



**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. Justin Thomas Williams

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): Not Applicable.

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 County

Business Address:

101 Executive Center Drive Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

E-Mail Address:

[Redacted]

Telephone Number:

(home): [Redacted]  
(office): (803) 896-5100  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth:

[Redacted]1984

Place of Birth:

Orangeburg, 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.

Yes.

December 9, 2014 – present.

United States Army

Major/O4

United States Army Reserve

Honorable

6. Family Status:

Married on August 7, 2010, to Stacy Ayers Williams.

Never divorced, one child.

[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) Aiken Technical College, August 2001 – December 2001, Non-Degree Coursework.
  - (b) University of South Carolina, August 2002 – May 2006, B.A. in Public Relations.
  - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 2007 – May 2010, J.D.
  - (d) Piedmont Technical College, January 2019 – April 2020, Funeral Director’s Certificate.
  - (e) The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, February 2015- May 2015  
Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course Diploma.
  - (f) Duke University, August 2022 – May 2024, Masters of Environmental Management.
  - (g) U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer’s College, June 2023 – May 2024,  
Command and General Staff Officer’s Common Core Diploma.
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) Student Bar Association, 3L Representative August 2009 – May 2010
  - (b) Mock Trial Bar, Justice of Administration August 2009 – May 2010
  - (c) Black Law Students Association, Member August 2008 – May 2010
  - (d) Law School Ambassadors, Member August 2009 – May 2010
  - (e) Criminal Trial Practice Clinic, January 2010 – May 2010
  - (f) Inaugural Internal Mock Trial Competition, Finalist September – November 2009
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.
- (a) Admitted to practice law in South Carolina.
  - (b) Admitted on May 23, 2011.
  - (c) Sat for the South Carolina 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) Assistant Solicitor, May 2011 – August 2013
    - As an Assistant Solicitor, I practiced criminal law at the trial court level in General Sessions Court. Initially, my caseload included over 600 warrants. As an Assistant Solicitor, my duties included managing a criminal docket, appearing in bond court, appearing at preliminary hearings, appearing at first and second appearances, meeting with law enforcement officers and victims, arguing

motions in General Sessions Court, negotiating terms of a plea agreement with defense counsel, presenting guilty pleas in General Sessions Court, and calling cases to trial in General Sessions Court if plea negotiations failed. I prepared and called four cases to a jury trial during my first tour as an Assistant Solicitor. I had no administrative or financial management responsibilities in this role.

(b) Associate, workers' compensation defense, August 2013- June 2015

- As a workers' compensation defense firm associate, I represented employers and insurance carriers in workers' compensation claims. My clients usually preferred to resolve claims in a prompt and cost-effective manner rather than lengthy litigation. Much of my time was spent reviewing initial filings, taking depositions, developing legal strategies, and making recommendations to mitigate my clients' liability. Most of my cases were settled, but some (<10%) went to a hearing before a Workers' Compensation Commissioner. I had no administrative or financial management responsibilities in this role.

(c) United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate, June 2015 – Present

- Serving as the United States Army Reserve Judge Advocate has broadened my legal practice significantly. From June 2015 to June 2016, I served as a legal assistance attorney. As a legal assistance attorney, I helped Soldiers and retirees with wills, powers of attorney, family care plans, debt issues, letter writing, and landlord-tenant issues. I referred them to civilian counsel to assist with matters that required counsel to appear on their behalf. From July 2016 to July 2018, I served as an administrative law attorney. As an administrative law attorney, I served as the legal advisor for Investigating Officers, conducted legal reviews on administrative investigations into Soldier misconduct, and served as the recorder (prosecutor) for separation boards. From August 2018 – May 2024, I served as Brigade Commanders' primary or secondary legal advisor on administrative law, contract and fiscal law, military justice, and national security law matters. Currently, I serve as a Team Chief for the 12th Legal Operations Detachment. I provide legal support for national security law, administrative law, and legal assistance in this role. I supervise a team of paralegals, but I have no financial management responsibilities.

(d) Assistant Solicitor, June 2015- December 2016

- I prosecuted mid-level to major felonies. I spent most of my time reviewing discovery, preparing plea offers, negotiating plea agreements, and preparing for trial. I prepared and called three cases to trial during this period. A murder case, a burglary ring, and an armed robbery case where the State pursued Life Without the Possibility of Parole (I recused myself from arguing the last case because my wife was the trial judge's law clerk). I had limited administrative management responsibilities with interns, legal assistants, and paralegals. I had no financial management responsibility.

- (e) Associate, civil litigation and criminal defense, January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
- I worked in a high operational tempo law firm with a statewide practice. My primary practice areas were personal injury, workers' compensation, and criminal defense. My personal injury practice consisted of document review, depositions, filing lawsuits, arguing against South Carolina Civil Procedure Rule 12 (b)(6) Motions to Dismiss, negotiating settlements, and mediation. I had two cases go to trial in Common Pleas. One was a bench trial that resulted in a verdict favorable to my client. The other resulted in a settlement before a jury was selected. My workers' compensation practice consisted of making initial filings, document review, depositions, settlement negotiations, and mediations. My criminal practice consisted of advising clients through investigations, arguing for reasonable bonds, discovery review, plea negotiation, and trial preparation. I also practiced in magistrate court. I had six criminal magistrate trials that resulted in six not guilty verdicts, and all of my civil matters were settled. My administrative management responsibilities were limited to managing my legal assistant. I did not have any financial management responsibilities.
- (f) Public Service Commissioner, July 1- Present
- As a public service commissioner, I conduct legal research and analysis to support my decisions in the complex legal matters that regularly appear before the commission. Additionally, I am subject to the Code of Judicial Conduct and have served for over six years without any actual or alleged violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Serving as a public service commissioner is a cerebral academic endeavor in that I spend much of my time reading reports and pre-filed testimony in preparation for hearings. While the public service commission has jurisdiction to regulate electric, natural gas, water and wastewater, transportation, and telecommunication utilities, my tenure on the commission has focused heavily on electric utilities and the renewable energy transition. During my service as chair, my responsibilities increased greatly as I served as the commission's chief executive and administrative officer and presided over all hearings using commission regulations, the rules of evidence, and civil procedure to maintain order. While I was not managing simple day-to-day tasks, I frequently met with executive staff to ensure that all employees were performing to standard and that we were managing our financial resources responsibly and effectively. As chair (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022), I was ultimately responsible for administrative and financial management; however, I delegated many tasks to the executive director and managed her performance.

**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:

- (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.

Since July 1, 2018, I have served as a commissioner on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Since my election to the Public Service Commission, I have not appeared as counsel for a party to a criminal or civil matter in Circuit Court or any other court.

Before my election to the public service commission, I was an associate for Moore Bradley Myers from January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. In that capacity, my criminal experience included regular appearances in General Sessions Court in Richland, Lexington, Orangeburg, and Bamberg Counties as defense counsel for the accused. I served as primary and secondary defense counsel for clients charged with murder, kidnapping, assault and battery, criminal sexual conduct, driving under the influence involving death, and trafficking narcotics, among other charges. My representation included arguing for a reasonable bond at bond hearings, arguing against probable cause for an arrest at preliminary hearings, reviewing discovery, negotiating plea agreements, and presenting plea agreements in General Sessions Court. In addition to a robust criminal practice in General Sessions Court, I represented clients accused of various misdemeanor charges in magistrate court.

Before my employment with Moore Bradley Myers, I served as an Assistant Solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's office From June 2015 to December 2016. In this capacity, I was immersed in criminal practice in General Sessions Court every day. I advised law enforcement on probable cause for arrest, argued for an appropriate bond at bond hearings, argued in support of probable cause for arrest at preliminary hearings, argued for bond revocation when defendants were charged with committing a subsequent crime while on bond for a pending criminal charge, negotiated plea agreements and presented plea agreements in General Sessions Court, prepared serious felony matters for jury trial, and presented several serious

felony matters, including a murder case, to juries from opening statement to jury verdict. During my first tour with the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office (February 2011 – August 2013), I worked as a law clerk, performed legal research/writing on criminal matters, and observed General Sessions Court while waiting for bar results. Once I was admitted to practice (May 24, 2011), I performed the same tasks I performed during my second tour, but my docket was primarily misdemeanors and low to mid-level felonies.

My civil experience is limited to my time as an associate with Moore Bradley Myers (January 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018), where I served as primary and secondary counsel for personal injury, employment, contract disputes, and medical malpractice matters. My civil practice included taking depositions, arguing against motions for summary judgment, settlement negotiations, and mediation. While I only argued one bench trial in Common Pleas, my trial experience in General Sessions and my experience as chair of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina have adequately prepared me to preside over trials in Common Pleas because, in both roles, I demonstrated mastery of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence and legal processes and procedures. I will use my past experience and dedicate myself to constant study of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and other applicable Circuit Court Rules to ensure the fair administration of justice. Also, I will engage the parties who appear before me by giving all parties ample time, space, and opportunity to offer oral and written arguments to support their positions on issues as they arise. I am most concerned with issuing the correct ruling, and I am willing to take all the time necessary to reach the proper decision.

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?

Note: My answer reflects my court appearances in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

- (a) federal: 0.10%
- (b) state: 99.9%

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?

Note: My answer reflects my court appearances in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

- (a) civil: 5%
- (b) criminal: 90%
- (c) domestic: Not Applicable
- (d) other: 5%

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?

100%

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

None

(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?

In the past five years, I served as a subject matter expert, serving as judge and jury on matters before the commission. In the five years before my election to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, I primarily served as 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?

I am not a sitting judge but in the five years prior to my election to the Public Service Commission, 100% of my practice was in trial court.

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) State v. Channen F. Ricks was a murder case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant while I was an assistant solicitor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. April Sampson was the first chair, and I was the second chair. This was the most significant legal matter that I handled due to the serious nature of the charge, the length of preparation (two years), the length of the trial (four days), the number of witnesses (30), and the impact on the community (justice for the victim's family and the local community). This case was called to trial on October 10, 2016. The jury found the Defendant guilty, and the judge



sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

- (b) State v. Khalil Davis was a multi-count first-degree burglary and grand larceny case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant while I was an assistant solicitor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I served as the first chair, and Stephanie Taylor was the second chair. This case was significant due to the number of homes burglarized, the number of co-defendants, the organized nature of the burglary operation, the mandatory minimum fifteen-year sentence for burglary first degree, successfully turning a co-defendant into a witness for the State, and the fact that the Defendant did not have a criminal record. This case was prepared and called to trial the week of September 19, 2016, but the judge granted a continuance. The case was not resolved before I left the Solicitor's Office for a new employment opportunity.
  - (c) Tyresha Outing, et al vs Oliver P Simmons et al was a medical malpractice, wrongful death, and survival action filed on behalf of the mother of a toddler who died as the result of an improperly written and filled prescription. Stanley Myers, Jake Moore, and I represented the Plaintiff. Representative Todd Rutherford also assisted in representing the Plaintiff in this matter. This case was significant because it involved highly sophisticated Defendants, was highly technical, and required immense study and preparation for depositions, arguing against motions for summary judgment, trial, and mediation. This case was ultimately settled for a sum representative of justice for the decedent and his mother.
  - (d) Margret B. Villegas v. AYG Aiken, LLC was an employment discrimination case based on gender discrimination, hostile work environment, and constructive discharge. This case was significant because it was demonstrative of how a *pro se* litigant's access to justice can be denied without counsel as the plaintiff was told she missed the statutory deadline to file a complaint even though she followed every step of the administrative process to resolve her claim at the lowest level. After defeating a motion to dismiss, this case settled for an appropriate amount that represented justice for the Plaintiff.
  - (e) State v. James Earl Green was a dog-fighting case prosecuted by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I prosecuted the Defendant as an assistant solicitor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. I served as the first chair, and Sandra Moser was the second chair. This case was significant because of the investment of resources to investigate and prosecute the Defendant, the number of co-defendants, and the other alleged criminal activity intertwined with the dog fighting ring. This case was called to trial on January 21, 2013. The Defendant accepted a one-year active prison sentence after the State presented its 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.

Not applicable as I have not filed civil criminal appeals.

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.

Not applicable as I have not filed any criminal appeals.

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.

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.

Not Applicable.

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.

South Carolina Courts (Rule 403 Certified), June 21, 2011

United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, March 22, 2017

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.

South Carolina Bar CLE

I Object: Trial Lawyers Address Trial Objections

I addressed Trial Objections as an Assistant Solicitor

Friday, November, 2013

South Carolina Bar CLE

I Object: Trial Lawyers Address Trial Objections

I addressed Pre-Trial and Jury Qualification Objections as a Criminal Defense Attorney

Friday, January 9, 2015

South Carolina Bar CLE

2015 Hot Tips from the Coolest Domestic Law Practitioners

I briefed the new Domestic Violence Statute and how it differed from the old Criminal Domestic Violence Statue

Friday, September 25, 2015

South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association  
Hickory Knob Continuing Legal Education  
I briefed Chain of Custody/ SCRE/ Applicable Case Law  
May 22, 2016

South Carolina Summary Court Judges Association  
Annual Convention and Seminar  
I briefed Pre-trial Evidentiary Matters/ SCRE/ Applicable Case Law  
September 7, 2016

South Carolina Bar CLE  
The Art and Science of Trial Objections  
I addressed Pre-Trial and Jury Qualification Objections as a Criminal Defense Attorney  
Friday, January 12, 2018

207th Regional Support Group, United States Army Reserve  
Pre-Deployment Training  
I briefed the Military Justice Process, the Rules of Engagement, and the Law of Armed Conflict  
October 2019

2d Brigade, 87th Training Division, United States Army Reserve  
Annual Political Activity, Ethics, and Army Command Policy Training  
I briefed the rules of political activity, the rules of ethics, and expectations for a healthy command climate of Soldiers.  
October 2022  
October 2023

912th AG Company, United States Army Reserve  
Pre-Deployment Training  
I briefed the Rules of Engagement and the Law of Armed Conflict  
July 2024

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

See Attached.

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

Not applicable as I have not yet published a book or an article.

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.)

See 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.

I am not a member of any legal rating organization, and I do not have a rating.

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) Richland County Bar Association

(b) South Carolina Black Lawyers

(c) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

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.

Commissioner

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Elected May 11, 2018

I have filed all statements of economic interest in a timely manner except the first statement of economic interest. On January 21, 2022, I received notice from the State Ethics Commission that I should have filed a Statement of Economic Interest in May 2018 instead of October 2018. I informed the State Ethics Commission that I did not object to the \$100.00 late penalty, but I wanted to offer some extenuating circumstances for their consideration. Even though my term started on July 1, 2018, I was at Camp Humphreys in South Korea for an overseas U.S. Army training exercise from June 27 – July 30, 2018. Also, I was not sworn in until August 15, 2018. At worst, I filed my Statement of Economic Interest two months late instead of five months late. Please see attached.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting or former judge.

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

Yes. I ran for Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, in 2023. I withdrew from the race in January 2024.

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

S&J Backhoe Services  
Laborer  
July 1994 – July 2002

Piggly Wiggly  
Bag Boy  
January 2002 – June 2002

South Carolina Senate  
Page  
January 2003 – May 2006

Pfizer, Inc.  
Healthcare Representative  
May 2004 – August 2007

Red Bull, Inc.  
Mobile Energy Team  
January 2006 – April 2006

Columbia Urban League  
Special Projects Coordinator  
August 2010 – February 2011

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

No.

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

No.

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

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

**NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.**

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details. Also, proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults must be submitted with your application package.

I have never had a tax lien or other collection procedure instituted against me by the federal government, state government, or local government. I have never defaulted on a student loan. I have never filed for bankruptcy.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

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

\$20.00 for postage in August 2024

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

My wife has contributed to Senator Deon Tedder, Representative Annie McDaniels, Senator Gerald Malloy, and Overture Walker in the past four years.

Senator Deon Tedder

- \$250 June 2023,
- \$150 September 2020,
- \$250 June 2020, and
- \$100 March 2020.

Representative Annie McDaniels

- \$250 April 2024

Senator Gerald Malloy

- \$250 June 2024

Councilman Overture Walker

- \$250 June 2024

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.

Not Applicable as I have no past or present financial or business relationship conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest arises, I will recuse myself from deciding the matter in question.

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.

Not applicable as none of the issues listed immediately above apply to me or my family.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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.

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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

Not applicable as I am not a sitting judge.

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.

Although a client has never sued me, I have been named as a party in a civil proceeding. Please see the details below.

Case: Casey Edwards and Justin Williams v. State of South Carolina, filed May 27, 2009

Petitioners sought a declaratory judgment from the Supreme Court of South Carolina that the South Carolina General Assembly may request, accept, and distribute the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds, which the General Assembly included in the 2009-10 General Appropriations Bill, and that the Governor must execute the Budget as enacted by the General Assembly.

Disposition: On June 4, 2009, the Supreme Court of South Carolina ruled in favor of Petitioners.

Case: Justin Williams v. Edgar H Peacock, Jr, DDS, PA, filed November 23, 2016

I was in the market for elective surgery to remove my wisdom teeth. I consulted my dental insurance for a list of dental surgeons that accepted my insurance. After shopping around, I selected Dr. Peacock because his office manager told me that I would pay no more than \$400.00 out of pocket for the procedure and that my insurance company would pay the bill's balance. I proceed with the procedure. Approximately one month after the procedure, I received a bill for over \$800.00. I attempted to work through the issue with Dr. Peacock's office manager, but negotiations failed. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed an Unfair Trade Practices action against Dr. Peacock.

Disposition: Settled out of court in my favor on December 30, 2016.

Case: Justin Williams v. Jared Timothy King, filed January 5, 2017

As I was riding home from the University of South Carolina Football Game, Mr. King T-boned me on Bluff Road. My truck was totaled, and I sustained several injuries. A dispute arose with Mr. King's insurance company regarding the damages I suffered. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed a personal injury and property damage action against Mr. King.

Disposition: The case settled out of court in my favor on September 21, 2017.

Case: Justin Williams v. Frank James, filed on February 8, 2017

Due to a motor vehicle accident, my truck was disabled and towed to Frank James Paint and Body Shop for repair. Mr. James determined that the truck was totaled. The at-fault driver's insurance company paid me what they thought the truck was worth and sent Mr. James a check for his initial damage assessment and storage fees. The at-fault driver's insurance company told me they issued a check to Mr. James for his fees on or about the same date they issued me a check for the truck's value. Mr. James denied receiving a check for his fees from the at-fault driver's insurance company and refused to release my truck to my possession. Several months passed, and Mr. James maintained that he had never received a check for his fees. I requested that the at-fault driver's insurance company send me a copy of the check and proof that it was cashed, and they did. I confronted Mr. James with a copy of the check and proof of deposit, and he stated that I still owed him money for storing my truck. As a result of failed negotiations, I filed a claim and delivered action in magistrate court.

Disposition: The magistrate judge ruled in my favor on April 25, 2017, and ordered Mr. James to release the truck to my possession.

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.

Not applicable as I am not in private practice.

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.

I have not asked third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf. My election campaign for Circuit Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, has included announcing my candidacy for the seat.

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) Robert T. Bockman, Esq  
[Redacted]

(b) Donald Gist, Esq  
[Redacted]

(d) Robert Goings, Esq  
[Redacted]

(d) Katherine Myers, Esq  
[Redacted]

(e) Derrick Williams, Esq  
[Redacted]

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

Other than a LinkedIn account, I am not active on social media.

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

LinkedIn - [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?

I only have a LinkedIn account, and my use of this account would not be affected by my service in a judicial capacity.

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) Richland County Bar Association - Member

(b) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association - Member

(c) National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

(d) University of South Carolina Alumni Association – 2022 Young Alumni of the Year

(e) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated – Zeta Epsilon Advisory Team

(f) Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

(g) Meritorious Service Medal (2)

(h) Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

(i) Army Commendation Medal

(j) Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device

(k) Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with Campaign Star

(l) Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal

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.

My diverse life experiences have shaped me into a decision-maker with an open mind who takes great effort and time to see matters before me from all parties' perspectives. This ability ensures that all parties who appear before me will receive full consideration of their position on the matter before me without fear of prejudice or bias. Regardless of the matter before me, the facts as applied to the law will always be the basis of my decisions, and I will clearly articulate orally and in writing how and why I reached my decisions. Because I have walked in the shoes of the less fortunate and the privileged, I understand why some members of the general public may feel that their circumstances might be used against them in the legal system. If elected to the bench, I will use my diverse professional, social, and economic background to render decisions.

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: \_\_\_\_\_