



## JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION

Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

### Circuit Court (New Candidate)

Full Name: Alex Kinlaw, Jr.

Business Address: P. O. Box 757  
Greenville, SC 29601

Business Telephone: 864-467-5852

1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?  
I have experienced a lot in my career as an Attorney and as a Family Court Judge. I want to continue my love for the Judicial System and serve as a Circuit Court Judge.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if 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 communications should never be done by a Judge no matter the circumstances.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?  
If there is an appearance of a conflict of interest, I always recuse myself.
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?

Out of an abundance of caution, I would grant counsel's motion for me to recuse myself.

8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?  
I would recuse myself in this instance as well.
9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?  
I would never accept gifts from anyone except close friends and family members.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?  
I would report the situation to the appropriate authority of the Bar.
11. 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
12. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.  
No
13. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench?  
No
14. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders?  
I would delegate to the participating attorneys, but in some instances, I would draft the order.
15. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your

staff meet deadlines?

I would implement a computerized tickler system to serve as a reminder of deadlines.

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

I think Judges can educate the community on the workings of the Judicial System and should not promote or set public policy.

17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

I would definitely engage in activities (such as speaking engagements) to educate the community as well as the Bar about the legal system.

18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you address this?

In my current Judicial role, I have been able to keep a good balance between my position and family.

19. 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: Sentencing should be on an escalating scale.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court): and should be in the same realm as that of adults.

c. White collar criminals: Sentencing should be commensurate with the type of offense and seriousness of the offense.

d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: The overall circumstances would dictate how much mitigation would be applicable.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: You would have to weigh each person's circumstances and make a determination.

20. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No
21. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?  
No
22. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender?  
No
23. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?  
Yes
24. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when so these rules apply?  
A Judge should always have a calm and focused demeanor.
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 pro se litigants?  
A Judge can be firm and should never express anger.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE

TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Alex Kinlaw, Jr.

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2017.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_