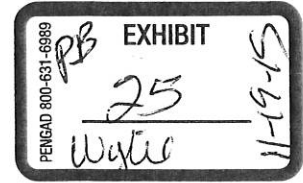


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
Family Court, First Judicial Circuit Seat 2

1. Name: The Honorable William J. Wylie, Jr.
Name that you are known by if different from above: Jim Wylie
Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes, Family Court judge
Business Address: 212 Deming Way, Box 4
Summerville, SC 29483
Telephone Number: (office): 843-832-1659
2. Date of Birth: 1958
Place of Birth: Rock Hill, SC
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
5. Family Status: Married on January 2, 1983 to Carol S. Wylie. Never divorced, three children:
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) Erskine College September 1977–May 1981, BA History;
 - (b) USC School of Law September 1982–May 1985, JD.
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. Admitted to practice in 1985.
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.
College:
 - (a) Presidential Appeals Committee, 1980–1981;
 - (b) Judicial Council, 1979–1980;
 - (c) Student Senate, 1978–1979;
 - (d) Student Life Assistant, 1980–1981;
 - (e) Philomathean Literary Society, 1978–1981 (pres., sec.);
 - (f) Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, 1978–1981.
Law School:
 - (a) My most significant activity during law school was my marriage during my freshman year;
 - (b) I worked as a law clerk for the Donelan Law Firm, 1983-1985;

- (c) Significant course work included Professor Stuckey's Domestic Practice Clinic which included actual representation of a client in a contested, fault-based divorce proceeding, 1985.

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

Conference/JCLE

	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) SC Bar Family Law Section	01/21/11;
(b) Family Court Judges Conference	06/01/11;
(c) Orientation School for New Judges	06/08/11;
(d) NCJFCJ Annual Conference	07/23/11;
(e) Annual Judicial Conference	08/17/11;
(f) Family Court Bench/Bar	12/02/11;
(g) Family Court Judges Conference	04/18/12;
(h) Orientation School for New Judges	05/30/12;
(i) NCJFCJ Annual Conference	07/15/12;
(j) Annual Judicial Conference	08/22/12;
(k) Family Law Section	01/25/13;
(l) Family Court Judges Conference	04/17/13;
(m) Orientation School for New Judges	05/29/13;
(n) Annual Judicial Conference	08/21/13;
(o) Family Court Bench/Bar	12/06/13;
(p) Family Law Section	01/24/14;
(q) Family Court Judges Conference	04/23/14;
(r) Orientation School for New Judges	06/18/14;
(s) NCJFCJ Annual Conference	07/12/14;
(t) Annual Judicial Conference	08/20/14;
(u) NJC Complex Custody Disputes	10/20/14;
(v) Family Court Bench/Bar	12/05/14;
(w) Family Law Section	01/23/15;
(x) Family Court Judges Conferences	04/15/15.

11. 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) I served as a panelist at two Probate Court Bench/Bar Conferences;
- (b) I lectured on probate procedure at a Court Administration seminar for new probate judges;
- (c) I spoke at a "Tips from the Bench" seminar on juvenile cases;
- (d) I lectured at a Probate Bench/Bar CLE on jurisdictional conflicts between family court and probate court;
- (e) I spoke at a Foster Parent Symposium on foster parent participation in abuse and neglect hearings;
- (f) I lectured on judge shopping at a Charleston Bar Family Law Division seminar;
- (g) I lectured at a C.L.E. on DSS Abuse and Neglect cases;
- (h) For the past nine years, I have presented materials on Domestic Abuse and Self-Represented Litigation at the Orientation School for New Judges.

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

- None
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) All SC Courts: November 21, 1985;
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC: January 3, 1986.
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) Partner in the Polito and Wylie law firm from November 1985 until January 1993. As an attorney, my primary area of practice was family law in Dorchester, Berkeley and Charleston counties. I did a significant amount of *pro bono* work, including representing children in abuse and neglect cases. Additionally, I handled some personal injury cases, and maintained a few small business clients for whom I performed a variety of legal services;
 - (b) Appointed part-time Magistrate in 1989;
 - (c) Elected Dorchester County Probate Judge in 1993;
 - (d) Elected Family Court Judge in 1998.
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.
Martindale-Hubbell: BV
23. 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.
- (a) Dorchester County Magistrate (Appointed by Governor): June 1989–December 1992. Jurisdiction limited to small civil claims, and criminal offenses that carried a small fine or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days;
 - (b) Dorchester County Probate Judge (Public Election): January 1993–June 1998. Statutory court with limited jurisdiction (decedent's estates, guardianship & conservatorship of incapacitated persons, involuntary commitments, approval of minor's settlements under \$10,000, concurrent jurisdiction for the approval of wrongful death settlements, litigation involving trusts and powers of attorney, marriage licenses);
 - (c) Family Court, First Judicial Circuit (Elected by Legislature): July 1998–present. Statutory court with limited jurisdiction (divorce, separation, annulments, adoption, paternity, name change, abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, custody, child support, visitation).
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) In Re Minor Child was a post-divorce visitation case that came before me on Mother's motion to require Father to attend counseling due to allegations that he was abusive to the parties' eight year old son. Father denied the allegations and insisted that he should not be required to attend counseling. Father was supported in court

by a large number of persons identifying themselves as part of a Family Court reform movement upset by their perception that fathers were not treated equally or fairly in custody and visitation disputes. I suspended Father's visitation conditioned upon his attending counseling. The following is the text of the letter I received ten years later from the child (with the names redacted):

One day when I was 8 years old you changed my life and I am sure you saved my life. My former father abused me all of those 8 years of my life. My mother and step dad fought real hard in court for all of those years trying to save me from this man. So many doctors, judges, and hurt went by until that one day in Lexington, SC when my mother was to go in front of [another judge] again to try and stop visitation. My mom and step dad and even my lawyer was real nervous when they found out that it was you and not [another judge] that would be hearing the case. See Judge Wylie, mom and [lawyer] had been in front of [another judge] and all the other judges many times over the 8 years. My mom just would not give up on me! On that day you saved my life. I had all ready been in the hospital for suicide thoughts and I am sure I would have done it if I had to go over to [Father's] house much longer. What that man put me and my mom through was unbearable. I just wanted out. I appreciated you listening to the mental health professional's opinion. Nobody over the 8 years really would stand up to [Father]. You did. You took visitation away from [Father] unless he was willing to receive counseling. Well of course none of it was [his] fault so he thought and never went to counseling. So that day on I never had to go to that man's house again.

I am 18 years old now. I graduated high school with honors and am now going to college. My DAD [stepfather] adopted me and I have a wonderful family. I still suffer from PTSD from what [Father] did to me but I am still going to counseling. See my mom and [stepfather] when I was real young found this wonderful counselor that also really cared about me. I am sure I will always be going to her.

So Judge Wylie I thank you so very much. I will always remember what you did for me and my family. We need more Judges like you. You cared about me.

- (b) Haupt v. Haupt was a divorce case in which one of the most hotly contested issues was the mother's desire to deny visitation for the father. A counselor had recommended visitation be suspended due to the strained relationship between father and children, and he had not had any visitation for over a year when the case was tried before me. The father blamed the mother, and believed she was manipulating everyone including the Court to get her way. Under the particular circumstances of this case, I ordered that neither the mother nor the children could refuse visitation, but that the father could decline any period of visitation after consulting with the children's therapist. Though cumbersome, this provision gave father some control over the visitation and ultimately contributed to his re-establishing a good relationship with his children. I believe this order is significant because it demonstrates my efforts to find creative solutions to difficult problems.
- (c) McKenzie v. Lavender was a visitation case in which the Plaintiff sought to be declared the psychological parent of the Defendant's child at a temporary hearing. The mother had cut off all contact between the child and the Plaintiff despite having

fostered a relationship between them. I ordered temporary visitation with detailed restrictions to protect the child from further confusion about the identity of his father. I ruled that the psychological parent determination should not be made at a temporary hearing, but would have to be made following a trial on the merits with both parties having a full opportunity to be heard, and the child represented by a guardian ad litem. I believe this order is significant because it sought to protect a child caught up in litigation between his natural mother and a person who was neither his biological father, adoptive father nor step-father, but who had a viable cause of action to be declared the child's father under the "psychological parent doctrine."

- (d) Patrick v. Britt, 613 S.E.2d 541, 364 S.C. 508 (S.C. App. 2005). This was a child support modification case in which I awarded an increase to the Plaintiff mother. Father was self-employed and claimed only \$66.01 per month income, despite his business grossing over \$400,000 annually. The business paid most of his personal expenses, but he insisted that the Court should use \$66.01 as his monthly income for the child support guidelines calculation. The evidence was convoluted and Defendant intentionally misled the Court about his actual income. I imputed an annual salary based upon his depreciation deductions. I believe this order is significant because it demonstrates my efforts to render a decision that was supported by the evidence even though Defendant tried to conceal his true income, and Plaintiff had no direct evidence of his income.
 - (e) In Re Baby Girl was a declaratory judgment action. One partner of a lesbian couple sought to be declared the parent of a child born to her partner pursuant to the SC paternity statute. The first partner's egg was fertilized in vitro and then implanted into the other partner. Petitioners' raised an Equal Protection argument claiming that the paternity statute could not be constitutionally limited to fathers only. The petitioners were ably represented and presented compelling arguments, but I declined to issue the declaratory judgment as there were no adverse parties and no justiciable controversy for me to resolve. Petitioners' were in my judgment merely seeking to create new law through the courts.
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.
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?
No
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?
No
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?
I have been named as a Defendant in two Federal Court lawsuits. The first was in 2011 by a man who claimed his civil rights were violated because the SC Family Court is an illegal court and he was not allowed a jury trial in his child support civil contempt proceeding. The case was dismissed by the Federal Court. The second was in 2013 by a woman who also claimed that her civil rights were violated because she was not provided a jury trial, and that I and the other judges, lawyers, and police department named as Defendants had conspired to deny her rights under the US Constitution. That case was likewise dismissed by the Federal Court. I was not required to appear in either case and neither went to trial. I believe both Plaintiffs were influenced by the "Sovereign Citizens" group that claim they are exempt from state laws and judicial process, and I understand that these types of lawsuits have been common against state court judges throughout the US.
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.
Not applicable
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

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.
I have no knowledge of any such charges against me or any other candidate.
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.
I have no knowledge of any such charges against me or any other candidate.
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.
No expenditures have been made by me or on my behalf in furtherance of my candidacy.
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.
No contributions have been made by me or on my behalf to any member of the General Assembly.
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, and I am not aware of anyone contacting members of the General Assembly on my behalf.
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;
 - (b) SC Conference of Family Court Judges;
 - a. Secretary-Treasurer, August 2012–August 2013;
 - b. Vice-President, August 2013–August 2014;
 - c. President, August 2014–August 2015.
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.
- None
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.
- I grew up in Brazil, the son of Presbyterian missionaries, where my parents worked with impoverished fishermen and their families. My parents' example of sacrificial service to others has had a tremendous impact on me. I grew up in a foreign culture where I counted the rejected of society among my friends. During college, I spent my summers as a construction laborer, farm hand, and factory worker. At college, I worked in the cafeteria and as a "Student Life Assistant" in my dormitory. Throughout my life, I have been exposed to and made friends with people from all walks of life and from diverse cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds. I believe these experiences have given me a great appreciation for the dignity and value of all human beings, and I am deeply committed to an even-handed administration of justice to the end that whether or not they agree with my decision, both the bank president and day laborer will agree that I listened to them and that they were treated fairly.
- And after over 17 years on the Family Court Bench, I still love this job!
53. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five persons, including your banker, from whom references could be obtained.
- (a) Dr. Mike Shelton
Senior Pastor, Summerville Presbyterian Church
407 South Laurel Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 871-0280
 - (b) Ms. Elizabeth Deherder
582 Pritchards Point Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 442-5728
 - (c) Mr. Claude Burns
112 West Richland Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 821-2341
 - (d) Mr. Tom Terranova
109 Bay Colony Court
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 285-8034

- (e) Dita Brown, Store Manager
Wells Fargo Bank N.A.
648 Long Point Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 849-6373

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;
 - (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.

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.

Not Applicable

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/William J. Wylie, Jr.

Date: August 3, 2015