

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name**: State full name (include any former names used).

Sheria Akins Clarke
Sheria Agape Akins (maiden)

2. **Position**: State the position for which you have been nominated.

District Judge, United States District Court for the District of South Carolina

3. **Address**: List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

2 West Washington Street
Suite 400
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

4. **Birthplace**: State year and place of birth.

1981; Lynchburg, Virginia

5. **Education**: List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2003 – 2006, University of North Carolina School of Law; J.D., 2006

Summer 2004, The University of Sydney School of Law, Sydney, Australia, The University of North Carolina School of Law Study Abroad program; no degree conferred.

2000 – 2003, Liberty University; B.S (*cum laude*), 2003

1998 – 2001, Wake Technical Community College; A.A.S., 2001

6. **Employment Record**: List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2024 – present
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
2 West Washington Street, Suite 400
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Partner (2026)
Of Counsel (2024 – 2026)

2021 – 2024
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of South Carolina
55 Beattie Place, Suite 700
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Assistant U.S. Attorney

2020 – 2023
Wofford College
429 N. Church Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303
Adjunct Professor (Fall semester 2020, 2021, 2022; Spring semester 2023)

2019 – 2021
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
2 West Washington Street, Suite 400
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Of Counsel

2017 – 2019
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Staff Director

2017
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel to the Chairwoman Susan Brooks

2014 – 2016
U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel

2009 – 2014
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics (formerly Committee on Standards of

Official Conduct)
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel

2007 – 2009
The Court of Appeals of North Carolina
The Chambers of the Honorable Wanda G. Bryant (retired)
227 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Senior Clerk

2007
Simmons Law Firm (no longer extant)
16 West Martin Street, Suite 601
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Associate

2006 – 2007
The Court of Appeals of North Carolina
The Chambers of the Honorable Ann Marie Calabria (retired)
227 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Law Clerk

Summer 2005
University of North Carolina School at Chapel Hill School of Law
Van Hecke-Wettach Hall
160 Ridge Road, CB #3380
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-3380
Student Research Assistant for Professor Mark Weisburd

2003 – 2009 (part-time, periodic work)
D'Elegance Day Spa (no longer extant)
8801 Leadmine Road, Suite 113
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615
Front Desk Clerk

2003 – 2009 (part-time, periodic work)
The Body Café (no longer extant)
3400 Westgate Drive, Suite A-10
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Front Desk Clerk

2003
Suntrust Bank (no longer extant)

4424 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
Teller

Other Affiliations (uncompensated):

2024 – present
Jasmine Road
1433 Cleveland Street
Unit A-107
Greenville, South Carolina 29607
Vice Chair (2025 – present)
Board Member (2024 – 2025)

2020 – present
Miriam Foundation
610 Farview Street
Fountain Inn, South Carolina 29644
Board Chair

2019 – 2024
Phyllis Wheatley Center
335 Greenacre Road
Greenville, South Carolina 29607
Board Member

2019 – 2021
GSSM Foundation
2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 205
Columbia, South Carolina 29204
Board Member

Summer 2005
Chatham County District Attorney's Office
144 East Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278
Student Intern

Summer 2004
Bedford County Commonwealth Attorney's Office
122 East Main Street
Bedford, Virginia 24523
Summer Law Clerk

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security

number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I have not served in the military. I was not required to register for the selective service.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

2025 Legal Elite, Integrated Media Magazine (2025)

Council of the Inspector General of Integrity and Efficiency, Award for Excellence (2023)

South Carolina Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll (2020)

Young Lawyer of the Quarter, The North Carolina Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (2007)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law

The Order of the Barristers (2006)

Star of the Quarter, Black Law Students Association (2006)

Dean's List

Merit Scholarship (2003 – 2006)

Second Best Brief, Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (2006)

Best Oral Advocate for Intra-School Competition (2004)

Liberty University

University Honors (*cum laude*) (2003)

Minority Student Achievement Award (2003)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

American Bar Association (2006 – 2009) (estimated)

Greenville County Bar Association, Greenville, South Carolina (2019 – present)

Year-End CLE Co-Chair (2025 – 2026)

Haynesworth-Perry Inn of Court (2019 – 2021)

North Carolina Bar Association, Raleigh, North Carolina (2007 – 2009) (estimated)

Young Lawyer's Division Membership and Networking Co-Chair (2007 – 2009)

South Carolina Federal Bar Association, Greenville, South Carolina (2024 – present)

Wake County Bar Association, Raleigh, North Carolina (2006 – 2009)

10th Judicial Bar Association, Raleigh, North Carolina (2006 – 2009)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

North Carolina, 2006
South Carolina, 2019
District of Columbia, 2019

My District of Columbia license was placed in administrative suspension after I inadvertently failed to timely pay my dues in 2022. This was in part due to my account being associated with an email address of a former employer. As soon as I became aware of the failure to pay, I immediately contacted the District of Columbia Bar and paid all fees and fines. My license was then reinstated. I have had no further lapses in membership.

b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2023
United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, 2025
United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, 2021
Supreme Court of North Carolina, 2006
Supreme Court of South Carolina, 2019
District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 2019

There have been no lapses in membership.

11. **Memberships:**

a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

GSSM Foundation (2019 – 2021)

Jasmine Road (2024 – present)
Vice-Chair (2025 – present)

Miriam Foundation, Chairman (2020 – present)

Phyllis Wheatley Center (2019 – 2024)

b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

To the best of my knowledge, I am not, nor have I been, a member of any organization that practices discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

12. **Published Writings and Public Statements:**

a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply copies of all published material to the Committee.

Sheria Akins Clarke, *Teaching College Students Makes Me a Better Lawyer*, Law360.com, 2025. Copy supplied.

Sheria Akins, *Investing*, Credit Union National Association, MoneyMix Blog 2007 (estimated). This was a blog maintained by the Credit Union National Association and is no longer available. I have supplied a copy of one blog entry. All other blog entries are unavailable.

b. Supply copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

Jasmine Road, *2025 Annual Impact Report*. Copy supplied.

Jasmine Road, *2024 Annual Impact Report*. Copy supplied.

c. Supply copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

Letter to Hon. Lindsay Graham, Chairman, and Hon. Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, from Former Colleagues of

Eleni Roumel (July 15, 2019). Copy supplied.

d. Supply copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

February 13, 2026: Moderator, Greenville County Bar Association, End of Year CLE, Greenville, South Carolina. I served as the moderator for two panels: *Civility in Discourse*. Agenda supplied. And, *Perspectives from the Bench with the Honorable Jacquelyn D. Austin*. Notes supplied.

October 28, 2025: Panelist, *Managing Disclosure During Investigations & Settlements*, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, Washington, District of Columbia. Notes supplied.

September 12, 2025: Panelist, *Privacy and Cybersecurity in the Crosshairs: Navigating Emerging Enforcement, Litigation, and Compliance Risk*, South Carolina Association of Corporate Counsel, Columbia, South Carolina. Presentation supplied.

November 13 – 15, 2024: Panelist, *Enhancing Transparent Government Through Robust Legislative Ethics Technical Consultancy Workshop*, House Democracy Project, Skopje, North Macedonia. Agenda supplied.

February 2, 2023: Host, Virtual Book Signing, *Start Stay or Leave*, Premier Collectibles, Greenville, South Carolina. Notes provided.

November 6 – 9, 2019: Panelist, *Technical Consultancy*, House Democracy Project, Nairobi, Kenya. Draft agenda supplied.

February 8, 2019: Panelist, *Recent Case Update*, Greenville County Bar Association, End of Year CLE, Greenville, South Carolina. Agenda supplied.

July 20, 2018: Speaker, Washington Fellowship Reception, Liberty University, Washington, D.C. Press coverage supplied.

July 19, 2017: Speaker, Washington Fellowship Reception, Liberty University, Washington, D.C. Press coverage supplied.

e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Interview, Sunday Night in America, January 22, 2023. Clip available at <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6319106774112>.

Interview, Sunday Night in America, November 21, 2021. Clip available at <https://www.foxnews.com/us/waukesha-darrell-brooks-milwaukee-rap-scene?mssockid=1252b0962d846a8132a2a6442c4b6b8e>.

Interview, *A Walk Towards Unity*, Trey Gowdy Podcast, Fox News, June 23, 2020. Episode available at <https://radio.foxnews.com/2020/06/23/a-walk-towards-unity/>.

Interview, *Difficult Yet Simple Steps to Heal the Racial Divide*, Trey Gowdy Podcast, FoxNews, June 10, 2020. Episode available at <https://radio.foxnews.com/2020/06/10/sheria-clarke-on-difficult-yet-simple-steps-towards-healing-the-racial-divide/>.

Interview, *What We Won't Find Out From Mueller's Report*, WYFF News, March 27, 2019. Available at <https://www.wyff4.com/article/what-we-wont-find-out-from-muellers-report/26963729>.

Interview, *Birthday of the Day*, Politico, November 23, 2018. Copy supplied.

Interview, *From Liberty to Capitol Hill*, Liberty Journal, October 11, 2017. Copy supplied.

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

I have not previously served as a judge.

a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment? _____

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: _____ %
bench trials: _____ %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: _____ %
criminal proceedings: _____ %

b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.

e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

I have not held judicial office.

a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;

b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;

- c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;
- d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have not held public office.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

In the fall of 2006, I volunteered on one occasion for Judge Ann Marie Calabria's election campaign for the North Carolina Supreme Court. On that occasion, I made calls to potential donors seeking contributions to her campaign. I have not volunteered for any other political campaigns.

I have not served in a political party or served on an election committee.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

- a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From 2006 to 2007, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ann Marie Calabria, Court of Appeals of North Carolina (Ret.).

From 2007 to 2009, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Wanda G. Bryant, Court of Appeals of North Carolina (Ret.).

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have not practiced law alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

2009 – 2014

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics
(formerly Committee on Standards of Official Conduct)
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel

2014 – 2016

U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on the 2012 Terrorist Attack in
Benghazi
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel

2017

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Counsel to the Chairwoman Susan Brooks

2017 – 2019

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Staff Director

2019 – 2021

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
2 West Washington Street, Suite 400
Greenville, SC 29601
Of Counsel

2021 – 2024

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
55 Beattie Place, Suite 700
Greenville, SC 29601
Assistant U.S. Attorney

2024 – present

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
2 West Washington Street, Suite 400
Greenville, SC 29601

Of Counsel (2024 – 2025)
Partner (2026)

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator.

- b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

As a law clerk, I worked on the full range of issues that came before the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

While counsel to the House Ethics Committee, I focused on investigations of ethical violations by Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and staff. These investigations were often long and complex involving federal laws and house rules. I also served as the Counsel to the Chair where I advised the Chair on pending investigations, as well as policies and procedures issued by the Committee.

As counsel to the Select Committee on Benghazi, I focused on the Department of Defense's role in protecting our diplomats abroad and identifying improvements and recommendations that could enhance the safety of our diplomats.

I joined Nelson Mullins in January of 2019. During my time there, my practice focused on the intersection of law and policy. I represented clients who appeared before congressional committees. I also represented individuals facing criminal charges. I represented Members of Congress who were the subject of investigations by the House Ethics Committee. I also represented various corporations involved in complex business disputes. I regularly conducted and defended depositions of key witnesses.

I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina in 2021 where I handled a variety of civil and criminal cases. My civil case load ranged from defending the United States in tort actions, employment discrimination and harassment actions, and medical malpractice actions. I also represented the United States in affirmative civil actions related to False Claims Act violations, Clean Water Act violations, and a variety of other cases. My criminal caseload primarily focused on illicit drugs and illegal firearms and included large wiretap investigations.

I rejoined Nelson Mullins in 2024, where my practice has again focused on

complex business litigation and white-collar defense. I have been the lead attorney on matters before various federal agencies, where I represented clients facing potential civil penalties or criminal charges.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

My career has focused on complex internal investigations, trial and litigation. My practice has been primarily civil, but I handled criminal matters while serving as an AUSA.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

1.	federal courts:	85%
2.	state courts of record:	15%
3.	other courts:	__%
4.	administrative agencies:	__%

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

1.	civil proceedings:	70%
2.	criminal proceedings:	30%

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried five cases to verdict, of which four were jury trials. I served as first chair counsel for three of the jury trials. I served as second chair counsel for one jury trial and one bench trial.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

1.	jury:	80%
2.	non-jury:	20%

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I have not practiced before the Supreme Court.

17. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

1. *United States of America v. Mashni*, 2:18-cv-02288 (D.S.C. 2022) (Judge David C. Norton) (Representation: 2021 – 2022)

I served as co-counsel in prosecuting violations of the Clean Water Act that impacted wetlands near the Kiawah River in South Carolina. The defendant allegedly violated the Clean Water Act by filing in wetlands without a permit. After we conducted significant discovery, the defendant ultimately entered into a consent decree paying over \$500,000 in fines, and purchasing 70 freshwater mitigation credits.

Co-counsel:

Andrew J. Doyle
U.S. Department of Justice ENRD
460 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 07-6714 San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 744-6469

James Leventis
United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
1441 Main Street, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 929-3000

Johanna Valenzuela
(Formerly of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina)
Burnette Shutt McDaniel
912 Lady Street
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 850-0912

Opposing counsel:

Stanley Eugene Barnett
Stan Barnett Law Office
305 North Civitas Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 708-4887

Herbert Beigel
Herbert Beigel and Associates
38327 S. Arroyo Way
Tuscon, AZ 85739
(520)925-1995

2. *United States v. CB&I AREVA MOX Services LLC and Wise Services Inc.*, No. 19-cv-444 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge Terry Wooten) (Representation: 2021 – 2022)

I served as co-counsel in the investigation and prosecution of Mox Services for multiple False Claims Act violations. Mox Services failed to verify invoices from a subcontractor were accurate. As a result, Mox Services submitted hundreds of invoices charging millions of dollars to the Government for non-existent materials. Mox Services ultimately agreed to pay \$10 million to resolve the allegations.

Co-counsel:

Donald J. Williamson
United States Department of Justice
175 N Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 305-2335

Rory Skaggs
United States Department of Justice (formerly)
175 N Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 305-2335

James Leventis
United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
1441 Main Street, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 929-3000

Johanna Valenzuela
(Formerly of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina)
Burnette Shutt McDaniel

912 Lady Street
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 850-0912

Opposing counsel:

John Edward Cuttino
Gallivan White Boyd
1201 Main Street, Suite 1200
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 724-1714

Lindsay Anne Joyner
Gallivan White Boyd
1201 Main Street, Suite 1200
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 779-1833

William Norman Nettles
Bill Nettles Law
2008 Lincoln Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 814-2826

3. *Kenny v. Yellen*, 3:21-cv-01321 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge Mary Geiger Lewis)
(Representation: 2022 – 2023)

This case involved allegations of disability discrimination by the Internal Revenue Service. The plaintiff alleged he was denied reasonable accommodations related to his disability. The IRS terminated the plaintiff during new employee probationary period. This case was set for trial with a jury selected. The parties reached a settlement before the jury was seated.

Co-counsel:

Barbara M. Bowens (Ret.)
(formerly of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina)
United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
1441 Main Street, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 929-3000

Opposing counsel:

Jack Emerson Cohoon
Burnette Shutt and McDaniel PA

912 Lady Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 904-7914

Mary Malissa Burnette
Burnette Shutt and McDaniel PA
912 Lady Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 850-0912

Sarah Jean Michaelis Cox
Burnette Shutt and McDaniel PA
912 Lady Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 850-0912

4. *United States v. Choice, et al.*, 6:23-cr-00448 (D.S.C. 2024) (Judge Timothy Cain)
(Representation: 2023 – 2024)

This case was a Title III narcotics investigation, resulting in the seizure of multiple kilos of methamphetamine and cocaine, and the indictment and conviction of twelve defendants. Eleven of the defendants entered guilty pleas. I was second chair in a five-day trial of one of the defendants. The case was submitted to the jury for deliberation. The defendant entered a guilty plea prior to the jury reaching a verdict.

Co-counsel:

Everett Eugene McMillian
United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
401 W. Evans Street, Suite 222
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 665-6688

Opposing counsel:

Andrew Burke Moorman
Moorman Law Firm LLC
12 Whitsett Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 775-5800

L. Mark Moyer
Moyer Law Firm
12 Whitsett Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 775-5811

Stephanie A. Rainey
Stephanie A. Rainey LLC
P.O. Box 7233
Spartanburg, SC 29304
(864) 573-1003

John M. Read, IV
The Read Law Firm LLC
101 W Park Avenue
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 501-5110

Gordon David Seay, Jr.
David Seay, Jr. Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 8699
Greenville, SC 29604
(864) 235-6790

John Christopher Shipman
Hawk Law Firm PA
303 Caledon Court, Suite A
Greenville, SC 29615
(864) 680-1066

Alexander Rollinson Stalvey
Bannister and Wyatt
P.O. Box 10007
Greenville, SC 29603
(864) 298-0084

Benjamin Thomas Stepp
Federal Public Defender's Office
75 Beattie Place, Suite 950
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 235-8714

5. *United States v. Martin*, 7:21-cr-00849 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge Donald C. Coggins)
(Representation: 2023)

The defendant was indicted for possessing a firearm while being prohibited. I served as second chair at the trial. The jury convicted the defendant of all charges. The defendant was sentenced to eight years and 3 months imprisonment followed by a term of supervised release for three years.

Co-counsel:

Leesa Washington
United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina
55 Beattie Place, Suite 700
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 282-2100

Opposing counsel:

Lora Collins Blanchard
Federal Public Defender's Office
Two Liberty Square
75 Beattie Place, Suite 950
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6. *United States v. Hawkins*, 6:22-cr-00186 (D.S.C. 2022) (Judge Henry Herlong)
(Representation: 2021 – 2022 est.)

The defendant was indicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute ten kilos of cocaine. I served as co-counsel at trial. The jury convicted defendant of all charges. The court sentenced the defendant to ten years, followed by a term of supervised release for five years.

Co-counsel:

Justin Holloway
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Opposing counsel:

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L. Mark Moyer
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7. *Frye v. The United States of America*, 9:20-cv-03011 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge Molly Cherry) (Representation: 2023)

Plaintiff filed a complaint against the Bureau of Prisons alleging medical malpractice. During a prison fight, Plaintiff was struck by a wooden cane, allegedly leaving a fragment of wood in Plaintiff's cheek. Plaintiff was provided medical treatment, but the medical staff failed to identify the wood fragment. Plaintiff's cheek became infected resulting in plaintiff undergoing surgery to remove the fragment. I served as second-chair for a bench trial. The court found the United States to have breached the standard of care and awarded a judgment of \$90,000 in favor of plaintiff.

Co-counsel:

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Opposing counsel:

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Anne Katharine Moore
(formerly of Connor and Connor LLC)
Johnson Moore
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8. *Matney v. Harker*, 2:21-cv-02554 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge David C. Norton) (Representation: 2022 – 2023 est.)

Plaintiff sued the United States Department of Navy for sex and race discrimination

following termination of her employment. As sole counsel on the case, I led the defense of all claims. The court granted summary judgment in favor of the Department of Navy.

Opposing counsel:

Bonnie Travaglio Hunt
Hunt Law
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(843) 553-8709

9. *Ford v. Sandhills Med. Found., Inc.*, 97 F.4th 252, 254 (4th Cir. 2024), cert. denied, 145 S. Ct. 1308, 221 L. Ed. 2d 395 (2025) (Judge Robert Harwell) (Representation: 2023 – 2024 est.)

Plaintiff filed a class action complaint in South Carolina State court alleging tort claims related to a data breach. Sandhills Medical Foundation (“Sandhills”) sought to substitute the United States as defendant under provisions of the Public Health Service Act (“PHSA”), 42 U.S.C. § 254b et seq., which would entitle Sandhills to removal to federal court and immunity. Sandhills argued data security was a related function within the purview of the PHSA. I served as local counsel where the United States challenged substitution and removal to federal court. The district court denied the United States’ statement of interest stating that Sandhills was not entitled to immunity and substituted the United States as the defendant. The United States filed a motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, which was granted by the district court. On appeal by the Plaintiff, the Fourth Circuit vacated and remanded the judgment, holding that data security is not a related function.

Co-counsel:

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Civil Division, Torts Branch FTCA Office
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Columbia, SC 29206
(803) 252-4800

10. *Roque, M.D. v. Encompass Health Corp., et al*, 4:21-cv-01903 (D.S.C. 2023) (Judge Joe Dawson) (Representation: 2022 – 2023)

Plaintiff-relator brought a qui tam action on behalf of the United States against Defendants alleging violations of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, *et seq.* I served as co-counsel and helped investigate the allegations plaintiff raised in his complaint to determine whether the United States would elect to intervene. Ultimately, the United States did not intervene.

Co-counsel:

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18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested

in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

During my employment with the U.S. House of Representatives, I served on several House Committees where I regularly provided counsel to Members and staff on ethics rules, laws, and the House Code of Conduct. I provided advice on a broad range of issues including investigative matters, subpoena matters, and House rules. I regularly conducted interviews of witnesses in a broad range of investigations. I negotiated with the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and other agencies on access to witnesses and documents. I also trained new House employees, led an annual Ethics Training for House Staff, and advised Members of Congress on the changes required by new legislation, such as the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act.

I helped draft legislation and conducted oversight of Executive Agencies, including oversight of the 2020 Census process, reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and other legislative efforts that impacted the federal workforce.

In private practice, I represented clients who were the subject of congressional investigations and prepared clients for hearing before congressional committees. I have worked on pro bono matters including assisting victims of sex trafficking, drafting wills for first responders and law enforcement personnel, and reviewing proposed legislation for a non-profit focused on animal welfare.

In 2021, I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina where my client was the United States of America. I represented the interests of the United States in civil matters and criminal matters.

I have not performed any lobbying activities.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide copies to the committee.

During the Fall semester of 2021 and spring semester 2023, I taught *Criminal Justice and Due Process* with Trey Gowdy at Wofford College. The course was an upper-level government course that provided a broad overview of the criminal justice system. A representative syllabus is supplied.

During the Fall Semesters of 2020 and 2022, I taught *Congress and Political Parties* with Trey Gowdy at Wofford College. This was an upper-level government course that introduced students to Congress as a whole, and the political process. A representative syllabus is supplied.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the

arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

I will be entitled to receive a pension under the Federal Employees Retirement System.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

I do not have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally transmitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Questionnaire with a copy of that Report.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

If confirmed, I will recuse myself from any litigation that was opened and handled by the United States Attorney's Office during my employment there.

I will also recuse myself from any matter that was opened and handled at Nelson Mullins while I was employed there.

If confirmed, I would handle all matters involving actual or potential conflicts of interest through careful application of the applicable ethical rules, and any other relevant statutes, ethical canons, and rules. I would recuse myself in cases that I was personally involved in should any such matter come before the court.

b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If confirmed, I would carefully review and address any potential conflicts of interest under the standards set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 455 and Canon 3C of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and any and all other laws, rules, and practices governing such circumstances. I would further consult any judicial decisions or Judicial Conference opinions applying the rules to particular cases or circumstances.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

While working as an attorney for Congressional committees and while serving as an attorney for the United States, I was limited in my ability to engage in the outside practice of law.

While working as an attorney in private practice, I have consistently engaged in the community to serve the disadvantaged. I have served on three non-profit organizations ranging from leadership mentoring for young girls, to housing for sex trafficking survivors, to a community center for lower-income families. I worked on issues of credit reporting for sex trafficking survivors, and election registration monitoring for potential voters. I have traveled to Kenya and North Macedonia to engage with the Parliaments of each nation to advise on establishing and enforcing an ethics framework for Members of Parliament. I was a 2020 South Carolina Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll recipient for providing over fifty hours of pro bono services. In addition, I have served on the executive committee of the Greenville County Bar Association for over five years.

26. **Selection Process:**

a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

In November of 2024, I contacted a member of Senator Lindsay Graham's staff to inform him of my interest in being considered for United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. I met with a member of Senator Graham's staff on November 20, 2024, to relay my interest. On October 28, 2025, I met with Senator Tim Scott at his office in Washington, D.C. During our meeting, Senator Scott asked if I would like to be considered for the vacant United States District Judge position in the District of South Carolina.

On January 5, 2026, I traveled to Washington, D.C. and interviewed with the White House Counsel's Office. I also met with a member of Senator Graham's staff that same day to discuss the nomination process. On January 12, 2026, the White House Counsel's Office informed me that I was under consideration for the nomination. Since then, I have been in contact with officials from the White House Counsel's Office and the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy on the nomination process.

On February 9, 2026, President Trump called to inform me that he had selected me for nomination.

b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sheria Akins Clarke, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Feb, 18, 2026
(DATE)

[Signature]
(NAME)

[Signature]
(NOTARY)

