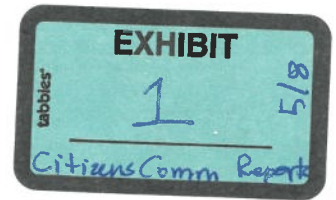


Midlands Citizens Committee Report
Candidate's Name: Ralph "Tripp" King Anderson, III
Candidate's Seat: Supreme Court Seat 3



2024

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		✓	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			✓
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			✓
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			✓
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			✓
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			✓
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			✓

Related Comments:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Ralph Anderson
 Committee Chair's Name

4/18/2024
 Date

Ralph "Tripp" King Anderson III
 Candidate's Name

PEE DEE

Citizens Committee Report

Candidate's Name: BLAKE HEWITT
Candidate's Seat: SUPREME COURT

2023

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		✓	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			✓
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			✓
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			✓
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			✓
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			✓
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			✓

Related Comments:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

David Houser
Committee Chair's Name

4/17/24
Date

BLAKE HEWITT
Candidate's Name

Lowcountry Citizens Committee Report
Candidate's Name: The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson
Candidate's Seat: Justice, Supreme Court of South Carolina

April 19, 2024

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		X	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			X
3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			X
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			X
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			X
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			X
9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.			X

Related Comments:

See next page

Related Comments: Judge Jefferson is imminently qualified to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. She has over 25 years of experience, first as a family court judge and now as a circuit judge. In her expansive experience, she has dealt with every conceivable issue in family, civil, and criminal litigation, and is acquainted with all areas of the law. She has a keen intellect, being genuinely interested in the legal issues before her. She is a “worker.” She is not pre-determined on the matters that come before her and fully studies novel or unusual issues before ruling on them. She is fair does not play favorites.

Judge Jefferson is innovative and takes initiative. To help alleviate the backlog of criminal cases caused by the pandemic, she made arrangements with the Sheriff for Charleston County for a temporary courtroom at the County jail, to hear bond matters. With this system, the detained did not need to be transported to the County courthouse but could be processed quickly and effectively.

She is well balanced and affable with the consummate judicial temperament. She is well regarded and liked by jurors and attorneys. She respects her peers on the bench and has positive professional relationships with them. Her exceedingly strong qualifications are accompanied by her wonderful disposition.

The opinions in her letters of recommendation are universally shared by the legal community and all that know her. For her entire career, she has generously and tirelessly given her time to improve the community, volunteering for various causes and her church.

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Committee unanimously and enthusiastically supports her candidacy. She has every quality, professional and personal, to be an excellent Associate Justice. The Committee believes her experience and perspective would be invaluable in this position. The Committee has no doubt she would serve in a manner that would bring even more public admiration, appreciation, and trust to the Court as a whole.

M. Neale Walker
Committee Chair's Name

04/24/24
Date

Deadra L. Jefferson
Candidate's Name

Upstate Citizens Committee Report
Candidate's Name: The Honorable R. Keith Kelly
Candidate's Seat: Supreme Court Seat #3

2023

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		X	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			X
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4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			X
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			X
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			X
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Related Comments:

Judge Kelly is an outstanding jurist. He has an outstanding reputation and is well liked by all!

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Ralph B. Ashmore
 Committee Chair's Name

4/23/24
 Date

R. Keith Kelly
 Candidate's Name

Midlands Citizens Committee Report
Candidate's Name: Jocelyn Newman
Candidate's Seat: Supreme Court Seat 3

2024

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		✓	
2. Ethical Fitness: A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.			✓
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4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			✓
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6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		✓	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			✓
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Related Comments:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:


 Committee Chair's Name

4-18-2024
 Date

JOCYLYN NEWMAN
 Candidate's Name

Upstate Citizens Committee Report
Candidate's Name: The Honorable Letitia H. Verdin
Candidate's Seat: Supreme Court Seat #3

2024

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
1. Constitutional Qualifications: A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.		X	
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3. Professional and Academic Ability: A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.			X
4. Character: The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.			X
5. Reputation: Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.			X
6. Physical Health: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
7. Mental Stability: The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.		X	
8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.			X
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Related Comments: This candidate received the highest marks possible from the Committee. We received only glowing positive reports while interviewing others during the background investigation.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Beattie B. Ashmore
Committee Chair's Name

7/23/24
Date

Beattie B. Ashmore - Letitia Verdin
Candidate's Name