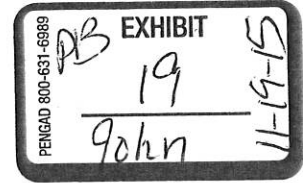


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:  
Circuit Court, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat #1.



1. Name: The Honorable Steven H. John  
 Name that you are known by if different from above: No  
 Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes  
 Business Address: c/o Horry County Justice Center,  
 1301 Second Avenue, Suite 3A30,  
 Conway, SC 29566  
 Telephone Number: (office): (843)915-6696
2. Date of Birth: 1953  
 Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes, since immediately after my birth.  
 Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes, my entire life.
5. Family Status: Married on September 1, 1990 to Susan Watts John. Never divorced, one child.
6. Have you served in the military? No
7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
  - (a) The Citadel, 1971-1975, BA Political Science;
  - (b) The University of SC Law School, 1975-1978, JD;
  - (c) I have successfully completed and received post graduate degree credit for ten (10) hours from the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.
8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
 SC, 1978
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
 The Citadel-Cross Country, Debate Team, Honor Court.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.
 

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SC Bar -Trial & Appellate Advoc. & Criminal Law	1/23/15;
(b) SCDTAA Annual Meeting	11/7-8/14;
(c) SCCA 2014 Annual Judicial Conference	8/20/14;
(d) SCAJ 2014 Annual Convention	8/7/14;
(e) SCCJC 2014 Circuit Court Judges Conference	3/24/14;
(f) SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advoc. & Criminal Law	1/24/14;
(g) SCDTAA Annual Meeting	11/7/13;

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| (h) | SCCA 2013 Annual Judicial Conference           | 8/21/13;  |
| (i) | SCAJ 2013 Annual Convention                    | 8/1/13;   |
| (j) | SCCJC Spring Conference CLE                    | 5/1/13;   |
| (k) | SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advoc. & Criminal Law | 1/25/13;  |
| (l) | SCDTAA Annual Meeting                          | 11/8/12;  |
| (m) | SCCA 2012 Annual Judicial Conference           | 8/22/12;  |
| (n) | SCAJ 2012 Annual Convention                    | 8/2/12;   |
| (o) | SCCJC Annual Circuit Court Judges Conference   | 5/2/12;   |
| (p) | SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advoc. & Criminal Law | 1/20/12;  |
| (q) | SCDTAA Annual Meeting                          | 11/3/11;  |
| (r) | SCCA 2011 Annual Judicial Conference           | 8/17/11;  |
| (s) | SCAJ 2011 Annual Convention                    | 8/4/11;   |
| (t) | SCCJC SC Circuit Court Judges' Conference      | 5/4/11;   |
| (u) | SC Bar-Trial & Appellate Advoc. & Criminal Law | 1/21/11;  |
| (v) | SCDTAA 43 <sup>rd</sup> . Annual Meeting       | 11/11/10; |
| (w) | SCCA 2010 Judicial Conference                  | 8/18/10;  |
| (x) | SCAJ 2010 Annual Convention                    | 8/5/10;   |
| (y) | SCCJC SC Circuit Court Judges' Association     | 5/5/10;   |
| (z) | SC Bar Civil & Criminal Law Update             | 1/22/10.  |
11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?  
Yes, for the National Business Institute as a Panelist member on the Judicial Forum for Criminal Court on 2/24/12, and participated as a Panelist member for the National Business Institute Judicial Forum for Civil Court on 9/16/11.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.  
N/A
13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| (a) | State Courts of SC – November 8, 1978;                 |
| (b) | US District Court for SC – October 4, 1979;            |
| (c) | US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals – October 31, 1979; |
| (d) | US Supreme Court – April 20, 1987.                     |
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| (a) | Law clerk to the Honorable Sidney T. Floyd, Resident Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 1978 - 1980;  |
| (b) | Private trial practice, 1981 – May 2001. I first practiced with a lawyer in North Myrtle Beach, named, John R. Clarke, Esquire and I opened a solo practice in North Myrtle Beach, SC, in 1986, having an active trial practice in all of the State Courts. In Civil Court, cases ranging from contracts to automobile accidents to multi-million dollar construction cases; Criminal Court, cases ranging from traffic offenses to |

- court appointed defense in death penalty cases; Family Court, cases from uncontested divorces to all manner of contested family disputes;
- (c) Court appointed special referee in the Circuit Court, appointed by Judges Sidney T. Floyd and David H. Maring, Sr., in over fifty (50) cases;
  - (d) Certified Circuit Court arbitrator, by SC Supreme Court Board of Arbitration;
  - (e) Court appointed mediator in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, appointed by Judges Sidney T. Floyd and David H. Maring, Sr., in over (50) cases;
  - (f) Court appointed guardian ad litem in disputed child custody cases in the Family Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, in over One Hundred (100) cases;
  - (g) City Of North Myrtle Beach Zoning Board, 1993 – May 2001;
  - (h) Pro bono lawyer for Horry County Disabilities And Special Needs Agency, 1993 – May 2001.
16. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.  
Last available rating AV
23. Have you ever held judicial office? Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.  
Yes, I was elected as the Resident Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, on May 30, 2001, and have served continuously since then. This is a court of general jurisdiction for civil and criminal court.
24. If the answer to question 23 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.
- (a) State v. Corey Sparkman, 358 S.C. 491, 596 S.E. 2d 375 (2007) SC Supreme Court;
  - (b) Crossmann Communities v. Harleysville, 395 S.C. 40, 717 S.E. 2d 589 (2011) SC Supreme Court;
  - (c) Crossmann Communities v. Harleysville, 411 S.C. 506, 769 S.E. 2d 453 (2015) SC Court of Appeals;
  - (d) State of SC v. Stanley Dantonio, Jr., 376 S.C. 594, 658 S.E. 2d 337 (2008) SC Court of Appeals;
  - (e) State v. Bruce Hill, 409 S.C. 760, S.E. 2d 802 (2014) SC Supreme Court.
25. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? 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?  
No
26. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.  
None
27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- (a) In 1998 I filed as a candidate for Seat 2 of Circuit Court, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. I was qualified as one of the three (3) candidates by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission for this seat. At-Large Judge Paula Thomas was the eventual successful candidate;

- (b) In the fall of 1998, I filed as a candidate for At-Large Seat 1 of the Circuit Court of the State of SC. I withdrew as a candidate for this seat which the Honorable John Milling won by acclamation.
28. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?  
None
29. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.  
No
30. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
31. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.  
None
32. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?  
No
33. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute?  
No
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?  
No
35. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?  
Shortly after starting to work for John R. Clarke, Esquire in 1981, I was called to Circuit Court on a case previously filed by Mr. Clarke. Though I knew nothing about the case and had never met the client, and Mr. Clarke was either in another court or out of state, I was ordered by the Circuit Judge to try the case, which I attempted to do to the best of my ability. At some point in the trial the Court directed a verdict for the Defendant. Thereafter, the Defendant in this action sued the Client, Mr. Clarke, and myself. I was dismissed from the case pursuant to a summary judgment motion, due to the circumstances described above, and later the total case was dismissed by summary judgment motion.
37. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?  
No
38. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.  
N/A
39. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as,

Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

No.

40. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)?

No. N/A.

41. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal?

No.

42. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that “[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

None

43. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that “[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign.” Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. Include the disposition, if any, of such charges or allegations.

None

44. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek.

None

45. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.

None

46. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? 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?

No.

47. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?

No.

48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?

No.

49. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate?  
No
50. 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) SC Bar Association – 1978 to present;
  - (b) Horry County Bar Association – 1978–2001- active;
  - (c) Horry County Bar Association – 2001–present - Honorary;
  - (d) American Bar Association, Judicial Section, 2010-present.
51. 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) Rotary International–1987–present;
  - (b) Rotary Club of North Myrtle Beach, 1987-2002;
  - (c) Rotary Club of Conway, 2003–present.
  - (d) I was a member of the Rotary Club of North Myrtle Beach Board of Directors and held numerous offices and committee chairmanships.
  - (e) I am also a Paul Harris Fellow and a Sustaining Member and have received the perfect attendance award each year since joining in 1987;
  - (f) Citadel Brigadier Club;
  - (g) Horry County Citadel Club;
  - (h) University of SC Gamecock Club;
  - (i) SC Circuit Judges Association 2001–present. Currently I am the Vice President and will succeed as President for the years 2017 and 2018.
52. 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.  
None
53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
- (a) David H. Maring, Sr.,  
P.O. Box 806,  
Georgetown, SC 29442,  
Telephone: 843-546-4870.
  - (b) Sheriff Phillip Thompson,  
Sheriff of Horry County,  
1301 Second Avenue,  
Conway, SC 29526,  
Telephone: 843-915-5450.
  - (c) Dr. Philip A. Nofal,  
Medical Director of Daymark Recovery Services,  
284 Executive Park Drive, Suite 100,  
Concord, NC 28025,  
Telephone: 704-706-5716.
  - (d) Terry Hucks,

Owner of the Darlington Motel,  
203 North Ocean Blvd.  
Myrtle Beach SC 29577,  
Telephone: 843-448-3465.

- (e) David Hetzel,  
Assistant Vice President,  
Personal Banker, Bank of America,  
2501 Oak Street,  
PO Box 807,  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577,  
Telephone: 843-443-6257.

54. 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; None, or
  - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina. None

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

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

None.

55. 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.
- None

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: s/Steven H. John

Date: August 3, 2015



State of South Carolina  
The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

STEVEN H. JOHN  
RESIDENT JUDGE

1301 SECOND AVENUE, 3A30  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526  
(843) 915-6696  
FAX: (843) 915-5859

September 10, 2015

Elizabeth H. Brogdon, Chief Counsel  
*Judicial Merit Selection Commission*  
& Staff Attorney, Senate Judiciary Committee  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, S.C. 29202

Re: *Amended Answer to #35 on PDQ Revised Form. Fall 2015*

Dear Judicial Merit Selection Commission:

I have enclosed my Amended Answer to question #35 on PDQ Revised Form. Fall 2015. I was unaware of this matter until I received a call today, Thursday, September 10, 2015 from a SLED agent by the name of Jenny Jacobs. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven H. John".

STEVEN H. JOHN  
*Resident Circuit Judge*  
*Fifteenth Judicial Circuit*

SHJ/mc



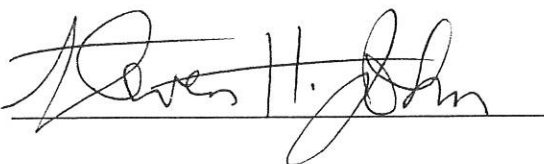
AMENDED ANSWER ON PDQ REVISED FORM. FALL 2015

35. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates and resolution.

Shortly after starting to work for John R. Clarke, Esquire in 1981, I was called to Circuit Court on a case previously filed by Mr. Clarke. Though I knew nothing about the case and had never met the client, and Mr. Clarke was either in another court or out of state, I was ordered by the Circuit Judge to try the case, which I attempted to do to the best of my ability. At some point in the trial the Court directed a verdict for the Defendant. Thereafter, the Defendant in this action sued the Client, Mr. Clarke, and myself. I was dismissed from the case pursuant to a summary judgment motion, due to the circumstances described above, and later the total case was dismissed by summary judgment motion.

AMENDED ANSWER - I received a call on Thursday, September 10, 2015, from a SLED agent by the name of Jenny Jacobs. She said she had discovered that a magistrate court action had been filed in Horry County in November 2001 against me which was judicially dismissed in December 2001. She could not explain why it never came up in 2009 during my reelection then, but was letting me know. I was unaware of this matter until her call to me.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWER IS TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: 

Date: 9/10/15