

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Supreme Court of South Carolina, Seat 5

1. Name: Mr. Matthew Terry Richardson

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): Not applicable.

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No.  
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 801 Gervais Street, Suite B Columbia, SC 29211

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home/mobile): [REDACTED]  
(office): 803-254-6542

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1973  
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC  
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 Number: [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 on December 8, 2001 to Beth Burke Richardson  
Never divorced, three 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) Duke University, 1991-95, B.A. economics  
 (b) University of South Carolina, School of Law, 1995-98, J.D.
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, 1998
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) Law Clerk, SC House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, 1996-97  
 (b) Editor in Chief, South Carolina Law Review Volume 49, 1997-98  
 (c) Member, Order of Wig and Robe, 1997-98  
 (d) Research Assistant, Professor David G. Owen, 1997-98  
 (e) Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, 1991-95; Vice President 1994-95  
 (f) Club Football, 1992-94
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| (a) Judicial Conference of the Fourth Circuit   | 5/23/16;  |
| (b) 2016 RPWB Litigation Seminar  | 4/15/16;  |
| (c) Auto Torts XXVIII Advanced Trial Lawyer College   | 12/4/15;  |
| (d) Fraud Against the Government & SEC Whistleblower Actions  | 11/5/15;  |
| (e) Hitler's Courts: The Betrayal of the Rule of Law  | 10/13/15; |
| (f) The 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta  | 3/4/15;   |
| (g) Auto Torts Advanced Trial Lawyer College XXXVII   | 12/5/14;  |
| (h) SCALJC Housing Law CLE  | 11/21/14; |
| (i) The Future of the Legal Profession on Both Sides of the Atlantic                                | 9/17/14;  |
| (j) FBA New Technology and Timeless Principles of Practice  | 9/5/14;   |
| (k) SC Supreme Court Lawyer Mentoring Program   | 7/11/14;  |
| (l) Mid-Year Update: Opinions of the South Carolina Appellate Courts and Actions of the Legislature | 7/11/14;  |
| (m) Mid-Year Update: Opinions of the South Carolina Appellate Courts and Actions of the Legislature | 6/27/14;  |
| (n) SC Bar Trial Evidence: Artistry & Advocacy in the Courtroom                                     | 5/14/14;  |
| (o) RPWB 2014 Litigation Seminar  | 4/25/14;  |
| (p) SC Bar Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges   | 4/24/14;  |

(q) SC Bar Straight Talk from the Bench	12/20/13;
(r) NBI Litigating the Uninsured & Underinsured Motorist Claim	11/21/13;
(s) SC Bar Appellate Practice Project: Presenting Criminal Cases to the Court of Appeals	10/24/13;
(t) Federal Bar Association Annual Seminar and reception	9/5/13;
(u) SCAJ Annual Convention	8/1/13;
(v) SC Law Review Symposium	3/1/13;
(w) SC Bar Law Office Technology	1/26/13;
(x) SC Bar Federal Criminal Practice	1/25/13;
(y) SC Bar Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section	1/25/13;
(z) SC Bar Criminal Law Pt. II	1/25/13;
(aa) Auto Torts XXXV Seminar	11/30/12;
(bb) SCAJ Annual Convention	8/2/12;
(cc) FBA Appellate Advocacy CLE	3/22/12;
(dd) Auto Torts XXXIV	12/2/11;
(ee) 2011 SCAJ Annual Convention	8/4/11;
(ff) Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference	6/24/11;
(gg) SC Bar Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges	4/14/11.

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.

I taught the following classes:

- (a) Family Business Law, USC School of Law, February 29, 2016, discussing minority shareholder oppression litigation and resolution strategies;
- (b) Law Practice Seminar, USC School of Law, February 24, 2013, February 25, 2014, February 23, 2015, and February 29, 2016, discussing plaintiff's civil trial practice;
- (c) Advanced Family Law, USC School of Law, on February 18, 2015, discussing litigation;
- (d) Father and Sons in the Law: What we have learned, Charleston School of Law, Professionalism Lecture Series, September 1, 2011.

I presented at the following continuing legal and judicial education programs:

- (e) The Importance of Access to Justice, Legal Services Corporation Board, Charleston, SC, January 29, 2016;
- (f) Access to Justice for All, SC State Judicial Conference, Columbia, SC, August 20, 2015;
- (g) More Light! Protecting Public Housing Participants through Utility Allowance Litigation" for SCALJC, Columbia, SC, November 21, 2014;
- (h) Civil Practice Update, CLE in Columbia, SC, June 27, 2014 and July 11, 2014;
- (i) Truthiness: Justice at Stake, Auto Torts Seminar, Atlanta, GA, December 1, 2012;
- (j) Guns Rights and Laws CLE, USC School of Law, September 9, 2010;
- (k) Discovery Issues and Techniques, SC Bar CLE Seminar on Discovery: Problems & Solutions, Columbia, SC, May 14, 2010;

- (l) Candor Towards the Tribunal, Federal Bar Association 2009 Ethics CLE and Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC, September 17, 2009;
  - (m) Co-Moderator, Should the South Carolina Constitution Support a Stronger Executive?, Symposium: State Constitutional Reform in the New South, Charleston School of Law, January 16, 2009;
  - (n) Moderator, Exploring Bans on Illegal Immigrant Admission to State Colleges & Universities, Symposium: State Constitutional Reform in the New South, Charleston School of Law, January 16, 2009;
  - (o) Election Protection Strategies, NAACP Faith Community Summit, October 23, 2008;
  - (p) Statutory Changes to Joint and Several Liability, SCTL Convention, August 3, 2007;
  - (q) No-Injury Class Actions are Coming to South Carolina, SC State Circuit Judges Conference, May 17, 2007;
  - (r) No-Injury Class Actions: Frontier or Futile?, RPWB Co-Counsel Seminar, April 27, 2007;
  - (s) No-Injury Class Actions: Frontier or Futile?, SCTL Convention, August 3, 2007;
  - (t) Is Joint and Several Becoming Blame Everybody? SCTL Convention, August 3, 2006;
  - (u) Overview of the Federal Legal System, FBA Summer Clerks Program, 2006, 2007, and 2008;
  - (v) 2005 Legislative Changes to Joint and Several Liability in South Carolina, Judges Meeting, U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, May 12, 2006;
  - (w) What it Means to be a Trial Lawyer, SCTL Student Chapter, USC School of Law, October 27, 2005;
  - (x) Moderator, Fourth Annual Federal Practice in the District of South Carolina, September 9, 2005;
  - (y) All Aboard, The Train is Leaving: Electronic Case Filing is Mandatory in the District of South Carolina, SCTL Convention, August 5, 2005.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) SC Damages (SC Bar 3d ed. expected 2017), Contributing Co-Author;
  - (b) Doing Business in South Carolina (Lex Mundi Guide 2012), Contributing Co-Author;
  - (c) SC Damages (SC Bar 2d ed. 2009), Contributing Co-Author;
  - (d) 2005 Legislative Changes to the South Carolina Civil Justice System, SCTL Bulletin (Summer 2005), Author;
  - (e) The Tort of Unauthorized Pelvic Exams, Trial (Oct. 2004), Co-Author;
  - (f) Secret Settlements: Reports of Their Demise Are Premature, 15 SC Law. 29 (May 2004), Co-Author;
  - (g) SC Damages (SC Bar 2004), Contributing Co-Author.
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.
- U.S. Supreme Court 2007;
  - U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals 2001;

U.S. District of Columbia Court of Appeals 2011;  
U.S. District of South Carolina 2001;  
South Carolina 1998

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) My legal career really began while in law school working as a law clerk for Chairman Jim Harrison on the House Judiciary Committee for two legislative sessions. That exposure to research, drafting, and committee work of the General Assembly gave me an understanding of the appropriate roles and separation of powers among the three branches of government.
  - (b) Right after law school, I began as law clerk in the state appellate courts for then-Judge Kaye G. Hearn on the South Carolina Court of Appeals, reading briefs and records, researching and writing bench memos and draft opinions, and participating in deliberations about the outcome and reasoning of opinions in a variety of criminal, family, and civil law appeals.
  - (c) After a state appellate court clerkship, I served as law clerk on the federal trial court for U.S. District Judge P. Michael Duffy in Charleston. In that capacity, I worked on the full range of federal and state law issues filed or removed to federal court, including a variety of criminal and civil cases and appeals.
  - (d) Following my clerkship with the House Judiciary Committee and two judicial clerkships, I started practicing law at the same firm with which I currently practice: Wyche, PA (formerly known as Wyche, Burgess, Freeman & Parham, PA).

My practice has been a broad array of legal matters for many different types of clients. I have represented the State of South Carolina and political subdivisions; large successful companies like Hewlett Packard, one of the largest IT and Fortune 50 companies, and Leviton Manufacturing, the largest privately held electrical wiring company in North America; small businesses like a local pediatric practice, a barbecue restaurant, and a third-generation asphalt paving company started and still operating in South Carolina; and individuals from the top businessmen in South Carolina to the poorest families in rural South Carolina. I have also participated in wide variety of cases involving business and commercial law, consumer protection, voting rights and election protests, Freedom of Information Act, real estate law, copyright infringement, insurance bad faith, employment law, securities law, medical malpractice, personal injury, and products liability; and my experience has been at almost all levels of Municipal and Magistrate Courts, Family Courts, Circuit Courts, appellate courts, and the federal courts, and it includes jury trials, bench trials, preliminary motions and injunctions, dispositive motions, class action certification determinations, mediations, arbitrations, and appeals.

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.

Not applicable.

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.
- (a) Super Lawyers, Top Rated Civil Litigation Attorney in Columbia, SC;
  - (b) Best Lawyers, 2017 & 2015 Lawyer of the Year in Appellate Practice, Greenville;
  - (c) Chambers, Notable Practitioner in Band 1 law firm for Litigation: General Commercial;
  - (d) Martindale-Hubbell, Distinguished Peer Rated for High Professional Achievement.
17. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: Every other month
  - (b) state: Monthly
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: 85%
  - (b) criminal: 3%
  - (c) domestic: 2%
  - (d) other: 10%
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: 35%
  - (b) non-jury: 65%
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Chief or 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) Long Family Associates, L.P. et al. v. Charles P. Darby, III, et al. No. 2012-CP-10-03663 (S.C. Cir. Ct. filed Jun. 6, 2012). This was a minority shareholder suit involving Kiawah Development Partners, one of South Carolina's largest privately held companies, which had multiple entities organized in multiple states with operations and assets in multiple countries and during the time the world was watching while it hosted the PGA Tour Championship. In only eighteen months, we reached full resolution with hard-fought litigation that was conducted in a manner that both preserved the full value of the going concern and assets and provided all owners with fair value for their ownership interests.
  - (b) In re Elec. Receptacle Products Liab. Litig., MDL No. 1595 (J.P.M.L. filed Dec. 31, 2003); Cramer, et al. v. Leviton Mfg. Co., Inc., No. 2003-CP-07-01648 (S.C. Cir. Ct. filed Aug. 4, 2003); Richey, et al. v. Leviton Mfg. Co., Inc., No. 2004-CP-40-02738 (S.C. Cir. Ct. filed Jun. 4, 2004). I represented Leviton Manufacturing, a one hundred-year-old company that is the largest privately held electrical wiring company in North America, against products liability claims that could have threatened the company's existence. After removal to federal court and consolidation through the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation, the case was remanded to Judge Early, who granted the motion to dismiss, and then was dismissed on appeal.
  - (c) State of South Carolina v. LendingTree LLC, Nos. 2008-CP-02-1529, 2008-CP-04-3021, 2008-CP-07-3458, 2008-CP-09-0136, 2008-CP-10-5451, 2009-CP-29-0780, 2008-CP-32-3841, 2008-CP-40-6714, 2008-CP-42-4666, 2009-CP-43-1240, 2008-CP-46-3450 (consolidated by S.C. Sup. Ct. Aug. 31, 2009); State of South Carolina v. LendingTree LLC, No. 9:08-cv-03505-HFF (D.S.C. filed Oct. 15, 2008). I was lead counsel representing the State of South Carolina and all sixteen solicitors against an online mortgage broker for civil violations of the South Carolina Mortgage Broker's Act.
  - (d) Michelle H. et al. v. Haley et al., No. 2:15-cv-00134-RMG (D.S.C. filed Jan. 12, 2015). I represent a class of all foster care children in South Carolina for systemic Constitutional and statutory violations for their health and protection.

- (e) Colleton County Council v. McConnell et al., 201 F. Supp. 2d 618 (D.S.C. 2002). I represented Colleton County as the lead plaintiff in redistricting litigation to ensure at least one elected representative had a majority of voters from Colleton County because the proposed legislative plans could not be passed into law and Colleton County would otherwise have had five different House members, three different Senators, and two Congressional members. I later used this experience to avoid unnecessary redistricting litigation against the State.
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.
- (a) Cramer v. Leviton Mfg. Co, Inc., No. 2003-CP-07-1648 (S.C. Ct. App. dismissed Feb. 19, 2008).
- (b) Jamison v. Morris, 385 S.C. 215, 684 S.E.2d 168 (2009). Wallace Lightsey argued this appeal.
- (c) State of South Carolina v. LendingTree LLC, Nos. 09-01704 to 09-01713 (4th Cir. dismissed Aug. 31, 2009).
- (d) SC Green Party v. SC Election Commission, 612 F.3d 752 (4th Cir. 2010).
- (e) Ginn-LA University Club Ltd, LLLP v. Amelia Capital III, LLC, 2013 WL 8482299 (S.C. Ct. App. 2013).
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.
- I have not personally handled criminal appeals. I have consulted on and edited criminal appeal briefs.
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.
- No.
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? 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.
- South Carolina State University Board of Trustees, elected by the General Assembly, 2009-12. I timely filed all reports with the State Ethics Commission.



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? If so, give details, including dates.  
Yes, I was an unsuccessful candidate for South Carolina Attorney General in 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.  
No.
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 am involved in management and on the Administrative Committee of my law firm, Wyche, PA. I am also the sole member of Dr. and Mrs. Julius H. Taylor House, LLC that owns a rental house and other real property.
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.

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

**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.

I would completely separate from my financial arrangements and business relationship with Wyche, PA and Jural Partners as soon as possible after election to the Court. I also have a number of investments in publicly traded securities, and where possible, I would divest my ownership of publicly traded securities in any business that appears before the Court. If there is any reasonable appearance of impartiality, then I would recuse myself.

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.

In 2009 in Richland County, I was sued by Flooring Concepts, Inc., a subcontractor working on my home, because the general contractor closed its business without finishing the job or paying the subcontractor. The case was settled, and a stipulation of dismissal was filed on November 8, 2010.

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.

I have been covered by malpractice insurance every year I have been in private practice but never covered by a tail policy. Current coverage is \$10 million with a deductible of \$200,000.

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 but rarely post on either. I would close my LinkedIn account if elected as a judge but may maintain my Facebook account for passive connection with my friends and family.

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, but in 2012-13, I served as president of the South Carolina Association for Justice, which employs lobbyists.

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.

None.

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

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 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.
- (a) SC Access to Justice Commission, Chair 2014-17
  - (b) Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, Permanent Member
  - (c) Federal Bar Association, SC Chapter President 2004-05
  - (d) SC Association for Justice, President 2012-13
  - (e) American Bar Association
  - (f) American Bar Association Foundation, Fellow

- (g) SC Bar
- (h) Richland County Bar Association, Bench-Bar Liaison Committee 2007-16
- (i) John Belton O'Neall Inn of Court, Columbia

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) Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America
- (b) SC Supreme Court Historical Society
- (c) SC Liberty Fellowship, Liberty Forward Class of 2009, Senior Advisor 2014
- (d) Matthew J. Perry Public Service Award, SC Association for Justice 2015
- (e) Greenville Business Magazine, 50 Most Influential in 2015
- (f) Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbia
- (g) DNC, Elected Member
- (h) Bacchus Society Wine Tasting
- (i) Assistant Baseball Coach, Trenholm Little League, 2011-16
- (j) Coach, YMCA Flag Football, 2014-16
- (k) Assistant Coach, YMCA Soccer, 2014
- (l) Assistant Coach, Church League Basketball, 2014-15

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 life experiences have always pointed me to a life serving the rule of law, and I have tried to do that. I was raised in the law by my father, Attorney Terry Richardson, and my grandfather, Chief Justice Bubba Ness. They are both giants in the legal community in South Carolina and set strong examples of hard work and love of the law. I studied and learned the law here in South Carolina, but while in law school, I was a victim of violent crime, who had to confront and testify against the criminal who pointed a double-barreled shotgun in my face. I went on to serve as Editor in Chief of the South Carolina Law Review, clerked for two judges, and was hired as one of the first USC Law graduates at Wyche, P.A., one of the most prestigious law firms in the State. At Wyche, I have had a balanced law practice, representing both plaintiffs and defendants and both suing and defending businesses and individuals in a lot of different types of cases and law.

My law practice and life lessons reinforce what my father and grandfather taught me: everyone must follow the law and deserves its protections, and we are all better off when judges stick to the language in the Constitution and statutes and decide only the issues presented in the case. They taught me judges must be tough and fair and that the rule of law is more important than anyone. I believe—from these lessons and my own practice representing many different types of clients from the biggest Fortune 50 IT companies to the State of South Carolina and her agencies and political subdivisions to small

businesses that serve some of the best barbecue in the State to the biggest businessmen and poorest families in rural South Carolina—that justice can only be established for all through the conservative judicial philosophy of my grandfather: (1) fidelity to the law written in our Constitution, statutes, and prior case law, (2) decide only the legal issues presented in a case, and (3) limit any decision to what is required by the case and not reach beyond that. I believe judges also have the responsibility to write clearly for all people to know and understand the law and the reasons for decisions. Last, activism has no place in judging because we all need and benefit from the certainty and stability of established law, and changes to the Constitution and statutes should go through the democratic process.

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) The Honorable Joseph F. Anderson Jr. 901 Richland St. Columbia, SC 29201 803-765-5136
  - (b) Mr. Bill Stern 8910 Two Notch Rd, Fifth Floor Columbia, SC 29223 803-419-1234
  - (c) Mr. Ed McMullen 4 Cedarwood Ln Columbia, SC 29205 803-724-1417
  - (d) Mr. Robert E. Hughes, Jr. 130 S. Main St., Ste. 800 Greenville, SC 29601 864-233-2580
  - (e) Ms. Susan Holcombe, First Citizens Bank, 10355 Dunbarton Blvd. Barnwell, SC 29812, 803-259-3151
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.
- 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.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

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.  
None.
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: Matt Peterson

Sworn to before me this 29th day of July, 2016.

Mary B. Rawls  
(Notary Signature)

Mary B. Rawls  
(Notary/Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: 11/09/2025