



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

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

South Carolina Court of Appeals Judge, Seat Two

1. Name: The Honorable Kristi Fisher Curtis

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): maiden name was Kristi Leigh Fisher

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) I currently serve as Circuit Court Judge for
the Third Judicial Circuit, Seat Two

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Sumter County

Business Address: 215 N. Harvin Street, Sumter SC 29150

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803-436-2151
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted], 1969
Place of Birth: Dallas, Texas
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:
(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.
- (e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are NOT full-time students, also include the occupation and employer of each child.

Family Status: Married on May 20, 1995 to Warren Stephen Curtis, attorney, Curtis and Croft, LLC.

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) Ball State University, August 1987 to May 1988 (transferred to University of South Carolina)
 - (b) University of South Carolina, August 1988 to December 1991, Bachelor of Arts
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1992 to May 1995, Juris Doctor

8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) Member, ABA's Real Property, Probate and Trust Journal, 1992 to 1995.
Articles Editor, 1994 to 1995
 - (b) Legal Writing Instructor to Professor Eldon Wedlock, 1994 to 1995
 - (c) Associate Chief Justice, Moot Court Bar, 1994 to 1995
 - (d) Member, ABA Moot Court Team, 1994
Regional Winner, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, 1994
 - (e) Member, Order of the Barristers, 1994 to 1995
 - (f) American Jurisprudence Awards, Legal Research and Writing I & II, 1992 to 1993
 - (g) Faculty Award, Trial Advocacy, 1994

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.

Admitted to the South Carolina Bar on November 13, 1995. I took the bar exam 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) Staff Attorney, South Carolina Court of Appeals, August 1995 to August 1996.
Prepared legal memoranda and conducted legal research for the judges of the South Carolina Court of Appeals.
 - (b) Law Clerk to the Honorable Kaye G. Hearn, South Carolina Court of Appeals, August 1996 to August 1998. Read briefs and transcripts for each case assigned to Judge Hearn's panel each month. Conducted legal research, prepared memoranda of law, and drafted opinions as directed.
 - (c) Associate Attorney, Bryan Law Firm, August 1998 to 2004
Partner, Bryan Law Firm, 2003 to 2004
Business litigation, appellate practice before the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court, represented Sumter County and the Sumter County Treasurer's Office, prosecuted criminal cases for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in Magistrate's Court.
 - (d) Trust Officer, Synovus Trust Company, September 2004 to February 2011
I was responsible for the administration of trust accounts and probate estates where Synovus was named as Trustee and/or Personal Representative of the Estate. Met with clients to discuss estate planning issues.
 - (e) Magistrate Judge, Sumter County Summary Court, April 2011 to February 2018.
Appointed Chief Magistrate in July of 2011. Jurisdiction over traffic and criminal cases punishable by up to thirty days in jail and a \$500 fine. Civil jurisdiction over restraining order actions, evictions, public sales, and small claims civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$7,500.00. We conducted bond hearings for Sumter County 365 days per year, and held preliminary hearings on a monthly basis. Jury trials were conducted monthly for criminal and traffic cases. Jury trials were conducted quarterly for civil cases. As Chief Magistrate, I was responsible for the administration and financial management of the Court, and supervised a staff of twelve employees.
 - (f) Circuit Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit, Seat Two, 2018 to present.
Jurisdiction in both Common Pleas and General Sessions Court. Served as Chief Administrative Judge in the Third Circuit for both Common Pleas and General Sessions.

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.

Not applicable.

- (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.

For the past six years I have served as Circuit Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit. Immediately prior to my election to the Circuit Court bench, I served as Chief Magistrate for Sumter County for six years, handling both civil and criminal jury trials, preliminary hearings, bond hearings and a variety of nonjury criminal and traffic matters. While in private practice with the Bryan Law Firm from 1998 until 2004, I served as Prosecutor for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in the Sumter County Summary Court, prosecuting individuals for such offenses and DUI, Assault and Battery, and Criminal Domestic Violence.

While practicing with the Bryan Law Firm, I handled cases in the areas of business litigation, representing both Plaintiffs and Defendants. I handled cases in Circuit Court for employment discrimination, enforcement of non-compete agreements, breach of contract, personal injury, and in real estate litigation. I was sole counsel in a wide variety of civil actions in both Circuit Court and Summary Court. I also acted as co-counsel in a variety of other civil cases with other members of the firm. I handled appeals before the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court, both for members of my law firm and for other law firms. I have handled appeals in medical malpractice cases, personal injury, workers' compensation, and in family law cases. Two of those cases were reported as significant cases in South Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

(d) 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.

Not applicable.

(e) 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.

Not applicable.

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: While practicing with the Bryan Law Firm, my practice was almost exclusively in state court. I represented the Plaintiff in a real estate case that was removed by the Defendant to U.S. District Court. I was successful in getting the case remanded to Circuit Court. The Defendant appealed the remand to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and I successfully argued the case should be dismissed and again remanded to Circuit Court.

(b) state: In my six years of practice with the Bryan Law Firm, I appeared in Circuit Court on a monthly basis.

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: In my practice with the Bryan Law Firm, approximately 60% of my practice was in civil court.

(b) criminal: In my practice with the Bryan Law Firm, 25% of my practice was in criminal court as Prosecutor for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

(c) domestic: During my time in private practice, approximately 5% of my practice was representing parties in appointed cases in Family Court.

(d) other: During my time in private practice, approximately 10% of my practice was before the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court.

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? While in private practice, approximately 10% of my practice involved cases that went to a jury trial.

(b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? Approximately 25.

(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.)
Two.

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? Five to Ten.

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? While in private practice, I primarily served as sole counsel, but also served as co-counsel in several personal injury cases.

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

In the five years prior to my election to the Circuit Court, I served as Chief Magistrate for Sumter County and conducted jury trials in criminal matters at least one week out of every month. I also conducted jury trials in civil cases for approximately one week each quarter. While in private practice, I practiced in Circuit Court and in Summary Court. I was sole Counsel in at least four cases that were tried to a verdict in Circuit Court, and approximately twenty cases that were tried to a verdict in Summary Court. I also served as Co-Counsel in Circuit Court in approximately five jury trials that went to a verdict.

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) Goldman v. RBC, Inc., 369 S.C. 462, 632 S.E.2d 850 (2006)

I represented David and Emilie Goldman in this quiet title action regarding the portion of an abandoned railroad track that bordered their property. The South Carolina Supreme Court upheld the Court of Appeals' and Circuit Court's rulings that railroad easements obtained by the railroad pursuant to a statutory presumption of grant revert to the adjoining landowners once the land is no longer used for railroad purposes. This decision is significant for all landowners whose property borders a railroad right of way. It was a significant case in my career because it was removed by the Defendant to U.S. District court and I was able to successfully get the case remanded back to Circuit Court. The order of remand was appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the remand to state court. The Circuit Court ruled in our favor, and the case was appealed to both the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court. In all five courts, I was able to get a favorable ruling for my client.

(b) McMaster v. South Carolina Retirement Sys., 362 S.C. 362, 608 S.E.2d 843 (2005)

I represented Tom Lewis and Johnny Martin in this appeal to the South Carolina Supreme Court. Both Lewis and Martin were convicted of criminal conspiracy, misconduct in office, and receiving stolen goods, stemming from the embezzlement of funds from Sumter School District 17. They were each ordered to pay restitution as part of their criminal sentences.

After their conviction and sentencing, the legislature enacted South Carolina Code section 8-1-115, creating a lien on the public retirement or pension of any public employee convicted of misappropriation of public funds. The Attorney General's Office then brought proceedings against Lewis and Martin seeking a lien against their retirement for an amount greater than the restitution amount ordered by the court in their criminal sentences. The trial court ruled in our favor that the lien was limited to the amount of restitution ordered by the sentencing judge, and any subsequent proceeding to increase the restitution award violated the Double Jeopardy Clause and was an impermissible *ex post facto* law. The Supreme Court reversed. While we were ultimately unsuccessful, the case was significant for both victims and defendants in clarifying whether the State could re-litigate the amount of restitution after the date of a Defendant's conviction and sentencing.

(c) Covington v. George, 359 S.C. 100, 597 S.E.2d 142 (2004)

My law partner John Ford represented the Plaintiff in an automobile accident case tried before a jury in Circuit Court and received a verdict for the Plaintiff. The Defendant appealed and I handled the subsequent appeal of the case to the South Carolina Supreme Court. At trial, the court held that the Defendant could not dispute the reasonableness of the Plaintiff's medical expenses by introducing evidence that the treating hospital accepted less than full payment for its services. The Defendant appealed to the S.C. Court of Appeals, and the case was transferred from the Court of Appeals directly to the South Carolina Supreme Court pursuant to Rule 204(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Under this rule, the Supreme Court may, in its discretion, certify a case for review by the Supreme Court before it has been determined by the Court of Appeals, "where the case involves an issue of significant public interest or a legal principle of major importance." The Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision, finding that the collateral source rule prohibited the Defendant from presenting evidence that Plaintiff's medical provider accepted reduced payments. This case was significant for its implications regarding damages in all personal injury cases, and was featured in the May 31, 2004 issue of South Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

(d) Burgess v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co., 361 S.C. 196, 603 S.E.2d 861 (Ct.App. 2004)

Robert Burgess was injured in a motorcycle accident. Burgess carried only liability insurance on the motorcycle, but he also owned three other vehicles that were covered under a separate policy with both liability and underinsured motorist coverage (UIM). The Insurer denied basic UIM coverage because the vehicle involved in the collision, the motorcycle, was not specifically covered under the UIM policy. Burgess brought a Declaratory Judgment action in Circuit Court, and the court held that Burgess was entitled to \$15,000 basic UIM coverage. Defendant appealed to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, and I represented Burgess in the appeal. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision. This case is significant because the Court of Appeals clarified that UIM coverage is "personal and portable" in South Carolina and is available up to the statutory minimum amount of coverage when an Insured elects to carry that coverage, even when the vehicle involved in the accident is not covered under the policy.

(f) Glasscock, Inc. v. United States Fidelity & Guar. Co., 348 S.C. 76, 557 S.E.2d 689 (Ct.App. 2001)

In this case, the South Carolina Court of Appeals held that “loss of use” damages were recoverable under Glasscock’s underinsured motorist coverage (UIM) even though the policy did not expressly cover loss of use in the UIM section. The Insurer covered “loss of use” damages in the property damage portion of the policy and was therefore required to offer the same coverage in its UIM policy. This case was featured in the December 10, 2001 issue of South Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The case was significant in my career because the trial attorney initially obtained an unfavorable ruling in the Circuit Court and then hired me to file a motion for reconsideration. I successfully argued the motion before the Circuit Court, and the judge reversed his decision and ordered that the UIM policy be reformed to cover loss of use damages. The Defendant appealed to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, and I handled the appeal on behalf of the Plaintiff. The Court of Appeals ruled in our favor, affirming the decision of the trial court.

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.

In addition to the cases cited in question number 15 above:

(a) Stokes v. Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, 368 S.C. 515, 629 S.E.2d 675 (Ct.App. 2006)

(b) Lane v. Lane, Op. No. 2004-UP-009 (S.C.Ct.App. 2004)

(c) Anderson v. Buonforte, Op. No. 2004-UP-270 (S.C.Ct.App. 2004)

(d) Daves v. Cleary, 355 S.C. 216, 584 S.E.2d 243 (S.C.Ct.App. 2003)

(e) Watson ex rel Watson v. Chapman, 343 S.C. 471, 540 S.E.2d 484 (S.C.Ct.App. 2000)

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.

(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) Appointed Magistrate Judge, Sumter County Summary Court, April 2011 to February 2018. Appointed Chief Magistrate for Sumter County July 2011 to February 2018. Jurisdiction over traffic and criminal cases punishable by up to thirty days in jail and a \$500 fine. Civil jurisdiction over restraining order actions, evictions, public sales, and small claims civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$7,500.00. Conducted bond hearings and preliminary hearings for General Sessions matters. Magistrate’s court has no jurisdiction to hear cases involving any interest in real property.

(b) Elected Circuit Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit, Seat Two, on February 7, 2018. Jurisdiction over all civil matters pending in the Court of Common Pleas and all criminal cases in the General Sessions Court. I have served as Chief Administrative Judge for the

Third Judicial Circuit for both Common Pleas and General Sessions. No jurisdiction over family court matters.

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) Hood v. United Services Automobile Ass'n, Op. No. 2023-UP-011 (S.C.Ct.App. 2023). In this bad faith case, the Court of Appeals affirmed my order granting JNOV in favor of the defendant. In a special interrogatory, the jury found the defendant did not violate its duty of good faith and fair dealing. I granted JNOV as to the Plaintiff's negligence cause of action, holding that there was no separate duty owed by the Defendant Insurer above and beyond the duty of good faith and fair dealing.
 - (b) Meswaet Abel, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Zerihun Wolde v. Lack's Beach Service, 2019-CP-26-07075, Order on Post-Trial Motions filed April 10, 2023, Horry County Court of Common Pleas. In this wrongful death action, I affirmed the jury's significant verdict following a week-long trial. The case is currently on appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.
 - (c) Atkinson v. SSC Sumter East Operating Co., LLC, Op. No. 2022-UP-438 (S.C.Ct.App. 2022) In this nursing home negligence case, the Court of Appeals affirmed my order denying the Defendant's motion to dismiss and compel arbitration.
 - (d) The Station, Inc. d/b/a Company Two, Inc. v. Hampton County, 2017-CP-25-00170, Final Order dated October 8, 2021, Hampton County Court of Common Pleas. In this case, The Station, Inc. relocated its business to Hampton County in conjunction with negotiations with the County for use of the airport facilities. This case involved numerous issues of contract construction, as well as equitable principles. It is currently on appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals.
 - (e) In re: The Murkin Group, LLC, 429 S.C. 618, 840 S.E.2d 926 (2020). This case was filed in the South Carolina Supreme Court pursuant to its original jurisdiction to hear cases alleging the unauthorized practice of law. The Supreme Court assigned the case to me as Special Referee to conduct a hearing, take testimony, and issue a report and recommendation. The Supreme Court followed my recommendation and adopted my order in large part as the published opinion.

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, 1995
 - (b) US District Court for the District of SC, 1999
 - (c) US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 1999

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 spoken on the topics of “Real Estate & Landlord/Tenant Law” & “Appellate Practice” at Law School for Non-Lawyers, sponsored by the S.C. Pro Bono Program.
 - (b) I have spoken on “Landlord/Tenant Law” to the Sumter County Board of Realtors.
 - (c) I served on a panel of judges speaking on Best Courtroom practices for a CLE sponsored by the S.C. Bar.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- Please 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.)
- (a) In re: The Murkin Group, LLC, 429 S.C. 618, 840 S.E.2d 926 (2020), Special Referee’s Report of Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, dated September 30, 2019.
 - (b) The Station, Inc. d/b/a Company Two, Inc. v. Hampton County, 2017-CP-25-00170, Final Order dated October 8, 2021.
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.
- None available
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) Member, South Carolina Bar, 1995 to present
 - (b) Third Circuit Delegate to the S.C. Bar House of Delegates, 2000 to 2001
 - (c) Member, Sumter County Bar, 1998 to present
 - (d) Sumter County Bar Executive Committee, 2003 to 2004

- (e) Member, South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association, 2011 to 2018
- (f) Member, South Carolina Summary Court Judges Advisory Board, 2015 to 2018
- (g) Member, South Carolina Commission on Continuing Legal Education, 2022 to present
- (h) Member, South Carolina Commission on Judicial Conduct, 2023 to present

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, I have never held public office. I was appointed to serve on the Sumter County Zoning Board of Appeals from 2009 until I resigned to serve as Sumter County Magistrate in 2011.

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.

Yes. I was employed as a Trust Officer with Synovus Trust Company from 2005 until February of 2011. I was responsible for the administration of trust accounts, custodial accounts, and probate estates where Synovus Trust Company was named as the Trustee, Custodian, and/or Personal Representative.

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.)

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

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, I have filed tax returns every year through tax year 2022. I have not yet filed a tax return for 2023, as my husband's law firm has recently switched accounting firms. We have received an extension until October 15th.
- (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?

\$2.19 in postage to mail letters to the Commission on Judicial Conduct and 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. 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.

I have served as a Circuit Court Judge since 2018. Prior to my election, I was employed as a Magistrate Judge for Sumter County. While serving as a Magistrate and a Circuit Court Judge, I have recused myself as required by the Canons of Judicial Ethics in cases involving former clients. My husband is a practicing attorney with the law firm of Curtis and Croft, LLC. He practices primarily in the areas of residential and commercial real estate. He has not appeared in Common Pleas or General Sessions Court while I have been on the bench. I will continue to recuse myself in any case involving my husband's law firm, my previous employment with Synovus Trust Company, or a former client.

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; or

1145 Boardwalk, Sumter, SC 29150, primary residence owned by Warren and Kristi Curtis as joint tenants with right of survivorship, value of \$378,451.00.

(a) Nature of any potential conflict of interest. None.

(b) Nature and value of any public improvements. City water, sewer, and paving

- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property. None.

1722 & 1724 Charles Drive, Manning SC 29102, campground, owned by Warren Curtis, Charles Curtis, Gordon Curtis and Carol Curtis as tenants in common, value of \$306,200.00, and South Carolina Public Service Authority Leasehold Interest, value of \$139,800.00.

- (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. Please note that a portion of this property is leased from the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

325 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150, office building, owned by C & C Properties, of Sumter, LLC, Members of the LLC are Warren Curtis and William Croft, value of \$839,529.00.

- (a) Nature of any potential conflict of interest. None.
- (b) Nature and value of any public improvements. City water, sewer, and paving
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property. None

329 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150, residence, owned by Warren Curtis and Charles H. Curtis, III, Trustees of the Carol Gay Curtis Trust U/W Marguerite M. Curtis, value of \$80,693.00.

- (a) Nature of any potential conflict of interest. None.
- (b) Nature and value of any public improvements. City water, sewer, and paving
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property. None

(c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina. None. Please note that a portion of the property described above as 1722 Charles Drive, Manning, South Carolina, is leased from the South Carolina Public Service Authority pursuant to a 40-year lease executed April 1, 2019 and expiring March 31, 2059.

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.

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.

See attached statement of all holdings in Northwestern Mutual IRA and Northwestern Mutual Investment account.

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.

I was named as a Co-Defendant in an action for civil forfeiture filed in the Sumter County Court of Common Pleas, case number 2002-CP-43-01043. This case stemmed from my husband's arrest and eventual guilty plea to drug charges in June of 2002. I was joint owner of a vehicle that was seized by the Sumter County Sheriff's Office at the time of his arrest. The case was settled out of court.

I was the Defendant Creditor in a real estate foreclosure action filed by Trustmark National Bank against Thomas Andrew White. Case number 2009-CP-43-03018. I was named as a Defendant due to the fact that I held a second mortgage on White's property securing a personal debt in the amount of \$2,500.00. The home was ultimately sold at judicial sale, without any surplus to be applied to any of the creditors other than the Plaintiff Trustmark National Bank.

I have been sued twice by Gersh Zavodnik and Tatiana Zavodnik. The Zavodniks are Plaintiffs who appeared before me for a motion hearing in Zavodnik v. Morales, civil case number 2020-CP-43-01819. After I issued a ruling adverse to the Zavodniks, they filed a lawsuit against me, the Clerk of Court, Mr. Morales, and Mr. Morales' attorney, his law firm and his paralegal in civil case number 2022-CP-43-01552. The case against me was dismissed with prejudice by Judge McFaddin on March 21, 2023. The Zavodniks appealed the order of dismissal, however the appeal was dismissed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Mr. Zavodnik filed a second lawsuit against me, Morales, Judge McFaddin, Morales' attorney, the Clerk of Court, the Deputy Clerk of Court, and the attorney who represented me in the 2022 case, in civil case number 2023-CP-43-00274. This case was also dismissed, and the dismissal was not appealed.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I am no longer covered under any malpractice insurance policy. Upon leaving the Bryan Law Firm to join Synovus Trust Company, I carried a tail policy of malpractice insurance for approximately two years.

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 answers are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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

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) James C. Campbell, Sumter County Clerk of Court, [Redacted]

(b) Melissa White, Synovus Bank, [Redacted]

- (c) Sheriff Anthony Dennis, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, [Redacted]
- (d) Russell F. Roark, III, Chief of Policy, City of Sumter Police Department, [Redacted]
- (e) Kacy Andrews, [Redacted]

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

I am a member of Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.

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

[Redacted]– Facebook

[Redacted]– Instagram

[Redacted]– Snapchat

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 use these social media accounts to stay in touch with my friends and family. I do not identify myself as a judge. I do not comment on or reference my position as a judge in any way. I do not comment on my work or my current, pending, or former cases. I do not comment on political issues, or on any controversial social issues.

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) Sumter Rotary Club. Avenue of Service Award Recipient 2014 – 2015. Program Chair 2010 to 2012, 2014 to 2018. Newsletter editor 2006 to 2008. Membership Committee 2005.
- (b) Member, Alice Drive Baptist Church, 2001 to present. Building Committee, Personnel Committee, Sunday school teacher for children and youth.
- (c) Epicurean Club of Sumter
- (d) The Sumter Assembly

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 began my legal career at the South Carolina Court of Appeals in 1995, first as a Staff Attorney, then as a law clerk. At the time, I was incredibly grateful for the opportunity, but I had no idea how great an impact these first years at the Court of Appeals would have on my legal career. At the Court of Appeals, I learned to draft opinions and

memoranda, to thoroughly research an issue, and to carefully consider the implications of each legal decision. I was able to observe oral arguments made by gifted attorneys, and to sit in on conferences between the judges. I saw how these judges carefully considered the legal soundness of their decisions, its effect on legal precedent, and its effect on the litigants. Their dedication to the law and intellectual curiosity was truly inspiring to a young lawyer.

I left the Court of Appeals eager to enter private practice and excited to argue my own cases in front of a judge and a jury. I drew from my experience at the Court of Appeals when preparing my cases for trial and in my appellate practice. In private practice, I handled appeals before the South Carolina Court of Appeals and South Carolina Supreme Court in medical malpractice, personal injury, real estate, workers' compensation, and in family law matters. During my time as a Magistrate and Circuit Court Judge, I have tried to emulate the diligence and dedication to the law I observed from the judges during my early years at the Court of Appeals. I have presided over jury trials for a wide variety of criminal offenses from seatbelt violations to murder. I have also presided over a wide variety of civil trials over the past thirteen years, from dog bites to wrongful death. In cases small and large, I have worked to the best of my ability every day to be well prepared, diligent, courteous, patient, and respectful to the attorneys and the litigants. It has been the greatest privilege of my professional life to serve as a Circuit Court Judge. If elected to the Court of Appeals, I will continue to work hard every day to serve the citizens of this State, to be deserving of the trust placed in me, and to continue the proud tradition of the Court of Appeals.

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: _____