



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

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

Full Name: WILLIAM B. COX, JR
Business Address: 1111 CHURCH STREET, CAMDEN, SC 29020
Business Telephone: 803-432-4391

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

2. If appointed, do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? YES, I PLAN TO REMAIN IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AS KERSHAW COUNTY IS PART-TIME DUE TO THE EXISTING POPULATION COUNT.

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

4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? THE MASTER'S POSITION INVOLVES RESOLUTION OF MATTERS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS AND THEIR OWNERSHIP OF REAL PROPERTY. ONLY IN CASES OF CONFIRMED SERVICE AND DEFAULT WOULD AN EX PARTE COMMUNICATION BE TOLERATED AND ONLY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURAL OR SCHEDULING MATTERS AS OPPOSED TO DISCUSSION OF FACTUAL MATTERS COMING BEFORE THE COURT.

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. THE JUDICIARY SHOULD NOT CAUSE OR FOSTER DISTRUST OF THE LEGAL PROCESS, EVEN THROUGH INADVERTENT ACTIONS. MASTERS MAY APPOINT SPECIAL REFEREES IN CASES INVOLVING CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR LACK OF IMPARTIALITY.

6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I WOULD ADHERE TO THE JUDICIAL CANNONS REGARDING BOTH OF THESE ITEMS.
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 CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION FOR GUIDANCE AND FOLLOW THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS.
8. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed? I AM NOT. I ONLY SERVE ON BOARDS OF LOCAL KERSHAW COUNTY COMMUNITY CHARITIES AND THE CENTRAL CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION.
9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. LOCAL CHARITIES ONLY. UNITED WAY, COMMUNITY MEDICAL CLINIC OF KERSHAW COUNTY, FOOD FOR THE SOUL. NO POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS OF ANY KIND EXCEPT PRIVATE DONATIONS.
10. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders? IN DEFAULT OR ROUTINE MATTERS, I WOULD REQUEST PROPOSED ORDERS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNCIL REFLECTING MY DECISION IN THE MATTER. FOR UNIQUE DECISIONS, I WOULD DRAFT THEM MYSELF.
11. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I WOULD INSTITUTE PROPER CALENDARING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE DEADLINES ARE MET.
12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I BELIEVE ONLY THE APPELLATE LEVEL JUSTICES SHOULD RULE ON MATTERS INVOLVING THE CHANGE OF PUBLIC POLICY. MY ROLE WOULD BE TO RULE PURSUANT TO EXISTING LAW.
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

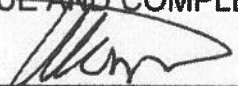
ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN APPROPRIATE CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION SEMINARS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT KERSHAW COUNTY CITIZENS WERE AFFORDED AN EDUCATED MASTER IN EQUITY TO RESOLVE THEIR MATTERS EFFECTIVELY AND JUDICIOUSLY.

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? MY CHILDREN ARE GROWN AND OUT OF THE HOUSE. MY WIFE IS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING LAW FOR 30 YEARS. I BELIEVE THAT OUR FAMILY IS WELL ADJUSTED TO HANDLE THE INHERENT PRESSURES. I HAVE BEEN AROUND OTHER SITTING JUDGES FOR MANY YEARS AND HAVE LEARNED HOW THEY MANAGE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SITUATIONS WHICH MUST BE HANDLED OUTSIDE THE COURT, I WOULD STRIVE TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE JUDICIAL CANONS IN ALL RESPECTIVE AREAS.
15. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? I AM NOT.
16. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? I WOULD NOT.
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. I AM NOT.
18. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? I HAVE.
19. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? A JUDGE SHOULD BE VOCALLY RESERVED, EVEN TEMPERED, LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO BOTH PARTIES AND NOT EXPRESS EMOTION DURING ANY PROCEEDINGS. JUDGES SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL TO LITIGANTS AS LITIGANTS SHOULD RESPECT THE BENCH. OPEN HEARINGS MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH IMPARTIALITY TO

PROTECT EACH PARTY'S RIGHT TO PRESENT THEIR INFORMATION IN AN OPEN AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. THIS PREVENTS THE APPEARANCE OF PREJUDICE TOWARDS OR IN FAVOR OF EITHER PARTY.

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. JUDGES ARE IMPARTIAL TRYERS OF FACT AND A JUDGE'S EMOTION SHOULD HAVE NO PLACE IN A HEARING. JUDGES SHOULD SET FORTH THE RULES OF THE HEARING AND MAKE SURE THAT BOTH SIDES CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

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



WILLIAM B. COX, JR.

Sworn to before me this 31 day of July, 2023.



Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 2-24-32