



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

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Judge of the Family Court, At Large, Seat 1

1. Name: The Honorable Kimaka Nichols-Graham

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

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

Judge of the Family Court, At Large, Seat 1.

Home Address: [Redacted]

County of Residence: Greenville

Business Address: PO Box 27107
Greenville, South Carolina 29616

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number: (home):
(office):
(cell): [Redacted]

2. Date of Birth: [Redacted]1972
Place of Birth: Marion County, 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.
 - (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.

Married on July 6, 2002 to Hakim Rahman Graham.

Never divorced. I am not in the process of obtaining a divorce. We have 1 child.

[Redacted]

- (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.

[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) Winthrop University. August 1990 to May 1994.
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, cum laude.
- (b) Rutgers University. August 1994 to May 1995.
Master of Science in Public Policy.
- (c) The University of South Carolina, School of Law. August 1995 to May 1998.
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) Student-Faculty Task Force. (Career Services and Registration Committees) 1996-1997.
- (b) Civil Procedure Tutor for Academic Peer Assistance Program, Spring 1997- Spring 1998.
- (c) Black Law Student Association (Banquet and Elections Committees, Social/Mentoring Committee Chairperson, 1997-1998).
- (d) Phi Delta Phi, Student Bar Association. Women in the Law (1995-1998).
- (e) Law Clerk for the Law Office of Hemphill P. Pride, II (Summer 1996 and Fall 1996).
- (f) Law Clerk for the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of General Counsel (Spring 1997).
- (g) Law Clerk for the Richland County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Project (Summer 1997 and Fall 1997).
- (h) Law Intern/Clerk for the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (Spring 1998).

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. November 1998. I took and passed one bar exam.

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) Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina, Inc. Greenville, South Carolina. Staff Attorney. Provided general law practice and community education in housing, probate, and family law cases. November 1998 to September 1999.
- (b) Children's Law Attorney. Practiced law for low income children by focusing primarily on adoptions, children's social security cases, special education advocacy, and school discipline cases. September 1999 until December 31, 2001.
- (c) South Carolina Legal Services. Greenville, South Carolina. Staff Attorney II. Practiced law in cases in Greenville County that included divorce, custody, school discipline, special education, special needs relative adoptions, bankruptcy, credit card defense, and children social security appeals. Appeared in Magistrate's Court, Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, Court of Appeals, and the U. S. Bankruptcy Court in various cases. January 1, 2002 to April 15, 2020.
- (d) Education Unit Head. Led the education unit, sought local funding when possible, trained legal service attorneys across the state in representing students in the public education system, taught parents how to advocate for children, responded to requests for training from community groups, and operated the Greenville County United Way's Securing Public School Opportunities Program. Education cases included special education, school discipline, 504 accommodation plans, school enrollment, and homeless student education cases throughout South Carolina provided representation before local hearing officers, School Boards, the South Carolina Department of Education, the United States Department of Education, the Court of Common Pleas, and the South Carolina Court of Appeals. March 2003 to April 15, 2020.
- (e) Acting Managing Attorney. Supervised six attorneys, two paralegals, and three support staff. Assigned cases, supervised legal work, handled personnel issues, and participated on management team while the Managing Attorney was on extended leave. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. September 24, 2007 through December 31, 2007.
- (f) Acting Managing Attorney. Supervised five full time attorneys, three contract attorneys, one volunteer attorney, three support staff employees, and a satellite office. Reviewed emergency intakes, assigned cases, supervised legal work, handled personnel issues, and provided other managerial duties while the Managing Attorney

was on extended leave. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. August 26, 2009 through November 24, 2009.

- (g) Interim Managing Attorney. Ensured the efficient operation of the Greenville Office and maintained a caseload primarily in family court. The Greenville Office served Greenville, Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee counties. Reviewed, accepted, and assigned or denied applicants. Reviewed all cases for quality and compliance. Supervised the legal work of attorneys, several support staff, and the financial accounts. Addressed human resource issues. Prepared grant reports. Participated in the statewide management team. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. April 1, 2013 to April 15, 2020.
- (h) Managing Attorney (Greenville). Responsible for the provision of civil legal services in Anderson, Greenville, Pickens, and Oconee counties, the quality of legal services provided, and maintaining connections with the community and private bar. Reviewed applications for legal services. Assigned cases and provided case load management. Provided employee evaluations for support staff and attorneys. Provided human resource management and addressed grievances. Provided guidance and training. Managed client trust and petty cash accounts. Assured compliance with grants, policies, and procedures. Maintained a case load in the service area. Participated in grant writing. Included supervising petty cash and trust accounts and monthly account reconciliations. Permanent Position from June 1, 2013 to April 15, 2020.
- (i) As the Managing Attorney (Greenville) I also served as the Interim Managing Attorney (Low Income Taxpayer Clinic). Supervised and managed the Clinic Director, paralegal, and attorneys that assisted with tax cases for South Carolina Legal Services in all counties. Provided case load management, monitored the quality of legal services provided, facilitated assigning cases, denied applicants, provided human resource management, and reviewed grant applications and reports. January 2015 to April 15, 2020.
- (j) Judge of the Family Court, At Large, Seat 1. I served primarily in other counties as a visiting judge from April 2020 until the end of December of 2022. I served as the chief family court judge for administrative purposes (CAJ) for Greenville County Family Court from January 2, 2023 until December 31, 2023. During my term as the CAJ I served as a visiting judge in other counties approximately one week of each month. As the CAJ in Greenville County in addition to maintaining regular duties and responsibilities assigned to each family court judge, I was responsible for reviewing all requests for emergency and ex parte relief in Greenville County, providing direction for docket clerks to issue a balanced and organized system of assigning the types of dockets to judges routinely assigned to Greenville, reviewing and managing the pending list of contested trials, assigning juvenile waiver hearings to judges, ensuring that waiver hearings were being scheduled, held a series of meetings with stakeholders for juvenile justice cases to address transportation problems and other issues due to the county's decision not to reopen Greenville's local secured juvenile detention center, controlling the amount of docket allocated for Greenville County Department of Social Services, scheduling quarterly family court liaison meetings with the local Bar and stakeholders, reviewing all motions for exemption from mandatory mediation and all motions to extend the 365 Day

Administrative Dismissal Rule, and scheduling and holding pre trial hearings for approximately 60 percent of the cases requesting three or more days of docket time for contested final hearings. Since my term as CAJ ended I have been assigned to Greenville County approximately two weeks out of each month. I have served as a family court judge in Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Cherokee, Oconee, Anderson, Laurens, Greenwood, Union, York, Chester, Lexington, Lee, Florence, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, Berkeley, and Charleston counties from April 20, 2020 to present.

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. Not Applicable.
 - (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. Not Applicable.
 - (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. Not Applicable.

(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. Not Applicable.

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? Not Applicable.

(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? Not Applicable.

(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?

Not Applicable.

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or co-counsel? Not Applicable.

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? Not Applicable.

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. Not Applicable.

(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. Not Applicable.
- (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. Not Applicable.
- (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.

Judge of the Family Court, At Large, Seat 1. Family court judges have he jurisdiction to serve in each county. I have served as a family court judge in Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Cherokee, Oconee, Anderson, Laurens, Greenwood, Union, York, Chester, Lexington, Lee, Florence, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, Berkeley, and Charleston counties from April 20, 2020 to present.

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) John Doe v. Jane Doe. Sealed file. Names available upon request. 2019-DR-23-02559. Pending appellate case. SC Court of Appeals. Appellate Case Number 2023-000030.
- (b) Karen Wray v. Eric Wray. 2021-DR-46-01760
Pending appellate case. SC Court of Appeals. Appellate Case Number 2023-001823.
- (c) Gwen Atkinson v. Vincent Kinsler. 2020-DR-46-01439
- (d) SCDSS v. Tenisha Tate and Nathan Howie. Unpublished opinion. 2022 WL-4231243.
- (e) Javen Glazener v. Lauren Jenkins. 2021-DR-23-04547

Respectfully, will the Commission consider redacting the answer to this question for judges seeking re-election? Trial judges hear thousands of contested hearings and trials and if I were a litigant, I do not know how I would feel if the judge that decided my case listed my case as one of the most significant orders or opinions they issued. If this is a public record, one day technology may list this record when someone searches for their name in public records. As to family court, if the judge that decided my case did not believe my case was one of the most significant orders or opinions, I may believe my case was not as important to the judge as it should have been.

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) Admitted to practice before the State Courts of South Carolina on November 16, 1998;
 - (b) Admitted to practice in The United States District Court of South Carolina on January 2, 2003;
 - (c) Admitted to practice before the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of South Carolina. 2004 until the method electronic filing and certification changed around 2018.
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 presented a session on representing low income students and parents in school law to legal services agencies for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on October 11, 2001.
 - (b) I presented a session on representing low income families in school law at the South Eastern Project Directors Association for directors of legal service agencies on July 15, 2002.
 - (c) I presented a session on monitoring re-segregation and protecting the poor for legal service lawyers at the National Legal Aid and Public Defender Substantive Law Conference on July 25, 2002.
 - (d) I presented a session on the overview of a school law practice to legal services and pro bono attorneys for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on August 12, 2004.
 - (e) I presented a session on DSS Court Appointments and Defense Pointers to lawyers at the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association Retreat on October 22, 2004.
 - (f) I presented a session on parent rights in school discipline procedures to legal services and pro bono attorneys for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on February 24, 2006.
 - (g) I presented a session on school discipline and special education discipline to lawyers in the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Education Pro Bono Project Training on August 10, 2006.
 - (h) I presented a session on students still having due process rights to school administrators, professors, and attorneys at the Education Law Association's Annual Conference on October 22, 2009.
 - (i) I have presented several sessions to attorneys and staff on education law at SC Legal Services' Statewide Meetings and in house education task force meetings.
 - (j) I presented a session on working with students experiencing bullying to attorneys at the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center's Education Law Training on March 9, 2012.
 - (k) I presented a session called balancing the scales of justice on representing students in education law cases for the South Carolina Bar on August 8, 2014

- (l) I presented a session called expulsion case pointers to provide practice tips for South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center in October of 2014.
- (m) I presented a session on school discipline law at the South Carolina Bar Convention on January 24, 2015.
- (n) I presented a legal education session on adding school law to your private law practice at the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association Conference on September 18, 2015.
- (o) I presented a session on education law updates and developments at the South Carolina Legal Services Conference on November 19, 2015.
- (p) I presented a session on the school to prison pipeline at the South Carolina Public Defender Association on November 23, 2015.
- (q) I presented a session on forming partnerships to achieve equal educational opportunities for the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center on January 15, 2016.
- (r) I presented at session at the South Carolina Bar Convention on the rights of single fathers in adoption cases on January 23, 2016.
- (s) I presented a session on victim's rights in education at the Victim's Rights Conference on April 20, 2016.
- (t) I co-presented a session on practical legal issues at the School to Prison Pipeline: Children with Disabilities seminar on June 24, 2016.
- (u) I co-presented a continuing legal education session on how legal services can partner with public schools at the SC School Board Association's Summer Conference on August 20, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- (v) I presented a session on children with special needs in family court at the Greenville Bar Annual CLE in February 2018.
- (w) I presented a lecture on special education law and section 504 accommodation plans to school based mental health workers to increase school safety in Sumter on May 11, 2018.
- (x) I presented a law related course on family and school law to guidance counselors for the USC School of Law Children's Law Office in Columbia, SC on June 11, 2018.
- (y) I presented at the SC Guardian ad Litem Annual Training in a panel of three family court judges on Friday, January 28, 2022 in Columbia, SC.
- (z) I presented at the Greenville Bar Annual CLE on a panel of family court judges on Friday, February 11, 2022.
- (aa) I presented a session as the chief administrative family court judge (CAJ) for Greenville County in 2023 at the Greenville Bar's Annual CLE on administrative matters and maintaining the integrity of the court on February 10, 2023.
- (bb) I was a presenter on a panel of judges and Frank Eppes for the Greenville Bar on June 19, 2023 in a CLE called Running for Judicial Office.
- (cc) I presented on July 20, 2023 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fountain Inn/Simpsonville on a panel of two attorneys and one judge for the Empowerment Week session on family law and probate law.
- (dd) On September 22, 2023 I co-presented at a CLE session about family law and collaborative law for the SC Black Lawyers Association Conference in Charleston.
- (ee) On July 25, 2024 I co-presented during an online CLE session about the intersection of education law and family law for the SC Family Law Inns of Court.

I completed the part of this list from my time in private practice to the best of my ability. I provided numerous law-related education courses and continuing legal education sessions before I joined the family court bench.

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 wrote a short article on observations from the family court bench for the SC Family Law Section's E-Newsletter on November 15, 2022.

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 previous firm nor I participated in any rating procedure. If any rating exists, I am not aware of the rating and I did not participate in the process that resulted in the rating. The Greenville Chamber of Commerce included my name in a list of the Legal Elite in education law in Greenville in 2019.

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, Young Lawyers Division, Executive Council 2002-2003.
 - (b) South Carolina Bar, Children's Law Committee
 - (c) South Carolina Supreme Court CLE & Specialization Commissioner, June 2003-July 2009.
 - (d) South Carolina Black Lawyers Association. Assistant Secretary. 2013-2017. Secretary 2018.
 - (e) Greenville County Bar Association
 - (g) Donald James Sampson Bar Association.
 - (h) South Carolina Bar, Education Law Committee, Chair Public Information Subcommittee, 2014-2015.
 - (i) South Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force. Current member.
 - (j) South Carolina Supreme Court Family Court Docket Committee. Ended April 2020.

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. I timely filed reports with the State Ethics Commission for the judicial 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.

None.

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

(a) I applied for Family Court Judge, At Large, Seat 4, in Fall 2012. I was found qualified but I did not receive a nomination.

(b) I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5, in Fall 2013. I was found qualified but I did not receive a nomination.

(c) I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 3 in Spring 2016. I was found qualified but I did not receive a nomination.

(d) I applied for Family Court Judge, At Large, Seat 7, in Fall 2016. I was found qualified but I did not receive a nomination.

(e) I applied for Family Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 6, in Fall 2018. I was found qualified and I received a nomination to proceed to the election. I did very well in that race, but I did not receive the most votes on the floor.

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

I worked as a front desk clerk at the Embassy Suites in Greenville, South Carolina. The time period was approximately February 1999 until November or December of 1999.

I also taught a LSAT preparation courses at Clemson University for Kaplan Test Preparation from 2000 to 2001.

Both of these positions were during evenings and weekends while practicing law for legal services, a private not for profit law firm, before any student loan assistance programs were available.

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

No.

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

No.

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail:
- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
 - (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

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

A complete, current financial network 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. I may have defaulted or was close to defaulting on a student loan when I started practicing law decades ago before there were any student loan assistance programs, various repayment options, or a limit on the interest rates for federal student loans. I secured additional employment during nights and weekends as a hotel desk clerk and later by teaching a LSAT preparation course. I was single and would not allow family members or friends to assist me with student loan payments or by subsidizing any other living expenses. I believed the consequences of my decision to be a public interest lawyer were an inseparable part of the decision that I made during that period of time. I had other employment opportunities and my decision was my decision; therefore, the consequences were mine to bare.

(e) Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, please provide details, along with proof of satisfaction of any liens or defaults. No.

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

No.

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

None.

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years. If you participate in any employer-mandated contributions to a PAC or any other political entity, please describe and note your personal involvement in contributions. If you are a sitting judge, please include such contributions since your last screening.

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.

None.

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 am not aware of financial arrangements or business relationships that could result in a conflict of interest. I recuse myself from presiding over hearings when there is reason to believe there may be a conflict or appearance of a conflict. I do not preside over hearings that include an attorney that provided a letter of recommendation for my past election and I intend to do the same regarding any attorney that provides a letter of recommendation for this application, if I am re-elected.

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.

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.

Not-Applicable.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None.

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

Please review the attachments to my financial statement. I have a 401(k) and the names of the stocks and bonds are on the information I provided to respond to the thirty-third question. I also have a standard mandatory retirement plan that I managed by the state government but I do not know if those funds are invested. At this point, I have not supplemented my state retirement plan with a deferred compensation plan or additional 401(k) plan.

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 do not believe so but I have I attended a dinner for approximately 100 attorneys and judges sponsored by KD Trial Lawyers and its former firm, Harrison & Whilte, during the annual SC Association of Justice Conference. The cost of the meal is minimal and not required to be reported. The president of SC Association of Justice is a partner at KD Trial Lawyers who does not practice family law and that firm did not have pending matters before me at that time. I attended the SC Black Lawyers Association's annual conference in 2023 and

firms and lawyers sponsor food and snacks during breaks in the CLE program and at receptions to offset the cost of the conference. I also attend the SC Bar Convention and firms may sponsor snacks for everyone registered and the vendors.

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

No.

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No.

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

(a) I have never been sued by a client.

(b) Yes. Only once. I was a named party in my official capacity by a self-represented Plaintiff who did not receive a favorable ruling in an action to modify custody. On January 11, 2024 the South Carolina Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision that denied the petition for a writ of mandamus and all of the petitioner's other requests. The family court file was already sealed by another judge's ruling but my ruling on the Motion for Reconsideration is available for review by the SCJMSC and Office of Disciplinary Counsel, upon request. I believe the supreme court denied a request to seal its decision or the identity of the petitioner.

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.

No. When I was in private practice I was always covered with malpractice insurance.

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.

(a) No.

(b) 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.

(a) No.

(b) I have not campaigned for this election. I have not asked anyone to campaign on my behalf. I attended a Greenville County Legislative Delegation Meeting and a Pickens County Delegation Meeting and when judges and potential candidates were allowed to introduce themselves, I shared that I was considering applying for re-election in the next judicial election cycle.

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) Daniel Sulton, Esq., The Olgetree Building, [Redacted]

(b) Meliah Jefferson Bowers, Esq., Wyche Attorneys at Law, [Redacted]

(c) Adrienne Woods, Esq., Safe Passage Inc., [Redacted]

(d) Rusty Infinger, Esq., P3 USA, Inc., [Redacted]

(e) Kirby Mitchell, Esq., South Carolina Legal Services, [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 and Instagram account.

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

Facebook: [Redacted]

Instagram: [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?

The accounts are personal accounts that were established when I was in private practice. I did not allow clients or opposing parties to be my friends or to follow my accounts. I routinely monitor the settings. I do not accept requests for litigants to become my friends or to follow me on social media and I remove friends if they post offensive things. I actively monitor anything that I like to ensure it is not a political post. I do not allow litigants to communicate with me through messenger or messaging services. When I was elected as a family court judge, I unfriended attorneys that may regularly appear before me and I attempted to explain that decision. I am aware that the judicial cannons and ethical rules apply to me in every setting and I am mindful of information that I share and how it could be perceived. I mainly use social media to maintain long distance relationships and keep up with daily activities and pictures posted by close friends and family members or to make general positive and encouraging statements.

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) Bethlehem Baptist Church Member. Summer Bible Institute Instructor. June 2011.

(b) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Greenville (SC) Alumnae Chapter. Co-Chair of Social Action Committee 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

(c) Young Lawyer of the Year Award. South Carolina Bar. 2001-2002.

(d) Springfield Baptist Church. Unsung Heroine Award. March 24, 2013.

(e) The Ellen Hines Smith Legal Services Attorney of the Year 2015.

(f) The Moles of Greenville, South Carolina. Publication Committee Chair. (2022-2023).

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 went to law school to help people. When I was a young lawyer I did not dream of becoming a judge and I could not have contemplated becoming a judge. Our family is full of intelligent people but to this day, I am still not aware of any other lawyer in my family.

I grew up in a rural area in South Carolina where my paternal ancestors and family members have resided since before the 1840's, when they were still enslaved people. My household was stable and we lived in a stable community surrounded by family members and my father's close friends but I still observed things in my community that created a drive within me to achieve a good education. I wanted to be in a position to help people and to make a difference in the lives of children.

I have a heightened awareness of the need to protect the integrity of the court, to quickly assess the situation and focus on the facts and issues that need additional attention, to maintain the decorum of the court at all times, and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to maintain their personal dignity and respect even if they do not receive a favorable decision. I do not make arbitrary decisions. I can explain every decision.

My personal and professional experiences will continue to serve the public well. It is an honor to serve in this capacity. I believe that I am a good judge and I hope that you reach the same conclusion.

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: _____