

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

Circuit Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Ittriss J. Jenkins

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1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge? **I feel that my educational and professional experience will allow me to add value to the judiciary. I have experience working with the Courts as an attorney. I have also had the pleasure of hearing cases as a Magistrate Judge. My experiences allowed me to interact with people who are from different backgrounds and experiences. I have learned to seek justice, show mercy and walk humbly with my savor.**

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 am not sure about my future plans, but private practice is an option.**

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 infringe on the premises of equity and justice. With the use of technology, it is easier to ensure that all parties are able to communicate, even if its' done via an electronic platform.

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? **Yes I would grant the motion, I would just want to ensure that the litigant is not Judge shopping. The appearance of impropriety is just as important as the actual impropriety. If the litigant's complaint is justifiable, and justice is not delayed, I will grant the recusal.**

7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? **I will recuse myself and attempt to get the case on the next available docket under another Judge.**
8. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? **I will not accept gifts, that keeps it simple.**
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? **I have a duty to report the misconduct, I will approach the person to ensure that the accusations are accurate.**

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. **Yes, help my two daughters sell girl scout cookies.**
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? **As a magistrate, I draft all my orders. I would have a mix of drafting my orders and asking for a proposal from the litigants.**
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
We will utilize a shared calendar so we all could see the deadlines. I will have the responsibility of monitoring the calendar, but the staff will also have the responsibility of reviewing the calendar for deadlines.
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? **Judges should not set policy, that is the responsibility of the legislature. Judges make decisions on based on the constitutionality of the public policy.**
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 will continue to be active in the Charleston County Bar. I will also present perspectives of the bench. That will open the dialogue with Bar and allow me to listen to concerns or issues.**

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? **I will ensure that my family has no doubt about my agape love for them. I will openly communicate my love for them when I am with them and use technology to be present when I can't be with them physically.**
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: **I will look at the cause of the problem to see if there are alternative means to establish justice and rehabilitate their behavior.**
 - b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court): **Examine the crime and pattern of behavior to examine what remedy is best for society.**
 - c. White collar criminals:
Examine the impact on the victims of the crime before sentencing.

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

I will understand what was missing in the Defendant's background and determine whether it is better for society for this person to be incarcerated or given a opportunity to be a productive citizen.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:

The question is what the best way is to remedy the problems or rectify the mistake.

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.**

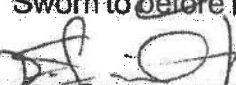
21. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? **Yes**

22. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? **Must humbly approach your duties as if you are working for your savior. This is a demeanor that is deserved by all people who enter or have contact with the 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? **No.**

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 31st day of July, 2023.



(Signature)

Dana S. Fields
(Print Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 01/15/2026