

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION</b> <b>Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings</b></p>
--

**Circuit Court  
(New Candidate)**

Full Name:

Business Address:

Business Telephone:

1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge?
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected?
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?
4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?
5. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
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?
7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?
8. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

9. 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?
10. 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.
11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench?
13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders?
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?
16. 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?
17. 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?
18. 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:
  - b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court):
  - c. White collar criminals:
  - d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:
  - e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?
21. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?
22. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?
23. 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?

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

---

(Signature)

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

SAMPLE