



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

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

Family Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. William Andrew Wallace Buxton

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

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: Sumter County

Business Address: 78 Paisley Park, Sumter, South Carolina 29150

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 803-468-4801
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]/1970
Place of Birth: Charleston, 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# 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. Not applicable.

6. Family Status:

(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.
Married.

(b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

Date of Marriage: November 20, 1999

Spouse's Full Name: Eliza Knox Buxton

Spouse's Occupation: Manager, Operations, Sumter Economic Development

(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.

Children:

[Redacted]

7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.

(a) The University of Mississippi 1990-1992 – transferred to Hampden Sydney College as I desired a smaller atmosphere with smaller classroom settings.

(b) Hampden Sydney College 1992-1994, BA English

(c) Charleston School of Law, 2004-2007, 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) International Law Study Abroad program with Georgia State University – summer of 2006

(b) Spring/Summer Extern, Center for Heirs' Property Preservation – January -June 2005.

(c) Summer Clerk, Charleston County Public Defender's Office – Summer 2005.

(d) Law Library Clerk, Charleston School of Law – 2005-2007.

9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

Admitted to practice in South Carolina, 2009

I took the South Carolina Bar Exam in June 2007, February 2008, and February 2009 and July 2009.

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) Law Clerk to Master in Equity, Mikell R. Scarborough 2007-2008
I began working as a Law Clerk for Judge Mikell R. Scarborough in September of 2007. The position included reviewing cases that pertained to quiet title actions, partition actions, foreclosures, leading the Master's auctions on the Courthouse steps, sitting in on and assisting the Judge during motion hearings and trials in the courtroom. I assisted in the editing and updating of the Master's Auction List. This list contained the property address, tax parcel number, the lender, the lender's amount that would be accepted at auction, in addition to various other information that the Judge would direct to include. This position also included the opening of files from Orders of Reference as they were received and reviewing pleadings, deeds, and other similar materials that entered the office.
- (b) T. Edwards Law Firm, LLC 2008-2009 – part-time legal assistant
I worked in this office on a part-time basis and the position included the drafting of pleadings, motions, and orders, coordinating service on defendants, preparing temporary hearing packets, as well as entering billing.
- (c) Curtis & Croft, LLC 2010-2022 Associate Attorney
As an associate attorney, I handled all matters in the Family Court and Probate Court. I also handled complex real estate such as quiet title actions and partition actions, while also handling regular real estate closings and re-finances. In the Probate Court, I handled the opening of estates, petitions to sell real estate, determinations of heirs petitions, petitions for guardianships and conservatorships, as well as estate planning. I handled every aspect of the Family Court cases. I typically had one paralegal and was involved in the management of this paralegal. I did not handle any other administrative duties or managing trust accounts, except for keeping up with billing on the Family Court files and Probate files.
- (d) South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense, 608 contract employee, 2014-present
I began as a SCCID contract attorney when the program was started in 2014 and continue to serve as a contract attorney today. I am appointed to represent vulnerable adults and parents that are involved in abuse and neglect cases in Sumter, Clarendon, Lee, and Williamsburg Counties. When needed and able, I accept appointments in other counties as well.
- (e) Law Office of William A. W. Buxton, LLC 2022- present
I started this practice in October of 2022. The majority of my case work is private actions in the Family Court, a large volume of contract cases involving abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, and adult protective services as an OID attorney. I have been contracted to handle these cases in Sumter, Clarendon, Lee, and Williamsburg Counties (and sometimes in other counties when there is a shortage of attorneys for these cases.) In the Probate Court, I

handle Petitions for Guardianship and Conservatorship, the administration of estates and the appointments to serve as the attorney and/or guardian on the petitions for guardianships and conservatorship. I also handle real estate matters, as I am a title agent for Stewart Title. In the Family Court I am appointed as a guardian ad litem on many private actions. I serve as a mediator on Family Court cases, as well. Additionally, I manage the billing and trust accounts and work with a CPA to reconcile the trust accounts and billing on each file.

(f) National Insurance Producer Registry

I took the title exam in 2012 in order to further my real estate work. I am currently a title agent for Stewart Title, and I handle closings as a subcontractor for another law firm.

(g) South Carolina Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification as a Family Court Mediator, July 2018.

(h) State of South Carolina Notary Public, term expires January 25, 2026

(i) South Carolina Bar Certified guardian ad litem, 2010

I have served as guardian ad litem in numerous Family Court cases since 2010. I am often appointed by the Court or agree to serve by consent when attorneys have reached out to me to serve in this role.

(j) Paralegal Program Director/Co-Director, Central Carolina Technical College 2024 – present
This part-time position was recently created, and I have not been called to any official work to date with the exception of being asked to assist in placing students in potential internships.

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.

(a) Divorce and Equitable Division of Property

[Redacted] 2018-DR-31-005

This was a Lee County divorce action regarding a long-term marriage with many assets that included real property, personal property, and multiple accounts. This was heavily litigated and eventually settled at mediation.

(b) Child Custody

[Redacted] 2018-DR-43-1318 was a Third-Party Custody Action.

My clients were military and had recently relocated to Sumter. They had two young children but had been asked by the Defendant Mother to care for a toddler from Colorado so he would not get caught up in the Department of Social Services in Colorado the way her other children had been. The Defendant Mother had a history of drug abuse. My client's sister had custody of the Defendant Mother's children in the State of Tennessee. The Defendant Mother typed out a notarized agreement for my clients to have care and guardianship of her third child, while never having met my clients. My clients had this child in their care for four months when the Defendant Mother came to Sumter from Colorado with no notice and took the child from them and headed to Tennessee. I prepared an Emergency Ex Parte Order, and my clients went to Tennessee to retrieve the child. Law Enforcement in Tennessee stated that they could take the Order and find the child but did not have the authority to "remove" the child from the Defendant Mother. After contacting a Tennessee Family Court Judge's office, the Judge spoke to me and stated that if it was an original Order signed by a Judge in my jurisdiction, he would sign over it and have Tennessee Law Enforcement go retrieve the child, which is what happened the very same day. The case ended with my clients retaining custody of this child.

(c) Adoption

[Redacted] 2012-DR-43-1481

This was an unusual case where I was contacted by the adopting couple stating that their closest friends, who had never wished to have children, became pregnant but did not want the expected baby. My clients requested that I handle this adoption, and I was aware that anything could go sideways prior to and at the birth of this child. I arranged for an attorney to visit the hospital after the 24-hour waiting period to have the birth parents sign a Consent and Relinquishment. That attorney was unable to get to the hospital until almost 72 hours after the birth of the child, which caused great anxiety to both me and my clients. The attorney was ultimately successful in obtaining the signatures, and the adoption was finalized not long after the birth of the child. My clients have stayed in touch over the years and have maintained their relationship with the birth couple and the child calls them "Aunt and "Uncle."

(d) Abuse and Neglect

[Redacted], 2022-DR-43-00055

I was appointed to represent the Mother/Wife in this case and I was simultaneously hired by the South Carolina Victims Advocate Network to handle the private action for divorce and custody. My client had suffered extensive abuse at the hands of the Father/Husband which included keeping the mother and toddler child locked in a bedroom for days at a time. He exercised great control over her, and I learned through SCCADVASA (South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) that they had been working with my client for years, as they had tried unsuccessfully to extract her from this abusive situation. Over the course of the case, and with the help of SCCADVASA, my client had to live in seclusion, but was able to attain very good employment and further

her education. Her ex-husband was continually incarcerated, the last time for removing his ankle monitor against conditions of his bond.

(e) Juvenile Justice

I have not handled any juvenile justice cases, but I have observed those cases when they have become an ancillary case of one of my appointed abuse and neglect cases. A particular case from Horry County comes to mind where I was appointed to represent a mother. The Mother and fifteen-year-old son have been charged with murder. The mother is incarcerated in Horry County and the fifteen-year-old son spent three years at the Juvenile Justice Center in Columbia, but eventually aged out and was transferred to Horry County awaiting trial. [Redacted] 2023-DR-26-2015

- (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.
- (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: I have not appeared in Federal Court.
- (b) state: Between my private actions and my Indigent Defense contract cases, I am in the Family Court 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: 20%
- (b) criminal: 0%
- (c) domestic: 65%
- (d) other: 15%

14. During the past five years

- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 75%
- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 50%
- (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? 20% (Resolved may include settlement, plea, by Judge's order during a motion hearing, etc.)
- (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

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) [Redacted] 2018-DR-43-0519.

This was an unusual case where my client prevailed in being awarded custody of his stepdaughter under the Psychological Parent Doctrine.

(b) [Redacted] 2018-DR-43-0642.

This was a significantly litigated and hard-fought visitation modification case. During the case opposing counsel attempted to thwart a motion for temporary relief using the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. I opposed and prevailed and motion was heard. Father relocated to Japan during the litigation. Mother started with significantly limited and supervised visitation, but ultimately prevailed in reaching an agreement for unsupervised visitation.

(c) [Redacted]; 2014-DR-43-1650.

This case involved custody to my client from her sister.

[Redacted]; 2015-DR-43-931. This case involved the same client as the case above where I defended my client from the biological father's action for visitation.

[Redacted] 2017-DR-43-1210. This was a third action for the same client which was a termination of parental rights and adoption. These cases are significant because what started out as an action to protect the minor child ended with a third action that completed the circle by finalizing an adoption and creating a family.

(f) [Redacted] 2015-DR-43-878.

This was a heavily litigated third-party grandparent custody action that went to trial and settled on the day of trial. My clients were the grandparents and eventually filed a subsequent case under 2019-DR-43-174 and prevailed in a termination of parental rights and adoption action.

(d) [Redacted]; 2018-DR-43-01456

This was a significantly litigated case that involved convoluted jurisdictional issues between the State of Alaska and the State of South Carolina. The decision regarding jurisdiction was eventually made by the Alaska Courts.

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) I have not filed an appeal, only Notices of Appeal.

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

(a) N/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. I have not ever held a judicial office.

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) South Carolina Bar, November 16, 2009

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.

I have not taught or lectured at any of the above-mentioned.

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.

None.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

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. Not applicable.

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) Sumter County Bar
- (b) Charleston County Bar

- (c) South Carolina Bar Family Law Council
- (d) South Carolina Bench Bar Committee

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

(a) Sumter Design Review Board appointee. 2013-2021.

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. I have never been a candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office.

No.

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

- (a) Office of United States Senator Stom Thurmond, Special Projects Staff 1995-1997.
- (b) Food Distributors International, Manager, Government Relations 1997-2000.

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.

Law Office of William A. W. Buxton, LLC – Sole practitioner private law practice established in October 2022. Oversee day to day operations of the firm while practicing law in the areas of family court, probate, estate planning, and real estate.

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.

Not by the definitions of the South Carolina Code, but on a federal level when I resided in the Washington, D.C. area I was employed with a trade association by the name of Food Distributors International and was the Manager of Government Relations 1997-2000

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.

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

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?

No.

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) Smith for House, \$200, March 9, 2022.

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. I have not solicited funds or collected funds to aid in the promotion of my candidacy.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 obtained a malpractice insurance policy in 2022 when I started my sole practitioner firm. The limits are \$1million/\$1million with a \$2500 deductible. I have not purchased a tail policy.

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.

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.

I have not and to my knowledge, no one else has either.

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with **original letters** of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application.*

(a) James C. Campbell
Sumter County Judicial Center
[Redacted]

(b) Josh Littlejohn
Motley Rice
[Redacted]

(c) David H. Maybank
Maybank & Owings
[Redacted]

(d) Jay Schwedler
Sumter Economic Development
[Redacted]

(e) Harry C. Wilson (Bunt)
HCWjr., LLC
[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.

- (a) Facebook: [Redacted]
- (b) Instagram: [Redacted]
- (c) 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?

If I did not delete my social media accounts, I would continue my current practice of using social media to keep up with friends and family. I do not make political posts, and would not do that if serving 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) Carolina Yacht Club
- (b) The Society of Colonial Wars, South Carolina Chapter
- (c) Sumter Family YMCA
- (d) The Sumter Assembly, Vice President
- (e) Les Trente
- (f) Bon Pied Dance Club
- (g) Sumter County Museum
- (h) Quixote Club
- (i) Caroliniana Ball
- (j) Fortnightly Club, Second Vice President
- (k) Second Mill Pond Association
- (l) Heathlywood Pond Association
- (m) Shaw Sumter Community Council

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.

A significant portion of my practice of the law has involved individuals who are emotionally charged and whose lives are rife with chaos. I believe I have been able to have a steady hand in guiding them through a process that they sometimes can hardly comprehend. My experiences in a service-oriented capacity have been challenging, yet rewarding when I see resolutions to issues that have a monumental impact in an individual's life. Litigants approach the Family Court for protection and relief, especially when it comes to children. A Family Court Judge has

the ability to change the trajectory of a child's life potentially impacting that child to become a good and productive member of the community. I have been truly blessed throughout my life experiences to have had influential, positive role models who taught me the value and importance of service to others.

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: _____