



JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

- 1. Name: The Honorable Peter L. Fuge
Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Pete
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Family Court.
Business Address: Post Office Box 1124
Beaufort, SC 29901
Telephone Number: (office): (843) 255-5672
2. Date of Birth: 1947
Place of Birth: Springfield, Massachusetts
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 4, 1970 to Meredith Ann Brantley. Never divorced, 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) University of SC 1965-1970, BS Degree in Business Administration;
(b) University of SC 1971-1974, JD Degree.
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;
(b) US District Courts.
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) Member of Phi Kappa Sigma;
(b) Officer of Student Bar association;
(c) Judge in Student Court for the University of SC.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
Conference/CLE Name Date(s)
(a) Family Court Judges Conference 04/22/10;
(b) SCAJ 2010 Annual Convention 08/05/10;
(c) 2010 Judicial Conference 08/18/10;
(d) Mini Summit on Justice for Children 12/02/10;
(e) 2010 SC Family Court 12/03/10;

- |     |                                     |           |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| (f) | Family Law Section                  | 01/21/11; |
| (g) | Family Law Judge's Conference       | 06/01/11; |
| (h) | 2011 Annual Judicial Conference     | 08/17/11; |
| (i) | 2011 SC Family                      | 12/02/11; |
| (j) | Family Law Section                  | 01/20/12; |
| (k) | 2012 Family Court Judges Conference | 04/18/12; |
| (l) | 2012 Annual Judicial Conference     | 08/22/12; |
| (m) | Mandatory Family Court Judges       | 12/06/12; |
| (n) | Family Court Bench Bar              | 12/07/12; |
| (o) | Family Court Law Section            | 01/25/13; |
| (p) | 2013 Family Court Judges Conference | 04/17/13; |
| (q) | 2013 Annual Judicial Conference     | 08/21/13; |
| (r) | 2013 Family Court Bench Bar         | 12/06/13; |
| (s) | Family Law Section                  | 01/04/14; |
| (t) | Family Court Judges Conference      | 04/23/14; |
| (u) | 2014 Annual Conference              | 08/07/14; |
| (v) | 2014 Annual Judicial Conference     | 08/20/14; |
| (w) | 2014 Family Court Bench Bar         | 12/05/14; |
| (x) | Family Law Section                  | 01/23/15; |
| (y) | Mental Health & Substance Use       | 07/24/15. |
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 on "Alimony" at the SCTLA Annual Meeting on August 14-16, 1986;
  - (b) I have lectured on "Trends: Retirement & Pension" at the SC Bar Annual Meeting;
  - (c) I have lectured on the topic, "Getting and Keeping Military Benefits" at Hot Tips from the Experts in February, 1989;
  - (d) I have lectured on the topic, "Returning Military Dependents to the United States: The Survivor's Benefits Plan in Marital Dissolution Actions", in June, 1990;
  - (e) I have lectured on the topic, "1990 Alimony Statute and Other Alimony Issues" at the Family Law Issues CLE, in November, 1990;
  - (f) I have lectured on the topic, "Other Alimony: What is it and Sequestration to Preserve Assets" for Hot Tips from the Experts in May, 1992;
  - (g) I made presentation on the topic, "Moderator", at the mid-year meeting of the SC Bar;
  - (h) I have lectured on the topic, "Common Evidentiary Problems in Family Court Cases" for Hot Tips from the Experts in August, 1998;
  - (i) I have lectured on the topic, "Clauses in Marital Settlement Agreements Which May Help Avoid Common Pitfalls", for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2002;
  - (j) I have lectured on the topic, "A Survey of Recent Developments in the Law Concerning Ante nuptial Agreements", for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2003;
  - (k) I have lectured on the topic, "Pitfalls You May Incur if Your Settlement Agreement Provides for Court Ordered Arbitration or Mediation" for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2004;

- (l) I have lectured on the topic, "What Happens When One of the Parties Dies During Litigation" for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2005;
- (m) I have lectured on the topic, "Putative Father Registry" for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2006;
- (n) I have lectured on the topic, "Temporary Hearings and Temporary Relief in the Family Court" for Hot Tips from the Experts in September, 2007.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.  
I have no published books or articles other than the written seminar materials I presented as a speaker.
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, 1974;
- (b) US District Court, 1977.
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) 1974–1976 Dowling, Dowling  
Sanders & Dukes, P.A.  
Beaufort, SC  
General Practice
- (b) 1976–1977 Peter L. Fuge  
Attorney at Law  
Beaufort, SC  
General Practice
- (c) 1977–1980 Fuge & Denton, P.A.  
Beaufort, SC  
General Practice
- (d) 1980–1995 Harvey & Battey, P.A.,  
Beaufort, SC  
During the early stages of my practice at Harvey & Battey, I was the general practice of law with a primary emphasis on litigation. As time went on, I began to focus on the field of matrimonial law. Since the early 1980's, the general emphasis of my practice has been in domestic relations.
- (e) 1995 to 2/08 Peter L. Fuge, P.A.  
Beaufort, SC  
General Practice with emphasis on domestic relations.
- (f) 02/2008 to Present Family Court Judge  
14th Judicial Circuit, Seat 2
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.  
AV.

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.

In February 2008, I was elected by our Legislature to Family Court Judge, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, Beaufort, SC. I was reelected on February 3, 2010 to serve a second term for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which I am currently serving. This term expires July 30, 2016.

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) Jennifer Nicknadarvich N/K/A, Jennifer Aiken v. Seth Bowers  
Case No.: 2014-DR-07-0245

This Order is an example of one of the most difficult decisions that must be made by a Family Court Judge. This case involved relocation by one parent and modification of child custody. I will not say more as a Motion to Reconsider has been filed.

- (b) Christine Renee Duis v. Peter D. Ponte  
Case No: 2012-DR-07-0571

This Order deals with the issue of continuing jurisdiction of our SC Family Court to make custody determinations in disputes between the parties when one party moves out of state and attempts to litigate custody and jurisdiction issues in that state when the other party continues to maintain residency in SC and seeks to have our Family Court retain jurisdiction.

- (c) Susan Brown v. Eric Brown  
Case No: 2009-DR-07-1213

This Final Order and Decree of Divorce is an example of the types of issues that are presented to a Family Court Judge by litigants who are difficult and do not provide the Court with proper asset valuations or debt details used do not provide the Court with sufficient evidence of values and debts. It would be unfair to Order payments of certain debts knowing it may be impossible to pay them. Such an Order could later result in a Contempt Order against a party who is financially unable to comply with this prior Order. This Order deals with difficult litigants and justly disposes of the issues presented to the Court in the parties pleadings even though they both lived well above their means.

- (d) Pamela Boatright, n/k/a Pamela Wilderom v. Matthew Boatright, and Cliff and Deborah Boatright

Case No: 2007-DR-07-1339

I tried to be as thorough as possible and I issued a lengthy memo to counsel which the order tracks. This is a sad case because you can see that the grandparents love their grandson very much but they came to believe they would exclude the biological mother from this child's life. I followed the decision of Moore v. Moore and I applied the law to the facts. The mother was possessed of limited resources yet she continued to fight for the custody of her son. She was awarded custody by this court on July 28, 2009.

- (e) Kimberley O'Dell v. Todd B. O'Dell  
Case No. 2006-DR-07-380

I include this order to show the court that I attempt to be as thorough as possible when applying the law to the facts. This is an Order on Rule to Show Cause and it discusses the use of a Limited Power of Attorney not revoked by the wife which was sent to the husband's counsel under the misimpression that she would receive a portion of the proceeds from the

- sale of real estate and the husband's unilateral decision to lower support without prior court approval.
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 was a part time city prosecutor for the City of Beaufort from 1979-1981. I was appointed and upon completion of my term, I was awarded a citation from the City of Beaufort for my good work.
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?  
Yes. I ran for Family Court Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in 1998 and lost by one vote to the Honorable Robert S. Armstrong. We remain good friends. He served our state well.
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?  
When I first moved to Beaufort after graduating from law school, I taught business law at the Technical College of the Lowcountry on a part time basis for a few years. Over the years, I have taught a paralegal course at the Technical College of the Lowcountry as a community service on behalf of the local bar.
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?  
While attending undergraduate school in 1967 and 1968 at the University of SC, I was involved in two fraternity party incidents which resulted in me along with 10 to 20 other students being charged with disorderly conduct. All charges were dropped. I do not specifically recall the details of the incidents other than they both took place at the fraternity parties where students were being rounded up for being too loud.
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?  
 In 1992, I was sued by Susan Crowley who was represented by James Lee Murphy, Esquire. I represented Mr. Murphy's ex-wife in a divorce action and he solicited this client falsely claiming malpractice and allegedly promising Ms. Crowley a large recovery. After four years of accepting the benefits of a written settlement agreement she reached with her husband, which was approved by the Court, Ms. Crowley became dissatisfied with the same. She alleged legal malpractice. I was represented by Homes & Thompson. We filed a Motion for Summary Judgement, which was granted. That Order was appealed. On appeal, the Order was reversed. Thereafter, it was settled for a nuisance value.
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.  
 N/A
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 am a member of the social network, Facebook, but plan to delete my account as it has been inactive since October of 2014.
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, 1974–Present;  
Family Law Section Council  
Secretary–1994;  
Vice Chairman–1995;  
Chairman–1996;  
House of Delegates–1995 (to fill unexpired term of Honorable Jane D. Fender);  
Lawyers Caring about Lawyers–1990-2007;  
Lawyers Helping Lawyers–2007-Present.
  - (b) Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization;  
Commission Member 1990-1996;  
Chairman 1995-1996.
  - (c) Supreme Court Family Law Specialization Advisory Board (Past Chairman);
  - (d) Supreme Court Commission on Lawyers Caring about Lawyers;  
Commission Member 2002-2007;  
Commission Member 2014-Present.
  - (e) American Bar Association 1979-2008;  
Member, Family Law Section.
  - (f) SC Trial Lawyers Association 1974-2008;  
Family Law Section  
Chairman 1986-1987.

- (g) Association of Trial Lawyers of America 1979-2008;
- (h) Advisory Board of Directors for Beaufort County Drug Court;  
Board Member 2004-2008.
- (i) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges;  
Member 2008-2011.

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, except for church affiliation with Church of the Cross, Episcopal Church, Bluffton, SC.

52. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

I am of Irish ancestry and my family has been riddled with the disease of alcoholism. I was fortunate enough to join AA and on December 25, 1985 stopped drinking before bad things happened. My older brother had a terrible time with alcohol and I chose not to follow his path. I have remained abstemious from alcohol since December 25, 1985. I have had the privilege of helping other members of the Bar and members of the general public recover from alcoholism. This has been one of the most positive influences in my life.

I helped draft the bylaws of the SC Bar's Lawyers Helping Lawyers. I was a member of the selection committee when we chose Robert Turnbull, Esquire to be the Committee Director and I served on the Board until 2007. I was reappointed by Justice Toal as a Commissioner in 2014. I currently serve in that position. I try to be an example to others. I am honored to have helped many good men and women overcome their drinking problems and be restored to a responsible and productive life.

For many years, I was a member of the steering committee for the annual Attorneys and Judges Substance Abuse and Ethics seminar put by MUSC and the SC Bar. We present a seminar annually at MUSC to educate attorneys and judges concerning the legal issues facing the bench and bar and developments in the law concerning substance abuse and related issues.

I am currently one of two presiding judges for a Juvenile Drug Court program in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which I helped create in 2009 with the help of our Solicitor. I hold Court on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. I do this as a public service.

53. References:

- (a) Bruce Marshall, Esquire  
135 Distant Island  
Beaufort, SC 29907  
(843) 986-8791
- (b) Hubert L. Bernheim, C.P.A.  
Post Office Drawer 9  
Hilton Head, SC 29938  
(843) 671-6005
- (c) Ansley Goodman, VP Retail Banking  
Atlantic Community Bank  
Sheridan Park



Bluffton, SC 29910  
(843) 815-8318

- (d) Edward Hughes, Esquire  
Nexsen & Pruet  
400 Main Street  
Hilton Head, SC 29926  
(843) 689-6277
- (e) Father Charles Owens  
Church of the Cross  
110 Calhoun Street  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
(843) 757-2661

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/Peter L. Fuge

Date: August 4, 2015