



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

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

1. Name: Mr. William Vickery Meetze
Mrs.
Ms.

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

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: Marion

Business Address: 180 North Irby Street
Florence, SC 29501

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home): [Redacted]
(office): (843)665-3055
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]/1968
Place of Birth: Columbia, SC
Social Security Number: [Redacted]

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

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

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

No

6. Family Status:

- (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 January 23, 2010 to Anna Braddock.
Never Divorced, No Children.

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. September 1987- May 1991. Bachelor of Arts.
 - (b) Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University–September 1995-May 1998. 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.

There were none.
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
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) Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable James E. Brogdon, Jr.
During the year that I clerked for Judge Brogdon, he was Chief Administrative Judge in both the Twelfth Judicial Circuit and the Third Judicial Circuit. I was able to research many issues involving both General Sessions and Common Pleas. I was able to see many trials from each branch. Also, Judge Brogdon was assigned two complex litigation civil cases while I clerked for him and that provided valuable

experience in dealing with pre-trial matters such as discovery issues and summary judgment motions.

- (b) Assistant Solicitor Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, York County
I prosecuted a variety of criminal cases for just under three years. I handled both felony and misdemeanor cases. Began trying cases early on and served as lead attorney from the start.
- (c) Assistant Public Defender Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, York County
I began my career as a criminal defense lawyer in June of 2002. I worked in that office for a little more than four years. In that job I represented criminal defendants charged with all manner of offenses from misdemeanors to murder cases. I served as lead counsel in many cases and I also helped other lawyers with their cases when necessary. During my time in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Public defender Office, we were fortunate to have many experienced attorneys to work with and gain experience from.
- (d) Assistant Public Defender Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Florence County
My job responsibilities were the same in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit as they had been in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.
- (e) Assistant Public Defender Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Florence & Marion County
In the fall of 2011 my responsibilities expanded to where I worked as a public defender in both counties of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. That meant more cases, more trials and more time in court in general. It was at that time that was appointed lead counsel on a death penalty case.
- (f) Deputy Public Defender for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit
In August of 2014 I was promoted to Deputy Public Defender for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I still have the same kind of case load but have also taken on some administrative duties and working with and advising younger attorneys in our office.

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.

I have been practicing criminal law in General Sessions Court since August of 1999. I was a prosecutor in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit for a little under three years and during that time I prosecuted individuals charged with non-drug related criminal offenses that carried a penalty of up to fifteen years in prison. In June of 2002 I began work as an Assistant Public Defender in York County. As an Assistant Public Defender I represent indigent defendants charged with anything from lower level misdemeanors all the way up to armed robbery, burglary first degree and murder. In 2006, I was given an opportunity to come back home and work in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. I accepted a position in the Florence County Public Defender's. In 2011 I expanded my responsibilities by also serving as a public defender for Marion County and I have served both Florence and Marion Counties in that capacity since that time. In 2014 I was promoted to the position of Deputy Public Defender for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit and I have served continuously in that capacity for the past six years. I have continued defending indigent defendants charged with all types of offenses; however; I have a much larger concentration of A, B, and C felonies at this point. I have defended people in cases involving all levels of criminal activity including major drug trafficking, criminal sexual conduct and murder.

My civil experience from a practical standpoint has been through my involvement in post-conviction relief matters. As a criminal defense lawyer in a public defender's office I have been involved in a number of those hearings in the past five years. As a Judicial Law Clerk, I helped my judge with a number of civil cases including complex litigation cases and observed a number of jury trials. I Also, as a trial attorney I am very familiar with the rules of evidence which are applicable to both branches of Circuit Court. Other than that I have taken two viewed two CLE's, one on E-Discovery and the other being the 2016 Tort Law Update. I have also viewed a civil trial from start to finish and have worked hard studying the Rules of Civil Procedure. I have also served as Co-Dean of the law school at Palmetto Boys State for the past eighteen years where the instruction includes civil court matters.

I have appeared in front of a Circuit Court Judge for every term of General

Sessions Court held in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit for the past five years. The only exception would be times where I had a vacation scheduled during a term of court.

- (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: I have not appeared in Federal Court any during the past five years.
 - (b) state: I have appeared in General Sessions Court at least twenty-six weeks a year for the past five years.
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: Zero percent
 - (b) criminal: One hundred percent
 - (c) domestic: Zero percent
 - (d) other: Zero percent
14. During the past five years
I have handled over one thousand cases during that time frame. Our office case management system won't let you look cases up by disposition so these numbers may not be exact but should be close.
- (a) What percentage of your practice was in trial court, including cases that settled prior to trial? Ninety-five percent
 - (b) What number of cases went to trial and resulted in a verdict? Five percent
 - (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. None
 - (d) What number of your cases settled after a jury was selected but prior to opening statements? Two
- During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel?
Sole

For sitting judges seeking a judgeship different than your current position,

During the five years prior to your election to the bench, what percentage of your practice was in trial court, including matters that settled prior to trial?

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

(a) State v. Syllester D. Taylor (736 S.E. 2d 663, 2013): I handled this case at the trial level. It was trial in absence where I preserved all motions and eventually the conviction was reversed by the Court of Appeals. (694 S.E. 2d 60, 2010) The Supreme Court subsequently reversed the Court of Appeals in the above referenced site. However, even though Mr. Taylor eventually lost his appeal in the Supreme Court by a 3-2 decision, this case is an example of our legal system at work and even though Mr. Taylor was absent from his trial he was represented effectively and was not denied any opportunity or due process of law in spite of his absence.

(b) State v. Tavario Brunson: This was a very high profile case in Florence County that I tried along with another attorney. The evidence against Mr. Brunson was quite overwhelming to include a recorded confession and a positive DNA match. Mr. Brunson was convicted of murder and that result was never really in question. I believe this is an important case because it is an example of our Constitution at work. Mr. Brunson exercised his right to a Jury trial and even though the evidence was overwhelming he was provided an excellent defense and to this day I believe it is one of the most well tried cases that I have had the opportunity to be involved.

(c) State v. Montez Barker : This is a death penalty case in which I was appointed lead counsel. It is important by the nature of the offense and the fact that a man's life was literally on the line. Death Penalty cases take an extreme amount of work and dedication. You are working as a team with another attorney that has been appointed as second chair as well as fact and mitigation investigators not to mention my client's family was heavily involved as well. We were able to work hard and in the end were able to spare Mr. Barker's life by negotiating a plea for him where he would not face the death penalty. It takes a lot of work and relationship building to get a capital client to trust you enough to eventually agree that pleading guilty where you will be receiving a life sentence is in his best interest. That is what happened in this case and it is one of the most satisfying results I have ever had in a case.

(d) State v. Tyquan Jamar Johnson: This was a case in Florence County that was tried in December of 2018. Mr. Johnson was charged with murder. This was a case where my client maintained his innocence throughout this process. The State had made what I considered a very favorable offer to Mr. Johnson and I advised him that it would be in his best interest to take the offer. He stood his ground and said he didn't do it and he wouldn't plead guilty to something he didn't do. At trial another attorney in my office made our opening statement and I examined all of the witnesses, did the closing argument and made all motions. Mr. Johnson was found not guilty in the face of an eye witness who identified Mr. Johnson as the shooter. Mr. Johnson's cell phone was recovered within a few feet of the deceased. I new that I had worked hard on the case and that I was prepared and could try a great case; however, in our humbling business that doesn't guarantee a favorable result. There were no lessor included offenses charged to

the jury so it was all or nothing once the jury got the case. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty. I believe this case is significant because it is an example why it is the client's decision as to whether or not to plead or go to trial. Had Mr. Johnson taken my advice, he would be in prison for a considerable length of time. Even when I was advising him that he should take his deal, I also made sure I reiterated that it is his decision and not mine. Many times clients don't stand their ground. Mr. Johnson did and it worked in his favor.

(e) State v. Calvin Jermaine Pompey Unpublished Opinion Number 2015-UP-280;

This was a case where Mr. Pompey was charged with murder in a shooting outside of a night club in Marion, SC. There had been an altercation inside the club and Mr. Pompey and the people he came with left and went to their car. An individual from the club who was involved in the altercation ran towards Mr. Pompey's vehicle and appeared to be reaching under his shirt giving the appearance of reaching for a weapon. Mr. Pompey was sitting in the passenger seat but had not had the opportunity to close the door. The deceased began entering the car to attack Mr. Pompey. Mr. Pompey got a handgun out of the glove compartment of the car and fired one shot, killing the individual. I made a motion to dismiss based under the Protection of Persons and Property Act. A hearing was held before The Honorable D. Craig Brown and Judge Brown found that Mr. Pompey was justified in his actions and that the state was barred from prosecuting him pursuant to the act. The state appealed and the Court of Appeals upheld Judge Brown's ruling in the above referenced unpublished opinion.

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.
No
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.
 - (a) South Carolina, 1999

21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
(a) I have taught the Law School at Palmetto Boys State for the past twenty-one years.
22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years.
See attached
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
I have not been published.
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.)
I have attached two samples of legal writing in which I can claim sole authorship.
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.
I have never pursued membership in any of these organizations.
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 Association
(b) South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
(c) Public Defenders Association Board
27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.
No
28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.
- (a) Candidate for Twelfth Judicial Circuit Public Defender, January 2008
I was not nominated for the position.
 - (b) Candidate for Twelfth Judicial Circuit Public Defender, December 2011
I was not nominated for the position
 - (c) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 16, fall of 2012
Qualified but not nominated.
 - (d) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 9, fall of 2014
Qualified but not nominated.
 - (e) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 10, fall of 2015
Withdrew.
 - (f) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 1, fall of 2016
Qualified but not nominated.
 - (g) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 13, fall of 2019
Qualified but not nominated.
 - (h) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court At-Large, Seat 12, fall of 2020
Qualified but not nominated.
 - (j) Candidate for Judge, Family Court Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3, fall of 2021
Withdrew.
 - (k) Candidate for Judge, Family Court Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, fall of 2022
Withdrew.
 - (l) Candidate for Judge, Circuit Court, At-Large, Seat 8, fall of 2023 Qualified and nominated
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 worked part time after college as a bar back at Yesterday's Tavern in Columbia, SC. I held that job from 1991 until 1992. I stocked the coolers and kept the glasses clean for the bar tenders.
 - (b) I worked as a life insurance salesman for Jefferson Pilot Life from 1992 until 1993. It was a cold calling business working on commission. I made attempts to sell to big groups like hospitals but was not successful as a life insurance salesman.
 - (c) I worked as an equipment operator on the golf maintenance crew for the Links Golf Course at Wild Dunes on the Isle of Palms from 1993 until I entered law school in the fall of 1995. I was responsible as part of the crew for cutting the greens, fairways, roughs and tees to get the course ready for play on a daily basis.
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.

I have never been a lobbyist or acted in the capacity of a lobbyist.

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.
I have accepted nothing from a lobbyist or a lobbyist's principal.
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 spent any money on this candidacy, nor has any money been spent on my behalf.
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.

There have been no such contributions.

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.

I have not solicited any funds to aid in the promotion of my candidacy nor has anyone solicited funds on my behalf.

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I have no such financial relationship.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:

- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
- (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
- (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None of these situations are applicable to e.

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.

I have no such interests.

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.
44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you 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.
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.

I was sued by a former client in Federal Court sometime prior to September 3, 2010. The case number was 1:10-cv-01890 JMC. On September 3, 2010 a Federal Magistrate issued a report recommending that the case be dismissed without prejudice and without service of process. The client's name is McIver Feagin, Jr. Because I was never served with process in the case prior to it being dismissed, I was unaware of the suit until the fall of 2012 when I had previously gone through the screening process for a Circuit Court Judgeship. When I was made aware of the suit in 2012, I had an opportunity to review the order from United States District Judge Michelle Childs. In that order, Judge Childs followed the magistrate's recommendation and dismissed the complaint without prejudice and without service of process. That order was signed on December 10, 2010. I do not know what the allegations contained in the complaint were as I have never had the opportunity to review that document and the case was disposed of without me ever having knowledge of or any involvement in the proceedings.

A second lawsuit was filed against me by my client, John Lawrence Barfield. The Civil Action Number is 8:20-cv-2634 DCN and it was filed on July 16, 2020. In the filing, he claimed that his Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments had been violated. He also claimed that I had assaulted him in front of two guards by stomping his foot. He claimed injuries to his toe and the top of his foot and asked for five thousand dollars in punitive damages. The action

was dismissed without issuance and service of process by the Honorable David C. Norton on August 19, 2020.

I was sued by a former client named David Bryant Wicks on November 16, 2016 in Federal Court. The case number is 4:16-cv-03652-RBH. In that matter Mr. Wicks sued me along with many other individuals including Governor Haley, former Sheriff of Florence County Kenny Boone, Solicitor Ed Clements, III, and a number of other local law enforcement officers. From my standpoint, Mr. Wicks was charged with a forgery in Florence County in 2015 and made bond on that charge. Subsequently, he was arrested in North Carolina and was incarcerated there for a number of months. During that time I was not aware that he had been arrested in another jurisdiction. A bench warrant was issued for his failure to appear in Florence and he was eventually extradited to Florence County from North Carolina in September of 2016. He tried to tell me that prosecuting his case in Florence would violate the interstate agreement on detainers however, when I checked with our Clerk of Court, Mr. Wicks had never written them asking for his case to be dealt with pursuant to that act. We pled his case in December of 2016 for time served. I was never made aware of the suit filed in Federal Court in November of 2016. I looking at his complaint it appears he accused me of threatening him if he didn't stop complaining, which is not true. Mr. Wicks' complaint is thirty-four pages and contains many false allegations that would appear to have come from the mind of someone who was dealing with mental health issues. The suit was dismissed by Judge Bryan Harwell without prejudice for failure to prosecute on April 3, 2017 without my knowledge of the suit ever being filed.

I was also sued by a former client named Freddie Junior Wells on August 27, 2007. I was sued along with members of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services in case number 4:07-cv-02960-HMH. Mr. Wells was sentenced on October 25, 2002 to five years for felony DUI involving a death. He was required to do eighty-five percent of that sentence and was released into the community supervision program on June 30, 2006. He was subsequently charged with various violations of that program and brought before the Honorable Michael G. Nettles to have a hearing to determine whether he should be allowed to continue in the community supervision program or have up to one year revoked and return to prison. I represented him in the hearing regarding the community supervision violation. The judge revoked the full amount of 365 days. Mr. Wells filed this suit in Federal Court alleging that was a violation of his due process rights and double jeopardy and other things as well. That case was dismissed on October 19, 2007 without prejudice and without service of process.

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.
I have neither directly nor indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly nor have I received any assurance of any public official or employee that they will seek the pledge of any members of the General Assembly on my behalf.
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 parties to contact members of the General Assembly on my behalf nor have I done any campaigning for the position at all.
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) Scott Poston Floyd [Redacted]
- (b) Doris Poulus O'Hara [Redacted]
- (c) Gregory D. Ammons [Redacted]
- (d) B.J. Barrowclough [Redacted]
- (e) John G. Felder, Jr. [Redacted]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, etc.?
I am not a member of any social media websites.

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?

N/A

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) President: United Methodist Men, First United Methodist Church, Marion, SC.
- (b) Member: Finance Committee, First United Methodist Church, Marion, SC.
- (c) Member of the Trustees, First United Methodist Church, Marion, SC.
- (d) Member of the Church Counsel, First United Methodist Church, Marion, SC.

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 grew up in a very supportive family and was fortunate to associate myself with friends that served as very positive influences. These influences from my friends and family played a significant role in shaping me as a person. They have taught me patience, respect and have instilled in me a tremendous work ethic. Most important, these influences and role models from my parents and family as well as friends both inside and out of the legal profession, taught me how to treat people and have instilled in me a tremendous sense of fairness. I have always believed that the best judges are the ones that treat people with respect and display the proper temperament for the job. I truly believe that these are the qualities that best lend themselves to effective judicial service. If I were to be elected, I would be the kind of judge that worked hard, made decisions on a timely basis and treat everyone that either appeared before me or worked in the court system with the respect they all deserve.

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: _____