



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs.
Ms. Stephanie N. Lawrence

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) No, I am not.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland County

Business Address: 111 Research Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29203

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (803) 988-0258
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1974
Place of Birth: Vicksburg, Mississippi
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes, I am.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes, I have.

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. No, I have not.

6. Family Status:
(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
 - (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
 - (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.
 - (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are NOT full-time students, also include the occupation and employer of each child.
 Family Status: Divorced
 Divorced on August 31, 2023, Richland Co., S.C. Family Court, Ms. Lawrence was moving party. One Year's Continuous Separation.
 Two children.
 [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.
 - (a) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2003 – May 2006, Juris Doctor
 - (b) University of South Carolina, August 1997 – December 1999, M.Ed, Ed.S. Counselor Education
 - (c) Mississippi State University, January 1995 – May 1997, B.A. Psychology
 - (d) Southern University and A&M College, August 1994 – December 1994, financial constraint concerning out of state tuition, no degree obtained
 - (e) Hinds Community College, August 1992 – May 1994, A.A. General Studies
 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.
 - (a) Moot Court Bar, 2004 – 2006
 - (b) Order of the Barristers, 2004 – 2006 (number one ranking 2004)
 - (c) National Moot Court Competition 2005 Region Five (Team Captain)
 - (d) Law School Ambassadors, 2004 – 2006
 - (e) Black Law Students Association, 2003 – 2006
 - (f) NBLSA Fredrick Douglas Mock Trial Competition, 2005
 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, November 2006 admission, one examination
 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) BOYKIN & DAVIS, L.L.C., Columbia, SC

Associate (Aug 2006 – July 2008) Senior Associate (August 2008 – February 2011)

- Practiced in the areas of Employment and Education Law with a client base consisting mainly of public entities. These include public school districts, public colleges and technical colleges, small towns, and municipalities.
- Advised clients on responsibilities under Title VII, Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Family Medical Leave Act, and other federal and state employment statutes.
- Responded to various federal and state agencies in connection with discrimination-based investigations, including preparation of position statements to the EEOC, S.C. Human Affairs Commission, and the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Conducted training for school districts regarding various personnel and student-related issues including teacher dismissal proceedings.

(b) MCANGUS, GOUDELOCK & COURIE

Senior Associate (February 2011 – February 2012)

- Practiced in the area of South Carolina Workers' Compensation law.
- Managed litigation of cases before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission and the South Carolina Court System.
- Advised employers, insurance providers and Third-Party Administrators on responsibilities under the SC Workers' Compensation Act.

(c) MILLER LAWRENCE, L.L.C.

Owner/Partner (February 2012 – August 2013)

- Operated a boutique style litigation defense firm that provided legal representation in the areas of South Carolina Workers' Compensation law and liability defense to employers, insurance providers and Third-Party Administrators.
- Managed and litigated cases before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission and the South Carolina Court System.
- Advised employers, insurance providers and Third-Party Administrators on responsibilities under the SC Workers' Compensation Act.
- Direct and daily involvement with the administrative and financial management of this firm, including management of its trust account.

(d) DICKIE, MCCAMEY & CHILCOTE, P.C.

Of Counsel (August 2013 – December 2017) Shareholder (January 2018 – January 2020)

- Practiced primarily in the area of South Carolina Workers' Compensation law, with some Employment law and Insurance Defense.
- Managed and litigated cases before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission and the South Carolina Court System.
- Advised employers, insurance providers and Third-Party Administrators on responsibilities under the SC Workers' Compensation Act as well as some state and federal employment statutes.

- Direct and daily involvement with the administrative and financial management of the South Carolina office, with no involvement in any of the firm’s trust accounts.

(e) AFR HEARING SERVICES, LLC

Owner (January 2020 – Present)

- Provided service as an attorney hearing officer to state and local entities in various due process/grievance proceedings.
- Analyzed pre-hearing submissions to include Pre-hearing statements and proposed exhibits.
- Presided over full evidentiary hearings in accordance with the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and Evidence.
- Prepared Report and Recommendation(s) for final decision by authorizing agency.
- Direct and daily involvement with the administrative and financial management of the business.

(f) SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (SCSBA)

Director of Policy and Legal Services (July 2021 – July 2022)

General Counsel (July 2022 – Present)

- Provide legal oversight concerning South Carolina School Boards Association and South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust matters.
- Coordinate the operation of SCSBA’s policy and legal services division to ensure local school boards receive the necessary assistance in the governance of their school districts through policy.
- Ensure that districts are kept informed of legal developments in school law and impact on their board and district policies.
- Provide ongoing training to local school boards on topics relating to effective governance of school districts.
- Provide legal opinions to Association and member districts.
- Coordinate and direct the continuing legal education programming for school law attorneys in the state.

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.

My experience in the Master's court was early on in my career and involved debt collection, breach of contract, and foreclosure matters. I do not recall the specifics of the cases. I have had no appearances within the past five years as my practice was focused solely before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission and then presiding over matters as a hearing officer for the State Department of Education.

- (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: None
 - (b) state: 149 matters before the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission; Presiding over 15 matters serving as a hearing officer in contract with the State Department of Education
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:

- (b) criminal:
- (c) domestic:
- (d) other: 96% Workers' Compensation Matters; 4% Education Law Matters

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?

100% practice before a South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commissioner or Panel

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

(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.

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

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

I most often served as 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?

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) Karen Wilson, individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of John Paul Taylor v. Horry Georgetown Technical College, et al.

This was a wrongful death and survival action involving a 14-year-old student who drowned in a hotel swimming pool during a field trip to Ashville, North Carolina. The issues were many, but the most salient I recall was identification of the proper beneficiaries, recoverable damages, negligence standards in student supervision (Tort Claims Act), and evidence supporting conscious pain and suffering. There were also informal parenting designations and relationships that considerably impacted the case dynamics.

This case was significant for me because it was my first death case and because of the decedent's age. Also, the impact of the application of the Tort Claims Act on limitation of liability, evidentiary requirements, and damages.

(b) Strickland v. J. Frank Baker, et. al

This was an employment discrimination action filed under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The claim was brought against multiple defendants including

two school districts, and several named employees. The matter was initially filed with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After the EEOC issued a Dismissal and Notice of Rights, the Plaintiff filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. The matter was subsequently appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The case hinged on timeliness of the claim. The merits, though many, were never really addressed by the Courts. This case was significant for me because of the experience in litigating a claim beginning at a state level agency up through the federal court system.

(c) Donte Riddick v. Carolina Cannery

This was a denied, then later admitted back claim which ultimately morphed into a denied death claim before the Workers' Compensation Commission. The Claimant received some initial conservative treatment and was returned to work light duty, while awaiting a pending orthopedic evaluation. The Claimant engaged in light duty activities for half a day before complaints, which resulted in his return to out of work status the same day. The next day he died. The cause of death listed on the death certificate was diabetes mellitus. The issue was whether the half day of light duty work activities aggravated the Claimant's diabetic condition thereby causing or contributing to his death.

This case hinged on the medical evidence and expert endocrinologist testimony, which ultimately supported long-term noncompliance with diabetic treatment and a completely different non-work-related cause of death – cardiac arrest with hypercholesterolemia. The case was significant for me because of the details involved in establishing whether a death is related or unrelated under the Workers' Compensation Statute. It was also a great lesson in medical expert strategy.

(d) Travis L. Severson v. Pactiv Corporation

This matter started out as what seemed like a standard admitted back claim where the Claimant sustained a T-spine fracture when he was using a pry bar to remove a gear box to repair a seal. The Claimant received orthopedic treatment and was eventually referred for oncological evaluation in response to his delayed healing and oncological history. He was ultimately diagnosed with multiple myeloma (bone cancer) and a tumor was identified in the fracture. The issue became one of obligation for continued medical treatment as the Claimant required pain management for his back but was pending a stem cell transplant for the cancer. The case turned on the medical reports and testimony of the oncologist and orthopedic specialists. They were unable to opine to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that the Claimant's continued pain management needs were caused by the work injury versus the underlying cancer condition, which causes bone pain.

Unfortunately, the Claimant's condition progressed rather quickly, forcing him and his family to make difficult choices concerning the continued litigation of his claim. The case was ultimately worked out through an agreement of the parties concerning continued treatment obligation and permanency for back injury. This case was significant to me because of the underlying cancer issues which permeated the case. This required more robust discovery, substantial research on the subject matter, and a good amount of coordination across medical specialties in different states. That said, most noteworthy was witnessing the impact of life changing health conditions on litigation.

(e) Joseph Black v. Miles Road Paint & Body, Inc.

This was initially a right knee injury with a later included back claim that was straight forward in terms of acceptance and causally related medical care. The Claimant ultimately required surgery for his knee and physical therapy for the back. The prevalent issue concerned temporary disability payments. Defendants issued required weekly payments, but later requested a credit covering a four-month period when it was discovered the Claimant was also receiving wages from his employer.

The Claimant alleged he never received the temporary disability checks. After Defendants produced evidence showing the checks were cashed, then Claimant maintained the checks were stolen from his mailbox by his ex-wife who suffered a drug addiction. Ultimately, the credit issue was determined in favor of Defendants as there was no evidence to support the Claimant's allegations outside of his own testimony. The Commissioner also concluded the allegation of the Claimant's stolen checks should be pursued in a criminal court setting as the Commission lacked subject matter jurisdiction over such matters. This case is significant to me because it was the first time in a hearing where I had to actively work to manage my frustration with a witness in the midst of the hearing testimony. It highlighted the importance of courtroom demeanor and witness credibility.

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) Sheila Hogan v. Culp, Inc. D/B/A Culp Woven Velvets, Inc., and Farming Casualty Company C/O Travelers (W.C. C. File No: 1021103)
South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission Appellate Panel, October 24, 2011

(b) Strickland v. J. Frank Baker, et. al
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, April 27, 2010

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.

No, I have not.

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) N/A
- (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 State Courts (November 13, 2006)
- (b) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina (February 14, 2007)
- (c) United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (December 1, 2008)

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 have made presentations on the topic of South Carolina Workers' Compensation for insurance representatives, third-party administrators, and employers. These were client driven for annual updates, team training, and/or to satisfy continuing education requirements for insurance adjusters. The presentations generally included an overview of SC Workers' Compensation law, management of cases from inception to closure, forms training, best practices, case law updates and question/answer sessions.
- (b) I have provided training on Education Law related issues to South Carolina public school districts employees, school boards, and school law attorneys.

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

See attached CLE Compliance Reports.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None.

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.)
- (a) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2010
As senior associate attorney I drafted the brief, which was reviewed, edited, and finalized by my supervising partner.
- (b) South Carolina State Board of Education, 2020
As the hearing officer presiding over the matter, I drafted the Report and Recommendation to be considered by the State Board of Education in its decision.
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. N/A
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 Association
(b) Richland County Bar Association
(c) National School Attorneys Association
(d) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association
(e) South Carolina Women Lawyers Association
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.
- No, I have not.
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. Yes, I have.

(a) I was a candidate for the Administrative Law Court, Seat 3 during the July 2020 – February 2021 judicial cycle. I was found “Well Qualified” and screened out of committee as one of three final candidates. I ultimately withdrew from the race a day or two before the election as I lacked enough support in our House of Representatives to win the seat.

(b) I ran again for Administrative Law Court, Seat 5 during the July 2022 – February 2023 judicial cycle. I was found “Well Qualified” and screened out of committee as one of two final candidates. I ultimately lost the election following a vote by the General Assembly.

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.

Yes, I have.

(a) Richland County School District One, Substitute Teacher (August 1997 – May 2000).

(b) Newberry County School District, High School Guidance Counselor (June 2000 – August 2003).

(c) AFR Hearing Services, LLC, Attorney Hearing Officer and Legal Consultant (January 2020 – 2022)

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.

No, I am not.

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, I have not.

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.)

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

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

34. (a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years? If no, please provide details.

Yes, I have.

(b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes? If yes, please provide details.

No, I have not.

(c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details.

No, there has not.

(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details.

No, I have not.

(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults.

No, I have not.

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, I have not.

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?

No expenditures have been made.

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 participate in any employer-mandated contributions to a PAC or any other political entity, please describe and note your personal involvement in contributions. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

(a) Senator Overture Walker \$500

(b) Representative Ivory Thigpen \$250

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.

No one has solicited or collected funds on my behalf.

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.

There are 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.

There are none by me or any member of my immediate family.

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.

There are none by me or any member of my immediate family.

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.

There are none by me or any member of my immediate family.

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, I have not.

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) No, I have never been sued by a client.

(b) I had claim against State Farm Insurance Agency for an automobile accident occurring on December 18, 2017 (Claim Number 40-2408-N49). The claim was settled.

(c) The matter of Stephanie Lawrence v. Anthony Lawrence, Family Court Case Number: 2023DR4001622. August 31, 2023 Divorce Decree by the Honorable Judge Michelle Hurley.

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. N/A

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, to all of the above.

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, to all of the above.

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.

(a) No, I have not.

(b) I have discussed my interest in the judicial seat and indicated my intent to apply for same.

(c) I have asked no one to campaign on my behalf and have no knowledge of anyone who may have.

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, I am.

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, I have not; and not to my knowledge.

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) Meredith L. Seibert, Esq.
[Redacted]
- (b) Jesulon Gibbs-Brown, Esq.
[Redacted]
- (c) Tiffany N. Richardson, Esq.
[Redacted]
- (d) Kenya C. Miller, Esq.
[Redacted]
- (e) Karla M. Hawkins, Esq.
[Redacted]

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

I have accounts. However, I am not an active social media user.

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

- (a) Facebook – [Redacted]
- (b) LinkedIn – [Redacted]
- (c) Twitter – [Redacted]
- (d) Instagram – [Redacted]

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 active on social media. My use would not be affected by my serving in a judicial capacity.

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) Gamma Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
(Parliamentarian 2016 – 2018)
- (b) Ridgeview High School Improve Council

(Vice Chair 2018 -2019)
(c) 2022 South Carolina Education Policy Fellow

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.

It would be my honor and privilege to be selected as the Richland County Master-In-Equity. Serving as a member of our judiciary is how I wish to continue contributing to my local community and to the state of South Carolina. My personality and temperament are well suited to the bench and the diversity of my legal experience evidences my ability to transition across practice areas. I have always been dedicated to growing as an attorney and am willing to research, receive training, and utilize resources available to me to successfully navigate any learning curve for this new role. I am also confident that I have the drive and work ethic to efficiently manage a docket and return decisions in a timely manner.

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: _____