



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

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

1. Name: The Honorable Ernest Joseph Jarrett

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

Ernie Jarrett or Ernest J. Jarrett or E

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

Yes- Family Court Judge

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Williamsburg

Business Address: Post Office Drawer 422
Kingstree, South Carolina, 29556

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843) 355-3600
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1967
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#: South Carolina DL [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.
- (b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.
- (c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).
- (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.
- (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.

Family Status: Married on October 12, 1996, to Josette Tisdale Jarrett, Director of Children and Youth and Financial Secretary, Kingstree United Methodist Church.
Never divorced, three 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: 1985 - 1989
Bachelor of Arts: English and Government
- (b) University of South Carolina School of Law: 1989 - 1992
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) Moot Court (1990-1992), Chief Justice (1991-1992), Member of the Craven Team (1992)
- (b) Palmetto Law Society (1989-1992)

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 November 18, 1992 Bar Exam-One time
- (b) N/A

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.

In August of 1992, I returned home to Kingstree following graduation from law school and completion of “Bridge the Gap” as an associate attorney for Jenkinson, Jenkinson & McFadden, PA, working for W. E Jenkinson, III, Gordon B. Jenkinson and Helen T. McFadden. I continued to practice law in this same firm until taking the bench in January of 2021. Jennifer R. Kellahan joined the firm as an associate in 1995. I became a partner in 1996 and the name of the firm was changed to Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA, in 1998. I served as the Managing Partner from 2000 to 2020 and was responsible for overseeing all finances and administrative areas of the firm including the regular trust account, operating account, and the partnership account. I reviewed all deposits and checks written on a daily basis and made sure all of our accounts were in order. (Jennifer R. Kellahan managed the Real Estate Trust Account). I oversaw our associate attorneys, our office manager, the receptionist, the runners, and my paralegals. The other paralegals reported directly to their respective attorneys. I led the weekly office staff meetings to discuss office procedures and any issues. If there was ever a personnel problem, I worked with the office manager to resolve the issue.

As an associate attorney, I worked for all attorneys and did mostly civil litigation (Family, Magistrate, and Common Pleas) as well as real estate and probate work. I completed all research for the firm and wrote briefs and supporting memoranda to use in court. I was drawn to family court cases and as the years progressed, I concentrated more on these types of cases. In 1993, I contracted with the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program and served as its attorney in Williamsburg County until 1995, when I then contracted with the South Carolina Department of Social Services. I served as a DSS contract attorney in one or more counties from 1995 until taking the bench in January of 2021. I was also the attorney for the Town of Kingstree from 1994 until 2020. For the last twenty (20) years of my practice, I practiced almost exclusively in Family Court.

Since January 1, 2021, I have served as a Family Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit. I served as Chief Administrative Judge for the Third Circuit Family Court for eighteen (18) months (July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023) and currently serve as Chief Administrative Judge for Berkeley 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.
 - (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. January 4, 2021, until Present, Family Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, elected by General Assembly in February, 2020.

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) 2021-DR-43-01042 SCDSS vs. Geronima Castro Gutierrez, Pablo Alonzo, Ramos, Cruz Castro, Carolina Paguada, Jairo Paguada, and Pedro Quixan Gomez

This tragic case involved the rape resulting in pregnancy of an eleven (11) year old little girl by her uncle who resided in the home. I actually placed the child in foster care and retained jurisdiction to hear all eleven (11) of the hearings involving the child, including, her Judicial By-pass hearing. This is the first TPR filed under the same case number after the statute was amended to allow this procedure. The TPR was held October 26, 2023, November 2, 2023, and November 21, 2023, in which I terminated the parent's parental rights to free the child for adoption by her foster parents. All hearings had to be held with a virtual K'iche interpreter which further complicated the case. I had to order DSS to pay for and use this interpreter (from the State of Washington) for all treatment services.

- (b) 2022-DR-31-00096 SCDSS vs. Kimberly N. Amerson and Wayne Reiser

This contested TPR involved two minor children and the father was very difficult and had been involved in criminal domestic violence and other criminal acts during the case. The TPR trial was held on June 13, 2023, and my Order was appealed. The South Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed my ruling on July 18, 2024, in an unpublished Opinion No. 2024-UP-268.

- (c) 2020-DR-43-00342 Paul A. Evangelisti vs. Sarah H. Evangelisti

This was a change in custody action which was tried with three very reputable attorneys on January 9 - 10, 2023. The parties could not agree on anything so I had to make detailed factual findings on each incident in my twenty-four (24) page Order.

- (d) 2020-DR-10-02215 Terri Sciarro vs. Matthew Sciarro

This was a four (4) day change of circumstances case tried February 22 – 25, 2022, in Charleston County. It was highly contested and I had to make specific findings on the five (5) specific allegations of a change as well as the thirteen (13) other unpled allegations. This Ruling was appealed and was affirmed by the Court of Appeals by Unpublished Opinion No. 2023-UP-355 on November 1, 2023.

- (e) 2022-DR-43-00119 J'asha Baker vs. Corey Baker

This initial custody/divorce action was tried on October 24 -25, 2023, and November 9, 2023, and the Defendant was a Pro Se Sovereign Citizen. There were six (6) other hearings

leading up to the merits hearing and I handled four (4) of those hearings. Due to the Defendant being a Pro Se Sovereign Citizen, each hearing had to be handled delicately, slowly, and carefully. I spent numerous hours revising and finalizing my twenty-nine (29) page Final Order. This case is currently under appeal but there has been no ruling at this time.

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 22, 1992
 - (b) United States District Court – South Carolina - January 25, 1993

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 was an Adjunct Professor at Limestone College and taught Business Law (1997-2000).
 - (b) I was the Co-Course Planner on “Children’s Issues in the Family Court” (March 20, 2009).
 - (c) I was a Speaker on “Constitution and the Bill of Rights” at Williamsburg Technical College (September 16, 2009).
 - (d) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Dollars and Sense in Family Court” (October 6-8, 2011) at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC.
 - (e) I was a Speaker at “Hot Tips” on “Form 4 – What Now?” (September 28, 2012).
 - (f) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Fast Pass to the Child Custody Roller Coaster” (October 23-25, 2013) at The Yacht and Beach Club at Disney Resort in Orlando, FL.
 - (g) I was a Speaker at “Family Law Essentials” on “Equitable Division of Marital Assets” (June 27, 2014).
 - (h) I was a Speaker at “Family Law Essentials” on “Orders of Protection” (June 26, 2015).
 - (i) I was the Co-Course Planner for “Family Law Inside and Out” (October 20-22, 2016) at The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA.
 - (j) I was a Speaker on “Child Hearsay in Family Court” at the Fifteenth Circuit Family Court CLE (February 13, 2017).
 - (k) I was a Speaker on “Preparing Court Information Sheets” at Florence DSS (February 14, 2017).
 - (l) I was a Speaker on “Preparing Court Information Sheets” at Georgetown DSS (February 16, 2017).
 - (m) I was a Speaker at the South Carolina Association for Justice Annual Convention “Impressions from the Bench” (August 5, 2021).
 - (n) I was a Speaker at Family Law Essentials “DSS and Juvenile Delinquency Matters” and Mock Contempt Hearing” (August 20, 2021).

- (o) I was a Speaker at Family Law Essentials “DSS and Juvenile Delinquency Matters” and the Mock Contempt Hearing (August 26, 2022).
- (p) I was a Speaker at the Guardian ad Litem Training Judges’ Panel “Help Us Help You Help the Children” (January 27, 2023).
- (q) I was a Speaker at the Horry County Family Court Continuing Legal Education Seminar “Hearsay of a Child” (February 10, 2023).
- (r) I was a Speaker at Family Law Essential “DSS and Juvenile Delinquency Matters” and the Mock Contempt Hearing (August 25, 2023).
- (s) I was the team captain for the Family Court Hollywood Squares at the South Carolina Bar Convention (January 19, 2024).
- (t) I was a Speaker at the Clarendon County Candlelight Vigil in Honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month (April 16, 2024).
- (u) I was the keynote Speaker at the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Dense “Family Time Viewed from the Bench” (June 14, 2024).
- (v) I was a Speaker at the South Carolina Association for Justice “What Great Lawyers Do Best” (August 1, 2024).
- (w) I am scheduled to speak at Family Law Essentials “DSS and Juvenile Delinquency Matters” and the Mock Contempt Hearing (August 23, 2024).

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

Please see Attachment #1.

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

- (a) South Carolina Family Lawyer’s Toolkit, Second Edition (SC Bar 2010), Contributing Author
- (b) South Carolina Family Lawyer’s Toolkit, Third Edition (SC Bar 2017), Contributing Author

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

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization; such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who’s Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

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) Williamsburg County Bar Association 1992 – 2020
Secretary/Treasurer 1992 - 1996
- (b) Georgetown County Bar Association 2001 – 2020
- (c) South Carolina Association for Justice 1993 – 2020
- (d) Family Law Section Council of the South Carolina Bar 2008 – 2020
Family Law Intensive Co-planner 2009 - 2020
Chairperson-Elect 2017 – 2018
Chairperson 2018 - 2019
- (e) Supreme Court Commission on Docketing, Family Court Committee
2017 – 2020
- (f) South Carolina Family Court Bench-Bar Committee 2015 - Present
Nominating Committee 2017
Chairperson 2024 - Present
- (g) South Carolina Bar Resolution of Fee Disputes Board 2014 - 2020
- (h) Office of the Disciplinary Counsel – Attorney to Assist 2005 - 2014
- (i) SC Bar Young Lawyer Division – 3rd Circuit Representative 1994 – 2002
- (j) SC Bar Judicial Qualification Committee 2003 - 2006

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.

Williamsburg County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Appointed by the Governor and Confirmed by the Senate March 15, 2010, to December 31, 2020.

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, Family Court Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Seat 1 in 2017.

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.

No, other than part time jobs in high school and college.

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

No

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

No

33. Provide, as a separate attachment, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

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

Please see Attachment #2

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?

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.

I have made no personal contributions as I was prohibited from making political contributions due to the position I held as a member of the Williamsburg County Voter Registration and Election Commission and currently prohibited from making political contributions as a Family Court Judge.

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.

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.

Please see Attachment #3

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.

None

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.

Yes. Dr. Blake Moore, a former client, sued me Pro Se in federal court in 2009 along with W. E. Jenkinson, III and almost every DSS worker that worked on his case that involved his children for wrongful death of his wife and other causes of action. I did not handle the DSS case as I informed DSS that I had a conflict of interest the day the minor children were removed from his care. His parental rights to the children were terminated and the children ended up eventually being adopted. Mr. Jenkinson and I were granted Summary Judgement in that case in 2010.

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

N/A

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been cautioned with or without a finding of misconduct, sanctioned, or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanctions, disciplines, letters of caution, or findings of misconduct of any kind. Private or confidential dispositions will be redacted.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened, or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

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) Katherine H. Crimm
[Redacted]
- (b) Mary Jo G. Burgess
[Redacted]
- (c) Jennifer R. Kellahan, Esquire

Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, PA
[Redacted]

- (d) Scott Williamson, President
Bank of Greeleyville
[Redacted])
- (e) M. Evan Powell, Head of School
All Saints' Episcopal Day School
[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?

I am active on Facebook and often post family pictures. I also have a Twitter account, although I have never "tweeted" anything. I also have Instagram and TikTok for viewing but do not post on these accounts. I do not comment or post about politics or get involved in any social media drama. I try to use Facebook in a positive way to congratulate friends on births, marriages, new homes, promotions, etc. I try to wish others Happy Birthday and enjoy reading my posts on my birthday.

As a family court judge, I have curtailed my Facebook usage and made my profile "private" to protect my family. I do not "post" on other forms of social media.

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) Williamsburg Academy Governing Board 2001 – 2018
Chairman 2003 – 2018

(b) Kingstree Rotary 2000 – Present
Paul Harris Fellow
Past President 2009 - 2010
Projects Chair 2014 – 2018
President–Elect 2017 – 2018
President- 2018 - 2019
Treasurer- 2020 - Present

(c) Williamsburg County First Steps Board 2011 – 2018

Personnel Committee 2012 - 2018
Vice- Chairman 2014 - 2018

- (d) Kingstree United Methodist Church Member Birth – Present
 - Council on Ministries (became Church Council) 1994 – 2002
 - Chairman of Council on Ministries 1997 – 2000
 - Long-Range Planning Committee 1996 - 1999
 - Church Council 2002 – Present
 - Chairman 2016 - Present
 - Committee on Lay Leadership 2001 - 2004
 - Trustees 2002 - 2005; 2015 - 2018
 - Vice-Chair 2005
 - Sunday School Teacher (3rd – 6th grade) 2008 – 2020
 - Youth Leader Assistant 1997 – Present
 - Bible School Leader 1993 – Present
 - Mission Trip Chaperone 1997 - 2018
- (e) South Carolina Independent School Association Executive Committee
2010 – 2021
- (f) South Carolina Independent School Association Athletic Committee 2022 - Present
- (g) Tri-County Regional Development Board 2012 – 2016

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 can remember attending a church conference one weekend where we had to write a personal life mission statement as one of our exercises. I do not remember the exact wording of my mission statement, but I remember it being something to the effect of “serving others by helping them through difficult times.” I devoted my life to serving others professionally by representing them during some of the most trying and difficult times in their lives. I enjoy serving others outside the legal profession as well. I have participated in eighteen mission trips through Kingstree Community Youth, the youth group sponsored by my church, Kingstree United Methodist Church. These mission trips have taken me all over the south east and we go into the community, stay in a local school, and serve the residents during the week by repairing homes, painting, and helping to rebuild their lives. My service as a Family Court Judge has allowed me to further my life of service to others. I have patterned my career to position me to have the professional, academic and ethical traits along with the proper temperament to do this job well. I deeply care about children’s issues as reflected by my professional work with the Department of Social Services and by my volunteer work with children and youth at Williamsburg Academy and my church. I want to see children thrive and grow up in a healthy and safe environment. I always want what is best for them. I try to be fair, impartial and treat each person that comes before the Family

Court with dignity and respect. I realize that this is a very trying time in the lives of litigants and a family court judge usually sees the worst side of people and relationships. However, I think I have had a positive impact on the lives of these litigants and especially the lives of children who are involved in family court proceedings.

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: _____
Ernest J. Jarrett

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

(Notary Signature)

Dana W. Lewis
(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 07/23/2030