



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Seventh Circuit, Seat 1

1. Name: The Honorable Joseph Derham Cole, Jr.
Mrs.
Ms.

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): None

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Spartanburg

Business Address: 160 E. St. John St, Spartanburg, SC 29306

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (864) 503-5459
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1977
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC
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? No. 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.

6. Family Status:

Married on January 5, 2008 to the former Suzanne Curry Boulware

Never divorced, two children:
[Redacted]

7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) University of South Carolina Honors College; 1995-1999; B.S. Business Administration
 - (b) University of South Carolina Moore School of Business; 1999-2003; M.I.B.S.
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law; 1999-2003; J.D.

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) House Judiciary Committee Law Clerk, 2001-2003

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, 2003. Took bar exam once.

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) South Carolina Judicial Department, Spartanburg, SC
Judge-Elect, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 1
April 2024-Present
 - (b) Wilkes Law Firm, P.A., Spartanburg, SC
Attorney, July 2010 – December 2018
 - Represented clients in business transactions, business litigation, construction litigation, and torts and insurance defense.
 - (c) Cole Law Firm, LLC, Spartanburg, SC
Sole Member, July 2009 – July 2010
 - Represented clients in business transactions and litigation matters.
 - Managed all administrative and financial functions of the firm.
 - (d) Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP, Spartanburg, SC
Associate Attorney, September 2006 – June 2009

- Represented clients in corporate and business transactional matters.
- (e) Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann, P.C., Greenville, SC
Associate Attorney, September 2003 – August 2006
- Represented clients in corporate and securities matters.

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.

During my legal career, I have practiced primarily in civil and corporate law in firms ranging from a solo practice to a large regional law firm. In my solo practice, I handled a variety of matters that are best categorized as business litigation matters, including two matters that I personally tried to verdict. During my time at Wilkes Law Firm, P.A., I had a primarily insurance defense practice on the civil litigation side, with an emphasis on construction claims, premises liability, and contractual claims. The matters in which I was involved at Wilkes Law Firm mostly settled at mediation or otherwise, although they involved a significant amount of motions practice and depositions.

I regularly review the Advance Sheets to keep myself abreast of the state of the law across all areas, including criminal law, which is an area in which I have not practiced in my legal career. Since my election to the Circuit Court bench in April, I have observed terms of court on a variety of different matters, including jury qualification, CPNJ motions, General Sessions motions, pleas, and a CSC case tried to verdict.

- (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: None
 - (b) state: 0-1 times per month
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: 10
 - (b) criminal: 0
 - (c) domestic: 0
 - (d) other: 90 (higher education administration)
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 10
 - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 0
 - (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? 0 (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? 0

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? Co-counsel. It was the practice of the firm to have more than one attorney assigned to cases.

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial? N/A.

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) General Wholesale Distributors, LLC v. McArn Enterprises, LLC et al.; 2009-CP-23-8061. Tried this breach of contract case solo before a jury to a defense verdict in favor of my client.
 - (b) Vaughn Curbing Company v. Handy; 2010-CP-42-1563. Tried this breach of contract action solo to a verdict in favor of my client in a bench trial.
 - (c) Pinckney v. Fankhauser et. al., 2010-CP-46-2326. Construction defect case with relatively complicated posture and multiple parties and issues that were appealed to Court of Appeals.
 - (d) DFO, LLC v. High Country Restaurant Holdings, LLC et al., 2014-CP-42-4590. Franchise-related litigation resolved at mediation after significant discovery and motions practice.
 - (e) Smith v. Turner, 2018-CP-42-02749. Trespass and negligence case in which I developed legal strategy leading to judgment for damages against a party other than my client.
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) Pinckney v. Epcon Communities et. al, 2012-213730 (Ct. App.). I was primarily involved in the briefing of this appeal and was preparing to argue it until the matter settled on the eve of oral argument.
 - (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) N/A.
 - (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.

I have been Judge-Elect to Circuit Court, Seventh Circuit, Seat 1 since April 2024. I have not held other judicial office.

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) I have not yet issued orders or opinions.
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

- (a) South Carolina Bar, November 17, 2003
- (b) United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, December 3, 2003
- (c) United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, November 24, 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) During my tenure in the General Assembly, I provided legislative updates from time-to-time at legal association meetings such as the S.C. Bar Convention and the S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys Association Summer and Annual Meetings.
- (b) I participated in teaching an in-house law firm CLE with fellow associates in my first couple of years of practice.

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

See attached.

23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

None.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the

Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

See provided samples.

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.

- (a) Martindale-Hubbell, AV
- (b) Super Lawyers, Rising Stars 2016

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) S.C. Bar Association (Seventh Circuit YLD Representative, 2007-2009)
- (b) Spartanburg County Bar Association
- (c)

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.

- (a) S.C. House of Representatives, 2008-2018, Elected. Reports with the State Ethics Commission were timely filed.

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

N/A.

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

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) University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Vice President for System Affairs, July 2021 – Present

- Administer System Leadership Council, which serves as a review and advisory body for policies and programs affecting the University of South Carolina system.
- Regularly consult with system chancellors to promote and facilitate communication about issues affecting university system institutions.
- Advise chancellors regarding legislative issues and strategies for advocacy.
- Serve as key point of contact with outside consultant in development of systemwide strategic assessment.
- Serve as administrative liaison to the Board of Trustees System Committee.
- Serve on University of South Carolina Policy Advisory Council to support development of policies beneficial to the university system.

(b) University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC
Interim Chancellor, February 2020 – July 2021

- Served as chief administrative officer of the university with duties set forth in the Bylaws of the University's Board of Trustees.
- Represented the university on System Leadership Council, which serves as a review and advisory body for new policies and programs affecting the University of South Carolina system.
- Served as liaison to key university stakeholders, including the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education and the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation.
- Led the university's response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Represented the university in the local, state, and higher education communities.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, December 2018 – February 2020

- Negotiated, drafted, and reviewed university contracts and agreements.
- Worked with campus offices to create and review memoranda of understanding in collaboration with Office of General Counsel.
- Delivered university training on compliance issues.
- Represented the university with regard to departmental collaborations and external relations with the community and stakeholders.
- Advised the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration with regard to legislative reporting and the annual appropriations request to the General Assembly.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

No. I am the sole member of Cole Law Firm, LLC, but it has no assets or liabilities, and does not engage in any business operations.

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.

The University of South Carolina is a lobbyist’s principal, but I have never personally acted as such or as a lobbyist.

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.

34. (a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years? If no, please provide details. Yes.
(b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes? If yes, please provide details. No.
(c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details. No.
(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details. No.
(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults. No.
35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist’s principal involved.

I am employed by the University of South Carolina, but I have not received anything of value from the institution other than my salary, fringe benefits, or expense reimbursements such as mileage.

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 to date.

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.

(a) Max Hyde, Jr., \$250. No contributions since my last screening.

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 of which I am aware.

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.

N/A.

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.

N/A.

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.

DIS, BND, VTI, MAGS, NVDA, VWO, VEA, U, ODFL, ZBRA, VOO, GSIMX, VYM, COWZ, QQQ, IQLT, SCHX, NWFFX, VTV, IJR, EFAV, VO, VNQ, TROIX, BOSOX, TBCIX, DOCU, WMT

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.

No.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered

by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I purchased a tail policy when I left solo practice in 2010 to join Wilkes Law Firm, P.A. To the best of my recollection, it was a three-year policy.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No.

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No.

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No.

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

Yes.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

I have not, and to my knowledge, no one else has, either.

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) The Honorable Reid T. Sherard
Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd
[Redacted]

(a) The Honorable Edward R. Tallon, Sr.
The Tallon Group, Inc.
[Redacted]

(b) Ellen S. Cheek, Esq.
Johnson Development Associates, Inc.
[Redacted]

(c) Cindy J. Kelly
TNB Financial Services
[Redacted]

(d) Rev. Alan F. Dyer
First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg
[Redacted]

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

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

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

If I did not delete my social media accounts entirely, I would likely maintain my currently predominant practice of posting and interacting with family- and friend-related posts, or reading other people's posts. I typically do not engage in political posting, and I would not do that whilst serving in a judicial capacity.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

CIVIC/PROFESSIONAL/SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

- (a) Chair, Daniel Morgan District Committee, Palmetto Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2022-2023.
- (b) Cubmaster, First Presbyterian Church, Pack 2, Palmetto Council, BSA 2023-Present
- (c) Trustee, Spartanburg County Libraries, 2018-Present.
- (d) Member, Board of Directors, Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg, Inc., 2019-Present; Chair, 2023-Present.
- (e) Member, Board of Governors, Piedmont Club, 2023-Present.
- (f) Member, Board of Directors, Piedmont Interstate Fair Association, 2019-2024.
- (g) Member, Caroliniana Ball, 2017-Present
- (h) Member, Rotary Club of Spartanburg, 2009-2021; Board of Directors, 2020-2021.
- (i) Member, South Carolina Bar Association; Representative for the 7th Judicial Circuit, South Carolina Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, 2007-2009.
- (j) Dancer, Dancing with the Spartanburg Stars benefiting Cancer Association of Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties, 2015.
- (k) Member, Country Club of Spartanburg, 2012-Present

AWARDS

- (l) Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award, OneSpartanburg, Inc., 2020.
 - (m) Order of the Palmetto, 2018. The Order of the Palmetto is the state's highest civilian honor awarded to citizens of South Carolina for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance.
 - (n) Business Advocate Award, Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 2018.
 - (o) Legislator of the Year, S.C. Human Service Providers Association, 2016.
 - (p) Business Advocate Award, S.C. Chamber of Commerce, 2010-2011, 2013, 2015-2017.
 - (q) Sword & Mace, Business and Industry Political Education Committee, 2013.
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 dedicated most of my post-graduate life to the legal profession and public service. Having the ability to merge these two vocations, passions and interests in service to the state as a circuit court judge is a high honor for which my experience in private practice as well as my service in the General Assembly has well-equipped me. As a public servant, I believe my constituents would say I represented them effectively, diligently, and compassionately. As a lawyer, I have represented my clients zealously and ethically, while maintaining a collegiality with fellow lawyers that I hold as one of the hallmarks of the South Carolina Bar.

In addition, my experience in higher education, including taking over as interim chancellor of a comprehensive university at the onset of a global pandemic, has allowed me to use my legal education and background from the perspective of an executive decisionmaker. My legal background and analytical skills served me well in navigating the myriad legal issues facing a complex organization on a daily basis, all of which were amplified by the challenges posed by operating in a pandemic. From assessing the liability landscape, to negotiating and renegotiating agreements with vendors and community partners on the fly, my ability to see issues and assess risk was invaluable. I also routinely used the skills I developed in pursuit of my Master of International Business Studies degree from the University of South Carolina. These skills will be useful on the bench, particularly in complex business matters.

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: _____