



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

**Circuit Court**  
**(New Candidate)**

Full Name: Stephen Bryan Doby

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1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge? I feel that it would be an honor to be a public servant in the capacity of Circuit Judge. I do consider it an act of public service.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? I have no plans at this time to return to private practice if elected.
4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
5. 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 prohibited except as allowed by ethical rules regarding scheduling only.
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? A party's request for recusal is taken seriously and to avoid the appearance of bias, a recusal would be granted.

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 recuse myself.
8. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? None are permitted.
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? Such misconduct must be reported to the appropriate authority and infirmity would be reported as well.
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
11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.  
No
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench?  
No
13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders? Most orders are drafted by one of the parties, but I have drafted some orders when appropriate.
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? A calendar is maintained to assist with deadlines.
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? Judges are the interpreters of the law and do not set or promote public policy. Therefore judicial activism is not acceptable in any form.

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? I have served as Moderator for a CLE involving MIE Bench Bar and have served as a speaker at a CLE and would continue to do those types of activities.
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? The position, along with the practice of law, is stressful, but I have been successful in handling the stress since 2008 when I became Master-in-Equity for Lee County.
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: These need to be dealt with most harshly as recidivism needs to be stopped.
  - b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court): These need to be dealt with in a manner necessary to rehabilitate due to the offenders age with strong consideration of the offense committed.
  - c. White collar criminals: These defendants should be dealt with the same as any other defendant.
  - d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: Such a background is not an excuse for committing a crime and are dealt with depending on the offense.
  - e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: Again such circumstances are not an excuse and the defendants are dealt with according to their offense.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
No
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a

*de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?  
No

21. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?  
Yes
22. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? Kindness and courtesy to all litigates is a must and applies at all times. The act of presiding in court is only part of a being a member of the judiciary. Judges are held to a higher standard for a reason and must at all times conduct themselves accordingly.
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 litigates? Anger is never appropriate and I try to deal with all litigates and attorneys with respect and courtesy. Judges must not let anger taint their rulings or dealings with attorneys and litigates.

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

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Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_