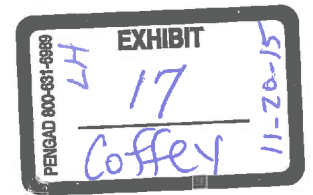


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Master in Equity – Clarendon County

1. Name: Mr. Joseph K. Coffey
Name that you are known by if different from above: Joe Coffey
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No
Business Address: 2 North Brooks Street
Manning, SC 29102
Telephone Number: (office): 803-435-8847
2. Date of Birth: 1970
Place of Birth: Manning, SC
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 December 30, 2008 to Katherine Silliman Coffey. 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) The Citadel, September 1988 to May 1992, BS-Business Administration;
 - (b) University of SC School of Law, September 1996 to May 1999, 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 – Admitted 2000. I took the bar exam three times.
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) I was on the Honor Committee at The Citadel for the 1991-1992 school year;
 - (b) I served as Class President at The Citadel for the 1990-1991 school year;
 - (c) I was a member of the Summerall Guards at The Citadel for the 1991-1992 school year.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Dates:</u>
(a) Advanced Estate Planning	8/2010;
(b) LLCs: From Formation to Special Uses	8/2010;
(c) Security Title Fall Seminar-Title Underwriting	11/2011;
(d) Title Workshop: From Examination to Commitment	11/2011;
(e) The Probate Process from Start to Finish	12/2011;
(f) Security Title Fall Seminar-Title Underwriting	11/2012;
(g) Chicago Title Fall Seminar-Title Underwriting	11/2012;
(h) Legal Ethics	12/2012;
(i) Human Resource Law	9/2013;

- (j) Chicago Title Fall Seminar-Title Underwriting 11/2013;
 - (k) Business Torts: Trials, Tribulations and Trusts 10/2014;
 - (l) Chicago Title Fall Seminar-Title Underwriting 11/2014;
 - (m) Advanced Trial Tactics 11/2014.
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?
I have not taught or lectured.
 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
I have not published.
 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, 2000;
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 2001.
 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) I have worked exclusively with Coffey, Chandler & McKenzie, P.A. since 2000;
 - (b) From 2000 to 2005, my practice area was broad and included civil litigation, Family Court, Probate Court and real property transfers;
 - (c) From 2005 to present my practice is more specific to real property matters, estate work and business related matters.
 15. Please answer the following (if you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable):
 - (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity.
I have been involved in numerous cases before the Master in Equity including foreclosures, partitions, quiet title actions and confirmation of tax titles. I have appeared before the Special Referee's in Clarendon and surrounding counties an average of four to five times annually.
 16. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.
I am not rated by any of the aforementioned.
 17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years?
 - (a) federal: None;
 - (b) state: Quarterly.
 18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years?
 - (a) civil: Five Percent;
 - (b) criminal: None.
 - (c) domestic: None.

- (d) other: Probate court: Fifteen Percent.
19. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: None;
- (b) non-jury: One hundred percent.
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel.
20. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) Palmetto v. McAlhany, et al – Breach of Contract 2013-CP-18-232;
- (b) Way v. Pack, et al – Quiet Title Action 2012-CP-14-507;
- (c) First Bank and Trust Company v. Abrams, et al – Foreclosure 2013-CP-14-43;
- (d) Alex S. Mils, II v. Williams, et al – Foreclosure 2012-CP-38-1296;
- (e) Collette Johnson v. Burgess, et al – Quiet Title Action 2012-CP-14-297.
21. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
- None
22. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
- None
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.
- I have not held judicial office.
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.
- Not applicable.
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 not held a public or judicial office.
26. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.
- Not applicable.
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- I have never been a candidate for any of these offices.
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) I was employed as a teacher and coach at Laurence Manning Academy, 1992-1993, Gene Nalley was the Principal;
- (b) I was employed as a supervisor at Georgia Pacific in Russellville, SC, 1993-1994, Lou Toulou was the plant superintendent.
- (c) I was employed in petroleum equipment sales at Meco, Inc. in Florence, SC, 1994-1996, Taylor Woodruff is the owner.

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 co-own the law firm of Coffey, Chandler & McKenzie, P.A. with Steven S. McKenzie. We acquired the firm in February, 2014.
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.
I joined the Advisory Board for the local National Bank of SC branch. I receive Two hundred dollars quarterly for this service. I would disclose and possible recuse myself from matters relating to this institution.
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?
I was charged in 1992 and 1996 with Driving Under the Influence, the charges were dismissed.
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?
No
34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?
No
35. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?
No
37. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?
No
38. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.
I have maintained malpractice insurance throughout my practice of law. I have not ever been covered by a tail policy. I have a two million dollar limit on my policy with a twenty thousand dollar deductible.
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 on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter but, not active on any of them. Social media would not affect my service in a 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)?

- 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.
No
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.
No
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) Clarendon County Bar Association, 2000 to present;
 - (b) SC Bar Association, 2000 to present.

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) Manning Rotary Club, President – 2014-2015;
 - (b) Manning United Methodist Church, Chairman of Administrative Board 2009-2014;
 - (c) Garden City Chapel Board of Trustees, 2014-Present;
 - (d) The Citadel School of Humanities, Social Sciences Advisory Board – 2009-Present.
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 feel that practicing for the previous fifteen years, my educational background and work experience prior to practicing have given me the tools to undertake this position and I could capably fulfill which is required.
53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
- (a) Nelson Walker
NBSC a division of Synovus Bank,
111 W. Boyce Street,
Manning, SC 29102,
803-473-0256
 - (b) Judge Thomas W. Cooper, Jr.
P.O. Box 699,
Manning, SC 29102,
803-473-6842
 - (c) Shaun C. Kent, Esq.
19 S. Mill Street,
Manning, SC 29102,
803-460-6242
 - (d) Louis Griffith
106 S. Brooks Street,
Manning, SC 29102,
803-460-5410
 - (e) Richard C. Jones, Esq.
5 Law Range,
Sumter, SC 29150,
803-468-8987
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; None
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; None 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.

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/Joseph K. Coffey

Date: July 29, 2015