

1 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Now we  
2 have a new applicant here, Mr. John P. Meadors,  
3 who seeks the position of Circuit Court, Fifth  
4 Judicial Circuit, Seat Number One. Mr. Meadors,  
5 if you would please raise your right hand to be  
6 sworn.

John Meadors  
Fall 2010  
Circuit Court  
5th, Seat 1

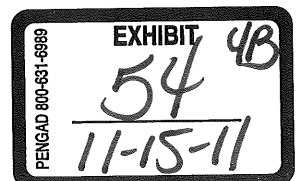
7 (Candidate sworn.)

8 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY:  
9 Mr. Meadors, the Judicial Merit Selection  
10 Commission has thoroughly investigated your  
11 qualifications for the bench. Our inquiry has  
12 focused on nine evaluative criteria, which have  
13 included a survey of the bench and bar; a thorough  
14 study of your application materials; verification  
15 of your compliance with State ethics laws; a  
16 search of newspaper articles in which your name  
17 may have appeared; a study of previous screenings;  
18 and a check for any economic conflicts of  
19 interest.

20 We have received an affidavit filed  
21 in opposition to your election, and there is one  
22 witness here to testify.

23 Do you have a brief opening statement  
24 that you'd like to make at this time?

25 MR. MEADORS: Thank you. May it



1 please the Commission, and good morning  
2 Mr. Chairman and members of the Judicial Merit  
3 Selection Commission. I'm honored to be before  
4 you here today. I'd like to also, at the  
5 appropriate time, introduce some family that I  
6 have with me.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: You may do  
8 that at this time.

9 MR. MEADORS: Thank you, sir. With  
10 me is my wife, Trisha Meadors; my dad, Bishop  
11 Meadors; and my brother James Meadors. And I'd  
12 like to thank them for being here with me today.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: We're so  
14 glad y'all could come.

15 If you would at this time answer any  
16 questions our able counsel, Ms. Anzelmo, might  
17 have for you.

18 MS. ANZELMO: Mr. Chairman and  
19 members of the Commission, I have a few procedural  
20 matters to take care of with this candidate.

21 Mr. Meadors, you have before you the  
22 personal data questionnaire and the amendment you  
23 submitted as part of your application. Are there  
24 any additional amendments you would like to make  
25 at this time to your PDQ?

1 MR. MEADORS: Obviously, the  
2 amendment under question 34 was an amendment where  
3 Mr. Lawrence Crawford had sued myself, the  
4 attorney general's office, Solicitor Barney Giese,  
5 Mr. Ron Moak, Dr. Joel Sexton, Dr. Ross, who was a  
6 pathologist. That was a murder case in Kershaw.

7 I was unaware that we had been sued  
8 in Federal Court, thanks to y'all for finding it.  
9 It was dismissed in December of '06. I gave a  
10 copy of Judge Wooton's order in the amendment, and  
11 it did show that it was not clear what cause of  
12 action Mr. Crawford was proceeding under.

13 He was convicted of killing his  
14 child. Other than that, I believe it's  
15 amendment -- PDQ question 50, I would respectfully  
16 ask that a letter from Ms. Helen Zoch be  
17 substituted for a letter from Mr. Jack Swerling,  
18 an attorney and member of the Richland County Bar.

19 MS. ANZELMO: Thank you. And both of  
20 those were written amendments that you submitted  
21 earlier, correct?

22 MR. MEADORS: Yes.

23 MS. ANZELMO: Mr. Chairman, I would  
24 like to ask that Mr. Meadors' personal data  
25 questionnaire and his amendment be entered into

1 the hearing record at this time.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: It shall be  
3 entered without objection at this point in the  
4 transcript.

5 (EXH. 9, John P. Meadors' Personal  
6 Data Questionnaire and Sworn Statement, was  
7 admitted.)

8 MS. ANZELMO: Mr. Meadors, you have  
9 before you also the sworn statement that you  
10 provided with detailed answers to over 30  
11 questions regarding judicial conduct, statutory  
12 qualifications, office administration, and  
13 temperament.

14 Do you have any amendments to this  
15 statement?

16 MR. MEADORS: No, ma'am.

17 MS. ANZELMO: At this time,  
18 Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask that  
19 Mr. Meadors' sworn statement be entered into the  
20 record.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: That will  
22 be done at this point in the transcript also.

23 MS. ANZELMO: One final procedural  
24 matter. I note for the record that based on the  
25 testimony contained in the candidate's PDQ, which

1 has been included in the record with the  
2 candidate's consent, Mr. Meadors meets the  
3 statutory requirements for this position regarding  
4 age, residence, and years of practice.

5 Mr. Meadors, for the record, would  
6 you please state the city and the judicial circuit  
7 in which you reside?

8 MR. MEADORS: Fifth Judicial Circuit,  
9 Columbia, South Carolina.

10 MS. ANZELMO: Mr. Meadors, why do you  
11 want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?

12 MR. MEADORS: Ms. Anzelmo, members of  
13 the Commission, I love being in the courtroom, I  
14 love being a part of helping resolve disputes,  
15 being part of the judicial system. I've done it  
16 my whole career.

17 I really enjoy being in the  
18 courtroom, I enjoy the emotion, I enjoy the  
19 satisfaction, if you will, when results -- when  
20 you do achieve results, whether they're in your  
21 favor or not, but getting justice is important,  
22 I'd like to continue that as a Circuit Court  
23 judge.

24 I think I've prepared myself, I'm  
25 excited about it, and I think it will be fun, and

1 I think my extensive experience in the courtroom  
2 has prepared me to take that step, and I'm excited  
3 about the possibilities.

4 MS. ANZELMO: Thank you. Are there  
5 any areas of the law that you would need to  
6 additionally prepare for in order to serve as a  
7 Circuit Court judge, and, if so, how would you  
8 handle that preparation?

9 MR. MEADORS: Yes, ma'am. Most of my  
10 time has been in the courtroom trying cases,  
11 primarily murder cases for the last 8 years. Over  
12 my 23 years, I've tried a variety of cases.

13 The rules of evidence are reported in  
14 the common pleas and general sessions, they're the  
15 same, and I think that will be an easy transition  
16 as far as the power. Obviously, in addition to  
17 that is civil work. I've done some civil  
18 forfeitures, DUI cases, we've had forfeitures, but  
19 primarily mine has been in trial in general  
20 session.

21 And, in Civil Court I have -- when  
22 I've had time, gone and viewed Civil Court  
23 proceedings, nonjury matters, nonjury trials,  
24 nonjury motions. I am familiar with the rules of  
25 evidence. Obviously, I'll keep going every day.

1 I'm excited about the possibility of civil court.

2 I've been discussing it with some of  
3 my friends on the bench and have been to several  
4 CLEs, particularly one put on by Mr. McKenzie and  
5 Mr. Davis this year, so several of those, based  
6 primarily on Civil Court.

7 So I have tried and will continue to  
8 try to make myself ready for civil as well as  
9 criminal.

10 MS. ANZELMO: Thank you. Although  
11 you address this in your sworn affidavit, could  
12 you please explain to the members of the  
13 Commission what you think is the appropriate  
14 demeanor for a judge?

15 MR. MEADORS: Mannerly, treat folks  
16 like you want to be treated, be respectful, also  
17 BE firm. Obviously, it's a courtroom. I've  
18 always said it's like going to church; you're  
19 dressed that way, you go in, there's certain rules  
20 and procedures that have to be followed, but you  
21 can also be respectful, and I think a judge should  
22 be respectful.

23 I think a judge should be consistent,  
24 and I think a judge should be fair. And that's  
25 the way I was raised and the way I've been as a

1 prosecutor, and I would continue, if I had the  
2 opportunity, to do that as a judge.

3 I don't know how many times, even  
4 though defense counsel or a client may have gotten  
5 15 or 20 years, they come out thinking the judge,  
6 whether it's a he or she, you know, they are a  
7 pretty good person, they listened to me, treated  
8 me right, gave me an opportunity; even though I  
9 didn't get what I wanted, I still felt like I had  
10 an opportunity to put my side out.

11 And that's what I'll do as a judge,  
12 and I think that's important. It's the road  
13 that's important not the person, and I'll always  
14 remember that in the position, I won't let it get  
15 higher than it should, I promise you.

16 MS. ANZELMO: What suggestions do you  
17 have for improving the backlog of cases on the  
18 docket in the Circuit Court?

19 MR. MEADORS: Civil court is actually  
20 up to date. I was talking to Judge Barber and  
21 several other judges very recently. And, if you  
22 file a civil case, you're going to go to trial in  
23 a year, and that's the quickest you can go.

24 The backlog on the civil docket is  
25 really on the nonjury motion list. Again, nonjury



1 motion, nonjury trial. The nonjury trials are up  
2 to date. So, if there is a backlog in civil, it  
3 would be the nonjury motions, and those, again,  
4 you just have to work on it.

5           They're not bad here but they're a  
6 little bit behind. You have roll calls, you have  
7 roster calls. And it's like anything else, when  
8 it's time to go to a roster call, you get pushed  
9 and you start working on it. So you just do it,  
10 keep that up to date, and it kind of resolves  
11 itself.

12           As far as criminal, we have now a  
13 tracking system that's been in place for years,  
14 Judge Floyd started it. It was one of the two  
15 pilots in the state. If you get arrested -- and I  
16 don't mean y'all -- but a person gets arrested in  
17 January, right now, their first appearance will be  
18 in February.

19           At that appearance, they're  
20 instructed to get a lawyer, they're put on a  
21 track, one, two, or three track depending on the  
22 type of charge. The second appearance, they come  
23 back, the defendant, and at that point they're  
24 supposed to have all the discovery, they're  
25 supposed to have an offer by the prosecutor, and,

1 at that point, the second appearance, they're  
2 supposed to say either plea or trial.

3 We have wonderful judges here, and  
4 sometimes judges take part in those appearances,  
5 sometimes they don't. We've moved more cases than  
6 we brought in in the last two years. That's good,  
7 and we can do better.

8 One thing I think we can do, I might  
9 get more involved in the appearance process, so if  
10 a prosecutor doesn't have his discovery like he  
11 should, you're really going to get your discovery  
12 here. If a defense attorney hasn't talked to  
13 their client, you really need to talk to your  
14 client so we can make a meaningful offer so that  
15 when a plea date is scheduled -- you've got  
16 defense attorneys, and their time is valuable.

17 They come in, if it's scheduled, they  
18 want to plea and move on. So I think I can help  
19 in a respectful way to make that go forward and be  
20 a part of that process in the criminal justice  
21 system, and I look forward to doing that. And I  
22 know the parties, and I think I'd be successful at  
23 it. I know I've been going long, I apologize.

24 MS. ANZELMO: That's perfectly fine.  
25 Mr. Chairman, a complaint has been filed against

1 Mr. Meadors for this Circuit Court seat. At this  
2 time, I would ask that Dr. Faltas please take the  
3 podium so that we may address her concerns.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Dr. Faltas,  
5 once again, this is a separate hearing, you have  
6 expressed an aversion to being sworn, but you have  
7 no aversion to affirming?

8 DR. FALTAS: I'm still under  
9 affirmation, but if you would like me to affirm  
10 again?

11 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Yes.  
12 (Complainant affirmed.)

13 MS. ANZELMO: I'm going to go ahead  
14 and summarize your complaint against Mr. Meadors  
15 and then the Commission may have some questions  
16 for you.

17 DR. FALTAS: Sure. I did want,  
18 however, to -- because this is the first time I  
19 wrote Municipal Judge Benjamin, there is a date  
20 error, it was November 19 --

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: We're at a  
22 different hearing now. You can tell that to staff  
23 afterwards.

24 DR. FALTAS: Thank you.

25 MS. ANZELMO: In summary, Dr. Faltas

1 complains that Mr. Meadors, in his supervisory  
2 capacity as Deputy Solicitor for the Fifth  
3 Circuit, showed, quote, No care for the integrity  
4 of the courts when Mr. Meadors allowed a trial to  
5 proceed against Dr. Faltas on charges of  
6 harassment.

7 Dr. Faltas, does that fairly  
8 summarize your complaint against Mr. Meadors?

9 DR. FALTAS: I'm sorry. It does  
10 not. Mr. Meadors knew that all the charges  
11 against me were false. He knew they were brought  
12 specifically for the alleged victim of the alleged  
13 harassment to gain advantage in the civil  
14 litigation where I was the plaintiff and she is  
15 the defendant, in fact, under Judge Allison Rene  
16 Lee, whom I believe should be cloned if possible,  
17 if we can have all the judges like her, that would  
18 be a great advancement in the state.

19 Her Honor -- the day before I was  
20 arrested, Her Honor had a preliminary injunction  
21 hearing where I had brought to Her Honor's  
22 attention the fact that I was suspecting that  
23 there were false charges being cooked up against  
24 me.

25 And what came out in discovery and in

1 the trial itself, those charges were being  
2 coordinated at the highest level, that is very  
3 unusual. The Chief of Columbia Police, the entire  
4 special victim's unit, Heather Wise, and Robert  
5 Cooper from the City of Columbia legal department,  
6 they were all involved in meetings ahead of  
7 getting me arrested.

8 After that false arrest and after I  
9 defended myself -- again, I will calmly say I  
10 defended myself ably and that the jury did not  
11 convict me -- there was further conspiracy to get  
12 me arrested again.

13 In fact, before the trial, I was  
14 falsely arrested one more time under false charges  
15 of unlawful use of a telephone, and that arrest  
16 was clearly unquestionably done for the prosecutor  
17 to make a motion to revoke my bond, and that was  
18 before the five-day jury trial.

19 After the five-day jury trial, there  
20 was testimony where the prosecutor's office told  
21 someone -- actually, this false alleged victim who  
22 is the defendant in the civil case kidnapped me,  
23 locked me up, which meets the definition of  
24 kidnapping, which is a criminal offense, and  
25 called the police and had them arrest me.

1                   And I think I provided to you the  
2 papers from the two subsequent false arrests. I  
3 have also provided to you the video of my first  
4 arrest where -- you know the law is that police  
5 officers have no -- and, in fact, there is a U.S.  
6 Supreme Court case, *Atwater versus City of*  
7 *Lacovista*, that says that within the Constitution  
8 a police officer may arrest for misdemeanor  
9 committed in his or her presence.

10                   When I was being arrested the first  
11 time, I asked -- the police asked me to open the  
12 door and I said, Why? They said, We have a  
13 warrant. I said, May I see the warrant? And one  
14 police officer asked another, Are there any  
15 warrants? And she lied and she said yes.

16                   And then the other police officer  
17 said, if you don't open the door, I will knock it  
18 down. So this was a false arrest to begin with.  
19 Then, subsequent to that, there was a prosecutor's  
20 office telling people to commit the crime of  
21 kidnapping.

22                   Mr. Meadors is supposed, as a  
23 prosecutor, to be a minister of justice. He is  
24 the one officer, the one lawyer in the adversary  
25 system, who is supposed to work for both sides.

1 He is supposed to have unearthed the exculpatory  
2 evidence, that is his duty.

3 And I'm not the one saying that, it's  
4 the U.S. Supreme Court, Brady versus Maryland and  
5 all before it. No, he wasn't a minister of  
6 justice, he was a Mafia don. That was an attempt  
7 to shake my family and me down, and he was not  
8 ignorant of it, he was aware of it.

9 As chief deputy solicitor, he was  
10 supposed to supervise the office. In fact, after  
11 the trial, I tried to bring to his attention  
12 objective evidence, not he-said/she-said, not  
13 they-say/I-say. But, for example, the main  
14 witness against me, the alleged victim, who took  
15 five days of jury time and costs, her main false  
16 complaint against me is that I was blocking her in  
17 from going to work.

18 And she actively testified, being  
19 prodded by the prosecutor, that she was employed  
20 at the specific employer called South Carolina  
21 Mentor Network. Well, guess what? In another  
22 lawsuit that that woman had filed against another  
23 woman and that had been tried way before my  
24 arrest, that false accuser had testified that she  
25 had been unemployed for all that period for which

1 she accused me falsely of blocking her in from  
2 going to work.

3 Not only is her -- was that her sworn  
4 testimony that she was unemployed during that  
5 period, she was collecting unemployment. And not  
6 only --

7 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Dr. Faltas,  
8 would you answer a question from one of our  
9 panel?

10 PROFESSOR FREEMAN: I have a  
11 question. Again, we have very detailed  
12 information that you have supplied us and you have  
13 summarized your views. And I think I understand  
14 where you're coming from.

15 Do you have anything to add beyond  
16 what you've -- is covered by the very voluminous  
17 material that has been forwarded to us and what  
18 you've already said?

19 DR. FALTAS: Yes. What is most  
20 disturbing to me is that when I tried to bring to  
21 Mr. Meadors' attention the objective evidence I  
22 obtained from public records, including that  
23 signatures were forged, some witnesses testified  
24 this is not their signature and I pulled their  
25 signature from deeds, and, indeed, it was not



1 their signature, documents were forged and used  
2 against me in court, when I tried to bring that to  
3 Mr. Meadors' attention in a very professional and  
4 objective way, he went like a woman, like a baby,  
5 to Judge Cooper and said, Oh, Dr. Faltas is  
6 harassing me.

7 PROFESSOR FREEMAN: That's in your  
8 report. Is there anything else?

9 DR. FALTAS: Yes. The other thing is  
10 I have recently observed intentionally throwing  
11 DUI cases. So we don't only have a case of his  
12 office going after the innocent in Mafia like, he  
13 is ignoring the guilty who are dangerous to all of  
14 us in DUI and other stuff.

15 PROFESSOR FREEMAN: And that too is  
16 in the summary of your report. Is there anything  
17 else?

18 DR. FALTAS: Well, I would like to  
19 see if he had filed a written response so that I  
20 may respond to it if there is additional  
21 misstatements.

22 PROFESSOR FREEMAN: He's going to be  
23 testifying in just a second. Thank you very much.

24 DR. FALTAS: Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Thank you,

1 ma'am. Mr. Meadors?

2 MR. MEADORS: Mr. Chairman,  
3 Dr. Faltas. I became aware of Dr. Faltas after  
4 her trial. I think she'll tell you I was  
5 respectful to her, I listened to her. She had  
6 some concerns about her trial.

7 She represented herself pro se. It  
8 was a mistrial. An assistant solicitor in the  
9 office handled it, I was not involved in the case.  
10 After the trial, I was leaving my office one day  
11 to go to Kershaw County to meet with a victim.

12 Dr. Faltas talked to me and asked me  
13 if she could convey some thoughts about the  
14 trial. I was somewhat aware at this point about  
15 the proceeding and about Dr. Faltas's frustration  
16 with the system. From everything I saw, she was  
17 treated very fairly throughout.

18 She asked me, as we were on the  
19 elevator, and informed me she thought that perjury  
20 had occurred in her trial. I told Dr. Faltas that  
21 I thought it would be best for her and for her  
22 case that any matter she had or any concerns was  
23 brought up in front of the chief administrative  
24 judge, she was pro se, and I thought that was the  
25 appropriate thing to do.

1 I told her that -- I remember  
2 specifically saying, I have a meeting with a  
3 victim in Kershaw County, Doctor, and if that was  
4 you, you wouldn't want me to keep you waiting.  
5 And I think she understood that, and that was the  
6 truth, and I left.

7 Judge Cooper had instructed, I didn't  
8 know it at that time, but if anyone in the  
9 courthouse had had contact with Dr. Faltas, that  
10 the Court would be informed. I did not complete  
11 an affidavit, I did tell the first assistant in  
12 our office that this had occurred, and I think  
13 that was conveyed to the Court.

14 That was the sum and substance of  
15 it. I do -- I'm sorry she is frustrated, but I do  
16 think the system has been fair to Dr. Faltas and I  
17 think I have been.

18 PROFESSOR FREEMAN: Just so the  
19 record is clear, you responded to the DUI comment  
20 in your writing and I would like it on record,  
21 please.

22 MR. MEADORS: Yes, sir. We have two  
23 DUI prosecutors. The first I learned of that was  
24 in her allegation. I don't know how else to say  
25 it, it's simply without merit, Professor, there is

1 no truth to it at all. Thank you. Respectfully.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Do any  
3 other members of the Commission have any questions  
4 for Mr. Meadors?

5 You may sit down, Mr. Meadors.

6 Dr. Faltas, do you have anything you  
7 would like to say in reply to what he just said?

8 DR. FALTAS: Absolutely. Even if he  
9 -- and he wasn't -- it's not as if he were going  
10 there to investigate anything, that victim's  
11 family was just going for a photo opportunity.

12 But the minister of justice, when  
13 someone tells him that perjury has occurred in a  
14 trial, the least he could have done is make an  
15 appointment with me to look at that evidence.

16 He claims that he didn't know  
17 anything about my trial until after it occurred.  
18 What kind of managerial skills are those? First,  
19 I don't find that credible because, as you have  
20 heard, everyone was obsessed with me.

21 One of his staff is going for a five-  
22 day full-term jury trial. I think he was totally  
23 remiss, criminally remiss, in his duties to not  
24 ask that assistant solicitor what is this case  
25 about, what is our evidence. No, I was not

1 treated fairly at all.

2 I was not given discovery on time. I  
3 had to actually make a nuisance of myself. I  
4 never did anything illegal, but I had to clamor  
5 and clamor and clamor. And, in fact, there was a  
6 parable in the Bible that Jesus Christ gave about  
7 a widow and an unfair judge, and it's called  
8 exhortation. Her only tool was to keep telling  
9 the judge, Give me justice, give me justice.

10 So my only tool was to -- in fact, I  
11 have a FOIA request that's now four months old  
12 that has not been responded to. And, no, the DUI  
13 cases are not without merit. I was shocked,  
14 shocked at -- I was just waiting and seeing case  
15 after case and it hasn't even filed summary  
16 motion.

17 And I made it sometime and I didn't  
18 get a response to it. And someone from  
19 Mr. Meadors' office says, Okay, I don't oppose the  
20 motion to dismiss. Excuse me? Well, where is the  
21 organization? What has he done to make sure that  
22 discovery motions on DUI cases, number one, are  
23 filed, not just someone walks in and says, I just  
24 mailed one; and then, number two, if they are  
25 filed, that an assistant solicitor responded to

1 the case timely and responded to the discovery so  
2 that the DUI defendant gets a fair trial.

3 If, after the fair trial, that DUI  
4 defendant is innocent, then so be it; but if there  
5 is a habitual DUI driver -- and, remember, once it  
6 is dismissed for the alleged negligence of the  
7 prosecutor to respond to discovery, then it gets  
8 expunged.

9 So it means that a habitual DUI  
10 driver, next time he or she is arrested, there is  
11 no prior record and it continues to be considered  
12 DUI first and the same thing gets done. You know,  
13 people think that their political connections make  
14 them immune; that's fine, maybe it will make them  
15 think differently. But the definition of drunk  
16 driving is that a driver has no judgment. You may  
17 be on the road and the driver --

18 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: We've got  
19 that point. Do you have anything else you'd like  
20 to say?

21 DR. FALTAS: Yes. Before the trial,  
22 Attorney Oren Briggs tried to speak to Mr. Meadors  
23 and tell him that in his duty as a supervisor he  
24 should look at the factual basis that is lacking.  
25 So the statement by Mr. Meadors that he didn't

1 know about my case until after the trial is  
2 factually false.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: I believe  
4 that's in your materials also.

5 DR. FALTAS: About Mr. Briggs, no,  
6 it's not, it wasn't.

7 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: So that's  
8 new. Okay.

9 DR. FALTAS: Yes. I would want to  
10 emphasize again, even if he were busy that day,  
11 something as serious -- courts are foremost  
12 temples of truth. I don't care if you wear a  
13 black robe or you go with a crinkled purple robe  
14 or baby blue, the most important and foremost  
15 function of courts is to unearth the truth.

16 So when somebody approaches him with  
17 something as serious as perjury by an office that  
18 he is responsible for, the least he could have  
19 done is made an appointment to get an objective  
20 meaning about it.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Thank you,  
22 ma'am.

23 DR. FALTAS: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY:

25 Ms. Anzelmo?

1 MS. ANZELMO: At this point I'd like  
2 to ask that we could add the affidavit of  
3 Dr. Faltas and the response of Mr. Meadors to the  
4 public record.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: It will be  
6 added at this point into the public record of the  
7 transcript.

8 (EXH. 10, Witness Affidavit of Marie-  
9 Therese H. Assa'ad Faltas, M.D., and rebuttal by  
10 Mr. Meadors, was admitted.)

11 MS. ANZELMO: Mr. Meadors, I'll ask  
12 you to take the podium again.

13 MR. MEADORS: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. ANZELMO: I just have a few more  
15 housekeeping issues to take care of with you.  
16 Have you sought or received a pledge of any  
17 legislator prior to this day?

18 MR. MEADORS: No, ma'am.

19 MS. ANZELMO: Have you sought or have  
20 you been offered a conditional pledge in support  
21 of any legislator pending the outcome of your  
22 screening?

23 MR. MEADORS: No, ma'am.

24 MS. ANZELMO: Have you asked any  
25 third parties to contact members of the general



1 assembly on your behalf?

2 MR. MEADORS: No, ma'am.

3 MS. ANZELMO: Have you contacted any  
4 members of the Commission?

5 MR. MEADORS: No, ma'am.

6 MS. ANZELMO: Do you understand that  
7 you are prohibited from seeking a pledge or  
8 commitment for 48 hours after the formal release  
9 of the Commission's report?

10 MR. MEADORS: Yes, ma'am, I do.

11 MS. ANZELMO: Have you reviewed the  
12 Commission's guidelines on pledging?

13 MR. MEADORS: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. ANZELMO: As a follow-up, are you  
15 aware of the penalties for violating the pledging  
16 rules, that is, the violator must be fined not  
17 more than \$1,000 or in prison not more than 90  
18 days?

19 MR. MEADORS: Yes, ma'am, I'm aware.

20 MS. ANZELMO: I'll note that the  
21 Midlands Citizens Committee found Mr. Meadors to  
22 be well-qualified for all nine criteria,  
23 constitutional qualifications, ethical fitness,  
24 professional and academic ability, character,  
25 reputation, physical health, mental stability,

1 experience, and judicial temperament.

2 The Committee noted that it was most  
3 impressed by Mr. Meadors' extensive and  
4 outstanding experience as a solicitor and by his  
5 sterling and outstanding character. It also noted  
6 that Mr. Meadors enjoyed an outstanding reputation  
7 among his peers and that he possesses wisdom,  
8 humility, and profound common sense.

9 The Committee noted Mr. Meadors was  
10 the most experienced candidate who was interviewed  
11 and that Mr. Meadors' character and temperament  
12 are outstanding in every way. The Committee also  
13 said that they believe Mr. Meadors is most  
14 eminently qualified to serve on the Circuit Court,  
15 and the Committee is confident that Mr. Meadors  
16 would serve our State in an outstanding manner.

17 I'll note to the Commission that any  
18 concerns raised about Mr. Meadors were  
19 incorporated into the questioning of him today.  
20 Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Does any  
22 member of the Commission have any questions?

23 SENATOR MCCONNELL: On your  
24 questionnaire, and I'll just read it to you, it  
25 says, A judge's responsibility is to hear those

1 cases of controversy that are placed before him  
2 and to apply and interpret the applicable laws.  
3 And it goes on to the Constitution. Just tell me  
4 your philosophy on interpreting laws.

5 MR. MEADORS: Just what their pure  
6 meaning is based on the intent of the legislature.  
7 Sir, I can assure you that I believe in separation  
8 of powers and I do not believe in judicial  
9 activism.

10 SENATOR MCCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DELLENEY: Do any  
12 other members of the Commission have any  
13 questions? There being none, Mr. Meadors, this  
14 concludes this portion of your public hearing  
15 screening. Of course, any time until we issue the  
16 report we can call you back and ask you questions  
17 if the need arises, which I don't expect that to  
18 happen, but I would just remind you of that.

19 I would also like to remind you of  
20 the 48-hour rule. If anyone inquires with you as  
21 to whether they could advocate for you, I would  
22 ask you to also remind them about the 48-hour  
23 rule.

24 And, again, we thank you for offering  
25 to serve and thank you for your service to the