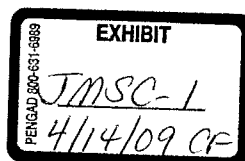


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court, Thirteenth Circuit, Seat 3:

1. NAME: Mr. Robin B. Stilwell  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 2 Whitsett St, Greenville, SC 29601  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (864) 232-5000
  
2. Date of Birth: 1966  
Place of Birth: Alexandria, VA
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.
5. Family Status: Married April 8, 1995, to Charlotte Whelan Stilwell. Never divorced. Three children.
6. Have you served in the military?  
Entered military service 1985 upon enrollment in ROTC at The Citadel. Commissioned as Officer of Infantry 15 March 1991 in the United States Army. Served continuously since in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Currently serving as a Major, Infantry, Executive Officer of the 1-118<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Battalion, Union, SC. Serial number same as Social Security Number. Served abroad in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom, 2007-2008.
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) The Citadel, 1985-1990 – BA English;
  - (b) The University of South Carolina, August 1988-December 1988 (left to return to The Citadel to obtain my undergraduate degree);
  - (c) The University of South Carolina School of Law, 1990-1993 - JD.
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
South Carolina - 1994.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
Significant positions at the Citadel:
  - (a) Commander 1989 Junior Sword Drill (1988-1989);
  - (b) Member 1989 Summerall Guard (January 1988-1989);



- (c) Cadet First Sergeant Alpha Company (1987-1988);
- (d) Regimental Clerk (1986-1987);
- (e) President's List x 2 (Spring 1986, Fall 1985);
- (f) Commandant's List x 2 (Spring 1986, Fall 1985);
- (g) Regimental Color Guard (Spring 1987);
- (h) National History Honor Society (inducted 1987);
- (i) Dean's List and Gold Star Recipient, Citadel Scholar.

Graduate/Law School:

- (a) Commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry serving with the South Carolina National Guard as a Platoon Leader with Echo Company, First of the 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry, St. George, South Carolina.

10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include **only** the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) Criminal Law Hot Tips	5/16/2003;
(b) Ethical Considerations for the Juvenile Justice	7/13/2004;
(c) Revised Lawyer's Oath	9/10/2004;
(d) Judicial Oath of Office	10/29/2004;
(e) Handling DUI Cases in the New Law	4/15/2005;
(f) Two-Day Seminar (Summary Judges Convention)	5/16/2005;
(g) Two-Day MBA for Attorneys	10/24/2005;
(h) Two-Day Seminar (Summary Judges Convention)	5/8/2006;
(i) S.T.O.P. Violence Program (None for 18 months due to Afghanistan deployment and Military status with the South Carolina Bar)	6/22/2006;
(j) Summary Court Judges' Convention, Kingston Plantation	2/12/2009 -2/14/2009.

11. 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. N/A.

12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. N/A.

13. 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) Supreme Court of South Carolina May 3, 1994 ID #4353;
- (b) United States District Court, District of SC November 7, 1995 ID #6475.

14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) 2000- Present  
Hunter, Tomaszek & Stilwell, PA  
Shareholder  
General Practice emphasizing representation of small businesses. This would include formations of businesses, negotiations between shareholders and members, litigation between members and shareholders and litigation involving commercial disputes with third parties. However, this practice included litigation of a general nature as well. It also included real estate matters to include the closing of real estate loans for both commercial and residential clients. Because of my practice in real estate, I have been a title insurance agent since the mid 1990's. Prior to 2002, I represented litigants in Family Court as well;
  - (b) Certified Circuit Court Mediator – certified on January 14, 2002. I have actively mediated cases at the rate of approximately twenty to thirty cases per year;
  - (c) 1999- Present  
Judge, Mauldin Municipal Court. I began serving as Judge at the Mauldin Municipal Court on a fill-in basis in 1999. In the year 2000, I began to serve in the stead of Judge Randolph Hunter who had taken an extended leave of absence. I served for all of the year as the Associate Judge presiding on all cases before the Court and was nominated by the City Council of Mauldin as the Chief Judge of Mauldin Municipal Court in 2001. I have remained serving in that capacity since that time;
  - (d) January 2009 – Present  
Associate Judge, Greer Municipal Court;
  - (e) 1999-2000  
Robin B. Stilwell, LLC  
Sole Practitioner. This was a general practice of law wherein I represented any number of clients in various courts to include Circuit Court, Magistrate's Court, Probate Court and Federal Court. I also represented clients on both commercial and residential real estate matters. I also represented litigants in Family Court;
  - (f) 1996-1999  
Anderson, Fayssoux & Chasteen  
Associate Attorney. I had a very general practice focused on litigation and representation of clients in all courts. I also practiced both commercial and residential real estate. During this period of time I also was serving as an Indigent Defense Counsel for the County of

Greenville as indicated below. I represented litigants in Family Court as well;

- (g) 1995-1997  
Greenville County Indigent Defense Contract Attorney. I acted as a contract Public Defender and represented clients exclusively in General Sessions Court. I was appointed to represent Defendants at the rate of approximately eight cases every two weeks. The representation of these clients remained under appointment even after the contract terminated in 1997. Therefore, I continued to represent indigent defendants through 1999. This representation also involved the appointment to represent clients in Post-Conviction Relief applications to the Court of Common Pleas;
- (h) 1994-1996  
The Stilwell Law Firm  
Associate Attorney. I practiced general law. I was an associate for my father and assisted him in all matters related to clients of The Stilwell Law Firm. In that capacity I began the contract with the Greenville County Indigent Defense and also obtained my South Carolina title insurance license;
- (i) 1993-1994  
Judicial Clerk  
The Honorable Paul E. Short, Circuit Court Judge.

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:

- (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, 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 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.  
Over the past eight years I have served as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mauldin. In this capacity I have had jurisdiction over criminal matters exclusively. I have presided over thousands upon thousands of pleas as I hold Court on a weekly basis and deal with matters ranging from simple traffic citations, criminal domestic violence cases, DUI's and many General Sessions level cases heard by special designation from the

Supreme Court. Those include mainly driving under suspension charges above first offense. In this capacity I have also presided over a significant number of jury trials. Therein I had responsibility for all matters related to the conduct of a trial including legal and evidentiary rulings, management and qualification of jurors and legal charges to jurors.

Because of my office of Municipal Court Judge, I have elected not to practice criminal law in General Sessions Court. I felt that because of my position, it would be inappropriate to be adverse to attorneys in the Solicitor's Office or law enforcement officers who may appear before me. However, as listed above, prior to my taking the judicial oath of office, I appeared in General Sessions Court quite frequently incident to the Indigent Defense Contract with Greenville County. I also represented clients in General Sessions Court in my capacity as a private attorney. I both handled and tried suits ranging from murder, burglary first, criminal sexual conduct, spanning down to driving under the influence first offense. I also had occasion to appear in court on thousands of pleas.

I also have extensive experience in civil matters. When I began practicing law, The Stilwell Law Firm, of which my father was the principal, handled mainly civil matters focusing primarily on small business. I have represented clients in civil cases continuously since 1994. I have represented those clients with respect to transactions and litigation. I have handled literally thousands of civil cases and have tried a substantial amount of those. It is difficult within the context requested in the question to include all of the cases which I have handled in the past five years and to include the procedural history. However, I can state without reservation that I have handled hundreds of cases in that time frame from start to finish, from filings of pleadings to jury verdicts. I have had occasion in certain instances to appeal these decisions to both the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the State of South Carolina where I have made numerous appearances. I have also handled transactional matters, business matters, contractual litigation, tort litigation and declaratory judgment actions.

It is my hope that the above response is not construed as vague or not specific enough. However, I am attempting to provide a general explanation of my practice while not getting bogged down with the specifics so as to make the response meaningful and not unintelligibly long.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell? BV.

**Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.**

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
- (a) federal: 1-2 times a year;
  - (b) state: approximately 50 times a year;\*
- \*I have been deployed to Afghanistan from February 2007 through May 2008. Therefore, my appearances in any court during that time were limited.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, and domestic matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 95% of my private practice;
  - (b) criminal: 100% of my judicial responsibilities;
  - (c) domestic: 5% of my private practice.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury?
- (a) jury: 50%;
  - (b) non-jury: 50%.
- Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole counsel.
19. List five of the most significant litigated matters that 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.
- None of the following cases are particularly significant to the Bar or establish precedence. However, each was significant to me for the learning experience. An attorney learns something of value and expands his or her experience from each case he or she tries.
- (a) Greer Plaza, Inc. v. Winn Dixie, Inc., 1995-CP-23-3047. This was a case in which I represented the Plaintiff in a commercial lease dispute. It was the first Common Pleas case that I tried and one from which I took away many lessons regarding both trial and handling cases prior to trial;
  - (b) State of South Carolina v. Dennis Boyd Terry, Murder, 1995 Greenville County General Sessions Court, Jury Verdict, 1995. This was the first General Sessions case that I tried. I represented the defendant and learned many important things about preparing and examining witnesses;
  - (c) Dean Sinatra and Enterprise Partners, Inc. v. Realticorp, et al, 2003-CP-23-1834. This was a non-jury trial in which I represented the plaintiff. It involved a contract/employment dispute among sophisticated business entities and helped me develop a better understanding of more complex business litigation;
  - (d) Elijah McCollum v. Medical Center, Inc. of Pickens, et al, 2003-CP-39-0598. This was a case in which I represented the defendant in a shareholders' derivative dispute. Again, it taxed my knowledge of the Corporate Code and also taught me lessons in lawyer skill and conduct;
  - (e) State of South Carolina v. Timothy Lamont Jackson, Case No. 97-GS-23-2964 and 2966, Burglary First Degree and CSC First Degree, Jury

Verdict. I represented the defendant who was found guilty of the charged offenses. I learned from this case what a lawyer's duty is to a criminal defendant, in spite of his or her personal reservations.

20. List up to five civil appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported. **If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).**
- (a) Brenda Wilson v. James Moseley, et al, Supreme Court of SC, August 4, 1997, Opinion Number 24664;
  - (b) Collins Holding Corporation v. Scott Landrum and Landrum Incorporated, Inc., SC Supreme Court, June 22, 2004, Opinion Number 25851;
  - (c) James Rhodes and Jeanette Rhodes v. William Marvin McDonald, et al, SC Court of Appeals, June 4, 2001, Opinion Number 3349;
  - (d) Christina G. deBondt v. Carlton Motorcars, Inc, et al, March 15, 2004, Opinion Number 2004-MO-008;
  - (e) William S. Ivester, Jr. v. MKR Partnership, SC Court of Appeals, Case No. 96-CP-23-801.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. Please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter.  
None.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?  
I began serving in 1999 as Associate Judge for the City of Mauldin. Since 2001 I have served as the Chief Judge of the Mauldin Municipal Court. This is a Summary Court Judge with jurisdiction over criminal matters that carry incarceration for less than one year or a fine less than \$500. Summary Court Judges may also hear cases outside of this stated jurisdiction by special designation by the Supreme Court.  
I have also been sworn in and am acting as an Associate Municipal Judge for the City of Greer, SC. I began in this capacity earlier this year.
23. If the answer to question 22 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.  
There were no reported cases as this is a Summary Court and is not a Court of record. No appeals have been made to the Appellate or Supreme Court.
24. 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? N/A.
25. 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.

During my service as a Judge, I have been commissioned as an infantry officer with the United States Army serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard. I have also practiced law as described above.

26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No.
27. 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?  
I have served as an officer in the military. Also, I am a fifty percent member in Law Holdings, LLC, which holds title to and owns the building situate at 2 Whitsett Street, Greenville, South Carolina, in which I practice law. We do lease space to tenants.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?  
I hold a fifty percent membership interest in Law Holdings, LLC. This is the company which holds title to and owns the building in which I practice law. I serve in no officer or director capacity as decisions are made by me and the other fifty percent member, my law partner, Mark Tomaszek, by unanimous approval.
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships that you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.
31. 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?  
Accused of DUI in April of 1986 in Folly Beach, SC. Charge was reduced to Reckless Driving.
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally?  
My wife was in a traffic accident in a car which was jointly titled to the both of us. Subsequent to the accident, the insurance company, USAA, refused to pay dubious claims. A suit was brought in which I was named as a Defendant. The suit was subsequently settled prior to trial. No.
36. 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.
37. 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? No.
38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. N/A.
39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. N/A.
40. 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.  
Approximately \$75.00 for postage for letters of introduction to the General Assembly in February 2009.
41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
42. 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? 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?  
I have spoken to members of the South Carolina Legislature but have neither sought nor received any pledges or assurances for support.
43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?  
I have spoken to friends of mine who may have relationships with legislators; however, I have not as of yet requested any of them to make contact with legislators on my behalf.
44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.

45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
46. 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) Greenville County Bar.
47. 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, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) 1998-2003  
Greenville Literacy Association  
Member, Board of Directors, 1998-2000  
Treasurer, 2001  
President, 2002  
Past President, 2003;
  - (b) 2005-2006  
Mental Health Association of South Carolina  
Member, Board of Directors
  - (c) 2004-2006  
Eastside YMCA Advisory Board  
Member, Board of Advisors;
  - (d) 2005-2006  
Greenville Hospital System Patewood Advisory Board  
Member, Board of Advisors;
  - (e) 2008  
Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
48. Provide any other information which 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.
- I feel that my legal experience has prepared me well to be a Circuit Court Judge. I have served as a law clerk to The Honorable Paul E. Short and thereafter have spent a career in Court. I believe that I am both well-qualified and well-disposed to be a Circuit Court Judge.
- Also, I have been awarded by the U.S. Army the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan in 2007-2008. Thereafter, I was awarded the Palmetto Patriot Award on May 28, 2008, by Lt. Governor Andre Bauer for sacrifices made in defense of our Country and our State.
49. References:
- (a) Patrick Martin  
First Citizens Bank

1230 Main St.  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(864)282-1281

- (b) Louis Sagedy  
Carolina First Bank  
104 S. Main St  
Greenville, SC 29601  
(864)255-8917
- (c) Carole Ring  
310 Lake El Jema Drive  
Piedmont, SC 29673  
864.277.7777 (home) and 864.884.3533 (cell)
- (d) Sergeant Major Doug Gilliam  
165 Industrial Park Road  
Union, SC 29379  
(864)426-0785
- (e) Angela Martin  
Mauldin City Clerk of Court  
PO Box 249  
Mauldin, SC 29662  
(864)289-8898

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.

s/Mr. Robin B. Stilwell

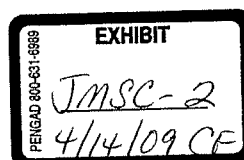
Date: 03/12/09

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Circuit Court  
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Robin Bullington Stilwell  
Business Address: 2 Whitsett Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
Business Telephone: 864.232.5000

1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?  
I have spent a career in Court beginning with my service as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Paul E. Short. I have also served for the past ten years as a Municipal Court Judge. During my experiences in Court and sitting as a judge, I have come to obtain a good deal of experience and an affinity for being a judge. I have always enjoyed sitting as a judge, and I have enjoyed being in the courtroom. I believe that my demeanor, disposition and temperament have served me well and qualify me to serve as a Circuit Court Judge.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?  
I would reserve that decision until the appropriate time.
4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
*Ex parte* communications are very problematic for not only litigants and their counsel but for the judiciary as well. In my experience I have been very reluctant to have *ex parte* communications because of the appearance of partiality. A judge who enters into *ex parte* communication does so at his own peril. However, that is not to say that a judge should be rude or abrupt with persons who are attempting to communicate with him. He or she should state quite clearly that the phone call or letter is appreciated; however, it is inappropriate and a conference or hearing at which both parties are present should be convened. I have seen judges enter *ex parte* orders in cases where exigent circumstances exist. Emergency circumstances can arise wherein *ex parte* orders or communication would be necessary to protect persons or properties. However, it is my opinion that these should be done in only the most extraordinary circumstances.  
The Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3(B)(7), sets forth circumstances under which a Judge may allow *ex parte* communications in certain



scheduling, administrative and emergency matters. I would conduct myself in accordance with the Rules.

6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? Canon 3(E) of the Code of Judicial Conduct addresses a Judge's disqualification or recusal from cases. I would refer to the Rules to guide any decisions I may make in this regard. However, I believe that a judge should recuse himself in any instance in which there is an appearance of partiality. The judge should always state for the record any close or personal relationship that he may have with any of the litigants or attorneys appearing before him. The parties will then have the opportunity to ask for recusal without any negative consequences. If there is a request for a recusal, the judge should then determine, based on the Rule, whether he can conduct himself fairly and impartially in the matter. Furthermore, even if there is not a request from either party, if the judge has reason to believe that he could not be impartial, he should recuse himself. With respect to lawyer-legislators, judges should not recuse themselves unless they have a very strong personal or familial relationship with that lawyer-legislator. It would certainly be impractical for members of the judiciary to recuse themselves as a matter of course simply because someone is a member of the legislature.
7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? It would certainly depend on the facts and circumstance of the case. I would closely consider the motion while considering the relevant Rule. A Judge must take whatever steps are necessary to preserve and insure the integrity of the judiciary. However, a Judge also has a responsibility to the Court, to the Bar and to the general public to effectively administer the conduct of court. He should not accommodate Judge shopping in a case in which there is no real bias.
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? Canon 3(E) of the Code of Judicial Conduct addresses this issue in part. If a Judge's spouse or close relative has an economic interest in a matter, other than *de minimus*, the Judge must recuse himself. When the relationship is strictly social the judge should make a disclosure on the record and give each party the opportunity to make a motion for recusal. If there were a motion properly made, I would consider the motion on its merits.
9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would accept no gifts except those of nominal value. I would accept invitations to parties and other social

events from existing, long-standing friends where the invitations are not related to my office. For instance, I would accept an invitation to attend a party at the house of an attorney who may have in the past or would in the future appear in my court and with whom I've had a prior social relationship. However, I would not do so during a term of court in which he had a case before me. Furthermore, I would make no attempts to conceal any personal relationship that I may have with members of the Bar. Obviously, as a member of the Bar for the past fifteen years, I have developed strong personal relationships with many members of the Bar.

10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? Canon 3(D) of the Code of Judicial Conduct addresses this issue directly. I would discuss the matter with the offending lawyer or jurist to ensure that I was not misconstruing the facts. If it were determined that a violation had been committed the Rule states clearly that a Judge must inform the appropriate authority.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be re-evaluated?  
I have been a Municipal Court Judge for the past ten years and have been ethically precluded from participating in politics. I serve on no boards currently that would require re-evaluation.
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? I would have to make a decision at the time as to whether I would sell my interest in Law Holdings, LLC. This is the entity which holds title to the building in which I practice law.
13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders?  
In most instances I would direct attorneys to draft orders either on the record or by way of written communication. This would be done with full notice and detail to each party to the matter. I would ask that the attorney send the document to me, as well as opposing counsel or parties, digitally so that I could make whatever revisions may be necessary. Also, I can imagine under certain circumstances drafting my own orders if the matter of law or fact need be addressed with great care.
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?  
I would have a computer calendar which would diary all important events. I would also concurrently task both my law clerk and secretary with maintaining and updating one calendar so that all deadlines would be met.
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

I am not an advocate of judicial activism. My position is that judicial activism is inappropriate conduct for members of the judiciary. This opinion applies both to judges who may have a propensity to act in favor of liberal agendas or conservative agendas. Public policy is well within the realm of responsibilities of the executive and legislative bodies. The Supreme Court also exercises a policy making function in interpreting and applying the written law. To the extent that cases involve matters of public policy, a Circuit Court Judge should defer to the previous rulings of the Supreme Court. A Circuit Court Judge should do his or her best to act in accordance with the prescribed law and avoid making decisions based on public policy. To the extent that the statutory or common law references public policy and a trial court judge's responsibility for making decisions on the same, I would do so in favor of broad principles benefiting the greater good of the public as opposed to powerful individuals or advocacy groups.

16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

I would be willing to speak or to serve on any number of boards or commissions related to improving of the legal system and enhancing the administration of justice. Furthermore, I would be willing to work with the Solicitor and members of the Bar to improve the administration of justice, particularly as it relates to criminal domestic violence. I see criminal domestic violence as a significant problem in our State.

17. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you address this?

No. I have the strong support of my wife, my friends and my family. The pressures of the Judiciary are not unfamiliar to my family.

18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

a. Repeat offenders:

These offenders have demonstrated that the rehabilitative prong of the criminal justice system is not relevant or important to them. Therefore, in most instances I would be inclined to sentence these offenders at or near the maximum penalty allowed under the law.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the circuit court):

It would certainly depend on the nature of the offense and the facts of the case. Absent compelling reasons to the contrary, I would be inclined to sentence these offenders to probation or a penalty certainly less than that of repeat offenders.

- c. White collar criminals:  
Again, it would depend on the nature of the crime and the facts of the case. I do not have any predispositions regarding any types of criminals. I do not believe that the legislature has made any distinction with respect to the types of offenders, and I am not inclined to differentiate simply because someone is a white-collar criminal. I would sentence white-collar criminals consistent with both the law and sentences other criminal defendants who may have appeared before me have received.
- d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:  
Again, it would depend on the nature of the crime and the facts of the case. I do not have any predispositions regarding any types of criminals. I do not believe that the legislature has made any distinction with respect to the types of offenders, and I am not inclined to differentiate simply because someone has a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background. I would sentence these criminals consistent with both the law and sentences other criminal defendants who may have appeared before me have received.
- e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:  
Again, it would depend on the nature of the crime and the facts of the case. I do not have any predispositions regarding any types of criminals. I do not believe that the legislature has made any distinction with respect to the types of offenders, and I am not inclined to differentiate simply because someone is elderly or infirmed. I would sentence these criminals consistent with both the law and sentences other criminal defendants who may have appeared before me have received.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
I currently hold a fifty percent membership interest in Law Holdings, LLC. This entity holds title to the property situate at 2 Whitsett Street, Greenville, South Carolina. It is the building in which I practice law. We do have tenants, and I will consider maintaining my membership interest and collecting rents.
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?  
I would consider hearing this case after a full disclosure to all parties to the lawsuit.
21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes



23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?  
A judge should be patient, gracious, considerate and generally affable. However, a judge should be ready and willing to be stern when circumstances require a firm hand.
24. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day?  
Seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day
25. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or pro se litigants?  
I think a judge should refrain from becoming personally angry with defendants, parties or attorneys. I believe that under certain circumstances, a judge can and should be stern with respect to certain conduct by persons who appear before him. However, the Judge's stern disposition should be of a professional and not a personal nature.
26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? I have spent approximately \$75.00 for postage in order to send letters of introduction to the General Assembly.
27. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? No
28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No
29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No
30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?  
I have spoken to legislators and friends of mine who have relationships with legislators. However, I have not sought any pledges of support from any legislator and have asked no friends of legislators to contact anyone on my behalf.
31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? Since the seat was opened for applications I have had occasion to speak to several of the members of the Legislature who serve on the screening committee while at the State House. However, I have refrained from discussing my candidacy or the election.
32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted?  
Yes

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE  
TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

s/Robin Bullington Stilwell

Sworn to before me this 12th day of March, 2009.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 12/14/2017

**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**

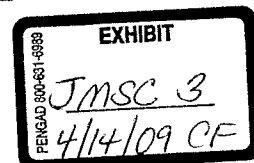
Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Third Circuit,  
Seat 2

1. NAME: Mr. W. T. Geddings, Jr.  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 20 S Brooks St, Manning, SC 29102  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 803-435-4770
  
2. Date of Birth: 1963  
Place of Birth: Lake City, Florida
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.
5. Family Status: Married on August 9, 1985, to Jane Ulmer Geddings. Never divorced. Two children.
6. Have you served in the military? No.
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) University of South Carolina, School of Business, 1981 to 1985, BS degree with a major in Accounting.  
(b) University of South Carolina, School of Law, 1985 to 1987, Juris Doctor degree.
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
(a) Admitted in South Carolina bar 1988, Bar #11300  
(b) Admitted to Georgia bar 1995, Bar #288584  
(c) Took NC Bar in 1990 but did not pass.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
(a) Sigma Chi Fraternity, held the offices of Rush Chairman, Alumni Chairman, PR Chairman, Pledge trainer - 1981 to 1985  
(b) Founding President of Golden Key National Honor Society at USC - 1984  
(c) Member of Student-Faculty Relations Board - 1984  
(d) Dean's List - numerous years
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include **only** the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed

Class

Date

Form Revised Spring 2009



- |     |  |             |
|-----|--|-------------|
| (a) | Curing Title Problems                    | 02/26/2009; |
| (b) | Its All a Game – Top Evidence Lawyers    | 02/13/2009; |
| (c) | ITIC Annual Conference                   | 09/11/2008; |
| (d) | 2007 Fall ITIC Title Insurance Seminar   | 11/02/2007; |
| (e) | Nuts and Bolts of Like Kind Exchange     | 11/15/2007; |
| (f) | Anatomy for Lawyers                      | 02/23/2007; |
| (g) | Non-Profit Corporations                  | 02/07/2007; |
| (h) | ITIC 2006 seminar                        | 10/06/2006; |
| (i) | 20/20: An Optimal View                   | 12/16/2005; |
| (j) | 2005 ITIC seminar                        | 10/14/2005; |
| (k) | What it is, What it was, What it will be | 12/17/2004; |
| (l) | Revised SC Lawyers Oath CLE              | 09/17/2004; |
| (m) | Title Insurance and the Order of things  | 07/13/2004; |
| (n) | Ethics Committee June meeting            | 06/18/2004; |
| (o) | Ethics Committee Feb. meeting            | 02/20/2004. |
11. 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 lectured on Risk Management and insurance liability issues at Western Carolina University, Clemson University, Furman University, College of Charleston and at University of South Carolina.
  - (b) I have lectured on issues involving hazing at University of South Carolina
  - (c) I taught courses at Central Carolina Technical College in their paralegal program and in their criminal justice program. Courses included Torts, Legal Research, Office Management, Criminal Law, Ethics, Business Law, Domestic Relations, etc.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.
- (a) Like a Hog with a Wristwatch - A Guide to Technology in the Law Office, South Carolina Trial Lawyers Magazine, Fall 1995
  - (b) Legally Speaking, a semi-weekly column in The Manning Times from 1989 through 1997 in which I discussed various topics of law of interest to a lay person.
13. 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) State Courts of South Carolina - May 1988
  - (b) Federal District Court - May 1989
  - (c) State Courts of Georgia – 1995
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

After graduation from law school, I returned home to Manning, SC. I worked with the firm of Coffey, Cooper, Chandler & DuRant, PA as an associate and handled mainly litigation matters. These included criminal cases, family court cases and tort claims from the Plaintiff's perspective. I also worked as a Public Defender. This was from my admission to the bar in 1988 until January of 1992.

In January of 1992, I opened my own office in Manning, South Carolina as a sole practitioner. I continued to practice general law with a focus on litigation. I began to handle real estate matters as well. In 1993, I entered into an agreement with Rosalee Hix Davis, Esquire, in which she worked with me in my office. During that time, we also began to handle matters for the Department of Social Services in Williamsburg County on a contract basis. Ms. Davis left in 1995 and I hired Scott L. Robinson as an associate. While Scott Robinson worked for me, we continued to handle general law and expanded into bankruptcy matters. When Mr. Robinson left in 1997, we stopped handling bankruptcy law. In 1998, I entered into a contract with the Clarendon County Department of Social Services to provide legal services as a contract attorney in addition to my private practice. That contract expired in June of 2001.

I currently practice general law and handle mainly real estate, domestic relations and tort or contract litigation. I do a little bit of criminal work currently but it has become a small part of my practice since other attorneys in this area have started to specialize in it and I do not actively seek it.

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:

(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 has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

My time as a contract attorney for the South Carolina Department of Social Services (Clarendon County office) gave me a great deal of experience with abuse and neglect cases as well as a great deal of time in the Family Court. I found it very rewarding to try to help protect the children and help to try to help them make a better life. We also worked to investigate and establish the first Family Court Drug Court in South Carolina. In my private practice, I have handled many divorce cases or custody disputes. I have represented husbands and wives, mothers or fathers and often served as the Guardian *ad Litem* so I believe I have seen the cases from almost every perspective. I believe my experience in handling these cases and dealing with the clients would help me be a Family Court Judge because in addition to understanding the law of the situation, I understand how people will misinterpret or misunderstand the law.

I can therefore help them understand the situation and encourage them to work with their attorneys to really know what is possible and not possible.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell? I am not listed in Martindale-Hubbell. Few people use Martindale-Hubbell so I felt little need to pay a subscription fee just to have a rating. More people use the internet when searching for an attorney or information about an attorney so I focused my attention there.

Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
- (a) federal: once per year or less. I have not handled a Federal case in the last five years.
  - (b) state: I am in Circuit Court a couple of times per month. I am in Family Court on average 4 times per month. I am in Magistrate Court about once per month. I serve as a Special Referee and hear non-jury cases about 5 per month.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, and domestic matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 35%
  - (b) criminal: 5%
  - (c) domestic: 60%
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 15%
  - (b) non-jury: 85%

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? I most often serve as Sole Counsel.

19. 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) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 336 S.C. 154, 519 S.E.2d 102 (1999) - I served as trial and appellant counsel for Case Produce Company. The Commission and lower courts had basically held that an employee who claimed to have been injured at work was almost presumed to have been injured at work. The Supreme Court agreed with our position that the burden of proof in proving any injury occurred at work must rest with the claimant and not the employer.
  - (b) State vs. Marcus Joseph - This was a Circuit Court death penalty case in which I was assistant counsel. I believe it was significant because it involved many issues of contract murder, interstate jurisdiction and extradition, the death penalty and negotiations both with the prosecution

and with the client. I learned a great deal in this case so it has personal significance to me.

- (c) Gladys Haskins v. Lynn Ray Tidwell - This case was litigated in the Family Court. I represented the Defendant. The case involves the burden of proof in a common law marriage case. It also involves the question of when a common law marriage ripens from a relationship that was initially void due to one of the parties being married, if it ever ripens. The trial court ruled in favor of the Plaintiff and we appealed. Immediately prior to the appeal being heard, the standard of review by an appellate court in this type of matter changed so the appeal was denied after oral arguments in an unpublished opinion. I believe it is significant because since South Carolina is one of the few states with common law marriage, it is necessary to develop better guidelines for when a relationship changes into a marriage.
  - (d) Tom Judy v. Breann Lashell Wall - This is a typical automobile accident case in which I represent the Plaintiff. The reason I list it as significant is because it took almost 7 years to complete.. Mr. Judy was injured while he was working and the Workers Compensation case remained unresolved for that entire period. While the Workers Compensation claim remained pending, the civil action for the automobile accident could not be resolved. This is significant to me because it shows me how justice delayed can become justice denied. My ability to help Mr. Judy was been stymied by the other factors and in my meetings with him, it reminded me that all of our actions impact real people with real problems.
  - (e) Tracy E. Howard v. John Doe - Tracy Howard is a young lady about to be married who was in an automobile accident caused by an unknown driver. She is now a paraplegic. I represent her and have assisted her with the automobile insurance and with the Medicaid system. This case is significant because her determination to carry on and her positive attitude give me inspiration. Someone who had everything going for her and who is suddenly faced with stupendous medical bills and the loss of use of her legs but who still maintains a positive attitude is someone I want to remember. Maybe it is not a socially significant case to others, but it is one I am proud to be involved and it is significant to me.
20. 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. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).
- (a) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 336 S.C. 154, 519 S.E.2d 102 (1999)
  - (b) Anthony Sharpe v. Case Produce Company, 329 S.C. 534, 495 S.E.2d 790 (Ct.App.1997).
  - (c) Gladys Haskins v. Lynn Ray Tidwell, Case No. 2004..DR..14..161, appeal denied after oral arguments to Court of Appeals in an unpublished opinion.

21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). None
22. Have you ever held judicial office? No, I have never held any judicial office although I have served as Special Referee in a number of cases.
23. If the answer to question 22 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
24. 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? I have not held public office.
25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. I have not served as a Judge.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office?. I was an unsuccessful candidate for Clarendon County Council in 1994. I lost in the run-off election to W. J. Frierson.
27. 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? Other than odd jobs during summer breaks, I have not held any job other than the practice of law.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? I am the President of Geddings Law Firm, PA. Other than that, I am not involved in any other business enterprise.
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. 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. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. I would recuse myself from any case involving a present or former client. I would recuse myself from any case involving a family member or businesses owned by family members or close friends I am not aware of any other financial arrangements or business relationships, other than clients and family, which could result in a possible conflict of interest.
31. 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.  
None

32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?  
I was sued in Clarendon County in case number 2000..CP..14..34 for the actions of Scott L. Robinson while he was an associate with my firm. The case was *Bhupen C. Patel v. Vishnukmar V. Patel, Scott L. Robinson, and W. T. Geddings, Jr., d/b/a Geddings Law Firm*. Scott Robinson handled a real estate closing for Mr. Bhupen Patel and Mr. V. Patel. In the title search, he encountered a mortgage and the Patels gave him a printout of the balance they claimed was due on the note secured by the mortgage. Scott Robinson based his calculations on that amortization and completed the closing. Later, Bhupen Patel claimed that the printout (which he provided to Scott Robinson) was incorrect and alleged that Scott Robinson should have not taken his word for it and instead have demanded the original documents. Neither of the Patels had paid Scott Robinson to perform services related to the loan. The case was resolved and I had no liability nor was I required to make any payments.
36. 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)? I have never been employed as a lobbyist.
37. 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. I have not accepted or been offered such things.
38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. I have not violated that section nor have I been accused of violating it. I am not aware of any other candidates who have filed applications so I cannot speak to their violation or lack of violation.
39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign."

Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. I have not violated that section nor have I been accused of violating it. I am not aware of any other candidates who have filed applications so I cannot speak to their violation or lack of violation.

40. 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. I have not made any expenditures.
41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. I have received no contributions.
42. 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? 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? I have neither sought nor received any pledge nor promise of a pledge.
43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No, I have not made such a request nor am I aware of anyone contacting members of the General Assembly.
44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? I am not aware of anyone who has solicited any funds on my behalf.
45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? Other than requesting the application form, I have not contacted the Commission nor has anyone done so on my behalf.
46. 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) Georgia Bar Association
  - (c) Clarendon County Bar Association
47. 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, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
  - (a) Sigma Chi Fraternity – I have been a Grand Praetor (district governor) and am currently a Grand Trustee and serve on the Executive Committee
  - (b) Rotary Club of Manning – Paul Harris Fellow

(c) New Covenant Presbyterian Church

48. 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.

I am a Court Certified Mediator and a Court Certified Arbitrator. I have mediated numerous cases through Court Ordered Mediation in Lexington County and in Florence County as well as mediation in other counties where the mediation was voluntary. I believe my training and experience as a mediator and arbitrator will help me as a family court judge.

For several years, I served on the South Carolina Bar Ethics Advisory Committee and drafted several opinions on ethics issues. I believe that maintaining the quality and integrity of the profession is important in gaining the public's respect and in deserving that same respect.

I have completed several weeks of training in a leadership program and mentoring program. I have found the information and skills I learned to be of great use in my law practice and in my dealings with others. I believe those same skills would help me as a family court judge.

My great-grandfather was Charlton DuRant, for whom the Charlton DuRant Distinguished Public Service Award was named. He set a very high standard and I hear from my mother and aunts about him a great deal. He believed in fairness, kindness, courtesy and in treating everyone with dignity. I admire him and have strived to follow the path he set. He was an attorney in Manning and was always willing to just be there and listen when people had problems. Now, more than 50 years later, I have some of his licenses hanging in my office to remind me of my duty to my fellow man and my duty to be a good citizen.

Above all, I believe this is a job I am qualified to do, excited to do and would benefit from doing. I hope that I am given an opportunity to serve.

49. References:

- (a) Nelson Walker  
NBSC  
PO Box 310,  
Manning, SC 29102  
803-435-5100
- (b) Diane M. Rodriguez  
PO Box 2038  
Sumter, SC 29151  
803-775-1263
- (c) W. C. Coffey, Jr.  
PO Box 1292  
Manning, SC 29102  
803-435-8847
- (d) Jeffrey T. Black  
235 N. Brooks St.

Manning, SC 29102  
803-435-4665  
(e) Marion S. Riggs –  
PO Box 487  
Manning, SC 29102  
803-435-8414

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.

S/W. T. Geddings, Jr.

Date: 03/05/09

**JOEL DEASON - Amendment to application of W. T. Geddings, Jr. for Third Circuit Family Court seat 2**

**From:** "Tommy Geddings" <tgeddings1@sc.rr.com>  
**To:** <deasonj@scsenate.org>  
**Date:** 3/31/2009 1:15 PM  
**Subject:** Amendment to application of W. T. Geddings, Jr. for Third Circuit Family Court seat 2  
**CC:** <shulerj@scsenate.org>

Mr. Deason –

It was a pleasure to meet with you and I hope that I adequately addressed all of your questions. As we discussed, please allow this e-mail to supplement my application packet.

On the Personal Data Questionnaire, Question 26, I inadvertently omitted the information that I unsuccessfully sought selection as a Circuit Court Judge in 2005. I was seeking the Third Judicial Circuit Court seat being vacated by the Honorable Thomas W. Cooper and which was ultimately filled by the Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr. I cut and pasted a portion of that application in filling out this application and I apologize for the omission.

On the Sworn Statement, for Question 24, please add the following phrase for clarification "The percentages provided do not total to 100% since many of the types of cases, such as divorce, child custody and so forth have significant overlap."

If there are any questions or if there is any way that I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you again for your assistance.

I am sending this from another e-mail address (tgeddings1@sc.rr.com) only because some mail filters have a problem with my geddingslawfirm.com address. The address you have in the records is correct and either address should reach my inbox just fine.

Yours truly,

W. T. Geddings, Jr.

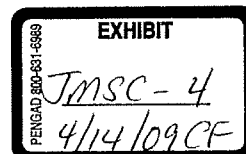
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JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court  
(New Candidate)

Full Name: W. T. Geddings, Jr.  
Business Address: 20 S Brooks St  
Manning, SC 29102  
Business Telephone: 803-435-4770

1. Why do you want to serve as a Family Court Judge? I believe that I would be able to serve the legal system as a Family Court Judge because I find the subject matter interesting and fulfilling and I believe that I have the ability to understand tense situations.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes, I plan to serve the full term if elected.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No, I currently have no plans to return to private practice one day.
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes, I have met the statutory requirements.
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? I believe that *ex parte* communications should not be tolerated. Any discussion of a pending case should involve all parties. I would make every effort to avoid *ex parte* communication and through the use of conference call features, it should not be that hard to avoid *ex parte* communication. Beyond simple pleasantries, I cannot envision a time when *ex parte* communications beyond those allowed by the rules should be tolerated.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? I believe a trial must not only be fair, it must appear fair. I believe it would be incumbent upon me to disclose any relationship I may have with any party or attorney who appears before me although I believe I could fairly try a case involving my best friend or worst enemy. If a party did not feel I could be impartial, I would have to seriously consider recusing myself if I could not provide assurance of my impartiality.
7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what



deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? Whether or not I would grant the motion would depend greatly on the situation. If a litigant was just trying to "Judge shop", I would have to think about it long and hard if there was no concrete reason to recuse myself. If on the other hand there was a legitimate concern I believe it would be better to recuse myself than to have someone feel that I was not able to be impartial.

8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? If that appearance could not be explained to the litigants satisfactorily, I would likely recuse myself. I practice in Manning, SC and it is a small town so it is rare that I do not know both parties involved in any litigation or rare that there is not some connection. Most people are understanding and with a little acknowledgement of the relationship, I have seldom found someone who truly felt there would be a bias. When I have felt there could be a bias, I have withdrawn as an attorney and I would behave no differently as a Judge.
9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? Any gifts or social hospitality would have to strictly comply with the ethical guidelines. Acceptance of such things could easily give the impression of partiality and more seriously, it could have negative effects on the overall view of our judiciary.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? I believe the integrity of the profession is the responsibility of all practitioners, whether a Judge, lawyer or professor. My practice has been to try to talk with the attorney involved to see if perhaps there is some problem that I can help with, such as drugs or alcohol. If it is not such a problem, then I believe I am required to report the misconduct and let the appropriate agency, state bar or attorney general's office handle the matter.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be evaluated? I serve on board of Clarendon County Behavior Health Services and on the Foundation Board for Central Carolina Technical College. I would likely resign from both if elected since I would want to give the judgeship my full attention.
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? No, I have no business activities that envision continuing if I am elected to the bench.
13. Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how would you handle the drafting of orders? I am a fast typist and as an attorney, normally type all of my own correspondence, pleadings and orders.

As a Family Court Judge, drafting orders would be no problem but I would often ask the prevailing attorney to draft the Order.

14. If elected, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I use a computer based calendaring system and I would instruct my staff to also maintain paper records in case there was a computer problem. There are methods to back up a calendar to an online website that is accessible only to people I select so I would also use that to ensure that we kept up to date with tasks.
15. If elected, what specific actions or steps would you take to ensure that the guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I would want to request frequent updates from the Guardian *ad Litem*, even if those updates were just in the form of a simple letter. I would also want to get to know the attorneys who serve as Guardian *ad Litem* so that I could determine who does a good and thorough job and who is not really working hard with it. If I encountered a Guardian *ad Litem* who was not doing his or her job, I would discuss it with them and hope to motivate them. I believe the Guardian *ad Litem* position is very important in any case involving the welfare of a child.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I am not in favor of judicial activism. A Judge should interpret and apply the law, not make the law. Since a Family Court Judge is almost always the finder of fact, it is especially true that I should apply the law as it is written and not try to substitute my personal opinions of what the law ought to be.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities would you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I would like to be involved in helping to personalize the law. There are so many misconceptions that people have about the law, and about Family Law specifically, that I would enjoy speaking to groups or at events where I could dispel some of the myths and misconceptions. I would want to work toward helping each litigant understand not only my ruling but as time permits, why I may have ruled a certain way. Too often, a litigant blames a lawyer when the lawyer had no ability to change the outcome. An example of that might be grandparent visitation rights. I would a party to feel that they had a fair hearing and to leave the courtroom with a better understanding of the law. I would also to promote more use of technology in communication between attorneys and the Court.
18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)?



How would you plan to address this? I do not feel that it would strain my relationships. My family and friends are extremely supportive of me and always have been. All are very excited that I may be selected as a Family Court Judge. If my position as a Judge ever did cause a strain, I would have to see what the strain was in order to know how to address it but I am confident that I would remain aware of the potential for strain.

19. Would you give any special considerations to a *pro se* litigant in family court? *Pro Se* litigants are far more common in Family Court than in Circuit Court. I have watched Judges handle *Pro Se* litigants differently and the ones I prefer are the Judges who treat the *Pro Se* individuals with respect and kindness yet remind the *Pro Se* individual that he or she is still held to the same standards any litigant or attorney is expected to obey. As a Special Referee, when I have a *Pro Se* litigant, I try to explain the process and explain that I cannot give legal advice but I stress to them that there is only one set of rules that must be followed and it is no different for attorneys or non-attorneys. The special consideration I would give them is that I would try to be patient with them and to bear in mind that they are in a very stressful situation.
20. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No, I am not.
21. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? Unless all parties were aware of the financial interest and consented in writing, I would not. Depending on the full extent of the *de minimus* financial interest, I may not even hear a case even with the written consent of the parties.
22. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No, I do not belong to such organization.
23. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes, I have met them.
24. What percentage of your legal experience (including experience as a special appointed judge or referee) concerns the following areas? If you do not have experience in one of these areas, can you suggest how you would compensate for that particular area of practice? Of my Family Court experience (which is roughly 45-50% of my legal experience)
  - a. Divorce and equitable distribution:  
70% (including times when child custody was at issue)
  - b. Child custody:  
60% (including divorce matters and DSS cases)
  - c. Adoption:

10%

d. Abuse and neglect:

30% (including time as attorney for DSS and court appointed GAL)

e. Juvenile cases:

5% (juvenile justice cases involving juveniles charged with a crime)

25. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? I believe a judge should have a demeanor of fairness and courtesy. Although patience is important, I believe that it is more important that parties feel that a judge truly considered the facts and tried to arrive at a fair decision which he imparts in a courteous manner.
26. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? I believe a judge must conduct himself appropriately at all times, whether on the bench or not. If a person is a great jurist but is often seen in compromising positions, is very rude, has a bad reputation or otherwise, that person is difficult for parties to truly take seriously. A judge is a representation of the law of South Carolina and nothing should occur which would tarnish that representation.
27. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? I do not believe that anger is ever appropriate. Judges are human and may occasionally feel anger but it is incumbent on a judge to prevent anger from ever clouding a decision or causing the Judge to treat anyone, whether an attorney or a member of the general public, with anything other than courtesy and respect.
28. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If the amount is over \$100, has that been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? I have not begun a campaign yet so I have not spent any money at this time. I do not anticipate spending any money.
29. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? I am not a sitting judge.
30. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No, I have not.
31. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No, I have not.
32. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No, I have not asked anyone to contact members of the General Assembly and I

am not aware of anyone who has contacted a member of the General Assembly on my behalf.

33. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No, I have not contacted anyone other than to request this application.
34. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes, I am familiar with that rule.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

s/W. T. Geddings, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 5th day of March, 2009.

Notary Public for South Carolina

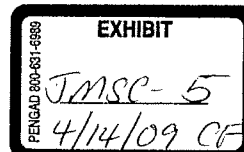
My commission expires: 12/01/2018

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Judge, Seat  
2

1. NAME: Ms. Angela R. Taylor  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 27 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, S.C 29150  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): (803)775-2126
  
2. Date of Birth: 1958  
Place of Birth: Tallahassee, Florida
  
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.
  
5. Family Status: Single, never divorced, no children.
  
6. Have you served in the military? No.
  
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) University of South Carolina, 1976-1980, Bachelor of Arts;  
(b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1980-1983, Juris Doctorate.
  
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
South Carolina, admitted 1984.  
I also took the bar exam in Florida, but I was not admitted to the bar.
  
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.  
(a) Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority (College). Vice President, 1978-1980;  
(b) Cultural Series Committee (College), 1979-1980;  
(c) Touch of Faith Gospel Choir (College), 1977-1980;  
(d) Black Law Students Association (Law School), 1981-1983.
  
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) Annual Judicial Conference	8/21/06;
(b) Ethics 2000	12/13/05;
(c) Prosecuting cases in Family Court	08/20/08;



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|-----|--|-------------------|
| (d) | Solicitors' Conference                       | 09/28/08;         |
| (e) | Office of Disciplinary Counsel               | 10/21/08;         |
| (f) | Family Court Bench/Bar                       | 12/07/07;         |
| (g) | Complex Issues in Family Law                 | 03/31/06;         |
| (h) | Hot Tips from the Coolest Experts            | 09/22/06;         |
| (i) | Ethics Seminar                               | 09/21/05;         |
| (j) | Solicitors' Conference                       | 09/25 – 09/28/05; |
| (k) | SCDSS Conference                             | 05/21/04;         |
| (l) | Revised Lawyer's Oath                        | 05/21/04;         |
| (m) | The Adolescent Brain                         | 11/04;            |
| (n) | 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Conference | 05/15/03;         |
| (o) | 2003 Solicitors' Association                 | 09/28/03.         |
11. 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.  
I taught a Family Course at Sumter Technical College in Sumter, South Carolina.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.  
I was a co-author with several other attorneys of a Domestic Violence Handbook published by the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division Committee on Spouse Abuse.
13. 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.  
I've been admitted to practice in South Carolina State Court – 1984.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) Three Rivers Legal Services (1983-1984)  
Family Law, Landlord Tenant, Social Security;
  - (b) Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program (1984-1985)  
Family Law, Landlord Tenant;
  - (c) Sumter County Solicitors Office (1985-present)  
Juvenile prosecutions, child abuse and neglect cases;
  - (d) Law Office of Larry C. Weston (1987-1997)  
Family Law, Wills, Personal Injury, DSS Contract Attorney;
  - (e) Law Office of Angela R. Taylor (1997-present)  
Family Law, Personal Injury, Wills, DSS Contract Attorney.
- If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:
- (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 has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

I have practiced in the area of family law for most of my legal career. I was the attorney for the Department of Social Services from 1985 until 2005, first as an Assistant Solicitor assigned to prosecute child abuse cases and then as a contract attorney for the agency. I have been the juvenile prosecutor for the Sumter County Solicitor's Office since 1985 to present. I have prosecuted cases in Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and Williamsburg Counties. I have had my own practice since 1997. In my private practice, I have represented clients in the areas of divorce, equitable division of property, child custody and adoption. My practice focuses primarily on family. I feel that as a result of my experience, I am knowledgeable in almost every aspect of family law.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?

I am listed in Martindale-Hubbell, but do not have a rating listed.

Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?

- (a) federal: None;
- (b) state: I appeared exclusively in Family Court.

17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, and domestic matters during the last five years?

- (a) civil: None;
- (b) criminal: 40% (Juvenile);
- (c) domestic: 60 % (Abuse and neglect, Family Law).

18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?

- (a) jury: None;
- (b) non-jury: None.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters?

19. 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. Corey D., 339 S.C. 107, 529 S.E. 2d, 200 (2000)

The State appealed the Family Court's denial of the motion to transfer this juvenile to the Court of General Sessions for the offenses of two counts of murder, criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and burglary in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. The State appealed the denial of transfer first

to the Circuit Court and then to State Supreme Court. The Supreme Court held it was an abuse of discretion not to transfer the murder charges to General Sessions as the waiver statute did not set an age limitation. The Court ruled that the related charges could not be transferred to the Court of General Sessions because transfer was not authorized by statute due to the juvenile's age. This case is significant because of the very serious nature of the crimes committed by this 12 year old juvenile and is codefendants. The case received intense media attention during the course of the investigation and the subsequent waiver hearing. I was the Family Court prosecutor responsible for the trial of the waiver hearing;

- (b) State v. Avery, 374 S.C. 524, 649 S.E 2d, 102, S.C. App. (June 21, 2007). This case involved the transfer of a juvenile from the Family Court to the Court of General Sessions for the offenses of murder, armed robbery and carjacking. The Defendant appealed his conviction in the Circuit Court for these offenses. One of basis of the Defendant's appeal was the Circuit Court's denial of his motion for a change of venue due to the pre-trial publicity. The Court of Appeals ruled that the Circuit Court did not abuse its discretion in denying the Defendant's motion for change of venue based on pre-trial publicity. This case also dealt with issues regarding the voluntariness of the juvenile Defendant's confession. The Court determined that the juvenile made a knowingly, intelligent and voluntary statement implicating himself and his codefendant in these crimes. The Court of Appeals also held that the Family Court did not abuse its discretion in transferring jurisdiction of this case due to the serious nature of the offenses. The Court of Appeals found that transferring jurisdiction of a juvenile charged with murder and related offenses to General Sessions did not violate the Eighth Amendment. This case was significant because this case also received intense media attention. The waiver hearing lasted two days. The attorneys for the juvenile and his codefendant hired expert witnesses (psychiatrists) to oppose the transfer of these cases to General Sessions. I was the juvenile prosecutor responsible for the transfer hearing;
- c) In Re Baby Grace this a case filed by the Sumter County Department of Social Services. In 2002, Baby Grace, a newborn was found abandoned in a field by two school aged boys. She was covered with ants and she had to receive medical treatment. Law enforcement and the Department of Social Services made diligent efforts to locate the biological parents of the child, but they were unable to locate them. The parental rights of the parents were terminated and the child was also adopted by a family outside of Sumter County. This case is significant due to the manner in which the child was abandoned. Even

though this case received a great deal of media coverage, no one came to claim the child or name the parents;

(d) South Carolina DSS v. Queen Kennedy and Gregory Wilson

This action was initiated by DSS to remove a child from the Defendants' due to the mother's limited intellectual functioning, the unsafe living conditions of the mother and father and alleged drug use by the father. The Sumter County Department of Social Services devised a Treatment Plan for the parents. The Agency's efforts to assist this family was hampered by a local physician who intervened on the parents' behalf. The doctor alleged the Department took the couple's child because the parents were indigent. She wrote letters to the Governor, Legislators and other entities. She contacted the local newspaper who did a feature story on the couple. An editorial was later published in the newspaper which accused the agency of; among other things, hiding behind the confidentiality laws in efforts to withhold information about the case. This case was significant because unlike many cases brought forth by the Department of Social Services it received significant media attention. Prior to this case, Sumter County Department of Social Services had not been subjected to such intense media scrutiny, nor had the agency's handling of its cases been challenged to such an extent by a private citizen who was not an attorney appointed or retained to represent either of the parties;

(e) In Re Henry Dingle this was a Family Court case involving an 11 year old charged with armed robbery, minor in possession of a firearm, Violation of the South Carolina Gun Law and simple possession of marijuana in August, 2006. Law Enforcement obtained a Court Order to have the juvenile detained because the juvenile was below the age of 12. The juvenile stole a handgun from a vehicle and used this same weapon to rob a 44 year old man. He was apprehended a short distance from the incident location at approximately 11:00 pm. The juvenile's attorney filed Motions to suppress the juvenile's statement taken by law enforcement. The juvenile's attorney also moved to suppress the identification of the juvenile by the victim and the weapon used by the juvenile as "the fruits of the poisonous tree". The attorney filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus to the State Supreme Court challenging the detention of his client. This case was significant because it involved issues relative to the mental capacity of an 11 year old to be charged with a criminal offense and his ability to participate in the trial of his case and to assist his attorney.

20. 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. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).

I have not handled any civil appeals.



21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).  
I have not handled any criminal appeals personally.
22. Have you ever held judicial office?  
I have not held any judicial offices.
23. If the answer to question 22 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.
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? 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?  
I have not held any public office.
25. 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.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office. No.
27. 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? I have not engaged in any other occupation.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?  
I am the owner/sole proprietor of the Law Office of Angela R. Taylor.
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. 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. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.  
I do not have any financial arrangements or business relationships that would constitute a conflict of interest.
31. 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?  
I have never been arrested.
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.

33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?  
There are no tax liens or collection procedures which have been instituted against me.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?  
I was named as a defendant in a case where a lien holder sued the estate of an individual, the heirs and the creditors of the heirs. I was a creditor of one of the heirs.
36. 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)?  
No, I have not been.
37. 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?  
I have not accepted anything from a lobbyist or a lobbyist's principal.
38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions.  
I am not aware of any charges of this nature.
39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions.  
I am not aware of any charges of this nature.
40. 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.  
I have spent \$70.00 postage from February 13, 2009 until February 23, 2009 for mailings to attorneys announcing my interest in the Family Court Judge Seat.
41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.  
I have not made any contributions to any members of the General Assembly.

42. 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? 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? No.
43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?  
I have not asked anyone to contact a member of the General Assembly on my behalf. Although some friends have offered to speak to any legislators they may know, I am not aware if anyone has contacted a member of the General Assembly.
44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy?  
No one acting on my behalf has solicited or collected funds on my behalf.
45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate?  
I have not contacted anyone and no one acting on my behalf has contacted the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.
46. 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.  
Sumter County Bar Association.
47. 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, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
- (a) Sumter County Chamber of Commerce;
  - (b) Sumter County Treatment Team of the South Carolina Department of Social Services;
  - (c) Sumter County Bar Association;
  - (d) South Carolina Sheriff's Association;
  - (e) The Evening Optimist Club;
  - (f) South Carolina Bar Foundation;
  - (g) Mid-Carolina Commission on Higher Education;
  - (h) Attorney to Assist the Office of Disciplinary Counsel;
  - (i) Legal Redress Committee of the NAACP, Sumter, South Carolina;
  - (j) Member of Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church, Sumter, South Carolina;
  - (k) 1987 – Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN) Honoree;
  - (l) 1997 – Complete Lawyer Award;
  - (m) 2001 – The American Society on the Abuse of Children, Legal Award;

- (n) 2001 – James T. McCain Humanitarian Award;
  - (o) Dean’s List University of South Carolina;
  - (p) Outstanding Young Woman of the Year 1983.
48. 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.
- As I have stated in my previous responses, I feel my years of experience in the area of Family Law should be taken in consideration in the nomination process. As the attorney for the Department of Social Services, a juvenile prosecutor and a Court appointed Guardian ad Litem in custody cases, I have the opportunity to meet, interview, and prepare many young victim/witnesses for Court. I feel these experiences have made me particularly aware and sensitive to the needs of children in the judicial process. I have come in contact with different types of people through my work with Legal Services, my private practice and my work as a prosecutor. I believe these contacts have helped me to be able to relate to people from various walks of life. I have worked hard to develop a reputation for honesty and integrity, with my fellow attorneys and the members of the public I meet either as clients or victims of crime. I make an effort to show respect to all people no matter what their circumstances may be. I believe these qualities are important for a Judge as a Judge must make decisions in cases that affect all classes of people.
49. References:
- (a) Walter G. Newman  
27 West Calhoun Street  
Sumter, South Carolina  
(803)773-1943
  - (b) Ruben L. Gray  
110 South Washington Street  
Sumter, South Carolina  
(803)934-0800
  - (c) Wade S. Kolb, Jr.  
107 North Main Street  
Sumter, South Carolina  
(803)418-0800
  - (d) C. Kelly Jackson  
141 North Main Street  
Sumter, South Carolina  
(803)436-2185
  - (e) Sharon Merritt Banker of America  
670 West Liberty Street  
Sumter, South Carolina  
(803)778-7581

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.

s/Angela R. Taylor

Date: 03/13/09

KORN LAW FIRM  
1300 PICKENS STREET  
P.O. BOX 11264  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211-1264  
(803) 252-5817

January 21, 2009

John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
1605 Bar Zee Dr.  
Sumter, SC 29154

John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
1060 Horse-Pen Rd.  
Bishopville, SC 29010

John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
2049 Charleston Avenue  
Sumter, SC 29150

Barbara Coker a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
2235 Daniy Court  
Sumter, SC 29154

Barbara Coker a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
1760 Bar Zee Dr.  
Sumter, SC 29154

James Sawyer a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
1060 Horse Pen Rd.  
Bishopville, SC 29010

James Sawyer a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
1605 Bar Zee Dr.  
Sumter, SC 29154

David DuBose a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer  
26 Betsy Lane  
Sumter, SC 29150

Tuomey Healthcare System  
c/o Jay Cox  
129 N. Washington St.  
Sumter, SC 29150

Progress Energy Carolina's, Inc.  
c/o Corporation Service Company  
1703 Laurel St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Angela R. Taylor  
27 W. Calhoun St.  
Sumter, SC 29150

South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
c/o Samuel H. Altman, Esq.  
PO Box 600  
Charleston, SC 29402-0600

South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
2175 Credit Union Lane  
Charleston, SC 29418

RE: GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. vs. John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, Barbara Coker a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, James Sawyer a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, David DuBose a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, Tuomey Healthcare System, Progress Energy Carolina's, Inc., Angela R. Taylor and South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
Docket # 2008-CP-43-2148  
Our File # F28-06493

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that this property is being advertised for sale at public auction on February 2, 2009. Enclosed please find a copy of the Decree of Foreclosure and Sale in the above referenced matter executed by the Judge.

This office is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. In the event you have any questions on the matter please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Peter Korn

PDK/PDK  
cc: Countrywide Home Loans (22073007)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF SUMTER

GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc.

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, Barbara Coker a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, James Sawyer a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, David DuBose a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, Tuomey Healthcare System, Progress Energy Carolina's, Inc., Angela R. Taylor and South Carolina Federal Credit Union,

DEFENDANT(S).

RECORDED  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
2008 NOV 20 PM 4:18

JAMES W. COOPER, JR.  
CLERK  
SUMTER COUNTY, S.C.  
MASTER'S ORDER AND  
JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE  
(NON-JURY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE)

C/A NO: 2008-CP-43-2148

DEFICIENCY REQUESTED

F28-06493

TO:  
Korn Law Firm, P.A.  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Samuel H. Altman, Esq.  
attorney for South Carolina Federal Credit Union

Pursuant to Rule 53 SCRCF, the above-entitled matter was referred to the undersigned to make appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law with authority to enter a final judgment in the cause.

Pursuant to the said Order of Reference a hearing was held, attended by the attorneys of record, the testimony was taken, which is reported herewith, and from the testimony and evidence, I find conclude and order as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The Lis Pendens was filed on September 19, 2008.
2. The Summons and Complaint were filed on September 19, 2008.
3. Service was made upon the Defendant(s) named in this Report as is shown by the Proof(s) of Service filed herein.
4. That the Defendants John DuBose a/k/a as heir and Personal Representative to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, Barbara Coker a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, James Sawyer a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer, David DuBose a/k/a as heir to the Estate of Mary

**COPY**



B. Sawyer, Tuomey Healthcare System, Progress Energy Carolina's, Inc. and Angela R. Taylor are in default as shown by Affidavit on file herein.

5. The Defendants and/or all attorneys of record were notified of the time, date, and place of the hearing in this matter.

6. According to the Affidavit filed herein, no Defendant in default is in the Military Service of the United States of America, as contemplated under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, and any amendments thereto.

7. For value received, Mary B. Sawyer made, executed and delivered a Note dated December 18, 2002, promising thereby to pay to the order of GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. the sum of Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred And 00/100 Dollars (\$61,200.00), with interest at 8.000 percent per annum. Other terms and conditions are stated in the Note, which is of record herein.

8. To better secure the payment of the Note described above, the said Mary B. Sawyer made, executed and delivered to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. a Mortgage in writing, dated December 18, 2002, covering real property in Sumter County, which is the same as that described in the Complaint. The mortgage was filed on January 22, 2003, and is of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Sumter County in Mortgage Book 872 at page 1290.

9. Thereafter, by virtue of an assignment dated September 30, 2008, recorded October 7, 2008, in Mortgage Book 1113 at page 2073, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. assigned said mortgage unto GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc.. GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. is present lien holder and Plaintiff herein.

10. The above referenced instrument constitutes a first lien priority mortgage.

11. Payment due on the Note has not been made as provided for therein, and the Plaintiff, as the holder thereof, has elected to require immediate payment of the entire amount due thereon and has placed the Note and Mortgage in the hands of the attorney herein for collection.

12. I find that since the inception of this action, plaintiff's attorney has assumed responsibility for the institution of this action and has searched and updated the title on the subject property from the date the current owner received the property or the date the mortgage was executed to the date of the filing of the Lis Pendens. He has been responsible for the preparation of the following pleadings:

1. Lis Pendens
2. Summons and Complaint
3. Affidavit of Default

4. Order of Reference
5. Notice of Hearing
6. Proposed Final Decree
7. Notice of Sale
8. Transcript of Testimony
9. Other documents as applicable pertaining to service and finalization of this action.

Additionally, he has arranged for service of process on the defendant(s), has scheduled and attended the hearing in this matter, has provided reinstatement figures to the primary defendant, if requested, and has had telephone conversations with the defendant(s), if requested. Future duties include forwarding copies of the Decree to the defendant(s), advising the defendant(s) of the date that the property will be sold, arranging and coordinating the amount to be bid by plaintiff, representation of plaintiff at sale and preparation of after sale documentation as required. Eighteen hours have been spent on this file to date. Plaintiff's counsel anticipates spending approximately Six hours on the file after the hearing. In light of the potential liabilities inherent in a property matter, the attendant responsibilities and the size of the mortgage debt, I find that the attorney fees requested by the plaintiff in the amount of three thousand five hundred and 00/100 (\$3,500.00) are reasonable.

13. The amount due and owing on the Note, with interest at the rate provided in the Note, and other costs and expenses of collection, including an attorney's fee, secured by the Note and Mortgage, is as follows:

(a)	Principal due as of 06/01/2008	\$57,524.39
(b)	Interest from 05/01/2008 through 11/19/2008 at 8.00%	\$ 2,527.95
(c)	Late charges	\$ 44.90
(d)	Corporate Advance	\$ 75.00
(e)	Costs of Collections Prior to Hearing	\$ 932.00
(f)	Unapplied funds	(\$ 244.05)
(g)	Attorney Fees	\$ 3,500.00
	<b>TOTAL DEBT</b> secured by Note and Mortgage, including interest to date shown	\$64,360.19

Interest for the period from the date shown in (b) above, through the date of this Judgment at the above stated rate to be added to the above stated "Total Debt" to comprise the amount of the judgment debt entered herein and interest after the date of judgment at the rate of 8.000 percent per annum (pursuant to the terms of the Note and Mortgage) on the judgment debt should be added to such judgment debt to comprise the amount of Plaintiff's debt secured by the mortgage through the date to which such interest is computed.

14. That the mortgagor, Mary B. Sawyer, died on or about November 8, 2007, as evidenced in the Probate Court records for Sumter County (Estate # 2007ES4300548).

15. That the following defendants are included to this action as possible heirs to the deceased: John DuBose, Barbara Coker, James Sawyer, and David DuBose.

16. That the Defendant, Tuomey Healthcare System is made a party by virtue of a Statement of Creditor's Claim filed against the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer on April 24, 2008, in the amount of Nine Hundred Ninety-Two And 00/100 (\$992.00).

17. That the Defendant, Progress Energy Carolina's, Inc. is made a party by virtue of a Statement of Creditor's Claim filed against the Estate of Mary B. Sawyer on May 2, 2008, in the amount of Three Hundred Forty-Eight And 82/100 (\$348.82).

18. That the Defendant, Angela R. Taylor is made a party to this action by virtue of a Divorce Decree issued in the Family Court of Sumter County, bearing Case No. 03-DR-43-1668, in which the Defendant John DuBose was ordered to pay Angela R. Taylor \$903.58..

19. That the Defendant, South Carolina Federal Credit Union is made a party by virtue of a Judgment against Barbara Coker, dated December 29, 2006, and recorded March 20, 2007, in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Nine And 60/100 (\$5,589.60) and identified as Case No. 2007-CP-43-596.

20. That the Plaintiff does not waive but specifically demands judgment against the Defendant(s), Mary B. Sawyer, for the full amount found to be due to Plaintiff on the note and mortgage held by plaintiff, with the right to enter personal judgment against the Defendant(s) for any deficiency in this action remaining after sale of the mortgaged premises.

21. As a personal or deficiency judgment is demanded, the bidding will remain open for a period of thirty (30) days pursuant to S.C. CODE Ann. Section 15-39-720 (1976).

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

I, therefore, conclude as follows:

1. The Plaintiff should have judgment of foreclosure of the mortgage and the mortgaged property should be ordered sold at public auction after due advertisement.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

1. There is due to the Plaintiff on the obligation and mortgage set forth in the Complaint the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty And 19/100 Dollars (\$64,360.19) representing the "Total Debt" due Plaintiff as set forth supra, together with interest at the rate provided therein on the balance of principal from the date aforesaid to the date hereof.

2. The amount due in the preceding paragraph (the "Total Debt" as set forth supra and later accrued interest on the principal) shall constitute the total judgment debt due the Plaintiff and shall bear interest hereafter at the rate of 8.000% percent per annum.

3. That the Defendants liable for the aforesaid mortgage debt shall, on or before the date of sale of the property hereinafter described, pay to the Plaintiff, or Plaintiff's attorney the amount of Plaintiff's debt as aforesaid, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

4. That on default of payment at or before the time herein indicated, the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint, as hereinafter set forth, be sold by the Master in Equity at public auction at the Sumter County Courthouse in Sumter, South Carolina, on some convenient sales day hereafter (and should the regular day of judicial sales fall on a legal holiday, then and in the such event, the sales day shall be on Tuesday next succeeding such holiday), on the following terms, that is to say:

A. FOR CASH: The Master in Equity will require a deposit of Five percent (5%) on the amount of the bid (in cash or equivalent) at the time of the sale, same to be applied on the purchase price only upon compliance with the bid, but in case of non-compliance within Twenty (20) days same to be forfeited and applied to the costs and Plaintiff's debt.

B. Interest on the balance of the bid shall be paid to the day of compliance at the rate of 8.000 percent.

C. The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and easements and restrictions of record.

D. The above referenced instrument constitutes a first lien priority mortgage.

E. Purchaser to pay for Deed Stamps and costs of recording the Deed.

5. If Plaintiff be the successful bidder at the said sale, for a sum not exceeding the amount of costs, expenses and the indebtedness of the Plaintiff in full, Plaintiff may pay to the undersigned Master in Equity only the amount of the costs and expenses crediting the balance of the bid on Plaintiff's indebtedness.

6. Fourth, Plaintiff have judgment against the Defendant, Mary B. Sawyer, for the full amount found to be due Plaintiff on the note and mortgage, with right to entere personal judgment against the Defendant, Mary B. Sawyer, for any deficiency in this action remaining after sale of the mortgaged premises.

7. That the Master in Equity will, by advertisement according to law, give notice of the time, and place of sale, and the terms thereof; and will execute to the Purchaser, or

Purchasers, a deed to the premises sold. The Plaintiff, or any other party to this action, may become a purchaser at such sale, and that if, upon such sale being made, the Purchaser, or Purchasers, should fail to comply with the terms thereof within Twenty (20) days after date of sale, then the Master in Equity may advertise the said premises for sale on the next, or some other subsequent sales day, at the risk of the highest bidder, and so from time to time thereafter until a full compliance shall be secured.

8. That the Master in Equity will apply the proceeds of the sale as follows:

FIRST: To payment of the amount of the costs and expenses of this action, including any Guardian Ad Litem fee or fees of attorneys appointed under Order of Court.

NEXT: To the payment to the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's attorney, of the amount of Plaintiff's debt and interest, so much thereof as the purchase money will pay on the same.

NEXT: Any surplus will be held pending further order of the court.

9. It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that in the event the successful bidder to whom the deed of conveyance has been issued subsequent to the sale is other than the Defendants in possession herein, the Sheriff of Sumter County is ordered and directed to eject and remove from the premises the occupants of the property sold, together with all personal property located thereon, and put the successful bidder to whom the deed of conveyance has been issued or his assigns in full, quiet and peaceable possession of said premises without delay, and to keep said successful bidder or his assigns in such peaceable possession.

10. And it is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that each Defendant and all persons whomsoever claiming under him, her or them, be forever barred and foreclosed of all right, title, interest and equity of redemption in the said mortgaged premises so sold, or any part thereof.

11. And it is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that any prior lien that has been paid in full is hereby satisfied and cancelled of record.

12. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Deed of conveyance made pursuant to said sale shall contain the names of only the first named Plaintiff and the first named Defendant and the Defendant who was the titleholder of the mortgaged property at the time of filing of the Notice of Pendency of the within action, and the name of the Grantee, and the Register of Deeds is authorized to omit from the indices pertaining to such conveyance the names of all parties not contained in said Deed.

13. The Master in Equity will retain jurisdiction to do all necessary acts incident to this foreclosure including, but not limited to, the issuance of a Writ of Assistance.

14. Upon issuance of a Master in Equity Report on Sale and Disbursements, the Register of Deeds is directed to release of record the mortgage lien being foreclosed, which mortgage lien is described as follows:

That Mortgage originally given to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc. by Mary B. Sawyer, dated 12/18/2002 and recorded 01/22/2003, in Mortgage Book 872 at page 1290.

15. The following is a description of the premises herein ordered to be sold:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND PROPERTY ADDRESS:


ALL THAT CERTAIN piece, parcel, or lot of land, with any improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in Sumter County, State of South Carolina, designated as Lot 100 of Sunset Homes Subdivision on a plat prepared by M.K. Millard, CE, dated June 7, 1958, and recorded with the RMC office for Sumter County in Plat Book Z-15 at Page 81, Pursuant to Section 30-5-250 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, (1976, as amended), reference to said plat is hereby made for the metes, bounds, courses and/or distances for the for the property delineated thereon.

This being the same property conveyed to Mary B. Sawyer by deed of W. Burke Watson, dated January 31, 1972 and recorded on February 2, 1972 in the RMC Office for Sumter County, South Carolina in Book U-9 at Page 291.

2049 Charleston Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150

TMS 206-14-02-072

16. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's representative does not appear at the scheduled sale of the above-described property, then the sale of the property will be null, void and of no force and effect. In such event, the sale will be rescheduled for the next available sales day.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard L. Booth  
Master in Equity  
For Sumter County

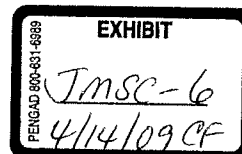
Sumter, South Carolina  
11/19, 2008.

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court  
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Angela R. Taylor  
Business Address: 27 West Calhoun Street  
Sumter South Carolina 29150  
Business Telephone: (803) 775-2126

1. Why do you want to serve as a Family Court Judge? I have over twenty years of experience in the practice of family law. I have handled almost every type of case that one would encounter in the Family Court. I feel that my years of experience and my abilities help me to be suited to serve as a Family Court Judge.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? Not at this time.
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? I think that *ex parte* communications should occur in only rare circumstances such as when an agency like DSS is seeking emergency protective custody of a child. Otherwise, I do not feel such communications should occur on a regular basis.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? I think that if there is some type of agreement and all parties consent after full disclosure, then the case could go forward. Otherwise, I think recusal is appropriate to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? Yes. I think for each of the parties to feel they had a fair hearing in the matter recusal would be the most appropriate avenue unless one party is using the issue solely as a means to delay a lawful order .
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I feel that recusal would be appropriate as well as full disclosure of my relative's involvement..
9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? not I would not accept any gifts from



attorneys who appear before me, any litigants or court personnel. I would not accept gifts of value from any source except those I receive from family and friends on holidays and birthdays. I would limit the acceptance of social invitations to those I receive from family and friends or when allowed by the Canons of Ethics.

10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? I would first discuss the situation with the person involved to determine whether there was any validity to the allegation. If there was evidence of actual misconduct, then I would report it to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel for investigation.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be evaluated?  
No
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? No
13. Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how would you handle the drafting of orders? prepare a prop I would direct one of the attorneys to prepare a proposed Order for the other attorney to review with explicit directions for its preparation.
14. If elected, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would use a computer generated tickler system and a calendar to ensure that deadlines are met. The tickler system would be set to give notification several days in advance of the deadline and then again closer to the deadline to ensure that these are met.
15. If elected, what specific actions or steps would you take to ensure that the guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I think the use of pre-trial conferences are helpful tools to ensure the appropriate documentation, disclosures and reports are prepared in a timely fashion. The pre-trial conference would also be useful in determining the progress of the Guardian's investigation.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I think the judge's role is to follow the law and to ensure its proper application in the matter before the Court. I do not feel the Judge should set public policy, but I do feel the judge should promote the public policy as determined by the Legislature.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities would you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I would serve on boards or groups that would develop ways to make the legal process accessible to a broader range of individuals. Often times people of limited means find themselves at a disadvantage in the legal process. I also feel



there should be some modification of the existing system in order for cases to be resolved more quickly.

18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this? I do feel the pressure of serving as a judge could strain personal relationships because of the difficult decisions judges are sometimes called upon to make. I think that setting aside time for friends and family, as well as time for recreational activities, would serve to alleviate some of those pressures.
19. Would you give any special considerations to a *pro se* litigant in family court? I think a *pro se* litigant should be treated with respect. Because the *pro se* litigant may not have legal experience, some legal terms may have to be explained to him or her. *Pro se* litigants should not receive special accommodations concerning the law and proceedings though.
20. Are you involved in any active investments from income th which you derive additional at might impair your appearance of impartiality No.
21. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No.
22. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No.
23. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes
24. What percentage of your legal experience (including experience as a special appointed judge or referee) concerns the following areas? If you do not have experience in one of these areas, can you suggest how you would compensate for that particular area of practice?  
Divorce and equitable distribution:10%  
Child custody:10%  
Adoption:10%  
Abuse and neglect: 30%  
Juvenile cases: 40%
25. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? I think I a judge should be civil and treat all people with respect. I feel that a judge should avoid outbursts and ill temper. I feel a judge should conduct himself or herself so as to be a role model for young attorneys and other young people.
26. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? To the extent humanly possible, I feel these rules should apply at all times.
27. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a

pro se litigant? I don't think it is appropriate to deal with anyone in anger if possible, although realistically one may become angry in certain situations. It may be necessary to take a recess during the proceeding to get the situation under control.

28. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If the amount is over \$100, has that been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? I have spent about \$70.00 dollars on postage because I mailed letters to members of the bar in the Third Judicial Circuit expressing my interest in the judgeship.
29. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? N/A
30. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No
31. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No
32. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?  
No
33. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No
34. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

s/Angela R. Taylor

Sworn to before me this 1st day of March, 2009.

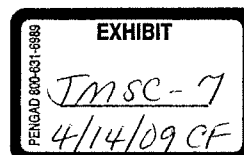
Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 10/27/2018

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Fourth Circuit, Seat 3

1. NAME: Mr. Bryan W. Braddock  
BUSINESS ADDRESS: 2231 W. Palmetto St., Suite 203,  
Florence, SC 29503  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (office): 843-292-8780
2. Date of Birth: 1973  
Place of Birth: Florence, South Carolina
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.
5. Family Status: Married June 8, 2002, to Dusty Renae Spring Braddock. Never divorced, two children.
6. Have you served in the military? No.
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) North Carolina State University, 1991-1992; transferred;
  - (b) College of Charleston, 1992-1995; BS, Political Science; Minors: Sociology, Criminal Justice, International Affairs with a Focus on Russian and the Former Soviet Union.
8. 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. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.  
South Carolina, 1998.
9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
  - (a) North Carolina State University Formal Brass Quintet, Fall 1991;
  - (b) College of Charleston Pep Band, 1992-1995;
  - (c) College of Charleston Jazz Band, 1992-1995;
  - (d) Pi Sigma Alpha, College of Charleston Chapter, 1994-1995;
  - (e) Tutor, Cities in Schools Program, 1993-1995.
10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.



<u>Conference/CLE Name</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
(a) 2008 SCAJ Annual Convention	08/07/08;
(b) Family Law: Helping Your Client Through Difficult Cases	12/03/07;
(c) 2007 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/02/07;
(d) Hot Tops (Domestics)	09/22/06;
(e) Mandatory ADR Training	09/08/06;
(f) 2006 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/03/06;
(g) 2005 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/04/05;
(h) Attorney ECF Training	01/07/05;
(i) New Lawyer's Oath CLE	08/06/04;
(j) 2004 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/05/04;
(k) Win Your Case with Multi-Media	03/05/04;
(l) Civil Mediation Training	10/11/03;
(m) 2003 SCTLA Annual Convention	08/07/03.

11. 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) Better Organize Divorce Cases for Trial, presented for NBI, 12/03/2007;
  - (b) Use of Web-based software in family court practices; scheduled for the SCAJ Hilton Head Convention, August, 2009.
12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None.
13. 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 State Bar, November 16, 1998;
  - (b) South Carolina District Court, April 12, 2000.
14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
- (a) Clerk for the Honorable Paul M. Burch, August 1998- August 1999; Circuit Court Clerk;
  - (b) Saleeby & Cox, P.A., Associate Attorney, October 1999- August 2005; Practice Areas: Domestic: 50%; Personal Injury: 30%; Criminal/Traffic: 15%; Miscellaneous: 5%;
  - (c) Darlington County Public Defender's Office: Part-time Public Defender, 2000-2001;
  - (d) Young, Miller, & Braddock, LLC, Full Partner, August 2005- Present; Practice Areas: Domestic: 75%; Personal Injury/Workers' Compensation: 15%; Criminal/Traffic: 10%.

If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, the following questions are inapplicable:

- (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 has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.
- Divorce/Annulment/Common Law Marriages: I have prosecuted and defended cases involving every actionable ground for divorce except desertion. I have been successful in having Court find common law marriages. I have successfully argued for annulments.
- Equitable Division of Property: I have been involved in equitable divisions including arguments of marital versus non-marital status of property, arguments of constructive trusts, arguments for special interest trusts, division of defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans, and cases in which both real property and personal property appraisers were utilized.
- Child Custody: I have successfully obtained custody for fathers, mothers, step-fathers, grandparents, and distant family members. I have been involved in cases involving various experts, including counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists.
- Adoptions/TPRs: I have handled cases involving the voluntary and involuntary termination of parental rights. I have handled adoptions for family members, step-parents, and unrelated third parties. I have handled private adoption and special needs adoptions.
- Abuse and Neglect: I have handled hundreds of DSS Abuse and Neglect cases alleging all levels of abuse. I recently participated in a case in which an orthopaedist and a pediatric orthopaedist were deposed, and the matter had to be tried over a full day, preventing DSS from obtaining a finding against my client. I handled a case from the very beginning, through the involuntary TPR stage, and even handled the appeal to the Court of Appeals.
- Juvenile Justice: As a private attorney and during my brief stint as a part-time Public Defender, I have handled dozens of DJJ cases, probably over a hundred.

15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?

I am not aware of any current rating by Martindale-Hubbell. At one time, I believe I was rated "BV". However, my current firm does not advertise with Martindale-Hubbell, as we did not find it to be an effective tool for obtaining clients, and I have therefore not been contacted by Martindale-Hubbell about participating in their peer review process.

Retired judges/justices and judges/justices applying for reelection to their current position may omit Questions 16-21. If a candidate is seeking a judgeship different

than his or her current position, Questions 16-21 should be answered based on experience prior to serving on the bench.

16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
- (a) federal: 1%;
  - (b) state: 99%.
17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, and domestic matters during the last five years?
- (a) civil: 25%;
  - (b) criminal: 10%;
  - (c) domestic: 65%.
18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 35%;
  - (b) non-jury: 65%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole Counsel.

19. 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) Windell Brown vs. Cynthia Brown cases: During a series of separate cases between these parties, I argued for a termination of child support based upon the emancipation of the minor daughter, against a Risinger claim filed on behalf of that same child, for two transfers of the custody of the another child of the parties, for child support and alimony modifications, and for the termination of permanent, periodic alimony based upon continued cohabitation of the Defendant with a paramour;
  - (b) Wright Adoption: An adoption case in which I represented the adopting parties in involuntarily terminating the parental rights of the two parents, one of whom became psychologically incapacitated during the pendency of the case. During the pendency of the case, my clients also lost one of their biological children in an automobile accident and eventually separated while the adoption was still pending. I was able to complete the adoption despite these circumstances;
  - (c) State versus Dontell McDaniels: Murder trial on which I worked for over three years. I was appointed counsel and worked on this case with the assistance of a private investigator retained with OID funds. I had the opportunity to visit the crime scene and personally interview numerous witnesses. The case was tried against a senior member of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, and I was able to obtain a plea of ten (10) years for my client on the third day of trial;
  - (d) Amerson Divorce: After lengthy and hotly contested litigation, I was able to obtain my client a divorce on the Defendant's habitual drunkenness and get her an award of equitable division, compensating her for the various items of personal property the Defendant sold off

during the separation. After the Defendant managed to get access to his retirement account and liquidate it, I was thru contempt proceedings able to obtain an order placing the Defendant in jail, ordering his brother to return all the money he was holding in trust for his brother, order a bank to freeze various accounts, and ordering the Clerk of Court to sign a deed transferring title to the marital residence;

- (e) Johnson Divorce: In this case, the other party's parents had built the marital home and sold it to the parties for about 30% of its fair market value. However, my client had also paid the proceeds from the sale of his pre-marital home to his in-laws. When they divorced, the other party tried to claim a special equity interest in the home, basically claiming that 70% of the equity in the home should be hers alone based upon the contribution of her family. I was able to defeat this claim. I also was able to get the Court to use my appraiser's value for the home and, after the other party tried to claim that there were only \$7,500 in marital personal property, I was able to use a personal property appraiser to show that the correct value was approximately \$25,000. In addition to this successful argument regarding the equitable distribution, I was able to gain enough visitation for my client as the secondary custodian of the minor children that he actually received child support from the other party, the primary custodian, due to the discrepancy in incomes.
20. 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. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter).  
South Carolina Department of Social Services vs. Marggie Hutson, Eliseo Perez, and Landin Nuan Perez, from the Family Court; Unpublished Opinion No. 2006-UP-238; filed May 15, 2006.
21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. If you are a candidate for an appellate court judgeship (please attach one copy of briefs filed by you in each matter). None.
22. Have you ever held judicial office? No.
23. If the answer to question 22 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.
24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? No.
25. 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.
26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No.

27. 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? No.
28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?  
None, other than my law firm.
29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
30. 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. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.
31. 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? No.
32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?  
I have never personally been named as a Defendant in a lawsuit. Law firms in which I have practiced have been named as Defendants in lawsuits, but never for any alleged acts or omissions on my part.
36. 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)? No.
37. 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? No.
38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal



- allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
40. 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.  
None thus far.
  41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship.  
None.
  42. 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? 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? No.
  43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?  
No.
  44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
  45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.
  46. 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) Darlington County Bar;
    - (c) Florence County Bar;
    - (d) South Carolina Association for Justice: Board of Governors (2008- Notification of Candidacy for this position), Legislative Planning Steering Committee (2008- Notification of Candidacy for this position).
  47. 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, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.
    - (a) Loyal Order of the Moose; Trustee (2002-2003);
    - (b) Moose Legion;
    - (c) College of Charleston Alumni Association.
  48. 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.

It is my goal and desire to be a South Carolina Family Court Judge. I am not running for this position because I want to be a Circuit Court Judge. I am not running for this position because I want to run for some political office some day. I am not running for this office because I am tired of practicing law or because my career and/or practice is at a crossroads.

I am running for the position of a South Carolina Family Court Judge because I believe this would provide the greatest opportunity to have a positive impact on as many people as possible; because I believe my attitude and demeanor would have a positive effect on both the parties and practitioners appearing before me; because I believe that our Family Court system is the most equitable and just part of our judicial system; and because I want to retire someday having had the fullest impact on as many people of all ages as possible.

49. References:

- (a) Ben Stevens, Esquire  
Post Office Box 6158  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304  
864-598-9172
- (b) Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Esquire  
2917 W. Palmetto Street  
Florence, South Carolina 29503  
843-665-8187
- (c) Holly S. Atkins, Esquire  
Post Office Box 1478  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
803-251-6406
- (d) Kevin M. Barth, Esquire  
Post Office Box 107  
Florence, South Carolina 29501  
843-662-6301
- (e) Linda R. Jordan  
Vice President of Member Services,  
PC Cooperative Credit Union  
PO Box 1355  
Hartsville, South Carolina 29551

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.

s/Bryan W. Braddock

Date: 03/15/09

**JANE SHULER - Amendments**

**From:** "Bryan Braddock" <BBraddock@ymblegal.com>  
**To:** <shulerj@scsenate.org>  
**Date:** 4/7/2009 12:01 PM  
**Subject:** Amendments  
**CC:** "Bryan Braddock" <BBraddock@ymblegal.com>

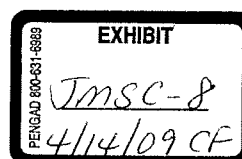
Ms. Shuler:

Please be aware that I need to make two amendments/clarifications to my PDQ which was previously submitted to the Commission:

- 1) As to query #7, please note that I also attended the University of South Carolina School of Law, obtaining a Juris Doctor degree in 1998;
- 2) As to query 46(e), please explicitly note that I have resigned my position on the Board of Governors as well as the Legislative Planning Steering Committee for the South Carolina Association for Justice, which was effective on the date of my applying for this judicial position.

Thank you for your attention to these two matters.

Bryan W. Braddock  
Young, Miller, & Braddock, LLC  
PO Box 14228  
2231 W. Palmetto St., Suite 203  
Florence, S.C. 29504  
(843) 292-8780  
BBraddock@YMBLegal.com

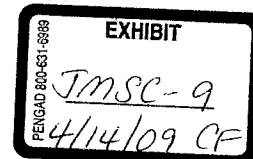


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court  
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Bryan Wesley Braddock  
Business Address: 2231 W. Palmetto St., Suite 203  
Florence, South Carolina 29503  
Business Telephone: 843-292-8780

1. Why do you want to serve as a Family Court Judge? I believe the position of Family Court Judge gives me the greatest opportunity to positively impact society at large, and the judicial system specifically. It has been my goal to become a Family Court Judge for years, and it is my only professional goal beyond the practice of law itself. I believe my demeanor and temperament would be a benefit to the bench, to the bar, and to the parties who come in front of me.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? I have no other aspirations beyond the Family Court bench, so I cannot imagine circumstances within my control which would prevent me from serving at least one full term.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? I have no specific plans to return to private practice one day.
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes.
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? The circumstances under which *ex parte* communications are permissible are clearly set forth within the Code of Judicial Conduct, specifically Canon 3(B)(7). If elected, I would conduct myself in a manner consistent with said Canon, as well as the spirit of the Code of Judicial Conduct in general.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? As stated in the Code of Judicial Conduct, a member of the judiciary should hold oneself to the highest standards possible in order to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary. At the same time, pursuant to Canon 3(B)(1), a judge has a duty to hear and decide all matters assigned to the judge unless a disqualification exists. In determining whether a disqualification exists, I would follow the guidelines set forth within Canon 3(E) and 3(F) anytime the appearance of impropriety existed and whether it could be cured. However, in regard to having lawyer-legislators appear in front of me,



since the election of every judge is based upon the voting of legislators, I cannot imagine that the mere appearance of a lawyer-legislator in front of a judge would be considered a conflict of interest unless the judge and legislator shared some additional relationship which could give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? First, this question appears predicated upon a situation in which I deemed it necessary to inform the parties of a potential conflict, and also that the conflict is not such that I would refuse to preside over the case regardless of the parties' wishes. Understanding this, based upon my reading of Canon 3(F), a failure by any party to voluntarily waive such a potential conflict would be terminal as to my ability to preside over this particular matter. However, if a conflict is raised by a party rather than by me, then I would have to judge whether the alleged conflict is valid, reasonable, or even based upon fact rather than false accusations innuendo. It would not be unheard of for a litigant particularly a *pro se* litigant, to attempt to argue that a conflict of interest exists which would further delay the hearing of their case. Such attempts would be neither tolerated nor rewarded.
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? This question appears predicated upon my making reasonable attempts to keep informed of such activities on behalf of my spouse or minor child residing within my household pursuant to Canon 3(E)(2). Pursuant to Canon 3(E)(1)(c) of the Code of Professional Conduct, unless the relationship was so close as to constitute a clear conflict of interest, I would inform the parties of the relationship and allow them to confer independently and outside my presence as to whether they desired that I preside over the case. If the parties so agreed and if I felt comfortable moving forward, I would have such waiver and all related factors placed clearly on the record and probably have the parties sign a waiver of the alleged, potential conflict.
9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? The standards to which I would be held are clearly set forth in Canon 4(D)(5) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? Pursuant to Canon D(2) and D(3) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, it depends on the nature of the misconduct. Certain actions by the fellow judge or by the attorney might merely call for interacting with the judge or attorney who has violated the rule. However, if the conduct rose to the level

of raising a substantial question as to the attorney's "honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer", then it would be required that I contact the Office of Disciplinary Counsel or the Commission on Judicial Conduct and report such conduct.

11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be evaluated? None.
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? None.
13. Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how would you handle the drafting of orders? It has been my experience that Family Court Judges generally assign the responsibility of drafting the orders to one of the participating attorneys. However, in the event that the parties are *pro se* or in special circumstances in which I deem that it is in the best interest of the parties and judicial economy, I would draft my own Orders. During my legal career, I have traditionally drafted most of my own Orders.
14. If elected, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would utilize an internal tracking system, including a tickler system, to ensure that Orders are drafted and presented to the Court in a timely fashion to decrease the likelihood that a substantial change in circumstances might occur during the delay, causing the matter to have to be reheard.
15. If elected, what specific actions or steps would you take to ensure that the guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I would remain familiar with all aspects and changes in the statutory obligations of Guardians serving within the Court. I would further insure that all Guardians appearing in front of me have met the requisite training requirements to be serving in this capacity, and I would disqualify any Guardian shown to be acting improperly or having insufficient training to serve in this capacity, as well as insure that the other members of the judiciary were aware of this individual's disqualification(s).
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? For the most part, the laws of the State of South Carolina grant the Family Court Judge great discretion as the judges of fact. Each case should be reviewed on an individual basis, and decisions made therefrom. However, a judge should confine oneself to the statutory authority and legal precedents at all times, as it is the job of the legislature to create laws and the job of the appellate court to determine how to interpret the laws and whether they are constitutional.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities would

you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? Participate in CLEs to which I am invited to speak, serve on any committees or panels requested of me by the Court, and assist in the creation of any manuals or books which would serve to educate or assist attorneys in more capably serving their clients.

18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this? The only strains to relationships I would experience as a judge would involve the time required to be away from my wife and small children. I have always attempted to conduct myself in a respectable and honorable manner in general, and I would continue to be conscious of my appearance in public in order to preserve the integrity of the position I would be so honored to hold. However, my wife and children will adjust to my new schedule, as we have adjusted to all the other changes in our lives over the last few years.
19. Would you give any special considerations to a *pro se* litigant in family court? *Pro Se* litigants would be held to the same standards as attorneys in regard to the presentation of the law. However, certain leniency would be granted in order to facilitate the process when neither party would be so prejudiced.
20. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? None.
21. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? It would depend on how *de minimis* the interest is. However, if any interest exists which would cause me to question whether I should serve, then this would trigger the notification and waiver requirements of Canon 3(F) before I believe I could serve. However, if raised by the litigant and found to be baseless, frivolous, or false, I would proceed with the matter.
22. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? None of which I am aware. If I was made aware of such a policy, I would either withdraw my membership or make immediate attempts to get the organization to cease such activities. During the latter attempt, I would cease all activities with the group, all consistent with Canon 2(C) of the Code of Judicial Conduct.
23. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? I met the minimum hours for the year 2008, and I have most of my hours completed for the year 2009.
24. What percentage of your legal experience (including experience as a special appointed judge or referee) concerns the following areas? If

you do not have experience in one of these areas, can you suggest how you would compensate for that particular area of practice? As set forth elsewhere, approximately 75% of my currently legal practice is related exclusively to the Family Court. Of that 75%, I would allocate my practice in the following percentage distribution:

- a. Divorce and equitable distribution: 45%
- b. Child custody: 20%
- c. Adoption: 2%
- d. Abuse and neglect: 7%
- e. Juvenile cases: 1%

Please note that the "child custody" cases also include visitation cases, while any cases which involve either actions for divorce and/or actions for a Decree of Separate Maintenance and Support plus child related relief are contained within the section "divorce and equitable distribution".

- 25. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? First and foremost, a Judge should be courteous to all participants in the legal process whenever possible. A Judge should only raise one's voice when necessary to control a witness or an attorney, or in order to preserve the sanctity and decorum of the Court. A Judge should always look professional, well-groomed, and with proper hygiene. A Judge should always attempt to appear attentive during courtroom proceedings. A Judge should be timely and punctual. A Judge should always maintain control of the proceedings, the litigants, the practitioners, and the courtroom in general. A Judge should attempt to have a presence which conveys both the importance of the position and of the process in which the parties are participating.
- 26. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? A Judge is not necessarily in control of activities which occur outside the courtroom. However, whenever appearing in public, a Judge should always keep in mind that the position of Judge is a 24-hour per day position, and that one serves as an example of the position itself anytime in public.
- 27. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? While it is not possible to always control how one feels inside, a Judge should restrain oneself from allowing any such feeling to spill over into the manner in which the courtroom is run, the manner in which decisions (including sentencing) is made, and the manner in which a judge expresses oneself. Any decision or action on the part of the Court should not be directly and clearly attributable to one's emotions. If necessary, it would be prudent to take a break



before proceeding forward if any emotions are beginning to cloud the Judge's judgement in regard to a matter.

28. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If the amount is over \$100, has that been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? I have spent nothing, other than the costs of the paper printed, the ink used in printing, and the gas spent in transporting this packet to Columbia.
29. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? N/A
30. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? None.
31. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? None.
32. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? None.
33. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? None.
34. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? I am aware of this rule, and agree to abide by it.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

s/Bryan Wesley Braddock

Sworn to before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009.

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 5/12/2018