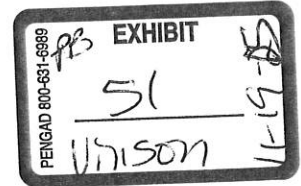


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



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

1. Name: The Honorable Jerry Deese Vinson, Jr.
 Name that you are known by if different from above: Jay Vinson
 Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes
 Business Address: Box V
 County Complex Florence, SC 29501
 Telephone Number: (office): 843-665-3079
2. Date of Birth: 1960
 Place of Birth: Camden, South Carolina
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 September 14, 1991 to Flora Sue Lester Vinson. No children.
 Divorced on June 6, 1991, Twelfth Judicial Circuit Family Court, Florence County -
 Adultery, moving party Susan C. Vinson. No 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) Francis Marion College, 1978-1982, BS Biology;
 (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1982-1985, 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.
 South Carolina, 1985.
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.
 While attending Francis Marion College, I was a member of Ars Medica. I was also inducted as a member of Phi Gamma Mu Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, both in 1981. While in Law School, I was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and assisted in editing Gavel Raps, the Law School newspaper, in 1985.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SC Bar Civil Law Update	1/22/10;
(b) SC Bar Family Law Section	1/22/10;
(c) SC Bar Child Welfare Seminar	1/23/10;
(d) NCJFCJ National Conference	3/14/10-3/17/10;
(e) SCFCJA Conference	4/22/10;
(f) NCJFCJ 73 rd Annual Conference	7/16/10-7/21/10;
(g) SCAJ 2010 Annual Convention	8/5/10-8/7/10;

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------|
| (h) | SCCA 2010 Judicial Conference | 8/18/10 – 8/20/10; |
| (i) | SC Bar-Solo & Small Firm Seminar | 9/24/10; |
| (j) | SC Bar-Hot Tips | 10/1/10; |
| (k) | CLE for Class of 1985 Reunion | 9/25/10; |
| (l) | Family Court Judges Mini Summit on Justice for Children | 12/2/10; |
| (m) | SC Bench/Bar–Family Court Judges | 12/3/10; |
| (n) | SC Bar Family Law Section | 1/21/11; |
| (o) | SCFCJA Conference | 6/1/11–6/3/11; |
| (p) | Orientation School for New Family Court Judges | 6/8/11; |
| (q) | NCJFCJ 74 th Annual Conference | 7/24/11–7/27/11 |
| (r) | SCAJ Annual Convention | 8/4/11 – 8/7/11; |
| (s) | SCCA Annual Judicial Conference | 8/17/11–8/19/11; |
| (t) | SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar | 9/16/11; |
| (u) | Florence County Bar-Clarence Darrow’s Search for Truth | 10/21/11; |
| (v) | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar | 12/2/11; |
| (w) | SCFCJA Family Court Judges' Conference | 4/18/12–4/20/12; |
| (x) | NCJFCJ 75 th Annual Conference | 7/14/12–7/18/12; |
| (y) | SCAJ Annual Convention | 8/2/12–8/4/12 |
| (z) | SCCA Annual Judicial Conference | 8/22/12–8/24/12; |
| (aa) | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar | 12/7/12; |
| (bb) | Mandatory Family Court Conference | 12/6/12; |
| (cc) | SC Bar Family Law Section | 1/25/13; |
| (dd) | SC Bar Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section | 1/25/13; |
| (ee) | SCFCJA Family Court Judges' Conference | 4/17/13–4/19/13; |
| (ff) | NCJFCJ 76 th Annual Conference | 7/14/13–7/18/13; |
| (gg) | SCAJ Annual Conference | 8/1/13–8/3/13; |
| (hh) | SCCA Annual Judicial Conference | 8/21/13–8/23/14; |
| (ii) | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar | 12/6/13; |
| (jj) | SC Bar Office Technology | 1/23/14; |
| (kk) | SC Bar Family Law Section | 1/24/14; |
| (ll) | SC Bar Substance Abuse/Mental Health | 1/25/14; |
| (mm) | SCFCJA Family Court Judges Conference | 4/23/14–4/25/14; |
| (nn) | NCJFCJ 77th Annual Conference | 7/13/14–7/16/14; |
| (oo) | ABA Annual Conference | 8/6/14–8/11/14; |
| (pp) | SCCA Annual Judicial Conference | 8/20/14–8/22/14; |
| (qq) | SCWLA Conference | 10/10/14; |
| (rr) | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar | 12/5/14; |
| (ss) | SC Bar Family Law Section | 1/23/15; |
| (tt) | SCFCJA – Family Court Judges Conference | 4/15/15–4/17/15; |
| (uu) | SCCA Orientation School for New Judges | 6/4/15. |
| 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) | SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar | 9/12/97 |
| (b) | SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar | 8/28/98 |
| (c) | SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar | 9/24/99 |

(d)	Family Law Ethics Seminar	12/4/99;
(e)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/15/00;
(f)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/21/01;
(g)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/20/02;
(h)	Ethical Issues in Appointed Issues	10/18/02;
(i)	Guardian ad litem Certification	1/10/03;
(j)	SC Bar Cool Tips Seminar	4/25/03;
(k)	Training for Attorneys appointed in Abuse & Neglect Cases	1/15/10;
(l)	SC Bar Child Welfare Seminar–Best Legal Practices	1/23/10;
(m)	Speaker at Best Legal Practices Conference	4/22/10;
(n)	SCCFJ Conference–Best Legal Practices	4/22/10;
(o)	Guardian ad litem training on Best Legal Practices	5/17/10;
(p)	SC Bar–Solo & Small Firm Seminar	9/24/10;
(q)	SC Bar-Hot Tips	10/1/10;
(r)	Child Support Enforcement CLE–Best Legal Practices	10/29/10;
(s)	Family Court Judges Mini Summit on Justice for Children	12/2/10;
(t)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	6/8/11;
(u)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/16/11;
(v)	SC Bar Family Court Judges Bench/Bar	12/2/11;
(w)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	5/31/12;
(x)	SC Supreme Court Institute	6/19/12;
(y)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/28/12;
(z)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	5/30/13;
(aa)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/27/13;
(bb)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	6/19/14;
(cc)	Children’s Law Seminar–ICWA	6/27/14;
(dd)	SC Bar Hot Tips Seminar	9/26/14;
(ee)	Orientation School for New Family Court Judges	6/4/15;
(ff)	Participated in the SC Bar LRE Mock Trial Competitions as a Presiding Judge	7/04-present.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have prepared seminar materials for a majority of the seminars at which I have spoken.

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 in South Carolina on November 21, 1985;

(b) Admitted to practice before the United States District Court on July 29, 1987;

(c) Admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, October 30, 1987;

(d) Admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court on June 17, 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.

From August 1985 until April 1986, I practiced as an associate with Haigh Porter in Florence, South Carolina. My responsibilities primarily involved mortgage foreclosure actions and real estate transactions.

From April 1986 until July 1987, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable John H. Waller, Jr., Circuit Judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. My responsibilities involved assisting Judge Waller with research and reviewing Orders and other documents presented for execution by Judge Waller.

From July 1997 until April 1992, I practiced as an associate with Turner, Padgett Graham and Laney, P.A. in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil litigation in State and Federal Court, primarily related to defense of insureds in personal injury, premises liability and business litigation.

From April 1992 until December 1992, I practiced as an attorney with the Fallon Law Firm in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil litigation primarily representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

From January 1993 until January 2001, I was a shareholder with the Vinson Law Firm, PA, in Florence, South Carolina. My practice involved civil and domestic litigation, including personal injury cases and business litigation as well as divorce and custody actions. I also represented the Department of Social Services as a contract attorney for four (4) years during this period of time, litigating abuse and neglect cases.

From 1993 until 2001, my practice gradually became more concentrated in Family Court so that by 1998, I practiced almost exclusively in Family Court.

In January 2001, I merged my practice and became a partner in McDougall and Self, L.L.P, practicing in the Florence, South Carolina office. My practice was limited to Family Court.

On February 4, 2004, I was elected by the Legislature to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Family Court, Seat Three. I have served in that position since July 1, 2004.

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.
Martindale-Hubbell, BV
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.
Yes. July 1, 2004 to present, Family Court, Twelfth Judicial Circuit, elected.
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) The State v. Tyquan Jared Amir Jones, 709 S.E.2d 696, 392 S.C. 647 (Ct. App. 2011).

This appeal arose from a waiver hearing held in 2006. The juvenile pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter following the waiver of jurisdiction from the Family Court. The Court of Appeals noted that the trial court had properly considered all of the Kent factors, and also took into account the lack of opportunities and the environment in which the juvenile had lived. Noting that the record contained a great deal of evidence supporting the Family Court decision, the Court of Appeals affirmed the waiver of jurisdiction.

- (b) Sandra K. Jackson v. Franklin Jackson, Op. No. 2011-UP-110 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed March 16, 2011).

This appeal arose from an award of equitable distribution and alimony as set forth in the trial court's divorce decree. In its unpublished decision, the Court of Appeals found that the Family Court properly considered the relevant factors in apportioning marital property, making extensive written and oral findings regarding the factors. The Court of Appeals also affirmed the award of alimony, again finding that the court properly considered the relevant factors in determining the amount of alimony. This case was significant because it required me to weigh the husband's ability to continue working in juxtaposition with the wife's diminishing ability to work due to a chronic health condition. I also had to take into account the non-marital property of the wife when determining her income and needs.

- (c) Punam Hiral Gopaldas v. Hiral Ranjit Gopaldas, 2009-DR-21-2483 and 2011-DR-21-1255.

This divorce case primarily involved issues of custody and equitable distribution. Shortly before the scheduled final hearing, the mother and maternal grandmother were found murdered in the former marital residence. The parties' two year old child was present at the time of the murders. Following the homicides, the Department of Social Services became involved. There was significant public and press interest in this case, particularly after the father was charged with the double homicide. The matter was brought before me on an emergency motion related to custody. As DSS was a party to the action and there was a need to protect the child and the families, I instituted a gag order and sealed the file during the pendency of the action. I also retained jurisdiction to ensure that the child would be protected throughout the ongoing criminal investigation, especially with regard to multiple interviews.

- (d) South Carolina Department of Social Services v. John Doe, Jane Doe, Mary Roe, and John Roe, 2013-DR-23-5379.

This three day trial arose from the request of DSS for termination of the parental rights (TPR) of the biological parents or, in the alternative, to make a finding of physical abuse and adopt a placement plan. The parties' two month old child had sustained fifteen unexplained fractures. DSS believed that the severity of the abuse of the minor child should result in TPR. During its case, however, testimony was elicited that a placement plan could be adopted which would allow for reunification. The biological parents requested an involuntary nonsuit as to TPR, which the law required that I grant. At that time, the biological parents withdrew as they were facing criminal charges arising from the same allegations and did not wish to testify. Considering the testimony of injuries suffered by the minor child and the proposed placement plan, I was able to order a placement plan which provided significant protection for the minor child.

- (e) Christina Lynn Lowry v. Thomas Lowry, 2011-DR-21-1277.

This case demonstrated the demands placed on the court by self-represented litigants. The plaintiff represented herself in this two day custody case. The defendant was represented by counsel. The plaintiff, who was well educated, faced significant challenges in presenting her case for custody. The experienced

Family Court litigator representing the defendant properly challenged the plaintiff throughout the presentation of her case. As a trial judge, I could not assist the plaintiff in presenting her case. It was, however, vitally important that I obtain as much information as possible concerning the best interest of the parties' children. This is the challenge presented in self-represented litigation. Through careful, thorough and appropriate questioning by the guardian ad litem and the court, I was able to obtain significant information which ultimately led me to conclude that it was in the children's best interest that the plaintiff be granted primary custody.

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?
No
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?
Other than part-time positions held while in high school, college and law school, I have held no other positions other than practicing law and my current judicial seat.
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.
The only business relationship which would constitute a possible conflict of interest was related to the period of time when I practiced with my wife. She does not practice before me.
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?
Other than the divorce listed above, 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 been covered by a tail policy through ALPS since July 1, 2004.
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 have a Facebook presence under "Jay Lester" which I primarily utilize to view photographs of my goddaughters.
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? 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;
 - i. -Judicial member (Current);
 - ii. -House of Delegates;
 - iii. -Family Law Section council-Chair (2001-2002);
 - iv. -Law Related Education Committee (Current)-Chair (2010-2012).
 - (b) SC Women Lawyers Association (Current);
 - (c) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (Current);
 - i. -Served on Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2011;
 - ii. -Finance Committee member from 2010 to present (Current Vice-Chair).
 - (d) Family Court Judges Association (Current);
 - i. -President (2012-2013);
 - ii. -President Elect (2011-2012);
 - iii. -Secretary/Treasurer (2010-2011).
 - (e) Bench/Bar Committee (Current)-Chair (2012-2014);
 - Best practices Subcommittee (Current)-Chair and Co-Chair (2009 to present).
 - (f) Governor's Task Force for Adoption and Foster Care (2007 to 2008);
 - (g) American Bar Association-Judicial Division (Current);
 - (h) Family Court Judges Advisory Committee (2010-2013).
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) Confirmed Communicant at St. John's Church & former Vestry Member;
 - (b) Former Vice-Chair of Francis Marion University Foundation Board;
 - (c) Past President of Francis Marion University Alumni Association;
 - (d) Graduate of Leadership Florence;

- (e) Recipient of Francis Marion University Outstanding Member of Alumni Association (1997);
 - (f) Kiwanian of the Year (1994);
 - (g) Participant at National Security Seminar, United States Army War College (2008);
 - (h) Recipient of Francis Marion University John S. Boyce Award (2010).
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.

For the 10 years prior to my election to the bench, I deliberately modified my practice to become exclusively a family court practitioner. I made a commitment to seek to improve my professional skills by my involvement in various organizations, including the Family Law Section Council of the SC Bar, and by attending and speaking at numerous continuing legal education seminars. Since my election to the bench, I have continued to attend and speak at seminars. I have attended the National Judicial College for the General Jurisdiction course, as well as the Advanced Evidence course. I am involved in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, attending seminars and conferences dealing with national and international issues affecting juveniles and families in our legal system. I also serve on the Bench/Bar Committee where I work with representatives of the Department of Social Services (including General Counsel's office), practicing attorneys, members of the Governor's guardian ad litem program, Foster Care Review Board and other Judges, seeking ways to improve our legal process particularly as it relates to children and families. To that end, I have also been involved as chair of the Best Legal Practices subcommittee in developing best legal practices to be followed in abuse and neglect cases and termination of parental rights cases. This was an extension of my involvement in the Governor's Task Force for Foster Care and Adoption. Calling on my experience as a family court practitioner, a former contract attorney for the Department of Social Services prosecuting abuse and neglect cases, and my experience on the Family Court Bench, I am committed to improving the judicial system and its responsiveness to the needs of children and families in South Carolina. This includes families involved in Department of Social Services cases; Department of Juvenile Justice cases; and private domestic relations cases. I consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity to serve in a position that I thoroughly enjoy.

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

- (a) John Martin
2009 Hoffmeyer Road
Florence, SC 29501
843-669-7646
- (b) Ken Weldon
252 S. Dargan St.
Florence, SC 29501
843-662-5555
- (c) John Turner
P. O. Box 6405
Florence, SC 29502
843-662-5581

(d) Joseph T. Stukes
2100 Twin Church Road
Florence, SC 29501
843-669-7911

(e) Karl Folkens
P. O. Box 6139
Florence, SC 29502
843-665-0100

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.

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/Jerry Deese Vinson, Jr.

Date: July 23, 2015