

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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

Circuit Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable James Donald Willingham II

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge?
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes, Spartanburg County Magistrate

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address:
Spartanburg County Courthouse, 180 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 864.562.4031

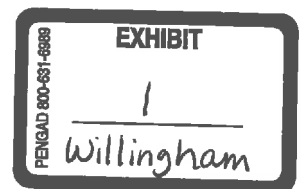
2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1968
Place of Birth: Greenwood, South Carolina
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

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 July 2, 2005 to Michelle Jennings Willingham
Divorced from Kelly Phillips Willingham on July 13, 2004, Spartanburg County, Seventh Judicial Circuit Family Court. I was the moving party. One Year's Continuous Separation.
Three Children.





6. Have you served in the military? No. 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.
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) Wofford College – 1986-May 20, 1990 – Bachelor of Arts
(b) University of South Carolina School of Law – 1990 – December 20, 1992
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 – 1993.
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) Wofford College Judicial Commission – 1986-1990; Chairman – 1988-1990
(b) Wofford College Student Council – 1988-1990
(c) Wofford Pre-Law Society – 1986-1990; President 1989-1990
(d) South Carolina Student Legislature – 1988-1990
(e) Richland County Guardian Ad Litem Program – 1991-1992.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
- | <u>Conference/CLE Name</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|--|----------------|
| (a) Prosecuting the Impaired Driver | 06/15/2011; |
| (b) Summary Court Orientation School | 07/18/2011; |
| (c) United We Stand; Putting the Pieces Together | 10/14/2011; |
| (d) Summary Court Judges Fall Program | 11/04/2011; |
| (e) Orientation School of Magistrates | 03/05/2012; |
| (f) A Brighter Future: Ending Child Abuse | 03/30/2012; |
| (g) Orientation School of Magistrates | 07/16/2012; |
| (h) United We Stand; Putting the Pieces Together | 10/05/2012; |
| (i) Magistrate Mandatory School | 11/02/2012; |
| (j) A Brighter Future: Ending Child Abuse | 03/23/2013; |
| (k) Orientation School for Magistrates | 07/22/2013; |
| (l) Learning to Think Like a Judge | 09/27/2013; |
| (m) United We Stand; Putting the Pieces Together | 10/04/2013; |
| (n) Magistrate Mandatory School | 11/01/2013; |
| (o) S.C. Gun Law Seminar | 02/21/2014; |

(p) Genetic Privacy and DNA Collection	02/26/2014;
(q) Advanced Studies on S.C. Rules of Evidence	03/14/2014;
(r) Orientation School for Magistrates	03/17/2014;
(s) Specialized Divisions of Magistrate's Court	04/25/2014;
(t) Prosecuting the Impaired Driver	05/21/2014;
(u) Orientation School of Magistrates	07/21/2014;
(v) United We Stand; Putting the Pieces Together	10/03/2014;
(w) Magistrate Mandatory School	11/07/2014;
(x) Orientation School of Magistrates	03/23/2015;
(y) Orientation School of Magistrates	07/20/2015;
(z) United We Stand; Putting the Pieces Together	10/23/2015;
(aa) Summary Court Mandatory Program	11/06/2015;
(bb) Trial and Appellate Advocacy	01/22/2016;
(cc) Criminal Law Update	01/22/2016;
(dd) Living Above the Bar	01/23/2016;
(ee) Breakfast Ethics	01/24/2016;
(ff) Orientation School for Magistrates	03/21/2016;
(gg) Executive Power and Terrorism	03/28/2016.

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) Since 2011, I have taught Criminal and Civil Trial Advocacy at the Magistrate Court Orientation School twice a year.
 - (b) Since 2004, I have taught Substantive Criminal Justice to undergraduate students at Spartanburg Methodist College.
 - (c) Since 2006, I have taught Forensics and Ethics to paralegal students at Spartanburg Methodist College.

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) South Carolina, 1993
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 1994

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) Law Clerk to Circuit Judge Gary Clary from June 1993 to July 1994. Conducted legal research, prepared bench memorandums, drafted orders, verified citations, communicated with counsel regarding case management and procedural requirements

and assisted the judge during courtroom proceedings as well as performed other responsibilities as assigned by the court.

- (b) Seventh Judicial Circuit Assistant Solicitor – Hired by Solicitor Holman Gossett on July 25, 1994. Assigned to prosecute major felony burglaries as well as select criminal homicide cases in Spartanburg County. Responsible for maintaining a caseload of approximately 750 cases while also traveling to Cherokee County to assist the resident prosecutor during criminal court.
- (c) Seventh Judicial Circuit Assistant Solicitor - Assigned from 1996 to 1998 as the resident prosecutor in Cherokee County. Responsible for all criminal prosecution in General Sessions Court as well as juvenile criminal prosecution in Family Court. Also represented the State in civil proceedings involving bond estreatments, drug forfeitures and nuisance violations.
- (d) Seventh Judicial Circuit Deputy Solicitor - Appointed in 1998 by then Solicitor Holman Gossett to oversee the daily operations of the Spartanburg and Cherokee County solicitor's offices. Additionally involved in major felony criminal prosecution in both counties. Retained in 2001 as Deputy Solicitor after the election of former Solicitor Trey Gowdy. Trial experience includes all major felonies including rape, robbery, burglary, kidnapping and murder. Also actively involved in the successful prosecution of four death penalty trials in both Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. Served until June 27, 2007
- (e) Spartanburg County Magistrate Judge - Appointed on June 27, 2007, serving continuously. Presiding primarily in the Court's civil division since 2007. Responsible for presiding over both bench trials and jury trials in the court's civil, criminal and traffic jurisdiction. Responsible for all jury qualification and jury trial assignments since 2010. Also responsible for issuing arrest warrants and search warrants for local law enforcement.

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.

In 1994, I was hired as an assistant solicitor in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in Spartanburg County. My primary responsibilities at that time included prosecuting burglary cases. I was then transferred to the Cherokee County Solicitor's Office where I prosecuted all the pending criminal cases ranging from shoplifting to murder. I was also responsible for juvenile prosecutions. In 1998, I became the deputy solicitor and was responsible for the prosecutions in both Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. My criminal trial experience includes all major felony trials as well as four capital murder trials. I held this position for thirteen years.

In 2007, I was appointed to be a Magistrate Judge for Spartanburg County. Since that time, I have presided primarily in the court's civil division. The cases have ranged from breach of contract matters to comparative negligence cases. I have been responsible for both bench trial and jury trials in the court's civil division. Since 2010, I have been responsible for all bi-weekly jury qualification and jury trial assignments in the magistrate's court. When I am not handling jury matters, I am daily presiding over bench trials. I have held this position for over nine years.

- (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.

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.
Martindale-Hubbell, Distinguished, 4.6 of 5.0

* **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: None
 - (b) state: Daily when General Sessions Court was convened.
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: 5%
 - (b) criminal: 95%

- (c) domestic: 0%
 - (d) other: 0%
19. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 20%
 - (b) non-jury: 80%
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?
- (a) Sole Counsel – 90%
 - (b) Chief Counsel – 9%
 - (c) Associate Counsel – 1%
20. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency, prior to your election to the bench. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) State v. Richard Moore – Death Penalty Case – Moore robbed and murdered store clerk in Spartanburg convenience store. Found guilty and jury recommended death.
 - (b) State v. Eric Dale Morgan – Death Penalty Case – Morgan and accomplice ambushed store clerk as he was leaving work, robbed and murdered him and then abandoned his body in a rural part of Spartanburg County. Found guilty and jury recommended death.
 - (c) State v. Jonathan Binney – Death Penalty Case – After raping his six month old daughter, he stalked and murdered his victim in Cherokee County so that he could go to prison with the status of murderer versus child molester. Found guilty and jury recommended death.
 - (d) State v. Marion Lindsey – Death Penalty Case – Lindsay was separated from his wife after repeated domestic abuse. He tracked her down at work and when she fled the building, he followed her to the Inman Police Department where he murdered her in the parking lot. Found guilty and jury recommended death.
 - (e) State v. Wanda Mullinax – Mullinax was convicted of murdering her husband while he slept on Christmas Day. Mullinax claimed she was suffering from Battered Spouse Syndrome. Jury rejected this claim and found her guilty.
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) None
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
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) None
 - (b)

- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

23. Have you ever held judicial office? Yes. 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.

Spartanburg County Magistrate. Appointed June, 2007 and serving continuously. Civil jurisdiction up to \$7500.00. Criminal jurisdiction typically up to thirty days with some statutory exceptions.

24. If the answer to question 23 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

- (a) 2014-CV-42-101-6058 – Dianne Hopkins, Plaintiff v. Amanda S. Bissig, Daniel Bissig, Defendants – This matter began as an alleged defamation case but was dismissed after a hearing for plaintiff's failure to state a cause of action. The defendant counterclaimed for sanctions and damages as a result of the filing of this frivolous lawsuit. Damages in the form of attorneys fees was awarded to the defendants on their counterclaims on April 7, 2016.
- (b) Z114163 – State of South Carolina v. Robin Horton – Driving Under the Influence case where defense moved to have case dismissed for failure to comply with the state's videotape recording statute (56-5-2953). Video existed but no audio was present for the performance of the field sobriety tests. The case was dismissed and the State appealed to the Circuit Court. The Circuit Court dismissed the State's appeal (2008-CP-11-529).
- (c) 2010-CV-42-101-1183 – Bernard Terry, Plaintiff v. Kisseme Auction Co., Defendant – Defendant petitioned the court to grant a new trial after a judgment was entered in favor of the Plaintiff. Defendant had been unprepared for trial and indicated that he would be more prepared if the court would give him an additional opportunity to try the case. Defendant's motion was denied and Defendant appealed to the Circuit Court. This case was affirmed on appeal by the Circuit Court (2011-CP-42-1707) and appealed to the South Carolina Court of Appeals where it was dismissed by the Appellant.
- (d) 4201P0031052 – State of South Carolina v. Tanesaha Lanette Talley - Defendant pled guilty to Criminal Domestic Violence and was sentenced to a batterer's treatment program. After sentencing, Defendant petitioned the court to allow her to withdraw her guilty plea. This motion was denied. Defendant appealed the order of the court to the Circuit Court. The Circuit Court dismissed Defendant's appeal (2016-CP-42-379).
- (e) Z557267 – State of South Carolina v. Albert Barton Woodard – Defendant was an officer with the Department of Natural Resources who while driving under the influence wrecked his state vehicle. Upon arrival at the scene, the trooper performed field sobriety tests. During the tests, the trooper realized that the video camera was not working properly. The trooper remedied the problem and then conducted the

tests again. Defendant petitioned the court to dismiss the case because of a violation of the video recording statute. The case was not dismissed and the defendant was found guilty. The case was appealed to the Circuit Court and to the South Carolina Court of Appeals where the Court issued a Per Curiam decision upholding this court's order (2011-UP-113)

25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No. 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.
26. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.
 - (a) Adjunct Professor at Spartanburg Methodist College from 2004 to present. Teaching substantive criminal justice, forensics and ethics. Supervisors – Lorna Hanson – Director of Criminal Justice; Yvonne Harper – Director of Paralegal Program.
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.
 - (a) Law Clerk for South Carolina Attorney General's Office assigned to the State Grand Jury Division from 1992 to 1993. Assisted prosecutors with multi-county drug prosecutions through legal research and memorandum preparation
29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No. Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
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.

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.
None.
32. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$125 or less was imposed.
No.
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.
No.
34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details.
No.
35. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates and resolution.
(a) In October, 1999, Robert Holland Koon filed a summons and complaint (99-CP-11-117) against me along with then Attorney General Charlie Condon, five assistant attorneys general, his public defender, Judge Donald Beatty as well as the State of South Carolina. I had prosecuted Mr. Koon for several burglaries in Cherokee County. After conviction and based on his lengthy criminal history, Mr. Koon was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole pursuant to the state's three-strike law. This lawsuit followed claiming violations of Mr. Koon's constitutional rights. This lawsuit was never served on me. In December, 1999, the case was removed from state court to federal district court and it is my understanding it was ultimately dismissed.
(b) In 2012, Edgardo Gallardo filed a summons and complaint (7:12-1547-TLW-JDA) in the South Carolina District Court against me, the Spartanburg County Administrator, Detective David Taylor, then Solicitor Trey Gowdy, Judge Derham Cole, the Attorney General Henry McMaster and former Director fo the South Carolina Department of Corrections Jon Osmit. I had prosecuted Mr. Gallardo on numerous drug charges in Spartanburg County. Mr. Gallardo ultimately pled guilty and received a twelve year sentence in state court. He had other drug convictions in federal court as well. Mr. Gallardo

claimed that his due process rights were violated during the state court prosecution. This matter was dismissed by the district court for lack of merit.

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.
Not Applicable
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?
While I have a Facebook account, I have never posted a comment. I do not expect this to change.
40. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.
No.
41. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.
No.
42. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate

for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

Not Applicable

43. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that “[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

Not Applicable

44. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

Name badge - \$6.00

45. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.

Not Applicable

46. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

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

No.

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

No.

48. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission’s published screening schedule?

Yes.

49. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.
No.
50. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.
No.
51. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
(a) South Carolina Bar Association
(b) Summary Court Judge's Association
(c)
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) Lyman United Methodist Church
(b) University of South Carolina School of Law – First Honor Graduate – December, 1993
(c) Spartanburg Methodist College Paralegal Instructor of the Year – 2011, 2012
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.

I grew up on a mill village in the small town of Ninety Six, South Carolina. I was the first person in my family to ever attend college. While my parents were not financially well-off, they did instill in me a very strong work ethic. They stressed that you can get ahead in life through hard work, diligent pursuit of your goals and perseverance. These lessons have served me well during my time at Wofford, my success in law school, my achievements in the Solicitor's Office and my service as a magistrate. These lessons would not be forgotten as a circuit court judge.

My parents also taught me that you should never consider yourself better than anyone else. They taught me the principles of Matthew 7:12 that you should always treat others as you wished to be treated. I think these fundamental principles have served me well not only in my career but in my life as a whole. Throughout my legal career, I have tried to be considerate of other people – their time, their rights and the situations they find themselves in. I believe this consideration extends not only to litigants but to the jurors and court staff as well. Too often, judges can develop an inflated sense of self-worth. I think this reflects negatively on our profession and on our judicial system. As a judge, I have always tried to treat everyone with respect and expect the same in return – not just with the court but also with each other.

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) J. Thomas Wall – 448 Old Boiling Springs Rd, Spartanburg, SC - 864.809.0558
 - (b) Kaushik Kotecha – 312 Grayson Drive, Moore, SC – 864-680-4726
 - (c) Shay Willimon – 241 Springdale Drive, Simpsonville, SC – 864.270.8121.
 - (d) James Paslay - 803 Lucerne Drive, Spartanburg, SC – 864.582.5897.
 - (e) Lynne Monroe – United Community Bank, 101 W. St. John Street, Spartanburg, SC – 864.585.4628.
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; None.
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or None.
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina. None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest; Not Applicable
- (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. Not Applicable

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

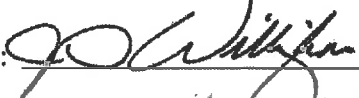
56. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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? No.

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 11 day of July, 2016.


(Notary Signature)

Ann R Snow
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 6-13-2017