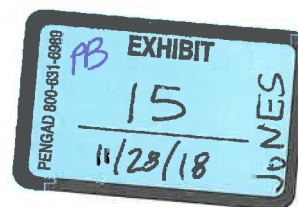


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court Judge, At Large, Seat #2

1. Name: The Honorable Tony M. Jones

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): None

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

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Post Office Box 11746
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): (803) 909-7187
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1958
Place of Birth: York 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. 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.

I have never served in the military.

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.

Single; never divorced; 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). Appalachian State University
Attended August 1976 through May 1980
Received Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts
Graduated in good standing
- (b). Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham, Alabama
Attended August 1980 through May 1983
Received Juris Doctorate Degree
Graduated in good standing

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.

I did not take part in any significant activities in law school.

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). South Carolina, admitted to practice law on November 16, 1983.
- (b). I have not taken the Bar exam of any other state.
- (c). I sat for the South Carolina Bar exam one time.

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). When I graduated from law school in 1983, I went to work with a sole-practitioner, Luther C. Elrod, III. 1983-1987

- (b). Elrod and Jones from 1987 through 1989.
- (c). Elrod, Jones and Leader 1989-1991
- (d). Elrod, Jones, Leader and Benson 1991-2005
- (e). Tony M. Jones, P.A. 2005-2013

At first, I handled a variety of cases including domestic, social security disability, criminal, and personal injury. After about five years, my practice began concentrating on domestic relations and social security. After ten years, I practiced exclusively in the area of domestic relations and continued to do so until my election to the Bench in 2013.

I left my firm in 2005 and practiced as a sole practitioner.

When with the firm, we had independent auditors for our trust account. I became managing partner in the mid 90s and each lawyer had their own trust accounts. We were independently audited by an outside firm annually. Our trust accounts were reconciled daily.

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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

- (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.

N/A

- 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:
 - (b) state:

N/A

- 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:
 - (b) criminal:
 - (c) domestic:
 - (d) other:

N/A

- 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:
 - (b) non-jury:

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

I never held a judicial office until my election to my current seat in January 2013. It is a court of statutory creation and its jurisdiction is limited to that which is contained in the statutes. The Family Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all matters involving family matters which include separate support and maintenance, divorce, custody, visitation, child support, adoption, termination of parental rights, alimony, equitable division of property,

name changes, juvenile criminal matters, or cases involving abuse and neglect of minor children or vulnerable adults.

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). Tiffany Amber Bell vs. Jane and John Doe, Jordan Heyward, and Baby Girl I, a minor
2012-DR-46-1957

The Defendants, John and Jane Doe filed their action on September 11, 2012, 2012-DR-46-1957. The Plaintiff Birth Mother filed her action on September 14, 2012, 2012-DR-46-1994, seeking to withdraw her consent to adopt. A consent agreement was filed on May 2, 2013, consolidating the two cases. This case was heard before me on September 4 and 5, 2013. It was very complex and centered around whether or not the birth mother executed her consent under duress, undue influence, or coercion given the fact it was executed fifty-five hours after the birth of the child.

I am not attaching a copy of the Order (which was not appealed). However, I am attaching a copy of my detailed instructions sent to the attorney for preparation of my Order. It sets forth the details I included as well as my conclusion. See Exhibit A.

- (b). James Harris vs. Jean Harris
2016-DR-46-1261; 2001-DR-46-1633; 2000-DR-46-1624

This was an alimony modification case. I prepared the Order personally. I am attaching a copy of my Order. (Please see Exhibit B). In this case, the Husband sought a termination of alimony based on a change of circumstances. He was now retired and the Wife had inherited valuable property (land) since the alimony was awarded. There were significant issues if whether her inherited property (that had been in her family for generations) should be considered in modifying alimony or whether she should be allowed to pass it on to her children. The Order is an example of my writing style and analysis.

- (c). Robert Kennedy, Debra Mayfield vs. Ciera Vera
2016-DR-46-1808

This was a custody case. The parties were never married. They had two young boys. The case involved issues of one parent removing the children from the jurisdiction of South Carolina to another promoting illegal drug activity on social media. During the pendency of the action, the Mother entered into a same sex marriage and there was hostility between the Father and the Defendant's Wife.

I prepared the Order. It is attached as Exhibit C. It is an example of my writing as well as my analysis. It was a bad set of facts.

(d). Amy Lee Basins-Jones vs. Frederick Kendall Jones
2016-DR-46-2463

This was a divorce case dealing primarily on transmutation. The Husband admitted adultery to his wife. She had agreed to a reconciliation. Subsequent to the reconciliation, he inherited family land in Virginia. In an effort to appease his Wife, he transferred an undivided one half interest in the property to his wife. (She had already consulted an attorney about a divorce). She made him leave the marital home. The question was whether the Virginia property had been transmuted. I did not do the Order personally, but my instructions reflect my level of detail and my analysis. (See Exhibit D which is attached). The case has not been appealed but a 59(e) Motion is pending, (not yet heard).

(e). Joanna M. Theavos v. Brett T. Theavos
2016-DR-46-2489

This was a case I tried over a three day period in April 2018. The case involved custody and equitable division. The Husband had been involved in a serious accident during the marriage and received a sizeable personal injury settlement. The property aspects of this case involved the division of these proceeds. Custody was hotly contested. I personally prepared the Order. It reflects my analysis of the issues. A copy of this Order is attached as Exhibit E.

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.

(a). South Carolina State Courts, admitted on November 16, 1983

(b). Federal District Courts of South Carolina, admitted in 1984 but never practiced

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.

(a). 2017 Horry County Family Court Continuing Legal Education Seminar
February 13, 2017

I spoke on the issue of relocation. Attached as Exhibit F are the written materials I prepared.

(b). 2018 Horry County Family Court Continuing Legal Education Seminar
February 16, 2018

I spoke on psychological de facto parent issues. Attached is Exhibit G is the written material I prepared.

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

Please see the attached as Exhibit H.

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

None

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.)

N/A

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.

I am not currently a member of any legal rating organization. My last rating in Martindale-Hubbell was BV.

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). York County Bar Association, President 1987

(b). South Carolina State Bar, No offices ever held

(c). South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges

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.

No

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.

None

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

I ran for Family Court Judge in 2011. I was unsuccessful. I withdrew at the recommendation of my delegation. David Guyton went on to win the seat.

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.

I have never had a tax lien or any other type of collection procedure instituted against me. I never defaulted on any student loans or filed for bankruptcy.

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.

None

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

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.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

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

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?

None

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.

I have not made any contributions to a member of the General Assembly within the past six years.

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.

None

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;

None

- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or

None

- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None

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

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;

N/A

- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and

N/A

- (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.

N/A

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.

None

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.

See the answer to question #33 above. Exhibit B of my Confidential Financial Statement Net Worth itemizes in detail each individual stock and/or security I own.

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.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1994, I was arrested in North Carolina for DUI. I was found not guilty.

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.

No

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.

N/A

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

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) Joseph D. Greene
1024 Myrtle Drive
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 327-2287
- (b) David Hamilton
York County Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 649
York, South Carolina 29745
- (c) Laurie Leader
Senior Vice President/Private Banker
South State Bank
Post Office Box 3186
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 909-6834
- (d) Bynum Poe
Farmer's Exchange
322 South Cherry Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 324-2925
- (e) John H. Worden, III
President
Champion Services, Inc.
521 South Anderson Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
(803) 329-7898

The letters of recommendation are attached as Exhibit I.

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?

I have a Facebook account. There is a small subgroup which consists of college friends from our debate team. I keep up with them through this subgroup. Otherwise, no other internet involvement. The members of this group live outside of South Carolina and all across the nation. The group consists of eight or nine people.

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)

(b)

(c)

None

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.

As a lawyer and judge I have seen how Family Court can have a significant impact on the lives of the litigants and their children. As a lawyer, I dealt with numerous clients who were going through the emotional upheaval and turmoil of a separation, divorce, or custody proceeding. I know how the children can be affected. I served on the Board of Directors for the Children's Attention Home prior my election to the bench for almost ten years. This facility was designed to house children who had been either removed or taken into protective custody pending foster placement. One did not have to spend much time at the Children's Attention Home to see how the family domestic matters were impacting their lives. I also served as a foster parent for two young men, (who had incidentally had been placed at the Children's Attention Home). I helped raise them over a period of years. Having these experiences has helped me as a judge to not lose sight of the responsibilities we have in meeting the needs of these families and children. I always try to be kind and patient to the litigants and to court personnel. I listen carefully and try to make my decisions in a timely manner. While handling these domestic cases on a day to day basis, it is easy for our job to become routine. But as a judge but I must be mindful that each individual case is the most important thing that will happen in the lives of these families. And with that in mind, I try to be courteous and respectful to all of those who come before me. My grandfather, in my mind, said it best "you judge the greatness of a man not by what he has nor what he has accomplished, but in the manner in which he treats the least among him."

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: _____