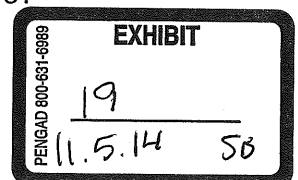


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION  
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Circuit Court  
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Carmen Tevis Mullen  
Business Address: Beaufort County Courthouse  
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC 29901  
Business Telephone: (843) 255-5070

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Circuit Court Judge?  
I have enjoyed my time on the Circuit Court bench and will continue to work hard for the people of South Carolina.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?  
Yes.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?  
No.
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* communication is not allowed in my court. Scheduling matters are addressed to my law cler. Matters of substance require all counsel to be present.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?  
I am guided by the principle of transparent impartiality and avoiding the appearance of impropriety. I do not believe recusal is necessary simply because someone is represented by a legislator or a former associate. Neither would affect my impartiality.
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 give a full hearing and open discussion. If it rose to the level of the litigant believing they would not be fairly treated, I would recuse myself. Otherwise, I would give the parties and attorney reassurance of my impartiality after a full discussion of the issues.
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?



Again, I would give a full hearing. If there were an appearance of impropriety, I would recuse myself.

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

I pay my own way.

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

I have a duty to report it to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel immediately.

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

No.

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

No.

13. How do you handle the drafting of orders?

I sometimes request my law clerk draft an order and edit or draft myself.

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

We share a calendar in Outlook with all deadlines and events listed.

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

I don't believe in it. My duty as a judge is to apply current statutes, not to rewrite them. Legislators are elected by the public and can best represent the public's interests and therefore, best effect public policy.

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 hope to have time to teach at local colleges/universities on law related subjects and write law-related articles for publication.

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 believe serving as a judge places a strain on my person relationships. Occasionally, court requires long hours, but I am fortunate my entire family in incredibly supportive.

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:  
They go to prison.
  - b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the circuit court):  
Depends on crime and what they have done since arrest. i.e. public service, alcohol and drug treatment, GED.
  - c. White collar criminals:  
If they cannot return the money, they go to prison.
  - d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:  
Take it into account when sentencing.
  - e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:  
Weigh danger to community v. cost to incarcerate.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
My family receives rents from real estate holdings, but nothing that would impair the appearance of impartiality. If it did, I would recuse myself.
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. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender?  
No.
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?  
Yes.
23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?  
Courteous, fair but firm, prepared and timely.
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?  
My parents set great examples for my siblings and me. They practiced what they preached seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, as do I.
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?  
I would say firmness at times, but always respectful, professional and in control.

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?  
None.
27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign?  
No.
28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date?  
No.
29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening?  
No.
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?  
No.
31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission?  
No.
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?  
Yes.

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

s/ Carmen Mullen

Sworn to before me this 4 day of August, 2014.

Peggy A. Medaglia

(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: November 21, 2017