

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Court of Appeals, Judge. Seat 9

1. Name: Mr. Blake A. Hewitt

Name that you are known by if different from above: Not applicable.

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? No.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 1208 3rd Avenue, Conway, South Carolina, 29526

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]  
(office): (803) 454-6226

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1978  
Place of Birth: Atlanta, GA  
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.

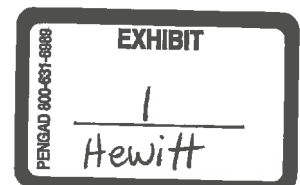
4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]  
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

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 10, 2005 to Emma Catherine (Brown) Hewitt.  
Never divorced, one child.

[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.



PEN040 800-687-8988

From May of 2001 to August of 2001, I was an officer candidate in the United States Marine Corps. A week before the end of Officer Candidate School, I declined a commission as a Second Lieutenant and was released from my orders. To my knowledge, I did not have a rank or a serial number. The character of my discharge was an "administrative separation."

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) Georgia Institute of Technology, October of 1996 to May of 2001, B.S. in Civil Engineering, graduated May 5, 2001.
  - (b) University of South Carolina, August of 2002 to May of 2005, J.D., graduated May 6, 2005.
  
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
  - (a) Admitted to the South Carolina bar in 2005.
  
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) Georgia Tech Cross Country and Track & Field, October 1996 – June 1997;
  - (b) Alpha Tau Omega fraternity (several offices held), August 1997 – May 2001;
  - (c) Georgia Tech Student Government Association (civil engineering rep.);
  - (d) Georgia Tech Interfraternity Council (judicial board member);
  - (e) Georgia Tech Campus Christian Fellowship;
  - (f) USC Law School Committee on Professionalism (2003 – 2005);
  - (g) Student Member, John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court (2004 – 2005);
  - (h) USC Moot Court Bar, Captain of National Competition Team (2004 – 2005).
  
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
 

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
(a) 2016 Prosecution Bootcamp – presenter	03/31/16;
(b) Bridge the Gap – presenter	03/07/16;
(c) SC Lawyer’s Guide to Appellate Practice – presenter	02/16/16;
(d) IWA Annual Convention – presenter	11/12/15;
(e) Bridge the Gap – presenter	08/03/15;
(f) It’s All A Game – presenter	02/20/15;
(g) 2015 Tort Law Update – presenter	02/13/15;
(h) IWA Annual Convention – presenter	11/06/14;
(i) 2014 SCAJ Annual Convention	08/07/14;
(j) 2014 Tort Law Update – presenter	02/27/14;
(k) IWA Annual Convention – presenter	11/07/13;
(l) Annual Free CLE Ethics Seminar	11/01/13;

- |     |  |                        |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| (m) | Introduction to Birth Injury Litigation – presenter                                    | 10/18/13;              |
| (n) | <u>Gideon</u> at 50: How Far We’ve Come,<br>How Far to Go – presenter                  | 09/20/13;<br>08/01/13; |
| (o) | 2013 SCAJ Annual Convention  | 08/01/13;              |
| (p) | What Every Lawyer Should Know to Enjoy (or Survive)<br>the Practice of Law – presenter | 6/21/13;               |
| (q) | 2012 SCAJ Annual Convention – presenter  | 08/02/12;              |
| (r) | What Every Lawyer Should Know to Enjoy (or Survive)<br>the Practice of Law – presenter | 06/22/12;              |
| (s) | Words to the Wise – presenter  | 11/03/11;              |
| (t) | Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges   | 10/13/11;              |
| (u) | Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference   | 06/24/11;              |
| (v) | J. Waites Waring and the Dissent   | 05/19/11;              |
| (w) | Sporting Clays CLE: Ethics with the Judges   | 04/14/11.              |
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.
- (a) I lectured on techniques of oral advocacy at the 2016 “Prosecution Bootcamp” for new prosecutors, hosted by the Prosecution Coordination Commission.
  - (b) I presented on the topic of appellate practice at the Bridge the Gap programs in 2015 and 2016.
  - (c) I lectured on oral advocacy at the 2016 SC Bar “SC Lawyer’s Guide to Appellate Practice” Program.
  - (d) I gave “case law update” presentations to all attendees at the Injured Workers’ Advocates organization’s Annual Conventions in 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015.
  - (e) In 2015 I gave a presentation that dealt with issues surrounding the admission of forensic interviews in criminal sexual conduct cases as part of the SC Bar’s annual “It’s All A Game” seminar.
  - (f) I shared presentations on special filing procedures in professional negligence cases as a part of the annual Tort Law Update hosted by the SC Bar in 2014 and 2015.
  - (g) I lectured on error preservation and techniques of developing a record for an eventual appeal at the 2013 SC Bar Program “Introduction to Birth Injury Litigation.”
  - (h) I was a member of a panel discussion on indigent defense funding at the Charleston School of Law’s symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Gideon v. Wainwright.
  - (i) I gave speeches on effective legal writing at a local CLE Program, “What Every Lawyer should know to Enjoy (or Survive) the Practice of Law” in 2012 and 2013.
  - (j) I lectured on handling appeals effectively at the South Carolina Association for Justice’s 2012 Annual Convention.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) Appellate Practice in South Carolina Jean Hoefler Toal et al. (SC Bar CLE 2016), Editorial Board.

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, 2005;
  - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 2009;
  - (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2009;
  - (d) Supreme Court of the United States, 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.
- (a) From August of 2005 to July of 2008, I served as a judicial law clerk and legislative liaison to the Honorable Jean H. Toal, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina.
  - (b) From July of 2008 to August of 2009, I served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.
  - (c) From August of 2009 until the present time, I have been in private practice with the law firm Bluestein Nichols Thompson & Delgado. My primary area of practice has been appellate litigation. I have served as lead counsel for over 50 matters in South Carolina's appellate courts and have been consulting counsel on many other cases. I have also done trial work, but my trial work is not as extensive as my appellate work.
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.  
Not a candidate for Family Court.
  - (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.

Not a candidate for Circuit Court.

- (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.

Not a candidate for 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 a candidate for Administrative Law Judge.

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 have never sought a rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and I do not actively participate in any professional or social networking services.

\* **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: Rarely. Approximately 5% of cases. Very little in-court time.

(b) state: Regularly. Five to ten oral arguments each year with various other in-court appearances.

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: 81%

(b) criminal: 11%

(c) domestic: 8%

(d) other:

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: 6%

(b) non-jury: 94% (all appellate cases counted as non-jury)

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?

Most of my trial court work has involved merits-based motions and hearings for which I had chief responsibility. My most recent full trial was as co-counsel in a murder case that was tried to a jury in January of 2014.

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.

Every case I have ever handled has been significant to me because every client's case is supremely important to them. With that qualification, some of the cases that I believe to have broader significance are described below:

- (a) Marshall v. Dodds, Op. No. 5403 (S.C. Ct. App. filed May 4, 2016) (Shearouse Adv. Sh. No. 18 at 54). This case, which is still pending in the appellate court system, analyzes how the statute of repose for medical malpractice actions applies in the situation where there are multiple breaches of the standard of care over an extensive period of time.
- (b) Rhame v. Charleston County Sch. Dist., 412 S.C. 273, 772 S.E.2d 159 (2015). This case holds that the Workers' Compensation Commission may entertain petitions for rehearing. It overrules three previous decisions that had incorrectly suggested otherwise and it brings the comp commission's practice in line with that of other administrative agencies.
- (c) Ranucci v. Crain, 409 S.C. 493, 763 S.E.2d 189 (2014). This case correctly holds that the pre-suit notice of intent statute for medical malpractice cases (section 15-79-125) completely incorporates the affidavit statute from the Frivolous Civil Proceedings Sanctions Act (section 15-36-100), reversing a decision to the contrary by the Court of Appeals.
- (d) Bone v. U.S. Food Service, 404 S.C. 67, 744 S.E.2d 552 (2013). This case resolves a long-standing conflict between the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals about immediate appealability in administrative cases. This conflict historically resulted in a substantial amount of waste for litigants and for the court system. The rule is not perfect, but Bone correctly forces everyone to examine appealability in administrative cases through the lens of the Administrative Procedures Act.
- (e) Ex Parte Brown, 393 S.C. 214, 711 S.E.2d 899 (2011). This case holds that when an attorney is appointed to represent an indigent defendant, the takings clause of the Constitution requires that the attorney receive reasonable compensation for his services. This was a break from prior precedent. I was deeply honored to represent the South Carolina Bar which filed a brief as a friend of the Court.

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) Roddey v. Wal-Mart, 415 S.C. 580, 784 S.E.2d 670 (2016);
- (b) Skipper v. ACE Property & Casualty Ins. Co., 413 S.C. 33, 775 S.E.2d 37 (2015);
- (c) Lewis v. LB Dynasty, 411 S.C. 637, 770 S.E.2d 393 (2015);
- (d) Milliken & Co. v. Morin, 399 S.C. 23, 731 S.E.2d 288 (2012);
- (e) S.C. Farm Bureau Mut. Ins. Co. v. Kennedy, 398 S.C. 604, 730 S.E.2d 862 (2012)

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) State v. Sims, Appellate Case No. 2016-001385 (briefing in process);
  - (b) State v. Torrence, Op. No. 2013-UP-152 (S.C. Ct. App. filed Apr. 10, 2013);
  - (c) State v. Whitesides, 397 S.C. 313, 725 S.E.2d 487 (2012);
  - (d) State v. Jennings, 394 S.C. 473, 716 S.E.2d 91 (2011);
  - (e) Ex Parte Brown, 393 S.C. 214, 711 S.E.2d 899 (2011).
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.  
Not applicable.
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.  
In 2012 I ran unsuccessfully for the South Carolina House of Representatives, District #105. For a brief period in May, I was the Republican nominee for this office, however I was disqualified as a candidate as a result of the Supreme Court of South Carolina's decision in Florence County Democratic Party v. Florence County Republican Party, which invalidated the filing directions that the South Carolina Election Commission issued to all candidates. I pursued a petition candidacy following this decision and was certified by the Election Commission as a petition candidate for the November 2012 general election. I did not win the general election, and I filed my final financial report in April of 2013.  
  
In 2014 I ran unsuccessfully for the Court of Appeals, seat 7. This was a vacancy created when Judge Danny Pieper retired. I was deeply honored to be found qualified and nominated by the JMSC. I withdrew from the race a week before the election, which Judge Stephanie McDonald won.

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.

From August of 2001 to July of 2002, I was a practicing civil engineer with Welker & Associates, Inc., a general civil engineering firm located in Marietta, Georgia. I served as a design engineer on several water and wastewater system projects. I left this job in order to move to South Carolina for law school.

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.  
Not applicable.

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 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 do not own substantial amounts of stock, and I do not believe that I am involved in any financial or business relationships that would result in a possible conflict of interest. Of course, if I was ever in a situation where I had a potential conflict of interest, I would disqualify myself if my impartiality might reasonably be questioned. See Canon 3E, Rule 501, SCACR.

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.



I was arrested in Barrow County, Georgia on February 9, 1998 and charged with four misdemeanor offenses: driving under the influence while under 21, possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of an open alcohol container, and speeding. I pled guilty to all of these offenses on March 17, 1998, and I received a sentence of 12 months probation, 80 hours of community service, and several fines (\$937.50 for DUI under 21; \$158.25 for possession of alcohol by a minor; \$156.25 for possession of an open container; and \$156.25 for speeding). I paid all fines, completed my community service, and I was released from probation in 1999. I will be happy to provide additional information at the commission's request, and I would add the editorial comment that although this was not a pleasant experience, I deserved every bit of the sentence I received. I embarrassed myself and my family, and I continue to be grateful that my foolishness did not come at a higher cost to me or to someone else.

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 May of 2014, I was personally named as a defendant in the case Von Herrmann v. South Carolina Republican Party, which was filed in the Court of Common Pleas for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and bears case number 2012-CP-26-3832. This lawsuit sought my disqualification as the Republican party's nominee for the South Carolina House of Representatives, District #105. This suit was resolved by a consent order shortly after the Supreme Court of South Carolina's decision in Florence County Democratic Party v. Florence County Republican Party, which controlled the legal issues in question.
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.

My firm has malpractice insurance and I have been covered as long as I have been in private practice. I have never been covered by a tail policy. The deductible is \$10,000 per claim. The policy limits are \$1,000,000 per claim.

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 maintained a Facebook page while I was an active political candidate but that page has been inactive since my campaign concluded in November of 2012.

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.

I am a member of two organizations that employ lobbyists and that act as lobbyist's principals. I am not on the lobbying committee of either organization.

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?  
 \$21.58, envelopes, 3 February 2016  
 \$115.43, postage and copies: introductory letter and resume, 26 May 2016  
 Report to Ethics Committees furnished immediately prior to filing application packet.
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.  
 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) South Carolina Bar: Trial & Appellate Advocacy Section, Council Member (July 2010 - July 2013); Judicial Qualifications Committee, Committee Member (March 2011 - August 2012); Young Lawyers Division, Long-Range Planning Committee,

Committee Member (July 2010 - July 2012); Young Lawyers Division, 15th Circuit Representative (July 2013 - July 2015); Young Lawyers Foundation Board, Board Member (November 2013 - July 2015).

- (b) Horry County Bar Association.
- (c) South Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society.
- (d) Injured Workers Advocates: Judicial Affairs Committee, Committee Member (March 2010 - present).
- (e) South Carolina Association for Justice: Legislative Steering Committee, Committee Member (November 2010 - present).
- (f) Coastal Inn of Court: Community Service Chair (Jan. 2014 - present).

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) Waccamaw Sertoma Club. Board Member (July 2013 - present);
- (b) City of Conway Board of Zoning Appeals (April 2013 - present);
- (c) City of Conway Downtown Alive;
- (d) Compleat Lawyer Award (Silver), USC Law School.

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.

Any good qualities I possess are the result of the many strong and positive influences in my life. I was blessed to have parents who loved me and invested in me heavily. I was also fortunate to have several people outside of my immediate family show interest in me and help shape my development by serving as mentors. My greatest professional goal has always been to honor these wonderful individuals. I know that any success I experience will be the result of them lifting me on their shoulders.

I have known for some time that I wanted to devote my career to public service. My passion as a lawyer has always been the desire to help the court system be the best that it can be – to treat people decently, to treat everyone’s case as important, and to help the court make the right decision for the right reasons. I gravitated towards appellate work because I enjoyed it and because I felt that it provided a platform for fulfilling these goals. On occasions when I realized these goals, I found great satisfaction. When I felt that the system did not act honorably, I experienced deep disappointment and frustration. Our court system must be the best that it can be, and this is what drives me as a lawyer. It would be the honor of my professional life to serve the citizens of South Carolina by leveraging my experience and passion for their benefit by serving them as a judge on the Court of Appeals. An appellate court is where I feel I could serve other people and the court system best.

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) Robert T. Bockman, USC School of Law, Columbia, SC, 29208, (803) 777-3613
  - (b) Mitchell M. Willoughby, P.O. Box 8416, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 252-3300
  - (c) William M. Goldfinch, 1321 4th Avenue, Conway, SC 29526, (843) 488-1200
  - (d) Erin Bridges, P.O. Box 7965, Conway, SC, 29202, (803) 779-7599
  - (e) Miriam Vick, 1412 3rd Avenue, Conway, SC, 29526, (843) 248-7232

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.

Not applicable.

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.

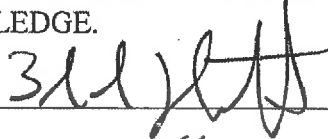
Not applicable.

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?

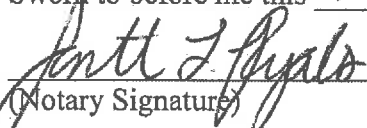
Not applicable.

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: 

Sworn to before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of AUGUST, 2016.

  
(Notary Signature)

Samantha L. Ryals  
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: 11/24/22