

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

1. Name: Mrs. Grace Gilchrist Knie
Circuit Court Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 250 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306 (physical)

Post Office Box 3544
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304 (mailing)

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number/s: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): (864) 582-3991
(cellular): [REDACTED]

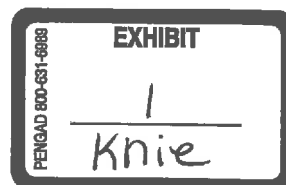
2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1964
Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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.

- (a) Married;
- (b) August 16th, 2003, Patrick Eugene Knie;
- (c) Divorced; October 30th, 2000; Moving party was Grace Gilchrist Dunbar; Family Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit; Divorce ground: One year's separation without co-habitation; Civil Action Number: 2000-DR-42-3749;



(d) No biological children.

Two Step-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) Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina, Bachelor of Arts Degree, 1982 - 1986;

(b) University of South Carolina, School of Law, Juris Doctor Degree, 1986 - 1989.

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) South Carolina, 1989.

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 School of Law: 1986 -1989

- Chairperson, Legislative Council
- Vice President, Student Bar Association
- Women's Law Association (President)
- Orientation Committee (Chairperson)
- American Bar Association/Law Student Division, (ABA/LSD) Representative and 4th Circuit Lt. Governor for Membership
- Member, Outstanding Young Women of America
- Phi Alpha Delta (PAD), (Community Service Fraternity)

(b) Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina: 1986 -1989

Honors:

- Graduated Magna cum laude (GPA 5.8/6.0)
- Omicron Delta Kappa, Treasurer, Leader of the Year
- Order of the Purple Seal (Scholastic Honor Society)
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship Finalist for South Carolina (1 of 4 college students in South Carolina)
- President's List, four years
- Dean's List, four years
- College Marshall
- Phi Alpha Theta (Scholastic Honor Fraternity in History)
- May Court Attendant

Activities:

- Student Government Association, Vice President
- Student Senate, President
- South Carolina Student Legislature, Chief Justice,
Best Legislation Award
- Fellow, Center for the Study of the Presidency, Washington, D.C.
- Fellow, The Washington Center for Women's Development

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

(a)	NOSSCR	Social Security Disability Law	05/12/10
(b)	SCAJ	2010 Annual Convention	08/05/10
(c)	SCAJ	2010 Auto Torts	12/03/10
(d)	NOSSCR	Social Security Disability Law	05/11/11
(e)	SCAJ	Auto Torts XXXIV	12/02/11
(f)	SCWLA	Lawyer's Epidemic	01/04/13
(g)	SCWLA	2012 Ethics and Discipline Update	01/04/13
(h)	SCAJ	2013 Annual Convention	08/01/13
(i)	SCAJ	2013 Auto Torts XXXVI Seminar	12/06/13
(j)	SC Bar	Rainmaking Bootcamp for Attorneys	11/21/14
(k)	SCAJ	2015 Auto Torts XXXVIII	12/04/15
(l)	SC Bar	SC Bar Convention	01/21/16
(m)	Greenville Bar	Year End CLE	02/12/16
(n)	SCWLA	2015 Ethics and Discipline Update	02/18/16
(o)	SCWLA	Taking Care of Business	03/18/16
(p)	Sptbg Bar /Wofford	Executive Power and Terrorism	03/28/16
(q)	SC-CWP	Concealed Weapons Permit	04/22/16
(r)	SCWLA	Pathway to Judgeship in SC	06/09/16

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.

- (a) I have lectured at the 2002 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Court Visitation and Custody Issues (Excluding Patel) ;
- (b) I have lectured at the 2003 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section, on the subject What Family Court Judges Want at Temporary Hearings;
- (c) I have lectured at the 2004 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Law- Case Law Update, September 2003 -July 2004;
- (d) I have lectured at the 2005 SCAJ Annual Convention, to the Family Law Section on the subject Family Law- Case Law Update, September 2004 -July 2005;
- (e) In 2007 I chaired the Family Law Section of the SCAJ and enlisted speakers for the CLE presentation. I presided over and moderated the Family Law presentation at the 2007 Annual Convention.

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

None.

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) All South Carolina State Courts , admitted 11/15/1989; SC Bar# 12873;
 - (b) US District Court, for the District South Carolina admitted June 17th, 1991; Federal Bar # 5337.
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) Kermit S. King, Attorney, Columbia, South Carolina, Clerkship August, 1988-June, 1989;
Upon graduating from law school in the Summer of 1989, while studying to take the Bar Exam in August, I continued to work for Kermit S. King, Attorney at Law, Columbia. Mr. King's practice primarily focused on divorce or domestic litigation. My job responsibilities were to research aspects of the law as instructed, to assist in organizing files and accompanying him and other lawyers in the firm to court, when necessary. In addition, I performed general clerkship duties. The position ended at the conclusion of the Bar Exam preparation and upon my taking a position as Clerk to The Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge.
 - (b) Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Law Clerk, August, 1989-August, 1990;
I obtained the position of Law Clerk to The Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Court Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit, Spartanburg, SC in August 1989. I had the opportunity to shadow Judge Stephen in his court room and in his office for one year. I traveled with him while he rotated throughout the state when he held court in Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia, Aiken, Cherokee, Spartanburg and other counties and had a unique and distinct career opportunity which was priceless in gaining valuable experience and insight into the practice of law. During that year, I sat beside Judge Stephen on the bench, in the courtroom on a daily basis and was able to observe first hand General Sessions Court and Common Pleas Court. He had me research legal issues, assist in writing decisions, and also had me serve as the conduit of information between he and counsel appearing before him concerning decisions, calendaring, and scheduling.
 - (c) Bruce Foster, P.A., Spartanburg, South Carolina, Associate, 1990-1992;
In August of 1990 I became an associate of Bruce Foster, P.A., in Spartanburg. The practice was a general litigation practice with focus on domestic litigation, and plaintiff's personal injury. As an associate attorney, I initially served as co-counsel with Mr. Foster in on-going, pending litigation and then accumulating my own clients and represented them in both family court, civil litigation, and some criminal defense, as well as, employment discrimination and sexual harassment litigation. At the conclusion of two years, I continued to share office space with Mr. Foster, but formed my own firm as Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, P.A.

- (d) Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, PA , Spartanburg, South Carolina, Attorney, 1992-2004;
1992 through 2004, I had a general litigation practice handling domestic litigation, plaintiff's personal injury, workers' compensation, employment discrimination and criminal defense work. During this time, Mr. Foster's health began to deteriorate and he retired. I purchased and renovated an office building in Spartanburg and moved my practice to a location approximately one block from Mr. Foster's office.
- (e) City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, South Carolina, City Prosecutor, 1995-2010; part-time position;
In 1995, I took the position as the City Prosecutor for the City of Spartanburg. I held this position until 2010. It was part-time. My job responsibilities included the prosecution of all criminal jury trials for the City of Spartanburg. These cases ranged from minor traffic citations to Criminal Domestic Violence and Driving Under the Influence 1st Offense and Driving Under Suspension. There were multi-day terms of Court on a monthly basis. I dealt with attorneys representing defendants, as well as, pro-se litigants on a regular basis. Additionally, I served as legal counsel at City Council meetings when the City Attorney could not be present. I handled the majority of the appeals from the Spartanburg City Municipal Court to the Circuit Court.
- (f) Grace Gilchrist Knie, PA , Spartanburg, South Carolina, Attorney, 2004 - present.
In 2004, although the nature of my practice remained the same, after my marriage, I changed the name of my law practice and professional association to Grace Gilchrist Knie, P.A. Approximately 6-8 years ago I transitioned the nature of my firm from contested domestic litigation to Social Security disability in addition to personal injury.

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 applicable.
- (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.

Criminal Trial Experience:

- My first exposure to criminal law was serving as a Law Clerk to the Honorable James B. Stephen, Circuit Judge. My experience included observing guilty pleas, jury trials, researching for Judge Stephen criminal law issues and evidentiary issues which would arise during trials. Shortly after joining Bruce Foster, PA, I was asked to assist Mr. Foster and his co-counsel, Reese Joye, in a high profile Felony DUI case which involved numerous pretrial motions and ultimately the Defendant was found not guilty. During my tenure with Mr. Foster, I handled, either solely or as co-counsel, General Sessions, Magistrate, and Municipal court matters.
- In 1995, I was appointed to the position of City Prosecutor for the City of Spartanburg to primarily handle the prosecution of jury trials in that court. I handled hundreds of cases annually, which included a variety of cases. The largest volume of which were DUI's and CDV's, as well as a wide variety of traffic offenses, many of which involved motor vehicle collisions. My responsibilities included scheduling sessions of court, maintaining docket control, interviewing police officers, victims and other witnesses in preparation for trial, and generally working with the Municipal Court Judge to effectively manage the volume of cases before the court. I remained in this capacity for fifteen years. During that same period of time I handled criminal cases in the County system most of which were defending or prosecuting Criminal Domestic Violence cases.
- During the course of handling criminal matters, both for the prosecution and defense, I have handled Miranda challenges, suppression of evidence issues, numerous unique evidentiary questions, jury selection, and jury charge issues. In the last five years I have shifted the focus of my practice to a civil practice, and have only handled a few criminal matters during that time.

Civil Litigation Experience:

- While my practice has always included some civil litigation, as stated elsewhere herein, I began to concentrate more on civil litigation in the past ten years. I handled numerous employment law cases involving sexual harassment in the work place and employment termination. In addition, I have handled a variety of personal injury cases representing plaintiffs, including motor vehicle collisions and premises liability injuries. I also recently, successfully, handled a significant medical malpractice case involving a death. In addition, over the past ten years I have handled numerous worker's compensation claims, Social Security disability claims, post conviction relief hearings and appeals. Finally, I have twenty-seven years experience practicing in family court, including numerous high profile cases involving various areas of domestic litigation. A family court practice requires an attorney to have knowledge in contracts, real estate, torts, tax, criminal law, and business law.
- The significance of my experience in the civil and family arena is that it has prepared me to handle a wide range of evidentiary and substantive law issues that will arise before me as a Circuit Court judge.

- No applicant for a judgeship will have been exposed to virtually every possible type of lawsuit or criminal activity to which he or she would have been confronted as a judge, but I believe that the width and breadth of my litigation background over twenty-seven years has given me the courtroom experience and research skills necessary to handle virtually any type of matter over which I might be asked to preside.
 - (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 applicable.
 - (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) AV Preeminent Rating Martindale -Hubbell in Legal Ability and Ethical Standards;
 - (b) Best Lawyers in America, Member;
 - (c) Super Lawyers, Member;
 - (d) Litigation Counsel of America Trial Lawyer Honorary Society Fellow;
- * 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: Several times a month;
 - (b) state: Several 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: Personal Injury /Workers Compensation 40%
 - (b) criminal: Defense 2 %
 - (c) domestic: 8%
 - (d) other: Social Security Disability 50%; City Prosecutor of criminal jury trials approximately four days a month as a part-time position from 1995-2010.
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: 40% including City Prosecutor Position 1995-2010

(b) non-jury: 60%

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) Laura B. Steagall v. Freightliner L.L.C., et. al, CA 2007-CP-11-655 later removed to federal court 7:07-cv-03877. This lawsuit involved the alleged sexual harassment of the plaintiff by a supervisor at Freightliner. It was somewhat unique because the plaintiff was actually employed by a staffing company which actually supplied the plaintiff to Freightliner. Issues arose as to whether Freightliner fell within Title VII because the plaintiff and her alleged assailant did not work for the same company. There were also reporting and notice issues. In addition, her assailant allegedly harassed her both at work and after hours at her home and elsewhere.

The complaint included alleged causes of action for a hostile work environment (Title VII), sexual harassment (Title VII), retaliatory discharge, negligent supervision and retention, and assault and battery. While this was removed to federal court due to diversity issues, state court enjoys concurrent jurisdiction with the federal system and, therefore, these cases are also routinely tried in the state system. Additionally, the causes of action for negligent supervision and retention, and for assault and battery, are state causes of action. Many practitioners have not been exposed to this area of the law, however, I have handled at least five other such lawsuits during my years of practice. It is important as a state court jurist to have some knowledge of federal statutory law as it can apply to state proceedings in a number of different areas.

(b) Gumaro Gonzalez-Bravo v. Krishna Patel Kandel, d/b/a Citgo Food Mart; WCC File No. 0918192

In this tragic circumstance and case, Mr. Bravo was working at the Citgo Food Mart located in Spartanburg, South Carolina in the capacity of stocker and clean up personnel. He had been working at the Citgo Food Mart for less than a month and, on the night of September 30, 2009, he and one of the co-owners of the food mart were the only two persons working. Mr. Bravo was in the back stock room, sweeping the floor. The food mart was robbed and both Mr. Bravo and the co-owner were killed. Mr. Bravo had moved to the United States, from Mexico. He was earning \$5.00 per hour, which he was paid in cash at the time of his death. I view this case as one of the most significant litigated matters that I have handled in my twenty-seven years of practicing law for several reasons. The unique issues involved in the case included whether the store owner was a statutory employer pursuant to S.C. law and if Mr. Bravo was actually an employee of the food mart and, if so, if death benefits were payable, what was his average weekly wage and compensation rate, and who were Mr. Bravo's dependents pursuant to S.C. law. In this case, the owner of the store did not have workers' compensation insurance and the argument was that he was not required to have workers' compensation

insurance because he did not have the minimum number of employees required of him to mandate carrying workers' compensation insurance. I was successful in proving that there were more than the minimum number of employees employed and in the end I was also successful in proving that the decedent's family was entitled to 500 weeks of benefits. This case involved contact with the Probate Court in Spartanburg County, documents from the Spartanburg County Coroner's Office, witnesses and documents from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, and obtaining documents from the S.C. Department of Revenue. I felt a deep commitment and obligation to represent the interests of this deceased party for the financial benefit of his wife and children, and to honor his senseless murder.

- (c) Helen Owens v. Freddy Lee Johnson, 2014-CP-30-185. This lawsuit involved a serious motor vehicle collision in which the plaintiff suffered a fractured femur which required multiple surgeries. The plaintiff was traveling to work early in the morning when the defendant, a third shift employee of BMW Manufacturing, traveling in the opposite direction on a two lane road, fell asleep and crossed the center line hitting the plaintiff's vehicle head on. Early on, an issue arose as to whether the plaintiff had crossed the center line because of tread marks just left of center in the direction in which plaintiff was traveling. I employed an accident reconstruction expert who established that the tread marks were from a different vehicle than that of the plaintiff's. The defendant driver leased the BMW which he was driving from his employer, and BMW had one million dollars in liability coverage on the vehicle. The vehicle also had an emergency response system which detected that there had been a collision and a dispatcher engaged the defendant driver in a conversation. I subpoenaed the recording of that conversation which revealed that the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel and did not even realize that the collision involved another vehicle. The combination of the expert witness and the recording of the defendant's conversation with the emergency response dispatcher were sufficient to overcome liability concerns. Ultimately, I was able to secure a significant confidential settlement at mediation. This case is significant because it involved an expert witness and the role of scientific evidence.

- (d) Joseph Brown as PR of the Estate of Lillie Ruth Brown v. Spartanburg Urology Surgery Center Partners, L.P., et. al., CA 2015-CP-42-867 .

In this tragic, but interesting case, I was hired by Mr. Brown whose wife, in otherwise perfect health, had elected to undergo outpatient carpal tunnel release surgery. Within fifteen minutes of her otherwise successful surgery, she went into cardiac arrest. Efforts to revive her at the for profit outpatient surgery center were unsuccessful and she was transferred to Spartanburg Medical Center which was ironically across the street. Although she was ultimately revived, she had suffered irreversible brain damage. She remained at the hospital, and later at hospice, in a vegetative state for more than a month before she passed away.

It was established through expert witnesses that her cardiac arrest resulted from the improper and untimely release of the tourniquet used in conjunction with her local anesthesia. Moreover, the outpatient surgery center was not equipped with the proper "crash cart" to deal with this type of event.

The case had a number of challenging legal issues to sort through; among them being the relationship of the surgery center, the surgeons who also owned the surgery center, the anesthesia group which supplied the nurse anesthetist, and the R.N. who released the tourniquet. In addition, the Non-Economic Damages Act of 2005 came into play in determining the amount of potential non-economic damages allowable. I took the position that Mr. Brown could recover \$425,000 in non-economic damages in the wrongful death, survival, and loss of consortium actions, plus the economic damages suffered which were substantial. After significant discovery and mediation, the case was ultimately settled for a confidential seven figure amount.

The significance of having handled this case for a judicial candidate is that it required a working knowledge of the statutory and common law surrounding medical malpractice cases, including the caps. This body of law is very specific and unique. While mediation has greatly reduced the number of civil cases actually tried, medical malpractice cases continue to be tried on a regular basis and a jurist must be aware of the nuances of this area of the law.

(e) Tinsley v. Tinsley, 326 S.C. 374, 483 S.E. 2d 198 (Ct. App. 1997)

This family court action involved issues of divorce on the fault ground of physical cruelty, custody, visitation, and equitable distribution of assets and debts. I represented the Wife. The primary issue presented was whether Husband's South Carolina State Disability Retirement Benefits were property and, therefore, a marital asset to be divided in equitable distribution, or rather those benefits were income. On appeal, the Court of Appeals held that the payments were replacement for current and future income and, therefore, not subject to equitable distribution. The case is significant because it is often cited by attorneys in the course of litigation and referred to in trial argument on the income versus asset issue.

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) Stoney G. Allison v. State, Appellate Case No. 2006-035039; *
- (b) Hazell Stoudemire, III v. State, Appellate Case No. 2014-000784;*
- (c) Stephens v. Integrated Electrical Services, et.al., SCWCC #0915846;
- (d) Blanton v. Blanton, 2007 -UP-129 (S.C. Ct. App.);
- (e) Siegfried v. SSA, xxx-xx-xxxx;

* Both of these cases are criminal cases in which the criminal defendant petitioned the SC Circuit Court for post conviction relief (PCR). PCR actions are considered civil in nature. I represented both in the PCR actions and then filed the appeals to the SC Supreme Court.

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.

As the City Prosecutor at the City of Spartanburg from 1995-2010, in addition to prosecuting all jury trials, I routinely handled the City of Spartanburg Municipal Court appeals to the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. These cases normally involved

the appeal of Criminal Domestic Violence Charges, Driving Under the Influence, other traffic violations, and other municipal level offenses.

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.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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.

No.

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.

While in junior high, high school, college and law school, I held several part-time employment positions. These included fast food clerk, produce grader, produce sales person, grocery store stocker and cashier, clothing store clerk, hostess, waitress, gift shop clerk, receptionist, page, intern, and law clerk. My only profession has been to practice law.

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 currently serve as a Board Member to SC Legal Services, representing the Spartanburg County Bar Association. I was appointed to the board in August, 2014.

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.)

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

- (a) I own an office building located at 276 Magnolia Street in Spartanburg, SC. I lease office space to William O. Pressley, Jr., a Spartanburg attorney;
- (b) I am married to a Spartanburg attorney, Patrick Eugene Knie.

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. In approximately 1993 I was given a Traffic Citation for disregarding a control device in Richland County, South Carolina. It is my belief that the fine exceeded \$125.00.

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. Yes.
- (a) Roberta D. Ringler v. Jack W. Ringler, Sr., W. Marsh Robertson, P.A., Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, P.A., Susan Ingles, P.A., James Fivecoat Pension Manager;
6:01-cv-04290- HMH
Pro se Plaintiff alleged that during the course of her divorce proceedings she did not receive a fair divorce hearing because her spouse, the attorneys and judges did not follow proper court procedures. The action was filed in 2001 in SC Federal District Court. The District Court judge assigned to the case dismissed the action on December 11, 2001, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The defendants, including myself, were never served with the lawsuit. I learned of this matter for the first time while conducting an electronic document search in conjunction with completing this application;
- (b) Fred Ciacelli v. Barbara Audet, Grace Dunbar, James Cothran, and Anne Katherine Ciacelli; 1999-CP-42-2514;
The was filed on September 24th, 1999, by a Pro Se Plaintiff alleging that during the course of a post divorce proceeding against him for contempt in which I represented his former wife, his daughter Anne Katherine Ciacelli, a named defendant, obtained a felony warrant against him which caused him to be extradited from the state of Florida. Once in SC he was served with a Rule to Show Cause seeking to hold him in contempt. Legal counsel for defendants filed 12(b) 6 motions to dismiss. Plaintiff thereafter filed a request with the Court for a dismissal of the action. The action was dismissed with prejudice on November 18th, 1999, by order of the Circuit Court;
- (c)* SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority v. Ralph L. Garner, Phyllis H. Garner, William G. Wynn, Jr., Bell Atlantic Mobile, Phillip Morrow, DMD, Grace Gilchrist Dunbar, Gregory J. Nield, Karen M. Nield;
1997-CP-42-2106
This matter was a foreclosure action against Ralph and Phyllis Garner. I previously represented one of the parties and was awarded attorneys fees in the Family Court Order. I was named a party in the foreclosure action due to my status as a potential inferior lien holder to the Plaintiff and the potential to receive the attorneys fee from the foreclosure sale by virtue of the fact that a Family Court Order listed that I was to receive attorney fees from one of the Garners.
- (d)* First Citizens v. Ralph Garner, et.al.;1997-LP-42-00639
This case number was listed on the public index for Spartanburg County. I requested assistance in locating these files from the Clerk of Court's Office for Spartanburg County. The office was unable to locate this file because the file number suggests that this is a Lis Pendens. I assume that this is another foreclosure action where I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.
- (e)* First Citizens v. Ralph Garner, et.al.;1997- LP-42-00738
This case number was listed on the public index for Spartanburg County. I requested assistance in locating these from the Clerk of Court's Office for

Spartanburg County. The office was unable to locate this file because the file number suggests that this is a Lis Pendens. I assume that this is another foreclosure where I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.

(f)* Regions Bank v. Christopher J. Green, Crystal M. Green, Grace Gilchrist Dunbar et.al.; 2008-CP-11-1062; I assume that this was a foreclosure action in which I was named as a party because I had been listed as legal counsel in the Family Court Order to be paid attorney's fees.

* There was a period of time that legal counsel handling foreclosure actions believed that it was necessary to name any potential, inferior, or subsequent lien holders, including domestic relations attorneys who had been awarded attorney's fees in a Family Court Order. I did not request to be named in the foreclosure actions.

(g) Grace Gilchrist Knie v. Grace Gilchrist Knie, PA and The Hartford;
WCC File Number: 1303436

I suffered a work-related injury on April 3rd, 2013, and filed a WCC Claim against my PA and my WCC insurance carrier. The claim was later resolved on June 25th, 2014. The claim resulted from an assault and battery by a client attempting to flee from arrest by his probation officers at the Office of Adjudication and Review (ODAR) in Greenville, SC, immediately following his Social Security disability hearing.

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.

(a) Yes;

(b) My legal malpractice carrier is The General Agency, Inc., with mailing address P.O. Box 30459, Charleston, SC 29417-0459 with contact telephone number (843) 766-9091;

(c) My first policy with that agency was effective 2/2/1993; and has been with them since that date;

(d) The current limit is \$500,000 each claim and \$1,000,000 aggregate. The deductible is \$1,000. The current dates of coverage are 2/2/2016 -2/2/2017;

(e) My policy currently provides coverage for all prior acts and past exposure subject to all policy terms and conditions.

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?

No. My Internet exposure is limited to my law firm's website. I will terminate my law firm's website if elected to serve on the Circuit Court.

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.

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?

(a) Name Tag -	\$ 15.90;
(b) Thank you notes from personal stationary	\$ 22.00;
(c) Postage	<u>\$ 10.78.</u>
Total:	\$ 48.68

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) Spartanburg County Bar Association;
President, 2012; Vice President, 2011; Executive Committee member, 2009 -2013;
Chairperson, Spartanburg County Bar's Cinderella Prom Dress Project 2008-2013;
(b) South Carolina Legal Services, Board Member, August, 2014- Present;
(c) SC Bar Association 1989 - Present;

Member, Judicial Qualifications Committee 2012 - January, 2016;

Member, Solo and Small Firm Section

(d) SC Women Lawyer's Association (SCWLA)

(e) SC Association for Justice (SCAJ)

Family Court Section Chair/Board Member 2007;

(f) National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives (NOSSCR);

(g) American Bar Association;

(h) Greenville Bar Association;

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) Upstate Forever;

(b) First Presbyterian Church;

(c) The YMCA;

(d) Spartanburg Soup Kitchen - Volunteer

(e) Angel's Charge Ministry -Volunteer

(e) The Piedmont Club;

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.

As a young person, it was always my goal to complete college and law school. Out of necessity in order to pay the tuition and the necessary costs involved, I worked multiple jobs at the same time while attending school and was able to pay my way through undergraduate school and law school. I believe that I have a strong work ethic that has carried over to my professional practice. I have always been willing to put in the long hours necessary to be fully prepared in every case which I handle. If I am to serve as a circuit court judge I will bring that work ethic with me everyday to insure that whatever tasks are assigned to me are fully and timely completed. My work ethic has also made me very independent and I believe that such independence is very important to being a good and ethical jurist.

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) Kenneth C. Anthony, Jr., Attorney, The Anthony Law Firm, P.A., P. O. Box 3565,
Spartanburg SC, 29304 ; (864) 582-2355;

- (b) H. Spencer King, Attorney, The Ward Law Firm, P.A., P.O. Box 5663, Spartanburg, SC 29304; (864) 591-2364;
- (c) Timothy E. Madden, Attorney, Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, LLP, 104 South Main Street, Greenville, SC 29601; (864) 250-2279;
- (d) Norman F. Pulliam, Pulliam Enterprises, Inc., 812 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302; (864) 583-6964;
- (e) Matthew W. Myers, SVP & City Executive, South State Bank, 320 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302; (864) 621-1820.

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.

My husband owns a commercial building located at 310 North Limestone Street in Gaffney SC. Since February 1st, 1994, he has leased a portion of the building to the Public Defenders' office located in Gaffney, SC, which was part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Public Defenders' office. He initially received rent in the amount of \$500.00 per month. At some point the rent amount was increased to \$600.00 per month. That arrangement terminated as September 1st, 2015, by mutual agreement.

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;
There is no conflict of interest in my opinion because they no longer lease the building and the business relationship ended by mutual agreement.
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
Not Applicable.
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.
None at Present.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

I own no interest in the property. It is valued at \$150,000. The location is 310 North Limestone Street, Gaffney, SC. Initially there was a written lease agreement a copy of which is attached. The lease arrangement was month-to-month for at least ten years.

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 19 day of July, 2016.

Melody B. Gabriel
(Notary Signature)

Melody B. GABRIEL
(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 09/04/17