



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

**Master-in-Equity
(New Candidate)**

Full Name: Teasa Kay Weaver

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1. Do you plan to serve your full term if appointed?

Yes.

2. If appointed, do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?

No.

3. Have you met the statutory 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?

Ex parte communications should only occur in circumstances allowed by rule or law.

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 would give great deference to the wishes of the party opposing the lawyer-legislator, former associate or law partner, bearing in mind that

recusal would be warranted in any situation that has 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 grant the motion if requested.

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

I would follow ethical rules on accepting gifts or hospitality to avoid an appearance of impropriety.

8. 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?

Reporting an attorney for misconduct is a serious matter and should not be entered into lightly. Such claims should be investigated to ensure that it is more than a mistake or misunderstanding. I would follow the ethical rules about reporting misconduct or an infirmity.

9. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed?

No.

10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.

No.

11. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

I would request the prevailing party to draft the order for my review or draft the order myself.

12. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

I would utilize the same method used by the current Master-in-Equity as my understanding is that system keeps the various dockets running smoothly and in a timely fashion. I would remain open minded to alternative or additional programs if they prove to be helpful and efficient.

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

I would base my rulings on the applicable rules and law regardless of my personal or political views.

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 would enjoy having an opportunity to teach or lecture.

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

My family and friends are very supportive and I have no concerns about relationships changing if I am appointed.

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?

I would make both parties fully aware of the interest. If after my disclosure, both parties agree that the interest is *de minimus* and neither request my recusal; I may hear the case.

18. 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.

19. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?

Yes.

20. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?

A judge's demeanor should exemplify the characteristics outlined in the evaluative criteria regarding judicial temperament. Judges should be patient, open-minded, courteous, understanding, compassionate and humble at all times while dealing with attorneys, litigants, staff and other persons.

21. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public appearing before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?

I am certain judges experience anger like anyone else when dealing with others. However, judges must be able to set aside that anger to treat others with civility and respect and not allow the anger to influence their conduct or decisions.

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.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: _____