Judicial Merit Selection Commission

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**M E D I A R E L E A S E**

February 3, 2011

 The Judicial Merit Selection Commission is currently accepting applications for the judicial offices listed below. In order to receive application materials, a prospective candidate must notify the Commission in writing of his or her intent to apply. Correspondence and questions may be directed to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as follows:

Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel

Post Office Box 142

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

(803) 212-6629.

 **The Commission will not accept applications after Noon on Tuesday, March 8, 2011.**

 A vacancy exists in the office formerly held by the late Honorable Jamie Lee Murdock, Jr., Judge of the Family Court for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2. The successor will fill the unexpired term which will expire June 30, 2013, and the subsequent full term which will expire June 30, 2019.

 A vacancy exists in the office formerly held by the Honorable Letitia H. Verdin, Judge of the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, upon her election to the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2. The successor will fill the unexpired term which will expire on June 30, 2016.

 A vacancy will exist in the office currently held by the Honorable Robert S. Armstrong, Judge of the Family Court for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, upon Judge Armstrong’s retirement on or before August 31, 2011. The successor will fill the unexpired term which will expire June 30, 2013, and the subsequent full term which expires June 30, 2019.

 A vacancy exists in the office currently held by the Honorable Robert A. Smoak, Jr., Master-in-Equity of Aiken County, upon his retirement on or before May 31, 2011. The successor will fill the unexpired term which expires June 20, 2013, and the subsequent full term which expires June 30, 2019.

 The term of office held by the Honorable Patrick R. Watts, Master-in-Equity of Dorchester County, expired June 30, 2010. The successor will fill the subsequent full term of that office, which will expire June 30, 2016.

 For further information about the Judicial Merit Selection Commission and the judicial screening process, you may access the website at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/html-pages/judmerit.html>. If you wish to pick up an application package, first please contact Senate Judiciary Administrative Assistant, Laurie Traywick at (803) 212-6623.