



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Second (2nd) Circuit, Seat 1

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs. Shannon M. Chandler
Ms.

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Shannon D. Matthews

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: Aiken County

Business Address: Law Office of Shannon D. Matthews, 810 Dutch Square Blvd., Ste. 205,
Columbia, SC 29210

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803-551-1194
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1971
Place of Birth: Savannah, Georgia
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.
N/A
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 October 10, 2009 to Everett Keith Chandler
 Never divorced, no children

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) College of Charleston
 - (b) August 1989 through December 1993
 - (c) Bachelor of Arts (English)

 - (a) University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law
 - (b) August 1995 through August 1998
 - (c) 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) Perspectives Law Journal, Associate (1997-98)
 - (b) Virginia Law Foundation Fellowship Recipient (1997)
 - (c) Black Law Student Association (BLSA), Member, (1995-1998), History Committee Chairperson (1997)
 - (d) Women's Law Student Association, Member (1997-1998)
 - (e) Student Bar Association, Activities Committee Co-Chair (1997)

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
 - (b) Admitted in November 1999
 - (c) Took Bar exam two (2) times

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) Richland County Public Defender's Office – Screener (February 1999-November 1999): I screened inmates at Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center to determine if they qualified to be represented by the Richland County Public Defender's Office.

(b) Richland County Public Defender's Office – Assistant Public Defender (November 1999- January 2002): I represented juvenile offenders in Family Court. I was lead attorney in the Family Court division of the office for over a year. No involvement with financial management or trust accounts.

(c) Dessausure Law Firm – Associate (January 2002-April 2003): I represented clients in domestic, civil and criminal cases. No involvement with the administration of the office. No involvement with financial management or trust accounts at the firm.

(d) South University – Instructor (January 2003-September 2003): I provided college level instruction to students in the subjects of Family Law/Domestic Relations, Wills, Trusts and Estates and Workers' Compensation.

(e) Midlands Technical College – Instructor (August 2004-May 2005): I provided college level instruction to students taking Family Law/Domestic Relations courses.

(f) Law Office of Shannon D. Matthews – Attorney/Solo Practitioner (April 2003-Present): My practice includes all aspects of domestic litigation(including juvenile criminal cases), some civil litigation (personal injury cases) and some criminal cases (primarily domestic violence cases in Circuit, City and Magistrate's courts). Over the past twenty (20) years, in Family Court, I have handled several juvenile cases, several divorces, several custody cases and I have been appointed to act as guardian ad litem in numerous cases. I have handled a few pleas in General Sessions. I have filed many actions with the Court of Common Pleas; most of the cases settled, but I have tried a couple of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. I have also tried several criminal domestic violence cases in Magistrate's Court and City Court over the years. I have two (2) employees (one who is a paralegal/office manager), but I handle the administrative duties in office (i.e. paying bills, hiring, etc.). I am solely responsible for the business and trust accounts associated with the Law Office of Shannon D. Matthews.

(g) Matthews Law Firm – Attorney/Solo (May 2003-2005): I was the sole attorney filing suits for a collection company. I filed actions in Magistrate's Court and the Court of Common Pleas in attempts to collect debt (primary credit card debt). I was responsible for the trust accounts associated with the office.

(h) South Carolina Department of Social Services – Contract Attorney (July 2015-July 2017). I represented the South Carolina Department of Social Services in Abuse and Neglect cases. As a contract attorney, I did not have access to business or trust accounts.

(i) Office of Indigent Defense – Contract Attorney (July 2017-Present). I represent indigent clients in abuse and neglect cases. I do not have access to business or trust accounts.

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.

Divorce and equitable division of property – I have represented clients in numerous divorce actions, from simple divorces, to more complicated matters that involve custody issues, alimony and division of property. More often than not, equitable distribution of marital assets was an issue that had to be addressed in the divorce actions that I handled (and still handle). I have been a certified Family Court mediator for several years now, so I have assisted numerous litigants with resolving disputes regarding equitable distribution.

Child Custody – I have represented litigants in numerous custody cases over the years. I actually have several custody cases currently pending. I have acted as guardian ad litem for minor children in countless custody cases. I also often address the issue of custody in mediation.

Adoption – I have handled a few adoption cases over the course of my career. I have handled, at least, one DSS adoption case and two (2) private adoption case. I have acted as the guardian ad litem in several adoption cases.

Abuse and neglect cases – I prosecuted abuse and neglect cases as a contract attorney for SCDSS for a couple of years. I have represented indigent litigants in abuse and neglect cases, on a regular basis, since 2017. I have appeared in court weekly with abuse and neglect clients for the past seven (7) years. I have handled countless abuse and neglect cases with varying fact patterns.

Juvenile Justice – I started my career as an attorney representing juveniles in Family Court. For almost three (3) years, I appeared in court weekly with juvenile clients. I have not had many juvenile justice cases in the past ten (10) years.

I have appeared before Family Court judges weekly for the past five (5) years.

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of 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. N/A

- (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

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- 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: N/A
 - (b) state: Weekly, two (2) to five (5) times per week.
 - 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: 8%
 - (b) criminal: 2%
 - (c) domestic: 90%
 - (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?
Six (6) to eight (8) private domestic actions. Numerous abuse and neglect cases.
 - (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.)
One (1)
 - (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?

Sole counsel

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

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) SCDSS v. Andrew Martin, et. al, 2021-DR-32-01634X. I represented Defendant-Father, who was accused of emotionally abusing his minor children. The SC Department of Social Service (“Department”), administratively, made a finding that Mr. Martin emotionally abused his children. We appealed the finding, which led to the matter being heard before the Family Court (as a merits hearing). The Department offered my client treatment plan and an opportunity to agree to the finding. He declined both offers. At trial, after the Department rested its case, I made a motion for the Court to dismiss the case pursuant to SC Rules of Civil Procedure, 41(b). The Court granted the motion and the Court dismissed the matter. The ruling was pivotal for my client because he was involved in a custody case at the time. The finding would have had negative implications for him in the custody case.

(b) Derrick Brown v. Amy Handel, 2020-DR-40-0164. I represented Plaintiff-Father, Derrick Brown regarding a matter filed in family court, wherein he was seeking custody of his minor child. The parties were never married; however, they had one child together. Defendant-Mother, Amy Handel, had been the minor child’s primary custodian since his birth. At the time that I filed the action, the minor child was ten (10) years old; he was twelve (12) years old at the time of the final hearing in May 2023. The case was contentious and prolonged by the changes in the court scheduling system because of COVID. Defendant-Mother had two (2) attorneys while the case was pending; however, by the time that we went to trial, Defendant-Mother was a pro se litigant. Defendant-Mother refused all of Plaintiff-Father’s settlement proposals, all of which designated Plaintiff-Father as the primary custodian, but offered Defendant-Mother a generous parenting time schedule. We were scheduled for a three (3) day trial. The trial lasted two (2) days. At the conclusion of the trial, the Court granted Plaintiff-Father custody and granted Defendant-Mother a visitation schedule that is less than the standard visitation schedule. The Court also ordered Defendant-Mother to pay \$20,000.00 towards Plaintiff-Father’s attorney’s fees. The case is significant because male litigants seeking custody of children do not prevail as often as female litigants seeking custody of children.

(c) DeHart v. Fenderson, 2015-DR-23-903. I represented maternal great-grandparents, Sharon and Jim Dehart in a custody case involving their great-grandson. The case was

filed in Greenville, SC by the minor child's father and the DeHarts were the defendants. The DeHarts lived in Colorado when the case commenced, and they moved to North Carolina a few months before the case went to trial. After a three (3) day trial with numerous witnesses, the Court took the case under advisement. Ultimately, the Court granted my clients custody of the minor child. The case was significant because, considering the deference given to the custodial rights of parents, it can be difficult for grandparents to prevail in custody cases against parents.

(d) Wise v. Wise, 2014-DR-40-2135. I represented the Defendant-Father in the aforementioned case. I had represented the Defendant-Father in the parties' divorce action, wherein he was the plaintiff, a few years prior. Per the parties Final Divorce Decree, they shared custody of the minor children, by exchanging the children every week (Father paid child support to Mother because his income was significantly more). Plaintiff-Mother filed this action, post-divorce, seeking primary custody of the minor children. Defendant-Father was willing to continue with the shared custody arrangement, but over the course of litigation, determined that it was in the best interests of the parties' three (3) children to reside with him. Litigation was contentious the entire time that the case was pending. After a two (2) day trial, the Court granted custody of the children to my client, Defendant-Father. The case was significant because of the facts (Plaintiff-Mother, per our witnesses that testified during trial, maintained several romantic relationships with men and women, while being married to her second (2nd) husband and she exposed the children to the paramours) and because it helped to debunk the perception that men cannot prevail in custody cases.

(e) State vs. Rakeem Jackson, 2014-JU-02-106; 2014-JU-02-107; 2014-JU-02-108. I represented Rakeem Jackson, a juvenile (at the time), charged with armed robbery, possession of a firearm during a violent Crime and Kidnapping (family court). I advised my client to accept the State's plea offer, as it would insure that he spent significantly less time at the Department of Social Service, than if he proceeded with a trial and was found guilty. My client declined the offer and I tried the case. My client was found "not guilty" on all counts and released from detention. The case is significant because the charges against my client were very serious. The State's evidence was circumstantial, but compelling. Nevertheless, I was able to convince the Court that there was not enough evidence to convict my client.

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. N/A
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. N/A
- (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court. N/A
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. N/A
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- (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) South Carolina, November 15, 1999
 - (b) U.S. District Court, March 26, 2002
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 taught Family Law and Worker's Compensation Law at South University.
 - (b) I taught Family Law at Midland's Technical College.
 - (c) I presented on the subject of how to handle child support liens at a Worker's Compensation CLE.
 - (d) I presented on the topic of "Representing Incarcerated Parents" at an Office of Indigent Defense CLE on June 3, 2022.
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.

N/A

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.)

Please 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.

N/A

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) Aiken County Bar Association

(b) Lexington County Bar Association

(c) South Carolina Black Lawyer's Association (SCBLA Annual Conference co-chairperson, 2023 & 2024; Assistant treasurer, 2024)

(d) Commission on Lawyer Conduct (member 2023-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.

N/A

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

N/A

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

Yes. I was a candidate for Circuit Court, Second Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 in the Spring of 2019. I withdrew my candidacy immediately after the public hearing.

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.

I was a probation officer with Community Corrections Corporation from 1993- August 1995, prior to attending law school.

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.

I am the sole practioner/owner of the Law Office of Shannon D. Matthews, LLC. The business is a law office and has been in existence since April 2003 (to the present). I provide legal representation to individuals who retain my services.

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.

Please see attached.

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

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

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

Yes

(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.

I have been late paying my personal federal and state income taxes in the past. I paid what was owed as soon as I was able to do so. Currently, I do not owe any delinquent state or federal taxes.

(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.

The IRS and South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDR) have both instituted collection proceedings against me in the past. I do not have any current liens, of which I am aware.

(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details.

I have not defaulted on a student loan

(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults.

No. 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?

\$90.00, postage for letters of introduction to legislatures, August 13, 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 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) I made a \$250.00 contribution to Senator Overture Walker's campaign.
- (b) I made a \$250.00 contribution to Representative Tiffany Spann-Wilder's campaign.
- (c) I made contributions to Senator Tameika Isaac-Devine's mayoral campaign totaling \$325.00
- (d) I made a \$250.00 contribution to Representative Annie McDaniel's campaign
- (e) Everett Chandler, my husband, made contributions totaling \$1,500.00 to Representative Tiffany Spann-Wilder
- (f) Everett Chandler made contributions to Tameika Isaac-Devine totaling \$1,500.00
- (g) Everett Chandler made contributions to Senator Overture Walker totaling \$1,250.00
- (h) Everett Chandler made contributions to Representative William Clyburn totaling \$1000.00
- (i) Everett Chandler made contributions to Senator Mia McLeod totaling \$1000.00
- (j) Everett Chandler made contributions to Senator Ronnie Sabb totaling \$500.00
- (k) Everett Chandler made contributions to Representative Justin Bamberg totaling \$1000.00
- (l) Everett Chandler made contributions to Representative Todd Rutherford totaling \$500.00
- (m) Everett Chandler made contributions to Representative Wendell Jones totaling \$1,500.00

- (n) Everett Chandler made contributions to Senator Gerald Malloy totaling \$1000.00
- (o) Everett Chandler made contributions to Senator Kevin Johnson totaling \$500.00

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

I have never been arrested. I have been cited for speeding. I do not recall if the fine on any speeding ticket I received exceeded \$125 (I have never been cited for reckless driving or DUI, so I presume that the fine for any ticket I received for speeding would have been less than \$125).

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

No.

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

No.

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 have been covered by malpractice insurance for as long as I have been in private practice. I have had malpractice insurance for over twenty (20) years. I have never been covered by a tail policy. The coverage amount is \$500,000.00 per claim/\$500,000.00 aggregate. The deductible is \$2,500.00 per claim.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

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

No

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

No

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

No. I have not campaigned.

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.

Yes. I mistakenly sent an introduction letter to Representative Micajah P. Caskey, IV, the Vice-Chairman of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. I was sending introduction letters to the members of the House, when I discovered that I failed to remove Representative Caskey's name from my list. When I discovered the error, I immediately reached out to Lindi Putnam and Erin Crawford at the JMSC to advise them of the oversight. I checked my mailings to ensure that I did not send the introduction letter to any other Representatives who are members of the JMSC.

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) The Honorable Donna S. Strom (Retired Family Court Judge)

[Redacted]

(b) Lessie B. Price
Aiken City Council Member

[Redacted]

(c) Jessica Brillhante, Esq.
Brilhante & Ott

[Redacted]

(d) Christopher Jackson, Esq.

[Redacted]

(e) Jane Waters, Esq.
Ashby Jones & Associates

[Redacted]

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

I currently have a Facebook page and an Instagram page.

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

Facebook – [Redacted]

Instagram – [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 rarely post anything. I have had the Facebook page for about ten (10) years and the Instagram page for about the same amount of time. In those ten (10) years, I have posted very few pictures. 90% of the pictures on my page are generated from posts made by other people (wherein I was identified). If I am elected to serve as a Family Court judge, my use of social media would change very little, as it is limited now.

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) Aiken Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. -- Financial Secretary, Social Action Chairperson, Nominations Committee Chairperson, Protocol and Traditions Chairperson
 - (b) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – Life Member
 - (c) Aiken United Way – Board member 2022-2024
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INTENTIONALLY BLANK

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.

The greatest influence on my perspective as a judge would be the experiences that I have had representing indigent clients at the Richland County Public Defender's Office and in abuse and neglect cases, as well as my experience representing the State (as a contract attorney for SCDSS) against those very same individuals. I have learned that regardless of our socioeconomic statuses, our genders, our race and/or our gender identities, we all

deserve to be treated with respect in every situation. More importantly, I know from experience that people respond well when you recognize their humanity. As an attorney, one of my goals is to leave intact the dignity of all whom I encounter; my goal would be the same as a judge. Whether sentencing a juvenile defendant, giving rulings in Family Court cases or communicating with attorneys that appear before the Court, I would be a judge who always recognizes the humanity of those who appear before the Court and I would endeavor to leave each individual with his/her dignity intact.

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: _____