

JEFFERY F. STEPHENS

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Email: • Phone:

Dedicated, integrity-driven law enforcement executive with more than 43 years of progressively responsible service to the citizens of South Carolina. Demonstrated success in criminal investigations, leadership of multi-county operations, and law enforcement policy development at both state and county levels. Proven ability to lead large-scale teams with fairness, operational efficiency, and transparency. Recognized for professionalism, ethical conduct, and commitment to public safety.

### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Commander, Northern Command – SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED): Oversaw operations in 23 counties across Upstate and the Pee Dee; managed high-level investigations, directed personnel deployment, and briefed SLED Director daily.
- Captain, Piedmont Region – SLED: Led criminal investigative operations across 12 counties; served as liaison with Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs; managed regional agents and complex investigative assignments.
- Lieutenant & Special Agent – SLED: Supervised agents in Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee, and York Counties along with other Counties as assigned. Investigated a wide range of cases from homicide and public corruption to crimes against children.
- Chief Deputy – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office: Since 2011, have led investigative operational and administrative responsibilities including budget management, personnel oversight, policy development, and procurement.
- Recipient of the JP Strom Award for Excellence: Graduated first in class from SC Criminal Justice Academy.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Chief Deputy**

**Cherokee County Sheriff's Office – Gaffney, SC**

**January 2011 – Present**

Senior appointed law enforcement official under the Sheriff.  
Developed and implemented all new agency policies and procedures.  
Manage daily operations, budget, personnel decisions, and purchasing.  
Oversee division commanders and ensure alignment with agency objectives.  
Maintain active Class I Law Enforcement Certification with full arrest authority.

**Commander – Northern Command  
SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED)  
January 2008 – December 2010**

Directed field operations across 23 counties via regional offices in Greenville and Florence. Supervised senior agents and ensured coordinated response to criminal investigations and emergencies.

Liaised with SLED Director and Public Information Office on high-profile cases.

**Captain – Piedmont Region  
SLED  
July 2000 – January 2008**

Commanded 12-county region of Upstate South Carolina.

Supervised regional agents and ensured access to forensic and technical resources.

Established strong relationships with Sheriffs and local law enforcement leaders.

**Lieutenant – Piedmont Region  
SLED  
August 1990 – July 2000.**

Managed Special Agents assigned to Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee, and York Counties and other counties as assigned

Oversaw investigations, assigned cases, and conducted performance evaluations.

**Special Agent – Piedmont Region  
SLED  
March 1985 – August 1990**

Conducted a wide range of criminal investigations statewide.

Responded to major incidents of violence, natural disasters, and public integrity investigations.

**Patrol Officer  
Spartanburg Police Department  
March 1981 – February 1985**

Enforced local and state laws, responded to service calls, investigated traffic incidents.

Served in the Division of Community Relations.

**Deputy Sheriff  
Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office  
November 1980 – March 1981**

Performed general law enforcement duties and dispatch services.

**EDUCATION**

University of South Carolina  
Bachelor of Science – Criminal Justice, 1984

Spartanburg Methodist College  
Associate of Arts – Criminal Justice, 1979

South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy  
Class I Law Enforcement Certification, 1981  
Recipient, JP Strom Award for Excellence (Graduated First in Class)

### **PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS**

- Operational Command & Leadership
- Criminal Investigations (Homicide, Sexual Assault, Fraud, Corruption)
- Policy Development & Agency Reform
- Multi-Agency Coordination & Crisis Response
- Budget Administration & Procurement
- Community & Intergovernmental Relations
- Personnel Supervision, Evaluation, and Mentorship
- Legal Updates, Active Shooter & Officer-Involved Incident Protocols

### **CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING**

- SC Criminal Justice Academy – Class I Certification (Active)
- Advanced Investigative Techniques, Interviewing, and Interrogation
- Active Shooter & Officer Survival Training
- Legal Updates & Evidence Management
- Firearms & Use of Force Instruction
- Management & Leadership Development Courses

### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request