

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Family Court Roving Seat #7

1. Name: Mr. Delton W. Powers, Jr.
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge?
NO

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 107 S. Parsonage Street, Bennettsville, SC 29512

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): Cell [REDACTED]
(office): 843-479-6863

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED], 1952
Place of Birth: Bennettsville, Marlboro County, 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.

(a) Divorced

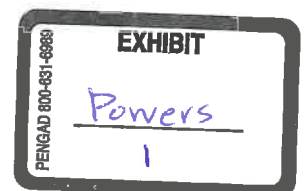
(b) n/a

(c) Divorced on February 10, 2011. I was moving party, in Chesterfield County. On 1 year sep.

(d) Three children

[REDACTED]

6. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release.
NO



7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

University of South Carolina 1974 Degree in Business Administration B.S.

University of South Carolina School of Law, 1977, J.D.

8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

Admitted to South Carolina, November, 1977

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.

I worked as a Legislative Page in the House of Representatives for 4 years while in college and law school

I worked as a Congressional Intern in 1973 or 1974

I worked at least two jobs while in college in law school at the same time, and did odd jobs. I was self supporting.

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

I have had yearly seminars on ethics as a member of ODC.

I have attended many Children's Law Center programs presented to DSS, and other DSS seminars.

As a Board Member of SC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, I have attended numerous criminal law seminars as well.

I have also attended some other programs as well, on civil and family law that were bar sponsored.

11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

I taught Criminal Law at Northeastern Technical College for one semester in 1991. I have provided staff training for Marlboro County DSS on several occasions. I have done training for local law enforcement, have made presentations and spoken in local schools, and was a Coach/Judge for South Carolina Mock Trial competitions.

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

As Director of Legal Services back in early eighties, I prepared a booklet called "Legal Services, A Different Kind of Law, A Different Kind of Lawyer" A 38 page overall look at problems facing low income and legal services type clients. It is a precursor to a publication that the Bar puts out now.

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.

Admitted to South Carolina Bar, November 9, 1977

Admitted to United States District Court October 4, 1979

Certified as Civil Court Mediator, 2002, and Family Court Mediator, February, 2014

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.

1978-1980 Assistant Solicitor for the Fourth Circuit. Prosecuted Criminal matters in General Sessions and Family Court. Also provided representation to DSS as was procedure at that time. Allowed to try major felony crimes including murder against very skilled and well known attorneys such as former Senator Jack Lindsay, and other firms in the 4th circuit.

1980-1982 Associate with John I. Rogers, III, Attorney, Bennettsville, SC. I handled mainly criminal matters, but worked in a general practice law firm. My partner was in the Legislature at the time so I had the management of the office and day to day dealing with clients. Our practice also involved a fairly heavy civil practice at the time. I was starting a practice in Cheraw when the opportunity came to run the Legal Services office listed next.

1982-1984 Executive Director of Legal Services of the Fourth Circuit. Hartsville, SC. Ran a 6-county Legal Services Organization. Recruited and supervised over 30 lawyers who worked under contract, supervised a staff of over 10, handled numerous types of cases for indigent clients in Family Court, landlord-tenant and other disputes, applied for grants for expansion and delivery of services and operations. Very helpful in learning government process, and in establishing relationships with lawyers and judges.

1984-1992 Partner in Rogers and Powers, PA. Practiced Criminal, Civil and Family Law with then house member John I. Rogers, III. Opportunity to handle all types of trials, including appeals. We were involved with State v. Blair, a leading case which has been standard in criminal cases in South Carolina for determining a client's competency to stand trial. Developed a reputation for successful litigation and dedicated client representation.

1992-Present. Launched, managed and grew private law practice with criminal, civil, administrative and domestic matters. I had a very successful practice which allowed me to provide purposeful donations to civic, church and education groups. I endowed an initiative for Special Education teachers at Coastal Carolina, helped sponsor someone's schooling and pursuit of Seminary Education, and helped create and rebuild a theater for Marlboro County. Became a contract attorney for the Department of Social Services at that time and also served as Special Prosecutor for the Fourth Circuit under Solicitor's office with full responsibility for Marlboro County criminal cases, 1992-1998, concentrating on felony criminal cases. Reduced docket in 4 years from over a thousand cases to less than 200.

2002-2008. Combined my firm with a beach firm to create Joye, Locklair and Powers, with offices in Bennettsville and Murrells Inlet, SC. I handled Civil, criminal and Family Court matters, and continued to represent DSS. The firm also had an active real estate practice. I was also a mediator and handled mediation in Horry and Florence Counties. We had moved to the beach for autistic son's education opportunities, and moved back and disbanded firm after his graduation.

2009-2014 My daughter joined the firm, and it gave me a chance to continue to mentor and train young lawyers that I started while working in Murrells Inlet. I also have two son-in-laws who are attorneys who I have taken great joy in helping to develop both their skill and attitudes to the practice of law.

My practice has now evolved into mainly Domestic Relations. I am also doing more extensive work for DSS in several counties. I have taken on several serious sexual abuse of a minor cases and some complicated matters involving DSS being enjoined in private actions.

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.

I have handled hundreds of divorce cases over a 35 year period, many or rather most dealing with issues of equitable division of property and child custody. I have also served as a mediator in Family Court cases. There have been cases where we have managed to come up with unusual custody arrangements between parents, and I have represented and intervened for grandparents who may have been the primary caretakers for children. I have litigated cases involving significant incomes, as well as cases involving significant family inheritances. I am well versed in private divorce cases.

As a DSS contract attorney for well over 20 years, I have handled hundreds or more cases involving abuse and neglect. I also handle Termination of Parental Rights in 4 different counties presently. I have had to handle appeals on Termination of Parental Rights cases and have appeared in the Court of Appeals successfully in the last year on a TPR case.

As to Juvenile cases, I have represented many as a private criminal attorney, and also for a period of approximately 2 years worked as a Juvenile Public Defender for Marlboro County. Marlboro County was a pilot county for the Pre-Trial Intervention program for adults, and is now used in Juvenile Court successfully. It is often a good way to get a child's attention when cases cannot be dismissed.

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

(c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past

five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity.

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

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.

Years ago I had a "bv" rating with Martindale Hubbell. Practicing in a small town, and always having as much work as I could handle dealing with local friends and clients, I have never sought a rating in any publications, nor in my case, thought one was necessary. As to many other publications, lawyers obviously pay to be listed.

*** 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: no Federal work in over 10 years
(b) state: Many weeks I am in Family Court at least 2-3 days a week. We do not have Court continuously running in small counties but there is some Court appearance somewhere almost every week. I also handle matters in General Sessions, Common Pleas, Magistrate and Municipal Courts.

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: 20%
(b) criminal: 20%
(c) domestic: 60%
(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: 10%
(b) non-jury: 90%

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) *Randolph v. Hanley, et al* # 85-DR-34-140 This case involved the attempt to set aside the adoption of 2 adults by a then deceased party. Although a probate matter in the state of Connecticut, the matter of the adoption was tried in Family Court. There was over One and one-half million dollars in the Estate, and the trial as to the competency of the deceased as well as the duress placed upon the deceased lasted a week. The deceased had been on occasion institutionalized for psychiatric problems and was accused of being an extreme alcoholic. I tried the case against one of my former law professors who was co-counsel to the Parties. We were successful on behalf of the adult children, and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. The case was eventually settled, but raised a myriad of issues including psychiatric conditions, homosexuality of the adopting party, issues of competence, and legitimacy of adult adoptions.

(b) *State v. Charles Blair*, 275 S.C. 529, 273 S.E.2d 536 (1981) Charles Blair, a Vietnam veteran who had been exposed to Agent Orange, blew half of his grandmother's head off with a shotgun. He was tried and convicted of Murder. My partner and I handled the appeal, along with former Judge Benny Greer, now deceased, of Darlington. I did research on competency, and this became a landmark case as to the question of competency in Criminal trials. Mr. Blair later received a lighter sentence due to his mental condition. Although he was originally housed in a clinical confinement, he was later placed in the general population. I have visited him at CCI, and he was still delusional. Over the years he had sent letters threatening at some times to kill our families and at others how grateful he is.

(c) *State v. Stephen R. Smith*, Docket Number 2012-CP-34-235. I tried one of the first cases to raise the Stand your Ground defense in Magistrate's Court, and handled the subsequent successful appeal to the Circuit Court. The brief and grounds set out in this case have been shared and used by many other attorneys.

(d) *State v. Frank Richard Davidson*. 07-GS-34-0322-0325. Mr. Davidson was charged with 3 counts of Felony DUI resulting in Death, and one count of Felony DUI resulting in serious bodily injury. Mr. Davidson was a well-to-do Charlotte businessman who had developed a cocaine habit. He had been in a rehabilitation facility in the past, and on this date attempted to re-enter the facility for help. He went to the facility on this Sunday, and was told to "come back on Monday". Mr. Davidson had cocaine in his system, but was not actually using the drug, likely because he had run out of cocaine. No alcohol was in his system. He was traveling from the Charlotte area trying to get to another facility in or near Wilmington, NC, and this accident happened in Marlboro County. We were prepared to present a defense that would show he was not using drugs at the time of the accident but simply fell asleep. There were also technical issues to be raised as to the MAIT team investigation, and several good evidentiary questions.

I managed to make my client the main witness in a lawsuit against the recovery center which resulted in a multi-million dollar civil settlement. The Judge in the civil case was also the sentencing Judge in the criminal case. The Judge was so impressed both by my client's presentation in the Civil matter, as well as the preparation and presentation of the issues as to addiction and my client's remorse, that he received an active sentence of only 4 years. My client became an advocate against alcohol and drug abuse, as well as starting a Christian ministry inside the prison system. We managed to get his service in prison time commuted to house arrest with a requirement

that he make a number of presentations to different schools, prisons, churches and other groups. He was allowed to live under house arrest for a portion of what was to be an active sentence at home in Charlotte. He was required to report regularly to a special supervisor and provide regular reports of his activities. Mr. Davidson started both this ministry and continued to speak out against drug and alcohol abuse. He started a website called TheRescued.com, and his testimony and work has touched many lives. He has held and participated in many festivals and events to educate others about drug abuse, and stays in touch with me about the work that he does. Mr. Davidson was approximately 40 years of age when this occurred, and we managed to make addiction and the failure of the recovery center to provide help when he sought it as the main culprit in a tragic situation. Mr. Davidson under some scenarios would have spent the rest of his life in prison.

- (e) State v Unnamed Defendant. This case is one which I think name should be withheld. This was a criminal trial in Marlboro County in which my client was charged with Receiving Stolen Goods. The Judge in this case who is now deceased sentenced my client beyond the maximum of 10 years and added 10 years probation. This was in the mid to early 1980's and there was a serious question raised at the time as to the sobriety of the Judge during the trial, and questions of the Judge questioning witnesses and making statements throughout the trial. The Court reversed the case, and my client received probation on a plea. These were difficult issues for a young lawyer to raise at a time when there was little transparency in our system.
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) SC Department of Social Services v. Tiffany L., David T. and John Doe. Appellate Case Number: 2013-002581, Docket Number 2014-DR-16-487. Opinion issued on December 8, 2014.
 - (b) Marlboro County Department of Social Services v. Carol and Billy Chestnut, Opinion No. 2001-UP-252, Filed by Court on May 15, 2001, Rehearing Denied June 27, 2001.
 - (c) SCDSS v Beulah S. Appellate Case Number: 2014-002193 Unpublished Opinion issued on March 2, 2015
 - (d) SCDSS v. Jessica S., et al, Appellate Case Number 2015-000223 Unpublished Opinion issued on November 5, 2015
 - (e) SCDSS v. Jessica S. (Supreme Court) Appellate Case Number: 2016-000060. Writ of Certiorari denied on March 25, 2016
- All of these cases had Favorable Outcomes.
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) Stephen R. Smith v. State of South Carolina Docket Number : 2012-CP-34-235 (Magistrate to Common Pleas)
 - (b) Harry Hester Hollis V. Sate of South Carolina Docket Number 2000-CP-34-165 (Magistrate to Common Pleas)
 - (c)
 - (d)

(e)

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

I served as a Hearing Officer for Alcohol and Beverage Commission in the 1980's prior to the Administrative Court being created by appointment. I have served as a Referee for Common Pleas Court on many cases, but never elected or appointed in other fashion. No other Courts.

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)n/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.

I served on the South Carolina Coastal Council from 1985-1993. I was elected by the Legislature to that position.

I later served on the Coastal Resource Management Board, which was the successor to the Coastal Council, and placed under DHEC from 1995 to 2003. This too was elected by the Legislature.

Proper reports were filed and never questioned.

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.

n/a

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.

I have owned a real estate investment firm called Powerful Properties for approximately 20 years. This company now only owns my office and holds a mortgage on a residence in Horry County as a private mortgage. This company was created as a family corporation and I became sole owner after divorce, and children's emancipation.

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.
No, other than the Powerful Properties Family Corporation that I listed above. I am now President and sole stockholder.

30. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail: SEE ATTACHED

(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.)

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.

[REDACTED]

33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

Yes, at my own request. SLED investigated an allegation at my request approximately 20 years ago. A statement was made by a former Clio policeman, who was under indictment himself, alleging that my father, a former Magistrate, who at the time of the investigation was deceased, had directed him to send traffic cases to me to handle, and that the officer was kicked back money to do so. The allegation was that my Father would then dismiss the case. I was working for Solicitor McBride at the time as a Special Prosecutor, so he and I requested the investigation. Case was totally unfounded in that I never handled a traffic case in Clio, or any case involving my Father. I even took a polygraph to speed up the closure of the investigation. It may have even been in an election cycle, but I do not recall the exact year.

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. My wife and I were named in a cross-claim by a Defendant realtor who was being sued for misrepresentation in the sale of a house we once owned. We counterclaimed against the realtor, and the claim against us was dismissed. The realtor settled with the homeowner. In return, we dismissed our counterclaim.

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

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

37. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

NO

38. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

YES. I have been covered since beginning private practice in early 1980's continuously. Policy is National Liability and Fire Insurance Company. Coverage is \$1,000,000 per Claim/Aggregate, with Deductible of \$5000/Claim effective through 2/01/2017, with a retroactive date of 11/01/1977.

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?

We use Facebook for investigation of domestic cases in our office. I use it sparingly. If elected Judge, I would close out the account to avoid any contact from potential litigants or attorneys. I once opened a Twitter account, but never figured out how to use it. I would happily close it as well.

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? NO EXPENSES
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) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 4th Circuit Representative. I have been a member for over 20 years, and have served as a Board member for probably 12 of those years on two different occasions.
 - (b) South Carolina Bar since 1977
 - (c) American Bar Association since 1982
 - (d) SC Association for Justice since 1984
 - (e) SC Bar Fee Dispute Committee for over 10 years
 - (f) Member, Office of Disciplinary Counsel for approximately 10 years
 - (g) Cole-Huff DUI Advocacy Group, Member
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) Staff and Participant in Cursillo, Episcopal Lower Diocese, Seabrook Island, SC
 - (b) Marlboro Players Theater Group, former board Member
 - (c) Marlboro Arts Commission, Former President and Board Member
 - (d) Marlboro Civic Center Foundation, Former Board Member
 - (e) Completed the Camino to Santiago de Compostela Pilgrimage in Spain, May, 2016

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 have been blessed and fortunate to have a successful and rewarding career for almost 40 years. My father served as a Magistrate and City Judge for 34 years, and I have been observing or participating in Courts since a little boy. I have also observed the drama that people live through, and have placed an emphasis on the counselor part of what we do as lawyers. I have had the big cases, and have been successful financially. I have also suffered through the turns of the economy, and after a 28 year marriage been through divorce as well. The problems of life, the pitfalls and setbacks we all endure either destroy you or become a source of strength and character. I feel my life experiences have made me qualified to serve in this capacity. I have learned hard lessons, and have been able to mentor young lawyers as well as advise and participate with co-counsel on many occasions. I think one of the best things I have done as a lawyer was to become a Mediator. This training and experience is something that not only made me a better lawyer but would make me a better Judge.

My service in representing the Department of Social Services in several different counties throughout the State has also allowed me to meet not just lawyers from other areas but to get to know Court personnel as well.

I am also blessed with three wonderful adult children. They are equipped for life and I have had the honor and pleasure of mentoring them in their own pursuits. I am now in a position for my own continued pursuit of public service.

Throughout my career I have been involved in public service in the legal field, my community and my spiritual life. I have served on numerous boards and commissions in our state, harking back to Governor Dick Riley's Commission on Crime, Criminal Justice and Juvenile Delinquency and continuing now in positions with the Bar.

And I have paid the light bill. I have been to the Detention Center to visit a client. I know what it is like to be a lawyer, to not only serve your clients but to manage your business as well. I understand what it is like to hold a mother's hand after a child is sentenced, and to see a child or young person standing before the Court without family support. I have the experience that is can only be gained by years of practice. Being in a small town I think gives the particular benefit of having the ability to learn all facets of law.

Public Service is why I became a lawyer. I feel now serving the Judiciary as a Family Court Judge is a way to give back to the system in a meaningful way. I am lucky to have little or no financial obligation, and no impediments to travel and serve wherever in the State I am needed. I in fact embrace the idea that I would be used wherever needed throughout our State. I have in the past stepped aside both for others and due to circumstances, but feel it is now my time to serve.

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) Douglas Jennings, Jr. Attorney 151 Broad St., PO Box 995, Bennettsville, SC 29512
- (b) Chief Larry McNeil, Bennettsville Police Dept. Box 557, Bennettsville, SC 29512
- (c) Vanessa Baker, Manager, First Citizens Bank, 314 E. Main Bennettsville, SC 29512
- (d) Christopher G. Isgett, Attorney, 1314 Lincoln, PO Box 1505, Columbia, SC 29202
- (e) Sylvester Woods, Director, Marlboro Co. DSS, PO Box 120, Bennettsville, SC 29512

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.
- 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;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement. NONE


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

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 31 day of July, 2016.


(Notary Signature)

Chastity M. Rummage
(Notary Printed Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 3-10-2020