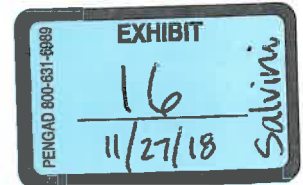


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6

1. Name: The Honorable Jessica Ann Salvini

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

Not applicable

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

Yes. I currently serve as the Chief Trial Judge for the Mauldin Municipal  
Court in Mauldin, South Carolina.

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: 101 W. Park Ave.  
Greenville, SC 29601

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): Not applicable  
(office): 864-232-5800  
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1975  
Place of Birth: Upland, California  
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#: SCDL#: [REDACTED]  
SCHD#: Not Applicable.

Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. 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. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

No.

6. 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: Divorced.

Divorced on December 11, 2012, Greenville Co., S.C. Family Court.

Adultery. I was the moving party.

No children.

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) University of California, Riverside, 1993 to 1997.

Bachelor of Arts, with a Major in Political Science, received on March 22, 1997.

(b) Golden Gate University School of Law, 1997 to 2000.

Doctor of Jurisprudence received on May 20, 2000.

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.

(a) Golden Gate School of Law: Student Bar Association Treasurer (1999-2000), Participant in the Litigation Certification Program (1998-2000) and received Certificate of Specialization with distinction in Litigation (May 20, 2000); Member of the Mock Trial Team (1999-2000), which attended 1999 Western Regionals Competition. As a result of my participation in the Litigation Certification Program and on the Mock Trial Team, I received the International Academy of Trial Lawyers recognition for distinguished achievement in art and science of advocacy (May 20, 2000), the 2000 CALI

Excellence for the Future Award in Mock Trials, and the 2000 CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Evidence.

9. 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. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

(a) I was admitted to practice law in California on December 4, 2000. I took the bar exam once and passed.

(b) I was admitted to practice law in South Carolina on June 5, 2001. I took the bar exam once and passed.

These are the only bar exams I have taken.

10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

(a) December 2000-August 2002: Law Offices of Jessica Salvini. After passing the California Bar exam, I opened my own law firm in San Francisco, CA. My practice consisted of handling civil (including domestic) and criminal state and federal court cases. I handled pretrial and trial matters for contract disputes, simple divorces, consumer protection actions, bank fraud, various drug crimes and other criminal law matters. I handled these matters in my capacity as an independent contractor for Weinberg & Wilder and as a sole practitioner. As this was my own law firm, I managed the law firm, which included managing its finances. I did not have a trust account at that time as I did not accept retainers from clients that required me to do so.

(b) August 2002-Present Date: Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC. Upon relocating to the State of South Carolina, I continued my practice of law by opening a law firm with J. Bradley Bennett, Esq. Over the course of almost sixteen years, I have acted as the senior partner in our firm, which has a general practice handling a wide variety of legal issues for individuals and businesses. I have represented individuals and businesses in civil, criminal and family law matters. My practice areas include: all pretrial and trial matters for contract and real property disputes, all pre-trial and trial matters in domestic law cases; all pre-trial and trial matters in probate court matters; all pre-trial and trial matters in state and federal criminal court cases; appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. During the course of my practice, I have served as one of

Greenville County Probate Court's Commitment Proceedings Attorneys. I have also served and still serve as a Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney for the US District Court for the District of SC and the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I assist our Criminal Justice Act Panel Representative in the Upstate. My law firm now consists of myself, my law partner and an associate attorney. My law partner and I manage the law firm, including the law firm's trust account.

- (c) August 2007 to Present Date: Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin, SC. In August 2007, I was appointed to serve as an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin, South Carolina. In 2009, I sought and was appointed to serve as the Chief Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin and I currently serve in this capacity. As both an Associate Municipal Court Judge and the Chief Municipal Court Trial Judge, I have presided over numerous cases involving: violations and or enforcement of city ordinances, misdemeanor criminal matters, traffic violations, bond hearings and preliminary hearings for felony criminal matters. As the Chief Trial Judge, I hold court for the City of Mauldin every Wednesday (excluding the fifth Wednesday in any given month), presiding over matters involving violations and or enforcement of city ordinances, traffic violations and misdemeanor criminal law matters. The aforementioned proceedings primarily involve motion hearings, guilty pleas and bench trials. Once a month I also preside over preliminary hearings for felony matters arising out of the City of Mauldin. I also now preside over Domestic Violence Court for the City of Mauldin, which occurs once a month. Approximately once a quarter, I preside over jury trials for misdemeanor criminal law matters and city ordinance violations occurring in the City of Mauldin.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

11. Please answer the following:
- (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 and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years.

For over sixteen years, I have been privileged to have a private practice that includes representing individuals in both criminal and civil matters. Since I began practicing law, I have represented individuals in Family Court in the following areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody disputes, termination of parental rights and adoptions, abuse and neglect cases, petitions for name changes and amendments to birth certificates, orders of protection (both defending and bringing the action), contempt proceedings (both defending and bringing the action), modification of child support and or alimony actions, and defending minor children facing criminal charges. I have also served as a guardian ad litem in divorce cases involving child custody disputes. My law practice has consistently comprised of approximately fifty percent domestic litigation cases of all types.

Since I was admitted to the practice of law, I have handled approximately eight hundred or more cases in Family Court. I have represented individuals in contested and uncontested divorces, including those cases alleging fault grounds on the basis of adultery, drug and or alcohol abuse, and physical abuse. As a result of my extensive practice in Family Court, I have had the privilege of representing individuals with large million dollar marital estates and individuals with small marital estates. In each case, I have attempted to resolve the equitable division of the marital estate amicably. However, there have been instances in which an agreement between the litigants could not be reached. Thus, I have successfully tried several divorce cases in Family Court.

I have also represented various litigants in child custody disputes and I have served as a guardian ad litem in child custody matters. My experience in child custody matters not only includes parents litigating their rights and obligations to their minor children, but also includes bringing and defending against child custody cases in which third parties seek custody of a minor child or children such as extended family, parties asserting they are the psychological parent of the child or children and grandparents seeking contact and or custody of their grandchild or grandchildren. I have litigated almost every type of child custody matter possible. In some of the child custody matters I have handled, I have brought an action on behalf of a step-parent and or a third party seeking to terminate the parental rights and adopt the child and or children who are the subject of the action. Many of those matters could not be resolved by agreement and resulted in complicated contested trials. I can recall several cases in which I successfully defended against termination of parental rights and or was granted the right to adopt the minor child and or children at the conclusion of the proceedings.

While I have never represented the South Carolina Department of Social Services in any abuse or neglect cases, I have represented numerous individuals in matters in which the South Carolina Department of Social Services was involved and or filed an action against my client seeking the removal of my client's child and or children. I have handled various matters defending parents in cases brought by the South Carolina Department of Social Services including: abuse and neglect cases resulting from allegations of sexual abuse, drug and or alcohol abuse, and or emotional or

mental health abuse/issues. I have tried these types of cases from the time the case was indicated and filed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services through the completion of a contested hearing and or trial.

I have represented individuals seeking orders of protection and defended against petitions seeking them. Many of those types of matters have resulted in contested hearings in which I represented my client throughout the proceeding to the conclusion of a contested hearing.

I have represented parents and children in juvenile justice cases. However, I do not regularly appear in these matters. In those instances in which I represented a parent or child I was able to successfully negotiate a resolution that was beneficial for the parents and their child without the need for a contested hearing.

I am confident that I have represented litigants in almost every type of domestic case possible. Focusing on the past five years of my practice, I have appeared in Family Court approximately 3 times per week, if not more. Further, I have litigated numerous contested matters and tried several cases to completion (including but not limited to divorce, termination of parental rights and adoption cases).

My experience as a Municipal Court Judge has also prepared me to preside over domestic matters. I have presided over hundreds of criminal matters, and in most instances those matters involved pro se litigants. I have had the rare opportunity to navigate those proceedings in a way that provided the litigants with a forum to be heard while still maintaining the integrity of the process. On a consistent basis, I am in a courtroom litigating and or presiding over contested criminal matters. As a result, I daily employ and apply the South Carolina Rules of Evidence, Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Criminal Procedure in a manner that offers me what I believe to be unique qualifications for a candidate for the Family Court bench.

- (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 and procedural knowledge 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. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

I am not a candidate for Circuit Court.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

I am not a candidate for Master-In-Equity.

- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, 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 or Circuit Court within the past five years.

I am not a candidate for the Administrative Law Court.

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) federal: Approximately 3-5 times per month.
  - (b) state: Approximately 7-12 times per month.

This does not include my court appearances as a result of being the Chief Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin.

13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 10%
  - (b) criminal: 30%
  - (c) domestic: 50%
  - (d) other: 10%

14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in 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: 30%
  - (b) non-jury: 70%

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

I served most often as sole counsel in the above referenced matters.

15. 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. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) Justice vs. Justice. This was a matter litigated in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Greenville County Family Court. The primary issue was whether a divorced parent could relocate to another state with the parties' minor children. The matter was tried for two days and the outcome not only affected the parties' three minor children, but the children's step-siblings and half-brother. It was a difficult and heart-wrenching case and the outcome impacted not only the parents, but the lives of their children. It was also a unique case as both parents were very involved in the lives of their children and neither wanted to change the custody order in the event the parent's request to move was denied. It required an examination of the law applicable to cases in which a parent seeks to relocate to another state with the parties' minor children. I represented the parent opposing the move and I was successful in obtaining an order that restrained and enjoined the relocation of the parties' minor children. After the litigation, I kept in touch with my client and his family. I have personally observed the affect the court's decision had on this family.
- (b) United States vs. Minaya-Mena. This was a criminal matter litigated in the United States District Court for the District of SC. My client was charged in a conspiracy to possess, with the intent to distribute, marijuana. The case involved the possession of more than 100 marijuana plants, some of which were taller than me, found in several "grow houses" in the Upstate. The matter proceeded to a jury trial and my client was found not guilty. The matter is significant to me, not only because of the not guilty verdict, but because I litigated it against an excellent Assistant United States Attorney whose trial skills are exceptional. The matter required extensive preparation and an examination of the law to ensure that any issues to be appealed were properly in the court's record. I also mentored two of my colleagues during the trial. Being able to secure a not guilty verdict, while imparting knowledge to my colleagues, was phenomenal.
- (c) United States vs. Twitty. This was a criminal matter litigated in the United States District Court for the District of SC. My client was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, as well as possessing with intent to distribute a quantity of crack cocaine and heroin. I was able to successfully apply recent search and seizure law to the facts of the case. After an evidentiary hearing, my motion to suppress the search of my client and his vehicle was granted resulting in a dismissal of all charges against him.
- (d) Nicholas vs. Pate. This was a civil matter in the United States District Court for the District of SC. Parties in civil actions in District Court are not usually entitled to appointed counsel. However, the court asked if I would be willing to be appointed to represent the Plaintiff pro bono and I agreed. The Plaintiff had filed a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of SC alleging violations of his Federal Constitutional Rights under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, that is, that he had been subjected to cruel and unusual punishment while serving a state imposed sentence. The matter is



significant to me as it required me to assess and try a case that was well into litigation by a pro se defendant. After examining the pro se filings to ensure my client was not in any danger of having his action dismissed, the matter proceeded to a jury trial. Although I lost after a jury trial, my client's gratitude was a reward. Handling the matter also reminded me to always examine the statutes and rules of law governing an action in light of the facts and circumstances one is presented before proceeding forward with litigation. This is a rule my mentor, a former Assistant United States Attorney and war crimes prosecutor, ingrained in me and is crucial to abide by in handling every legal matter.

- (e) Collins vs. Murphy. This is a civil matter litigated in Probate Court and Circuit Court. A colleague and I have been litigating this matter throughout the court process from its inception in Probate Court, motions in Circuit Court, appeals to the Circuit Court and we are currently litigating it in the South Carolina Court of Appeals. The matter involves a question of the interpretation and application of a statute in a matter involving the rights of unmarried parents to the receipt of wrongful death proceeds of their deceased infant. The extreme differences in the rulings resulting from the Probate Court and Circuit Court make this case unique in that the South Carolina Court of Appeals will be addressing the interpretation and application of the relevant statute in situations in which unwed parents have a child who dies at birth. Thus, making a determination as to who is entitled to the award of wrongful death proceeds.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a) Moore vs. Benson, 390 S.C. 153, 700 S.E.2d 273 (Ct. App. 2010) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 9/22/2010).
- (b) Nestberg vs. Nestberg, 394 S.C. 618, 716 S.E.2d 310 (Ct. App. 2011) (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 8/31/2011)
- (c) South Carolina Department of Social Services vs. McCrary, Unpublished Opinion. (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 4/28/2009).
- (d) Collins vs. Murphy, Currently pending before South Carolina Court of Appeals. Representing Respondent along with co-counsel.

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a) United States vs. Nicholson, 676 F.3d 376 (4th Cir. 2012). (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals 4/18/2012).

- (b) United States vs. Shippy, Unpublished Opinion. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 5/4/010).
- (c) United States vs. Wilkins, Unpublished. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 12/4/2009).
- (d) State vs. Rivera, Unpublished Opinion. (South Carolina Court of Appeals, 2/10/2006).
- (e) United States vs. Cruz, Unpublished Opinion. (Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2/15/2006)

18. 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.

Yes. In August 2007, I was appointed to serve as an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin in Greenville County, South Carolina. I served in this capacity until 2009 when I was appointed to serve as the Chief Municipal Court Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin in Greenville County, South Carolina. I continue to serve as the Chief Municipal Court Trial Judge for the City of Mauldin in Greenville County, South Carolina.

The Mauldin Municipal court adjudicates criminal, traffic and city ordinance violations that occur within the city limits of Mauldin. As a limited jurisdiction court, it can only hear cases subject to a fine and sentence not exceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days. The Mauldin Municipal court may also hear cases that are remanded back from Greenville County General Sessions if the fine and sentence do not exceed \$5,500.00 or one-year imprisonment.

19. If the answer to question 18 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) City of Mauldin vs. Paouris, unreported, no appellate review. This matter involved a question of whether a City of Mauldin Police Officer's Scribner's error on a uniform traffic citation warranted a dismissal of the violation and or whether the defendant's conviction should be vacated for improper notice to the defendant of his trial date/time resulting in his being tried in his absence. A contested hearing was held in which the Court was required to address the ramifications of a clerical error on uniform traffic citations, as well as whether the defendant received proper notice of his trial date/time and conviction. The Court also addressed whether the defendant took timely action to challenge his conviction and or sentence upon learning of his conviction in absentia. The defendant's motion to vacate his conviction and sentence was denied.

- (b) City of Mauldin vs. U.S. Security Holdings, Inc., unreported, no appellate review. This matter involved an examination of Mauldin Municipal Code Section 10-40 and the defendant's payment of annual licensing fees. The matter required the Court to consider numerous exhibits and each party's position regarding the requirements set forth in the Mauldin Municipal Code and its application. The Court denied the defendant's motion to dismiss in part.
- (c) City of Mauldin vs. Walker, unreported, no appellate review. This matter involved an instance of domestic violence in which the defendant was convicted at a bench trial. The facts and circumstances of the case however, warranted further inquiry and a sentence that enabled the victim to assist her husband in ensuring his compliance with necessary mental health treatment. The Court's sentence was structured to, not only punish the defendant, but to provide for his future mental health treatment and compliance with necessary medications to prevent future instances of violence between the married couple.
- (d) City of Mauldin vs. Baker, unreported, no appellate review. The defendant has had several matters before the court as a result of living in a mental health residential facility located in Mauldin, South Carolina. The primary order of significance focused on a Municipal Court's authority to assess the defendant's competency to proceed to a trial and whether a Municipal Court has the authority to issue an order for the defendant to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. The Court ordered the defendant to undergo an evaluation to ensure his competency to stand trial.
- (e) City of Mauldin vs. McKinney, unreported, no appellate review. This matter involved an examination of whether the defendant violated the Mauldin Municipal Code when she made repairs to her residence and or created a living space within her attic. The primary issue before the Court was balancing Mauldin Municipal Code's requirement(s) and an adequate remedy as the alleged violation was at the defendant's residence and the construction had been completed. The Court granted the City of Mauldin's motion requiring the defendant's actions to ensure the safety of her residence.

20. 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.

I have been admitted to practice in the following courts.

- (a) California State Courts, 2000;
- (b) US District Court for the Northern District of CA, 2000;
- (c) US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2000;
- (d) South Carolina State Courts, 2001;
- (e) US District Court for the District of SC, 2002;
- (f) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2002.

21. 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. To the best of my recollection, the following is a description of the continuing legal education programs that I have had the honor of participating in as a speaker.

- (a) On October 29, 2009, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was ethical dilemmas encountered by criminal defense attorneys.
- (b) On or about October 28, 2010, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was ethical issues confronting criminal defense attorneys.
- (c) On October 24, 2013, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was federal practice in US District Courts in South Carolina.
- (d) On October 20, 2016, I was a speaker on a panel at the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar for the Criminal Justice Act Defense Bar. The topic was the Criminal Justice Act and its potential revision resulting from Chief Justice John G. Robert, Jr.'s appointment of a Committee to review the Criminal Justice Act Program.
- (e) On February 3, 2017, I was a speaker at the Greenville County Bar's "Year-End CLE". The topic was the Fourth Amendment and providing an overview of search and seizure case law, focusing on the most recent cases decided by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

Please see attachment, which includes my continuing legal and judicial reports for the past five years for the South Carolina Bar and the California Bar

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

I have not published any books or articles.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

Please see attachment, which includes two writing samples for which I am the sole author.

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

- (a) Greenville Business Magazine Legal Elite in Family Law in 2012 and 2017;
- (b) National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys top 10 Criminal Attorneys 40 and under in 2014 and 2015;
- (c) South Carolina Rising Star in the practice of Criminal Law in 2014 and 2015;
- (d) Martindale-Hubbell – 5.0/5.0
- (e) Lawyerratingz.com – 3.6/5.0
- (f) Lawyers.com – 5.0/5.0

26. 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) California Bar
- (b) South Carolina Bar
- (c) Greenville County Bar Association
- (d) Greenville County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- (e) South Carolina Association for Justice
- (f) United Housing Connections, Vice Chairperson, 2017-Current date.

27. 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 have not held public office, other than the judicial office I currently serve in.

28. For sitting or former judges, 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) 2007-Present Date. Self-employed as the Senior Partner at Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC. I, along with my law partner, own and manage the aforementioned law firm. I handle a wide variety of legal issues for individuals and businesses. I represent individuals and businesses in civil, criminal and family law matters at all stages of the litigation process. My practice areas include: all pretrial and trial matters for contract and real property disputes, all pre-trial and trial matters in domestic law cases; all pre-trial and trial matters in probate court matters; all pre-trial and trial matters in state and federal criminal court cases; appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. I, along with my law partner, handle the administrative duties associated with operating a law firm, to include the management of our law firm's trust account.

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

Yes.

- (a) On or around 2009, I applied for a U.S. Magistrate position in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. The selection process for Federal Magistrate Judges requires screening of candidates by a panel. The panel selects five finalists from the applicants. From there, the U.S. District Court Judges decide who will fill the vacancy.
- (b) In 2017, I applied for the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 4. I was found to be qualified and nominated. However, I withdrew from the race prior to the vote on the candidates for this position.

30. 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.

Yes.

- (a) Approx. Summer 1991. Colton, Ca. I was employed by the City of Colton, Ca as a lifeguard at a pool operated by the City of Colton during the summer months only. My job primarily required me to watch patrons at the pool to ensure their safety, the enforcement of pool rules, as well as to provide first aid to any patrons who required it.
- (b) Approx. Winter 1991. Limited, Too. San Bernardino, CA. I was employed by the Limited Too clothing store during the winter. This was a seasonal position. My job primarily consisted of folding clothes, maintaining and stocking the store shelves, operating a cash register and selling girl's clothing.
- (c) Approx. 1993-1997. Rialto, Ca. I was employed by the City of Rialto Parks and Recreation Department as a lifeguard, swim instructor, and water aerobics instructor. My job initially required me to watch patrons at the pool to ensure their safety, enforce pool rules, and provide first aid to any patrons who required it. I also taught swimming lessons for ages 6months to adults, water aerobics classes and water classes for adults with arthritis. During the course of my employment, I was promoted to pool manager. As a result, I managed the daily operations of the pool, which included the hiring and scheduling of staff (approx. 20), payroll/timesheets, scheduling of all water related classes for patrons, scheduling of all water related events, and in-services and training of staff related to first aid and lifeguard skills.

31. 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.

- (a) Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC. I am a member of my law firm, which is a member-managed limited liability company. I have one partner and we are each responsible for the day-to-day operations of the firm, including but not limited to, the supervision of our associate attorney and staff. I am responsible for my personal case load and assisting with my partner's and associate's cases. I, along with my partner, are also responsible for the management of the firm's finances, including the firm's trust account. There is no finite term of service.
- (b) Salvini & Bennett, Properties, LLC. I am a member of this company, which is a member-managed limited liability company. The purpose of this limited

liability company is the management of the real estate assets my former spouse and I continue to own together after the dissolution of our marriage. My former spouse is the only other member and we are equally responsible for maintaining the real estate assets we continue to own together, which includes the timely payment of the mortgages, taxes and insurance associated with the aforementioned properties. Our joint duties also include the management of any renter(s) for those properties. There is no finite term of service.

- (c) Island Rentals, LLC. I am a member of this company, which is a member-managed limited liability company. The purpose of this limited liability company is the management of a condominium located in the Caribbean. My former spouse is the only other member and we are equally responsible for maintaining the condominium, which includes the timely payment of the mortgages, utilities and insurance associated with the condominium. Our joint duties also include the management of any renter(s) for this property. However, we currently have employed a property manager. There is no finite term of service.

32. 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. I am not nor have I ever been employed as a "lobbyist." I have not acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal."

33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
  - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

See attached. A complete, current financial net worth statement has been 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.**



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. 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.

36. 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) Postage: Approx. \$5.00

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

In the past four years, I have not made any direct contributions to any member of the General Assembly. However, my law partner and my law firm did contribute to Rep. Jason Elliott's campaign in the amount of approx. \$750.00.

38. 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.

39. 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 or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I have an ownership interest with my former spouse, Joseph Bradley Bennett, Esq., in five (5) properties. Four (4) of these properties are managed by a company known as Salvini & Bennett Properties, LLC and one is owned and managed by a company known as Island Rentals, LLC. My former spouse is the only other

member of these companies. The purpose of these companies is to manage property we acquired while we were married and still own jointly after the dissolution of our marriage. Regardless of my business relationship with my former spouse, it would be a conflict of interest for my former spouse to appear before me if I am elected to serve as a Family Court Judge. See Canon 3, Rule 501, SCACR. Further, while I have an ownership interest in these properties, and any others, there could be a potential conflict of interest with any third parties who may rent the following properties from me in the future. Any such instance would be examined pursuant to Canons 3 and 4, Rule 501, SCACR.

I will recuse myself in any matter in which my former spouse is a party-litigant or representing a party in an action in his capacity as an attorney. In instances in which a person associated with the properties I have an interest in appeared before me, I would analyze each situation based on the provisions of Canon 3, Rule 501, SCACR and the applicable case law on a case by case basis. I would strictly follow Canon 3E. Based thereon, I would recuse myself in any matter in which my impartiality "might reasonably be questioned..." Canon 3E, Rule 501, SCACR.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
  - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or
  - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

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

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

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

Reviewing the above inquiries, the only subsections that have any applicability to my real estate interests are the subsections (a). Both of the subsections labeled (b) and (c) have no applicability, as no public improvements have been made and no South Carolina state or local public agency has purchased, leased, or ever had any interest in real property in which I own an interest.

With regard to both subsections labeled (a), the following applies:

I have an ownership interest with my former spouse, Joseph Bradley Bennett, Esq., in the following five (5) properties. Regardless of my ownership interest in these properties, it would be a conflict of interest for my former spouse to appear before

me if I am elected to serve as a Family Court Judge. See Canon 3, Rule 501, SCACR. Further, while I have an ownership interest in these properties, and others, there could be a potential conflict of interest with any third parties who may rent the following properties from me in the future. Any such instance would be examined pursuant to Canons 3 and 4, Rule 501, SCACR.

1. 101 W. Park Ave. Greenville, SC 29601.
  - a. Interest held: one-half interest.
  - b. Value: In 2017, the property was appraised and valued at \$900,000.00. It has a first mortgage in the amount of \$168,779.80 and a second mortgage in the amount of \$58,986.96. Thus, my interest in this property is approximately \$336,116.62.
  - c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.
  
2. 121 South Main St., Unit 6, Greenville, SC 29601.
  - a. Interest held: one-half interest.
  - b. Value: The tax map value of this property is \$301,200.00. An appraisal of this property has not been done. It has a first mortgage in the amount of \$157,366.09 and a second mortgage in the amount of \$32,040.88. Thus, my interest in the property is approximately \$55,896.51.
  - c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.
  
3. 710 Fire Pink Way Landrum, SC 29356.
  - a. Interest held: one-half interest.
  - b. Value: The tax map value is \$75,600.00. An appraisal of this property has not been done. Thus, my interest in this property is approximately \$37,800.00.
  - c. Potential Conflict of Interest: See above.
  
4. 22 Vintage Ave. Greenville, SC 29607.
  - a. Interest held: one-half interest.
  - b. Value: I am in the process of purchasing this property with my former spouse. The approximate value of this property is \$161,414.00. An appraisal has not

been done. I anticipate there will be a mortgage for this property totaling \$32,545.68. Based thereon, I have an anticipated interest in the property with an approximate value of \$64,434.16.

c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.

5. Unit 16S Rainbow Beach Club  
Cupecoy, St. Maarten  
Also identified as  
Rhine Road Buidling G 1A  
Maho, Lowlands SXM

a. Interest held: one-half interest as a result of being one of two members of Island Rentals, LLC, the limited liability company that owns the property.

b. Value: The property is valued at approximately \$495,000.00, which is the value a local Real Estate Agent placed on the property. An appraisal of the property has not been done. The amount of the aforementioned loan associated with this property is currently \$408,737.61. Thus, my interest in this property is approximately \$43,131.19

c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.

6. 107 W. Park Ave. Greenville, SC 29601

a. Interest held: one hundred percent.

b. Value: In 2018, the property was appraised and valued at \$231,000.00. It has an anticipated first mortgage in the amount of \$184,800.00. Thus, my interest in this property is approximately \$46,200.00.

c. Potential conflict of interest: See above.

41. 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.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

I have an interest in Sirius XM Holdings, Inc.

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

No.

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

No.

45. 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 which are subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

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

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

(a) No. I have never been sued by a client. However, my law partner and my law firm were sued by a client. I was not named as a party as I did not represent the client. I had a pecuniary interest in the proceeding as it involved my law firm. The lawsuit was filed on October 19, 2015 and alleged my law partner did not

take appropriate action in representing the client in an action against her nursing license, as more fully described in the complaint. It was resolved via a settlement agreement reached on or about November/December 2016.

(b) In 2015, I was named as a Defendant in an action that was the filing of a mechanic's lien for work performed on common areas of a building in which I have an ownership interest. I am informed and believe the homeowner's association and all owners were also named defendants. I am also informed and believe the homeowner's association paid and or satisfied the mechanic's lien, resulting in a dismissal of the action.

(c) I was the Plaintiff in the action I filed against my former spouse for divorce. I was granted a divorce on December 11, 2012. The action involved the dissolution of my marriage and the equitable division of my marital estate. My former spouse and I reached an agreement as to the dissolution of our marital estate and our agreement was approved by the Greenville County Family Court at the time of our divorce.

48. 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, along with my law firm, are covered by malpractice insurance. When I operated the Law Offices of Jessica Salvini in 2000-2002, in San Francisco, Ca, I did not have my own malpractice insurance. I am informed and believe that as an independent contractor for the law firm of Weinberg & Wilder I was covered by their malpractice insurance. My law firm, Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC has been covered by malpractice insurance since its inception in 2002 and is still covered by malpractice insurance to date. This coverage is \$1,000,000.00 and I am informed the deductible is \$10,000.00. We have never been covered by a tail policy.

49. 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. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

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

50. 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.

**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.**

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

No.

52. 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? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No. I have not requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf. While the General Assembly was in session, I travelled to the State House for the purpose of meeting members of the General Assembly. I have also attended Delegation meetings for that same purpose. On some occasions, I have attended these Delegation meetings with colleagues who have introduced me to members of the General Assembly. I have also been introduced to members of the General Assembly by third parties at social functions. I have been invited to and attended social functions for the purpose of meeting members of the General Assembly.

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons 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) Scarlet B. Moore  
P.O. Box 17615  
Greenville, SC 29606  
(864) 752-0930
- (b) Leslee O'Kelly  
23 Cleveland St., Suite B  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(704) 619-4350
- (c) Richard W. Vieth  
360 East Henry Street, Suite 101  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
(864) 582-2962
- (d) Michael P. O'Connell  
P.O. Box 828  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465  
(843) 577-9890
- (e) Hon. Stephen S. Bartlett  
819 E. North Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(864) 331-3067

56. 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. I have been on LinkedIn in the past, but I no longer have a LinkedIn account. I am not currently active on any social media sites. My law firm Salvini & Bennett, Attorneys at Law, LLC has a website and is active on Facebook.



However, if I was serving in a judicial capacity as a Family Court Judge I would no longer be included on this website or my firm' Facebook page as my law firm would dissolve.

57. 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) United Housing Connections, Vice Chairperson.

58. 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 the oldest of four daughters in a very loving and religious home. My mother was a nurse and my father worked for the railroad. As a child, I can't recall ever wanting for anything, but we lived an extremely modest lifestyle. Our home was pocket-sized, the family room having been converted into a bedroom for me and my youngest sister. My parents worked hard to provide us with a comfortable life; but there wasn't money to spend on frivolous things. School shoes had to last the entire year. School lunches consisted of pink Kool Aid and leftovers – spaghetti sandwiches often made it into the lunch pail. Most family vacations were spent driving to Oklahoma to see relatives - my sisters and I would be packed in the back of an old Nova with faulty air conditioning. It was important to my parents for us to receive a good education, and they worked hard to put us through Catholic school in our tender years. With both parents working, I became primary caregiver to my younger siblings at age eleven. Both of my parents encouraged us to rise above our circumstances and set our goals high, to focus on our education, so that we could be independent young women.

My childhood experiences were distinctly middle class, and reflecting upon it now, those experiences have served me well in my professional life in my ability to relate to a broader spectrum of people, to be able to better demonstrate empathy, to recognize the value of hard work and the strength of family values.

Beginning in childhood, I have always had a hunger for knowledge and new experiences, as well as a desire to help others. My desire to learn and help others has served me well in the practice of law and as a Municipal Court judge and I believe it will continue to serve me well no matter what direction my life takes. If given the opportunity, I will be a Family Court judge that fairly resolves disputes in a way that gives the litigants, the public, the Bar and my fellow judges' confidence in the integrity of the judiciary and the judicial process.



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 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_