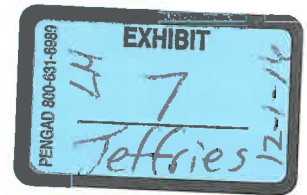


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



AMENDED

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? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates and resolution.
- (a) I was a named defendant in Orangeburg County Magistrates Court in a contract dispute with Gonzo Promotions LLC in 2012. My campaign for South Carolina House District 95 had contracted Gonzo Promotions in 2010 for campaign services. There was an outstanding balance following the primary in June 2010. Both parties agreed to revisit the balance in 2012 if I ran for the office and fundraising began again. When I decided not to file, Gonzo immediately filed an action against the campaign. We settled the matter immediately in an amicable manner in June 2012. There were no court proceedings.
 - (b) I was a named defendant in Orangeburg Court of Common Pleas in a contract fee dispute with SSC Disability Services LLC in 2015. I worked for this company, which was based in Connecticut, as an independent contractor social security disability representative. The issue involved the separation of the tax liability for fees distributed by the Social Security Administration and received by my law firm and SSC Disability for representing clients in disability claims. My accountant provided tax return information to the plaintiff's representatives and a settlement was reached that satisfied both parties. The suit was dismissed. There were no court proceedings.
 - (c) I was a named plaintiff in Richland County Family Court in a petition to establish child visitation and support for my oldest daughter in 1999.
 - (d) I was a named defendant in Richland County Family Court in a petition to modify a child visitation Order in 1999.

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: 

This 11th day of October, 2016.

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Administrative Law Court Seat 2

1. Name: Bryan S. Jeffries

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): BJ

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes (quasi-judicial)

I am a part-time Hearing Officer for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Jeffries Law Firm LLC
(a) 1345 Garner Ln. Ste 202
Columbia, SC 29210

(b) P.O. Box 646
Orangeburg, SC 29116

Division of Appeals and Hearings
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

First Circuit Solicitor's Office
P.O. Box 1525
Orangeburg, SC 29116

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-772-7300

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 75
Place of Birth: Washington, DC
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: SCDL [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]
5. Family Status: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name; (c) if you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds; and (d) state the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.
Family status: Married to Lakesha White Jeffries January 20, 2003
Never divorced, 3 children
[REDACTED]
6. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release.
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 South Carolina, August 1993-May 1998, Bachelors of Science, Criminal Justice
(b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1999-May 2002 Juris Doctorate
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.
South Carolina admitted in November 2002
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) University of South Carolina:
1993-1995 -University of South Carolina Gamecock football
1997-1998-member of Criminal Justice Association (CJA)
(b) University of South Carolina School of Law:
1999-2002: Member, Criminal Law Association
2001-2002: Chairman, Minority Affairs/Minority Recruitment Student Bar Association
2001-2002: Vice-President, Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

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

Judicial:

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
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(a) 2015 South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Hearings and Appeals Annual Retreat	11/5/15
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(b) 2016 South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Hearings and Appeals Annual Retreat	4/22/16
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Legal:

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
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(a) 2011 South Carolina Solicitor's Conference	9/25/11
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(b) 2012 South Carolina Solicitor's Conference	9/24/12
--	---------

(c) 2013 South Carolina Solicitor's Conference	9/22/13
--	---------

(d) 2014 South Carolina Solicitor's Conference	9/21/14
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(e) 2015 South Carolina Solicitor's Conference	9/20/15
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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.

Yes

I taught a Legal Studies course for 2 years in 2003-2005 at South University, a technical college in Columbia, SC as an adjunct instructor. The program was geared toward students in a paralegal studies program.

I taught Business Law and Civil Law courses for 2 years in 2008-2010 at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, a technical college in Orangeburg, SC as an adjunct instructor. The program was geared toward students in a paralegal studies program.

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

Not applicable

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) South Carolina Bar November 18, 2002

(b) U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina January 31, 2008

(c) U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals August 10, 2009

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.

I went to work for the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office in Columbia, SC upon admission to the South Carolina Bar in November of 2002. I worked as a full-time assistant

solicitor prosecuting criminal cases in Richland County. I was employed by the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office from November 2002-January 2005.

In January 2005, I left the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office in Columbia and moved to Orangeburg to work for the First Circuit Solicitor's Office as the supervising attorney for the office. I supervised a staff of 6 attorneys and also acted as special violent crime prosecutor for the circuit. I handled major violent crime cases. I worked in this capacity from January 2005-January 2008.

In January 2008, I started a private practice but remained employed by the First Circuit Solicitor's Office as a part-time assistant solicitor and have at all times since. I operate the Jeffries Law Firm with my wife and law partner, Lakesha Jeffries. My area of practice is primarily administrative law and has been since January 2008 when the law firm was formed. I have practiced regularly before the United States Social Security Administration's Offices of Adjudication and Review since January 2008. I represent claimants applying for social security disability before Administrative Law Judges throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

I am also a part-time hearing officer for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. I have been employed by this agency since November, 2012. In that capacity, I am a hearing officer presiding over administrative law hearings involving South Carolina Medicaid appeals. It is a quasi-judicial position. I serve as an independent and impartial trier of fact in formal proceedings following appeals from South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services agency decisions. I make on the record decisions. Those wishing to challenge my decision will ultimately appeal it to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court. As hearing officer, I also oversee settlement negotiations in advance of hearings, rule on preliminary motions, and conduct pre-hearing conferences. I conduct hearings involving both written and oral testimony and allowing for cross-examination. I typically examine evidence, hear testimony and issue written decisions. I prepare and issue these decisions, along with written findings of fact and conclusions of law therein, upon consideration of the whole record, or those parts of it cited by a party and supported by and in accord with reliable, probative, and substantial evidence.

As an assistant solicitor for the past 13 years I have successfully represented the state in more than 75 jury trials and 200 bench trials in each obtaining convictions. I have successfully represented the state in more than 10 jury trials involving homicides obtaining convictions. I have been continuously employed by the First Circuit Solicitor's Office as a criminal prosecutor for the past 11 years.

15. Please answer the following (if you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable):
- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.
 - (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a

brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area.

- (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.
- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Judge, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law Judge Court.

Since January 2008, I have appeared before Administrative Law Judges throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia on a regular consistent basis. On average, I appear in 10-15 hearings a month before Administrative Law Judges assigned to the U.S. Social Security Administration's Offices of Adjudication and Review. I have appeared before Administrative Law Judges more than 500 times in my 13-year legal career. Some of the issues discussed include legal interpretation of agency regulations and the procedural operation of the agency's decision making process.

As a hearing officer for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, our decisions are appealed to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court. I have the responsibility to monitor the Court's decisions on appeal and apply precedent appropriately in my cases.

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.
Not Applicable

* **Retired justices/judges and justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 17-22. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 17-22 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.**

17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: approximately 12 times a month
 - (b) state: approximately 10 times a month

18. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 0%
 - (b) criminal: 25%
 - (c) domestic: 5%
 - (d) other (administrative): 70%
19. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 20%
 - (b) non-jury: 80%
- 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, prior to your election to the bench. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) State v Hercules Mitchell. I personally handled this case as a prosecutor in the Orangeburg County Court of General Sessions. The defendant was charged with and convicted of murder following a jury trial. He was sentenced to 33 years in prison. The case received significant local media attention.
 - (b) State v. Lindy Jones. I personally handled this case as a prosecutor in the Orangeburg County Court of General Sessions. The defendant was charged with and convicted of criminal sexual conduct with a minor following a jury trial. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison for raping his step-daughter. The case received significant local media attention.
 - (c) State v. Jimmy Taylor. I represented the State as prosecutor in the Orangeburg County Court of General Sessions. Mr. Taylor was charged with and convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol involving the death of another driver and three passengers. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison following a jury trial. The defendant killed a family of four in a head-on collision. A unique issue for the jury to consider was whether the collision was the victims' primary cause of death in that the vehicle was struck again by another vehicle after the collision with the defendant. The case received significant local media attention.
 - (d) State v. Jerroid Price. I represented the State as prosecutor in the Richland County Court of General Sessions. Mr. Price was charged with and convicted of murder following a jury trial. The defendant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The defendant killed a well-known University of North Carolina football player in a gang related incident at a night club. The primary issue for the jury to consider was whether the gunshot fired by defendant was the proximate cause of the victim's death in that the victim was shot by two individuals. The case received significant local media attention.
 - (e) State v. Phillip Jackson. I represented the State as prosecutor in the Richland County Court of General Sessions. Mr. Jackson was charged with and convicted of murder following a jury trial. The defendant fatally stabbed the male victim several times after a dispute over illegal drugs. The defendant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The case received significant local media attention.

21. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled, prior to your election to the bench. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
Not Applicable
22. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled, prior to your election to the bench. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
 (a) Henry Haygood v. State, Orangeburg County Court of Common Pleas, 3/1/10
 (b) William McCoy v. State, Florence County Court of Common Pleas, 9/11/09
 (c) David Suarez v. State, Orangeburg County Court of Common Pleas, 3/29/16
 (d) Jeffrey Weston v. State, Richland County Court of Common Pleas, 7/9/08
 (e) Bobby Bell v. State, Richland County Court of Common Pleas, 7/20/10
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- Hearing Officer (quasi-judicial),
 Hired November 2012-current
 South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 Jurisdiction includes South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services decisions made throughout all of South Carolina. The decisions from hearing officers are appealed to the South Carolina Administrative Law Court.
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) Human-Yelvington v. SCDHHS, Order for Dismissal of Appeal
 (b) S.H. v. SCDHHS, Final Administrative Decision, Order affirming agency's decision
 (c) C.W. v. Carolinas Hospital Systems, Final Administrative Decision, Order affirming agency's decision
 (d) EMS Management v SCDHHS, Order of Dismissal of Appeal
 (e) Hospice of Charleston v. SCDHHS, Order of Dismissal of Appeal
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? If so, give details, including dates.
 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.
 (a) Assistant Solicitor, First Circuit Solicitor's Office. As a part-time assistant solicitor for the past 8 years, my responsibility is primarily to prosecute criminal cases on behalf of the Solicitor. I have successfully represented the state in more than 75 jury trials and

- 200 bench trials. I have been continuously employed by the First Circuit Solicitor's Office as a criminal prosecutor for the past 11 years. January 2005-currently employed. My supervisor is David M. Pascoe, Solicitor First Judicial Circuit.
- (b) Self-employed Attorney and Social Security Disability Representative, Jeffries Law Firm. My area of practice is primarily administrative law and has been since January 2008 when the law firm was formed. In this capacity, I represent claimants applying for social security disability before Administrative Law Judges throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. I have been continuously employed by the Jeffries Law Firm as an administrative law practitioner and disability representative for the past 8 years.
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates. Yes
Unsuccessful campaign for South Carolina House District 95 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. I was defeated in a democratic primary in June 2010.
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? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.
(a) Richland County Sheriff's Office, Inspector Internal Affairs, 01/2004 - 12/2004
As an internal affairs investigator, I handled internal law enforcement investigations involving alleged police misconduct in Columbia, SC. I prepared for and conducted quasi-judicial administrative hearings pertaining to employee misconduct, officer use of force and citizen's grievance investigations of deputies.
(b) South Carolina Department of Corrections, Kirkland Correctional (MSU), Corrections Officer, June 1998-August 1999
As a corrections officer, I supervised South Carolina inmates in a super-maximum security correctional institution.
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.
Yes. I am a member of the board of directors for Family Shelter in Columbia, SC. It is non-profit homeless shelter serving the midlands of South Carolina. My duties, along with the rest of the board's, include promoting the shelter's mission of assisting individuals struck by homelessness and assisting the shelter's director and employees with the shelter's operation.
30. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
(a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
(b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(Your response to this question may state "see attached").

(A net worth statement is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

See attached

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

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.
Not Applicable.
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? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$125 or less was imposed.
No
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.
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? If so, give details.
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? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates and resolution.
 - (a) I was a named defendant in Orangeburg County Magistrates Court in a contract dispute with Gonzo Promotions LLC in 2012. My campaign for South Carolina House District 95 had contracted Gonzo Promotions in 2010 for campaign services. There was an outstanding balance following the primary in June 2010. Both parties agreed to revisit the balance in 2012 if I ran for the office and fundraising began again. When I decided not to file, Gonzo immediately filed an action against the campaign. We settled the matter immediately in an amicable manner in June 2012. There were no court proceedings.
 - (b) I was a named defendant in Orangeburg Court of Common Pleas in a contract dispute with SSC Disability Services LLC in 2015. I worked for this company, which was based in Connecticut, as an independent contractor social security disability representative. The issue involved the separation of the tax liability for fees distributed

by the Social Security Administration and received by my law firm and SSC Disability for representing clients in disability claims. My accountant provided tax return information to the plaintiff's representatives and a settlement was reached that satisfied both parties. The suit was dismissed. There were no court proceedings.

36. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

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? If so, give the details.

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.

Yes. I am covered. I have been covered the entire 8 years of my private practice. I have never been covered by a tail policy. \$300,000.00 in coverage. I have a \$25,000.00 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 have Facebook and LinkedIn accounts. I do not post to these sites based on personal preference. I would continue to avoid posting as a judge. However, if I did post I would avoid any references to my position as a judge. I would also, avoid posting references to social or legal issues. I certainly would not post about any matters involving litigation that I was involved in or that would potentially come before me as judge.

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)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

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? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

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.

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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 or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? 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? If so, give details.

Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, and (3) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

No

47. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? If so, give details. Are you aware of any third parties contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details.

No

48. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?
Yes
49. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.
No
50. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.
No
51. 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.
Member, Orangeburg County Bar. I acted as President in 2012-2013 and Vice-President from 2011-2012
52. 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) Board Member of the board of directors for Family Shelter in Columbia, SC.
(b) Member of Kiwanis of America in Orangeburg, SC.
(c) Board Member of the board of directors for Samaritan House Homeless Shelter in Orangeburg, SC.
53. 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. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.
My ultimate career goal has always been to serve as a judge. I strongly believe in public service so I have opted for public sector employment my entire legal career. The position of judge is the ultimate public legal service in my estimation. My aunt, Judge Sandra Townes, is a Federal District Court Judge in Brooklyn New York. She is originally from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She was my favorite aunt and took a special interest in me since I was a school aged child and throughout my educational and professional development. She was appointed by President George W. Bush after having served on the State Circuit Court, Appellate Division and Court of Appeals in New York. Before that she worked as a state prosecutor in Syracuse, New York. She has always been my idol and has acted as a mentor throughout my life. It is no coincidence that my career has mirrored her career start in New York. She has repeatedly told me that her ability to review all legal

matters with an independent and unbiased eye is what has served her best over her stellar judicial career. I aspire to do the same if the opportunity arises.

54. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons, including your banker, from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.*
- (a) Thomas B. Scott, Esq. P.O. Box 1525 Orangeburg, SC 29116, 803-533-6252.
 - (b) Dietrich A. Lake, Esq. 1034 Briargate Cir. Ste 201 Columbia, SC 29210, 803-750-8311
 - (c) Joshua S. Kendrick, Esq. P.O. Box 886 Columbia, SC 29202, 803-348-1876
 - (d) Michael Witherspoon, Esq. 1345 Garner Ln. Ste 202 Columbia, SC 29210, 803-750-3510
 - (e) Curtis Carter, SouthState Bank 950 John C Calhoun Dr, Orangeburg, SC 29115 803-534-2175

55. 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.
- Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

56. 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. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.
- Not Applicable

57. For sitting judges, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

Not Applicable

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: *R. Joffe*

Sworn to before me this 27 day of July, 2016.

[Signature]
(Notary Signature)

Lakesha Terras
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 3/16/2026