



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR RETIRED JUDGES/JUSTICES**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Senior Active Retired Circuit Court Judge

1. Name: The Honorable Levy S. Alford
Name that you are known by if different from above: Lee
Business Address: 1048 Estate Drive,
York, SC 29745
Telephone Number: (office): 803-684-3481
2. Date of Birth: 1942
Place of Birth: Rock Hill, 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 January 29, 1965 to Terry Dean Baker Alford. Never divorced, two children.
6. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

| <u>Conference/CLE Names</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| (a) SCCJC-SC Circuit Court Judges Association | May, 5, 2010; |
| (b) SCCPC-The Investigation and Prosecution | June 18, 2010; |
| (c) SCCA-SC Judicial Conference | August 18, 2010; |
| (d) SC Bar-Criminal Law Section | January 21, 2011; |
| (e) SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | January 21, 2011; |
| (f) SCCJC-SC Circuit Court Judges' Conference | May 04, 2011; |
| (g) SCCA-Annual Judicial Conference | August 17, 2011; |
| (h) SCCPC-South Carolina Solicitors' | September 25, 2011; |
| (i) SC Bar-Part 2 Criminal Law Section | January 20, 2012; |
| (j) SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section | January 20, 2012; |
| (k) SCCJC-Annual Circuit Court Judges Conference | May 2, 2012; |
| (l) SCCA-Annual Judicial Conference | August 22, 2012; |
| (m) SC Bar-Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section | January 25, 2013; |
| (n) SC Bar-Part 2: Criminal Law Section | January 25, 2013; |
| (o) SCCJC-Spring Conference CLE | May 1, 2013; |
| (p) SCCA-Annual Judicial Conference | August 21, 2013; |
| (q) SC Bar-Criminal Law Section - Part 2 | January 24, 2014; |
| (r) SC Bar-Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section Civil Law Update | January 24, 2014; |
| (s) SCCJC-Circuit Court Judges Conferences | March 24, 2014; |
| (t) SCCA-Annual Judicial Conference | August 20, 2014; |
| (u) SC Bar-Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section: Lessons From the "Fly on the Wall: What You Can Learn From the Buzz" Civil Law Update | January 23, 2015; |

- (v) SC Bar–Part 2: Criminal Law Section January 23, 2015;
(w) SC Bar–Civil Mediation at SC Bar Association CLE
Center, Certified by the SC ADR Commission May, 2015.

7. Have you practiced law or served as a mediator or arbitrator since your retirement from the judiciary?

I have been certified as a civil mediator, but have not served as a mediator or arbitrator.

8. List your positions of employment on and/or appointment to the bench chronologically. You are not required to list dates of employment or appointment prior to your last screening.

(a) Resident Circuit Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit–2011 to 2015;

(b) York County Drug Court Judge–2011 to Present.

9. 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.

N/A

10. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

11. Since your last screening, have you 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.

12. Since your last screening, have you, to your knowledge, been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?

No.

13. Since your last screening, has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Since your last screening, have you defaulted on a student loan? Since your last screening, have you filed for bankruptcy?

No.

14. Since your last screening, have you been sued, either personally or professionally?

No.

16. Since your last screening, have you been criticized, whether informally or in a matter taken to a disciplinary authority, for the manner in which you treated litigants or attorneys before you on the bench?

No.

17. Describe your personal policy for the acceptance of food, meals, beverages, lodging, transportation, entertainment, social hospitality, or other things of value from an attorney, a group of attorneys, or from other individuals.

I do not accept any gifts of any kind from attorneys or anyone else who may appear before me.

18. Have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court?

No.

19. Provide any other information which 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.

Prior to the last 5 years, I held office in the following civic organizations:

- (a) Past President of the SC United Way;
- (b) Past President of the Western York County United Way;
- (c) Community Action Vice-President of the SC Jaycees;
- (d) Past President of the York Jaycees;
- (e) Past President of the Greater York Chamber of Commerce;
- (f) Past President of the York Red Cross Chapter;
- (g) Past Chairman of the York County Boy Scout Council;
- (h) Executive Board of the Palmetto Council of Boy Scouts;
- (i) Past President of the York Rotary Club;
- (j) Past President of the York County Mental Health Association;
- (k) Past President of the Camp Arc Council, which established Special Olympics and Residential camps for the mentally handicapped.;
- (l) Past Judge Advocate for the American Legion Post #34;
- (m) Mason;
- (n) Trustee and Director of the York County Crescent Shrine Club;
- (o) Dixie Youth Baseball Council and Coach;
- (p) York County Soccer League Coach.

Active member of the Trinity United Methodist Church where I taught Adult Sunday School Class for more than twenty-five (25) years. Served on the Administrative Board, Board of Trustees, President of the Men's Club, Lay Leader, Lay Speaker, Chairman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Trustee and Lay Representative to the Annual Conference of the SC United Methodist Church. I coached youth basketball in the Rock Hill Church League for a number of years.

I received "Project of the Year" awards from the York Jaycees and was named "Key Man" and "Jaycee of the Year" by that organization. Named "Outstanding Local President" and "Outstanding State Vice-President" of the SC Jaycees. Received the "York Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award" in 1976 and named one of the "Three Outstanding Young Men in S. C." in 1977. Received the "Paul Harris Fellow" award, which is the Rotary's highest award, from the York Rotary Club in 1989. Named "Shriner of the Year" by the York County Crescent Shrine Club in 1989. York County's nominee for the "Nine Who Care Award" in 1989.

As a Probate Judge, I served on the legislative study committee that drafted South Carolina's version of the Uniform Probate Code, which was enacted into law by the General Assembly.

I also served on the first Technical Corrections Committee for that Code.

As President of the SC Probate Judge' Association, I requested that the Legislative-Governor's Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation appoint a task force to study the law concerning the involuntary commitment for persons with chronic addiction to alcohol and drugs. I served on that task force, which met for one (1) year, and drafted a proposed revision of those laws which were approved with changes by the committee and passed into law by the General Assembly.

I applied for and received a grant to study the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act and the Rights of the mentally retarded in court at the National Judicial College in September, 1994. It was timely because the Catawba Indian Tribe, located primarily in York County, recently received federal recognition. Since the Federal Act supersedes state law as to foster care and

adoptions, it is important for Family Court Judges to have a working knowledge of the Act. I have offered to share this information with the SC Bar and the SC Family Court Judges in CLE seminars.

I actively served on the Bench-Bar Subcommittee of the SC Families for Kids Committee, which received a \$100,000.00 planning grant from the Kellogg Foundation, to study and recommend changes to the foster care and adoption law and procedures in SC. This hardworking group met primarily on Saturdays in Columbia and helped draft a grant application approved by the Kellogg Foundation for \$3,000,000.00 over three years. Recommendations of that committee significantly improved emergency procedures and foster care and adoption services to children who have been abused or neglected. The 1996 Children's Code Reform Act was a product of that study.

I was designated by the SC Court Administration to represent Family Court on A Court Improvement Program Grant Committee and attended a regional conference in Washington, D. C. on May 18 and 19, 1995. US Congress allocated \$35,000,000.00 over a four (4) year period. The grants were designed to encourage states to study the way courts handle foster care in adoption cases and implement a plan to improve case processing.

I assisted with the training for the juvenile arbitration program started by the Solicitor's Office with a grant from the Governor's Office.

I served as Chairman of the Governor's Juvenile Council for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit. I received an award from the Governor's Council for my work in leading the council.

At the request of the York County Alliance for Children and the school districts, I developed forms and established court time to conduct hearings for parents of young children who had serious truancy problems.

I have presided over the York County Drug Court at night for a number of years. The program has been very successful.

I have a strong faith in our justice system. I have always tried to conduct myself in a way that would not cause anyone to lose faith in our justice system. I have tried to make jurors feel important and vital to our justice system. I have always expressed appreciation to them for their sacrifices in making our justice system work. I qualified the jury venire about 90% of the time.

I have always had a strong work ethic. I have not missed court because of illness or other reasons in nineteen (19) years, and I have missed no more than ten (10) days in thirty-six (36) years on the bench.

I recently completed a forty (40) hour CLE course in Civil Mediation and was certified by the SC ADR Commission.

I have agreed to teach a course as adjunct professor at the Charlotte School of Law this fall.

20. For the last fully completed calendar year, itemize the income, expenses, fees, payments, or additional benefits exceeding \$500, in the aggregate, received by you or a member of your immediate family from South Carolina state and local entities. List the type, source, and amount or value of the benefit. Be sure to list any expense reimbursement you received separately from your income.

SC Bar Association:

- (a) complimentary registration -\$ 425.00
- (b) lodging -\$ 248.44

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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?
- No.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: s/ Levy S. Alford

Date: July 31, 2015