



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Judge of the Family Court, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 1.

1. Name: Mr. Edwin Thompson Kinney

Name that you are known by if different from above
Thompson Kinney

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
No

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland

Business Address: 17 E. Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):
(office): 803-748-1344
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1986
Place of Birth: Sumter, SC
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina?

Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years?

Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [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:

Married on November 9, 2013 to Ashley Stover Kinney; Physician Assistant.
Never divorced, two 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) Wofford College; August 2005-May 2009; Bachelor of Arts with a major in Government and minor in Economics.

(b) Charleston School of Law; August 2010-May 2013; Juris Doctorate.

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) Legal Writing Fellow; 2011-2012.

(b) MUSC Presidential Scholar; 2012-2013.

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.

South Carolina; admitted to practice on November 18, 2013; I took the South Carolina bar exam one time and have never taken the bar exam 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.

From August of 2013 until June of 2020, I was an associate attorney with Mullikin Law Firm in Camden, SC. I assisted the other attorneys in the firm in the areas of governmental affairs, policy, regulatory practice, and public affairs. While working in the firm's main practice areas, I was given the freedom to pursue new practice areas. In 2014, I began practicing in family law, first by accepting cases from South Carolina Legal Services and then developing a private practice in family law. In 2015, I began accepting criminal defense appointments in Sumter County as part of the SC Commission on Indigent Defense's 608 contract program. I continued this work and added other counties, including Kershaw and

Clarendon counties. In 2016, I began serving as an Assistant Public Defender in Lee County on a contract basis. In 2018, I added Family Court contracts with the 608 contract program in Sumter and Clarendon counties.

In June of 2020, I decided that I wanted to focus on the practice areas that I had built at Mullikin Law Firm. I decided that my hometown of Sumter was the best place to open my firm. My law practice had grown in Sumter and the Third Judicial Circuit because of the various contract work and my personal connections in that community.

Since July of 2020, I have owned and operated Kinney Law Firm in Sumter, SC. I am the only attorney, and I have one fulltime staff member, who started with me part time in November of 2022 and began working fulltime in July of 2023. I am solely responsible for all administrative and financial aspects of the firm, including managing the firm's trust account.

My main area of practice is family law. I represent clients in all areas of family law, including divorce, child custody, adoption, and others in Sumter and the surrounding counties. Also, I frequently serve as guardian ad litem in private custody cases and typically have around 10-20 active guardian cases at any time. I am a certified Family Court mediator and have developed a mediation practice, primarily in Sumter County.

Starting in December of 2023, I have served as a parttime Assistant Solicitor in the Third Judicial Circuit. My primary responsibility is to prosecute juveniles in Sumter County. I solely manage the juvenile docket and handle all juvenile cases in the county. In addition to my role with juveniles, I assist the South Carolina Highway Patrol in prosecuting DUI cases in the Third Judicial Circuit. I attend pre-trial conferences in the four counties in the circuit and assist the Troopers in negotiating with counsel and trying the cases if necessary.

Starting in February of 2022, I have served as the City Prosecutor for the City of Forest Acres. In this parttime role, I manage the jury trial docket in Municipal Court and conduct jury trials (three to four times a year). I work closely with the City Attorney and the Clerk of Court and provide guidance and advice to the Forest Acres Police Department.

My other practice area is related to guardian and conservatorship cases in Probate Court. I frequently represent clients who are petitioning the Court to be appointed as guardian and conservator. I am frequently appointed by the Probate Courts in Sumter and Richland to serve as counsel or guardian ad litem for the Alleged Incapacitated Individuals in these cases.

When I opened my firm in July of 2020, I continued the criminal defense contract work from my previous firm. I continued to serve as a part-time public defender for Lee County through 2022. At that time, I voluntarily stepped down to focus more of my time on my private family court work. I continued to participate in the 608 criminal and family contract program until the end of 2023. I voluntarily stepped down to take the position of juvenile prosecutor in Sumter County.

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.

I have appeared in Family Court multiple times a week for at least the past five years.

I have represented clients in divorce cases where equitable division of property was a major issue. I have represented clients from a wide range of backgrounds, from indigent clients who had only debts to divide, to high income individuals who had substantial assets. In addition to my experience in private practice, I have mediated numerous cases where equitable distribution was a major issue.

I have extensive experience with child custody issues. I have represented many clients, both mothers and fathers, who faced uncertainty about their children. I have always found fulfillment is helping clients craft custody agreements and parenting plans that help bring peace and stability to their families and allow them to create a co-parenting relationship. Also, I have litigated child custody issues at temporary and final hearings.

I have frequently served as guardian ad litem in private custody cases. These have ranged from relatively straightforward cases where parents are seeking to establish an initial custody order and parenting plan, to complex cases that involve relocation of a parent across the country or world. I have traveled out of state and to various parts of South Carolina for home visits. I have had complex cases that involve mental health issues for parents and children where I have had to interact with various mental health professionals.

I have dealt with custody issues in most of the mediations I have conducted. I have found that mediation can be particularly effective in helping parents develop parenting plans.

I have represented clients in adoption cases, including private infant adoptions, stepparent adoptions, and DSS adoptions. I have had the pleasure of helping a family coordinate a privately arranged adoption, filing the pleadings when the child was born and arranging for the birth mother to give the required consent. One of the highlights of my legal career was participating in Sumter County Adoption Day in 2021 and 2022. In 2022, I had three adoptions on Adoption Day and was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and happiness for all those involved. I have served as guardian ad litem on many adoption cases.

I was a 608 contract attorney for Sumter and Clarendon counties from 2018 to 2023. I was appointed to represent defendants in abuse and neglect cases brought by DSS. In this role, I most often represented clients in negotiating agreements with the department, including treatment plans to work towards reunification with their children. Also, I had many contested trials, including several contested termination of parental rights cases. I occasionally was appointed to represent vulnerable adults who were taken into DSS custody. From 2018-2023, I appeared in Family Court at least two to four days per month for DSS cases, and I often had several cases per day.

I have served as an Assistant Solicitor for Family Court since December of 2023, and presently serve in this role. I prosecute all juvenile cases in Sumter County. I am responsible for reviewing all juvenile petitions prepared by law enforcement in the county and deciding whether to prosecute, dismiss, or refer to a diversion program. Once a decision to prosecute is made, I file the petition in Family Court and prosecute the case. I create and manage the juvenile docket, working closely with the Family Court staff to schedule cases. On a routine juvenile docket (typically every other Thursday), I represent the State on adjudicatory and dispositional hearings. When law enforcement detains a juvenile, I am responsible for determining whether to pursue further detention of the youth. If we do seek to detain beyond the initial 48 hours, I am responsible for coordinating a detention hearing within the statutory parameters. Also, I am responsible for handling waiver hearings where the State seeks to prosecute a juvenile as an adult.

Prior to serving as juvenile prosecutor, I was appointed to represent juveniles in criminal cases in Sumter, Clarendon, Lee, and Kershaw counties. In this role, I represented numerous juveniles in adjudicatory hearings, dispositional hearings, and detention hearings.

- (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.

N/A

- (c) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years, and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court judge within the past five years.

N/A

- (d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years.

N/A

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: 0%
(b) state: 100%

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: 0%
(b) criminal: 30%
(c) domestic: 60%
(d) other: Probate 10%

14. During the past five years

- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?

90%

- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict?

10% A large majority of my cases in Family Court end up being settled.

(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.)

1%

(d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements?

None

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) State v. Kelvin Wilson, 2018-GS-31-0055.

This was a criminal sexual conduct case where I represented the Defendant in my role as a public defender in Lee County. This case involved pre-trial motions and a pre-trial issue of obtaining records from a child advocacy center. This case was tried before a jury and the State called a blind expert to testify about the dynamics of child abuse. The jury returned a not guilty verdict. This case significant because it was a complex case that allowed me to get experience in dealing with expert witnesses.

(b) State v. Yahchanan Christopher Reames, 2017-GS-31-139

This was a criminal case where I represented the Defendant in my role as a public defender in Lee County. The Defendant was charged with attempted murder and other offenses and was accused of firing a weapon at two police officers. He was previously found not competent to stand trial and was committed to the Department of Mental Health. A couple of years later, the Department declared that he had been restored and the State proceeded with his prosecution.

I represented the Defendant in a contested competency hearing pursuant to State v. Blair. I petitioned the Court for funding and hired three separate experts, a psychiatrist and two psychologists, to present a case that the Defendant was not competent to stand trial. The State presented multiple witnesses from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of

Disabilities and Special Needs. Ultimately, the Court ruled that the Defendant was competent to stand trial. I then negotiated a plea agreement that allowed my client to receive credit for the significant amount of time he had served.

This case was significant because it required me to advocate for an unpopular client when the entire law enforcement community in the county showed up to support the State. It also gave me the opportunity to work with a nationally recognized forensic psychiatrist who examined and testified on behalf of my client.

(c) SCDSS v. P.R., 2021-DR-43-1042.

I was appointed to represent the Defendant/Father in this termination of parental rights case. This case was significant because of the challenges that were associated with defending this client, that he was illiterate and did not speak English. He and his co-defendants spoke Quiché, a Mayan language that required an interpreter from Washington state to appear via Webex.

This case took three days and was very taxing on all the participants. The hearing had complex evidentiary issues and DSS called multiple expert witnesses. This case was also significant because it taught many valuable lessons on patience and on judicial temperament. The presiding Judge exhibited incredible patience and fairness and left a lasting impact on me.

(d) SCDSS v. K.K., 2019-DR-14-50.

In this case, I represented foster parents who intervened in a DSS case in Clarendon County. My clients had bonded with their foster child and were afraid that DSS may move the child. The intervention was granted, and the child was ordered to stay with my clients while the case was pending. After intervening, I was able to participate in the TPR trial with DSS and the other parties. After a trial, the biological parents' rights were terminated and the child was free to be adopted. After the DSS case concluded, I represented these same clients in the adoption of the child.

This case was significant because it taught me to sometime to advocate for your client, you have to be bold and willing to step out and go against DSS. While I had a good relationship with DSS in this county, I had to take action because my clients feared that the child would be harmed by moving her to another placement.

(e) Cheek v. Cheek, 2022-DR-43-441.

I was the guardian ad litem in this custody modification case. While the legal issues were not particularly complex, the case was unique in that it involved a modification of custody where the children's wishes were to move from Texas back to South Carolina. I traveled to Texas and felt that I became the "eyes and ears" of the Court, in that I was able to personally assess many of the claims of each party. This case was particularly significant because it gave me insight on how to assess the preferences of children, especially teenagers, in the

context of the other child custody factors. Also, it made me appreciate the value of a guardian ad litem investigating issues in person versus just relying on phone calls, zoom meeting, or other collateral materials. This case settled on the first day of trial.

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.

I have not handled any civil appeals.

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) State v. Locklear, 2016-UP-313, (S.C. Ct. App. Jun. 22, 2016).

I handled this case pro bono as part of the appellate project, where I was assigned a case to from appellate defense.

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

N/A

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also, list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

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, 2013.

(b) US District Court for the District of South Carolina, November 22, 2016.

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.

N/A

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.

I have not published any articles or books.

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.

N/A

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

(a) Sumter County Bar Association, 2014-Present.

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

No

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

N/A

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

No

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

I worked a variety of political and policy jobs in the summers during college and for a few months after I graduated from college. I made the decision to leave that area behind and started law school in August of 2010. I have never had any professional occupation not related to law.

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

I am the owner and sole member of Kinney Law Firm, 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.)

See Attached

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) August 6, 2024- Postage \$2.07

b) August 21, 2024- Postage \$1.92

c) August 21, 2025- Sumter Sheriff's Office for Fingerprints-\$15

d) August 21, 2024- Postage \$1.77

Total: \$20.76

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;

None

- (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

None

- (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;

None

- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and

None

- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

None

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

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

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.

Yes, I have carried malpractice insurance for my law firm since I opened in July of 2020. Prior to that, I was covered by my previous employer's malpractice policy. For my firm, I have had malpractice insurance through Attorney Protective since I opened. I am not aware of ever being covered by a tail policy. I currently have a \$1,000,000 policy with a \$2,500 deductible with Attorney Protective.

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.*

- (a) Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
Bryan Law Firm
[Redacted]
- (b) Edgar R. Donald, Jr.
Third Circuit Public Defender
[Redacted]
- (c) Garryl L. Deas
The Deas Law Firm
[Redacted]
- (d) Ryan A. McLeod
McDougall, Self, Currence & McLeod, LLP
[Redacted]
- (e) Calvin K. Hastie, Sr.
Hastie Law Firm
[Redacted]

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.

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

Yes, I have various social media accounts but rarely post any content.

I have a Facebook account [Redacted]. I have a Facebook account for my law firm [Redacted] that I manage.

I have an Instagram account [Redacted]. I have a twitter account [Redacted]. I have not tweeted since 2013.

I have a snapchat account [Redacted] and only use it to follow a private family group with my siblings.

I have a LinkedIn account, but I am not active.

If I am elected to the bench, I would curtail my social media use and ensure that my social media use complied with the Judicial Canons. I very rarely post anything and mainly use it to keep up with friends and family, see pictures, and keep up with birthdays. I have all of these on a private setting.

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) Church of the Apostles, Columbia

I am very active in my church. I currently serve on the Vestry (the governing body of the church) and has served in this role since February of 2023. I serve on the Finance Committee, and I am the parish Chancellor (the parish's lawyer). I am the head of the Ushers Committee and serve as a children's church volunteer.

(b) Spring Valley Country Club

I have been a non-equity member since July of 2023, and I am not involved in any leadership. I play golf and my family uses the pool.

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.

I am currently a resident of Richland County, but I commute daily to my office in Sumter. Sumter is my hometown and where I chose to open my law firm. My connections there are deep, and my wife and I have been considering a move back to our hometown for some time. My father still lives there, and I have many other family members there as well. If I am elected, we will move to Sumter, and I will meet the statutory requirements to reside in the Third Judicial Circuit before assuming the office of Family Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit.

When I first became a lawyer, someone told me that Family Court is “where the action is” and where a young lawyer could get in the courtroom. This turned out to be true and I have been fulfilled by representing clients and helping people in Family Court. I have been blessed to practice in every major area of family law, including having significant experience with DSS cases and Juvenile cases. It is professionally and personally fulfilling to positively change the direction of a child’s life, and those opportunities are available in Family Court. Also, it has been fulfilling to provide guidance and counsel to clients in Family Court who are often facing one of the most trying times of their lives. I believe my experience in all these areas of Family Court equip me to serve as an effective Judge on day one.

I believe I have the temperament to serve as a Family Court Judge. I have always tried to live by what God tells us is required of us in Micah 6:8, “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” As a member of the legal profession, I believe these words are particularly poignant and should be our north star. As a Judge, I would continue strive to seek to do justice by fairly applying the law fairly to all; to be kind to all litigants, court staff, and attorneys; and to be humble as public servant.

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: _____