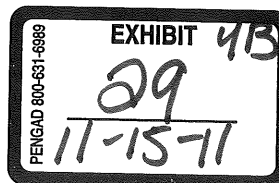


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION**  
**Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings**

**Circuit Court**  
**(Incumbent)**

Full Name: Kristi Lea Harrington  
Business Address: P.O. Box 998  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
Business Telephone: 843-719-4480

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Circuit Court Judge?  
My current term has been the most professionally and personally rewarding part of my legal career. I have had the opportunity to preside over many trials and hearings. As such, I have realized the important role that my decisions make in people's personal and professional lives.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?  
I do plan to serve the entire term.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?  
I have no current plans to return to private practice.
4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?  
I have met all the Constitutional requirements.
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
I follow the Code of Judicial Conduct which states that *ex parte* communications shall not be initiated, permitted, or considered. The Code does allow *ex parte* communications for limited scheduling, administrative purposes, or emergencies.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?  
The Code of Judicial Conduct states that a judge should disqualify herself if the judge's impartiality may be reasonably questioned. Unless there is some personal bias or prejudice, there is no reason to recuse from hearing a case involving lawyer-legislators. As to former associates or law partners, this would not apply to me.
7. 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 carefully consider the request and my disclosure in light of the judicial canons. This is a very case-specific determination.

8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

The rules of disclosure and recusal would apply. This would be disclosed on the record. Depending on the situation, it may require recusal. The parties may waive any disqualification. It is required of me to be informed about the personal interests of my relatives.

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

I follow the Code of Conduct regarding the acceptance of gifts and social hospitality. A judge may accept 'ordinary social hospitality' and any incidental gifts.

10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?

I would follow the Code of Conduct with the appropriate action. This may include direct communication with the lawyer or the judge and to contact the appropriate disciplinary authority.

11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated?

I am not.

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if reelected to the bench?

I do not.

13. How do you handle the drafting of orders?

As a standard practice, I require all involved parties to submit proposed orders, copying the other parties. After reviewing the proposed orders, I will prepare my own Order.

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

I ensure that all matters are calendared appropriately with the noted deadlines.

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

Rulings should be based only the law.

16. 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?

I am currently an adjunct professor in Legal Ethics at a local college. I mentor a Youth Court program at a local high school. I am on the Common Pleas Docket Management Task Force. I am actively involved in the iCivics program implementation.

17. 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 feel that the pressures of serving as a judge strains personal relationships.

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:
- b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the circuit court):
- c. White collar criminals:
- d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:
- e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:

As to each of these categories, my philosophy is to apply the law to each category fairly and impartially, carefully considering the facts and circumstances regarding the individual.

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

I am not.

20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?

I would disclose any financial involvement on the record. If the parties requested disqualification, I would honor that request.

21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? I do not.

22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?

I have met and exceeded the minimum hours required for CLE courses.

23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?

A judge should have patience, be courteous to all participants in the legal process, be respectful, and have humility. Other essential qualities include compassion and understanding of the process and for the people involved. A good sense of humor also assists the judge in handling the demands of the bench.

24. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day?

A judge should "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary." Canon 2.

25. 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 a pro se litigant?

Anger is never an appropriate emotion for a judge to display to any individual involved in the court system.

26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

I have spent no money on my campaign.

27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign? I have not.

28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? I have not.

29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? I have not.

30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?

I have not asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly, nor am I aware of anyone contacting members of the General Assembly on my behalf.

31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? I have not.

32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? I am familiar with the 48-hour rule.

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

s/Kristi L. Harrington

Sworn to before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011.

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 8/6/2014