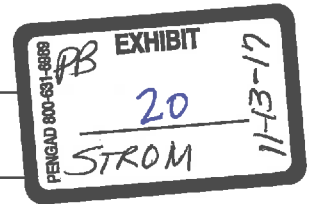


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings



Retired Judge

Full Name: Donna Savoca Strom

Business Address: P.O. Box 9543
Columbia, SC 29290

Business Telephone: 803-738-2788 (cell) 803-414-1600

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?

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

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? A judge must be courteous, patient, diligent, prompt, open-minded, humble and compassionate.

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 will continue to ensure that I issue all orders within 48 hours of receipt or final drafting.
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 never appropriate to show anger toward a litigant, the public, a criminal defendant or an attorney.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge? My handling of the situation would depend upon the extent of my knowledge of the facts and the degree of misconduct. If allowed, I would discuss the misconduct. If required, I would report the misconduct.
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 have ever been asked to consider recusal in any of these circumstances, but I would apply the same standard as in any recusal request. If the appearance of impropriety cannot be overcome, I would recuse.
12. 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 inappropriate. However, the law allows certain *ex parte* communication in extraordinary, exigent circumstances.
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? I disclose fully any potential appearance of bias. I believe the appearance of bias in Family Court is as detrimental as actual bias. If a serious request is made to recuse, I do so.

14. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I accept only gifts of nominal value from close personal friends for special occasions. I enjoy normal hospitality. I do not accept gifts or enjoy hospitality forbidden by the Canons of Ethics.
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? No.

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: _____