

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

Family Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Anthony Philip LaMantia III

Business Address: 81 Vincent Drive, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Business Telephone: 843-724-6363

1. Why do you want to serve as a Family Court Judge?

I believe that serving my community as a fair, just, ethical and impartial Family Court Judge is the highest calling and form of service that a family court lawyer can provide to his or her community. I have wanted to serve as a Judge as early as high school.

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

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No.

4. Have you met the statutory 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 strictly prohibited under all circumstances and will never be tolerated.

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 uphold and strictly follow the rules of ethics as set forth in the Canons of Judicial Ethics, discuss it with counsel involved and make a decision after carefully considering the rules of ethics, likely recusing myself.

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

I would review the Canons of Judicial Ethics and determine what course of action should be taken, if any, in regard to the specific appearance of impropriety. Appropriate courses of action could be recusing myself from a case, consulting with our State Ethics Committee, or correcting and/or distancing myself from the behavior that had the appearance of impropriety.

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

Unless it is from a family member, there is no room for the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality as a Judge.

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 am obligated to report the misconduct to the Ethics committee.

10. 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.

11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. No.

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? No.

13. Since Family Court judges do not have law clerks, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

I would be drafting them myself or asking the attorneys involved in the case to draft the Orders after providing clear and complete instructions.

14. If elected, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

My staff and I would keep an office calendar where deadlines are carefully scheduled daily with reminders and the calendar would be reviewed by all of us, daily.

15. If elected, what specific actions or steps would you take to ensure that the guidelines of the guardian ad litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case?

I would carefully review the report of the Guardian ad litem and consider the arguments of counsel to determine whether the statutes have been appropriately followed and take whatever action is appropriate if they have not been adhered to.

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

I do not believe that there is any place for judicial activism as Judge. We are to strictly follow the law as enacted by our state legislature.

17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities would you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system?

I believe that it is important for Judges to participate in our community outside of the courtroom. I would like to become a

frequent speaker on Family Law topics to our State Bar, most often in the form of Continuing Legal Education programs and at our State Law Schools. I would faithfully participate in any program/directive that was requested by our Chief Justice of our Supreme Court. Additionally, I believe that it is important to act as a representative of our Judiciary (with appropriate approvals) to help educate the appropriate agencies and community groups on topics such as combatting human trafficking.

18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this?

No. My children are adults or near adults. My service to our community and to our State would not interfere with my personal relationships.

19. Would you give any special considerations to a pro se litigant in family court?

Pro Se litigants are always to be treated with the same respect and courtesy as any other litigant that is in the court room. Additionally, I would take the time and effort to ensure that the pro se litigant has a clear, full and fair understanding of the court room procedure and process so that they are confident that they received the same fair and just result that they would have received if they had been represented by counsel.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes.

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

A judge shall always act with respect, courtesy and impartiality to all attorneys and litigants at all times. There is no time when these rules do not apply.

24. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?

No. As a judge, anger has no place in the court room or the judicial system.

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 20 day of August, 2025.

Sarah C. Watts
(Signature)

Sarah C. Watts
(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 10.16.2029

