## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

<u>Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying</u>: Fifth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Judge, Seat 1

1. Name:

Honorable Dorothy Mobley Jones

Name that you are known by if different from above: Dottie Mobley Jones

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes

**Business Address:** 

1701 Main Street

P. O. Box 192

Columbia, SC 29202

Telephone Number:

(office): (803) 576-1752

2. Date of Birth:

1952

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Place of Birth:

Union County

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: Divorced on April 1994; Dorothy Mobley Jones; Horry County Family Court; One year separation; one child.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No, I have never served in the military.
- 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) University of SC, 1970-1974, BA Education;
  - (b) University of SC School of Law, 1975-1978, 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, November 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.
  - (a) President's Honor Roll 1972-1974;
  - (b) Delta Zeta sorority 1970;
  - (c) Sunday school teacher;
  - (d) Women In Law 1977:
  - (e) Phi Delta Phi 1976.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years.

| Conference/CLE Name |   | Date(s)   |
|---------------------|---|-----------|
| (a)                 | SC Bar Annual Convention-Family Law Update                | 01/22/10; |
| (b)                 | Family Court Judges' Conference                           | 04/22/10; |
| (c)                 | New Judges Orientation School                             | 06/03/10; |
| (d)                 | SC Association of Justice Annual Convention-Family Law    | 08/15/10; |
| (e)                 | SC Court Administration Annual Judicial Conference        | 08/18/10; |
| (f)                 | Children's Law Office Mini Summit on Justice for Children | 12/02/10; |

| (g)    | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar CLE   | 12/03/10;   |
|--------|---|-------------|
| (h)    | SC Bar Annual Convention-Family Law Section                               | 01/21/11;   |
| (i)    | SC Bar Guardian Ad Litem Training   | 01/28/11;   |
| (j)    | Family Court Judges' Conference   | 06/01/11;   |
| (k)    | New Judges Orientation School   | 06/08/11;   |
| (1)    | SC Association of Justice Annual Convention-Family Law                    | 08/04/11;   |
| (m)    | SC Bar Hot Tips Domestic Law  | 09/16/11;   |
| (n)    | SC Bar Family Court Bench/Bar CLE   | 12/02/11;   |
| (o)    | SC Bar Annual Convention  | 01/15/12;   |
| (p)    | Family Court Judges' Conference   | 04/18/12;   |
| (q)    | New Judges Orientation School   | 06/01/12;   |
| (r)    | SC Court Administration Annual Judicial Conference                        | 08/19/12;   |
| (s)    | Family Court Bench/Bar  | 12/07/12;   |
| (t)    | New Judges Orientation School   | 05/03/13;   |
| (u)    | Annual Judicial Conference  | 08/21/13;   |
| (v)    | Family Court Bench/Bar  | 12/06/13;   |
| (w)    | SC Bar Convention   | 12/16/13;   |
| (x)    | SC Bar Bridge the Gap   | 01/02/14;   |
| (y)    | SC Bar Convention   | 01/23/14;   |
| (z)    | SC Bar Bridge the Gap   | 03/10/14;   |
| (aa)   | New Judges Orientation School   | 06/19/14;   |
| (bb)   | SC Bar Bridge the Gap   | 08/04/14;   |
| (cc)   | SC Bar Hot Tips   | 09/26/14;   |
| (dd)   | Family Court Bench Bar  | 12/05/14;   |
| (ee)   | Bridge the Gap  | 01/19/15;   |
| (ff)   | SC Bar Convention   | 01/22/15;   |
| (gg)   | SC Bar Bridge The Gap   | 03/09/15;   |
| (hh)   | New Judges Orientation School   | 06/03/15;   |
| (ii)   | SC Bar Bridge the Gap   | 08/03/15.   |
| Have v | you taught law-related courses or lectured at har association conferences | advantional |

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs?

  Yes
  - (a) I planned, moderated and spoke at the annual Family Court Bench Bar Seminar from 2008-2014. All issues presented at this seminar were intended to address issues of interest to Family Court Judges and practitioners;
  - (b) I presented at three SC Bar "Bridge The Gap" seminars in 2014, and to present I have presented at two "Bridge The Gap" seminars in 2015, to instruct law school graduates on family court procedures;
  - (c) I participated as a speaker in a Professionalism Series to law students regarding professionalism issues at the University of SC School Of Law on September 16, 2011;
  - (d) I participated as a speaker in a Professionalism Series to law students regarding professionalism issues at the Charleston School of Law in October 9, 201;
  - (e) I participated in guardian ad litem/Training Seminar for the Fifth Judicial Circuit on January 28, 2011;

- (f) I lectured on courtroom procedures and participated in a training session for the Department of Juvenile Justice on February 9, 2011;
- (g) I presented at the SC Bar Family Law Hot Tips seminar in 2011 and 2014 on family law issues of interest.
- 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) SC Supreme Court, November 8, 1978;
  - (b) US District Court, January 17, 1980.
- 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.

Upon graduation from law school in 1978, I held the following positions:

- Judicial law clerk to Hon. Rodney A. Peeples, August 1978–November 1979. During my employment, I assisted Judge Peeples with jury and non-jury dockets; contacted attorneys for pre-trial conferences and trial appearances; researched legal issues and reviewed legal briefs submitted by attorneys; prepared Orders and jury charges and participated in law clerk seminars;
- Yarborough, Fallon and Mobley in Florence, SC, November 1979–1982; engaged in a general practice including civil and criminal practice, domestic, probate, Workers Compensation, unemployment hearings and magistrate court cases. Despite a general practice, I developed a strong interest in family law, to include adoptions, divorce, custody litigation, termination of parental rights and juvenile matters;
- (c) Baker, Purvis and Mobley, in Darlington, SC, 1984—January 1987. Specialized in medical malpractice and products liability cases; also was actively involved in family law and tort practice;
- (d) Harvey L. Golden, P.A., in Columbia, SC, 1984—January 1987. Specialized in family law, with an emphasis on complex marital litigation involving closely held corporations and division of medical practices and other professional businesses. Return to Columbia was based upon the death of my father and need to be closer to my aging mother;
- (e) Hearn and Corbett, in Myrtle Beach, SC, January 1987–1989. This firm merged into Van Osdell, Lester, Hearn, Britton and Martin. Relocation to Myrtle Beach was based upon marriage to Ronald K. Jones of Myrtle Beach. I primarily engaged in sophisticated matrimonial litigation and contested custody cases;
- (f) Dorothy Mobley Jones, 1990–1993, in Myrtle Beach, SC. Subsequent to being a solo practitioner, I merged with Lester and Jones, where I remained until February 2005 when elected to the Family Court bench. These years of practice were dedicated solely to the practice of family law. Our office was based in Columbia, SC, with satellite offices in Myrtle Beach and Beaufort, SC;
- (g) I was elected to Seat 1, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Family Court Judge in February 2005.

- 16. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, <u>Chambers</u>, <u>Legal 500</u>, <u>Martindale-Hubbell</u>, <u>Who's Who Legal</u>, <u>Super Lawyers</u>, <u>etc.</u>? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

  I am unable to locate my last rating in <u>Martindale v Hubbell</u> since my election to the bench in 2005; however, I received recognition in <u>The Best Lawyers in America</u>, 2005.
- 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. Family Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, March 1, 2005 to present; elected by the General Assembly in February 2005.
- 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) <u>Stephanie Pope v Matthew Walrath</u>, 2012-DR-40-1045, Final Order, Heard on October 23-24 2013. (unreported);
  - (b) <u>Kara Mock v Richard Mock</u>, 2012-DR-40-2255, Final Order, Heard on April 28, 29, 30 and May 1, 2014, July 17, 2014, and reconvened to open for testimony on November 3, 2014. (unreported);
  - (c) The State of SC: In The Interest Of Delarrett Canzater, 2011-JU-40-0670, Heard on March 27-28, 2012. (waiver hearing);
  - (d) <u>Paul Stanley Guinn v Jeanette W. Guinn</u>, 2011-DR-40-0424, Decree of Divorce, Heard on April 11 and June 27, 2013. (unreported);
  - (e) Thomas Thigpen v Robin Coetzee, et al, 2012-DR-40-0290, Final Order, Heard on May 15-16, 2013. (unreported).
- 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, I have never held public office other than judicial office.
- 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. No, I have not had any other employment while serving as a judge.
- 27. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?
- 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?

  Yes.
  - (a) Newberry High School, English and French teacher, 1994-1975;
  - (b) Richardson Insurance, Myrtle Beach, SC, 1989.
  - (c) Also, I taught a law related course at Horry-Georgetown Technical College at Conway, SC, Paralegal Curriculum, Fall 1986 and at the University of SC, Coastal Carolina, Community Law Course, October 1987.
- 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.
- 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.
  I do not know of any potential conflict of interest, however, should I ever encounter a potential conflict of interest as described above, I would disqualify myself from hearing that
- 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?

  As an attorney, I was awarded an attorney fee judgement. At the time the Defendant attempted to sell parcel of real estate, my attorney fee lien against the property resulted in my being named as a party to the action in order to discharge the lien. The suit was not adversarial against me in nature and the obligation was discharged by settlement, resulting in my receipt of a portion of the fee award.
- 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. No. 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? I am not an active member of any social media or internet site. I do not have a Facebook page nor have I accessed Twitter. I have accessed Linked In on infrequent occasions. As a sitting member of the judiciary, I have intentionally avoided social media (Facebook/Twitter) for personal or business use.
- 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.
- 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.

  Paper, copies and postage expenses less than \$10.00.
- 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?
- 47. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? If so, give details. 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;

None

(b) Richland County Bar Association;

- (c) Family Court Judges Advisory Committee, 2012 to present;
- (d) Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession, 2012 to present;
- (e) Children's Task Force, past member (ended 2011);
- (f) Docket Management Task Force, February, 2011 to 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) 2014 Judicial Recipient of Matthew J. Perry Civility Award presented by the Richland County Bar Association;
  - (b) 2015 Buchan, Brown & Jacobs Award presented by the SC Conference of Family Court Judges;
  - (c) Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession;
  - (d) Family Court Judges Advisory Committee.
- 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.

In 2005, I was elected to the Family Court bench, after practicing domestic law in excess of twenty five years. Since 2005, I have found being a Family Court judge to be a rewarding experience, particularly working with juveniles in our court system. Over the past ten years, I have devoted a significant portion of my time working and presenting continuing legal education programs on behalf of the SC Bar Association. Also, since being an appointed member of the Chief Justice's Commission on the Profession since 2008 and the Docket Management Task Force since 2011, I have had the privilege of working with outstanding justices, judges, attorneys and supporting staff personnel on matters that have enhanced and improved our legal profession. I feel very honored and humbled by these experiences. As well over the past ten years, I have also enjoyed the privilege of sitting with the SC Supreme Court on rare occasions. Since my last re-election, I was invited to sit with the Supreme Court on the following cases, all of which has furthered my legal education and appreciation for our Court system:

- (a) The State, Respondent, v. Mike Salley, Petitioner 2012-212233;
- (b) The State, Petitioner, v. Alonzo Hawes, Respondent 2012-212978;
- (c) The State, Petitioner, v. Shawn Antonio Miller, Respondent 2012-212350;
- (d) Katie Green Buist, Respondent, v. Michael Scott Buist, Petitioner 2012-213002:
- (e) The State, Respondent, v Darian K. Robinson, Petitioner 2010-172947;
- (f) Ferguson Fire and Fabrication, Inc., Plaintiff, v. Preferred Fire Protection, LLC, et al, Defendant 2012-212191.
- 53. References:
  - (a) John T. Burnett, Esquire SC Bar PO Box 608 Columbia, SC 29202 803-576-3780
  - (b) Kenneth H. Lester 803-252-4700 1901 Gadsden Street, Suite A

Columbia, SC 29201

- (c) Tara D. Shurling, Esquire 3614 Landmark Drive, Suite A Columbia, SC 29204 803-738-8622
- (d) Mark W. Hardee, Esquire 2231 Devine Street, Suite 202 Columbia, SC 29205 803-799-0905
- (e) Caroline Westbrooks, Vice President First Citizens Bank
  P. O. Box 29
  Columbia, SC 29202\
  803-931-1009
- 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.

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/Dorothy Mobley Jones

Date: August 10, 2015