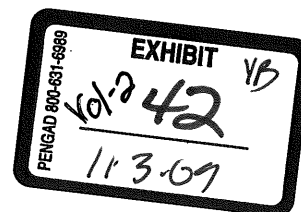


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings
Administrative Law Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: B. Keith Griffin
Business Address: 115 N. Harvin Street
Sumter, S.C., 29150
Business Telephone (803) 436-2280 or 2283(direct)

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? I do not foresee reentering private practice. I have enjoyed my time on the bench.
3. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes
4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated? My philosophy on these communications is not to tolerate *ex parte* communications except such that are specifically provided by the rules of professional conduct (i.e. obtaining a search or arrest warrant, etc.)
5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? It is my philosophy to always disclose any relationship between myself and any litigant or attorney in which said relationship may give an appearance of impropriety. If a party then asks me to recuse myself, I will.
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 grant said motion.
7. If elected, what standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would not accept gifts under any circumstances unless specifically authorized by the Rules of Professional Conduct or allowed by Court Administration.
8. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? I would report said party as the Canons and Rules of Professional Conduct Require.
9. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you are elected, would need to be re-evaluated? Not to my knowledge.
10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social,

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- community, or religious organizations? No.
11. How would you handle the drafting of orders? I would generally prepare the orders myself. If I asked an attorney to prepare an order, I would require the attorney to provide a copy to opposing counsel before I reviewed the order.
 12. What method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would employ the system used by other Administrative Law Judges. I would also have a back up system similar to a calendar system as a law firm would employ.
 13. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not believe in judicial activism; judges have two roles in the law, which is to enforce current laws based on existing precedent or to modify precedent if a case is distinguishable based on its facts.
 14. 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 would be willing to speak at CLE seminars or write articles for respective bar publications regarding changes or modifications in the law or to the Administrative Law Court.
 15. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge will strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this? It will not strain personal relationships to my knowledge.
 16. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
 17. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a de minimis financial interest in a party involved? No.
 18. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No.
 19. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes. I am current at the present time.
 20. What percentage of your legal experience has dealt with cases that appear before the Administrative Law Court? Please describe to the Commission your experience in these areas. Little to none. As a magistrate I have had to certify certain video games as illegal under title 12 of the South Carolina Code as requested by SLED. Some Driving Under the Influence cases will sometimes have evidentiary issues which somewhat concern administrative law, but said issues are fairly rare.
 21. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? To be patient and courteous to the litigants and the attorneys who represent them. It is also imperative for a judge to be diligent and be prepared to make

- informed rulings in all cases, regardless of size or complexity. The judge should also not consider himself as any better than the litigants who appear before him. There is no place for egoism in the judiciary.
22. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? These rules would apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 23. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? Anger is never appropriate with any litigant, pro se or represented. A judge must be direct with a pro se litigant or an attorney, but anger is never needed. If a pro se litigant disagrees with your ruling, there is a time and another court to review your decision.
 24. 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.
 25. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? No. The only letter sent on my judicial letterhead was to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission requesting these materials.
 26. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No.
 27. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No.
 28. 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? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
 29. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? Only Ms. Shuler and Ms. Traywick to request these materials.
 30. 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/ B. Keith Griffin

Sworn to before me this 13th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 01-28-2014