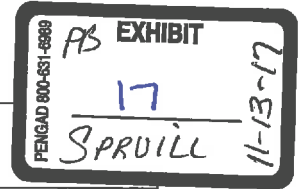


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION**  
**Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings**



**Retired Judge**

Full Name: James A. Spruill

Business Address: 230 Third Street, Cheraw, SC 29520

Business Telephone: 843-537-3387

1. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?  
Yes.
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice?  
No.
3. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?  
No.
4. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
No.
5. 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 any basis.  
No.
6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? Please describe.  
No.
7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply? Calm, courteous, in control of the situation. Always when in court.

8. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met?  
I do not take cases under advisement beyond the end of the term. I issue the instructions for the order and request preparation of the order before court closes for the week.
9. 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?  
It is not appropriate, no. It may happen but is never helpful if it does.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge?  
I would have to evaluate it on the situation I perceive.
11. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law clerks are to appear before you?  
I do not consider the lawyer's position as a legislator a factor for a recusal. When I was subject to election, so was any other judge who would have heard the matter. I would have recused myself if a former associate were representing a party on motion of either side. I have never had clerks.
12. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
They definitely should be discouraged. Aside from communication about scheduling, etc. only in an emergency and then limited to material necessary needed to deal with the emergency.
13. 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?  
Depending on the facts, likely.
14. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?  
I have never been offered or accepted gifts. I have on occasion had lunch with attorneys provided they were not involved in any contest before me at the time.

15. In order that we might advise court administration on steps that need to be taken, are there any limitations on your sight, hearing, or mobility that should be addressed by the court administrator?  
Not today, but I am not getting any younger.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_