



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

Circuit Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Doward Keith Karvel Harvin
Business Address: 108 West Main Street, Kingstree, S.C. 29556
Business Telephone: (843) 355-5349

1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?

Answer: I would like to serve as a Circuit Court judge to serve the legal profession in its pursuit of seeking justice for citizens.

2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected?

Answer: I plan to serve my full term if elected.

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?

Answer: I do not have any plans of returning to the private practice after serving as a judge.

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

Answer: I have met the Constitutional requirements for this position.

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

Answer: For a judge to make a fair and just decision, all parties need to be able to present their matters before the court. *Ex parte* communications keep the judge from making the best-informed decision for all parties. I could only envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated when the law allows for such

communications for emergency matters. Even in those cases, the other parties would need to have an opportunity to present their position before any permanent decision is made by the Court.

6. 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?

Answer: The legal profession operates best when all parties receive a fair and impartial opportunity to be heard on the matters that impact their situation. In addition, the appearance of bias can hinder the effectiveness of the judicial process. As such, I would give great deference to a party's request for my recusal in that situation and I would possibly grant the motion.

7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

Answer: I would closely examine the appearance of impropriety through the lens of our judicial and legal canons. I would also seek advice to assure that my decision is legally sound.

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

Answer: I would not accept any gifts or any special social hospitality.

9. 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?

Answer: I would examine the rules and report any misconduct as required by our rules of professional conduct and the judicial canons.

10. 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.

Answer: I am not 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.

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

Answer: I have engaged in fund-raising activities with my church in the past. These activities were primarily related to raising funds for church outreach programs. All funds would be given to the church, and I would not receive any portion of said funds. I have also engaged in fund-raising activities for the organizations that raised funds for college scholarships for students. This has required me to reach out to friends and family members to make donations for the fund-raiser. I would also donate to the fund as well.

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench?

Answer: I do not have any business activities that I would envision remaining involved with if I were elected to the bench.

13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

Answer: I would draft orders as soon as possible and get them to the respective parties in a timely manner for filing.

14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

Answer: I would implement a system that alerts us of all deadlines ninety days before the actual deadline. I would also implement a weekly meeting to system to review the deadlines and create a plan to complete the required tasks.

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

Answer: I would not engage in judicial activism.

16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal

system?

Answer: I would spend time in the local schools giving presentations to students about our laws and the legal profession. I would also take part in CLE panel discussions with the SC Bar Association.

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

Answer: I do not feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships with my family and friends.

18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

- a. Repeat offenders:
- b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court):
- c. White collar criminals:
- d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:
- e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:

Answer: My philosophy on sentencing these classes of offenders is to treat each of them fairly by justly weighing the totality of the circumstances surrounding the matter before me.

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

Answer: I am not involved in any active investments from which I derive additional income that will impair my appearance of impartiality.

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

Answer: I would not hear a case where there is an appearance of impartiality.

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

Answer: I have met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period.

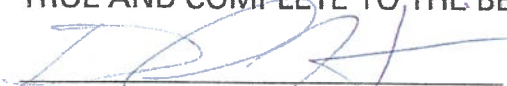
22. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?

Answer: I believe that a judge should have a serious and calm demeanor will handling matters of the court.

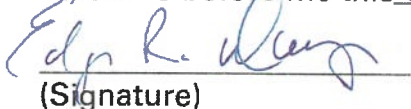
23. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or pro se litigants?

Answer: I do not feel that it is every appropriate to be angry with a member of the public. I know that anger is never appropriate when dealing with attorneys, pro se litigants or citizens.

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 27 day of July, 2022.



(Signature)

Edger R. Donaldson, Sr
(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 3-12-28