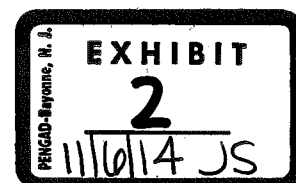


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION**  
**Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings**

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

Full Name: Joseph Monroe Strickland  
Business Address: P. O. Box 192, Columbia, SC 29202-0192  
Business Telephone: 803-576-1903

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 Constitutional 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?  
I simply don't allow *ex parte* communications. In case of an emergency request, for a TRO, an *ex parte* communication may have to be allowed.
5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?  
I recuse myself in cases of actual conflict or to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
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?  
I would give great deference to a party requesting recusal and I would grant the motion.
7. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?  
I do not accept gifts. However, I do attend parties and receptions sponsored by the Bar or law firms.
8. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a judge?  
I would notify the appropriate authority, as I have in the past.



9. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that need to be re-evaluated?  
No
10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations?  
No
11. How do you handle the drafting of orders?  
Generally, I ask counsel to submit proposed orders in contested matters. I draft some administrative orders.
12. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?  
I use a "suspense" system. All deadlines are noted and met.
13. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?  
A trial court judge cannot make law or promote public policy.
14. 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 will continue to speak at continuing legal education seminars, assist in mock trial competitions, and answer questions from citizens in one-on-one conversations.
15. 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?  
No. My spouse, child, friends, and relatives are very supportive.
16. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
No
17. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?  
No
18. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender?  
No
19. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?  
Yes
20. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?  
A judge should practice common courtesy to all people he comes in contact with, in and out of court.
21. Would 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?  
The answer to number 20 is how I live my life.

22. 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 would recuse myself if I became angry with a party or attorney. Personally, I could not be fair if I ruled in anger.
23. 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?  
Less than \$100.00
24. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign?  
Yes
25. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date?  
No
26. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening?  
No
27. 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
28. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission?  
No
29. 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/ Joseph Strickland

Sworn to before me this 5 day of August, 2014.

Tristella Cornebio  
Notary Public for S.C.

My commission expires: November 19, 2022