

**Pee Dee Citizens Committee Report
Court of Appeals, Seat 7
Blake A. Hewitt, Esquire
Spring Screening 2014**

	Unqualified	Qualified	Well-Qualified
<p>1. <u>Constitutional Qualifications:</u> A candidate must meet the constitutional or statutory requirements of citizenship, residence, age, and professional experience.</p>			
<p>2. <u>Ethical Fitness:</u> A candidate must have the ability to perform adjudicative duties impartially and to deal with litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and other courtroom participants objectively and without bias. A candidate should have a sense of humor and must exhibit trustworthiness, moral vigor, and strength of character. A candidate's past action and deeds should demonstrate consistent adherence to high ethical principles and his or her reputation should be above reproach. A candidate must also follow campaigning and pledging laws. At a minimum, a sitting judge will be expected to have complied with the Code of Judicial Conduct's requirements to avoid impropriety, the appearance of impropriety, and partiality.</p>			X
<p>3. <u>Professional and Academic Ability:</u> A candidate is expected to be well-versed in fundamental legal principles and in procedural and evidentiary rules. A candidate must have the ability to communicate in a style that is both lucid and persuasive and must have the intellectual capacity to interpret established legal principles, apply them to specific factual situations, and clearly and logically communicate the reasoning leading up to his or her conclusion. A candidate's academic record, participation in continuing legal education or other seminars, legal writing, and reputation among professional colleagues to evaluate legal knowledge and ability will be reviewed. On the appellate court level, consideration will be given to a candidate's ability to work well with others and to build or reach a consensus when appropriate.</p>			X
<p>4. <u>Character:</u> The character of a candidate regarding his or her ethical standards, work habits, and financial responsibility, will be reviewed, as well as a thorough investigation of any complaints, grievances, or criminal allegations made against a candidate.</p>			X
<p>5. <u>Reputation:</u> Consideration of a candidate's background will include the following: 1) the non-legal experience; 2) the candidate's involvement in community affairs, public office, or pro bono work; or 3) the candidate's views on social issues and his or her desire to affect public policy. A review will be undertaken to ensure a candidate has followed the Code of Judicial Conduct's prohibition against certain extra-judicial activities and rules governing the use of judicial office.</p>			X
<p>6. <u>Physical Health:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.</p>			
<p>7. <u>Mental Stability:</u> The demands of the judicial office require a high level of performance, and a candidate must be both mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of the office sought with or without reasonable accommodation for any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.</p>			

EXHIBIT

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4-28-14 SB

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<p>8. Experience: The extent and variety of a candidate's experience as an attorney or as a judge or both should be considered in light of the nature of the judicial vacancy to be filled.</p>			X
<p>9. Judicial Temperament: A candidate's ability to consistently exhibit exemplary judicial temperament will be reviewed. Among the qualities that comprise such a temperament are patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and humility. Factors that indicate a lack of judicial temperament include arrogance, impatience, pomposity, arbitrariness, and tyranny.</p>			X

Related Comments:

1. **Constitutional Qualifications:**
2. **Ethical Fitness:**
3. **Professional and Academic Ability:**
4. **Character:**
5. **Reputation:**
6. **Physical Health:**
7. **Mental Stability:**
8. **Experience:**
9. **Judicial Temperament:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Our committee finds Mr. Hewitt to be an extremely personable, highly intelligent candidate. Without reservation, his peers endorsed him for this appellate position based on academic abilities and character. He is well-respected by those both in and outside of the legal community and we believe he would be a strong, well-balanced presence at the Court of Appeals.


Committee Chair's Name

4/2/14
Date

Blake A. Hewitt, Esquire
Candidate's Name