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VIA EMAIL, FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Judicial Merit Selection Commission
104 Gresette Building
1101 Pendleton Street
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

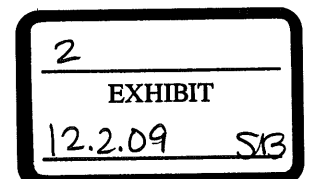
RE: F. P. Segars-Andrews
Candidate for Family Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit

Dear Chairman McConnell and Members of the Commission:

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the time that the Commission has given to the issue of my qualifications. The work of the Commission is valuable, important and challenging, particularly in circumstances such as those which arose last Wednesday during my hearing. I appreciate the time the Commission and your staff has invested in this situation to date, and, for the reasons detailed below, respectfully request the opportunity for additional time before the Commission in connection with this election.

I have felt honored and privileged to represent the State of South Carolina and the Judiciary for almost 17 years. At all times (including the particular situation involving Mr. Simpson investigated by the Commission), I have tried my best to follow the law, to maintain the standards expected of my position and to fairly administer justice to the citizens of our State. Last Wednesday, whether blinded by the emotions that stirred in me as I was confronted with Mr. Simpson's strong feelings of how unfairly he was treated, or whether it was simply prideful defense of my belief that I had followed the "law", I failed to see something that was obviously clear to the Commission, something that I now understand caused the Commission great concern.

While I have always tried to be sensitive to my responsibility, in every case, to avoid the appearance of impropriety, I obviously failed to fully appreciate, in the Simpson situation, the unique perspective of this litigant. Having already fully tried Mr. Simpson's case, and knowing (as only I could know) that I had given Mr. Simpson and his former wife a fair hearing, I was of the belief that it was my responsibility to finish the case at that point. Over the years, I have been conditioned and encouraged by litigants, lawyers and even Court Administration, to be responsible to notions of judicial economy and dispensing justice without unreasonable delay. Although my first thought was to recuse myself from the case, I was ultimately persuaded that the law required me to do otherwise. Unfortunately, in making this decision I did not fully

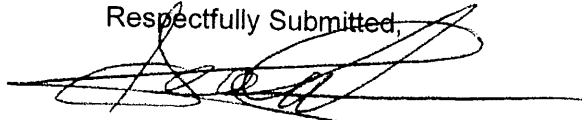


consider how this decision would impact this litigant, and his view of fairness in the Family Court.

This difficult and unfortunate situation has helped me understand that while it is essential for me to judge with integrity, to properly discharge my responsibilities I must do everything reasonable within my control to demonstrate to the litigants that they have in fact been afforded a fair trial, by an impartial and honest Judge. The issues that are before me in Family Court are almost always hotly contested and emotionally charged. More often than not, both parties leave the process relatively disappointed, receiving a result different than what they anticipated. I will always regret that Mr. Simpson will probably always think he did not receive the fair trial to which he was entitled. If I had understood then what I understand now, I would have recused myself, even though not legally required to do so. All I can do now is offer Mr. Simpson my apology, something I wish I had done last Wednesday.

When the hearing ended on Wednesday the record was left open for consideration of additional evidence. After the hearing I received some additional communication from your staff about what has or is to take place. By this letter, I respectfully request that I be allowed the opportunity to further respond to the matter before this Commission, to present evidence and testimony involving my candidacy, and that the Commission, to the extent action has been taken, reconsider its position with respect to my qualifications for retaining the position I currently hold in the Family Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. P. Segars-Andrews', written over a horizontal line.

F. P. Segars-Andrews

Cc: Jane O. Shuler, Esq., Chief Counsel
Paula G. Benson, Esq.
Steven S. McKenzie, Esq.