ct.; 8/08, cert. den., affirming Circuit Court's grant of relief. (handled appeal pro bono);
 - (e) Credell v. State, appeal dismissed. (appeal handled pro bono); In federal court, appeal granted.
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.
- (a) State v. Barnes, 2015 S.C. LEXIS 235 (SC July 1, 2015). See #20 above;
 - (b) State v. (Rita) Bixby, 373 S.C. 74, 644 S.E.2d 54 (2007). See #20 above;
 - (c) State v. Crisp, 362 S.C. 412, 608 S.E.2d 429 (2005). Established the parameters for Circuit Court in accepting a guilty plea in a capital case. (I was appointed by the SC Supreme Court and served pro bono in this appeal);
 - (d) State v. Cockerham, 294 S.C. 380, 365 S.E.2d 22 (19988). Established 5th Amendment protections for the defendant as applied to the prosecutor's closing argument. (Brief no longer available due to age of case; may be requested from SC Supreme Court library if necessary).
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.
- No.
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.
- All offices below were appointed. Reports were timely filed with State Ethics Comm., and I was never subject to a penalty.
- (a) Commission Member, SC Comm. on Indigent Defense: 2006-07;
 - (b) Chair, Appellate Defense Comm.: 1990-98;
 - (c) Commission Member, SC Sentencing Guidelines Comm.: 1990-96;
 - (d) Zoning Board of Appeals, City of North Myrtle Beach, SC: 1989-92.
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.
- Not applicable.
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.
- (a) Candidate for First Circuit Court Seat No. 1; August 2008–February 2009;
 - (b) Candidate for Circuit Court At-Large Seat No. 8; August 2009–December 2009.
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.

- None.
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?
No.
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?
No.
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 have carried general malpractice since entering private practice in 1999. No claims have ever been filed or made. (No tail police required).
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?
I maintain a Facebook account. I access it infrequently (approx. 1/mo.), to mainly to see the photos of my children and their activities. There is nothing on the account which is an inappropriate nature.
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)?
No.
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? If so, give details. 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;
 - (b) NC Bar;
 - (c) NY Bar;
 - (d) Federal Bar;
 - (e) SC Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers;
 - (f) Calhoun County Bar;
 - (g) Richland County Bar;
 - (h) American Society of Trial Consultants;
 - (i) Formerly a member of the SC Public Defender Assn.; and served as President from 1990-96.

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) Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, Asbury Methodist Church, 2005-Present. Eagle Scout. Have received the following honors: National President's Scoutmaster Award of Merit; Scouter's Key; Scouter's Training Award; Silver Beaver recipient; and Vigil Honor;
 - (b) Awarded Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the SC Bar (1/26/06) for 2005;
 - (c) Asst. Clinical Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, USC School of Medicine, 1999-2012. (serve pro bono);
 - (c) Former Board Member, Domestic Abuse Center.
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.
- (a) I am an Eagle Scout and registered member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for over 20 years. I am a member of the honored society in BSA of the Order of the Arrow, as a Vigil Honor member. I have been through adult "Woodbadge" training which centers on group and leader dynamics. Boy Scouts is a very big part of my life, and the Boy Scout Oath and Law guide my life;
 - (b) Awarded Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the SC Bar (1/26/06) for 2005. I donate more than 100 pro bono hours annually;
 - (c) Moot Court judge at the USC-School of Law for numerous years;
 - (d) Victim Outreach training, along with Restorative Justice training, as noted above, has sensitized me to the needs of victims and victims' families.
53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
- (a) Hon. Thomas Summers,
Sheriff of Calhoun County,
2811 Old Belleville Rd.,
PO Box 749,
St. Matthews, SC 29135.
(803) 874-2741.
 - (b) Hon. Kenneth Hasty,
Clerk of Court for Calhoun County,
902 South F.R. Huff Drive
St. Matthews, SC 29135.
(803) 874-3524.
 - (c) Hon. Phillip Thompson,
Sheriff of Horry County,
1301 2nd Ave,
Conway, SC 29526.
(843) 915-5450.
 - (d) Paulette Edwards,
Deputy Solicitor, Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office,
1701 Main St.,

Columbia, SC
(803) 576-1800.

- (e) Ms. Tracy Smalls,
Asst. VP. First Citizens Bank,
2600 Rosewood Dr.,
Columbia, SC 29205.
(803) 733-2080.

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.

Not applicable.

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.
- 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/Jeffrey P. Bloom

Date: August 3, 2015

**JEFFREY P. BLOOM
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

P.O. Box 5885, COLUMBIA, S.C. 29250
OFFICE (803) 256-7001
FAX (803) 256-7002
CELL (803) 261-4576

LICENSED MEMBER OF THE
S.C., N.C., & N.Y. BARS
E-MAIL:
JEFF@JPBLOOMLAW.COM

October 22, 2015

Elizabeth H. Brogdon, Chief Counsel
Judicial Merit Selection Commission
102 Gressette Senate Office Bldg.
1101 Pendleton St.
PO Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: Amendment to Jeffrey P. Bloom's PDQ submitted on August 3, 2015, Question #30
Circuit Court At- Large Seat No. 10.

Dear Ms. Brogdon,

Please accept the following amendment to my PDQ, Question #30, as follows:

30. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(Your response to this question may state "see attached").

(A net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

Amended Answer: The net worth statement is completed and attached.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey P. Bloom

cc: E. Katherine Wells, Staff Attorney, S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee