

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit,
Seat #3

1. Name: The Honorable Usha J. Bridges
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge?
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes, Family Court
Business Address: P.O. Box 8036
Gaffney, SC 29342
125 E. Floyd Baker Blvd., Gaffney SC 29340
Telephone Number: (office): (864) 487-2568
2. Date of Birth: 1960
Place of Birth: Cherokee County
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 March 12, 1984 to Allie Bridges, Jr. Never divorced, five 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) University of SC 1977-1981(BA Political Science);
 - (b) University of SC Law School, JD 1990-1992.
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, 1993
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.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SCJA Annual Convention	9/9/2009;
(b) SC Bar (2009 SC Family Court)	12/4/2009;
(c) SCCA 2010 Orientation School for New Judges	6/2/2010;
(d) SCAJ 2010 Annual Convention	8/5/2010;
(e) SCCA 2010 Judicial Conference	8/18/2010;
(f) CLO Mini Summit on Justice for Children	12/2/2010;
(g) SC Bar (2010 SC Family Court)	12/3/2010;
(h) SC Bar (Family Law Section)	1/21/2011;
(i) SCAJ Annual Convention	8/4/2011;
(j) SCCA 2011 Annual Judicial Conference	8/17/2011;
(k) SC Bar (2011 SC Family Court)	12/2/2011;

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| (l) | SC Bar (Family Law Section) | 1/20/2012; |
| (m) | FCJA 2012 Family Court Judges' Conference | 4/18/2012; |
| (n) | SCCA 2012 Orientation School for New Judges | 5/30/2012; |
| (o) | SCAJ 2012 Annual Convention | 8/2/2012; |
| (p) | SCCA 2012 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/22/2012; |
| (q) | The National Judicial College | 10/14/2012; |
| (r) | FCJA Mandatory Family Court Judges | 12/6/2012; |
| (s) | SC Bar (Family Court Bench Bar) | 12/7/2012; |
| (t) | SC Bar (Family Law Section) | 1/25/2013; |
| (u) | FCJA 2013 Family Court Judges' Conference | 4/17/2013; |
| (v) | SCCA 2013 Orientation School for New Family Court Judges | 5/29/2013; |
| (w) | SCAJ 2013 Annual Convention | 8/1/2013; |
| (x) | SCCA 2013 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/21/2013; |
| (y) | SBLA Annual Retreat | 9/26/2013; |
| (z) | SC Bar 2013 Family Court Bench Bar | 12/6/2013; |
| (aa) | SC Bar Family Law Section | 1/24/2014; |
| (bb) | FCJA Family Court Judges' Conference | 4/23/2014; |
| (cc) | SCCA 2014 Orientation School for New Family Court Judges | 6/18/2014; |
| (dd) | SC Bar (Family Law Essentials) | 6/27/2014; |
| (ee) | SCCA 2014 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/20/2014; |
| (ff) | SC Bar (2014 Family Court Bench Bar) | 12/5/2014; |
| (gg) | SC Bar (Family Law Section) | 1/23/2015 |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
- (a) I have lectured at Orientation School for New Family Court Judges from 2012 until present;
- (b) Lectured at trial lawyers;
- (c) Lectured at SCAJ Family Law Seminar, April 2011;
- (d) Spoke at SC Bar Seminar, December 2014.
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.
- SC, 1993
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) April 1993-November 1993, Fletcher N. Smith, Attorney at Law, Greenville, SC, General Practice;
- (b) December 1993-June 1996, Fulltime Public Defender in Cherokee County, SC (hired as juvenile public defender, although I assisted the other public defenders and did general sessions work as well as represented the volunteer guardian ad litem for the abuse and neglect cases);

- (c) July 1996-July 2010, Private Practice which includes contract public defender for juveniles, represented the volunteer guardian ad litem for abuse and neglect cases, part-time municipal judge (since 1999) for the City of Gaffney, basically alternating week-end jail duty for warrants and bonds, practice consist mainly of Family Court work, ie divorces, child support, child custody equitable division cases;
- (d) July 2010 until present, Family Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 3.
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.
I am listed in Martindale-Hubbell but unsure of a rating.
23. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
- (a) Gaffney Municipal Judge, (July, 1999-May, 2010);
- (b) Family Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 (July, 2010 until present).
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.
2012-DR-42-2256 DSS vs. Doree Arter, et. al.
25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty?
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.
None
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
"I ran an unsuccessful bid for the Cherokee County School Board in 1994 or 1995. I filed a report with the State Ethics 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? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.
- (a) SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism-1983-1984 (information specialist, informed visitors to the State attractions and activities in state);
- (b) United Insurance Company-1984-1988, (insurance agent sale and service various insurance products);
- (c) Liberty Mutual Insurance-1988-1990, (insurance agent, sales and services insurance products).
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?
- (a) 1996-CP-11-312 Corey Edwards #277109 v. State of SC, et al. filed September 23, 1996 disposed of July 1, 1998 (PCR Rel 500);
 - (b) 1998-CP-11-75 Carolina State Bank, et al. v. Darrell E. McGowans, et al. filed February 17, 1998 disposed of June 3, 1993 (Foreclosure 420);
 - (c) 1999-CV-11-10100035 Belinda Burton v. Steedley Jefferies, et al. filed January 8, 1999 disposed of February 2, 1999 (Summons and Complaint);
 - (d) 1999-CV-11-10100623 Rebecca Atkins v. Glenn Hughes, et al. filed April 29, 1999 disposed of September 21, 1999 (Rule to Vacate);
 - (e) 1999-CP-11-255 Bank of New York as Trustee v. Vincent Earl Price, et al., filed June 10, 1999 disposed of June 8, 2000 (Foreclosure 420);
 - (f) 2001-CP-11-600 Niles McCullough v. Roger Dale McCullough, et al., filed November 1, 2001 disposed of February 7, 2003 (Personal Injury/Other 399);
 - (g) 2006-CP-11-121 Citifinancial, et al., v. Craig Bernard E. Copeland, et al., filed February 22, 2006 disposed of September 8, 2006 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2006-LP-11-64 filed February 22, 2006 pending (Lis Pendens);
 - (h) 2006-CP-11-503 Deutsche Bank National v. Stacy B. Davidson, et al., filed September 1, 2006 disposed January 30, 2007 (Foreclosure 420);
 - (i) 2006-CP-11-724 Citimortgage, Inc. v. Craig B. Copeland, et al., filed December 20, 2006 disposed of April 9, 2007 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2006-LP-11-341 filed December 20, 2006 pending (Lis Pendens);
 - (j) 2007-CP-11-07 Green Tree Servicing v. Stephen Henson, et al., filed January 5, 2007 disposed of March 22, 2007 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2007-LP-11-03 filed January 5, 2007 pending (Lis Pendens);

- (k) 2007-CP-11-499 Chase Home Finance v. Jeremy David Martin, et al., filed August 17, 2007 disposed of October 31, 2007 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2007-LP-11-188 filed August 17, 2007 pending (Lis Pendens);
 - (l) 2008-CP-11-249 Chase Home Finance, LLC v. Jeremy David Martin, et al., filed April 3, 2008 disposed of June 12, 2008 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2008-LP-11-105 filed April 3, 2008 pending (Lis Pendens);
 - (m) 2008-CP-11-320 The Bank of New York v. Robert Coleman, et al., filed April 28, 2008 disposed of April 28, 2009 (Foreclosure 420); same action 2008-LP-11-128 filed April 28, 2008 pending (Lis Pendens)
 - (n) 2009-CP-11-07 American Community Bank v. Robert L. Coleman, et al., filed January 8, 2009 disposed of September 17, 2009 (Foreclosure 420);
 - (o) 2011-CP-11-123 Russell D. Moore v. Usha J. Bridges filed March 1, 2011 disposed of October 9, 2013 dismissed per Rule 41(a);
 - (p) 2012-CP-11-684 Jeff Buice v. Robert L. Coleman, et al., filed September 26, 2012 disposed of February 13, 2013 (Real Property/Other 499); same action 2012-LP-11-185 filed September 26, 2012 pending (Lis Pendens).
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.
No
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?
Yes, I don't think that it affects my job as I only use it to play games and keep in touch with friends
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?

None

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) Commission on the Profession appointed October 6, 2011;

(b) Family Court Advisory Committee appointed November 1, 2011 and again October 6, 2014 for an additional term;

(c) County Court Security Committee appointed March 28, 2012;

(d) Family Court Docketing Committee appointed May, 2013;

(e) Summary Court Judges Pilot Mentoring Program appointed March 31, 2014;

(f) SC Bar.

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.

None.

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.
53. References:
- (a) The Honorable Brandy M. McBee
Clerk of Court
(864) 487-2571
 - (b) James "Bucky" Brown, Pastor
(864) 487-4638
 - (c) The Honorable M. Hope Blackley
Clerk of Court
(864) 596-2591
 - (d) Robin M. Duncan Harper
Realtor
(864) 488-9901
 - (e) Wells Fargo
Robyn Skinner, Bank Manager
1-800-869-3557
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.
- 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.
- 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/Usha J. Bridges

Date: August 3, 2015