



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit,
Seat 2

1. Name: Mr.
Mrs.
Ms. Melissa Anne Inzerillo

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

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: York

Business Address: 1675-1E York Highway, York, SC 29745

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803.628.3031
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]/1976
Place of Birth: Kingstree, 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# or SCHD#: 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.

I have not served in the military.

6. Family Status:
- (a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
- I am single.
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
N/A
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). N/A
- (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.
- Never divorced.
- (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.
- 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.) University of South Carolina, Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. 1994-1997. Honors College.
- (b.) Washington and Lee University School of Law, Juris Doctor. 1998-2001.
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.) Moot Court Board, Mock Trial Administrator, 2000-2001.
- (b.) Student Bar Association, Vice President, 2000-2001
- (c.) Member, National Mock Trial team, 2000-2001
- (d.) Runner up, Mock Trial Competition, 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.
- I am admitted in South Carolina. I took the bar exam one time.
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the

administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.

(a.) Haynsworth Baldwin Johnson and Greaves LLC, Associate. 2001-2002. Handled defense of employment discrimination claims on behalf of corporate clients and handled all phases of obtaining visas for various corporate employers. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of this entity.

(b.) Orangeburg County Public Defender Office, Assistant Public Defender. Approx. 2003-2004. Handled all aspects of criminal defense of indigent clients at trial level, including investigation, negotiation of cases, motions, trials and pleas. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of this entity.

(c.) Charleston County Public Defender Office, Assistant Public Defender. Approx. 2004-2005. Handled all aspects of criminal defense of indigent clients at trial level, including investigation, negotiation of cases, motions, trials and pleas. I was not involved in the administrative and financial management of this entity.

(d.) Sixteenth Circuit Public Defender Office, Deputy Public Defender (formerly York County Public Defender Office). I began as an assistant public defender in 2005 in York County, handling aspects of criminal defense of indigent clients at the trial level, including investigation, negotiation of cases, motions, trials and pleas. In 2020, I became Deputy Public Defender. In addition to the tasks of representing clients, I also handle the administration of three offices in our circuit. These duties include handling personnel matters, effectuating administrative policies, and overseeing (along with the Circuit Public Defender) the allocation of the monies budgeted to 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.
- (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.

I have handled criminal cases for the bulk of my career. I have represented clients charged with everything from magistrate offenses to murders in trial court. For the past five years, my practice has been a mix of lower-level felonies, murders, sex crimes, and drug offenses. The issues generally ranged from suppression issues to sufficiency of proof in the State's case, including motions under Jackson v. Denno (admission of statements), admission of evidence pursuant to State v. Lyle, evidentiary issues arising from forensic interviews in sex cases, and motions to exclude evidence for violations of the Fourth Amendment. I have also prepared and/or argued some State v. Duncan motions (stand your ground motions). A few years ago, York County began serving notice of intent to waive juveniles to General Sessions court, and I have worked on the more serious of those cases that our office has been appointed to. I sought this out to expand my knowledge of issues outside of the trial work I typically do. Several years back, I asked to also work on clients who were allowed to have their sentences reconsidered under Aiken v. Byars. This also expanded my skill set outside of the trial work I usually did. I also worked with the solicitors, judges and probate judge to start York County's Mental Health Court and worked with the solicitor's office to resume a modified Transfer Court in York County.

I have not done any civil work in the last five years. My first job was working in a civil firm, and so I am familiar with the requirements of civil work and private practice. I have a basic familiarity with the civil rules, and I am fully prepared to put in the work it will take to reacquaint myself with this area of the law. I have watched Common Pleas non-jury to refamiliarize myself with the issues and rules. I understand that regaining this knowledge will involve a steep learning curve, and I fully intend to put in the work it would take to fairly and competently judge these cases, including independent study and taking CLEs.

I have appeared daily and/or weekly in front of circuit court for the past five years.

- (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.

- (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.
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: none
(b) state: weekly
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: none
(b) criminal: 100% (including criminal matters in family and probate courts)
(c) domestic: none
(d) other: none
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? Eight
- (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.) none. I had one or two trials end after the judge granted a mistrial after testimony began but before the end of the State's case.
- (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? four

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? I have served mostly as sole counsel but have also served as co-counsel for coworkers and to younger attorneys in my office.

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) State v. Frederick Floyd: Mr. Floyd was charged as a juvenile with murder after shooting a marijuana dealer in the parking lot of a homeless shelter. This was the first waiver case in York County. Although I had handled juvenile criminal matters in Family Court throughout

my career, I quickly learned that waiver cases require a merging of considerations in Family Court and General Sessions that don't always align, and one must become adept at handling those considerations in the best interests of the client. We had a waiver hearing in Mr. Floyd's case but before a ruling could be made, we reached an agreement to consent to waive Mr. Floyd to General Sessions court in exchange for a fifteen-year sentence.

(b) State v. James Brandon Smith: Mr. Smith pled guilty to 2 counts of murder when he was 17 years old. He killed two men and he and a friend burned down the house where the men were. Mr. Smith was given a life sentence in 2001. I began representing Mr. Smith after the Supreme Court allowed his case to be reheard pursuant to Aiken v. Byars. Because Aiken (and related cases) require the court to consider several factors regarding rehabilitation, I was able to really get to know Mr. Smith. Not only was he extensively evaluated, but I spent a lot of time of time with him preparing his case. Ultimately, Mr. Smith agreed to a 35-year sentence in 2017. This case was important to me because it showed what life was like for defendants after sentencing- how they adapt to living the rest of their lives in jail, the compromises they make and "new normal" they create. Often my job ends at sentencing and I never really saw a deep dive into what life is like after the sentence is handed down. This case was a fantastic education of what life is like after the sentence for those incarcerated, and has been helpful to me when advising and counseling clients who may receive long sentences in the Department of Corrections.

(c) State v. Christina Oliver: Ms. Oliver was arrested for murder in 2013 in Union County. She was in an abusive relationship and killed her boyfriend. Although Ms. Oliver pled to 14 years, I successfully argued for her to get parole eligibility under Section 16-25-90 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Further, I went to Ms. Oliver's parole hearings and learned how the parole process works.

(d) State v. Cleveland Ford: Mr. Ford was charged with Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature for beating up a man, resulting in traumatic brain injury. Mr. Ford was arrested in 2017. I tried this case twice and hung the jury twice. Mr. Ford ultimately pled under N.C. vs. Alford and got probation.

(e) State v. Donta Reid: Mr. Reid was a seventeen-year-old charged with murder, armed robbery and conspiracy in 2009. Mr. Reid went to trial on his charges, and I was able to convince the judge that the hand of one, hand of all theory of accomplice liability did not apply in Mr. Reid's case because the murder of the victim was not a foreseen consequence of the conspiracy to rob him. Mr. Reid was convicted of all charges except for murder.

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) N/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.

I have not handled any criminal appeals. However, I have written or co-authored amicus briefs on behalf of the S.C. Public Defender Association in two cases that were filed in the Supreme Court.

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.

- (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.) State of South Carolina, 2001
- (b.) District Court of South Carolina, 2001
- (c.) Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2001
- (d.) Supreme Court of the United States, 2006

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.

- (a.) I have taught at the PD 103 course for new public defenders. This course teaches hands-on trial skills.
- (b.) I assisted with a local CLE put on by the York County Bar entitled “Back in the Swing of Things (A courtroom refresher, information session, and practice opportunity).” This CLE taught courtroom skills through lecture and demonstrations, and I assisted as a witness for some demonstrations.
- (c.) I am a volunteer judge for the Middle School Mock Trial Competition program through the South Carolina Bar.
- (d.) I have volunteered as a juror for a Mock Trial final for a homeschooling program.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have not published books or articles.

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.)
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.

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 Association
 - (b) York County Bar Association
 - (c) South Carolina Public Defender Association: President, (2022-current); Sixteenth Circuit representative to the PDA Board (2022)
 - (d.) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys
 - (e.) South Carolina Women's Lawyers Association
 - (f.) Gregory-Hayes Inn of Court
27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

No.

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.

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.

I was previously a reporter for the local newspaper, The (Rock Hill) Herald. I covered several beats, including courts, police and election coverage. I worked at The Herald from December 1997 to July 1998.

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

No.

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

No.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes? If yes, please provide details. No.

(c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details. No.

(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details. No.

(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults. No.

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

No.

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

I have no expenditures.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you participate in any employer-mandated contributions to a PAC or any other political entity, please describe and note your personal involvement in contributions. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

None.

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No.

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

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.

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.

None.

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

None.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

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.

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

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

No.

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

I have been named in Post Conviction Relief actions but as far as I'm aware none have been granted.

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.

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.

[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 anyone to contact members of the General Assembly or campaign for me. I have reached out to members of the local delegation to introduce myself and discuss my qualifications. As far as I know, only BJ Barrowclough and Ryan Newkirk have talked to legislators about my qualifications.

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) BJ Barrowclough
Sixteenth Circuit Public Defender Office
[Redacted]

(b) Harry Dest

Dest Law Firm
[Redacted]

(c) Walter Dusky
Palmetto Law Associates
[Redacted]

(d) Leland Greeley
Leland B. Greeley, PA
[Redacted]

(e) Phil Smith
Sixteenth Circuit Public Defender Office
[Redacted]

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

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

Facebook: [Redacted]
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 rarely post on social media. I may like others' posts or wish someone a happy birthday. So, I don't think it would be affected, but I would be cautious about friend requests and would disable any sites I'm on if necessary.

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) American Red Cross, Disaster Services/ Government Operations
 - (b) Habitat for Humanity of York County- Restore volunteer
 - (c) Miracle League Softball buddy
 - (d.) St. Philip Neri Catholic Church: Italian Festival Entertainment co-chair; Finance Committee member.
 - (e.) NATAS Regional Emmy, "Television Programming Excellence, Interview/Discussion Program" as Producer of The Zone, a weekly teen show on S.C. Educational Television. June, 1995. Also nominated June, 1994.
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 parents instilled in me three core tenets: education, hard work, and service to others. I was the first in my family to attend college and law school. I constantly apply these tenets in my job as an attorney in the public defender office, which I see as a service to my community. I also see serving as a judge as a continuation of serving my community and would apply those same tenets.

I believe many will assume because I am an attorney in a public defender office, that I only see the world one way. I have been involved in the criminal justice system for over twenty years and understand how it all should work. I am not anti-law enforcement, anti-victim, or in favor of letting criminals go free. In my years in the courtroom, I have seen and acknowledged very good officers, I have spoken to victims and understand the hurt, confusion and anger they may have, and I believe that if a person commits a crime they should be punished. I also see the effect poverty, drugs and domestic violence have on my clients, and how various sentences affect their lives and the lives of their families. I do believe the system should be fair and equitable, and the judge should be a neutral arbiter within the system. I believe that if a person is charged with a crime or has a civil dispute they should have a fair system that judges the evidence in the case. The judge is an integral part of that system. Many of my clients (and many victims) want to be heard and feel like they were listened to. Some of the best judges I have been in front of made defendants and victims feel like this was their day in court (regardless of how the case turned out), and that made a difference to them. This left an indelible mark on me, and I would strive to emulate that. Although I work on one side of the system, I would be fair and impartial to any litigant who is before me because I understand everyone in front of a court is hoping for a neutral, detached person to hear the case and judge it fairly.

Almost 25 years ago, a tragedy in my family showed me the hurt that can come through a violent act, and how important closure can be for families if they can get it. I carry these lessons with me every day in my current job, and I would also bring those lessons with me to the bench.

I have practiced in York and Union Counties for most of my career. I understand the docket system York and Union Counties have, and have worked within that system for several years, doing my part to make it more efficient. I have striven to make our courts better by working with various parties to start programs that will either help divert clients out of the system or streamline cases more efficiently.

I grew up in Rock Hill, and I came back to be closer to family. I am a member of this community and feel it would be a great honor to represent it as a resident judge.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: _____

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2024.

(Notary Signature)

(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____