

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6

1. Name: The Honorable Jack Alan Landis
Name that you are known by if different from above:
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes. Seat 6, Family Court, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Business Address: PO Box 1707
300 B California Ave.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Telephone Number: (office): 843-719-4477
2. Date of Birth: 1955
Place of Birth: Covington, VA
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 October 6, 1985 to Sharon Bennett Landis. Separated. Never divorced, two children.
6. Have you served in the military? I have not served in the military.
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) Erskine College, Due West, SC; September, 1973-May, 1977; BA History;
 - (b) University of SC School of Law; September, 1977-May, 1980; 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, 1980. I took the Bar exam one time and I am and have always been in good standing.
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) Who's Who Among Students of American Universities and Colleges, 1976, 1977;
 - (b) Student Council, Erskine College, 1974-1977;
 - (c) Erskine College Entertainment Board, 1973-1977;
 - (c) SC State Student Legislature, 1976 & 1977;
 - (d) Various dramatic and musical productions 1973-1977,;
 - (e) Best Actor Award, Erskine College, 1976;
 - (f) Rhett Carson Memorial Scholarship Recipient, 1974-1975;
 - (g) Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Society;
 - i. Treasurer, 1975-1976;
 - ii. President, 1976-1977.
 - (h) Philomethan Literary Society, 1976-1977.

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SCCA New Judges School	June 3, 2015;
(b) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan. 23, 2015;
(c) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	April 15-17, 2015;
(d) Family Court Bench/Bar CLE	Dec 5, 2014;
(e) SCCA Annual Judicial Conference	August 20, 2014;
(f) SCAJ Annual Convention	August 7, 2014;
(g) SCCA New Judges School	June 18, 2014;
(h) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	April 23, 2014;
(i) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan. 24, 2014;
(j) Family Court Bench/Bar CLE	Dec 6, 2013;
(k) SCCA Annual Judicial Conference	Aug. 21, 2013;
(l) SCAJ Annual Convention	Aug. 1, 2013;
(m) SCCA New Judges School	June 29, 2013;
(n) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	April 17, 2013;
(o) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan 20, 2013;
(p) Family Court Bench/Bar CLE	Dec 2, 2012;
(q) SCCA Annual Judicial Conference	August 17, 2012;
(r) SCAJ Annual Convention	August 4, 2012;
(s) SCCA New Judges School	June 8, 2012;
(t) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	April 18, 2012;
(u) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan. 20, 2012;
(v) Family Court Bench/Bar CLE	Dec 2, 2011;
(w) SCCA Annual Judicial Conference	August 17, 2011;
(x) SCAJ Annual Convention	August 4, 2011;
(y) SCCA New Judges School	June 8, 2011;
(z) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	June 1, 2011;
(aa) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan. 21, 2011;
(bb) Family Court Bench/Bar CLE	Dec 3, 2010;
(cc) Mini-Summit on Justice for Children	Dec 2, 2010;
(dd) SCCA Annual Judicial Conference	August 18, 2010;
(ee) SCAJ Annual Convention	August 5, 2010;
(ff) SCCA New Judges School	June 2, 2010;
(gg) Family Court Judges Annual Conf.	April 22, 2010;
(hh) SC Bar Convention, Family Law Section	Jan, 2010.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

- (a) May 14, 1997 One Day Seminar-“Paralegals in Family Law”;
- (b) Oct. 26, 2000 Charleston County Bar Association Family Law-Seminar “What a Judge Wants, What a Judge Needs”;
- (c) Dec. 14, 2001 SC Bar Association CLE-“Tips From the Bench”;
- (d) May1, 2003 Annual Family Court Judges Conference “Computer Forms and Templates for Judges”;
- (e) SCCA Orientation School for New Judges, annually in June;

- (f) April 23, 2014 "Best Practices in dealing with Self-Represented Litigants" Annual Family Court Judges Conference.
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 State Courts including SC Supreme Court. Admitted November 12, 1980;
(b) The US District Court for SC. Admitted February 9, 1981.
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) 1980-1984, Assistant Public Defender, Berkeley County, SC (part-time) I represented indigent defendants in General Sessions and Family Court;
(b) 1980-1984, Sole Practitioner, 311 E. Main St., Moncks Corner, SC General practice of law including domestic and civil litigation, real estate transactions, and criminal defense litigation;
(c) 1984-Aug. 1989 Partner-Williams & Landis, 209 E. Main St., Moncks Corner, SC. General practice of law including domestic and civil litigation, real estate transactions, and criminal defense;
(d) 1989-1993 Partner-Dennis, Dennis & Landis, 337 E. Main St., Moncks Corner, SC. General practice of law including domestic and civil litigation, real estate transactions, and criminal defense;
(e) 1993-1998 Partner- Landis & Loudon, 295 N. Highway 52, Moncks Corner, SC. General practice of law including domestic and civil litigation, real estate transactions, and criminal defense;
(f) 1987-1998 Municipal Judge for the Town of Moncks Corner (part-time) PO Box 276, Carolina Ave., Moncks Corner, SC;
(g) 1998-Present Judge, Family Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Seat 6, PO Box 1707, 300 B California Ave., Moncks Corner, SC.
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.
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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.
Yes
- (a) Part-time Municipal Judge for the town of Moncks Corner 1987-1998;
(b) Current position as Family Court Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit 1998-present. The Municipal Court had jurisdiction over traffic offenses and misdemeanors. I also had bond hearings and preliminary hearings. The Family Court is one of general jurisdiction to hear all domestic and family law litigation, juvenile offenders, and abuse and neglect of children and vulnerable adults.

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) Widman v. Widman, 557 SE 2d 693, 348 S.C. 97, (Ct App. 2001). This matter involved a number of issues including the determination of child support when the income of the parties exceeded Guideline amounts, equitable division of a marital estate with a value in excess of six million dollars, co-mingling of funds, valuation of limited partnership stock, family trusts and allegations of contempt;
 - (b) Middleton v. Middleton, 633 SE 2d 162, 369 S.C. 585, (Ct App. 2006). Plaintiff was an individual unrelated by either blood or marriage to the subject minor child. He was seeking visitation privileges against the wishes of a fit biological Mother, claiming that he was a “psychological parent.” I ruled that the law did not provide for an unrelated third party to seek visitation against the wishes of a fit parent. The SC Court of Appeals overruled and established the criteria by which an unrelated third party could establish his or her status as a psychological parent and seek rights previously denied under the law;
 - (c) Pendergast v. Pendergast, 579 SE2d 530, 354 S.C. 32, (Ct App. 2003). This was an action by Plaintiff Father for modification of unallocated child support alimony as a result of the graduation of the parties’ child from college. I granted a modification of child support based upon changed circumstances but denied a modification of alimony and awarded attorney fees and costs to Defendant Mother. The SC Court of Appeals affirmed;
 - (d) Wall v. Wall, S.C. Ct. App., Unpublished Opinion No. 2002-UP-405. Child custody, visitation, legal fees, alimony, child support, and valuation of assets were the issues presented in Wall. Husband was seeking alimony and a downward deviation from the Guidelines alleging diminished earning capacity. Husband was seeking and interest in Wife’s veterinary clinic and Wife was claiming an interest in proceeds from Husband’s personal injury settlement. My order was affirmed on eleven of the twelve appealed issues;
 - (e) Charleston County Department of Social Services v. Cutler, Pollard, and Sumpter, Docket # 00-DR-10-4108, 2001. DSS filed for termination of the parental rights of the Defendants who had had their children removed as a result of neglect or abuse. The Defendants were accused of extreme malnourishment of the children resulting in hospitalization for at least two. Defendants entered treatment plan with the stated goal being reunification. The Defendants completed all of the requirements of the treatment plan.
Due to the unconventional lifestyle and the religious beliefs of the Defendants, the GAL and DSS caseworker opposed reunification regardless of Defendants’ compliance with the approved treatment plan.
After two and a half weeks of testimony it became clear that the GAL and DSS had decided to seek TPR even before the Defendants had had an opportunity to complete the plan. Additionally, obstacles were placed in an attempt to thwart successful completion.
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.

- I have never held a public office other than judicial.
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 other than my position as a judge.
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- (a) In February, 1996, I ran unsuccessfully for Seat 5, Family Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. I was found qualified by the Joint Legislative Screening Committee as well as the SC Bar Screening Committee;
- (b) In February, 2007, I ran unsuccessfully for Seat 2, Circuit Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. I was found qualified and nominated as one of three candidates by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. I withdrew my candidacy prior to the matter coming to a vote by the General Assembly.
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?
- (a) Other than various part time employment in high school college, and law school, I have engaged in no other occupations, business, or professions except the practice of law and judicial office.
- (b) My part-time employment during school included Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC, where I worked as a general maintenance person, The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Va, where I worked in the garage, Westvaco in Covington, Va., where I was in the general labor pool, Milliken Industries in Abbeville, SC, where I was a machine operator, and Oswald & Floyd, Attorneys, in west Columbia, SC, where I worked as a law clerk during law school.
- (c) I briefly operated a sole proprietorship under the name "British Corner" from 1996 until my election as a Family Court judge. This was an expansion of my hobby of restoring antique British cars.
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.
I am not involved in any business enterprise.
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.
Individuals that were former clients of mine or my law partners could possibly come before me. I would recuse myself in the case of former clients. I would not feel recusal would be mandatory in the case of former law partners or associates due to the amount of time that has elapsed since I practiced law, however, I would disclose the information and entertain any Motion for Recusal that may arise.
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 I have not.
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?

- I have never been under investigation, to my knowledge.
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?
I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy. While in the private practice of law I had both state and federal tax liens filed against me personally. All liens were satisfied and discharged.
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?
I have never been sued professionally. Personally, I have been named as a co-defendant in two matters. Manufacturers & Traders Trust Company v Landis, et al., 02-CP-08-1735, and Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2005-2 v Landis, et al., 14-CP-08-2348. Both matters were dismissed by Court Order.
37. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
I have never been investigated by DSS or list on any Central Registry.
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.
The malpractice insurance I carried in private practice covered me for one year after my election to the bench. I have not been covered by a tail policy otherwise.
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?
- (a) I maintain a Facebook page for the sole purposes of keeping up with what is going on in my childrens' lives about which I would otherwise not know, and so old high school, college, and law school friends can re-establish contact. I do not post anything, including pictures of myself.
 - (b) I am on LinkedIn, but again so that old friends may locate or contact me. I don't endorse anyone.
 - (c) I do not have a Twitter or any other social media account. To my knowledge, I have never been featured or depicted on any internet site.
 - (d) In the manner which I use social media, I do not believe they would be affected while serving in my judicial capacity.
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)?
I have never been employed as a lobbyist nor have I acted in the capacity of a lobbyist's principal.
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?

- I have received nothing from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal.
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.
- I have no knowledge of formal charges or accusations against me of this type.
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.
- I have no knowledge of any accusations against me of this type.
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.
- I have made no expenditures nor have any been made on my behalf in furtherance of my candidacy.
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.
- No contributions have been made to members of the General Assembly.
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?
- I have not sought nor to my knowledge has anyone on my behalf sought a pledge from a member of the General Assembly.
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?
- I have made no such requests nor am I aware of anyone doing so on my behalf.
48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?
- Neither I nor anyone on my behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of my candidacy.
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?
- Neither I nor anyone on my behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.
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 Association;

- (b) Berkeley County Bar association;
 - (c) SC Conference of Family Court Judges;
 - a. President 2011-2012;
 - b. Vice President 2010-2011;
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer 2009-2010.
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) First Presbyterian Church of Moncks Corner, Elder (inactive);
 - (b) Berkeley County YMCA;
 - (c) Coach, Berkeley High School Mock Trial Team, 16 years including 2005 and 2006.
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.
- There is little that I can add that has not already been covered by this Questionnaire, however, I do believe that my number of years in the private practice of law taught me that the practice is not an easy profession. As a result, I do my best to be understanding of the stress faced by the attorneys who appear before me, and I am committed to remembering how I hoped to be treated by the judges before whom I appeared.
- Also, being a parent myself, now being separated, and having been through the difficulties that we as adults in this world all face in our day-to-day lives, helps me be compassionate for those appearing before me who are experiencing the same type of situations in their lives.
53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
- (a) Thierry Longueville,
Farmers & Merchants Bank,
PO Box 578,
Moncks Corner, SC 29461;
843-761-8888
 - (b) Kathy Crawford,
2500 City Hall Lane,
N. Charleston, SC 29406;
843-727-4525
 - (c) EdiVania Arena,
PO Box 96,
Pinopolis, SC 29469;
843-899-2772
 - (d) Jennifer Dixie Norris,
Kiawah Partners,
PO Box 12001,
Charleston, SC 29422;
843-768-5206

- (e) David H. Crawford,
5 Exchange St.,
Charleston, SC 29401;
843-722-3400

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.

This is not applicable to me or any members of my family.

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.

Again, this is 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.

This is not applicable to me or any member of my family.

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/Jack Alan Landis

Date: August 9, 2015