



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

**Master-in-Equity  
(Incumbent)**

Full Name: Dale E. Van Slambrook

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1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-appointed? Yes
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No
3. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
Only under extreme emergency situations as allowed by the rules or for scheduling or administrative purposes only.
5. 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 likely grant such Motion to avoid the appearance of any impropriety.
6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?  
I would endeavor to not intentionally accept any gifts or social hospitality from persons or entities that would likely or even possibly appear before me or give the appearance of impropriety.

7. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a judge?

Depending on the severity of the misconduct, I would personally approach the offending person and notify Court Administration or the S.C. Bar, if necessary.

8. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.

I have been involved in a fund raising effort for the Alzheimer's Association. However, I only accept donations from my family or close friends.

9. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

We have established and monitor computer and paper calendaring systems.

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

I feel my role is to enforce the existing laws fairly, efficiently and in an unbiased manner. It would not be my role to create law or to promote or create public policy from the Bench.

12. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

Legal education by coordinating and speaking at CLE seminars and teaching to lay persons and the BAR.

13. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this?

I do not anticipate that my service would strain any personal relationships. I have not considered the stress on personal relationships exceeding the stress of practicing law, which I feel I have successfully handled for my career.

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

No

15. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No
  
16. 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 these bases. No
  
17. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes
  
18. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? Courteous, calm and attentive
  
19. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?  
 I cannot image a situation where it would be appropriate to express anger at an attorney, litigant, or 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_