



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

**Retired Judge**

Full Name: Ronald Ray Norton

Business Address: P.O. Box 3155, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Business Telephone: 843-455-4993

1. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice? No
3. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator? Yes, I have on occasion served as a mediator.
4. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No
5. 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? No. N/A If so, please identify the entity and explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on any basis.
6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? Please describe. No. N/A
7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply?  
Appropriate demeanor requires that a judge avoid any appearance of favoritism. All persons should be treated with dignity. A judge should

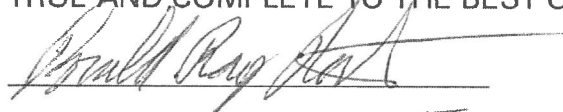
be patient and respectful while at the same time being firm. These rules should apply both on and off the bench.

8. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met? I require orders to be submitted by the end of the week of court. If that is not possible I require the orders to be submitted within twenty days after the conclusion of the week of court. If not submitted, then I email the person giving a deadline and then if it is not submitted the individual is called and given a deadline after which if the order is not submitted I am required to report this.
9. 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? It is never appropriate to be angry. You can be firm but be polite and respectful.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge? I would try to speak with the individual and insist that they take action to handle the issue and if that is not done then I would contact the appropriate agency to notify of the problem.
11. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
Ex parte communications should be avoided. Ex parte communications may be appropriate for scheduling and administrative matters. They may also be necessary in situations where immediate action is required to prevent irreparable harm however notice should be given to all parties as soon as possible.
12. 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? If the issue of bias is raised I would examine the request and consider having a hearing on the matter to place the issue on the record. The party requesting the recusal would

need to explain the reasons for the request. I believe if there is the appearance of impropriety the recusal should be granted.

13. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? The acceptance of gifts should be avoided. Social hospitality might be acceptable provided the invitation is not motivated for the purpose of seeking to influence the judge's decision on a pending or future matter.
14. In order that we might advise court administration on steps that need to be taken, are there any limitations on your sight, hearing, or mobility that should be addressed by the court administrator? There are no limitations which would interfere with my ability to perform my duties as a judge. I do wear glasses and hearing aids for mild hearing impairment. These devices perform as prescribed and correct both sight and hearing. I have no mobility issues.

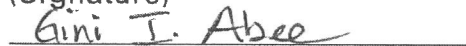
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.



Sworn to before me this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



(Signature)



(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 6/19/2029

