



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

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

1. Name: Mr. Christopher Dolan Taylor

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) No

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland

Business Address: 1441 Main Street, Suite 500, Columbia, SC 29201

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):
(office): 803-929-3065
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1971
Place of Birth: Greer, 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#: [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.

Family Status: Married on September 15, 2018, to April Taylor, Vice President of the College of Health Sciences and Student Affairs, Logan University.

One child, [Redacted]

(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.

I am divorced from my first wife, Sonya S. Taylor. We were married on August 18, 2001. In July 2013, our divorce was granted on one year separation grounds. I was the moving party, and the case was filed in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. We had no children.

(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.

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, 1989-1994, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

(b) Greenville Technical College, 1995-1996, Associate's Degree, Paralegal Studies.

(c) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1997-2000, 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) Black Law Student Association 1997-2000

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) South Carolina 2001. I sat for the bar exam twice.

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) 2001- 2014 – Sixth Circuit Solicitor’s Office – Deputy Solicitor 2008 – 2014, Assistant Solicitor 2001-2008.

As an assistant solicitor and then deputy solicitor I handled a litany of criminal matters ranging from magistrate court and family court prosecutions to serious violent felony and drug cases as well as murder and sexual assault cases. I was extensively involved in preparing and arguing motions, as well as conducting trials in general sessions, family court and magistrate’s court given the volume of cases in our circuit and our often times limited resources. As deputy solicitor, I had a limited supervisory role in the office and mainly focused on preparing cases for disposition in general sessions court. I was not involved in managing any financial accounts in the office.

- (b) 2014 – Present - US Attorney’s Office – Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) - Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and Narcotics and Violent Crimes

I have prosecuted OCDETF-related cases which target higher-level drug traffickers in the South Carolina area and who may have drug connections in other parts of the United States and the world. I also prosecute narcotics and violent crime cases which often focus on felons who are unlawfully in possession of firearms and unlawful drugs. These felons may have firearms in connection with other violent crimes.

I do not manage any financial accounts within the office.

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.

As noted above I've handled the gambit of criminal cases. These matters often involve complex constitutional issues such as whether a search and seizure was proper in a given case, Miranda issues, or a host of other issues common to criminal prosecutions.

My civil experience has been very limited during my time as a prosecutor. I did on occasion handle commitment matters in probate court. While I was in law school, I clerked at Turnipseed and Associates for several years. During that time, I drafted numerous pleadings, discovery motions, and memorandums of law centered on personal injury cases. I was fortunate to be involved in weekly meetings with lawyers to discuss various issues in their cases and help in determining appropriate resolutions.

While I recognize my experience is more focused on criminal practice, I have thorough knowledge of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence, and I intend to supplement my civil knowledge through CLEs and consulting judicial colleagues for assistance where appropriate. I have no doubt that my ability to navigate complex criminal matters will carry over to the work required to become adept in the same way on civil matters.

- (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: Weekly at times.
- (b) state: None in the last 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: 0%
- (b) criminal: 100%
- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: N/A

14. During the past five years

(a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 100%.

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

I had two cases that went to trial and both ended in guilty verdicts. Given the nature of federal practice, trials are not as frequent as my experience in state court.

(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? 0

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

I served as lead counsel in most of my cases. I was fortunate to be co-counsel on others, including a major federal drug trafficking and dogfighting case.

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position,

During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

N/A

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

(a) United States v. Glenn Pernell, et al., 2023 WL 3050983 (4th Cir. 2023)

This was my first time participating in a wiretap trial. Though I came in to assist with the trial including making closing arguments, I gained valuable insight from the two very experienced AUSAs into how those cases come start as substantial law enforcement field work into the final presentation of the evidence to a jury.

(b) United States v. Jamal Lewis, 719 Fed.Appx.210 (4th Cir. 2018)

This was my first federal trial. I had to prepare the case from start to finish as well as arguing before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I was provided a unique opportunity to literally build a case from the ground up. The appeals of state court trials were handled by a different agency. But arguing the case in an appellate gave me a new perspective on not just how jurors see the facts but how judges weigh the law in particular case

(c) United States v. Santerrio Smith, et al.

This was a dogfighting case associated with the Pernell case that went to trial. I had never tried that type of case in court. It was quite a learning curve to get up to speed on expert testimony used in that case.

(d) State v. John Anderson

This was a drug case and my very first case prosecuted. The state prevailed in this case.

(e) State v. James Oscar Douglas

This was an aggravated home invasion case. The victim ended up paralyzed after being shot in his home. This was one where I felt the state worked well to protect the victim's rights in this case.

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) None.

(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) United States v. Jamal Lewis (4th Cir. 2018)

(b) United States v. Tommy Adams, Jr., 788 Fed.Appx. 198 (4th Cir 2019)

(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) No.
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
(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) Admitted to South Carolina State Court, May 2001
(b) U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, November 2014
(b) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, November 2014
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) In 2014, I taught as an adjunct paralegal studies instructor at South University, Columbia.
(b) In 2013 and 2014, Faculty Member, SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Bootcamp Seminar for new attorney instruction.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
- (a) Attached
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) 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) Attached.

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization; such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

(a) None

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 (Member) 2001 – 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.

(a) No, I've never held public office.

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.

(a) N/A

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

(a) No.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

(a) Yes – Served as a probation officer in Greenville County (1996-1997).

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) 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.

(a) 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) 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.

(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. Yes. There were two tax years during my separation from my former wife where two tax years where state and federal taxes were not addressed on a timely basis. Those matters were addressed and resolved over ten years ago.

(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. Yes. Sometime around 2006 my wages were garnered regarding a tax issue that arose with my former wife. The amounts were nominal, and I believe arose from her confusion over who was responsible for the tax debt.

(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.

(a) 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?

(a) None.

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.

(a) 2024 - \$250. April Taylor to Overture Walker.

(b) 2024 - \$500. April Taylor to Overture Walker.

(c) 2020 - \$250. April Taylor to Overture Walker.

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.

(a) No.

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

(a) None.

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.

(a) None.

(b) None.

(c) None.

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

(a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;

(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.

(a) No property owned with any potential conflict of interest.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

(a) None.

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) N/A.

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.

(a) 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?

(a) 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.

[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.

(a) No.

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

(a) No.

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

(a) N/A.

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.

(a) Yes, while I was serving as deputy solicitor, around 2010, I was fined by a visiting judge because my mobile phone rang in court.

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

(a) 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.

(a) 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.

(a) 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?

(a) 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.

(a). 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) F. Greg Delleney, Jr.
[Redacted]

(b) Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.
[Redacted]

(c) Leroy Chapman, Jr.
[Redacted]

(d) T. Dewayne Pearson

[Redacted]

(e) Dr. Charlotte Redden Hamilton
[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.

- (a) Yes – LinkedIn – [Redacted]
(b) Yes – Facebook – [Redacted]

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

- (a) I don't post publicly on my social media pages and rarely log in. As a rule, I do not now, nor do I ever plan to include any case information on social media.

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) Sandhills Community Church - 2015 – present – church attendance.

(b) Alive Church St. Louis – 2023 – present – church attendance.

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 believe my life experiences, both work and personal; have prepared me to become a Circuit Court Judge. My family has instilled in me the values of kindness, honesty, integrity, and respect for others. The practice of law is difficult, but throughout my experiences I have learned the value of fairness. I will dedicate myself to the goal of not only representing the values of this esteemed branch of government but also in providing fair and impartial service to the citizens of this State.

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: _____