



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

Family Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Jerrod Austin Anderson

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1. Why do you want to serve as a Family Court Judge? I want to help others reach a civil resolution in their domestic disputes.

2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes, I plan to serve the full term if elected.

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? If I can serve as a Judge, yes, I plan to return to private practice.

4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes, I am a United States citizen, over the age of thirty-two, licensed as an attorney for over eight (8) years, have been a resident of Orangeburg County for the past five years to present.

5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? A judge shall not initiate, permit, or consider *ex parte* communications or communications made outside the presence of the parties concerning pending or impending proceedings. I could envision circumstances where *ex parte* communications maybe allowed for scheduling, administrative purposes or emergencies that do not deal with substantive matters or issues on the merits, provided as judge I reasonably believe no party will be given a procedural or tactical advantage as a result of *ex parte* communications, and all parties are notified of substance of the *ex parte* communication with an opportunity to respond. A judge may obtain advice of a disinterested expert on the law applicable to a proceeding before him if the judge give notice to the parties of

the person consulted and the substance of the advice and affords the parties responsible opportunity to respond.

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? I would give the moving party great deference if my impartiality as judge were reasonably questioned. Yes, I would grant such a motion under said circumstances.

7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I would disqualify myself as judge if impartiality might reasonably be questioned where my spouse or a person within the third degree of relationship to me or my spouse, or spouse such a person; is a party to the proceedings, or an officer, director or trustee of a party; in acting as a lawyer in the proceedings; is known by me as judge to have a more than de minimis interest that could be substantially affected by the proceedings; or is to my knowledge as judge likely to be a material witness in the proceedings.

8. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? As judge I would not accept, and shall urge members of my family residing in my household not to accept a gift, bequest, favor or loan from anyone except for a) a gift incident to public testimonial, books, tapes and other resource materials supplied by publishers on a complimentary basis for official use or an invitation to me as judge and my spouse or guest to attend a bar-related function or an activity devoted to the improvement of the law, the legal system or the administration of justice; b) a gift, award or benefit incident to the business, profession or other separate activity of my spouse or other family member residing in my household as judge, including gift, award, or benefit could not reasonably be perceived as intended to influence me as judge in the performance of judicial duties; c) ordinary social hospitality; d) a gift for a relative or friend, for a special occasion; e) a gift, bequest, favor or loan for a relative or close personal friend whose appearance or interest in a case would in any event require disqualification under Section 3E of Rule 501; f) a loan from a lending institution in its regular course of business on the same terms generally available to person who are not judges; g) a scholarship or fellowship awarded on the same terms and based on the factors and based on the same criteria applied to other applicants; h) any other gift, bequest from a loan, only if the donor is not a party or other persons who has come or is likely to come or whose interest have come or one likely to come before me as judge; and if its value exceeds \$150.00, me a judge reports it in the same manner as the judge

reports compensation in Section 4 H of Rule 501; or j) a judicial portrait or memorial which complies with the requirements of Rule 3.5(d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct contained in Rule 407, SCACR.

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? As to misconduct, a Judge who receives information indicating a substantial likelihood that another judge has committed a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct should take appropriate action. A Judge having knowledge that another judge has committed a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct that raises a substantial question as to the other judge's fitness shall inform the appropriate authority. A judge who receives information indicating a substantial likelihood that a lawyer has committed a violation of the Rule of Professional Conduct contained in Rule 407, SCACR, shall take appropriate action. A judge having knowledge that a lawyer has committed a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct that raised a substantial question as to the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a lawyer in other respects shall inform the appropriate authority. As to appearance of infirmity a judge having a reasonable belief that the performance of a lawyer or another judge is impaired by drugs or alcohol, or by a mental, emotional, or physical condition, shall take appropriate action, which may include a confidential referral to an appropriate lawyer or judicial assistance program.

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. No, I am not a member of any such organization or association.

11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. No, I have not.

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? No.

13. Since Family Court judges do not have law clerks, how would you handle the drafting of orders? I would ask one of the lawyers before the court to draft a proposed order.

14. If elected, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would calendar deadlines and hire an assistant to help me maintain court scheduling and submission of related orders.
15. If elected, what specific actions or steps would you take to ensure that the guidelines of the guardian ad litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I would make sure the guardian ad litem has an opportunity to be heard in Court to address any needs or concerns. The Guardian has responsibilities and duties to fulfill by statute. I would make sure there are no obstructions prohibiting fulfillment of duties.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? A judge shall not appear at a public hearing before, or otherwise consult with an executive or legislative body, or official except on matters concerning the law, the legal system or the administration of justice or except when acting pro se in a matter involving the judge or judge's interest.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities would you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? Presently I'm involved with Orangeburg Safe Babies in Family Court that provides extra resources and support of cases involving abuse and of minors age newborn to the age of three years old. Studies have shown that critical years with child bonding with their parents occur between the ages of newborn to the age of three years old.
18. 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 plan to address this? I do not feel serving as judge would strain my personal relationship.
19. Would you give any special considerations to a pro se litigant in family court? No, a pro se litigant who knowingly elects to represent himself or herself assumes full responsibility for complying with substantive and procedural requirements of the law.

20. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? I do have active investments, but I do not believe it would impair my appearance of impartiality.
21. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? Yes, because the insignificant interest would not raise reasonable question of my impartiality as judge.
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes, I have.
23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? A judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers, and others with who the judges deal in an official capacity and shall require similar conduct of lawyers and of staff, court officials and others subject to the judge's discretion and control. These rules apply in the performance of the judge's duties.
24. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? No, a Judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, and lawyers with whom the judge deals in an official capacity. Anger is never appropriate 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 _____ day of _____, 2023.

(Signature)

(Print name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires: _____