



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

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

Judge of the Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2.

1. Name: The Honorable Michael Todd Thigpen

Name that you are known by if different from above  
(Example: A Nickname): M. Todd Thigpen or Todd Thigpen

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.  
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Yes. I currently serve as a full-time Family Court judge.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Spartanburg County, South Carolina

Business Address: 180 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]  
(office): (864) 596-3601  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1970  
Place of Birth: Sumter, 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. No.

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.

Family Status: Married on March 22, 2008 to Laurie Lynn Ver-Cauteren Thigpen, who worked as a paralegal for over thirty years before her retirement in 2019.

- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s). Never widowed.

- (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 at Spartanburg (n/k/a, USC Upstate), August 1988-May 1992, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; and

(b) University of South Carolina School of Law, August 1992-May 1996, Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration (JD/MBA).

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) Articles Editor, South Carolina Environmental Law Journal, 1993-1995;

(b) Member, The International Legal Fraternity of Phi Delta Phi, 1993-1995;

(c) Internship, SCANA Corporation, Summer of 1994; and

(d) Internship, Piedmont Legal Services, Summer of 1995.

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 was admitted to practice law in South Carolina in 1996; I only took the South Carolina Bar Exam one time; and I have not applied to be admitted to practice law in any other state.

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) After I was admitted to the South Carolina Bar on November 18, 1996, I opened my own law office as a sole practitioner in Spartanburg, South Carolina; my practice was devoted almost exclusively to Family Court cases; and I handled thousands of Family Court cases in the twenty-two and one-half years I practiced law;
- (b) From 1997 until 2004, I represented indigent Family Court clients through Piedmont Legal Services' Private Bar Involvement Program;
- (c) From 1998 until 2019, I was appointed to serve as the guardian ad litem in about nine hundred private Family Court cases involving the issues of child custody, visitation, adoption, termination of parental rights, and name change;
- (d) From about 2002 until June 30, 2015, I was a contract attorney for the Spartanburg County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program, and I represented volunteer guardians ad litem in thousands of DSS child abuse and neglect hearings during that time;
- (e) I have been a certified Family Court Mediator since 2002, and I mediated approximately five hundred Family Court cases between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2019;
- (f) From about 2004 until 2019, I did legal work on occasion for the General Counsel's Office at Spartanburg Regional Health Services District, Inc. primarily filing petitions in Probate Court to have a guardian and/or conservator appointed for its patients who were incapacitated and did not have adult relatives who were willing or able to serve as their guardian or conservator; and
- (g) On February 6, 2019, I was elected to serve as Judge of the Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, upon the retirement of the Honorable James F. Fraley, Jr., and I have served as a full-time judge since July 2, 2019.

**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.

- (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:
  - (b) state:
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:
  - (b) criminal:
  - (c) domestic:
  - (d) other:
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?
  - (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.)
  - (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?

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)
  - (b)
  - (c)
  - (d)
  - (e)
  
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)
  - (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)
  - (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.

Yes. On February 6, 2019, I was elected to serve as Judge of the Family Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Seat 2, and I have been a full-time Family Court judge since July 2, 2019. Because the Family Court is a statutorily created court, its jurisdiction is limited to the exclusive jurisdiction set forth in Section 63-3-530 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and other statutes.

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) Blackwell v. Blackwell, 2018-DR-42-1590. This was a high-conflict child custody modification action between father and mother, who shared true joint custody of their four minor children on a week-to-week schedule when the case was filed. This case was significant to me because it was my first five-day trial as a judge; I heard

from nine witnesses, including four experts; and I reviewed thirty-six exhibits consisting of hundreds of pages. In addition, the case is memorable to me because the trial was interrupted by two tornado warnings, and a tornado actually passed within one block of the courthouse during the trial. Therefore, because of the tumultuous relationship between the parents and their inability to co-parent, I concluded it was in the best interests of the parties' four minor children for father to be awarded sole custody and for mother to be granted standard visitation.

- (b) SCDSS v. Turner, et al., 2020-DR-42-1235. This was a two (2) day DSS child abuse case wherein mother and her boyfriend were accused of physically abusing mother's seven-year-old son. Although I have tried many DSS child abuse and neglect cases over the years, this case was significant because I concluded after hearing the testimony of the child's therapist that the child should be allowed to testify outside the presence of mother and her boyfriend, who were able to view the child's testimony on a television in another room, under the procedure adopted in SCDSS v. Wilson, 352 S.C. 445, 574 S.E.2d 730 (2002). Thus, after carefully considering all of the evidence before me, I made a finding of physical abuse against mother and her boyfriend and directed them to complete a treatment plan. Mother's parental rights were subsequently terminated by another Family Court judge, and the Court of Appeals affirmed that decision in SCDSS v. Turner, Unpublished Opinion No. 2024-UP-202.
- (c) Privette v. Garrity, Unpublished Opinion No. 2021-UP-316, and Privette v. Jefferies, Unpublished Opinion No. 2021-UP-317. These opinions are from a termination of parental rights and adoption action I tried for two days. After carefully considering all of the evidence before me, I concluded it was in the minor child's best interests to terminate the parents' parental rights and allow the grandparents to adopt the child. Because both parents appealed, the Court of Appeals issued two separate opinions affirming my decision. Although I have been affirmed in several DSS termination of parental rights cases over the past five years, this case is significant to me because it is the only private termination of parental rights and adoption action that I have heard that was appealed.
- (d) In the Interest of Da'Careian G., a Juvenile Under the Age of Eighteen, 2019-JU-42, 187. This was a case where the juvenile was charged with murder, and the state requested for jurisdiction over the murder charge to be transferred from Family Court to Circuit Court. This case was significant to me because it was the first waiver hearing I had ever been involved with in my career. At the beginning of the hearing, the juvenile's attorney requested that I hold a hearing pursuant to Jackson v. Denno, 378 U.S. 368 (1964), to determine if the juvenile's confession to police was voluntary and admissible at trial. After the attorneys consented to me reviewing five separate videos of the juvenile's statements to police in chambers prior to the start of the trial, I specifically considered the relevant factors and concluded the juvenile's statements were voluntary. Thereafter, the state called three (3) witnesses, including the psychologist who conducted the juvenile's Pre-Adjudicatory Transfer (Waiver) Evaluation, and introduced eighteen exhibits; the juvenile testified he had freely and voluntarily decided not to testify after his attorney had explained all of his rights to him; and the juvenile's attorney only called the juvenile's mother to testify. Therefore, after taking the matter under advisement and carefully considering the

relevant statutes and case law, I concluded it was necessary to transfer the juvenile's pending murder charge to the Circuit Court where the juvenile ultimately pled guilty and was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison.

- (e) Jolley, et al. v. Spade, 2010-DR-42-3372. This was a case where the parental rights of the biological father (Mr. Spade) were terminated and the stepfather (Mr. Jolley) was allowed to adopt the minor child in 2012. On October 18, 2018, Mr. Spade filed a motion for new trial based on newly discovered evidence and fraud upon the court (motion). After several continuances for various reasons, the motion appeared on my docket on January 9, 2023 for an evidentiary hearing to determine if Mr. Spade was entitled to any relief under S.C. Code Ann. § 63-9-770(B) or Rule 60(b)(5), SCRCP. However, at the commencement of the hearing, the parties and their attorneys informed me that the parties waived their right to present testimony because they believed I could issue a decision based on the nineteen exhibits they agreed to introduce into evidence, including transcript excerpts from three separate trials, multiple emails, and various court orders. In short, although it took me several months to review the exhibits and over ten years of court records, I issued a sixteen-page order denying Mr. Spade's motion; I denied Mr. Spade's motion to reconsider; and it is my understanding the case is currently being appealed to the Court of Appeals. The reason this case is significant to me is because it is the first and only time I have been required to rule on a post-trial motion where I was not the trial judge.

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.

I was admitted to practice before all South Carolina state courts on November 18, 1996.

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 co-presented and prepared the written materials for the Case Law Update: "Custody, Child Support, and Visitation" at the 2007 South Carolina Trial Lawyers' Association Annual Convention;
- (b) In 2010, I lectured to a group of student therapists from Converse College about HIPAA, subpoenas, qualification as an expert witness, a therapist's role in child custody cases, and other areas of family law;
- (c) I was a panel member for a panel discussion at the 2012 Program Attorney Training: Information to Represent Volunteer Guardians ad Litem;
- (d) I assisted in training volunteer guardians ad litem for the Spartanburg County Guardian ad Litem Program on four or five occasions between 2002 and 2015;
- (e) On March 18, 2022, I spoke at the South Carolina Family Court Summit about Pro Se Day along with the Honorable Amy W. Cox, Spartanburg County Clerk of Court;
- (f) On May 6, 2022, I presented Tips from the Family Court Bench at the Seventh Judicial Circuit Tips from the Bench seminar sponsored by the South Carolina Bar CLE Division

and South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division along with the Honorable James F. Fraley, Jr. and the Honorable Angela J. Moss;

- (g) On April 14, 2023, I served on a panel about Judges' Observations and Advice at a Family Law CLE hosted by KD Trial Lawyers along with the Honorable Usha J. Bridges, the Honorable James F. Fraley, Jr., and the Honorable Angela J. Moss; and
- (h) On or about June 2, 2023, I spoke to lawyers appointed to represent defendants in DSS child abuse and neglect cases under Rule 608, SCACR, along with the Honorable Usha J. Bridges.

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

See JCLE Attachments.

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

I have not published any 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.)

Not Applicable.

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.

BV, Martindale-Hubbell.

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
- (a) South Carolina Bar, Member of Family Law Section;
  - (b) American Bar Association, Member of Family Law Section; and
  - (c) Spartanburg County Bar; Member of Family Court Committee (2012-2019); and Chair of Family Court Committee (2018-2019).

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.

None.

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

(a) In 2012, I was a candidate for the newly created seat for Judge of the Family Court, At-Large, Seat 6; the JMSC found me Qualified, Not Nominated; and the Honorable David E. Phillips was elected to that seat; and

(b) In 2016, I was a candidate for the newly created seat for Judge of the Family Court, At-Large, Seat 7; the JMSC found me Qualified, Not Nominated; and the Honorable Thomas T. Hodges was elected to that seat.

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.

My mother and I are the co-owners of Thigpen Properties, LLC, which owns Thigpen Mobile Home Park, and we currently rent out one mobile home lot. We also rent out one side of the duplex where my mother lives that was at one time titled under the name of PRT Properties, LLC. However, I have not been engaged in any other occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law since I was admitted to practice law in 1996.

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 a co-agent of Thigpen Properties, LLC, and I am also listed as a co-agent of PRT Properties, LLC, which does not have any assets at this time.

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

No.

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

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

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

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.

Yes, see answer to 34(c) below.

- (c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details.

Yes. When I ran for Judge of the Family Court, At-Large, Seat 6, in 2012, my screening attorney informed me that my credit report reflected a tax lien, which was a shock to me because I had never received a notice. I learned the next day that the South Carolina Department of Revenue had filed a tax lien against me because I filed my employee withholding return earlier that year and failed to enclose a check. Apparently, the South Carolina Department of Revenue had sent notices to a post office box and office address that I had not used in over ten years even though my correct mailing address and telephone number were on the return. Therefore, I amended my application to notify the Commission of the tax lien, paid the taxes and penalties immediately, and provided my screening attorney with a "Satisfaction of Tax Lien" prior to my public hearing.

- (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?

None.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

No.

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

No.

- 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 never been sued by a client. However, according to the Spartanburg County Public Index, I was named as a defendant in the case of Bank of America v. Manfred Volk, et al., 2003-LP-42-06179, 2003-CP-42-01347, & 2003-CP-42-02794, because I was the guardian ad litem for Manfred and Maria Volk's minor children in a Family Court case where both parents were ordered to pay me guardian ad litem fees, which the foreclosure attorney believed was a judgment against the real property being foreclosed upon. It appears those actions were subsequently dismissed. In addition, I may have been named as a party defendant in other cases where I was owed guardian ad litem or attorney's fees and costs from a Family Court case, but I cannot find a record of any other cases.

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

Not Applicable.

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.

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.*

(1) The Honorable Amy W. Cox  
Spartanburg County Clerk of Court  
[Redacted]

(2) The Honorable Brandy W. McBee  
Cherokee County Clerk of Court

[Redacted]

(3) The Honorable James F. Fraley, Jr.  
Family Court Judge, Retired  
[Redacted]

(d) Mrs. Bathsheba Browning  
Family Court Supervisor  
Spartanburg County Courthouse  
[Redacted]

(e) Mr. Robert M. Holland  
Attorney at Law, Retired  
[Redacted]

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

No.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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.

None.

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.

Because I have had family members involved in Family Court litigation, I understand firsthand how every decision I make as a judge affects the lives of the litigants, but most importantly the lives of the children involved in the cases before me. In addition, because I was a Family Court practitioner for twenty-two and one-half years before I became a Family Court judge, I make every effort to be courteous, respectful, and fair to every lawyer and

litigant who appears before me. In short, I believe my almost twenty-eight years of experience as a Family Court lawyer and judge should reflect positively on my candidacy to be reelected as a Family Court 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

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