



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

Circuit Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Honorable Daniel Dewitt Hall

Business Address: Moss Justice Center
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York, South Carolina 29745

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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Circuit Court judge?

I enjoy my service as a Circuit Court Judge.

2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?

I will reach retirement age in five years.

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?

No

4. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?

Yes

5. 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 improper, except where permitted by law. They are tolerated in certain temporary restraining order circumstances and issues involving appointments in criminal cases.

6. 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 and recuse myself.

7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

If there was an appearance of impropriety, I would recuse myself.

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

I do not accept gifts and social hospitality unless approved functions open to all bar members.

9. 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 misconduct to the appropriate disciplinary commission.

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

No

11. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if reelected to the bench?

No

12. How do you handle the drafting of orders?

I have the ability to draft orders. However, the normal practice is for the prevailing party in a matter to draft an order, have it reviewed by opposing counsel and presented to the judge for a final review and signature.

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

I am computer literate and rely on computer systems to organize my work.

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

I believe "judicial activism" is improper. Public policy is promoted and legislated by our legislative branch of government.

15. 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 participate in any activity available to circuit court judges that will allow me to offer input into improvements of the legal system.

16. 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

17. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

a. Repeat offenders:

Sentencing of repeat offenders depends on the nature of prior offenses and nature of new offenses. However, repeat offenders may demonstrate an unwillingness or inability to conform to the rules of society or may be dangerous to the community.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court):

Sentencing of juveniles waived to Circuit Court is often dependent on family and community support structure available to a sentenced juvenile. It also depends on the nature of the particular offense.

c. White collar criminals:

White collar criminals can be a danger to the community. Sentencing is dependent on the specifics of the particular case.

d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background:

Depends on the nature of the crime. Violent offenders need to be treated equally without regard to social or economic status. Support from community and family is important in sentencing non-violent offenders.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity:

Depends on the nature of the crime and the extent of infirmity.

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

No

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

No

20. 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

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

Yes

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

A judge should be fair and impartial. A judge should treat litigants, attorneys, court personnel and the public with patient respect. These rules apply 24/7.

23. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? 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.

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2021.

(Signature)

(Print Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires:_____