



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 7

1. Name: Mr. Riley Johnson Maxwell

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

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) No.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Richland

Business Address: Post Office Box 1085
 101 South Congress Street
 Winnsboro, SC 29180

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):
(office):(803) 712-1735
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1979
Place of Birth: Bamberg, South Carolina
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes.
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes.

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [Redacted]
Voter Registration Number: [Redacted]

5. Have you served in the military? If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

No.

6. Family Status:

(a) State whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated.

Single; Never Divorced; No children.

(b) If married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name and occupation.

N/A

(c) If widowed, list the name(s) of spouse(s).

N/A

(d) If you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds.

N/A

(e) State the names of your children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

N/A

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) Newberry College 1998-2002
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management
- (b) University of South Carolina School of Law 2003-2006
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) Phi Delta Phi 2005-2006
- (b) Student Bar Association 2003-2006

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 2006. I took the bar exam one 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) August 2006 - August 2007

Law clerk for the Honorable Edward Welmaker, Circuit Judge,
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

(b) October 2007 - January 2015

Assistant Solicitor, Sixth Judicial Circuit

I prosecuted crimes of all nature in General Sessions Court and juvenile matters in Family Court.

(c) January 2015 - present

Deputy Solicitor, Sixth Judicial Circuit

I currently handle the prosecution of crimes in General Sessions Court and Family Court. I supervise a staff of assistant solicitors and administrators and oversee the prosecution of all cases in Fairfield County. I assist and advise the Circuit Solicitor on personnel and other administrative matters. I have not managed any financial matters.

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.

N/A

(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.

I have served as a prosecutor for almost 17 years. In that time, I have been involved with the prosecution of thousands of cases, including murder, criminal sexual conduct, robbery, drugs, property crimes, and complex financial crimes. I have also served as lead or co-counsel for dozens of trials. I regularly conduct research of various legal issues, consult and advise law enforcement, meet with victims and witnesses, and prepare motions and briefs. I generally spend several days each month appearing before the Circuit Court for pleas, bond hearings, and motions. I am involved in trials before the Court four to seven times each year.

Since I have spent the majority of my career as a prosecutor, I have had limited involvement in civil court. I have filed civil lawsuits on behalf of the State under the drug forfeiture statute. In those cases, I drafted the complaints, oversaw the services of process, and litigated the cases before the Court of Common Pleas. I have also represented the State in Common Pleas Court in appeals from the summary courts.

While I served as a law clerk, Judge Edward Welmaker served as Chief Administrative Judge for Common Pleas in Greenville County. I regularly assisted Judge Welmaker in the preparation of civil matters including researching various issues. I prepared orders and reviewed proposed orders prior to the Judge's signing. I observed several trials during my clerkship including personal injury cases where liability was contested and other cases where only damages were at issue. I also sat as clerk during medical malpractice trials and a complex trial involving non-compete claims and trade secrets involving a major corporation headquartered in South Carolina.

I continuously stay current with judicial opinions since I have been an attorney. I have also observed several civil trials in recent years and attended numerous sessions of Common Pleas Non-Jury terms.

With my extensive trial experience, I have adept knowledge of the South Carolina Rules of Evidence that I believe would be applicable in civil cases. If I encountered a matter I was unfamiliar with, I would extensively research the issue and/or consult other authorities.

(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: I appear in circuit court 5-10 days each month.

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: 1%
- (b) criminal: 99%
- (c) domestic: 0%
- (d) other: 0%

14. During the past five years

- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial?
98%
- (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? 13
- (c) What number of cases went to trial and resolved after the plaintiff's or State's case? 1
(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?
1

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

As Deputy Solicitor, I oversee all General Sessions prosecutions in Fairfield County. I assign cases to assistant solicitors and personally handle my caseload as sole counsel. In most trials, I served as chief counsel or sole counsel. In some trials, I have assisted other solicitors in preparing for trial, serving as co-counsel or 2nd chair, and serving in an advisory role during trial.

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position, During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

N/A

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court, or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

((a) State v. Charles Coleman. This was a cold case prosecution of a woman who was raped and killed in 1976. The South Carolina Law Enforcement continued to investigate the case over the years. In 2020, Coleman's DNA was matched with a DNA profile developed from pieces of evidence. I researched the existing law in 1976 to ensure he was properly charged. Ultimately, Coleman pled guilty after the jury was seated but before opening arguments. He was sentenced to

life. A challenge in the case was locating witnesses and developing a proper chain of evidence. I was the lead prosecutor.

(b) State v. Latroy Sampson. This was a case that involved the strangulation murder of a woman by an acquaintance. The defendant fled the state and was apprehended a few weeks later in Rochester, New York, while in possession of a gun. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to prison in New York for the gun charge. I spent considerable time and effort working to have the defendant brought back to South Carolina. He was convicted of murder and received a life sentence. Because he had not completed his five year sentence on the gun charge, New York wanted Sampson transported back. After much discussion between authorities in both states, New York dropped their request and the defendant remained in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. I was the lead prosecutor.

(c) State v. Ricky Deel. This was a Felony Driving Under the Influence case involving the death of one teenager and the paralysis of another on I-77. Others involved were also severely injured in the wreck. The victims were traveling with other family members from Michigan heading to Florida when the defendant lost control of his vehicle and struck the victims' vehicle. A blood draw collected from the defendant indicated a blood alcohol level above the legal limit. Missouri v. McNeely, 569 U.S. 141 (2013), a U.S. Supreme Court opinion decided after the incident, ruled that law enforcement generally must acquire a search warrant to collect a suspect's blood. During a hearing to suppress the blood draw evidence, the State argued exigent circumstances existed creating an exception to the search warrant requirement. The Circuit Court denied the suppression motion and the defendant subsequently entered a guilty plea and received a twenty year sentence. I served as sole counsel throughout the case.

(d) State v. Christopher Williams, et al. This was a murder case where the victim was shot during a home invasion. Eight defendants were initially charged with murder under the theory of accomplice liability. Through the investigation, we were able to clarify the roles each defendant played in the incident. The defendant who fired the fatal shot pleaded guilty to murder, attempted armed robbery, and burglary and was sentenced to 30 years. Another armed defendant received a 30 year sentence for voluntary manslaughter. Another four of the defendants entered guilty pleas to various reduced charges and received sentences ranging from probation to 11 years. I made the decision to dismiss the charges against the remaining two defendants. I initially assisted the Circuit Solicitor before his retirement and handled the majority of the case thereafter.

(e) State v. Timothy Thompson. This case initially began as an investigation into a hit and run of a pedestrian before further investigation showed it to be an intentional act. The South Carolina Highway Patrol began the investigation and uncovered evidence of an earlier altercation between the defendant and victim and witnesses provided statements detailing the defendant's intent to harm the victim. I was advising law enforcement early on in the investigation. The Highway Patrol wanted to turn the case over to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office because they did not handle murder cases. I determined, as the lead prosecutor, there was enough evidence to proceed with the prosecution without the need to involve another agency. The defendant was found guilty of murder following a four day trial and was sentenced to life.

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.

I have not handled any criminal appeals.

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

I have not held judicial office.

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

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.

South Carolina, 2006

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) October 2020 - I spoke at a CLE course (Prosecution and Victim Compensation) regarding restitution for crime victims.

(b) February 2002 - I spoke at the South Carolina Coroner's Association annual conference. I discussed and answered questions about issues coroners may need to be prepared for when testifying at trial. I also led a mock witness examination.

(c) May 2022 and June 2024 - I served as a faculty member at the Prosecution Bootcamp in 2022 and 2024. This program, conducted by the South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination, is a week-long program for new prosecutors. It focuses on trial advocacy with time dedicated to opening and closing statements and direct and cross examinations of witnesses.

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

Attached.

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

N/A

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

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) South Carolina Bar, 2006
- (b) Fairfield County Bar, 2007

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 not held public office.

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.

Yes. I was a candidate for Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 16 in 2023-2024. I was found qualified and nominated by the Judicial Merit Selection Commission in November 2023. I withdrew from consideration on January 24, 2024.

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 was a golf caddie at the Kiawah Island Club after I graduated from college in spring of 2002 until I entered law school in the fall of 2003. I have only worked in a legal capacity since finishing law school.

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 an officer and registered agent in Capital Bloodstock, LLC. The limited liability company is still in good standing with the South Carolina Secretary of State. However, there are no ongoing operations of business being conducted. This company was created for an investment venture among a small group of friends in 2006. The venture ended in 2007 and there has been no business activity since.

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

No.

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

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

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

A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.

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

34. (a) Have you filed state and federal income tax returns for the last 5 years? If no, please provide details. Yes.
- (b) Have you or any business with which you are associated been delinquent in any local, state, or federal taxes? If yes, please provide details. No.
- (c) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? If yes, please provide details. No.
- (d) Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? If so, please provide details. No.
- (e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults. No.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No.

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

I have not made any expenditures in furtherance of my 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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

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.

N/A

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.

I received a traffic ticket for speeding in the town of Norway, S.C. several years ago. I believe it was written under a local ordinance. I recall the fine exceeding \$125.

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.

(a) I was named as a defendant in a complaint filed by Robert James Miller, Jr. on September 9, 2014. Miller filed as a pro se plaintiff while serving a ten-year prison sentence at the South Carolina Department of Corrections for financial crimes related to the suit. I handled the prosecution of those crimes. The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and several deputies were also named as defendants. In the criminal matter, Miller had gained access to the victim's personal information and a bank account. With this information, he fraudulently opened other accounts in the victim's name and transferred money to these accounts from the victim's actual account. Throughout the prosecution of the case, I filed motions with the Circuit Court to return money from the fraudulent accounts to the original account. Miller ultimately entered a guilty plea. Restitution was ordered along with Miller's prison sentence. The restitution amount was offset by the recovered money and property. Miller filed the civil suit following his conviction claiming the State took money and property that belonged to him. The civil suit was dismissed after the Circuit Court granted a summary judgment motion on December 11, 2015.

(b) I, along with law enforcement, was a named defendant in another suit alleging false arrest and malicious prosecution. The plaintiff had previously been charged and arrested by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office for the sale of drugs to a confidential informant during a recorded controlled buy. I was the prosecutor on the case following the arrest. I, nor anyone else from the Sixth Circuit Solicitor's Office, had any involvement in the case until the warrant was transmitted to our office following the arrest. Several months following the arrest and indictment, the defendant began to claim that it was his brother who sold the drugs and provided pictures of him and his brother through his public defender. After plea negotiations failed to resolve the case, I dismissed the criminal case, as it was not a priority case to proceed to trial. No determination was made as to whether the drug transaction was done by the defendant or his brother. Following the dismissal, the defendant filed the suit through a private attorney. The case was dismissed shortly after the filing. I believe either summary judgment was granted or the plaintiff dropped the matter.

(c) In 2023, I was named as a defendant, along with several other parties, in a pro se suit filed in federal court by a "sovereign citizen." I am unclear of the actual claim, but the remedy sought for myself and others was the death penalty. At the time of the filing, the plaintiff was facing several

criminal charges and had been found not competent to stand trial. There was never any service of the complaint. The case did not proceed beyond the filing.

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) Creighton B. Coleman, Esquire
[Redacted]

(b) Douglas A. Barfield, Jr., Esquire
[Redacted]

(c) Randy E. Newman, Jr., Esquire
[Redacted]

(d) Robert C. FitzSimons, Esquire
[Redacted]

(e) Montrio M. Belton, Esquire
[Redacted]

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

Yes. I have a Twitter account.

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

My Twitter account name is [Redacted]

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 use Twitter to follow news and sports. I do not post or retweet. I have “liked” posts just to save an article to read later. If I was serving in a judicial capacity, I would not post, retweet, or comment on any legal or judicial matter.

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) F3 Columbia-F3 is an organization designed to plant, grow and serve small workout groups for men for the invigoration of community leadership. I have been involved for nearly 10 years and served in a leadership role. F3 regularly helps local charities with donations and volunteering.

(b) South Carolina Bar House of Delegates- I served as representative for the Sixth Circuit beginning in 2015 and ending in 2017/2018.

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.

Over my almost 17 year career as a prosecutor, I have always viewed part of my role as to act as a gatekeeper for the criminal justice system. I always strive to ensure that defendants are treated fairly and that their constitutional rights are protected. I speak with law enforcement officers on a daily basis to advise and make determinations of whether probable cause exists to make an arrest or get a search warrant. I assess cases on their merits to determine proper charges, whether a case should be dismissed, whether to divert the case to a diversion program, whether to reduce charges for plea purposes, and to devise a trial strategy.

I work to maintain a good working relationship with opposing attorneys. I try to respect their opinions and viewpoints and the role they play in defending their clients. I feel most defense attorneys respect the way I handle my role in return. I try to be helpful when the situation allows and find common ground in resolving cases.

Since I began as a solicitor, it has been my job to plan and organize court for nearly every General Sessions term in Fairfield County. This includes communicating with the presiding judge, the clerk of court, and court staff regarding logistical matters. I have always been open to new ideas and feedback on the operations of court from my staff, court personnel, and opposing counsel.

I have enjoyed and take pride in acting as a public servant, and would be honored to continue to do so as a circuit judge. I believe I possess the good temperament that is required from the bench. I believe it is important to treat all parties fairly no matter the situation.

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: _____