



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

1. Name: Mr. James Conway Todd IV

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

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: Laurens County

Business Address: The Liberty One Building  
55 Beattie Place, Suite 900  
Greenville, South Carolina, 29601

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home)[Redacted]  
(office): 864-712-9122  
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1986  
Place of Birth: Greenwood, 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.

I never served in the military.

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.

I married Ashley Harris Todd on June 15, 2019. She is a physical therapist.

(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.

I was divorced on February 28, 2018, Eighth Judicial Circuit, South Carolina Family Court, Laurens County. I was the moving party for a no-fault divorce on the ground of one year's continuous separation. No children.

(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.

Ashley and I have two sons, [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) Presbyterian College, August 2005, to May 2009, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science

(b) Charleston School of Law, August 2010, to May 2013, 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) Class Senator in the Student Bar Association, 2010-2011

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

(a) South Carolina, admitted 2013.

(b) I have never taken a bar exam in any other state.

(c) I took the South Carolina Bar Exam once.

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) August 2013- June 2016: Townsend & Thompson, LLP. After passing the South Carolina Bar examination, I joined Thomas J. Thompson's law firm in Laurens after his longtime partner, Richard Townsend, passed away unexpectedly. As an associate attorney, my practice consisted of domestic, civil, real estate, probate, and both state and federal criminal defense cases. I represented numerous clients in a wide range of Family Court cases. I drafted wills and trusts for clients. I closed numerous real estate transactions. I represented clients in both General Sessions and Magistrate Courts. I represented clients in civil actions in both Common Pleas and Magistrate Courts. In time, I gained more responsibilities within the firm, including various administrative tasks and personnel management. I had minimal involvement in the firm's trust accounts as that was left to the managing partner.
- (b) June 2016-September 2018: Eighth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. After a desire to gain more trial experience, I accepted an offer to become an Assistant Solicitor in Laurens County. As an Assistant Solicitor, I handled one of the largest dockets in the State of South Carolina, averaging between 700-900 warrants. I negotiated plea deals with attorneys in the Public Defender's Office and members of the private bar. I tried numerous cases to verdict as sole counsel or co-counsel, including murders, armed robbery, burglary, safecracking, trafficking methamphetamine, and other violent and non-violent crimes. I had no management or trust account responsibilities.
- (c) October 2018 to Present Date: Cordell & Cordell, LLP. Upon fulfilling my desire to gain more trial work experience, I accepted the position of Litigation Attorney in Greenville, South Carolina, with one of the largest family law firms in the nation. Since joining the firm, I have solely practiced family law, representing numerous clients in a wide variety of Family Court cases, including high conflict divorce cases, high conflict custody cases, simple divorces, declarations of paternity, adoptions, name changes, drafting prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and termination of parental rights. As a Litigation Attorney for the firm, I had no administrative or trust account responsibilities. In August 2021, I was promoted to Litigation Manager within the firm. In addition to representing my own clients, I was responsible for managing five (5) South Carolina attorneys relating to their own family law practice. In addition to supervising these attorney's work product, I was responsible for administrative duties including personnel retention, termination, and other internal firm policies. I had no trust account responsibilities in this role. In February 2024, I was promoted to Regional Managing Attorney within the firm. In addition to representing my own clients, I manage and supervise the work product and implement firm policy for all 10 of the firm's South Carolina attorneys. I regularly have case strategy conferences with these attorneys relating to various complex family law and procedural issues that arise in their practice.

In addition to managing all of the firm's South Carolina attorneys, I am one of two direct reports for 42 attorneys, paralegals, and administrative assistants across six (6) states pertaining to internal management and conflict resolution. In my current role I have significant involvement in the management and administrative duties within the firm. I do not have any involvement with the firm's trust accounts.

**Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11–17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.**

11. Please answer the following:
- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court judge within the past five years.

(a) Divorce and Equitable Division of Property

Throughout my years of practicing law, I have been sole counsel in numerous Family Court. I have resolved cases where the parties had short term marriages and others with marriages lasting multiple decades. I have represented clients for decrees of separate support and maintenance, as well as all statutory grounds for divorce. I have been involved in cases where a marriage was determined to be voidable or void.

I have represented clients of different educational, financial, and social backgrounds. I have represented both women and men for divorce. I have used discovery in most of my cases, to include depositions. I have handled cases involving permanent periodic alimony, lump sum alimony, and rehabilitative alimony. I have represented clients seeking an award of alimony and those that were obligated to pay alimony. I have represented clients in international divorce.

Given my large volume of domestic cases, I have had the opportunity to represent clients in complex divorce actions that included dividing multi-million-dollar estates. I have also represented clients with minimal, if any, marital estate value. I have retained and used forensic accountants as experts to determine a marital estate's value, determine the value of a marital business, confirm incomes of the parties, and assist to project past and future stock and pension values for the purpose of division. I have represented clients where issues of special equity and transmutation were alleged. I have identified both marital and non-marital assets and debts for the purpose of division. I have utilized appraisers to value real property,

fair market value, and prospective future value. I have drafted and explained both prenuptial and postnuptial agreements.

(b) Child Custody

I have represented both married and unmarried Mothers and Fathers involving complex and high conflict child custody and visitation cases. I have also represented Mothers and Fathers who needed a formal custody, visitation, and child support agreements. I have represented third parties such as Grandparents, siblings, and others who had legal standing to pursue child custody, visitation, and child support from a biological parent. I have handled both declarations of paternity and non-paternity declarations. I have been involved in countless cases where a guardian ad litem was appointed to serve the best interests of minor children. I have represented clients petitioning or defending a minor child's name change.

I have been a part of cases where Mothers and Fathers had abused drugs and alcohol in the presence of their minor children. I have been involved in cases where claims of sexual and/or physical abuse had been alleged, which required law enforcement and DSS intervention. I have litigated cases where a party was required to follow DSS safety plans and/or other safeguards implemented for the minor child(ren).

I have represented clients that required retaining third parties to assist in issues involving child custody and visitation, to include: therapist, counselors, and doctors. I have been involved in many cases where third-party screenings were necessary, including psychological evaluations, drug treatment programs, anger management counseling, PETH testing, multi panel screenings, "parental alienation evaluations," and co-parenting counseling.

(c) Adoption

I have represented clients as sole counsel or co-counsel in adoption cases. I have been involved in cases where an adoption was initially contested and ones that were done by consent. I have represented clients who desired to terminate another's parental rights and clients whose parental rights were sought to be terminated. I have represented clients and worked with guardian ad litem involving the termination of parental rights. I have been involved in cases terminating a third party's presumed parental rights when a child is born to a third party while still married.

(d) Abuse and Neglect

I have represented clients in private actions who have alleged that their spouse had committed physical or mental abuse toward their minor child. I have also been involved in cases where a parent alleged the other exposed their child to drug or alcohol abuse. I have been involved in private cases where the minor child(ren) were allegedly sexually abused by one of the parents or a third party. I have represented clients where domestic violence has transpired in the presence of their minor children. I have litigated cases where a forensic interview of a minor child(ren) was necessary to determine whether abuse had occurred or not. I have been involved in

cases where one parent or a third party was alleged to have physically abused the minor child(ren). I have represented numerous clients where a Department of Social Services (DSS) safety plan had been issued. I have also been sole counsel or co-counsel on cases where DSS has indicated a parent due to alleged abuse toward their minor child.

(e) Juvenile Justice

As an Assistant Solicitor for almost three (3) years, I prosecuted hundreds of warrants through guilty pleas including: cruelty to children, unlawful neglect, domestic violence, and a wide range of other violent and non-violent offenses. I have tried many cases to verdict, including murders, drug offenses, armed robbery, burglaries, and other violent and non-violent offenses. In private practice, I have defended many adult clients who were charged with a crime. I am well versed in how the criminal justice system works from both the defense and prosecution side. I believe my background is a strong foundation to continue to become more familiar and knowledgeable regarding future DJJ hearings, if elected. In anticipation of this judicial election, I have met with the Eighth Circuit Chief Public Defender, private members of the bar and multiple assistant solicitors to become more familiar with DJJ hearings and procedure. I have participated in an online course with the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense relating to juvenile justice. I plan to observe multiple DJJ hearings and review procedures to become more knowledgeable and prepared for this area of the Family Court system.

(f) During the past five years of my practice, I have maintained no fewer than 40 active Family Court cases as sole counsel. I appear in Family Court on a regular and frequent basis. My weekly appearances vary. In one week, I may appear before a Family Court judge three to four times. In other weeks, I will appear before a Family Court judge once or have no appearances at all for that week. On weeks that I am not before a Family Court judge, I am attending mediations, preparing for Court, or drafting or responding to discovery.

- (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: none.
  - (b) state: I estimate I average around 100 Family Court appearances per year.
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: 5%
  - (b) criminal: 0%
  - (c) domestic: 95%
  - (d) other:0%
14. During the past five years
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? 95%
  - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 5%
  - (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.) 0%
  - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? N/A

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?

I have primarily served as sole counsel in my practice. On occasion, I may serve as co-counsel to assist a younger attorney or colleague within my firm.

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?

N/A

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. Green.

This was a jury trial I prosecuted. The Defendant and his girlfriend lured a high school senior over to their home, where they beat him to death. After murdering the victim, the Defendant drove the victim's body to an isolated area where he burned the remains. The Defendant was charged with murder and desecration of human remains. This was a tragic case and was tried to a verdict, resulting in the Defendant being found guilty on all counts and receiving a sentence of 45 years. The victim in this case was Hispanic, and his family spoke very little English. After the trial, the victim's family was extremely grateful. Despite the language barrier, I felt their sincere gratitude by helping them find closure after such a heinous crime against their son. This case is also important to me due to the procedural motions and appeal that followed. It was revealed that a bailiff had made questionable remarks to a member of the jury during their deliberation, prompting a motion for a mistrial. After hearing arguments from the State and defense, the motion was denied. This case was later appealed and was eventually granted a writ of certiorari by the South Carolina Supreme Court, which affirmed the trial court's decision to deny a mistrial.

(b) State v. Bowers.

This involved the cold case murder of a well-known elderly man in Laurens who had been a staple in the community, and volunteered at the Laurens V.F.W. at the time of his murder. The local fair was in town, and it was believed that a member of the traveling fair was the culprit. Early investigations did not uncover enough evidence to officially make an arrest. Years later, I was serving as an Assistant Solicitor and the Solicitor stated he had reopened the investigation as new evidence had been discovered. That evidence would lead to the arrest of the Defendant. The case was tried over four (4) days and resulted in guilty verdicts for murder, armed robbery, and conspiracy. I felt immense pride and relief by helping the victim's family members receive some closure after waiting 14 long years for justice. I was also proud to help resolve one of Laurens County's most storied murders.

(c) Burns v. Burns. This case was significant because it was a high conflict divorce which had complex fact patterns in almost every issue of the case. There were allegations of domestic violence, child abuse, adultery, secreting marital funds, and determining the value of a convoluted high net worth marital estate. The case involved contempt actions, motions to compel, motions for temporary relief, and extensive discovery. The case required retaining multiple third parties to value a multimillion-dollar business, determine party incomes, address "parental alienation" allegations, and implement co-parenting counseling.

(d) Wallace v. Wallace. This case involved a married couple with two (2) minor children under the age of five (5). It began after my client filed an Emergency Motion for Temporary Relief. His wife overdosed on heroin in the presence of their two minor children while father was at work. At the hearing, my client was given temporary custody with limited supervised visitation to mother. A guardian ad litem was appointed to complete an expedited investigation. On one of mother's supervised visits, she showed up under the



influence of illegal drugs which resulted in her visitation being suspended. The mother was ordered to complete a phase in program to allow her additional time with the children; she refused to participate. Ultimately, my client was granted a divorce on the fault-based ground of habitual drug use. My client received sole custody of the minor children on a final basis. Three years later, my client now remarried, returned to my office again for help. The mother of their children continued to have crippling addiction issues, and was constantly causing issues with their children's daily lives. In this new case, I filed to terminate mother's parental rights, and have client's new wife, a teacher, adopt client's children. After litigating the case and dealing with the biological mother's antics throughout, the Court terminated biological mother's parental rights and allowed for the adoption to take place. This case was very important to me because of the dire situation my client and the minor children initially faced. It gave me great satisfaction to know I helped protect these two sweet and innocent children in what could have become a deadly set of facts. I witnessed firsthand the love and support my client and his new wife gave their children and how much of an impact these cases made on the children's life and future. They now operate as a blended but nuclear family. This case is a constant reminder to me of the importance the Family Court.

(e) State v. Harbuck. This was a jury trial and resulted in the Defendant being found guilty on charges of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, failure to stop for blue lights, and resisting arrest. This case was impactful to me as it was my first General Sessions jury trial. The Defendant was from out of state and in a fit of road rage, began driving erratically at high rates of speed on I-385, putting innocent lives in danger. After a State Trooper was able to make a traffic stop, the Defendant began ramming the Trooper's vehicle, pushing him into oncoming traffic. Fortunately, traffic had yielded at this point which prevented this from becoming a potentially fatal incident. This trial helped build confidence in my abilities and confirmed my passion for the law.

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

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) None

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 never held judicial office.

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

20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.

(a) South Carolina, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

(b) United States District Court for the State of South Carolina, 2013 present

(b) United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2014 to present

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 led internal firm family law lectures and a podcast to other attorneys within our firm relating to current family law matters.

(b) I have not lectured or taught at any other bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs.

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

Attached.

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

N/A

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

Please see attached documents.

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.

(a) Super Lawyers, Rising Star (South Carolina). Included in the area of family law in 2022, 2023, and 2024

(b) Greenville Business Magazine. Included in the Legal Elite edition in the area of family law in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

- (c) Greenville TALK Magazine. Included in the Top Lawyer edition in the practice of family law in 2024.
- (d) AVVO. Rating of 8.4, or, Excellent in the practice of family law.
- (e) I have never paid for any rating or award service.

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) Laurens County Bar Association, President (2018-present)
  - (b) Greenville County Bar Association, member
  - (c) South Carolina Bar Association, member
  - (d) South Carolina Bar Family Court Section, member
  - (e) South Carolina Bar Judicial Qualification's Committee, past member

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

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.

Since beginning law school in 2010, I have not held any non-legal job. Prior to entering law school, I worked various summer jobs, including: a member of the maintenance team for a local retirement community, various retail positions, a law firm courier, and a clerk at a local bank.

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 one of three members of TD Rentals, LLC. The LLC's other two members are my brother and a close friend. I am the registered agent for the LLC. The LLC was set up to own and manage a rental house that the three members purchased. The duties are minimal and pertain to locating tenants, signing lease agreements, and maintaining a checking account for the LLC.

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?
- (a) \$94.55, three (3) name badges, July 23, 2024;
  - (b) \$98.00, postage, August 8, 2024;
  - (c) I have mailed a letter reporting my expenditures to date to the House and Senate Ethics Committees, attached hereto as an Exhibit.

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.

I am not aware of any financial arrangements I have, or have had, in the past that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest if elected to serve as a Family Court judge. In the off chance that a potential conflict should arise, I would handle the same by referring to the Judicial Canons regarding recusal. I am a Regional Managing Attorney with Cordell Law, LLP. If elected, I would recuse myself from hearing cases involving attorneys from this firm for years.

I am the board chairman for the Laurens Education Assistance for District No. 55 (LEAD) entity. This is a holding entity for funds used for the school district's facilities. If elected, I would resign from my position on the board.

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.

No, not to my knowledge.

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.

Since I began practicing law, I have always maintained malpractice insurance without interruption. I have not been covered by a tail policy, to my knowledge. My current policy is supplied by my law firm and has been maintained since I began working at the firm.

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 requested anyone to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released. I have mailed out a letter of introduction to members of the General Assembly, but excluded any member that serves on the Judicial Merit Selection Committee. I have attended local delegation meetings for the sole purpose of introducing myself. I plan to introduce myself to members of the General Assembly as a candidate during the upcoming legislative session. I have reviewed the rules relating to the election procedure provided by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission together with corresponding memorandums and other information regarding the same.

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) John Hoefler, Esquire
- (b) Joseph W. McGowan III, Esquire
- (c) Mike McCracken
- (d) Brian Barnwell, Esquire
- (e) Tara Dean

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

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

I have a LinkedIn account listed as [Redacted]. I have minimal activity on this site.

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 elected, I would make my LinkedIn account private, if possible, or deactivate my account. I would not post public messages to social media if elected for many reasons, to include: unknowingly creating a conflict, appearance of bias, or allowing a medium for a litigant or counsel to attempt to make improper contact with me.

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) Laurens Education Assistance for District No. 55 (LEAD), board chairman
- (b) The Laurens County Landmarks Foundation, board member
- (c) Laurens County Museum, member
- (d) Main Street Laurens, past board member
- (e) Laurens County Trails Association, past board member
- (f) Trillium Links and Lake Club, legacy member
- (g) Poinsett Club, member
- (h) 2019 Rookie of the Year Award, law firm's top internal award for a first-year attorney
- (i) 2020 Excellence Award, law firm's top internal award for internal practice metrics

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.

Born and raised in the City of Laurens, my upbringing instilled in me core values, which have influenced my approach to life and the law. From a young age, my parents, who were pillars of support and love, taught me the fundamental principle of treating everyone equally, regardless of their background, circumstances, or possessions. This principle has been the cornerstone of my personal and professional life.

Throughout my life, I have always had a strong work ethic. My first job, at the age of 14, was with the maintenance crew for a local retirement community. Through various jobs and experiences, I have had the privilege of working with individuals from diverse backgrounds. I have gained invaluable insights into the challenges and aspirations which shape our community. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the importance of empathy, fairness, and understanding in all interactions. These are the qualities I intend to bring to the judiciary.

Beyond my professional endeavors, I am deeply committed to serving my community. I am an active member of Laurens First Presbyterian Church. I participate in various community boards, where I collaborate with fellow community members to address local issues and promote positive change. These experiences have taught me the importance of listening and making decisions. These characteristics have also helped shape my legal philosophy. I have always tried my best to consider all opinions, backgrounds, and circumstances when making decisions in my practice. I believe the same attention to detail will help me become a successful member of the Family Court judiciary.

I have always made it a point to be kind and courteous to others. I believe there is a way to be firm without being disrespectful or humiliating someone. If elected, I would bring with me a profound respect for the rule of law, and a dedication to upholding justice with integrity and impartiality.

My small-town roots have grounded me in a deep appreciation and understanding for diverse perspectives and backgrounds faced as a judge. I will remain committed to applying these principles to foster a courtroom environment where fairness, compassion, and respect prevail.

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: \_\_\_\_\_