



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

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

1. Name: The Honorable Letitia H. Verdin
Supreme Court
Seat 3

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

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

Yes, Court of Appeals Judge

Home Address: [Redacted]
County of Residence: Greenville
Business Address: 1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201
E-Mail Address: [Redacted]
Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (803) 734-1890
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1970
Place of Birth: Seneca, 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#: SCDL [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.

Married.

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Married on August 16, 1997 to Charles S. Verdin IV.

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

N/A

- (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.

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.

[Redacted], Student at Clemson University
[Redacted], Student at Clemson University

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) Furman University
1988-1992
Bachelor of Science, Biology
- (b) Clemson University
1992-1993
Withdrew to pursue Law School
- (c) University of South Carolina School of Law
1994-1997
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 1994-1997
- (b) John Belton O'Neal Inn of Court 1996-1997
- (c) Moot Court Bar 1995-1997
- (d) National Moot Court Team 1996-1997

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, 1997, 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.

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.*

- (a) Office of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, 1997-1998
Prosecuted cases in the Traffic Unit and General Crimes Unit
- (b) Office of the Eighth Circuit Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, 1998
Prosecuted all juvenile cases in Family Court and prosecuted all General Sessions child abuse and neglect cases in Greenwood, Abbeville, Newberry, and Laurens Counties
- (c) Office of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, 1999-2000
Prosecuted violent crimes, criminal domestic violence cases, and criminal child abuse and neglect cases; served as the Family Court Unit Head
- (d) Clarkson, Walsh, Rheney & Turner, P.A., Associate Attorney, 2000-2005
Litigated cases in areas of government liability defense, insurance defense, and commercial litigation, criminal defense, and family law
- (e) Office of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, 2005-2008
Prosecuted violent crimes, criminal domestic violence cases, and criminal child abuse and neglect cases

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: Occasionally
 - (b) state: 1-2 times per week
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: 35%
 - (b) criminal: 50%
 - (c) domestic: 10%
 - (d) other: 5%

14. During the past five years

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

100%

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

Approximately 15.

(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.)

One.

(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?

Approximately 80%. My entire practice was devoted to litigation of some kind, although I occasionally took over administration duties as a Unit Head at the Solicitor's office and I did some limited real estate and corporate work while in private practice.

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) State of South Carolina v. Patel and the companion divorce action, Patel v. Patel -This was a criminal defense matter in which I was involved while in private practice and its companion divorce action. The wife was charged with Arson and Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill for setting fire to her husband's hotel room while he was inside. I assisted in the criminal defense of the wife and represented her in the divorce action. She was sued for divorce on the ground of a single act of extreme physical cruelty. It was necessary that I protect her rights in the divorce action while ensuring that she did not jeopardize her criminal defense.

- (b) State of South Carolina v. Ricky Sanders – This defendant was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 1st Degree for sexually abusing his girlfriend’s daughter. This case was significant for me because it was the first time our office was successful in having a Forensic Interviewer qualified as an expert witness in the Court of General Sessions. The interviewer’s testimony, coupled with the testimony of the child, was instrumental in securing a guilty plea from the defendant during trial.
- (c) Barnes v. Kevin Matheson, Anderson County Sheriff’s Department, the City of Clayton Police Department, and the Rabun County Sheriff’s Department – This was a case while I was in private practice. The case involved allegations of excessive use of force and other Section 1983 claims against law enforcement officials. I represented Deputy Kevin Matheson and the Anderson County Sheriff’s Department. The case involved an escapee, who when eventually surrounded by officers, attempted to run over an officer. Deputy Matheson shot and killed the woman in order to save the officer’s life. The case involved numerous constitutional law issues, including that of extra-jurisdictional pursuits. Our motion for summary judgment was granted as to all claims against Deputy Matheson and the Anderson County Sheriff’s Department.
- (d) In re: R.M. – This was a case in which a juvenile shot and killed her uncle with whom she resided. Our office had a policy at that time of petitioning the Family Court for waiver to General Sessions in every murder case in order for full evaluation by the court. The juvenile had been abandoned by her mother, her father was deceased, and defense experts testified that they believed the child was the victim of sexual abuse by the uncle, a fact much later confirmed. The judge in this matter applied the Kent factors and determined that the juvenile was not appropriate for waiver to General Sessions Court. This case is significant to me because it was at the beginning of my Family Court career and it illustrates the integrative and rehabilitative goals of juvenile justice. Though technically a loss for the prosecution, it was a win for the system. While the juvenile’s crime was horrific, she spent the remainder of her adolescence and early adulthood in the Department of Juvenile Justice receiving intensive services, and after a transition period, it is my understanding that she has become a productive, law-abiding adult.
- (e) State of South Carolina v. Shad Shepherd – This was a case that I prosecuted in which the young father shook his four month old baby violently causing permanent brain damage and partial blindness. This matter was not only significant because of its facts, but also because it was one of the earlier shaken baby syndrome cases successfully prosecuted by our office. The case also necessitated very sophisticated medical evidence and expert testimony in order to establish that the child had not been accidentally dropped thereby causing her injuries.
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) Cox and Rider v. City of Charleston, Rueben Greenberg, Joseph Riley, Captain Chin, Charleston Police Department, Officer Davis, City of Travelers Rest, Mann

Batson, and Timothy Christy, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, July 26, 2005, 416 F.3d 281

- (b) North Greenville Fitness v. Daimler Chrysler, South Carolina Court of Appeals, Jan. 2, 2004, 2003-UP-00737
- (c) State Auto Property v. Wild Turkey Holdings, South Carolina Court of Appeals, dismissed on June 3, 2004 after briefs were filed pursuant to settlement

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.

None.

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) Elected to the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 2008-2011
- (b) Elected to the Circuit Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 2011-2023
- (c) Elected to the Court of Appeals, 2023-present

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) Vista Del Mar Condo. Ass'n v. Vista Del Mar Condominiums, LLC, 441 S.C. 223, 892 S.E.2d 532 (Ct. App. 2023), cert. pending.

The Court of Appeals affirmed the circuit court's order quieting title to a 2.58-acre tract (the Property). The court of appeals held (1) the master deed of a horizontal property regime authorized the developer to remove unimproved property from the regime during what the deed termed the Transition Period; (2) the Transition Period had not ended when the developer removed the Property from the regime; and (3) the removal of the tract from the regime did not violate section 27-31-70 of the Horizontal Property Act because the Property had not vested in the unit owners at the time of the removal. The court also affirmed the circuit court's findings concerning an easement, citing the two-issue rule.

- (b) Anderson v. State, Op. No. 6051 (S.C. Ct. App. filed February 21, 2024) (Howard Adv. Sh. No. 7 at 19).

The Court of Appeals reinstated the defendant's magistrate's court conviction of driving under the influence (DUI). The court clarified the *corpus delicti* rule as set forth in State v. Osborne, 335 S.C. 172, 516 S.E.2d 201 (1999), and held the State presented sufficient independent evidence to corroborate the defendant's statements to the police, and that independent evidence, taken together with the statements, allowed a reasonable inference that the crime of DUI was committed.

- (c) Woodruff Road SC, LLC v. S.C. Greenville Hwy 146, LLC, 2017 WL 74856 (Ct. App. 2017). This matter was before me on a declaratory judgment action to determine the scope of an easement granted to S.C. Greenville Hwy 146, LLC. I determined that S.C. Greenville Hwy. 146, LLC could use the easement as part of a drive-thru for one of its tenants, Starbucks. Woodruff Road SC, LLC appealed my decision, and the Court of Appeals affirmed my decision in an unpublished opinion.
 - (d) Proctor v. Whitlark & Whitlark, Inc., 414 S.C 318 (2015). I sat as an Acting Justice with the South Carolina Supreme Court in this matter. We held that gambling statutes, and not the South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, provide the exclusive remedy for a gambler seeking recovery of losses sustained by illegal gambling.
 - (e) In re: Campbell, 379 S.C. 593 (2008). I sat as an Acting Justice with the South Carolina Supreme Court in this matter. This was an appeal that originated in the Probate Court wherein a daughter challenged the dismissal of a petition she filed for appointment as conservator of her mother's assets. We held that the statute governing court appointment of a physician to examine a person subject to a conservatorship action does not require that the physician be disinterested, only unbiased. We further held that the Court-appointed physicians who acted as the mother's expert witnesses were not unbiased.
20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- (a) South Carolina, 1997
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 2001
 - (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2003
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 made a presentation on Children's Law to Furman Pre-Law Society in 2015.
 - (b) I addressed the S.C. Women Lawyers Association in 2012 on the topic of running for judicial seats.
 - (c) I addressed the S.C. Women Lawyers Association in 2012 on the topic of changes in the legal profession affecting women.
 - (d) I addressed the Greenville Bar Association during its 2012 Law Week Luncheon concerning civility in the practice of law.
 - (e) I addressed the Public Defenders Conference in 2012 on the topic "A View from the Bench."
 - (f) I served on a Judicial Panel for the S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys Conference in 2012.

- (g) I spoke to the S.C.Bar in 2013 regarding the Essentials of Criminal Practice.
- (h) I addressed the S.C. Solicitor's Conference in 2013 on the topic of Mental Health Issues in General Sessions Court.
- (i) I addressed the S.C. Bar in 2014 at the 23rd Annual Criminal Practice in S.C.
- (j) I spoke to the S.C. Solicitor's Conference in 2014 with Tom Traxler on the Psychology of Persuasion.
- (k) I presented to the Women's Leadership Institute at Furman University in 2015 on the topic of Women in the Law.
- (l) I spoke at a S.C. Bar CLE in 2015 with Tom Traxler on the Psychology of Persuasion.
- (m) I addressed new lawyers in the S.C. Bar regarding Rule 403 requirements in 2015.
- (n) I served on a Judicial Panel addressing Updates in the Law at the 2015 S.C. Solicitor's Conference.
- (o) I served on a panel addressing Tips from the Bench at the 2015 S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys Association Women in Law Seminar.
- (p) I addressed the S.C. Bar at a CLE with Tom Traxler in 2016 on the topic of the Psychology of Persuasion.
- (q) I addressed the Greenville Bar End of Year CLE in 2017 on the topic of a View from the Bench.
- (r) I have taught a course at the Charleston School of Law. The course is entitled Primer on First Year Practice in S.C. I taught the course in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- (s) I spoke at the Greenville Bar End of the Year CLE in 2019 on the topic of General Sessions Court in the Thirteenth Circuit.
- (t) I spoke at the Greenville Bar End of the Year CLE in 2021 on the topic of the Courts' Adjustment During COVID.
- (u) I spoke at the Greenville Bar End of the Year CLE in 2022 on the topic of Update on the Civil Court in the Thirteenth Circuit.
- (v) I addressed the South Carolina Defense Trial Lawyers Conference in 2021 on "A View from the Bench."
- (w) I have annually addressed the Circuit Court Judges School on the topic of Inherent Powers of the Court since 2019.
- (x) I addressed the South Carolina Appellate Judges Conference in 2018 on the topic of "A View from the Circuit Court Bench."
- (y) I spoke at the End of the Year CLE for the Greenville County Bar on Appellate and Civil Practice in 2024
- (z) I spoke at an Evidence seminar for the SC Bar in 2024.
- (aa) I moderated a panel on recent important criminal appellate decisions at the Criminal Law Seminar for the SC Bar in 2024.
- (bb) I spoke at the LEAPP seminar for the SC Bar in March 2024 on trial court ethics.

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

Please see attached report.

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.)

See Attached. I authored these published opinions in collaboration with my law clerks.

- (a) Vista Del Mar Condo. Ass'n v. Vista Del Mar Condominiums, LLC, 441 S.C. 223, 892 S.E.2d 532 (Ct. App. 2023), cert. pending.
- (b) Anderson v. State, Op. No. 6051 (S.C. Ct. App. filed February 21, 2024) (Howard Adv. Sh. No. 7 at 19).

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 was not listed in Martindale-Hubbell prior to my election because I was employed by a government agency and did not request a listing.

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) Greenville County Bar Association
- (c) Haynsworth Inn of Court
- (d) Liberty Fellowship
- (e) Circuit Judges' Advisory Committee
- (f) Advisory Committee on Standards of Judicial Conduct
 - Member, 2012-2021
 - Chairperson, 2019-2021
- (g) Circuit Judges' Association
 - Vice-President, 2019-2022
 - President, 2022-2023
- (h) Appellate Judges' 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.

I taught a course at the Charleston School of Law each summer during the years 2013-2017. My employment as an Adjunct Professor was part-time and contractual. My supervisor was Andy Abrams, Dean of the Law School.

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) 1993-1995 -- Human Resources Assistant, Wangner Systems, Greenville, SC – Assisted Human Resources Director in personnel matters and benefits administration.

(b) 1992-1993 – Laboratory Researcher, Clemson University, Clemson, SC – Performed research in a grant-funded position while in graduate school in the Department of Biochemistry.

(c) 1991 – Laboratory Assistant, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC – Assisted in grant-funded research in the Department of Pharmacology for course credit while a student at Furman University.

(d) 1988-1990 – Summer Intern, Wangner Systems, Greenville, SC – Performed administrative assistant, receptionist, and human resources assistant duties during summers while in college.

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

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

Please see attached.

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?

- (a) \$115.60 for postage on March 13, 2024
- (b) \$86.60 for printed cards on January 16, 2024
- (c) \$52.20 for business cards on January 15, 2024

I notified the House and Senate Ethics Committees of these expenditures on March 23, 2024.

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.

My husband, Charles S. (Chuck) Verdin IV, is a Shareholder with the law firm of Gallivan, White, & Boyd, P.A. As a result, I do not hear cases involving any attorney with that firm.

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.

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.

My husband and I have retirement accounts that hold various mutual funds, but we do not own any stock or interest in stock directly.

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.

Upon information and belief, several inmates have named me as a defendant in Federal lawsuits; however, none of these suits have been served on me and all were dismissed. An inmate in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, Bobby Joe Reid, also named me in a lawsuit filed in Greenville County Circuit Court. I was never served with that lawsuit but was provided counsel through the Insurance Reserve Fund. The Circuit Court granted Defendants' Motion to Dismiss in 2021.

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 and none.

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) Chet Chea
General Counsel
Eastern Industrial Supplies, Inc.
[Redacted]
- (b) Shonna Felkel
President and General Counsel
Banker Exchange
[Redacted]
- (c) The Rev. Dr. Chris Jones
Trinity Presbyterian Church
[Redacted]
- (d) Ian Conits
Partner
Gallivan, White, and Boyd, P.A.
[Redacted]

- (e) Leah Baker
South State Bank
[Redacted]

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

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

How would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

I have an Instagram account under the user handle, [Redacted]. My account is private, I am careful about anything that I “like,” and of my very few posts, all are related to my sons, my nieces, or my dog. I do access my husband’s Facebook account (account name [Redacted]) in order to view family members’ and friends’ posts. To my knowledge, neither my husband nor I have ever posted anything on the account. On occasion, friends have posted material that I find offensive, divisive, or political. I have immediately “unfriended” that person.

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) Trinity Presbyterian Church
 - 1) Elder
 - 2) Co-Chair of Personnel Committee
 - 3) Interim Youth Director
- (b) Green Valley Country Club
- (c) Liberty Fellowship

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 have thoroughly enjoyed serving as a Family Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, and Court of Appeals Judge for more than 15 years. I have found these positions challenging and rewarding. I was honored to serve as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Standards of Judicial Conduct, on the Circuit Judges Advisory Committee, and as President

of the Circuit Judges' Association. I have also had the opportunity to sit as an Acting Associate Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court on several occasions.

When I was elected to the Circuit Court, I had mixed emotions. I was honored and excited to serve on the Circuit Court, but I knew that I would miss the Family Court greatly. I felt the same about leaving Circuit Court when I was elected to the Court of Appeals. I have enjoyed learning from and working with the other members of the Court of Appeals. If I were elected to the Supreme Court, I know I would miss the Court of Appeals. However, I would hope to bring to that new position the experience I have gained in both trial courts and the appellate court. I would approach the Supreme Court with the same enthusiasm I have had when serving on the Family Court, Circuit Court, and Court of Appeals and would always be mindful of the enormous trust the Legislature had placed in me.

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: _____