



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

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

Full Name: Whitner S. Bishop

Business Address: 101 Lafayette Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Business Telephone: 864-699-9770

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 plans at this time

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 do not believe that *ex parte* communications should be tolerated in any circumstance

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 believe I should recuse myself if there is a scintilla of impartiality and, of course, would grant the motion

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

Zero tolerance

7. 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 comply with ethics Rule 8.3

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

I am not

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

I have not

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

As a law clerk I watched Judge Johnson instruct the prevailing party to draft the Order and send to the opposing counsel to review for inconsistencies in the ruling prior to submitting for execution. This process seemed fair and efficient. As such, I would like to follow this procedure if possible.

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

I currently use a calendar system that requires our files be worked according to priority and time frame. I certainly would welcome any input from current staff to assist in achieving deadlines.

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

I believe a judge is to listen to the evidence presented and apply the law in order to render an outcome

13. 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?

If allowed, I would like to help promote the importance of the judicial system through public speaking or youth mentoring programs.

14. 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?

I currently work on average 70 hours a week in running my law firm. I have 3 children and only one is still at home. Barring the unforeseen, I believe I'm prepared for the pressures of the job.

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

I am not

16. 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 not

17. 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.

I am not

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

Yes

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

Respectful, kind and patient

20. 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 do not believe anger is ever appropriate in the workplace

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 9th day of July, 2020.

Beanna R. Elmore

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 01-28-29