

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



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

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs.
The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson

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

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

Resident Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Charleston County

Business Address: 100 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 958-5147
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1963
Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina
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.
- No.

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

Never divorced.
 - (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

No children.
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) Converse College, 1981-1985, BA English and BA Politics;
 - (b) College of Charleston, Fall 1985, Classes in Masters of Public Administration Program, no degree received left to attend law school at the University of South Carolina;
 - (c) University of South Carolina, 1986-1989, 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) Student Bar Association 1986-1989;
 - (b) Black Law Student Association 1986-1989; Editor Advocate 1988-1989.
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;
 - (b) November 15, 1989;
 - (c) One 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) Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard E. Fields, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Charleston, S.C., August 1989 through August 1990. Primary Responsibilities: legal research, preparation of jury charges, preparation of Orders, scheduling of motions, all tasks required to prepare the Judge and myself for trials/hearings during the term and all other daily tasks as required by the Judge that ensured the smooth operation of Court.
 - (b) McFarland and Associates, Attorney, October 1990 through March 1996. Trial practice focusing on the following areas: Domestic Relations, Civil Litigation (all types), Probate Law, Real Estate Law, Business Law and Criminal Law.
 - (c) Resident Family Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, elected to serve February 14, 1996 through June 2001.
 - (d) Resident Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, elected to serve May 31, 2001 to the present.

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.
 - (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: approximately 15 times
 - (b) state: approximately 50-60 times
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: 47%
 - (b) criminal: 6%
 - (c) domestic: 47%
 - (d) other:
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 70%
 - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 25
 - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? 25-30 (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? 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? 70%

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) Blake v. County of Charleston. This case involved complex (federal) civil rights litigation. It was tried for two (2) weeks and involved many motions and other complex legal issues relating to evidence and the new federal rules. The case also resulted in a mistrial and was later tried a second time for one (1) week. I tried this case with two (2) other lawyers, both of whom had been practicing more than eighteen (18) years. During this process I was treated as an equal and an integral part of the litigation team. I was entrusted with a great deal of responsibility which included arguing motions, examination of witnesses, preparation of motions, and preparation of jury charges. This case challenged many current practices within the Charleston County Police Department. This case caused the Charleston County Police Department to evaluate and change many of their policies and practices.
 - (b) Hymes v. Khoury. This case was a simple auto accident which I did not think would be successful. This case taught me the importance of the strategic application of the civil rules of procedure and case law. Although this case took one (1) day to try, the jury deliberated for two (2) days and returned a verdict in favor of my client.
 - (c) In Re: The Estate of Joseph J. White, Jr., et. al. This was a probate court case. The central issue in this case involved the paternity of a two (2) year old minor child of the victim of an automobile fatality. The case involved an intense three (3) day probate trial. The trial involved approximately forty (40) witnesses. It also involved a unique question of law concerning the jurisdictional conflict between the probate and family courts. A favorable ruling was returned by the Probate Judge and the Circuit Court on appeal. In addition, I handled the wrongful death cause of action on behalf of the minor which resulted in a substantial recovery for the minor.
 - (d) Ashby v. Ashby. In this case I represented the plaintiff/husband who sought custody of his three (3) children. The Court applied the primary caretaker doctrine in awarding custody to the father. The case also involved issues of equitable distribution, adultery, child support and attorney's fees.
 - (e) Thompson v. Polite. This case involved a hotly contested issue of visitation between the plaintiff/husband and his minor son. The defendant/wife was adamant in her refusal to allow visitation. My client was awarded reasonable

visitation at the Temporary Hearing of this case. Prior to the Final Hearing the parties submitted to mediation. Through this process they were able to come to an amicable agreement regarding visitation and the rearing of their child. This case reinforced my belief in the value of alternative dispute resolution (mediation) as a method of improving the efficient use of court time and resources.

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) None.
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

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.
 - (a) Resident Family Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, elected February 14, 1996. April 1, 1996, through June 2001. Elected by the General Assembly. The Family Court is a statutory court of limited and specific jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the Family Court is set forth in S.C. Code Annotated section 20-7-420, et seq. (i.e. divorce, custody, child support, name changes, juveniles, equitable distribution, adoptions, abuse and neglect, and as further set forth in the statute).
 - (b) Resident Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, June 2001-present. Elected to this position by the General Assembly on May 30, 2001. The Circuit Court is South Carolina's Court of general jurisdiction. It has a civil court, the Court of Common Pleas, and a criminal court, the Court of General Sessions. In addition to its general trial jurisdiction, the Circuit Court has limited appellate jurisdiction over appeals from the Probate Court, Magistrate's Court, and Municipal Court.

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) Beachfront Entertainment, Inc., et al. v. Town of Sullivan's Island, 379 SC 602, 666 S.E.2d 921 (2008)

- (b) Evening Post Publishing Company, et al. v. City of North Charleston, 357 S.C. 59, 591 S.E.2d 39 (Ct. App. 2003), 363 S.C. 452, 611 S.E.2d 496 (2005);
 - (c) State v. Washington, 367 S.C. 76, 623 S.E.2d 836 (Ct. App. 2006);
 - (d) State v. Stephen C. Stanko, 1999-GS-22-0918. 376 S.C. 571,658 S.E.2d 94 (2008);
 - (e) Donevant vs Town of Surfside Beach, 422 S.C. 264, 811 S.E.2d 744 (2018).
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) All South Carolina Courts-November 15, 1989;
 - (b) United States District Court-District of South Carolina-December 29, 1992;
 - (c) United States Supreme Court-May 17, 2004.
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) Business Law Instructor, Trident Technical College Paralegal Program, 1993-1994 School Term;
 - (b) "Rules, Rules, Rules" South Carolina Practice and Procedures Update, Presenter on the issue of Family Court Rules, SC Bar, March 20, 1998;
 - (c) Speaker/Panel Participant Wiley A. Branton Symposium, National Bar Association, October 24, 1998;
 - (d) "Current Issues in Attorney's Fees," Presenter, SC Bar Association, November 6, 1998;
 - (e) Recent Developments in Family Law, "Six by Six" CLE Seminar, Presenter, Charleston County Bar Association, December 10, 1998;
 - (f) "Adjudication Hearings", Presenter and Contributor to Family Court Judges Juvenile Workbook, SC Association of Family Court Judges, May 20, 1999;
 - (g) "Tips from the Bench", Adoption, Presenter, S.C. Bar Association, February 25, 2000;
 - (h) "The Role of the Judge and Guardian ad Litem in Abuse and Neglect Proceedings" Judges Panel, South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Conference, April 14, 2000;
 - (i) "Women, Leadership and the Law," Brown Bag Lunch Panel Participant, S.C. Women Lawyers Association and College of Charleston Women's Studies Program, September 22, 2000;
 - (j) Family Law Update and Tips from the Bench, Presenter, Charleston Lawyers Club, May 2, 2001;
 - (k) "The Use of Psychological Evaluations in Juvenile Proceedings," Panel, Children's Law Center, May 18, 2001;
 - (l) Judges Panel, 3rd Annual Children's Law Conference, May, 2001;
 - (m) Hot Tips III, "Appeals and Motions," December 13, 2002;
 - (n) Women Lawyers in the New Millennium, "Ethics Issues from Various Judicial Perspectives," April 11, 2003;

- (o) National Judicial College, Advanced Evidence, Group Discussion Leader, November 15-19, 2004;
- (p) SCDTAA Trial Academy Judge, June 20, 2003;
- (q) 2004 Local Government Attorneys' Institute, Administered Oath, December 2004;
- (r) 9th Annual Probate Court Seminar, Administered Oath, January 2005;
- (s) SCBLA, Judicial Selection in South Carolina, Judicial Panel, September 2005;
- (t) S.C. Solicitors' Association Conference, Criminal Law Update, "Recent Court Decisions," September 26, 2005;
- (u) Charleston School of Law Professionalism Series, "Civility and Ethics," October 20, 2005;
- (v) SC Defense Trial Lawyers Ethics and Civility **In Trial unable to make the presentation, November 4, 2005;
- (w) Charleston School of Law Ethics & Professionalism presentation, February 15, 2006;
- (x) Charleston School of Law, Law Day, Panel Presentation "Judicial Selection in South Carolina," May 1, 2006;
- (y) National Judicial College, Handling Capital Cases, Group Discussion Leader, June 10, 2006;
- (z) SCBLA, "Civil Practice," September 29, 2006;
- (aa) Young Lawyers Division, New Admittees Reception, Presentation, November 16, 2006;
- (bb) Young Lawyers Division, "Tips for Young Lawyers in Circuit Court," May 24, 2007;
- (cc) "Oath of Office" D. Ashley Pennington Chief Public Defender, January 3, 2008;
- (dd) "We Shape the World" Charleston School of Law, Minority Law Day, March 1, 2008;
- (ee) Women of Wisdom Expo 2008 "Daring to Embrace New Beginnings "Bible Way Church, Columbia, SC, March 8, 2008;
- (ff) National Association for Court Management, Mid-Year Conference, Welcome Address, March 10, 2008;
- (gg) Pro-Bono Legal Service Summer Intern Class, In-Court Seminar, June 11, 2008;
- (hh) "Governors' School of SC" Summer Class, June 12, 2008;
- (ii) Magistrate Seminar, July 29, 2008;
- (jj) Annual Judicial Conference, South Carolina Access to Justice Commission, Panelist, August 21, 2008;
- (kk) Young Lawyers Association Luncheon, December 9, 2008;
- (ll) Charleston School of Law Professionalism Series Lecture(Access to Justice), March 19, 2009;
- (mm) Young Lawyers Association Luncheon, December 9, 2008;
- (nn) Charleston School of Law Professionalism Series Lecture (Access to Justice), March 19, 2009;
- (oo) JCLE "Limitations on Questioning Judges under the Judicial Cannons," July 31, 2009;
- (pp) Charleston Lawyer's Club CLE" Advice from the Bench: Likes and Dislikes in Motion Practice, Briefs and Oral Argument," February 24, 2010;

- (qq) Stono Park Elementary Career Day, February 26, 2010;
 - (rr) Junior Girls Day Out Community Project, March 10, 2010;
 - (ss) Metanoia Freedom School "Read-A-Loud, Chicora Elementary, July 22, 2010;
 - (tt) Merit Selection Panel for Magistrate Judges, August 17, 2010;
 - (uu) "League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area" Women of Distinction; August 26, 2010;
 - (vv) Charleston County School District; Swearing In, November 8, 2010;
 - (ww) South Carolina Legal Services Statewide Conference, Panelist, November 19, 2010;
 - (xx) Center for Heirs Property; Celebration, February 10, 2011;
 - (yy) SEABOTA Annual Conference CLE; Panelist, April 29, 2011;
 - (zz) S.C. Supreme Court Institute, Panelist, June 20, 2011;
 - (aaa) Seminar "What Works for Me in Practice" ; "Practical tips from the Bench," July 22, 2011;
 - (bbb) Charleston County School District; Swearing In, February 27, 2012;
 - (ccc) Charleston Lion Club Luncheon Speaker, April 24, 2012;
 - (ddd) "Seminar "What Works for Me in Practice" ; "Practical tips from the Bench," July 20, 2012;
 - (eee) Berkeley County School District 8th Annual Junior Scholarship Institute, July 10, 2014;
 - (fff) S.C. Solicitor's Association Fall Conference Panelist Covering "Significant Cases: 2013-2014," September 22, 2014;
 - (ggg) Shabach Christian Church Fellowship Convocation, "Moving up in your Career," October 29, 2014;
 - (hhh) Military Magnet Academy Law Enforcement Class, May 6, 2015;
 - (iii) Swearing in of Chief Public Defender for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2016 Charleston County Bar Association, February 25, 2016;
 - (jjj) Memminger Elementary 4th grade students, February 25, 2016;
 - (kkk) Military Magnet Academy Law Enforcement Class, March 22, 2017;
 - (lll) S.C. Young Lawyers Division Mock Trial of Gold E. Locks and the Three Bears Deer Park Middle School, November 3, 2017;
 - (mmm) Charleston County Junior Scholars, June 22, 2017;
 - (nnn) Charleston County Junior Scholars, June 28, 2017;
 - (ooo) Converse College "Celebrating Courage and Charting the Future: Commemorating 50 years of Black Women at Converse" Panel, February 9, 2018;
 - (ppp) S.C. Circuit Court Orientation for New Circuit Court Judges Moderator and Instructor, July 11, 2018, July 10, 2019, July 8, 2020, July 6, 2021, July 26, 2022, June 27, 2023;
 - (qqq) COBRA 2018 Drum Major for Justice Luncheon Honoring Judge Richard E. Fields, February 17, 2018;
 - (rrr) S.C. Bar Diversity Committee-Virtual Fireside Chat with Richard E. Fields, Women's Lawyers Presentation, March 25, 2021;
 - (sss) Ninth Judicial Installation of Chief Public Defender, Swearing In, August 1, 2022.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. Please see attached.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) Marital Litigation in SC, Roy T. Stuckey and F. Glenn Smith (SC Bar CLE 2001), Editorial Board.
 - (b) The Law of Automobile Insurance in SC, Elizabeth Scott Moise (SC Bar CLE 2009), Editorial Board.
 - (c) I have provided written seminar materials for the S.C. bar in conjunction with CLE Seminar presentations. These materials have been published by the S.C. Bar as a part of their published seminar materials. I have not published any books or articles.
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.)
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 listed in Martindale-Hubbell but have not been rated.
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) Charleston County Bar Association;
 - (c) S.C. Association of Circuit Court Judges; Secretary 2010-2012; Vice President 2012-2014; President 2014-2016;
 - (d) S.C. Women Lawyers Association;
 - (e) S.C. Black Lawyers;
 - (f) S.C. Supreme Court Historical Society, Judicial Advisory Board;
 - (g) American Inns of Court Foundation.
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.

None.

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

Candidate- Family Court of S.C., Ninth Judicial Circuit, Seat to be vacated by the Hon. Robert R. Mallard, January 1995 through March of 1995. I went through the screening process successfully and was found Qualified to hold judicial office. I voluntarily withdrew from the process prior to the election.

Candidate – Supreme Court of South Carolina, Seat 3, to be vacated by the Hon. Justice James E. Moore in September 2007. I went through the screening process successfully and was found Qualified to hold judicial office but not nominated.

Candidate- Supreme Court of South Carolina, Seat 4, to be vacated by the Hon. Justice John Henry Waller, Jr. in February 2009. I went through the screening process successfully and was found Qualified and Nominated.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

None. I was employed in various part- and full-time jobs during college and law school.

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.

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 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. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

No.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None. I anticipate that I will expend less than \$100.00 in furtherance of my candidacy.

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

None.

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

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.

None.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

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

None.

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.

No.

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

No.

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 was sued personally due to an automobile collision. This occurred approximately thirty-one (31) years ago. This was a minor fender bender. The case was settled by my automobile insurance company and dismissed approximately two (2) weeks after I was served with notice of the lawsuit.

I have been sued in my official capacity while serving on the Family Court bench on October 2, 2001 by King David Singletary (Case Number: 4:01-CV-03916-JFA). This case was dismissed without prejudice and without issuance and service of process on November 19, 2001.

I have been sued in my official capacity while serving on the Circuit Court bench on October 3, 2011 by Kevin Robert Groover (Case Number: 2011-CP-10-7148). This case was dismissed with prejudice on summary judgment on March 20, 2012.

I have been sued in my official capacity while serving on the Circuit Court bench on March 31, 2017 by Glynndevin Von Fox (Case Number: 2017-CP-10-1638). This case was dismissed with prejudice on July 5, 2017.

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.

Not applicable.

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) I.S. Leevy Johnson, Esquire
[Redacted]

(b) Susan Phifer Johnson
[Redacted]

(c) Hon. Glenn F. McConnell
[Redacted]

(d) Bishop Brian D. Moore
Pastor, Life Center Cathedral
[Redacted]

(e) Johnson J. Rutledge Young, III, Esquire
[Redacted]

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

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

Facebook, [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 an inactive member of Facebook. I do not post, comment or otherwise participate.

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) The Life Center Church, Charleston, S.C.
Trustee Ministry, 2001-present; Vision to Victory 2020-present;
- (b) Charleston, SC Chapter of the Links, Inc., 1998-present Co-Chair
Services to Youth
2000-2001; Corresponding Secretary 2004-2006; Recording Secretary
2006-2007; Chair Bylaws Committee 2006-2007; 2019-2023; 2014- present; Vice
President 2007- 2009; President 2009-2013;
- (c) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 1982-present;
- (d) The Post and Courier Feature Article August 6, 2001;
- (e) The Post and Courier "High Profile" Article May 7, 2005;
- (f) "The Heritage List, 9 Dazzling Women of Spirit and Humility" Celebrate Your
Heritage Magazine, Spring 2005;
- (g) NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award 2003;
- (h) Greater Charleston YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award 2004;
- (i) Advisory Board Charleston School of Law 2002-present;
- (j) Converse College Board of Trustees; 2002-2010; 2011- 2020;
Academic Affairs; Legal Affairs Sub-Committee; Enrollment & Marketing
Committee; Student Affairs Committee; Investment Sub-Committee; Committee on
Trustees;
- (k) Founder's Day Speaker Converse College, April 24, 2003;
- (l) South Carolina Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution 2002-2006, User
Education Sub-Committee; 2018-present, Program and Technology Committee;
- (m) Co-Chair 9th Circuit Courthouse Security Commission August 4, 2006-present;
- (n) Associate Acting Justice South Carolina Supreme Court for the terms December
1, 2005 and June 10, 2004;
- (o) Associate Acting Judge South Carolina Court of Appeals for the term June 19-13,
2003 during this term I sat En Banc with the Court, authored two (2) opinions and
participated on seven (7) other panels/opinions;
- (p) Designated as Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes for the 9th Circuit as
follows: General Sessions July 1, 2002-January 5, 2003; Common Pleas January
6, 2003-January 3 2004; General Sessions January 4, 2004-July 3, 2004 and
Common Pleas January 1, 2006-December 30, 2006; General Sessions, Jan. 1-July
31, 2008, Common Pleas January 1, 2009-December 31, 2009; General Sessions,
January 2011-December 30, 2011; and Common Pleas, January 1, 2012-
December 30, 2013; General Sessions, January 3, 2016-July 1, 2017; Common
Pleas(Charleston) January 1, 2017-June 30, 2018; Chief Judge for Administrative
Purposes for the 14th Circuit January 5, 2020-January 2, 2021; Chief
Administrative Judge General Sessions 9th Circuit, July 4, 2021-December 31,
2022; December 31, 2023-present;
- (q) Assigned exclusive jurisdiction of the following cases by the Supreme Court:
April 29, 2003 (2003-GS-47-000004) Statewide Grand Jury, State v. Bunker, et
al.; December 2, 2003 (2001-CP-18-0074A) Boyd v. Nationwide; June 28, 2004
(2003-GS-38-02411-02413), State v. Levi Bing, Jr.; October 3, 2004 (2002-CP-
15-00471 and 00494) Carter v. Steedley, et. al.; May 6, 2005 (2005-GS-22-

- 00918) State v. Stephen C. Stanko; October 3, 2005 (1996-GS-32-30341) State v. Jeffrey L. Jones; March 7, 2006 (2004-CP-18-01951) Price v. Jones Ford, Inc.; October 5, 2007 State v. Broughton; (2006-GS-08-02164,02165,02182, 021830,2184 & 02185); September 20, 2010 (2004-CP-37-00834) Rhoades, et al.v. Kenyon, et al.; April 23, 2014, State vs Timothy D. Rogers (1993-GS-18-00101) (1993-GS-18-00101), Resentencing; May 20, 2016 (2016-GS-47-00002 and 2016-GS-47-00003) Statewide Grand Jury Case, State vs Emory Roberts, Justin Gordon Hunter, William Orlando Brown, Rosemary Quezada and Lassain Dixon Johnson; May 31, 2017 (1993-GS-10-00090,00091,00092) State vs Corey L. Sparkman; December 27, 2017 (2017-GS-47-00031 and 2017-GS-47-00050) Statewide Grand Jury Case, State vs Brantley D. Thomas, III (2018-GS-47-00031;2018-GS-47-00051;2018-GS-47-00027;2018-GS-47-00053;2018-GS-47-00054); March 1, 2024 1992-GS-10-01680 State vs Mark Hamilton;
- (r) Nominated for the inaugural class of the Lowcountry Diversity Leadership Academy developed by the American Institute for Managing Diversity and the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at Furman (had to decline due to the demands of the Court schedule), September 6, 2005;
 - (s) Nominated for the Lowcountry Diversity Leadership Academy (had to decline due to the demands of the Court Schedule), September 21, 2006;
 - (t) Invited by the National Judicial College to be a group discussion leader for the General Jurisdiction Course (had to decline due to the demands of the Court schedule, however, I have been asked to participate when the schedule will allow my participation), July 2006;
 - (u) Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission 2007-2016;
 - (v) S.C. Liberty Fellow-Class of 2009. 2007-present;
 - (w) Federal Court, Merit Selection Panel for Magistrate Judges, August 17, 2010;
 - (x) League of Women Voters of the Charleston Area Women of Distinction Award-August 26, 2010;
 - (y) Designated by Chief Justice Toal as state liaison to the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, NCSC, 2003-present; Advisory Board 2013-2014; Board of Directors 2014-Present; Nominating Committee February 8, 2016-present;
 - (z) Supreme Court Docket Management Task Force, Common Pleas Reform Subcommittee, Rule 40/Status Conference Subcommittee, February 17, 2011-present;
 - (ee) Appointed to the Supreme Court to the General Sessions Docket Committee (Langford Committee), January 7, 2014-present;
 - (ff) Circuit Court Judges Advisory Committee, June 24, 2014-present; Chairperson 2019-present; Moderator and Presenter New Judges Orientation School 2018-present;
 - (gg) Converse College "Celebrating Courage and Charting the Future: Commemorating 50 years of Black Women at Converse," Panel, February 9, 2018;
 - (hh) S.C. Circuit Court Judges Association; Secretary, August 17, 2010-2012; Vice President, August 17, 2012- August 2014; President, August 2014-2016;
 - (ii) Access to Justice, Language Access Task Force of the South Carolina Access to

Justice Commission, March 16, 2016;

- (jj) 2024 CCJ/COSCA Southern Region Summit, Effective Criminal Case Management in Pos-Pandemic World: A Leadership Summit for Courts and their Communities Liason, June 5-7, 2004.

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

I served as law clerk to the Hon. Richard E. Fields of the Circuit Courts of South Carolina. During my time with him I had the unique opportunity to observe and participate in dozens of trials and hearings and observe a “master jurist.” He taught me the importance of “people skills.” I learned the role of judge is central to the lawyers and the litigant's perception that the system afforded them a fair trial/hearing. In addition, my legal research and writing skills were refined during this process. These skills were further refined during my time on the bench. I count myself fortunate to have found my vocation in life and attempt to walk worthy of that vocation. It is a rare privilege to have been allowed to serve the citizens of South Carolina as a Family Court Judge and Circuit Court Judge for the past twenty-eight (28) years. The last twenty-eight (28) years have been enjoyable, rewarding and intellectually challenging. I have learned much about the law and human nature. I was taught that the position of a judge should be a continual growth process. I believe that I have continuously grown in my judicial perspective. I still have the same enjoyment for my work as the day I began twenty-eight (28) years ago. The Circuit Court has one of the largest caseloads within the judicial system with over approximately four thousand (4000) filings per judge. I believe that I have been a productive member of the Court. My potential election to the Supreme Court will create the opportunity for continued intellectual growth while allowing my continued contribution to the court system and the welfare of this state.

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: _____
 Deadra L. Jefferson

Sworn to before me this 3rd day of April, 2024.

(Notary Signature)

Chanda C. Sheppard
(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2033