



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 2.

1. Name: The Honorable Eugene P. Warr, Jr.

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.)
Family Court, Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3.

Home Address:
[Redacted]

Business Address:
110 N. Main Street
Darlington, SC 29532

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Numbers: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 843-398-2877
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1959
Place of Birth: Florence, South Carolina
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.

4. SCDL#: [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 November 29, 1997 to Cassandra Anderson Warr.
I have never been divorced. My wife and I have 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 1977-1981, Graduated in 1981 with Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting).
- (b) University of South Carolina School of Law 1982-1985, Graduated in 1985 with a Juris Doctorate Degree.

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) Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe, Hartsville, SC- Worked as a law clerk from March of 1982 until I began as an attorney there in 1985.
- (b) South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee- Second year of law school I clerked from fall of 1983 through spring of 1984.

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) I was admitted to practice law in South Carolina in 1985.
- (b) I am not admitted in any other state and I have never taken the bar exam in any other state.
- (c) I passed the bar exam on my only attempt in late July, 1985.

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.

March 1982 through November 1985 (when I was sworn into the bar) I worked at the Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe law firm located in Hartsville, SC as a law clerk. The majority of my work for Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe was during the summer and between the fall and spring semesters. I worked as a clerk for the SC Senate Judiciary Committee during my second year of law school which was the fall of 1983 and spring of 1984.

November 1985 through July 1989 – I was an associate attorney at the Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe law firm. During my years at the Saleeby firm I handled many different areas of practice including personal injury, criminal, workers compensation, civil litigation, probate matters, real estate and domestic.

In July 1989 I left the Saleeby firm and joined with then solo practitioner David M. Beasley (both of us grew up in Lamar, SC) to form the firm of Beasley and Warr in Hartsville, SC. Later, attorney John M. Ervin III joined our firm. In 1993 James H. Lucas and Fred W. Auman, III left the Saleeby firm and joined our practice. In 1994 Beasley was elected Governor and left the practice of law. During the years from 1989 to 1994 I practiced primarily in the areas of personal injury, real estate, probate, domestic law and I was regular counsel to Carolina Bank & Trust Company. I also handled general civil litigation matters. In 2005 H. Thad White Jr. joined our firm. In 2009 Fred W. Auman III left our office and began a solo practice. Our firm was known as Lucas, Warr & White from 2009 until I left the firm in March, 2022 to serve as a Family Court Judge. In February, 2022 I was elected to serve as a Family Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

From approximately 2007 to 2022 I steadily increased my practice in Circuit Court mediation and serving as special referee in non-jury matters. I heard many civil matters as special referee and in recent years I mediated many cases in primarily Darlington County and Florence County. Otherwise, I did some personal injury practice, real estate, probate, general civil litigation and business formation and transactions. I served as regular counsel to Carolina Bank & Trust Company from 1989 to 2022.

From 1989 to 1994 I jointly managed our firm's regular and trust accounts with David Beasley. After Beasley left the practice I became the office manager as to financial management and management of trust accounts. I continued in that role at Lucas, Warr & White until I left to serve as Family Court Judge in 2022.

11. Please answer the following:
 - (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.

My experience in criminal matters was primarily in my first few years of practice as an attorney. In the past five years I have not represented any criminal defendants.

I regularly handled civil matters throughout my years of practice. In the five years previous to beginning as a Family Court Judge (March 2022) I handled personal injury cases, probate litigation, real estate disputes, contractual litigation, general civil matters and represented Carolina Bank & Trust.

The last case in which I participated was tried before a civil jury in February of 2022 and early March of 2022 just prior to my beginning work as a Family Court Judge. My then law partner H. Thad White, Jr. and I tried an accident case in which our client sustained head injuries when he was struck by a vehicle while riding a motorcycle. We had issues of permission to use the vehicle, insurance coverage and liability in the accident. The first trial of the case ended with a mistrial because the jury could not reach a verdict. Two weeks later we tried the case again in Darlington County and won a good verdict for our client.

Through the years I have handled numerous personal injury cases. However, I have generally engaged in different types of civil litigation. For example, I represented a farmer in Darlington County a few years ago who had the majority of his cotton crop destroyed by improper fertilizer application by a company he hired each year to spread fertilizer and spray chemicals. The fertilizer distributor denied fault and we filed suit on his behalf with the case ending at mediation after a good bit of litigation.

On occasion I did represent Defendants in matters. I represented several small businesses and usually handled all matters for them. I represented Carolina Bank Trust from 1989 to 2022 and defended them on numerous matters dealing with banking issues. I also handled many foreclosures for Carolina Bank.

I have served as Special Referee on numerous cases over the years. I heard many foreclosure actions as a Referee, but also numerous other types of litigation such as contractual disputes, construction litigation, real estate disputes and tax sale cases.

I do lack experience in recent years in criminal matters. During my law school years and early years of law practice at the Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe firm I spent a great deal of time with my mentor James C. Cox. Mr. Cox was a tremendous criminal trial lawyer and in high demand. He tried serious criminal cases regularly and I was with him often.

In the five years previous to my beginning service as a Family Circuit Judge, and prior to those years, I regularly appeared in Circuit Court on numerous civil matters. I also did appear in General Sessions Court on one fairly recent occasion to oppose bond for four Defendants charged with murder in Florence County. I was there on behalf of the family of the victim.

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: I have not appeared in Federal Court in the past five years.

(b) State: In the past five years I have been to trial in only one jury trial (automobile accident) as we now settle many matters at mediation. (However, we did try that case twice.) I have appeared on many non-jury matters and I have appeared on a regular basis before a special referee or Master-in-Equity. I have handled many foreclosure matters for a banking client before a special referee or Master-in-Equity in the past five years.

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: 20%

(b) criminal: 0

(c) domestic: 0

(d) other: 80%

-Real Estate

-Special Referee

-Mediation

-Probate

-Business formation/transactions

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? Approximately 15%.

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? Jury Trial: One.

(c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? I have no criminal cases in the past five years.

(Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.)

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? None.

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

Most often I served as sole counsel.

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial? Approximately 15% if matters such as foreclosure actions are excluded. I handled foreclosure actions regularly.

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) Henry Wesley Beasley v. Al Dawson

(This case involved a boating accident at Lake Marion. The Defendant was operating a boat and struck the Plaintiff who was swimming near a dock and seriously injured him. The case involved issues about boating, water safety and negligence and was tried to a jury in Florence County and then settled before the jury returned to the courtroom with a verdict.)

(b) Beulah Robinson and Susan Jordan v. Gena Poole Davis and Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company

(In this case, which I tried with my mentor James C. Cox, Jr. of the Saleeby, Cox and Bledsoe firm in Hartsville, the Plaintiffs were seriously injured when a drunk driver hit a large truck which then hit the Plaintiffs. The jury returned an award for the Plaintiffs against the Defendants which I was told at the time in 1990 was the largest civil jury verdict ever in Darlington County, but I am not certain that is true.)

(c) Wright and Gadsden v. Colleton County

(In this case a young man twenty-one years of age was killed while traveling as a passenger with his father when they were struck at night by a Colleton County Deputy Sheriff who was traveling at a very high rate of speed with no blue light or siren. The jury in Colleton County returned a favorable verdict in favor of Plaintiff. I tried this case with attorney Paul N. Siegel of Walterboro. Colleton County filed an appeal, but the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision. Wright v. Colleton County (S.C. App. 2014) Appellate Case No. 2012-212865, (Unpublished Opinion No. 2014-UP-011).

(d) Progressive Home Builders, Inc. v. Grace Hucks and Window Works, Inc.

(This construction dispute went to a non-jury trial in Florence County. My client Window Works, Inc. won its cross-claim against Hucks for payment of a substantial amount for windows and doors it provided for a large, upscale house. Hucks filed an appeal, but the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision. Progressive Home Builders, Inc. v. Hucks (S.C. App. 2013) Appellate Case No. 2010-181289, (Unpublished Opinion No. 2013-UP-057).

- (e) In the Matter of the Estate of Nathaniel Welch Morrisette, Jr.; 2014-CP-40-02769
(Many parties were involved in this probate matter which was a dispute over the validity of Morrisette's Will. I represented two of the named beneficiaries in the disputed Will. The estate was large in value and highly contested. It began in Probate Court in Richland County and was moved to Common Pleas.)

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) Wright v. Colleton County, Appeal from Colleton County, Court of Appeals Affirmed January 8, 2014, Appellate Case No. 2012-212865, (Unpublished Opinion No. 2014-UP-011).
- (b) Progressive Home Builders, Inc. v. Hucks, Appeal from Florence County, Court of Appeals Affirmed January 30, 2013, Appellate Case No. 2010-181289, (Unpublished Opinion No. 2013-UP-057).
- (c) Gertrude Wrenn v. Chester County Hospital, Case was dismissed on Defendant's Motion. On an appeal to the Court of Appeals that decision was Reversed and the case then settled prior to trial, 1987-CP-12-00161A

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

- (a) None.

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.

Yes. I was elected to serve as a Family Court Judge in February of 2022. I began serving as a Family Court Judge on March 19, 2022 and presently still serve.

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.

I do not have any Orders which would be responsive to this question. I have only served as a Family Court Judge for a little over two (2) years. There are no appellate reviews of any of my decisions as a Family Court Judge.

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- admitted November 21, 1985

(b) Federal Court for District of South Carolina- admitted 1986

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.

I am filing as a separate document my 2023-2024 Judicial Compliance Report that was filed on February 26, 2024.

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

No Publications.

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.)

(a) Respondent's Brief in Wright v. Colleton County, (S.C. App. 2014) Appellate Case No. 2012-212865, (Unpublished Opinion No. 2014-UP-011).

(b) Order in Carter v. Waterway Outdoor, LLC; 2012-ES-16-0481 (Darlington County Probate Court)

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 past available rating, if any.

I have never tracked my legal rating with any organizations and I do not know what ratings, if any, I might have. I do regularly receive an email from Martindale-Hubbell offering to sell to me a plaque for display but I have never purchased one and I do not know what it would show.

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;
- (b) Darlington County Bar (President 1999-2000);
- (c) Pee Dee Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

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) University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, Trustee for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Elected May 2003 by South Carolina Legislature. I was re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020. I served until March of 2022 when I resigned to serve as a Family Court Judge. I have annually filed a State Ethics Commission report and I have always been timely with my filings.

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.

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.

After graduation from the University of South Carolina in May 1981 I worked with my father and uncle in farming and agricultural businesses. I returned to school when I enrolled in the University of South Carolina School of Law in August 1982. The majority of my work as a youth was for my father on the farm and at a tobacco sales warehouse he operated.

In my adult life other than my brief time in farming I have undertaken other business activities. These activities are:

- (a) Land Developer and Investor:

- Westside Developers, LLC
- Westview, Inc.
- JGB Holdings, LLC
- CCS Holdings, LLC
- West Florence Investment Group, LLC
- West Palmetto Holdings, LLC
- Sandbox Holdings, LLC
- Carolina Commercial Holdings, LLC
- WAM Developers, LLC
- Investment Group 157, LLC
- FGH Group, LLC

(b) Real Estate Broker. I own with a business partner a real estate company located in Florence, SC:

- Greystone Properties, LLC (I placed my Broker's License on inactive status after my election to serve as a Family Court Judge.)

(c) Outdoor Billboard Advertising Companies:

- Carolina Outdoor Advertising, Inc.
- Clearview Outdoor, LLC

(d) Self Storage Business:

- BW Mini Storage, LLC (Sold in June, 2024)
- L and D Self Storage

(e) Residential and Commercial Properties which are rented and occasionally sold:

- CDG Holdings, LLC
- Millpond Properties, LLC

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.

(a) I am a member of the following LLCs:

- 1) Westside Developers, LLC
- 2) JGB Holdings, LLC
- 3) CCS Holdings, LLC
- 4) West Florence Investment Group, LLC
- 5) West Palmetto Holdings, LLC
- 6) Sandbox Holdings, LLC
- 7) Carolina Commercial Holdings, LLC
- 8) WAM Developers, LLC
- 9) Investment Group 157, LLC
- 10) FGH Group, LLC
- 11) Greystone Properties, LLC
- 12) Clearview Outdoor, LLC
- 13) BW Mini Storage, LLC (Sold all assets in June, 2024)
- 14) CDG Holdings, LLC
- 15) Millpond Properties, LLC

Items 1 through 10 are limited liability companies which hold land or buildings for development, investment or rent. In each of these I take part in occasional meetings about decisions and direction. Item 11 is a real estate brokerage I began, but I have handed over operational control to a partner who is the Broker in Charge. Item 12 is a small outdoor sign advertising company which, as with the great majority of these companies, is operated by a trusted business partner of over thirty years who is a non-practicing CPA. Item 13, BW Mini Storage is a self-storage warehouse company operated primarily by my wife. However, I do discuss decisions with her regularly. Item 14 CDG Holdings, LLC and Item 15 Millpond Properties, LLC are owned by the same three people. I am one of these owners. These businesses rent and occasionally sell houses. My primary function in these three companies is the evaluation, purchase and financing of properties purchased.

(b) I am an officer and shareholder in the following Corporations:

- 1) Carolina Outdoor Advertising, Inc.
- 2) Westview, Inc.

Carolina Outdoor is a small outdoor sign advertising company which I operate with my non-practicing CPA business partner. Westview only holds investment property.

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No.

33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

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

(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. My 2023 returns have not been filed. I obtain an extension most years because it takes a good while to complete the numerous LLC and corporate returns I need as part of my personal return.

- (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.

No.

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

None. (Other than postage to mail a few letters to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.)

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.

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.

I have several business interests as itemized in response to Question #30; however, I am not aware of any conflict that might arise from my ownership or role in these businesses.

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.

I sold land I owned in Florence County with a business partner to Florence County in March of 2021 and I own one-third of CDG Holdings, LLC which sold a property to Darlington County in June of 2021. See attached Darlington County Deed dated March 25, 2021 and Florence County Deed dated March 16, 2021.

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.

Carolina Outdoor Advertising, Inc. has two advertising contract at \$1,200 per month and \$400.00 per month with the South Carolina Educational Lottery which were placed through Chernoff-Newman.

Copies of these contracts are attached.

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.

Please see the copies of brokerage accounts which are attached to my financial statement.

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

No.

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

No.

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

I have never been sued by a client. However, I was sued in 1998 by the family of Sybill McElveen of Lee County several years after I handled a land purchase for my client who was the Buyer of land owned by McElveen. McElveen was a widow with no children, but her nearest relatives claimed that my client improperly influenced her (she died a few years after the transaction). My client had farmed the land in question for almost 40 years and was a neighbor to the Seller. The family joined me into the lawsuit on the theory that I gave the Seller tax advice. The case was settled at mediation in 2000.

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.

When in the practice of law, I was always covered by malpractice insurance. I have always had malpractice insurance since I began practice in 1985. I have never had a tail policy. The last policy covering my firm when I left to serve as Family Court Judge was:

Axis Professional Insurance
\$2,000,000 Coverage
\$10,000 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.

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. I have done no campaigning.

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) Kevin M. Barth
[Redacted]

(b) H. Thad White, Jr.
[Redacted]

(c) Thad H. Westbrook

[Redacted]

(d) James H. "Jay" Lucas
[Redacted]

(e) John M. Ervin, III
[Redacted]

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

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

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

I have a Facebook account in the name of [Redacted] and a LinkedIn account. I do not use LinkedIn. As to Facebook, I do on occasion use it to send birthday wishes or like a picture of a friend or their child. I rarely comment. I have shared a few items over the years about USC Gamecock sports or a similar item. I never make any comment about or share any political matter or any potentially sensitive issue. I do not believe a person serving in a Judicial capacity should comment on any issue that possibly is sensitive or could stir disagreement of any sort.

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) Pee Dee Chapter - American Inns of Court
(b) Lamar Civitan Club

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 raised in a rural community in Darlington County. We lived on the farm where my father and grandfather also were raised. My mother also grew up in a farm family not far away in Florence County. As a child I had all of my grandparents near me and I was regularly with them. My parents both grew up working hard on the farm and that was expected of me also.

When I was eight years old I was told my time to work in the tobacco field had arrived. I was excited about it until I actually got started. The difficulty of the work and the heat all day was extremely tough, but it made me realize life is not easy and every day would have its challenges. My father often gave me serious tasks to handle at a young age. Out of necessity, I learned how to be self disciplined.

My father Preston Warr farmed, operated an agricultural retail business, operated a tobacco sales warehouse, served in the state House of Representatives and for twenty-five years served as a part-time Magistrate in Darlington County. I was with him on many occasions as he handled a wide variety of issues and conflicts. Obviously, I am favorably biased toward my father, but he was an outstanding Magistrate who could read people and he was always courteous and kind to them. Although he retired from that position over twenty-five years ago, I still hear stories from people who were in law enforcement and others with civil matters who tell a story about appearing in Magistrate Court with my father. He settled many disputes and seemed to have an almost magical way of helping fighting neighbors or family members in a dispute to forgive, reconcile and move on.

I believe my father was a good listener and always treated even the most difficult people with respect and courtesy. On occasion I saw him change a hostile litigant into a cooperative and contrite person by simply treating that person with patience and listening or maybe telling that person a story that somehow related to them.

My mother also had great impact on me as to how to treat others. She was a very outgoing person who loved other people and she held my two sisters and me to a high standard in our behavior and conduct toward others. I learned many great lessons from wonderful parents and they no doubt largely shaped who I am today.

If I am elected to a Circuit Court position, I would do my best to do my duty to our state and its citizens, and also to honor the way I was taught by my parents as I saw how they conducted their lives.

As a lawyer practicing from 1985 to 2022, I have experienced representing many types of people. I had clients who were clearly good, honest people trying to live in the right way and I have had clients who were not honorable or honest. I have represented them all to the best of my ability and I have learned much about human behavior from these experiences. Participants in any type of matter, witnesses, jurors, lawyers and court personnel all deserve a patient, caring and hopefully wise judge. I would strive every day to live up to that standard.

I have seen good and bad in many people. I have been through many types of storms in life with these people and I believe I have the balanced perspective which is needed to serve as a judge.

I believe my life's experiences and the blessing of being raised by hard working parents who demanded a lot from me have prepared me for effective service as a judge.

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: _____