



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat Sixteen

1. Name: Mr. Charles J. McCutchen

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

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

Not at this time; however, I was elected by the General Assembly on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat Sixteen position to fill the unexpired term beginning January 2, 2025 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Orangeburg

Business Address: 1325 St. Matthews Road, Orangeburg, SC 29115

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): (803) 268-9800  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1977

Place of Birth: Sumter, 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. No

6. Family Status:

Married on August 14, 2004 to Tara Lovelace McCutchen, Senior Global Account Manager at Zeus Industrial Products, Inc.

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, Fall 1995-December 1998.  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a Minor in Business Administration.
  - (b) Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, Fall 1999-Spring 2000.  
Transferred back home after year one to attend the University of South Carolina School of Law.
  - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, Fall 2000-Spring 2002  
Juris Doctorate
  
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) "Street Law" volunteer instructor, Fall 1999
  - (b) ATLA trial advocacy competition team, Fall 2000
  
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) Admitted to practice in South Carolina in 2002 after taking the bar examination one time.
  
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.
  - (a) Hood Law Firm, LLC, Charleston, SC. Associate. September 2002 – January 2004. My primary area of practice was general civil litigation defense, beginning with initial pleadings and conducting discovery, all the way through mediation, as well as trial preparation/trial. I was not involved in any management position in this role, including management of trust accounts.
  - (b) Lanier & Burroughs, LLC, Orangeburg, SC. Non-equity member. February 2004 – Present. My areas of practice have always included personal injury litigation practice, including pretrial, trial preparation and trial, domestic litigation, criminal defense, workers compensation, as well as Social Security disability appeals and magistrate's Court

civil and criminal litigation practice. Although I never managed the firm nor the trust accounts, I do oversee the trust account disbursements in cases that I personally handle.

**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.

Over the past 5 years, and even prior, I have handled DUI/DUS cases, cases involving burglary and stolen goods, assault and battery, criminal domestic violence, various drug and firearm related charges, and also numerous traffic offenses. The usual issues presented in these cases pertained to probable cause or lack thereof, Miranda violations, failure of law enforcement to comply with South Carolina law, as well as mitigating facts and circumstances to be considered beyond just the charge(s) alone. The vast majority of my criminal cases concluded in negotiated plea agreements after completing the rule 5 discovery process.

As far as civil matters, I frequently and routinely handle an array of cases including automobile accidents and premises liability cases, primarily. These typically involve issues of proximate causation, damages and especially on the premises liability side, foreseeability issues and issues of actual and constructive notice, in addition to the proximate cause and damages issues, as well as default issues. Again, the vast majority of my civil cases ended in an agreed upon settlement, whether it be at mediation or before; however, a few cases that included issues of causation/liability coupled with issues of causally connected damages, ended up proceeding to trial. Most of my practice is spent representing Plaintiffs, but from time to time I do represent individual defendants who have been sued.

I certainly am aware that my practice has been primarily on the civil side; however, the Rules of Evidence apply across the board, in any type of case, and the practice of one type of law familiarizes you with those same rules to be applied in other areas. As criminal matters involve the potential loss of rights most sacred to our State and U.S. Constitutions, I would most certainly ensure that I was well versed, by preliminary research, on any unfamiliar issue that may arise in a case before me. That would also hold true with civil matters, as I am a firm believer in proper preparation in both my professional life, as well as my personal life.

Dating back to November of 2023, I have made every attempt to observe as much General Sessions Court as my schedule will allow. I observed a murder trial in November of 2023, which included a Jackson v. Denno hearing as well as a hearing regarding admissibility issues of a lie detector being offered and agreed to be taken. Since my election in April of 2024, I have been fortunate to sit with other Circuit Judges to observe General Session Non-Jury weeks where numerous pleas, probation violations, and motions for bond and bond revocations are routinely heard. It is and will continue to be my intent to observe and sit with other Judges as much as I can before I am ultimately sworn in and begin my term in January of 2025.

- (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?
- (a) federal: 5, or on average about 1 per year.
  - (b) state: 142 total, or on average about 28 times per year.
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: 59%
  - (b) criminal: 3%
  - (c) domestic: 24%
  - (d) other: 14%
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?  
87%
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?  
4
  - (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.)  
0
  - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?  
2

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

During the past 5 years, I have most often served as sole counsel on the cases I have handled.

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?

See above.

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) Sandra Canty, indiv. and as guardian of Andrea Gulley, an Incapacitated Adult v. Orangeburg County EMS, Case # 2018-CP-38-01354  
This matter involved alleged breaches of the standard of care by EMS personnel in responding to a 911 call from the Plaintiff's daughter, which resulted in an anoxic

brain injury. The case involved multiple experts in the areas of causation and damages, as well as issues surrounding protections under the SC Tort Claims Act. After discovery and expert preparation, the case was successfully mediated, wherein a substantial, yet limited recovery was obtained to assist in Ms. Gulley's lifelong care.

- (b) **Shawn Hale v. Locals Pub of Orangeburg, SC, et al., Case # 2017-CP-38-00005**  
This premises liability case involved injuries sustained by the owner of a security company who was shot while checking on staff at a night club providing security services. The Plaintiff had extensive medical treatment requiring a month long hospitalization, multiple skin grafts and was permanently limited in function as a result of his injuries. The issues litigated were the duties owed by the landowner, and imputed notice from tenant to the landlord, assumption of the risk doctrines, and criminal acts of third parties. After extensive investigation, numerous depositions and surviving a defense motion for summary judgment, the case was successfully mediated.
  
- (c) **William Rutland v. Hazel H. Fogle, Case # 2016-CP-38-01449**  
This automobile accident case was one where liability was admitted, partly because the Defendant later became incapacitated due to age. Also, the case contained issues of pre-existing medical problems, exacerbation of a prior condition, causally connected medical expenses, and UIM offset due to failure to exhaust liability limits. After lengthy discovery, treating physician deposition(s), and subsequent consulting independent medical examiner testimony, the case was mediated twice (liability and UIM) and ultimately resolved prior to trial.
  
- (d) **Shayeata Taylor v. Wal-Mart Stores East, LP, et al., Case # 2013-CP-38-0650**  
Suit was commenced in this matter due to the wrongful arrest and subsequent prosecution of the Plaintiff for shoplifting. Plaintiff was a single mother who lost her job because of her detention and arrest. Significantly, the case involved issues of computer forensics and data stored on a gaming console which assisted in proving the allegations of wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution. Further, past economic loss was a substantial portion of the damages in the case. After multiple pretrial motions hearings, requiring amendment of the complaint itself, the matter settled prior to trial, after it was previously mediated unsuccessfully.
  
- (e) **Walter Proctor v. Admon Louis Moran d/b/a Moran Stumping Company, et al., Case # 2010-CP-14-124**  
This case, along with the companion loss of consortium case, arose out of an accident between a private vehicle and a tractor trailer hauling pine tree stumps. From the beginning, this matter contained issues and violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations, conspicuity analysis, accident reconstruction, comparative negligence, as well as substantial physical injuries

sustained by the Plaintiff and his wife. The case was unsuccessfully mediated, yet settled prior to trial

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) N/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.
  - (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 was elected by the General Assembly to the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat Sixteen position; however as of the date of this application, I have not been sworn in and assumed the role of Circuit Court Judge as my term does not begin until January 2, 2025 and the unexpired term I am filling will expire June 30, 2025.
  
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) N/A, see number 18 above.
  - (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, 2002;
  - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 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.

No.

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

A continuing legal education report is 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.)

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.

N/A.

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) Orangeburg County Bar Association, Treasurer 2008-April 2024.
- (c) First Judicial Circuit Fee Dispute Resolutions Board
- (d) South Carolina Association of Justice, member.

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.



N/A.

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

Yes. In 2021, I was a candidate for the Circuit Court, First Judicial Circuit, Seat One position. I was found Qualified and Nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in the Media Release dated November 23, 2021. I ultimately withdrew my candidacy on January 20, 2022.

In 2022, I was a candidate for the Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat Three position. I was found Qualified but Not Nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in the Media Release dated November 22, 2022 and the Final Report of Candidate Qualifications 2022, dated January 17, 2023.

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.

No.

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.**

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

34. (a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years? If no, please provide details.

Yes, I have filed state and federal tax returns every year for the past five years, and beyond. My 2023 state and federal tax returns will be filed within the extension obtained by my accountant pursuant to IRS regulations.

- (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.

My 2022 returns which were due on or about February 14, 2024 (due to and extension by the IRS for hurricane relief) were delinquent by a few days, due to the fact that the individual directly responsible for filing my returns unfortunately committed suicide the day they were actually due. Upon contacting the IRS, they waived any late fees and penalties under these unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances.

- (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.

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?

N/A.

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 participate in any employer mandated contributions to a PAC or any other political entity, please describe and note your personal involvement in contributions. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

None.

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

No.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

None.

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

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.

A brokerage account record is attached.

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.

N/A.

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

N/A.

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.

Yes.

- (a) In 1993, I was charged with minor possession of alcohol in Florence County, SC. I pled guilty and served a three month license suspension.

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, I have never been sued by a client; however I have been a named party professionally. I was the court appointed and served as guardian ad litem for Dr. Okechukwu Dimkpa in the cases listed below due to his incarceration in the Federal Prison System.

- a) Judy Infinger v. The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties a/k/a The Regional Medical Center, Okechukwu Dimkpa, MD, Charles J. McCutchen as the guardian ad litem for Okechukwu Dimkpa et. al.  
Case No.: 2020-CP-38-01402  
Status: Order of Damages was entered by the Circuit Court on May 15, 2024. A Motion to Vacate was filed by the pro se Defendant on June 14, 2024. I was relieved as guardian ad litem by consent order dated September 27, 2022.
- b) Brittany Kenly, et. al. v. Okechukwu Dimkpa, M.D., Charles J. McCutchen as the guardian ad litem for Okechukwu Dimkpa, M.D. and UIC Consulting, LLC;  
Case No.: 2020-NI-38-00023 & 2021-CP-38-00628  
Status: Settled. I was relieved as guardian ad litem by consent order dated October 3, 2022
- c) Leon Holmes v. Okechukwu Dimkpa, MD, Charles J. McCutchen as the guardian ad litem for Okechukwu Dimkpa, M.D. et. al.  
Case No.: 2020-NI-38-00012 & 2021-CP-38-00325  
Status: Dismissed pursuant to SCRCP 40(j)

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.

Yes, I have been continuously covered by malpractice insurance since 2002, and have never been covered by a tail policy. My current coverage is \$2,000,000 per claim, with a \$5,000 deductible.

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, I have never been investigated by the Department of Social Services, nor have I ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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

No.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

- (a) Lewis C. Lanier, [Redacted]
- (b) Ryan Tucker, [Redacted]
- (c) John M. Grantland, [Redacted]
- (d) Lee D. Cope, [Redacted]
- (e) Brady R. Thomas, [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?

No, I am not an active member of any social media sites. Assuming I were to join some sort of social media platform in the future, any and all uses of such sites or platforms would be limited as to not portray any sort of impartiality or bias according to the Judicial Canons.

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) Orangeburg County Community of Character, Board of Directors, 2014 – April 2024.
  - (b) 2018 Lawyer of the Year, as voted on by readers of the Times & Democrat Newspaper.
  - (c) City of Orangeburg Dixie Youth Baseball Coach, 2012-2020
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 was born and raised in a small community a few miles north of Kingstree, South Carolina. Growing up, my parents and grandparents taught me the importance of diligence and hard work. More importantly, they taught me how to be a person of good character, which includes how to treat people. I never once witnessed my parents mistreat another human being, not so much as to raise their voice at them. The opposite was more true: my parents would inconvenience themselves and go out of their way to help their peers and their community, indiscriminately. At age twelve, my father passed away, and I watched my mother work tirelessly to ensure our needs were met. Growing up, I held every job a teenager in rural Williamsburg County could possibly have: from country store clerk to farming or working the tobacco and gladiola fields, I did it all. I consider myself fortunate to have met so many people from various walks of life at such a young age. It keeps me grounded to this day. I have walked many miles in many different persons' shoes, and I believe this is extremely important when one day I may be asked to adjudicate matters involving those same people.

My humble beginnings in life have stayed with me throughout my career, and I believe that is partially what has prepared me to be a Judge. I pray that as long as I am fortunate enough to wear a black robe, I will be no different of a man than as I am today. No person is bigger than the system in which they operate, including the law. I have realized over my twenty

years of practice that any case I have handled, although all important regardless of size and type, is the most important case to 1 person: the client that hired you. When an individual places that much trust in another individual, it is a very humbling experience. It is even more humbling to fathom that one day I will preside over matters where there are two sides having their most important, and sometimes only experience, within the judicial system. That is a responsibility that I do not, and will not take lightly. Having to preside and render judgment over an individual's life or livelihood is a sobering, serious responsibility, and that is a responsibility that I will gladly and humbly assume.

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: \_\_\_\_\_