



JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Retired Judge

Full Name: Dana A. Morris

Business Address: P.O. Box 459, Camden, South Carolina 29021

Business Telephone: (803) 243-0115

1. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes.
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice? No.
3. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator? Yes.
4. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
5. Are you a member of any organization or association that, by policy or practice, prohibits or limits its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin? If so, please identify the entity and explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on any basis. No.
6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? Please describe. No.
7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply? I believe a Judge should be calm, patient and respectful. They should never appear to in a hurry or disinterested. Most litigants do not always understand the process a Judge follows to apply the law to the facts of their particular case, but they do understand when they have been treated politely and fairly by a Judge who carefully listened to their position and then explained the reasons behind their decision. I have applied this philosophy at all times.

8. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met? I created the system in my Assistant used to tract orders and I have continued to use it after I retired. I continue to document when orders are received and follow up by email for delinquent orders.
9. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys? No to both questions.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge? Misconduct has to be reported to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. As to an infirmity I would first approach the Attorney or Judge and express my observations and see if they responded appropriately by seeking help and notifying the Disciplinary Counsel or Court Administration themselves. If they failed to do so I would notify the Disciplinary Counsel and Court Administration.
11. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communciations? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? They should be avoided at all costs. Under the rules Judges are allowed to sign exparte orders where appropriate and handle administrative matters. However, I try to avoid these whenever possible due to the potential for problems. Occasionally, litigants or third parties have attempted to send emails or letters and I have a standard written response which explains the rules and then notify the attorneys of the attempted contact.
12. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? I have and would most likely continue to grant such motions as litigants are entitled to the reality and belief their case is being heard by a fair and unbiased Judge.
13. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I do not accept gifts or social hospitality I do not go to many parties as a rule. If I go out with others I always pay for my own meals or entertainment. I have gone to the South Carolina Association of

Justice Convention and the South Carolina Bar Convention occasionally but I report these each year on my financial disclosure form.

14. In order that we might advise court administration on steps that need to be taken, are there any limitations on your sight, hearing, or mobility that should be addressed by the court administrator?

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Dan A. Morris

Sworn to before me this 21st day of July, 2022.

Nancy M. Richbourg

(Signature)

Nancy M. Richbourg

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 8/2/28