

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



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying:
South Carolina Family Court, Family Court Judge, Seat #1

1. Name: The Honorable Rochelle Yarborough Conits

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): None.

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

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Greenville

Business Address: 350 Halton Road, Greenville, SC 29607
P.O. Box 27107, Greenville, SC 29616

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): 864-467-5841
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted] 1965
Place of Birth: Columbia, 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 have never served in the military.

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 December 8, 2007 to Spero John Conits (retired).
 Never divorced, two children.
 Previous widow of Thomas Hamilton Williamson, III
 Married November 24, 1990 – widowed November 26, 1996
 [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) Lander College, Greenwood, South Carolina – August 1983 - December 1984. I transferred to the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, to be closer to family and friends.
 - (b) University of South Carolina January 1984 - May 1987
 Bachelor of Science in Applied Professional Sciences
 - (c) University of South Carolina School of Law May 1989 – May 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) American Bar Association Student Division 1989-1992
 - (b) Student Bar Association 1989-1992
 - (c) Phil Delta Phi -1990
 - (d) International Law Society 1989-1991
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 1992
 - (b) I am not admitted to practice in any other State, nor have I taken any other bar exam.
 - (c) I took the South Carolina bar exam one (1) time.
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) I graduated from law school in May 1992, and my son was born in October 1992. After law school graduation, I worked part-time as a law clerk/paralegal at Harris & Graves, Columbia, South Carolina and the Law Offices of Betty Gambrell Cobb, Columbia, South Carolina.

(b) In January 1993, I accepted my first practicing position as an Associate Attorney at the Law Offices of King & Vernon, P.A., Columbia, South Carolina. I worked primarily for Kermit S. King, focusing on private family court litigation.

(c) In January 1997, my son and I relocated to Greenville, South Carolina, after the death of my first husband, and I accepted a position at Wilkins & Madden, P.A., where I continued my family court practice.

(d) In March 2000, I was promoted to Partner at Wilkins & Madden, P.A.

(e) In February 2006, Wilkins & Madden, P.A. merged with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, and I was employed as an Attorney of Counsel with NMR&S until I was sworn in to the Family Court bench in May 2006 and stopped practicing law. I took the bench to fill the unexpired term of Stephen S. Bartlett in September 2006, and I started my own term in June 2007.

(f) I have devoted my entire legal career to the area of family law. While I was not involved in the financial management of any of these firms, I did supervise my secretarial and paralegal staff. I did not manage or oversee trust accounts; however, I did ensure that my timesheets were accurately reflected on monthly statements to clients.

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.

Since September 1, 2006, I have held Seat #1 South Carolina Family Court Judge in Greenville County. I was elected by the South Carolina Legislature to this position in February 2006.

The Family Court is a court of limited, exclusive, and concurrent jurisdiction pursuant to S.C. Code Sections 63-3-510; 63-3-520; 63-3-530; 63-3-640; 62-5-201; 63-7-2520; 63-17-2920; 62-1-302; 63-7-1610; 63-9-40; 63-19-1210.

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) Hirschi v. Doe, Op. No. 2019-UP-323 (S.C. Ct. App. filed Oct. 1, 2019) (per curiam). I denied this out-of-state adoption case, and the Court of Appeals affirmed this decision.
 - (b) Jeffrey Spencer Fossett v. Melissa Renee Fossett, 440 S.C. 576, 891 S.E.2d 515 (Ct. App. 2023), cert. denied, S.C. Sup. Ct. Order dated February 7, 2024. This

was a two-day child custody modification action. Father appealed my denial of his request for sole custody, and the Court of Appeals affirmed my decision.

- (c) Jessica Dull v. Robert Dull, Op. No. 2021-UP-274 (S.C. Ct. App. filed July 14, 2021) (per curiam), cert. denied, S.C. Sup. Ct. Order dated February 22, 2022. This was a complex child custody psychological parent dispute. Father appealed my denial of his request to make a finding that he was the psychological parent of his Wife’s child. The Court of Appeals affirmed by decision.
- (d) S.C. Dep’t of Soc. Servs. v. Brooks, Op. No. 2024-UP-188 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed May 20, 2024) (per curiam). This was a complex case in which a DSS abuse and neglect/termination of parental rights action was consolidated with a private termination of parental rights and adoption action involving medically fragile twins in which the DSS foster parents sought adoption. The Court of Appeals upheld my decision to terminate the parental rights of Mother and allow the foster parents to adopt.
- (e) Smith v. Wilson, Op. No. 2023-UP-216 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed May 26, 2023 (per curiam). This was a termination of parental rights case involving a parent who struggled with drug addiction, but sought the return of his child. The Court of Appeals upheld my decision to terminate the Father’s parental rights.

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 Supreme Court November 18, 1992
- (b) United States District Court April 7, 1993
- (c) United States Court of Appeals June 16, 1993
- (d) United States Supreme Court March 18, 2002

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 taught briefly at the South Carolina Court Administration Orientation for Family Court Judges on July 11, 2007.
- (b) I participated as a judge at the South Carolina Bar High School Mock Trial Competition on February 23, 2008, in Greenville, SC.
- (c) I participated as a judge at the Carol N. New National Mock Trial Tournament at Furman University on March 26, 2010.
- (d) I participated as a panel speaker at the National Business Institute Judicial Forum on February 18, 2011.
- (e) I participated as a speaker at the Greenville High School Law Week on April 5, 2011.
- (f) I participated as a speaker at the Children’s Law Center Ethical Issues in Abuse and Neglect Cases on November 18, 2011.
- (g) I participated as a speaker at the South Carolina Bar Family Court Bench/Bar Seminar on December 2, 2011.
- (h) I participated as a speaker at the National Business Institute Judicial Forum on February 16, 2012.

- (i) I participated as a judge at the Carol N. Ney National Mock Trial Tournament at Furman University on March 23, 2012.
- (j) I have hosted a student intern each summer through the NMRS Center on Professional Judicial Observation and Experience Program.
- (k) I hosted a student from the South Carolina Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission to observe court on October 2, 2012.
- (l) I participated as a panel member at the South Carolina Family Court Bench/Bar Seminar on December 7, 2012.
- (m) I participated as a speaker at the South Carolina's Women Layer's Meeting in Greenville on December 13, 2012.
- (n) I participated as a speaker at the Greenville County Bar Associated Year End CLE on February 15, 2013.
- (o) I taught at the South Carolina Bar Bridge the Gap Seminar at the University of South Carolina on March 11, 2013.
- (p) I participated as a judge at the Carol N. New National Mock Trial Tournament at Furman University on March 15, 2013.
- (q) I taught at the South Carolina Bar Bridge the Gap Seminar at the University of South Carolina on August 5, 2013.
- (r) I spoke at the Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville on October 16, 2013.
- (s) I spoke to the Palmetto Girls State in Clinton, South Carolina on June 12, 2014.
- (t) I spoke at the Greenville Bar Luncheon on October 16, 2014.
- (u) I completed the SC Supreme Court Pilot Mentoring Program for the newly elected Summary Court Judge on November 11, 2014.
- (v) I spoke at the SC Bar Conventional Family Court Judge's Meeting in Columbia on January 22, 2015.
- (w) I participated on the panel presentation of "What do Judges Want from the GAL & Best Practice Tips from the Bench" at the SC Bar Best Interest of the Child: 2015 Guardian ad Litem Training and Update CLE on February 6, 2015.
- (x) I spoke at the SC 2015 Annual Judicial Conference on Access to Justice Issues on August 20, 2015.
- (y) I spoke at the Wade Hampton High School Career Day on October 1, 2015.
- (z) I participated in the South Carolina Summit on Access to Justice of All in Columbia, SC on October 24, 2016.
- (aa) I spoke at the SC Bar and SC Equality Post-DOMA Litigation Task Force Modern Family Seminar on March 24, 2017.
- (bb) I attended and participated in the 2017 Southern Regional CCJ/COSCA Models for Change Juvenile Reform Summit in Nashville, Tennessee on April 19-21, 2017.
- (cc) I spoke at the Best Interest of the Child: 2018 Guardian ad Litem Training on January 26, 2018
- (dd) I spoke at the Northwood Middle School Career Day on May 4, 2018.
- (ee) I hosted The Honorable Jean H. Toal and The Honorable Aphrodite K. Konduros to speak to the Saint Mary's Elementary School on the South Carolina Judiciary on May 9, 2019.
- (ff) I spoke at the 2019 Greenville County Bar Association CLE on February 8, 2019, providing a case-law update.
- (gg) I participated in a panel discussion CLE Lunch and Learn for the Upstate Mediation Center on February 22, 2019.

- (hh) I spoke at the Family Court Judges Spring 2022 Meeting on Enhanced Supervision One Case One Judge on April 29, 2022.
- (ii) I participated in the Family Court Hollywood Squares at the Family Court Section of the SC Bar Meeting on Friday, January 19, 2024.

- 22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. CLE reports for 2019-2020; 2020-2021; 2021-2022; 2022-2023; and 2023-2024 are attached.
- 23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
 - (a) Marital Litigation in South Carolina Substantive Law Third Edition Roy T. Stuckey (S.C. Bar CLE 2001), Editorial Board.
- 24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

Not applicable.

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

My last available rating in Martindale-Hubbell was an AV.

- 26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) South Carolina Bar
 - (b) Greenville County Bar
 - (c) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges, Secretary-Treasurer 2023-2024
 - (d) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges, Vice-President Elect 2024-2025
 - (e) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges, Specialty License Plate Member Representative 2013-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.

I have never held public office other than this judicial seat.

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.

I have had no other employment while serving as a judge.

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

I ran for a seat on the Court of Appeals in 2014; however, I was not selected for the final election although I was found to be well-qualified in all areas.

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

(a) I was employed from May 1992 through October 1992 by Harris & Graves and by the Law Offices of Betty J. Gambrell Cobb, Columbia, South Carolina as a paralegal and law clerk.

(b) I was employed during my third year of law school at the Law Offices of Betty J. Gambrell Cobb, Columbia, South Carolina (1991-1992). I performed law clerking duties in her family court practice.

(c) I was employed during my second year of law school as a law clerk at Berry, Dunbar, Daniel, O'Connor, Jordan & Eslinger (1990-1991). I performed law clerking duties in their general practice.

(d) I was employed as an administrative assistant/legal secretary from 1987 through 1989 at Berry, Dunbar, Daniel, O'Connor, Jordan & Eslinger, Columbia, South Carolina. I worked directly for the late James V. Dunbar, Jr., and W. Hartley Powell. I provide administrative support in an immigration law practice.

(e) I was employed part-time during college at the Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina (1986-1987) and Electronic Business Equipment, Columbia, South Carolina (1985-1986). I performed administrative assistant and secretarial duties.

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 not an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise.

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.

I am not now, nor have I ever been, employed as a “lobbyist”, nor have I acted in the capacity of a “Lobbyist’s principal”.

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.
(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.
(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.
(d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details.
(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults.

- (a) I have filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years.
- (b) I have not been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes. I am not associated with any business.
- (c) There has never been a tax lien or other collection procedure instituted against me by any authority.
- (d) I have never defaulted on a student loan.
- (e) I have never filed for bankruptcy.

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.

I have never accepted or received lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money or any other thing of value in any manner or at any time whatsoever.

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?

I have expended \$38.72 in postage to file appropriate documents with the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in furtherance of my candidacy for the position I seek. I have not spent over \$100.00 in furtherance of this candidacy.

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.

Neither I nor anyone acting on my behalf has solicited or collected such funds.

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.

(a) I do not hear cases involving any employee or principal of CAPTRUST because my investments are managed and held at this Firm.

(b) I have consigned by daughter's clothes at Little Pampered People Consignment Shop in Greenville, South Carolina; and, accordingly, I do not hear any cases involving any employee or principal of this business.

(c) I have consigned my own clothes at Labels Resale Shop; and, accordingly, would not hear any cases involving any employee or principal of this business.

(d) I do not hear any cases in which Pat W. Pascal is attorney of record since my husband, Spero Conits, retained him to represent him in an inverse regulatory-taking action involving the City of Greenville.

(e) My husband, Spero Conits, has commercial real estate holdings, and I would not hear any cases involving his tenants.

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 or 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.

- (a) None.
- (b) My husband, Spero John Conits, owns the property located at 817 Stone Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina. In 2009, the City of Greenville planted bushes on the property and trees on the curb owned by the City, adjacent to this property. The value of these trees and bushes exceed \$200.00, and have an estimated value of \$1,000.00.
- (c) *My husband, Spero John Conits, owned a ½ interest in property located at 1644 Camp Road, Charleston, SC 29412, which was the subject of a condemnation action, captioned County of Charleston v. Tammy Athans Conits and Spero J. Conits, 2011-CP-10-7414. On October 14, 2011, Spero Conits received One Hundred, Forth Thousand and No/100 (\$140,000.00) Dollars as his share of the drawdown on the offer of just compensation. , On February 3, 2014, Spero Conits received \$52,500 (net after his share of attorney fees) as his share of the remaining value, which settled this lawsuit. I am attaching a copy of the Consent Order of Dismissal.
*My husband, Spero John Conits, owned the property located at the corner of East North Street and East Sone Avenue, within the City of Greenville, South Carolina (817 and 819 Stone Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina). This property was the subject of a lawsuit Spero Conits and SJC Properties, LLC, Spero's Pete's Original Too, LLC v. City of Greenville 2108-CP-23-03681, for inverse regulatory taking. This lawsuit settled and the action was dismissed on October 13, 2021, pursuant to the attached Settlement Agreement and Release of All Claims. The City of Greenville purchased a portion of the land; Spero donated a portion of the land; and Spero retained ownership of a portion of the land. The Stipulation of Dismissal and the Settlement Agreement are attached.

I do not have any interest in this property, other than my husband's ownership.

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 and not applicable.

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

Charles Schwab IRA Rollover Broker Account Statement attached.
South Carolina State 401(k) Account Statement attached.

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.

I have never accepted anything of value from a litigant in a matter currently or previously before me or my court.

I married Spero John Conits on December 8, 2007. We had a small wedding of close family and friends. Spero and I received wedding gifts from the following attorneys, who practice(d) before the Family Court:

Mr. and Mrs. E. Timothy Madden	Holiday Tray and Coffee Mug
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosenfeld	Christmas Tree Ornament
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Porter	Christmas Tree Ornament
Mr. and Mrs. O. Doyle Martin	Rehearsal Dinner Hosts

On December 15, 2009, my daughter was born. I received baby gifts from the following attorneys who practice(d) before the Family Court:

Ms. Lynn Barrett	Baby Sweater
Ms. Cathy Fairey	Baby Towel, Washcloth, and Gown
Ms. Maggie Bailey	Baby Book and Booties
Ms. Lisa Mobley	Baby Bib and Booties
Mr. Robert Clark	<u>Night Night Little Pookie Book</u>
Greenville County DSS Legal Dept.	Gift Basket (diapers, outfit, snuggly, nightlight)
Ms. Wanda Adams	Bath Salts and Baby outfit
Ms. Ashley Case	Changing Pad and Elephant Rattle

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

I have not used the services of my staff, for which I did not pay, while campaigning for this office.

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.

To my knowledge, I have never been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute.

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.

A former client, acting pro se, filed a civil action in Greenville County Court of Common Pleas, captioned R. Jay Lagroon, DMD, vs. Rochelle Y. Williamson DBA Wilkins and Madden, Attorneys at Law, P.A. 2005-CP-23-6807. This action was filed on October 21, 2005. Mr. R David Howser of Houser, Newman & Besley, L.L.C., Columbia, South Carolina was retained to represent us in this litigation. The action involved a Reconciliation Agreement between this client and his spouse. This action was dismissed with prejudice pursuant to an Order granting our Motions for Summary Judgment filed in the Greenville County Court of Common Pleas on August 7, 2007.

Upon information and belief On Wednesday, June 13, 2018, a disgruntled litigant and his current wife instituted an action in the South Carolina Federal District Court against 8 named defendants, including myself, alleging violation of their civil rights in connection with private Family Court litigation. Service of process has not been authorized, nor have I ever been served with any pleadings as of the date of this application.

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

I am not in private practice.

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.

I have never been investigated by the Department of Social Services. My name has never been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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.

I have neither directly nor indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly regarding my election, nor have I been offered a conditional pledge. I have not received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek pledges from any member of the General Assembly.

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 any third party to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf, nor have I asked anyone to campaign on my behalf, nor do I know of anyone who has campaigned on my behalf. I have not campaigned for this re-election as of the time of completing this application.

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?

I am familiar with the 48-hour rule.

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.

Since submitting my letter of intent to become a candidate, neither I nor anyone acting on my behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about my candidacy or intention to become a candidate.

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) Ambassador David H. Wilkins
Nelson Mullins Law Firm
[Redacted]
- (b) The Reverend Father Tom (A.J.) Pistolis
Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
[Redacted]
- (c) Mrs. Georgia M. Katsafouros
[Redacted]
- (d) Mrs. Staci Armocida
[Redacted]
- (e) Mr. Alex Kiriakides III
[Redacted]

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

I have a Facebook page, an Instagram page, and a TikTok page.

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

[Redacted]on Facebook; [Redacted]on TikTok; and [Redacted]on Instagram

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

My use of social media sites is mostly centered around my family and faith. I occasionally post pictures or status updates on my children; I share Christian inspirational videos and posts from time to time; I like my friend's posts about their families and updates. I monitor my daughter's use of social media by being able to access her activity through my participation in these platforms. I do not post political opinions or even opinions on current events in the world or the community in order to protect my judicial integrity. I do not believe my limited participation on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok affects my service in a judicial capacity.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, and any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) Co-Chair Self-Represented Litigants Sub Committee of the SC Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
 - (b) Member of the SC Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

- (c) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges Specialty License Plate Representative for the SC Highway Department
- (d) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges Recording Secretary
- (e) South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges Vice-President Elect
- (f) St. Mary's Catholic School Spring Fling Committee
- (g) 3rd/4th grade Sunday school teacher at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- (h) St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Junior Girls Basketball Coach

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.

There have been several life experiences which have affected the kind of judge I am. I strongly believe that judge's personal life experiences come into play when exercising the wide discretion afforded a judge in make decisions and rulings.

I grew up in Lexington, South Carolina. I am 1 of 4 children. Mr. father was a concrete finisher, and my mother was a physical therapist. I have two (2) older sisters and one (1) younger brother. My oldest sister, Barbara, died of cancer when she was in the 7th grade. My older sister, Tracy, is a 7th grade school teacher and has been teaching school for 38 years. My younger brother, Hayne, is a small business owner (concrete finishing) in Hot Springs, Virginia. I married the late Thomas H. Williamson, III, who died in November 1996 from cancer. I have one (1) son from this marriage, who is now 31 years old. He graduated from the Citadel Military College of South Carolina, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Sports Management. He currently represents the United States as a professional javelin thrower for Team USA, USA Track & Field. Capers was 4 years old when his father passed away. I remarried in 2007, 11 years after Tom passed away. I was a single mother to Capers during the majority of his childhood. I remarried Spero Conits, and he and I have one daughter together.

My father operated his own concrete finishing company, and he worked extremely hard. Although he did not have more than a high school education, his hard work provided us with a comfortable lifestyle. I learned from my father the value and reward of hard work. My father had an incredibly strong worth ethic, and he did not let the fact that he did not attend college hold him back or affect his self-esteem in any manner. I gained self-esteem and confidence from my father.

My mother was a soft-spoken, kind person. She literally saw nothing but the good in every person, even those where were not always nice to her. She treated everyone as if they were wonderful, special, and deserving. I learned the true value of every person from my mother, and the fact that every person, regardless of circumstance, is worthy of fair and respectful treatment.

I have learned the hardship of being a single parent from the tragedy of Tom's death. I have a unique perspective of the impact being without a parent can have on a child, as I watched [my son] grow up without a father. I understand the difficulties of single parenthood, and I

believe this understanding helps me make good decisions for parents and children leaving Family Court. I also understand how critically important it is for children to have healthy relationships with both parents. I believe I am especially vigilant in promoting and protecting a child's relationship with both parents.

I have the experience of blending children and families from prior marriages. I have three (3) grown step-children from my first marriage, and three (3) grown step-children from my current marriage, one of whom primarily resided in my home during the school year. I have a real understanding of the challenges and issues facing families as they blend together and move forward as a new family unit.

As a Family Court judge, I understand the value of every person who comes before me. I try to look at the totality of the circumstances involving litigants and their situations. I believe in the basic goodness of people, and I believe most people generally do the best they can do. I am concerned with the long-term impact of my rulings; and I try to make sure that people leave my courtroom with a sense of being treated fairly and hope for their future. I know how short and unpredictable life can be, having lost a sister and a husband to cancer. These life experiences have afforded me a true appreciation of what is important and what ultimate does not matter at all. I have a special place in my heart for the parent/child relationship, having watched [my son] miss Tom and learn to grow up without him. I have a special place in my heart for children of divorced parents, having watched my 6 step-children miss their Moms and learn to cope with temporary separation from them.

If re-elected I will continue to do all I can to ensure that children have the opportunity to have a meaningful relationship with both parents, even in situations of divorce. I will strive to offer real solutions of permanency, stability, and safety to our children who are abused or neglected I will continue to offer guidance and hope to our juvenile offenders as they seek to re-establish themselves and move on to become productive citizens despite poor or unhealthy choices. It has always been my hope to better the lives and situations of the divorce litigants who come before me so that they may leave Family Court with a sense of fairness and justice and the necessary encouragement to lead productive and meaningful lives.

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: _____