



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

**Retired Judge**

**Full Name:** William J. Wylie, Jr.

**Business Address:** P.O. Box 147, Fair Play, SC 29643

**Business Telephone:** none

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? No
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? If so, please identify the entity and explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on any basis. No
6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? Please describe. No
7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply?

A judge should be calm, patient, courteous, respectful, candid, and possess a sense of humor. 24/7

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 annotate docket sheets for matters under advisement and for which orders are to be submitted by attorneys. I strive to issue memoranda of instructions during the same week as the hearing. I review the annotated docket sheets weekly.

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?

Expressed anger denotes a loss of control and is never appropriately directed to anyone in the courtroom. Judges can be firm and even disapproving without being angry.

10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge?

If I had reason to believe an attorney or judge engaged in misconduct or was infirm, I would confront that person privately. If I had actual knowledge of misconduct or infirmity, I would make the required report for discipline or intervention.

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* destroy confidence in the impartiality of a judge. I strive to avoid situations that provide even the appearance that such communications could take place. Emergency relief may properly be sought *ex parte*. However, I only consider the written application and do not meet privately with the requesting party or attorney.

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?

The purpose of disclosing something that has the appearance of bias is to give the parties an opportunity to request recusal even where there is no actual prejudice, and the rules require they be given an opportunity for discussion outside the presence of the judge. I would recuse myself every time a party made such a motion. However, I would try to facilitate rescheduling before signing an order of recusal so that neither party would be unduly prejudiced by delay.

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

I do not accept gifts or anything of value from litigants or lawyers, or from those whose interests might come before me. I do not accept invitations to social events if I believe the host may be trying to suggest to others he is in a position of special relationship or influence with me, such as a law firm event to which clients are invited. I do occasionally attend bar association functions at which food and beverage are complimentary.

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? 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

(Signature)

Leslie P. Fulmer

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 3/22/2034