



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court at Large, Seat 14.

1. Name: The Honorable R. Keith Kelly

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? Yes, Circuit Court

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Spartanburg

Business Address: 125 East Floyd Baker Blvd., Gaffney, SC 29340

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 864-596-2400
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1958
Place of Birth: Spartanburg, 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? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge. Yes. 16 May 1981 to 16 May 1984, US Army active duty, Honorable Discharge. 17 May to 29 August 1994 US Army Reserve, Honorable Discharge. Captain, [Redacted], no longer serving.

6. Family Status:
Married on 28 December 1985 to Cynthia (Cindy) Gail Jackson Kelly, Corporate Trustee.
Never divorced, three adult 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) USC Spartanburg, 1977-1981, BA History.
 - (b) Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University 1984-1987, JD.
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. I worked to pay my way through college and law school, which limited my ability to participate in many activities.
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, admitted 04 January 1988.
 - (b) I have never taken another state's bar exam.
 - (c) I passed the SC Bar exam the first 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) Brooks Law Associates, Spartanburg, SC 1988-1999; General practice of law including criminal, civil and family law. No administrative or financial duties.
 - (b) R. Keith Kelly Law Firm, Spartanburg, SC 1999-2001; General practice of law including criminal, civil and family law. Solo practice with administrative and financial duties.
 - (c) Lister, Flynn and Kelly, PA, Spartanburg, SC 2001-2013; General practice of law including criminal, civil and family law. No administrative or financial duties.
 - (d) The South Carolina Judicial Department, Circuit Court Judge, 2013 to present. Preside over Common Pleas and General Sessions 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. N/A
- (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. N/A
- (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. N/A
- (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. N/A
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? N/A
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?
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? N/A
- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? N/A

(c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? N/A
(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? N/A

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? N/A

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. N/A

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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. N/A

- (a)
- (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. N/A

- (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.

- (a) Yes
- (b) SC Circuit Court Judge, 2013-present. Elected by the General Assembly.
- (c) The jurisdiction of the Circuit Court is defined by Article V, Section 11 of the SC Constitution and Title 14, Chapter 5 of the SC Code of Laws, as amended.

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) Catawba Indian Nation v. State of South Carolina, 407 S.C. 526, 765 SE2d 900 (2014). The Indian tribe brought a declaratory judgment action against the state to determine the effect of the Gambling Cruise Act on certain gambling rights. The Supreme Court held declaratory judgment action was not precluded by collateral estoppel; the action was not precluded by res judicata; but the Gambling Cruise Act did not authorize the tribe to offer video poker gambling on its reservation. I concurred in the opinion as an Acting Associate Justice.

(b) Garrard v. Charleston County School District, LLC, 439 S.C. 596 (2023). Members and coach of high school football team brought defamation action against newspaper that had published series of articles that included statements about members and coach in connection with controversial post-game ritual performed by team. The Supreme Court, Kittredge, Acting C.J., held that common law presumption of general damages did not apply, requiring members and coach to demonstrate actual injury. The members and coach were required to demonstrate actual injury attributable to articles; allegedly libelous statement involved issue of public controversy or concern and was published by a media defendant. Petitioners fell short on the element of damages. Because the allegedly libelous statement involved an issue of public controversy or concern and was published by a media defendant, the common law presumption of general damages did not apply, and it was incumbent on Petitioners to show actual injury attributable to Respondent's publications. I concurred in the opinion as an Acting Associate Justice.

(c) Garrison v. Target, 435 S.C. 566 (2022). Customers sued store for negligence, violation of Unfair Trade Practices Act, and loss of consortium after daughter picked up and was pricked by needle and syringe in store parking lot. The jury returned a verdict for Plaintiffs. The Court of Appeals held the statutory cap on punitive damages pursuant to section 15-32-530 constituted an affirmative defense that must be pled or else waived, and because Target failed to plead the cap, the Court held its application was waived in this case. Target contended the Court of Appeals erred in holding it was required to plead the statutory cap on punitive damages pursuant to section 15-32-530 as an affirmative defense, and because Target did not do so, application of the damages cap was waived in this case. The Supreme Court agreed finding the statutory cap on punitive damages is neither an affirmative defense nor an avoidance because it does not affect liability or require new matter to be asserted but instead limits the amount of damages a plaintiff can recover.

(d) State v. Daniel Spade, 2016WL3670561, (2016). Defendant was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, First Degree for forcing his then seven year old daughter to perform oral sex on him during non-custodial visitation. Defendant improperly struck juror 199 because she was a grandmother and later alleged due to her age. I ruled the strike unconstitutional based on gender because only females can be grandmothers and the "dual motivation doctrine did not cure the constitutional defect. Affirmed.

(e) West Anderson Water v. City of Anderson, 417 S.C. 496, 790 SE2d 204 (2016). The Water District brought a declaratory action against the City to determine the proper service provider to supply water to Michelin's newly constructed facility. The Court affirmed my ruling determining the Water Sale and Purchase Agreement allowed the City to provide service to Michelin, enabling legislation authorized the local governing body to execute contracts extending past its members terms of office and there was no delegation of power by the district. Affirmed.

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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina 04 January 1988;
 - (b) Admitted to practice before the Federal District Court 23 May 1990;
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals 21 April 1998
21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
- (a) I have made a presentation on Ethics to the SC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as a Circuit Judge.
 - (b) I have made a presentation on Access to Justice as a Circuit Judge.
 - (c) I have participated as a Circuit Judge on panels answering questions from lawyers.
 - (d) I have made presentations to members of the Bar at the annual Solicitor's Conference Conference while serving as a member of the SC House Judiciary Committee.
 - (e) I have made presentations to members of the Bar at the annual Public Defender's Conference while serving as a member of the SC House Judiciary Committee.
 - (f) I have made presentations to members of the Bar at the annual Public Defender's Conference while serving as a member of the SC Sentencing Oversight Committee.
 - (g) I have spoken to school students on career days about law in general and described our court system, both state and federal.
 - (h) I taught a class to law enforcement officers on prosecuting DUI cases while I was a lawyer.
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.) N/A

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. Martindale-Hubbell, BV.
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) South Carolina Circuit Court Judges Association
 - (c) Cherokee County Bar Association
 - (d) Spartanburg County Bar Association
 - (e) South Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society
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) Yes. 2006-2010, SC House of Representatives, House District 35, elected.
 - (b) All reports were timely filed, no penalty.
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.
- (a) 1991 SC Senate special election to fill unexpired term of Senator Horace Smith. I lost in the primary to a challenger.
 - (b) 2010 SC House of Representatives, District 35. I lost in the primary to a challenger.
 - (c) 1995 Family Court Judgeship. I withdrew from consideration.
 - (d) 1998 Family Court Judgeship. I withdrew from consideration.
 - (e) 2010 US Magistrate. I was not selected.
 - (f) 2016 Supreme Court. I withdrew from consideration.
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. Yes
- (a) 1976-1977 Mr. Zip Food Stores as HVAC technician.
 - (b) 1977-1981 Mr. Zip Food Stores and Land Lease Corporation as HVAC and maintenance technician while attending college.
 - (c) 1981-1984 Soldier, US Army active duty.
 - (d) 1984-1994 Soldier, US Army Reserve duty.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.
Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.
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.
(a) Never a lobbyist or lobbyist principal.
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.
 - (c) A complete current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

(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? Yes
(b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state or federal taxes? No
(c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? No tax lien or other collection procedure.
(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? No all student loans paid in full.
(e) 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. Never filed bankruptcy.
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? No expenditures 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) Senator Scott Talley \$1,000.00
 - (b) Representative Travis Moore \$2,500.00
 - (c) Representative Max Hyde \$1,500.00
 - (d) Contributions made by my spouse from her separate checking account to which I am not an authorized signatory.
 - (e) No contributions made by my wife 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.
- (a) None
 - (b) N/A
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; None
 - (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; None
 - (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; None
 - (b) nature and value of any public improvements; None
 - (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property. None
- 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.
- (a) None
 - (b) 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. See the complete, current financial net worth statement provided to the Commission.

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.
 - (a) Garrett v. Lister, Flynn & Kelly, PA et al.2005CP4200597, Common Pleas, Spartanburg, SC. John Garrett was represented by associate attorney Brendan Delaney who achieved a beneficial result for the Plaintiff. The case was dismissed by the Court, not Rule 40J. Plaintiff petitioned the appellate court and lost. Taxation of costs was awarded against Plaintiff.
 - (b) Roger Bragg v. Keith Kelly, 2002CV422417, Magistrate Court, Spartanburg, SC. Mr. Bragg hired me on a Magistrate Court criminal case. Central Magistrate Court had multiple courtrooms operating simultaneously. I reported to the courtroom for Mr. Bragg and advised the clerk I would return but I was to be in another at the same time. Also, I advised the clerk that my client was present and informed me the alleged victim would not appear and the case would be dismissed. Upon my returning, the clerk advised me that when Mr. Bragg's case was called, the judge was advised it was to be dismissed. The case was dismissed and Mr. Bragg left. Mr. Bragg filed suit for the return of his attorney fees stating that I did not earn the fee even though I resolved the

case in his favor. I returned 100% of his retainer fee and the case was ended. As an aside, I made it a practice not to argue with a client about a fee.

- (c) A lawyer by the name of Ben N. Miller, III represented Fleet Real Estate Funding in either collection or foreclosure work in the early 1990s, He named me as a co-defendant in several actions in Spartanburg County, SC. I think I was named because I had an attorney fee lien awarded by the Family Court. Nonetheless, I took no action and no judgment was entered against me.
- (d) USA v. Robert & Lisa Zapata, Jim Brooks and R. Keith Kelly, 7:93-cv-02861-HMH. I practiced law with Jim S. Brooks, Esq. from 1988 to 1999. We took a lien against real estate owned by the Zapatas to secure a legal fee. The Zapatas never paid the fee and their property was foreclosed. We were named defendants in the foreclosure to clear title to the property.
- (e) 2000-CP-42-01517 Renaissance Enterprises, Inc. v. Lloyd Calvin Gilbert, DBA L G Builders: After reviewing the Clerk of Court's file, I was named a defendant along with eleven others because I was the holder of \$25,500.00 in disputed funds. It appears the case was settled by the real parties in interest.
- (f) 1999-CP-42-00036 Jim S. Brooks, PC & R. Keith Kelly DBA Brooks Law co-plaintiff seeking payment of attorney fees in a breach of contract action against the defendant. Defendant Parker was found not guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill his wife but was found guilty of the lesser included offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. It appears the case was dismissed in 2000.
- (g) 1997-CP-42-02312 Jim S. Brooks, PC & R. Keith Kelly DBA Brooks Law Associates v. Doug Parker: There is no Clerk of Court file to review. The case was ended in 1999.
- (h) 2000-CP-42-01727 Premier Federal Credit Union v. Lori Price: After reviewing the Clerk of Court's file, it appears it was a default judgement against the defendant on a debt collection matter. I was neither the attorney nor a party to the action. I don't know anything about the case.
- (i) 2024CP4001737 Alonzo C. Jeter III v. Cole, et al.: Plaintiff Jeter filed an action against what appears to be the Circuit Judges in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. He alleges nothing against me. My name is listed as a defendant and is the only time my name is mentioned in the action. Jason Bobertz 803-734-1073 is answering on behalf of the Judges.
- (j) Geter v. Kelly, 7:21-cv-00290-JMC: It appears Mr. Geter filed a 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 action on 29 January 2021 against me as a judge for denying him a bond on his criminal charge of Murder. He alleged I used Covid as an excuse not to set his bond and denying his Speedy Trial motion. US Magistrate Judge Mary Gordan Baker

issued an order directing the Clerk not to authorize service on 12 April 2021. Additionally, she issued a Report and Recommendation to dismiss the action with prejudice. The Honorable J. Michelle Childs adopted the Report and Recommendation and dismissed the case with prejudice on 30 April 2021. I knew nothing about the case. As an aside, Mr. Geter has filed other cases against law enforcement officers, the Spartanburg County Detention Center, Warden Larry Powers and Captain Teresa Speller. It appears he has been equally unsuccessful. He is currently serving a forty year sentence for murder. The Honorable J. Mark Hayes presided over his trial.

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.
(a) I am no longer in private practice. I am covered by a Professional E & O Tail policy, National Union Fire Co., limits \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000, deductible \$10,000, unlimited dates.

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.
(a) Never investigated.
(b) Not on any registry.

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.
(a) No. I am unaware of any friend or third party contacting members of the General Assembly.

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.

(a) No. I am unaware of any friend or third party contacting members of the General Assembly.

(b) I have not campaigned for this election.

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) Sheriff Steve Mueller, [Redacted]

(b) Mr. Paul M. Forrester, [Redacted]

(c) Ms. Cindy B. Hughes, [Redacted]

(d) Mrs. Amy Cox, [Redacted]

(e) Mrs. Brandy McBee, [Redacted]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.? No. I do not participate on social media.

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

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

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 United Methodist Church, Spartanburg, SC

(b) The Supreme Court Historical Society

(c) Spartanburg Downtown Rotary Club (Paul Harris Plus Eight)

(d) Rotary Paul Harris Society

- (e) Spartanburg Pilots Association, former board member
- (f) Woodruff Investment Club
- (g) The Peachtree Project (former member)

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.

(a) I respectfully submit that my work ethic is one of my strong suits. I worked to pay my way through college and law school. I repaid all student loans timely, and I applied myself to the practice of law and representing clients with the same work ethic. I applied myself and that same work ethic while serving our state as a Circuit Court Judge. And, I will continue to apply that same work ethic to cases before 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: _____