



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

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

Full Name: Adam B. Lambert

Business Address: 859 Pendleton St. Pickens, SC 29671

Business Telephone: 864-878-1184

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? I do not believe that *ex parte* communications should happen in the Master in Equity's court. The actions heard by this court rarely rise to the level of having the need for emergency *ex parte* communications as could be the case in a Probate Court, Family Court, or a Common Pleas action. I would try to avoid such a communication, and if an emergency occurred, I would immediately follow the rules in Canon 3.
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 defer the party requesting the recusal. The mere appearance of a judge's impartiality could affect the perception of the impartiality of the court and the court's decision. Therefore, I would recuse myself at the request of the party or at the first chance on my own accord if the parties do not request.
6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I have set my standards regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality in line with Canon 4D(5).

Therefore, I would not accept a gift or any social hospitality from an attorney or firm likely to appear before me as a judge.

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? I would follow the guidelines set out in Canon 3D, which provides that if a judge receives information indicating a substantial likelihood that a lawyer or judge has violated the Judicial Canons or Rules of Professional Conduct, the judge should take "appropriate action" as set forth in that Canon. I would notify the appropriate persons of the violation and proceed as instructed.
8. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed? I am on the board for the Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce. If appointed, I would resign from this board.
9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. I was a board member for the Friends of Pickens County Guardian ad Litem from 2015 until 2020. I have since resigned and no longer volunteer for this board. During the five years on the board, we raised more than \$75,000.00 for assisting the Pickens County Guardian ad Litem program.
10. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders? If I issued a ruling from the bench, I would ask the appropriate attorney to draft the order and circulate the draft to the appropriate parties. If I must take a ruling under advisement, I would either draft the order myself or issue a memorandum to the appropriate attorney to draft the order. If the Order is drafted by an attorney, I would ask that all requested changes or revisions, must be agreed upon by the attorneys and parties before submission to the court. If the attorneys or parties cannot agree, then I would ask both sides to submit their orders and I would make the final determination as to the substantive material to be included in the Order. Once I made my determination, I would send the Order out to the attorneys and parties as necessary. During my time as a Special Referee and appearing in the Master's court, I have had the chance to review, revise, draft, and submit numerous orders pertaining to Quiet Title Actions, Foreclosures, Partitions, and other actions normally before the Master-in-Equity.

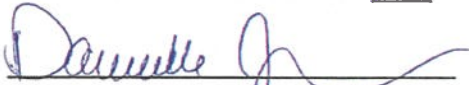
11. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would use a similar docketing and calendaring system I use in my private practice. We use Google Calendar along with Outlook Calendar.
12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not believe that "judicial activism" should be in the courtroom. I believe that I Judge should follow the law and regulations as set forth and enacted by the State of South Carolina and Federal Governments.
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? Due to this being a newly created position, I would work with the local Court personnel and Court Administration to establish a well-organized and professional system, so the Master in Equity docket and procedures run smoothly from the beginning. My experience in maintaining my Special Referee files from appointment to disbursement will have a great impact on the administration of justice in this newly created position.
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 that serving as Master in Equity would strain my personal relationships. I have been running and growing my private practice for over ten years. As well as maintaining the monthly foreclosure sales as Special Referee. I feel that my wife and I have navigated the stresses of marriage, her starting and running a business, managing my firm, and starting a family to the best of abilities by constant communication and setting work-life balances.
15. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
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. Even if I determined a family member's interest to *de minimis*, I would disclose the interest and recuse myself.

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? A Judge should follow the guidelines in Canon 3. The appropriate demeanor for a judge is one that demonstrates respect for the law and the parties. Additionally, a Judge should be understanding, honorable, and considerate to litigants, witnesses, lawyers, and all others.
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? I feel that anger should not be present in the courtroom or allowed to be shown when dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant.

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 13th day of July, 2022.



Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 2/4/32

