

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Re: Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County

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## ORDER

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On April 17, 2024, the Honorable Marvin Dukes, III, Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County, was elected to the Circuit Court. Upon his taking the oath of office as a Circuit Court Judge for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit on July 1, 2024, the position of Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County will become vacant until the position can be screened and filled pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 14-11-20 (2017). Now, therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Art. V, § 4, of the South Carolina Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Honorable Marvin Dukes, III, Circuit Judge for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, shall have concurrent jurisdiction as a Special Master-in-Equity for Beaufort County to dispose of matters that are pending or scheduled for hearing before the master's court in addition to his duties as Circuit Judge for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Further, Judge Dukes may continue to hear matters that may be filed in the master's court. His authority under this Order shall remain in effect until such time as a Master-In-Equity for Beaufort County has been appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly and assumes the duties of that office, or until further order of this Court, whichever shall first occur.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Robert J. Bonds, Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes (Common Pleas) for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, and any subsequently appointed Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes (Common Pleas) for the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, shall appoint special referees upon agreement of the parties where appropriate. Any special referee so appointed must be compensated by the parties involved in the action, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 14-11-60 (2017).

s/Donald W. Beatty

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Donald W. Beatty  
Chief Justice of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 10, 2024