



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

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

1. Name: Mr. James John Wegmann
Mrs.
Ms.

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

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

I have at times served as a Special Referee in Beaufort County.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Beaufort

Business Address: 6 Professional Village Circle, Beaufort, South Carolina 29907

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 521- 0004
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1963
Place of Birth: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
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.

Yes. 1985 – 1997, United States Marine Corps, Captain - O-3. DD214 Attached.

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: Married on August 11th, 1984, to Constance Bate Wegmann, Bookkeeper/Paralegal at Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC.

Never divorced, 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 Texas at Austin, 1981-1985, BA Political Science
 - (b) Oklahoma City University School of Law, 1991-1994, Juris Doctor
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) Applied and was accepted to the highly competitive USMC Funded Law Education Program.
 - (b) Faculty Honor Roll 1991 – 1994.
 - (c) Am Jur Award – Property I, Trial Practice, Family Law, Consumer Law.
 - (d) National Member of The Order of Barristers – 1994.
 - (e) Phi Delta Phi – 1994.
 - (f) Moot Court Board – 1992.
 - (g) ATLA National Trial Team – 1993 – 1994, 1 of 2 selected and competed in the National Competition in Denver Colorado.
 - (h) Research Assistant – Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus Lawrence K. Hellman – 1993 researched professional responsibility/ethics issues for Professor Hellman who was hired on a case as an expert witness.
 - (i) Summer 1992 – Interned at the Law Center, Marine Corp Air Station El Toro, CA – participated in legal assistance, assisting active-duty members, their families, and retired members in various areas of the law. Acted as the Recorder, who serves as

the “prosecutor” and represents the Command at Administrative Discharge Boards of all types. Active-Duty Marines were represented by Judge Advocate Defense Counsel.

- (j) Summer of 1993 - Interned at the Law Center, Marine Corp Air Station El Toro, CA – participated in legal assistance, assisting active-duty members, their families, and retired members in various areas of the law. Acted as the Recorder, who serves as the “prosecutor” and represents the Command at Administrative Discharge Boards of all types. Active-Duty Marines were represented by Judge Advocate Defense Counsel. Additionally, worked in the Trial Shop and participated as a co-Trial Counsel “Prosecutor” for a Special Court Martial.
- (k) Graduated Spring of 1994, Magna Cum Laude.

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) Texas – Admitted Fall of 1994, took the bar exam one (1) time.
- (b) South Carolina – Admitted Spring of 1997, took the bar exam (1) time.

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) In Fall of 1994 attended the Naval Justice School for certification as a Judge Advocate, intensive course of instruction in civil and military law and intensive trial advocacy training, to include National Institute for Trial Advocacy training (NITA), in preparation for certification as a trial or defense counsel.
- (b) October of 1994 – July of 1997 - Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. Served in several billets:
 - a. Senior Defense Counsel for MCRD and the Eastern Recruiting Region. Responsible for detailing and overseeing all defense cases and detailing cases to subordinate Defense Counsel. Participated in Summary, Special, and General Courts-Martial as detailed Defense Counsel. Oversaw and assigned Administrative Discharge Board assignments to subordinate Defense Counsel and participated in numerous Administrative Discharge Board defenses throughout the Eastern Recruiting Region and MCRD Parris Island.
 - b. Special Assistant US Attorney – District of South Carolina – Responsible for prosecuting civilians who committed offenses aboard MCRD Parris Island under Title 18 and the Assimilative Crimes Act.
 - c. Head of Legal Assistance – provided various legal services to active-duty Marines, their dependents, and Military Retirees. Oversaw subordinate Judge Advocates assigned to Legal Assistance. MCRD Parris Island Legal Assistance Office was awarded the 1996 ABA Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

(LAMP) Office of the Year Award during my tenure as the Department Head. The award was in part as a result of the successful Income Tax Center Program that provided Federal and State tax services to recruiters in the Eastern Recruiting Region from New York to Florida.

- (c) July of 1997 to present – Partner in the Law Firm of Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC. In the past 27 years my practice has evolved to include a balance of contractual and litigation matters. The balance has shifted from time to time depending on outside forces like the real estate crisis of 2007/08 and COVID. Initially, I continued to handle General and Special Courts-Martial cases, some General Sessions cases, civil cases and family law cases. My partner and I overlapped in some of these areas so in early 2000, I decided to focus more on contractual matters and civil litigation. My civil litigation practice has included construction cases, mechanic’s liens, mortgage foreclosures, HOA lien foreclosures, boundary disputes, easements, quiet title actions, tax sale actions, HOA covenant and governing document disputes, business litigation, purchase and sale contract litigation, leases, etc. My contractual practice has included residential and commercial real estate closings, developer/builder transactions, business assets sales and purchases, business entity formation and representation, contract drafting, to include bylaws, operating agreements, covenants, rules and regulations, general HOA representation advising property managers and HOA Boards, etc. I also have maintained a probate practice that includes drafting wills, powers of attorney, trusts, handling estate administrations, guardianships, conservatorships, mental health and drug/alcohol hearings as well as litigating probate issues on behalf of estates and beneficiaries. During the past 27 years I have been responsible for administrative duties within the law firm to include employees, building issues, ordering, office equipment, etc. I have also handled overseeing receivables, payables, payroll, trust, escrow, and operating accounts accounting/reconciliations and, wire transfers, etc.

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.

Not applicable.

- (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.

Not applicable.

- (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.

Over the past twenty-seven years I have had the pleasure to appear before all three (3) of Beaufort County's Master-in-Equity judges. In the past five (5) years the frequency of appearances in both the Master's Court and Circuit Court has been less frequent on average due, in part, to COVID, at which time I concentrated more on my transactional practice. But I believe my appearances in the Master's Court and Circuit Court over the past five (5) years would average to at least monthly appearances. There have been times over my career where that frequency would have been multiple times in a week on average.

There are counties which do not have a Master-in-Equity, so generally it is typical to hire a Special Referee to hear the matters. Within the past five (5) years, I have had Special Referee cases in those counties which have consisted of HOA Lien Foreclosures/Money Judgement actions and Easement actions. In general, most of my cases either in Circuit Court or the Master's Court have pertained to real property issues to include but not limited to, mortgage foreclosures, HOA lien foreclosures, quiet title actions, tax sale confirmation actions, boundary disputes, trespass actions, easements, commercial and residential leases, breach of covenants actions, construction matters, mechanic's liens, etc.

- (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.

Not applicable.

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: I believe I have handled one (1) Federal Matter in the past five (5) years.
- (b) state: Monthly

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: 0%
- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: 70%, Residential and Commercial Real Estate Closings, HOA representation, Business Entity Formations and Counseling, Probate Matters, Guardianships/Conservatorships, Mental Health/Drug & Alcohol representations, Wills, Trusts drafting, Real Estate Development, Drafting Covenants, Master Deeds & Governing Documents, leases, both residential and commercial,

14. During the past five years

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

Thirty Percent.

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

Thirteen.

(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.)

None.

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

None.

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?

N/A.

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) United States v. Carlson decided February 14th, 2006, NMCCA 200100209, unpublished opinion. I represented GySgt. Carlson in a multi-week general court-martial in which he was found guilty of seven specifications of violating a lawful general regulation/order, two specifications of cruelty to subordinates, two specifications of making a false official statement, two specifications of forcible sodomy, six specifications of indecent assault, two specifications of false swearing, indecent exposure, three specifications of indecent language, two specifications of soliciting another to commit an offense, and breaking restriction. The members/jury sentenced GySgt. Carlson to 15 years, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1, and a Dishonorable Discharge. This case had significant visibility because GySgt. Carlson was the lead non-lethal instructor at the Military Police School at Fort McClellan, Alabama in the late 1990's and prior to becoming an instructor, was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations security detail in Washington, D.C. The events took place at Fort McClellan during a two (2) year period when he was assigned as an instructor to Marines attending military police occupational specialty training. The case involved multiple experts in both DNA and Computer forensics. Several hundred Marine military police students were interviewed by the government and the government called 40+ witnesses to testify at trial. The Defense was denied the use of its own investigator by the Court and therefore faced a daunting task of interviewing Marines who had graduated from Military Police School and were now serving all over the world. I was lead counsel on this particular case and this was the first and really only case I have tried with multiple co-counsels. The case was significant for me for a number of reasons, the challenges of multiple co-counsels, the sheer number of potential witnesses to interview who were stationed all over the world, expert witnesses in multiple disciplines, and managing other co-counsel in both the preparation of and conduct of trial.

(b) Bay Point Contractors, Inc. v. Waters, et. al., 2007-CP-07-01418, this was a mechanic's lien foreclosure and breach of contract construction case that was tried by jury. I represented the Plaintiff, Bay Point Contractors. The defendant homeowner counterclaimed for breach of contract and negligent construction which triggered my client's general liability insurance policy. The jury found in favor of the Plaintiff/Builder and awarded the Plaintiff \$104,364.49. Thereafter, there were significant post-trial motions filed by the Defendant and the Plaintiff. Defendant filed motions for JNOV, New Trial Absolute, New Trial Nisi Remittitur, Thirteenth Juror, and Setoff. Plaintiff filed motions for post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees and costs. The Court denied the Defendant's various motions and granted Plaintiff's motions for pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees and costs. The final judgment issued in the matter totaled \$172,256.11. The Court issued a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale ordering the Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County to sell the property, etc. The Defendant filed a Notice of Appeal and a Notice of Motion and Motion to Stay

Proceedings to Enforce Judgment. Plaintiff opposed the motion to stay on the grounds that S.C. Code §18-9-70. The Defendant's Motion to Stay was denied and the property was set for sale. The parties negotiated a stay to the sale for two (2) months to allow the parties to mediate the appeal/judgment. Mediation was successful and the appeal was dismissed with prejudice and the judgment satisfied of record. This case was significant in that it was a mechanic's lien foreclosure case that actually went through the process of jury trial, which resulted in a favorable judgment for my client, post-trial motions, which were also favorable to my client, and an appeal. It also illustrated that no matter where you are at in the process, mediation/settlement is always on the table and sometimes may be beneficial to explore.

(c) Antonelli v. Mahoney et. al., 9:08-2949-SB & US Bank v. Antonelli, et. al. 2009-CP-07-00390. This was a complex case with filings in both State and Federal Courts. My clients, Mr. & Mrs. Antonelli purchased a home in Wexford Plantation for \$1.66 million in cash. At the closing, the settlement agent paid off the Seller's mortgage in the amount of approximately \$1.32 million based on the payoff instructions provided. Unfortunately, the Seller, Mr. Mahoney, was the VP of Lending for Sutton Bank in Ohio, and he altered the payoff instructions to have the \$1.32 million wired to an account owned by his son which resulted in the mortgage not being satisfied of record. The State Court filing was a foreclosure action on the Mahoney/US Bank mortgage that was not paid off due to Mr. Mahoney's criminal behavior. The Federal Court action was an action against Mahoney, the Settlement Agent, Mahoney's son, Sutton Bank and US Bank. Partial Summary Judgment was issued in Federal Court against Defendant Mahoney in the amount of \$2,891,971.18 which included actual and punitive damages, prejudgment interest and attorney's fees and costs. The Antonellis sought to have the foreclosure action removed to Federal Court in order to consolidate the entire action in one court. US Bank filed a motion to remand the foreclosure action back to State Court and the Federal Court granted the motion. After remanding, the Beaufort County Master-in-Equity ordered all the parties to mediate in an attempt to get a global settlement of the remaining issues in Federal Court and the foreclosure action in State Court. At a lengthy mediation on the foreclosure action, a global settlement was reached, and the Mahoney/US Bank mortgage was paid off and satisfied. This case was important for a variety of reasons to include my clients prevailed in having the Mahoney Mortgage released from their property without my clients having to contribute to the settlement.

(d) Longborough Owners' Association, Inc. v. The Beach Co., et. al., 2011-CP-10-09154, this case involved a spit of land adjoining the Longborough Subdivision in Charleston, South Carolina that borders on the Ashley River. The spit of land contained a neighborhood park and crabbing dock. Title to the small park was still held by The Beach Company, the developer and there was a dispute as to whether the park and crab dock were accessible to the public or were they private to the Longborough Homeowners. I represented the Plaintiff HOA in the matter against the Defendant Developer. The City of Charleston filed a Joinder Motion claiming it was a necessary party to the action because the City alleged the Developer had orally promised to convey the park and crab dock to the City as a public park. The Court granted the City's motion. After a multi-day trial in the Circuit Court, the Court found against the City of Charleston and for the HOA and ordered the Developer to convey the property to the HOA. The case was significant in part because most Homeowner's Associations are underfunded when it comes to complex litigation of this type. It tests an Association's resolve to come together as homeowners to fight for what

they believe is true and just. My client was litigating against a very well-known large developer and the City of Charleston. The City of Charleston was led at the time by the Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor, who vowed to ensure that all waters surrounding Charleston would be accessible to citizens of Charleston. The case lasted several years but the Association remained steadfast and in the end prevailed.

(e) Gecy v. South Carolina Bank and Trust, et. al., 2011-CP-07-01778, this case arose from a failed construction and purchase agreement of real property, in which I represented the Defendants, Mr. & Mrs. Hamner, who contracted with the Plaintiff for the construction and purchase of a residence. The Plaintiff filed multiple causes of action against the Defendants to include Tortious Interference with Contract, Breach of Contract, Civil Conspiracy, Negligent Misrepresentation, and Unfair Trade Practices. Thereafter the Plaintiff's attorney filed a motion to be relieved and the Plaintiff proceeded pro se. After extensive discovery, the Defendants filed motions for Summary Judgement. The Beaufort County Master-in-Equity awarded the Defendants summary judgment, and the Plaintiff appealed after hiring new counsel to litigate post-trial motions and to handle the appeal. The South Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed the Master's Order awarding summary judgment in Gecy v. South Carolina Bank & Trust, et. al., 422 S.C. 509, 812 S.E.2d. 750 (Ct. App. 2018). The case was significant in that it was arguably a unique set of facts looking at the interplay between Lender, Borrower, and Developer/Builder/Seller and the application of bank underwriting requirements. It illustrates that as much as the Seller and Purchaser want to consummate the transaction, if the bank does not approve the loan, through no fault of the Borrower, the transaction can be rescinded by operation of the financing contingency. It was also one of the first case I had a pro se litigant handle a complex matter that included significant discovery, to include multiple depositions.

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) White v. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental et. al., Court of Appeals of South Carolina, March 23, 2011, 392 S.C. 247, 708 S.E.2d. 812.

(b) Stafford Bluffton Land, LLC v. Beaufort County Planning Commission et. al., Court of Appeals of South Carolina, Case No. 2019-001037, mediated during appeal and dismissed.

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.

N/A.

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.

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.

N/A.

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) State Courts of Texas, admitted November 4th, 1994.
- (b) United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, admitted November 18th, 1996.
- (c) State Courts of South Carolina, admitted May 6th, 1997.
- (d) United States District Court, District of South Carolina, admitted January 20th, 1998.

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 taught various courses as an Adjunct Professor at the Technical College of the Lowcountry Paralegal Program from October of 1999 through December of 2004, to include Title Abstract; Legal Bibliography; Wills, Trusts, and Probate; and Property Law. Also, served on their Paralegal Advisory Board at TCL for a number of years.
- (b) I have lectured at NBI Seminars in 2015 and 2021 on South Carolina Estate Administration subjects including Marshalling Assets, Handling Creditor Claims, and Probate Disputes and Litigation.
- (c) I have made a presentation at the Masters Bench Bar 2021 on the topic of The Intersection of Equity and Probate Panel Discussion.
- (d) I have made presentations at Title Company Seminars at various times on Quiet Title Actions, Heirs Determination Proceedings and Tax Sale Confirmation Actions.

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

Attached.

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) South Carolina, 2010
- (b) South Carolina, 2019

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.

I am not aware that I am a current member of any rating organization. I believe within the past five (5) years I was a member of Avvo and had a 5.0 rating, but I do not believe I have a current membership/account or that I have been rated by any other organizations.

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) Texas Bar Association to include Military Law Section and Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section.
- (b) South Carolina Bar Association to include Dispute Resolution Section:
 - (i) Circuit Court Arbitration Certification - 2017
 - (ii) Circuit Court Mediation Certification - 2016
 - (ii) Family Court Mediation Certification - 1997
- (c) Hilton Head Island Bar 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.

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.

Not applicable.

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

No.

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.

- (a) I consistently worked in high school and college to include full time at different intervals. Worked mostly in grocery stores on the front end, receiving, grocery clerk, night crew, and dairy manager responsible for all ordering.
- (b) Upon graduation from college on a Naval ROTC Scholarship, I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps as a Regular Officer. I Attended The Basic School, Maintenance Officer's Course, Flight School, Replacement Air Group for the A6E Intruder and served in two squadrons as a B/N Flight Officer. Served as the MAG-11 Adjutant and was then selected for the Funded Law Education Program. During my time in both squadrons and at the Marine Air Group level one of my collateral duties included legal officer duties for each unit.
- (c) Member of Blind Dog Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Boundary Street Clubhouse a family-owned local restaurant and bar from approximately 2000-2004.
- (d) Member of Phoenix Developers & Contractors, LLC a commercial and residential construction company from 2005 – 2016.

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.

I am currently a partner in the Law Firm of Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC. I have been a partner in this firm, which was originally formed in July of 1997 as Weidner & Wegmann, LLC from 1997 to the present. In addition to practicing law, I am the managing partner and oversee the employees, account payables, account receivables, administration, building issues, and all bank accounts (operating, escrow & trust accounts.)

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.)

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.

- (c) 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.

- (d) 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.

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

No.

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

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 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.

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.

No.

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.

(a) I am a partner in the law firm of Weidner, Wegmann & Harper, LLC – a potential conflict could exist if either of my partners were to appear before the Beaufort County Master-in-Equity. In such a case, I would follow Canon 3 to resolve any potential conflict to include disclosure and possible recusal.

(b) I have a financial arrangement with one of my partners as we each have a 50% ownership interest, individually, in the commercial building located at 6 Professional Village Circle, Beaufort, SC 29907. The law firm leases the building from us and pays monthly rent, etc. Again, I would follow Canon 3 to resolve any potential conflict to include disclosure and possible recusal.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

I have not been sued by a client. I have been named as a party in the following matters:

- (a) Coleman v. Wegmann, 2018-CP-07-01062 & Culberson v. Estate of Duncan, 2018-CP-07-00626 – I was appointed as Special Administrator of the Estate of Bernie Duncan. These two (2) cases involved an automobile accident with the deceased. SA appointment was a limited purpose appointment to allow the alleged creditors of the Estate to institute, to the limits of applicable insurance protection only, a proceeding to establish liability of the decedent for which he or his estate is protected by liability insurance. Cases were concluded and the SA appointment was terminated in the Fall of 2021.
- (b) Wegmann v. Standard Insurance Company, et. al., 2010-CP-07-05383 – Appointed Conservator for a minor. The insurance company disbursed funds directly to the minor's mother in violation of the Facility of Payment Statute, S.C. Code §62-5-103. Prepared pleadings on minor's behalf to recoup the insurance proceeds into the Conservatorship. I negotiated a settlement with the Insurance Company prior to filing for nearly the full amount of the original insurance proceeds paid to the mother. The concern was the Insurance Company would thereafter file an action against the mother to recoup the original funds. As part of the settlement, I agreed to a small discount to the original amount of the insurance proceeds in return the Insurance Company agreed not to pursue minor's mother to recover the original sum paid out to her as the minor's guardian. This case number is the Petition for Approval of Minor Settlement and Order Approving Minor Settlement.
- (c) Burns v. Wegmann, et. al., 2020-DR-07-00246 – Appointed as a Special Administrator for the Estate of Marion Vincent Burns for the sole purpose of appearing on behalf of the Estate in Family Court. The Decedent's spouse filed a Motion to Approve an alleged mediated settlement agreement that was never reduced to writing or put on the record. The issue dealt with four (4) insurance policies that named the Decedent's daughter on beneficiary forms, but prior to his death, the Decedent allegedly agreed at mediation to change the beneficiary on the policies to the spouse. The Family Court issued an order approving the mediated agreement. The daughter has appealed to the Family Court order to the Court of Appeals for South Carolina, Case Number 2024-000447. My Special Administrator appointment was terminated on May 23, 2024, as the insurance policies are non-probate assets, and the Estate has no position on who should be the beneficiary.

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 have carried malpractice insurance from July of 1997 to present. Current policy coverage is \$1,000,000.00 with a \$5,000.00 deductible. I do not believe that I have ever been covered by a tail policy.

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) R. Nicholas Felix, [Redacted]
- (b) J. Thomas Mikell, [Redacted]
- (c) Clinton J. Yarborough, [Redacted]
- (d) James A. Grimsley, III, [Redacted]
- (e) Kenneth E. Fulp, Jr., [Redacted]

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

Yes.

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

[Redacted]– LinkedIn.

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 the site; I may look at it once a month or so. If it becomes a potential issue, I will deactivate it.

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) Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Member since 1997. Board Member for approximately 8 - 10 years at different times, Chairman of the Board 2016, Military Enhancement Committee Member 2010 – 2020, Chairman of Military Enhancement Committee 2013 – 2020.
- (b) Dragonboat Beaufort – local non-profit supporting cancer patients who live, work, or receive treatment in Beaufort County, Member since 2014, past Board Member for 6 years, Board Chairman for 3 years.
- (c) Executive Committee Member and Board Member of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force 2013 – 2020.

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.

As a young Marine Officer, I was taught a multitude of life lessons in a truly short period of time. Among those life lessons, three (3) have always been at the forefront for me. First, and most important, to always take care of your Marines; second, to be technically and tactfully proficient in your MOS; and third, to do the right thing which, may at times, not be the popular thing. I have applied those same traits to my law practice in my effort to always take care of my clients regardless of the size of their case/matter, to continue to grow in my knowledge of the law and its application, and to strive to do the right thing regardless of whether it is popular or even potentially detrimental to me or my practice. I believe my life experiences, often in stressful and complex situations, have provided me with a certain outlook and demeanor that translates into a calm and practical approach to my practice and life in general.

Those traits are directly relatable and just as important to the position of Master-in-Equity. If elected, I will endeavor to treat all parties to a matter, fairly, equitably, and impartially. I will be prepared for all matters, which includes maintaining a regiment that allows for my continued growth in the knowledge and application of the law. I believe all parties to a matter should have a sense that the matter is important to the Court, that the Court understands the matter, and that the Court will be fair, impartial, and equitable in the hearing of and the final decision-making on their matter.

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: _____