



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

**Master-in-Equity**  
**(New Candidate)**

Full Name: John D. Harjehausen

Business Address: 1164 A Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC 29607

Business Telephone: (864) 232-4400

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if appointed?

Yes.

2. If appointed, do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?

No.

3. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?

Yes.

4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?

My philosophy is compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct, which prohibits a judge from initiating or receiving *ex parte* communications outside the presence of the parties concerning a proceeding except in limited circumstances such as for scheduling or administrative purposes that do not deal with substantive matters or issues, where no party will gain a procedural or tactical advantage, and where the judge notifies all other parties of the substance of the *ex parte* communication and allows an opportunity to respond. *Ex parte* communication may be allowed in limited circumstances expressly authorized by law for such things as issuance of a temporary restraining order.

5. 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 would recuse myself and grant the motion for recusal.

6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

As judge I would not accept a gift or social hospitality which might be viewed as intended to influence me. However, it is my understanding that a judge may accept ordinary hospitality and accept a gift from a relative or friend commensurate with the occasion and the relationship, such as a birthday or wedding gift.

7. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?

Lawyers who know that another lawyer has committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct that raises a substantial question as to that lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, have an ethical obligation to notify the bar association.

8. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed?

No.

9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.

No. None.

10. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

The judge is responsible for the order and, to that extent, I believe judges should draft their own orders as much as possible. In cases in which the parties are represented by counsel, I believe it can be

appropriate for a judge to request the prevailing party to draft a proposed order for consideration and modification by the judge.

11. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

To meet deadlines, one must have an effective and efficient calendaring system. I currently use an electronic calendaring system with reminders to aid me in my legal practice. Also I believe limited but routine meetings are an effective way to communicate with staff and ensure that deadlines are met.

12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

My philosophy is that the role of a judge is to interpret and apply the law, and that the legislature is responsible for enacting laws and identifying and promoting public policy through legislation.

13. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

I would participate on continuing legal education seminar panels. In addition, I would be interested in participating on an advisory rules committee.

14. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge will strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this?

I do not believe the pressure of serving as a judge would strain my personal relationships. I have two adult sons, one who attends Clemson, and the other who graduated from the University of South Carolina. They do not live at home full time. Furthermore, I live in close proximity to my friends and relatives which makes it easy to visit or attend events.

15. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?

I have a company, Hausen, LLC, which owns two rental properties, a duplex located at 1901/1903 Brushy Creek Road in Easley, SC, 20642,

and a small home at 1905 Brushy Creek Road, Easley, SC 29642. The home is currently occupied by my sister, Mary Harjehausen. Both properties are located in Anderson County. However, in the event any matter arose involving my business, the properties, or the lessees, I would recuse myself.

16. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?

No.

17. 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.

18. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?

Yes.

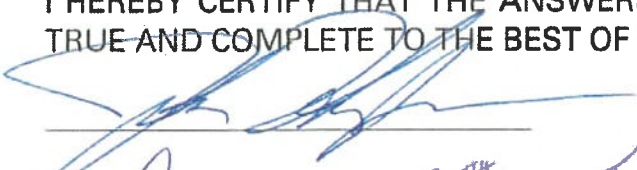
19. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?

I feel the appropriate demeanor for a judge is always one of courtesousness and respect for all individuals including litigants, attorneys, staff and members of the public.

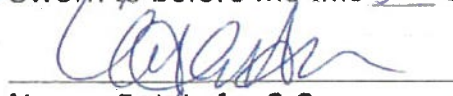
20. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public appearing before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?

No.

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



Sworn to before me this 25<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2022.



Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 02/15/32