

**From:** Veldran, Katherine  
**To:** Louise B. Spong (LouiseSpong@scsenate.gov) <LouiseSpong@scsenate.gov>  
**Date:** 8/17/2015 5:22:10 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Re. Judge Strickland

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Senator Courson and Louise,  
As a follow up below is an email from our legal shop regarding Judge Joe Strickland.  
Please let me know if you need anything else.  
Hope all is well.  
Katherine

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**From:** Schimsa, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 4:56 PM  
**To:** Veldran, Katherine  
**Cc:** Patel, Swati; Philpott, Katie  
**Subject:** Re. Judge Strickland

Katherine – Per your request for Senator Courson:

Judge Joe Strickland is the Master in Equity for Richland County. He recently notified our office that he plans to retire, and my understanding is that he would like to serve as interim until a person can be appointed to fill the remainder of his term, which expires in 2021.

Pursuant to Section 2-19-110 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Governor receives the name of a candidate to fill a vacancy in the office of master-in-equity by the legislative delegation, and then the Governor may accept or reject the candidate. The full language of the statute is below for reference:

**SECTION 2-19-110.** Vacancy in office of master-in-equity; recommendations by county legislative delegations.  
Upon a vacancy in the office of master-in-equity, candidates therefor shall submit an application to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Upon completion of reports and recommendations, the commission shall submit such reports and recommendations on master-in-equity candidates to the appropriate county legislative delegations. The county legislative delegations shall then submit the name of a candidate to the Governor for consideration for appointment. Nothing shall prevent the Governor from rejecting the person nominated by the delegation. In this event, the delegation shall submit another name for consideration. No person found not qualified by the commission may be appointed to the office of master-in-equity. For purposes of this section, a vacancy is created in the office of the master-in-equity when any of the following occurs: a term expires, a new judicial position is created, or a judge no longer can serve due to resignation, retirement, disciplinary action, disability, or death. The Judicial Merit Selection Commission may begin screening prior to the actual date of the vacancy in the case of an expiration of term, resignation, or retirement pursuant to written notice thereof.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Swati or I can assist. Katie Philpott and our Boards & Commissions team are on notice to receive any paperwork as well.

Thank you,

Rebecca

Rebecca S. Schimsa  
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