

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

Circuit Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Steven H. John
Business Address: c/o Horry County Justice Center
1301 Second Avenue, Suite 3A30
Conway, SC 29526
Business Telephone: 843-915-6696

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Circuit Court Judge? I believe I can be an asset to this State and be an effective jurist for the citizens of this State.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No
4. Have you met the Constitutional 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 not proper on substantive or legal or equitable issues. Only purely administrative matters can be handled this way.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? If there is an appearance of a conflict of interest, the best policy is recusal. However, forum shopping cannot be allowed.
7. 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 grant the motion so there would be no question, assuming forum shopping is not an issue.
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I would not hear the case.
9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? Social hospitality extended to a large group, like a Christmas party, is acceptable. Private acceptance of gifts from lawyers is not proper.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? It would need to be reported to the appropriate agency.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated? No



12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if reelected to the bench? No
13. How do you handle the drafting of orders? If I receive them on a case, I give all parties an opportunity to participate before any ruling is made.
14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? Computer deadline reminders and print outs of calendars.
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not believe in it. That is the job of the Legislature and the Governor.
16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I welcome opportunities to speak at community and civic groups on general issues about the legal system.
17. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this? Any position or job to which you are dedicated affects your personal relationships. You balance those as best you can and communicate with those with whom you are involved.
18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.
 - a. Repeat offenders: If it appears that the person has no regard for human life or property and continues to commit crime, this must be weighed in sentencing.
 - b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the circuit court): It depends on the crime, but violent crime must be given serious consideration no matter what age you are.
 - c. White collar criminals: I do not believe in this category and do not recognize it as a proper factor
 - d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: I consider everyone's background in sentencing.
 - e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: Consideration is given depending on the seriousness of the crime and the degree of disability.
19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
No
20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No
21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No

22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes
23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? Impartiality, courtesy, fairness, giving everyone a chance to present their case, and firmness when necessary.
24. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? I try to have these values in every aspect of my life.
25. 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 or a pro se litigant? Anger, No. Firmness, even a stern demeanor may be called on in an appropriate situation.
26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? None
27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign? No
28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No
29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No
30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? No Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No
31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No
32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes

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

s/ Steven H. John

Sworn to before me this 6th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 08-02-2011