

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

Retired Judge

Full Name: Steven H. John

Business Address: N/A

Business Telephone: N/A

1. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? As of August 21, 2023, I was granted an exemption from all SC CLE requirements, Pursuant to Rule 408(a)(2)(B), SCAR. This CLE exemption relieved me of the obligation of filing a 2022-2023 SC CLE compliance report, and annual CLE compliance reports in the future. (See attached copy of email from Alyce C. McEachern, The Supreme Court of South Carolina, Commission on CLE and Specialization). Prior to that I was always in compliance with the CLE requirements.

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? No.

6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement? No.

7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply? A Judge should treat others as they would wish to be treated at all times.
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? Electronic docketing and calendaring.
9. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? No. Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys? No.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or fellow judge? This would have to be reported to the appropriate agency.
11. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? I would not engage in any *ex parte* communications.
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? I would give deference to that position and would grant the motion after full communication and notice to the Administrative Judge for that Circuit.
13. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? These cannot be accepted if given to me personally. Social hospitality that is given to the Judiciary as a group, such as the S.C. Bar Association reception is acceptable.
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.

Ben H. Dins

Sworn to before me this 13th day of August, 2025.

Kathleen Smith

(Signature)

Kendra Alicia Burnett

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: August 27, 2034

