



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

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

Full Name: Shannon Metz Phillips

Business Address: 134 Oakland Avenue, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Business Telephone: (864) 595-2966

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 involving the merits or positions in a case should not be permitted. *Ex parte* communications may be tolerated if they are communicated equally and impartially and relate to scheduling and other administrative matters which do not impact parties' arguments, positions, or the merits of the case.
  
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 to avoid the appearance of impartiality.
  
6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would only accept gifts from friends and family which are of a nature and type given to me before I held office, depending on the occasion and relationship. I would accept ordinary social hospitality which would be available to all people in the context of the

situation and not dependent on my position. I would not accept gifts or hospitality intended to impact my decision-making.

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 report the lawyer or judge to the appropriate authority.
8. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed? No.
9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. I am a member of the Junior League of Spartanburg, which conducts annual fundraisers to benefit the community.
10. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders? I would note my findings and ruling on the record. I would ask the prevailing party to submit a draft order within a reasonable time period, and copy the opposing party on the submission of the draft order, noting the opposing party's right to request revision within five business days. I may then revise the order or request the drafting party make revisions before signing it.
11. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? We would calendar deadlines, as well as calendar reminders days before if appropriate to meet the deadline. Everyone in the office would have access to the electronic calendar, as well as a hard copy backup calendar.
12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? Judges should not be involved in setting or promoting public policy.
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? I would speak as appropriate at continuing legal education and other seminars which relate to the office. I would evaluate the function of the office and seek to increase its efficiency and accessibility.

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? No, my family and friends support my candidacy for this position.
15. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
16. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No.
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. No. Although I am a member of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and Junior League of Spartanburg, which to my knowledge are completely female in membership, I do not have reason to believe those organizations would deny membership on the basis of sex.
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? A judge should show an interest in the case before him/her, be patient, compassionate, of even temper, and fairly apply the law. Parties should have an expectation that the judge will conduct himself/herself with decorum and respectfully at all times.
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? No.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Sharon M. Phillips

Sworn to before me this 17 day of July, 2020.

Sharon C. Hubert

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 8/1/2022