



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

**Master-in-Equity
(Incumbent)**

Full Name: Teasa Kay Weaver
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1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-appointed? Yes
2. 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?

Yes, in those situations allowed by rule, statute or case law.

5. 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.

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

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

7. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a 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.

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

No

9. How do you handle the drafting of orders?

It varies from case to case. I may request the prevailing party or both parties to send a proposed order either by email or through the electronic filing system. In some cases, a party will file a proposed order prior to the hearing though no request has been made. In other cases, I draft my own order without requesting or receiving a proposed order from any party. I review all proposed orders and amend as needed.

10. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

I or my staff run reports generated by court administration software that track all open cases, their age and status. Monthly reports are sent to court administration regarding the status of older cases.

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

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

12. 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?

Each year a Master in Equity organizes the Master in Equity Bench Bar CLE. If re-elected, I am to organize the 2020 conference. I have also

discussed presiding over the York County Drug Court Program and a Domestic Violence Diversion Program.

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

No. I am very fortunate to have family and friends that are supportive and understanding of my position, and so far I have not encountered any issues.

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

No

15. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?

No

16. 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 these bases.

No

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

Yes

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

Judges should at all times strive to be patient, open-minded, courteous, understanding, compassionate and humble while dealing with attorneys, litigants, staff or the general public.

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

No. Though anger is a natural response, judges should not allow their anger to impact the performance of their duties and should address all persons in a civil, calm and respectful manner.

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 _____, 2020.

(Signature)

(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires:_____