

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

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

Full Name: **Michael M. Jordan**

Business Address: **10 Law Range, Sumter, SC 29150**

Business Telephone: **(803)774-1000**

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? **I am in private practice currently on a part-time basis, as I am only a part time Master in Equity. Based on my current age of 53, and with 1 year left on my interim appointment, I will be 60 at the expiration of my term if re-appointed. I am not sure at what age I will retire from private practice.**

3. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? **Yes, I have met same.**

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 are never a best choice, however if same solely relate to non-substantive matters like scheduling, or emergency circumstances of parties or counsel, then same can occur, so long as the other side or party is advised fully as soon as possible as to the ex parte communications.**

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 such party's request. The appearance of impropriety must be considered carefully and guarded against.**

6. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? To my knowledge, I have not received any gifts or hospitality since appointment. **As to my standard, I would scrutinize any such offering, and most likely reject same, unless it was a very nominal amount or gesture. There is a balance to be reached between offending the offeror and rejecting outright small or nominal gestures. Despite being a judge, I strive to be a humble person, giving others the benefit of all doubts.**
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 address same with the lawyer or fellow judge first if it was merely the appearance of infirmity. If it was misconduct, I would ask the lawyer or fellow judge to self-report same ahead of my notification to the appropriate commission.**
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? **I send a memorandum to the attorneys advising of my ruling and instructions for one of them to prepare a draft order and circulate same to the other attorney(s) before submitting to me for signature.**
10. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? **We keep paper calendars and we have a docket sheet that tracks all case coming before me. We follow that docket after the hearing through the sale.**
11. What is your philosophy on “judicial activism,” and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? **I do not lean toward judicial activism. I believe judges follow the law and precedent; however, I do not believe that either party should enter a courtroom believing the decision, process or outcome is perfunctory.**
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?

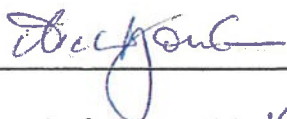
The majority of Master-In-Equity cases are foreclosures against non-paying mortgagors. This is troublesome to most defendant litigants. I believe courtroom demeanor is important, as well as courteous, professional treatment of the parties and attorneys. The best way in my mind to improve the legal system and administration of justice is to treat each party involved in a manner that I would want to be treated if I were in that party's shoes. That does not mean or imply a favorable ruling, but rather only that the treatment and consideration was fair and courteous.

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? **Yes. I will do my best to balance personal relationships with the nature of the work involved. I will try to avoid situations where my office might impact my personal relationships. I do believe that being a judge can be a lonely occupation, however becoming too distant from the public and those that may appear before you can be equally problematic.**
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 be polite and deliberate. He or she should be courteous at all times to all parties and counsel**

appearing before him. A judge should never appear to be agitated, disgruntled, burdened or bored. He or she should seem pleasant but not happy or excited for one side or the other.

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, I do not. So far I have not had any attorneys appearing before me act unprofessionally. I have had a pro se litigant say things to provoke me. This litigant constantly provoked opposing counsel and the other parties involved, who were related to this litigant. This litigant's actions were contemptuous; however, I did not retaliate or get angered. I did stop her questioning of the witness when it became no longer productive. I do have concern that the court reporter present and counsel present may have thought the litigant got away with undermining my courtroom and this proceedings. I believe the balance necessary for this type of determination only comes with time and experience.**

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 19th day of July, 2021.



(Signature)

Nita M. Shriver

(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 7-9-23