



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

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

Full Name: Joseph Monroe Strickland

Business Address: 1701 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Business Telephone: (803) 576-1903

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?  
I simply don't allow *ex parte* communications. In case of an emergency request for a TRO, an *ex parte* communication may have to be allowed.
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 give great deference to a party requesting recusal and I would grant the motion.
6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?  
I do not accept gifts. However, I do attend parties and receptions sponsored by the Bar or law firms.

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?  
I would notify the appropriate authority as I have done in the past.
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?  
Generally, I ask counsel to submit proposed orders in contested matters. I draft some administrative orders.
10. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?  
I use a "suspense" system. All deadlines are noted and met.
11. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?  
A trial court judge cannot make law or promote public policy.
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?  
I will continue to speak at continuing legal education seminars, assist in Mock trial competitions, and answer questions from citizens in one-on-one conversations.
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. My spouse, child, friends and relatives are very supportive.
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?  
A judge should practice common courtesy to all people he comes in contact with in or out of court.
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?  
I would recuse myself if I became angry with a party or an attorney. Personally, I could not be fair if I ruled in anger.

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:\_\_\_\_\_