



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

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

**Full Name:** Samuel LaNue Floyd  
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1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?

Immediately after graduating law school, I had the pleasure to clerk for the Honorable M. Duane Shuler. My experience as clerk was enlightening and very rewarding to say the least. I learned the impact that a Judge could have on society. Prior to this, I had never even considered being a Judge, but that experience left a profound impact on me.

As fate would have it, I was appointed to serve as a full time Magistrate for Williamsburg County immediately following my clerkship. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Magistrate, serving the citizens of the county where I grew up. Those two employments are by far my most favorite jobs, and became the catalyst for me to dream about becoming a Circuit Judge.

I immediately went to work to expand my knowledge on all aspects of the practice of Law. I took a job with a very reputable law firm in my home town of Kingstree, rather than a large firm or governmental entity. My purpose for this choice was because I knew I would be exposed to all aspects of law, rather than specialize in one area.

After five years, I fulfilled a childhood dream of mine, which was to practice law in my Father's law office in Kingstree. In 2007, using the knowledge and experience gained, I opened my office and have been a sole practitioner ever since.

The law has also provided me the opportunity to serve others through volunteer work and political participation. I would like to use the knowledge and experience I have gained, coupled with the passion and desire to serve others, on a broader base. Becoming a Circuit

Court Judge provides the opportunity to do so on a statewide level.

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?

No

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?

I do not believe in *ex parte* communication and can't envision such a situation unless it was created out of an emergency such as need for a search warrant. The situation should not deal with substantive matters or issues on the merits.

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 recuse myself if I believed the matter truly gave the sense of impropriety.

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 at all times avoid the appearance of impropriety. I would recuse myself in order to maintain the public trust.

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

I would not accept gifts, and I would encourage my household members not to accept gifts. Social hospitality would be limited to ordinary hospitality that in no way reflects a sense of impropriety or shows a sense of favoritism.

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?

On a case by case basis, I would report misconduct or the appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or a fellow judge to the appropriate authority.

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.

- a. Williamsburg Regional Hospital Foundation Board
- b. First Baptist Church of Kingstree Family Life Center
- c. Sam Floyd for County Council
- d. Sam Floyd for Senate

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?

I would advise both sides of the ruling of the Court in each case. Depending on the situation, I would either:

- a. Designate attorney for one party to prepare the order and provide

a copy to the other party, with any objections to be submitted with the Order for my review; or

- b. Have the attorney for each side draft an order and exchange with the other attorney and both proposed orders to be sent to me for review with any objections from each attorney.
- c. In certain circumstances, I would draft the order myself.

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

I would have my secretary schedule appearances and deadlines on a monthly calendar. I would have my law clerk give updates weekly on such appearances and deadlines. I would then see to it that all such appearances and deadlines were disposed of properly, effectively and fairly.

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

I do not believe in judicial activism. I believe that the job of the judge is to interpret and apply the law as it has been handed down and follow it as closely as possible in the way in which it has been written.

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?

Having taught business law courses at Williamsburg Technical College, I witnessed firsthand the effect of judges on students, the good will and public trust it creates and enhances. I would engage in speaking activities to encourage public trust in the judicial system.

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?

Yes. I would remind myself daily that no matter where I go, what I do or what I say that someone is listening, watching me and that I have a duty to maintain the integrity of the position I hold.

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:

Repeat offenders should receive a harsher sentence, in that they have proven themselves inadequate of rehabilitation.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court):

Juveniles should be sentenced sternly, understanding that the ultimate goal is addressing the problem that exists, and providing rehabilitation and the opportunity for success.

c. White collar criminals:

White collar criminals should be sentenced on the basis and nature of their crime, criminal background and the possibility of rehabilitation.

d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:

Although social and/or economic disadvantage has a bearing on crime, and under some circumstances considered a mitigating factor, it does not negate the fact that a crime has been committed. I would review the nature of the crime and the totality of the circumstances and sentence accordingly.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:

Personally and politically I have always supported the elderly, and would continue to do so in a judicial capacity; however, this does not negate the fact that a crime has been committed. The defendant's criminal and medical history should be thoroughly examined. After careful examination of all of the circumstances, I would sentence with an understanding of the age and infirmity of the defendant.

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?

I feel that a judge should maintain a consistent demeanor, being patient, dignified and courteous, to accommodate attorneys and staff and to the extent possible, accommodate the parties by showing interest in their case, as this may be the only time they ever appear in 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?

Anger is never appropriate with the public or attorneys. With criminal defendants or litigants, a judge should maintain civility and dignity in his conduct. However, a judge should be granted some leeway to express that he is not pleased with the conduct of a party.

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 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

  
(Signature)

John Thomas Thompson  
(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 7/20/2026