



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

**Retired Judge**

Full Name: *Jean Hoefler Toal*  
Business Address: *1701 Main St, Suite 323*  
*Columbia, S.C. 29201*  
Business Telephone: *803-530-0457*

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

*yes*

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

*no*

3. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?

*Arbitrator and mediator*

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

*no*

5. 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*

6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? Please describe.

*no*

7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply?

*Considerate, Respectful and Fair. Always*

8. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met?

*I diary deadlines as does my law clerk*

9. 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? *It is never appropriate to be angry or show anger to any litigant, attorney, or member of the public.*
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge? *Report to Chief Justice and, if necessary, Disciplinary Counsel.*
11. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? *Ex parte contacts are never proper.*
12. 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 consider, with respect, a recusal request and grant, if warranted.*
13. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? *I pay my own way when socializing with lawyers. I don't accept gifts.*
14. In order that we might advise court administration on steps that need to be taken, are there any limitations on your sight, hearing, or mobility that should be addressed by the court administrator? *I wear hearing aids and have since my late 30's. I am able to function well with them.*

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 14 day of July, 2023.

Chelsea Kennedy

(Signature)

Chelsea Kennedy

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 10/30/2025