



**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE  
2024**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Berkeley County Master in Equity

1. Name: Mr. William Thomas Geddings, Jr.  
Mrs.  
Ms.

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): Tommy

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.  
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Frequent Special Referee in Clarendon  
County

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Clarendon

Business Address: 20 South Brooks Street, Manning, SC 29102

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): 803-435-4770  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1963  
Place of Birth: Lake City, FL  
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

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

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]  
Voter Registration Number:[Redacted]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge. NOT APPLICABLE

6. Family Status:

- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated. MARRIED
  - (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation. Married 08-09-1986 to Jane Ulmer Geddings who is a teacher
  - (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). N/A
  - (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds. N/A
  - (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child. [Redacted]
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.  
University of South Carolina School of Business – BS degree in Accounting 1981-1985  
University of South Carolina School of Law – JD Degree – 1985-1987
  8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
No significant activities while in law school
  9. 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. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
    - (a) South Carolina – admitted 1988. Took exam once
    - (b) Georgia – admitted 1995. Took exam once
    - (c) North Carolina – 1990 not admitted. Took exam once unsuccessfully.
    - (d) Also admitted to the Federal Courts in 1988
  10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.
    - (a) Associate - Coffey, Cooper, Chandler and DuRant, P.A., Manning, South Carolina  
May, 1988 - December, 1991  
Practice included: General practice including civil litigation, domestic law, criminal law, and to a lesser degree, probate and estate planning, business creation and advisement, and debt collection. I was also responsible for selecting and maintaining computer equipment for the office. I left employment when I decided to open my own firm.
    - (b) Assistant Public Defender - Clarendon County Public Defender Corp., Manning, S. C.

August, 1988 - December, 1988

Duties included: Representation of indigent criminal defendants in Clarendon County. This was in addition to my practice and was considered a part-time position. I left employment when funding was no longer available for an Assistant Public Defender.

- (c) Contract Attorney – South Carolina Department of Social Services, Clarendon County  
October, 1998 – June 30, 2001

Responsibilities include: Provide legal services to Child Protective Services division and Adult Protective Services division including Emergency Protective Custody actions, *Ex Parte* actions, appeals and consultation. To be available on an as needed basis for consultation for other staff of the department to discuss legal issues involving the department.

- (d) Owner - Geddings Law Firm, Manning, South Carolina  
January, 1992 - present

Practice involves: General practice including civil litigation, real estate, domestic law, criminal law, probate and estate planning, business creation and advisement, debt collection and mediation. Staff has included one associate and three staff members. Admitted to practice law in South Carolina and in Georgia. Responsible for all administrative and financial management, including fully maintaining, monitoring and managing all trust accounts.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.
- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, and whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years

if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

I have been serving as a Special Referee in Clarendon County since the mid 1990's. Our Master in Equity at that time was William C. Coffey and his firm had closed most of the loans in Clarendon County. Therefore he would often have a conflict of interest in hearing foreclosure cases so many cases were referred to me. When he retired as Master, his son, Joseph K. Coffey, took over as Master and I continued to have a lot of referrals since the conflicts of interest remained. I began to hear cases in neighboring counties (Sumter and Williamsburg mostly). Now that Berkeley County has no Master in Equity, I have been doing many cases in Berkeley County as well.

In addition to serving as Special Referee in many cases, I have represented clients in cases in the Master in Equity (or Special Referee) courts across the state. In the past 5 years, I estimate that I had 3-5 cases per month on average and since starting to handle cases in Berkeley County, that has increased to more than 20 cases in Berkeley County alone.

- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

- (a) federal: 0  
(b) state: Actual trials – 4. All others settled or were dismissed. Appearance for motion hearings were numerous but otherwise uncounted. These represent contested trials in Common Pleas. As stated above, I appear frequently in Master's Court and I also appear in Family Court.

13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?

- (a) civil: 30%  
(b) criminal: 5%  
(c) domestic: 35%  
(d) other: 30%

14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 90%
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 5%
  - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? (Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.) 5%
  - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? 0%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? Sole Counsel

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial? Not Applicable

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

(a) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 336 S.C. 154, 519 S.E.2d 102 (1999) – I served as trial and appellant counsel for Case Produce Company. The Commission basically held that an employee who claimed to have been injured at work was essentially presumed to have been injured at work. The Supreme Court agreed with our position that the burden of proof in proving any injury occurred at work must rest with the claimant and not with the employer.

(b) State vs. Marcus Joseph – This was my first General Sessions death penalty case and I was assistant counsel with Ray E. Chandler. I believe it was significant because it involved many issues of contract murder, interstate jurisdiction and extradition, the death penalty and negotiations both with the prosecution and with our client. I learned a great deal in this case so it has personal significance to me.

(c) Jackie Eadon Chalfant v. Carolinas Dermatology Group PA, et al - No. 5977 (S.C. Ct. App. Apr. 12, 2023) – I assisted with the trial of this case and assisted in arguing the appeal before the Court of Appeals. We prevailed on some issues of the appeal and did not prevail on others. This was significant because it is probably the largest value case I have actually tried and although we did not initially prevail at the trial court level, we prevailed at the appellant level and upon remand were able to settle the case.

(d) Estate of Bates Coy McCutchen v. Federal Express, et al – I served as the Personal Representative of the Estate and thus as the Plaintiff in this matter. It was quite a tragedy and the case was resolved through mediation but dealing with the family and the issues involved moved me quite a bit as a man and as an attorney. Bates Coy McCutchen's father and grandparents have been long time clients and friends of mine so seeing them hurting was a painful process. I was very pleased and impressed with the conduct of the attorneys involved in the case, on both sides, as it was all done in a highly professional manner with great respect for the feelings of the family.

Although suit was not filed, the resolution of the issues was a model in my mind for how things would be handled in a more perfect world.

(e) Shirley Pirro Scafati v. Aldo Scafati – I represented Aldo Scafati in this divorce action. Mr. Scafati was about 100 years old and had a child bride of 86. They had only been married a few years. She sought a divorce on physical cruelty because he hit her with a frying pan once and stabbed her in the head with a butter knife once. Mr. Scafati could not drive so when they had an argument, his method of “storming out” was to have the police come arrest him. He was also a millionaire. I negotiated a settlement and we resolved it favorably but just meeting and getting to know Mr. Scafati was such a treat that it will always be a significant case to me. His zest for life and his approach to things helped me see the practice of law clearly. It also reminded me that people need our help and that helping can be a mutually enjoyable experience.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 336 S.C. 154, 519 S.E.2d 102 (1999)
  - (b) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 329 S.C. 534, 495 S.E.2d 790 (Ct. App. 1997)
  - (c) Gladys Haskins v. Lynn Ray Tidwell, Unpublished Opinion No. 2006-UP-164
  - (d) Jackie Eadon Chalfant v. Carolinas Dermatology Group PA, et al - No. 5977 (S.C. Ct. App. Apr. 12, 2023)
  
17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.
  - (a) None.
  - (b)
  - (c)
  - (d)
  - (e)
  
18. 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. NOT APPLICABLE
  
19. If the answer to question 18 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) NOT APPLICABLE
  - (b)
  - (c)
  - (d)
  - (e)
  
20. 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) South Carolina – admitted 1988.
- (b) Georgia – admitted 1995.
- (c) Admitted to the Federal Courts in 1988

21. 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 taught in the Paralegal and the Criminal Justice programs at Central Carolina Technical College from August 1989 through 2008 as an adjunct professor.
- (b) I taught at the Master in Equity Bench/Bar conference on the topic of Quiet Title Actions.
- (c) I taught at the Investor's Title CLE on the topic of Quiet Title actions and again on Partition actions.
- (d) I have lectured on risk management at Clemson University, University of South Carolina and many other colleges as a guest speaker.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.

Continuing Legal Education Commission no longer keeps records on me since I am exempt therefore I have nothing that I can attach.

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

- (a) Like a Hog with a Wristwatch, South Carolina Trial Lawyers Magazine
- (b) Heirs Property: A Quagmire for the Unprepared, South Carolina Lawyer, July 2010 issue, pages 25-31.
- (c) Partition Actions in South Carolina: Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow, South Carolina Lawyer, March 2016 issue, pages 18-21
- (d) Legally Speaking, semi-weekly column in The Manning Times from 1989 through 1997 in which I discussed various topics of law of interest to a lay person
- (e) Down and Dirty with Dirt Law: A Practical Guide for Non-Real Estate Attorneys, South Carolina Lawyer, May 2022 issue, pages 36-43

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

See attached

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization; such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

Not a member of any of these services.

26. 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) South Carolina Bar – many years service on the Ethics Advisory Committee and the Fee Dispute Resolution Committee
  - (b) Georgia State Bar
  - (c) Clarendon County Bar Association – current President

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. 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? If so, give details, including dates.

None

28. For sitting or former judges, 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.

N/A

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

- (a) I was a candidate for Clarendon County Council in 1994. I was unsuccessful.
- (b) I was a candidate for Third Judicial Circuit Court Seat 1 in 2005. I withdrew.
- (c) I was a candidate for Third Judicial Circuit Family Court, Seat 2 in 2009. I withdrew.
- (d) I was a candidate for Third Judicial Circuit Family Court Seat 3 in 2019. I withdrew.
- (e) I was a candidate for Third Judicial Circuit Court Seat 1 in 2023. I withdrew early in the process.

30. 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? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

None

31. 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.

- (a) I am the President of Geddings Law Firm, PA. This is my law firm and my duties involve the standard requirements of practicing law.

32. 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)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No



33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
  - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

See Attached

**NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.**

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? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

No

35. 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? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No

36. 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. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

None

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

None

39. 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 or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

None

40. 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 more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; 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.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

41. 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. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

N/A

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

N/A

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

N/A

45. 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? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations

subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

(a) I have never personally been sued by a client. Geddings Law Firm, PA was sued in Bhupen C. Paetl v. Vishnukmar V. Patel, Scott L. Robinson, and W. T. Geddings, Jr. d/b/a Geddings Law Firm, 2000-CP-14-34. My associate, Scott L. Robinson, handled a real estate closing for Mr. Bhupen Patel and Mr. V. Patel. In the title search, Mr. Robinson encountered a mortgage and the Patels gave him a printout of the balance they claimed was due on the note secured by the mortgage. Mr. Robinson based his calculations on that amortization and completed the closing. Later, Bhupen Patel claimed that the printout (which he provided to Scott Robinson) was incorrect and alleged that Scott Robinson should not have taken his word for it and should have demanded the original documents. Neither of the Patels had paid Scott Robinson to handle any payoff of loans nor any other service related to the loan/mortgage. The case was resolved and I had no liability nor was I required to make any payments.

(b) I have filed suit in Magistrate's Court on behalf of Geddings Law Firm, PA to collect unpaid fees.

(c) I have been involved in litigation in Magistrate's Court and Common Pleas Court involving lenders and various entities but none are relevant to this application.

(d) I am a party in Jane U. Geddings & William T. Geddings Jr. vs. Blaster Boys LLC, 2019-CP-14-00486 – This is a property dispute with a neighbor and it is still pending.

(e) I am a party in New Residential Mortgage LLC v. Todd S. Crawford, et al, 2020-CP-14-00023 – this is a dispute over a lien on property owned by Crawford and later conveyed to my wife and I. This is still pending. My wife nor I are involved in the lien foreclosure portion of the suit but are not liable for any note or debt on the property.

48. 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.

I am in private practice and I am covered my malpractice insurance. I have had insurance the entire time I have practiced law and it has never lapsed. I am currently covered by QBE Insurance

Corporation with Policy LAW-13389-00 with a \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 limit and a \$5,000.00 deductible.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No

51. 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, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? 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? If so, give details.

No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in

blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

- (a) Diane M. Rodriguez, Esquire  
[Redacted]
- (b) Brook Dangerfield, Esquire  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
[Redacted]
- (c) Shaquana M. S. Cuttino, Esquire  
[Redacted]
- (d) G. Wells Dickson, Esquire  
[Redacted]
- (e) Jarrod K. Brooks  
Berkeley County Councilperson-Elect  
[Redacted]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?

If so, please list the account names for each account and the relevant platform.

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 have a Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter account but I am not active. If selected as a Judge, I would cease to use those accounts if requested. My Account on Facebook is [Redacted]. My Account on LinkedIn is [Redacted] I do not even remember my Twitter handle and have not used it in years.

57. 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, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

- (a) Sigma Chi Fraternity – I have been the International Treasurer, International Vice President and International President.
- (b) First Baptist Church of Manning - I am a current member and previously served on the Personnel Committee.
- (c) I am a member of many other groups (including being a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary) but those are the ones most important to me.

58. 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. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I am a Court Certified Mediator and Arbitrator and I have served as such in numerous cases over the past several years. In addition, I have served frequently as Special Referee in Clarendon County non-jury cases and other cases. I believe that I have the temperament, knowledge and ability to serve well as a Master in Equity.

I have watched the things that sitting Judges have done which helped a case move more efficiently and seen the things which tend to only make a bad situation worse. I have found that the Judges who remember what it is like to practice law, the good and the bad parts of it, are the Judges I find to be the most skilled. I believe that my experience and compassion will help me be one of those Judges.

Civility between attorneys and litigants seems to be lacking and I would hope to restore some of that by treating everyone with courtesy and respect. Too many media presentations (television shows, movies and news programs) seem to promote unrealistic ideas about the legal system and one of my goals would be emphasis respect, fairness and integrity. It is a stressful situation but I believe that I do very well in stressful situations so I believe I can help litigants understand the legal issues, as compared to emotional responses, and facilitate cooperation between the attorneys.

In my time as Special Referee, I have encountered many litigants representing themselves so it is very important to take more time with them than with attorneys and to keep in mind that they do not understand the process. Since I cannot render legal advice, I have to remind them that they should consult an attorney who can advise them and I try to take a bit of time to explain legal terms or what is happening. Since many of the cases are foreclosure cases, most people just want someone to hear that they are trying to make the payments and even though their efforts do not effect the outcome of the case, they seem to appreciate when someone says that they understand and sympathize.

I realize that I do not live in Berkeley County presently but I did not find any requirement that the Master in Equity live in the County. Regardless of that, if selected for the position my wife and I would be moving to Berkeley County as quickly as we can find a home. As I mentioned above, my daughter and son-in-law are expecting our first grandchild in late September and live in Summerville. Berkeley County will be closer to them and I know my wife especially will be excited to see her grandson more often. We have friends and family in that area so we are looking forward to moving to Berkeley County.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Printed Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_