



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

**Supreme Court/Court of Appeals
(Incumbent)**

Full Name: The Honorable Jerry Deese Vinson, Jr.
Business Address: 181 N. Irby Street, Suite 2820 Florence, SC 29501
Business Telephone: 843-665-3079

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?

Yes.

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

No.

3. Have you met the Constitutional 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?

Ex parte communications are not permitted. In certain circumstances, ex parte petitions seeking emergency relief are permitted.

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 give appropriate deference to that party and hear the positions of all parties on the record. If the moving party was not reassured, I would consider granting the Motion.

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

My wife and I generally accept no gifts, except those from close friends and family. We generally socialize with close friends and family only. We do socialize with a few attorneys, and if our relationship is sufficiently close, I will not hear contested matters in which that attorney represents a litigant.

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?

If the conduct requires reporting to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, I would report it. If reporting is not required, I would discuss it with the attorney or judge and advise them of my concerns, the possible consequences which may arise and any reporting requirements, including self-reporting. If appropriate, I would consider utilizing the resources provided by the South Carolina Bar for reporting concerns about infirmity, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

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

No.

9. How do you prepare for cases that come before you?

As a Judge on the Court of Appeals, I carefully review the filed briefs, record and Bench Memoranda for cases assigned to the panel. I also review the applicable statutory and case law cited in the briefs and research the issues as necessary.

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

It is my responsibility to apply the law, not to make it. I believe my philosophy is consistent with the judicial canons and constitutional separation of powers.

11. 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 am a regular speaker at legal seminars and training sessions. I am a member of legal and judicial organizations. I participate in the South Carolina Bar Law Related Education Committee programs. I would continue to be involved as I have been for the past nineteen (19) years.

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

While some isolation naturally occurs, I feel no particular stress or pressure serving as a judge.

13. Are you currently serving on any boards or committees? If so, in what capacity are you serving?

I am a member of the South Carolina Bar Law Related Education Committee.

14. Please describe your methods of analysis in matters of South Carolina's Constitution and its interpretation by explaining your approach in the following areas. Which area should be given the greatest weight?

- a. The use and value of historical evidence in practical application of the Constitution:

First and foremost, if the language of the Constitution is plain and clear, there is no need for further interpretation. In a circumstance in which the constitutional provision is unclear, it is necessary to determine the intent of the Framers. Historical evidence, such as writings of the Framers, would be of interest in determining the intent of the convention. I would be mindful, however, that the intent of one Framers may not reflect the intent of the entire convention.

- b. The use and value of an agency's interpretation of the Constitution:

An agency's interpretation of a constitutional provision would be of little, if any, value. An agency should not be allowed to usurp the role of the court in interpreting constitutional provisions.

- c. The use and value of documents produced contemporaneously to the Constitution, such as the minutes of the convention:

Documents produced contemporaneously to the constitution, such as the minutes of the convention, would be the most reliable of the three examples provided. Such documents would be the most likely source of information concerning the intent of the Framers.

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

No.

16. 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.

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

Yes.

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

A judge should be patient and respectful toward the litigants and attorneys; firm when necessary; and, well tempered at all times.

19. Is there a role for sternness or anger with attorneys?

It would not be appropriate to demonstrate anger; however, there are instances in which sternness may be appropriate.

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 ____ day of _____, 2023.

(Signature)

(Print name)

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: _____