Court of Appeals, S.C.

1220 Senate St., Columbia 29201
Tel. (803) 734-1890

Initially created by Act 164, 1979 and made permanent and included in the Constitution of this State as of July 1, 1985 by Act 9, 1985. Act 145, 1995 added three new seats to the Court of Appeals. The Court has nine judges (elected for 6-year terms), may sit in panels of three, and its appellate jurisdiction includes questions of law and equity arising from the circuit and family courts except for appeals: (1) involving the sentence of death; (2) from the circuit court setting public utility rates; (3) involving principally the constitutionality of state laws or local ordinances; (4) involving state or local bonds or other indebtedness; (5) pertaining to elections; (6) concerning the limiting of grand jury investigations; (7) involving a family court order relating to abortion by a minor. These seven classes of cases are reviewed by the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals has been empowered by the General Assembly to receive appeals directly from the Administrative Law Court and the Workers' Compensation Commission.

H. BRUCE WILLIAMS, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 5. Term expires June 30, 2027. P.O. Box 11629, Columbia 29211, Tel. (803) 734-2139

WILLIAMS, H. BRUCE—(Richland Co.) residing in Columbia *b.* Mar. 13, 1956 in Columbia; *s.* H. Lanier Williams and Edna Harris; *g.* Wofford Coll., B.A., 1978; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 1982; Nov. 17, 1984 *m.* Sharon C. Williams, 2 children, Elizabeth Margaret and Anne Carlisle; private practice, 1982–95; Assoc. Irmo Town Judge, 1992–95; former Bd. mem., S.C. Trial Lawyers Assn., Family Law Section; past Pres., Cola. Kiwanis Club; Advisor, Cola. High School Key Club, 1983–95; 5th Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge, 1995–04; S.C. Conf. of Family Court Judges, Secy.-Treas., 1998–99, VP, 1999–00, Pres.,

2000–01; Richland Co. Juvenile Drug Court Judge, 1997–19; Natl. Assn. of Drug Court Professionals, VC, 2017–19, Chair, 2019–21; S.C. Opioid Recovery Fund Bd., 2022–; mem., S.C. Bar; admitted to practice in all S.C. Courts & U.S. Dist. Court for S.C.; elected to the Court of Appeals, Seat 2, May 25, 2004, to fulfill the unexpired term of William L. Howard, retired; qualified June 3, 2004, elected Chief Judge, Court of Appeals, Seat 5, Feb. 2, 2022, to fulfill the unexpired term of James E. Lockemy, retired.

Admin. Asst. & Law Clerk . . . . . .Melrose Ott
Law Clerks . . . . . .Caitlin Bazan Hastings
Abigail Klass

PAULA H. THOMAS, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 4. Term expires June 30, 2031. P.O. Box 479, Georgetown 29442, Tel. (843) 545-3551

THOMAS, Paula H.—(Georgetown Co.) residing in Murrels Inlet; *b.* Oct. 20, 1957 in Sumter; *d.* James L. and Betty G. Hinson; *g.* Univ. of S.C., BIS, 1979, M.Ed., 1981, J.D., 1986; May 25, 1985 *m.* Don Stanley Thomas, 3 children, Austin, Kristen, and Kelly; Bd. mem., Georgetown Co. Humane Soc., 1987; Chm., Walk-America, Georgetown Co., 1988; Treas., Georgetown Co. Bar, 1991; Admin. Bd. Chm., St. Paul's Waccamaw, UMC, 1992; House of Reps., 1993–96; 2nd VC, House Jud. Com.; Chm., House Gen. Laws Subcom; elected Judge at-large, Seat 1, May 22, 1996, to fulfill the unexpired term of Ralph King Anderson, Jr., elected to the Court of Appeals; qualified July 26, 1996; Judge of the Fifteenth Circuit May 23, 1998–07; elected to the Court of Appeals Feb. 7, 2007, to succeed C. Tolbert Goolsby, retired; qualified June 18, 2007, serving continuously since.

Admin. Asst. . . . . . .Elaine P. Langston
Law Clerk . . . . . .Jeanette F. Barber
Anne Arneman

APHRODITE K. KONDUROS, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 6. Term expires June 30, 2027. 1220 Senate St., Columbia 29201, Tel. (803) 734-2494, Fax (803) 734-0422

KONDUROS, Aphrodite K.—(Greenville Co.) *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1981, J.D., 1984; 1994 *m.* Sam Konduros; Canterbury Scholar Award; Univ. of S.C. School of Law Student Bar Pres.; admitted to practice 1985; law clerk to Hon. David F. McInnis; Dep. Gen. Counsel for S.C. Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs; Asst. Gen. Counsel, S.C. Dept. of Social Servs.; Co. Dir., Greenville Dept. of Social Servs.; mem.: S.C. Bar; Greenville Bar; VP, Cola. Young Lawyers; Bd. mem.: Safe Harbor Shelter; Prevent Child Abuse Carolina; First Steps; Greenville Ballet; mem., St. George Greek Orthodox Church; Family Court Judge, 2002–08; elected Judge of the Court of Appeals Feb. 6, 2008, to fulfill the unexpired term of Donald W. Beatty, elected to the S.C. Supreme Court; qualified Feb. 21, 2008, serving continuously since.

Admin. Asst./Law Clerk . . . . . .Perry Rupert
Law Clerks . . . . . .Margaret Newman
Jennifer Camp

JOHN D. GEATHERS, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 3. Term expires June 30, 2031. P.O. Box 11629, Columbia 29211, Tel. (803) 734-2429

GEATHERS, John D.—(Georgetown Co.) residing in Georgetown; *b.* in Georgetown; *s.* John H. and Gardenia Geathers; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1983, J.D., 1986; *m.* Doris Williams, 2 children; admitted to S.C. Bar, 1986 and N.C. State Bar, 1992; Senior Staff Counsel, Office of Sen. Research, 1987–95; Judge, S.C. Admin. Law Court, 1994–08; elected to S.C. Court of Appeals, Seat 3, May 21, 2008, to fulfill the unexpired term of John W. Kittredge, elected to the S.C. Supreme Court; qualified Aug. 7, 2008, serving continuously since.

Law Clerks . . . . . .Lesley Ramey
Annalise Graves
Torrey Benjamin

STEPHANIE PENDARVIS McDONALD, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 7. Term expires June 30, 2026. 100 Broad St., Suite 427, Charleston 29401, Tel. (843) 958-5102, Fax (843) 958-5107

McDONALD, Stephanie Pendarvis—(Charleston Co.) *b.* Jan. 14, 1969 in Columbia; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1991, J.D., 1994; 1 child, Sara Susanne; law clerk, S.C. Sen. Jud. Com., 1992–94; Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award; Phi Beta Kappa; former Pres., BE Chap. of Alpha Delta Pi Sor.; former Pres., Carolina Cares; Amer. Jurisprudence Awards for Evidence and Moot Court; mem., Order of the Barristers; Capt., Craven Moot Court Team; VP, Law School Pro Bono Bd.; Stuckey and Senn Law Firm, 1994–97; Senn, McDonald & Leinbach LLC, 1998–11; Special Prosecutor, Office of the S.C. Atty. Gen., 2009–11; past Pres., Junior League of Charleston; former mem., S.C. Comm. on Judicial Conduct; past Pres., St. Philip's Church Episcopal Church Women; past Pres., Charleston Lawyers Club; Circuit Judge at-large, Seat 9, Feb. 2, 2011–14; elected Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 7, May 28, 2014, to fulfill the unexpired term of Daniel F. Pieper, retired.

Admin. Asst. . . . . . .Elyse Clark
Law Clerks . . . . . .Sarah Woodard Thornton
Morgan Ghosheh

BLAKE A. HEWITT, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 1. Term expires June 30, 2029. P.O. Box 11629, Columbia 29211, Tel. (803) 734-1890

HEWITT, Blake A.—(Horry Co.) residing in Conway; *b.* June 9, 1978 in Atlanta, GA; *s.* Glenn and Wanda Hewitt; Dec. 10, 2005 *m.* Emma Catherine Hewitt; *g.* Georgia Inst. of Tech., B.S., 2001; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 2005; elected Judge of the Court of Appeals, Feb. 6, 2019, to succeed Paul E. Short, Jr., retired; qualified Dec. 3, 2019.

Admin. Asst. . . . . . .Erin Bridges
Law Clerks . . . . . .Isabel J. Thompson
Reid Turner

JERRY D. "JAY" VINSON, JR, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 8. Term expires June 30, 2030. 181 N. Irby St., Suite 2820, Florence 29501, Tel. (843) 665-3079

VINSON, Jerry D. "Jay", Jr.—(Florence Co.) *b.* Oct. 12, 1960 in Camden; *s.* Jerry D., Sr. and Patricia Mahan Vinson; *g.* Francis Marion Coll., B.S., 1981; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 1985; Sept. 14, 1991 *m.* Flora Lester Vinson; Law Clerk to the Hon. John H. Waller, Jr., 12th Circuit Family Court Judge, 2004–2021; past Pres., FMU Alumni Assn.; former mem.: FMU Foundation Bd., Bd. of Dirs., Florence Symphony Orchestra, Florence Kiwanis Club, S.C. Bar House of Del.; past Chm., S.C. Bar Family Law Section Council; Gov.'s Task Force for Children in Foster Care and Adoption Servs.; Family Court Judges Adv. Com.; NCJFCJ Bd. of Trustees; mem. and past Chm.: S.C. Bar LRE Com., Family Court Bench Bar Com.; mem. and past Pres., S.C. Conference of Family Court Judges; elected to the Court of Appeals, Seat 8, Feb. 21, 2021, to fulfill the unexpired term of Thomas E. Huff, retired.

Admin. Asst. . . . . . .Barbara Stevenson
Law Clerks . . . . . .Alicia O. Allen
Caitlin Costner

MATTHEW PRICE TURNER, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 9. Term expires June 30, 2028. 1220 Senate St., Columbia 29201, Tel. (803) 734-1890

TURNER, MATTHEW PRICE—*b.* Aug. 21, 1978; *s.* John M., Sr. and Joy Dougherty Turner; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.S., 2000, J.D., 2003; *m.* Meg W. Turner, two children; Family Court Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, 2018–2024; elected to the Court of Appeals, Seat 9, Apr. 17, 2024, to fulfill the unexpired term of D. Garrison "Gary" Hill, elected Assoc. Justice, Supreme Court.

KRISTI FISHER CURTIS, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Seat 2. Term expires June 30, 2029. 1220 Senate St., Columbia 29201, Tel. (803) 734-1890

CURTIS, Kristi Fisher—(Sumter Co.) *b.* July 11, 1969, in Texas; *d.* Sterling Mr., Jr. and Bettye Jo Fisher; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1991, J.D., 1995; May 20, 1995, *m.* Warren S. Curtis, 2 children, Chandler and Connor; Chief Magistrate, Sumter Co., 2011–18; mem., Sumter Rotary Club, 2004–; Avenue of Service Award, 2014–15; Pres., Sumter YMCA Bd. of Dirs., 2015; mem., Alice Drive Baptist Church; Judge of the Third Circuit, Seat 2, 2018–25; elected to Court of Appeals Feb. 5, 2025, to fulfill the unexpired term of Letitia H. Verdin, elected to the S.C. Supreme Court.

Clerk's Office—Appeals Court

1015 Sumter St., P.O. Box 11629, Columbia 29211
Tel. (803) 734-1890, Fax (803) 734-1839

Clerk . . . . . .Jenny A. Kitchings
Chief Dep. Clerk . . . . . .Catherine S. Harrison