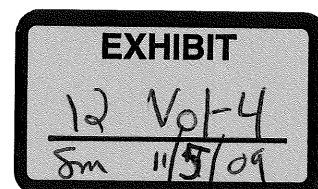


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR RETIRED JUDGES/JUSTICES**

1. NAME: Donna S. Strom
 BUSINESS ADDRESS: 1701 Main Street
 Suite 312
 P.O. Box 192
 Columbia, S.C. 29202-0192
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: dstromj@sccourts.org
2. Date and Place of Birth: 1959
3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes
 Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes
5. Family Status: Married on October 5, 1985, to John Preston Strom. Never divorced. Two children.
6. Briefly describe your continuing legal or judicial education since your last screening. Include **only** the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.
- | <u>Conference/CLE Name</u> | <u>Date(s)</u> |
|---|----------------|
| (a) Family Law Section Meeting | 1/23/04; |
| (b) 2004 Family Court Judges Conference | 4/28/04; |
| (c) 2004 Judicial Conference | 8/19/04; |
| (d) Judicial Oath of Office | 8/19/04; |
| (e) 2004 Annual Convention | 8/5/04; |
| (f) Family Law Section Meeting | 1/21/05; |
| (g) 2005 Family Court Judges Conference | 4/27/05; |
| (h) 2005 Annual Convention | 8/4/05; |
| (i) 2005 Annual Judicial Conference | 5/24/05; |
| (j) Family Law Section Meeting | 1/27/06; |
| (k) 2006 Family Court Judges Conference | 4/26/06; |
| (l) Mini Summit on Justice for Children | 8/22/06; |
| (m) 2006 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/23/06; |
| (n) Family Law Section Meeting | 1/26/07; |
| (o) 2007 Family Court Judges Conference | 4/25/07; |
| (p) Orientation School for Family Court | 7/11/07; |
| (q) 2007 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/22/07; |
| (r) Family Law Section Meeting | 1/25/08; |
| (s) 2008 Family Court Judges Conference | 4/23/08; |
| (t) 2008 Judicial Conference | 8/20/08; |
| (u) 2008 Annual Judicial Conference | 8/7/08; |
| (v) 2009 SCAJ Annual Conference | 8/5/09. |
7. Have you practiced law or served as a mediator or arbitrator since your



retirement from the judiciary? No

8. List your positions of employment on and/or appointment to the bench chronologically. You are not required to list dates of employment or appointment prior to your last screening.

Family Court Judge 5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4

9. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No
10. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
11. Since your last screening, have you been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No
12. Since your last screening, have you, to your knowledge, been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No
13. Since your last screening, has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Since your last screening, have you defaulted on a student loan? Since your last screening, have you filed for bankruptcy? No
14. Since your last screening, have you been sued, either personally or professionally?

An inmate filed a lawsuit naming Johnny Gasser, Barney Giese, Barbara Scott and me as Defendants. The inmate alleged that his "due process" rights had been violated beginning in 1995 when I waived him from juvenile court to the General Sessions Court and following with his conviction and incarceration in General Sessions Court. The suit was dismissed on June 23, 2009.

15. Since your last screening, have you, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, been sanctioned for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or found to have committed such misconduct? No
16. Since your last screening, have you been criticized, whether informally or in a matter taken to a disciplinary authority, for the manner in which you treated litigants or attorneys before you on the bench? No
17. Describe your personal policy for the acceptance of food, meals, beverages, lodging, transportation, entertainment, social hospitality, or other things of value from an attorney, a group of attorneys, or from other individuals
- I accept only gifts of close personal friends for special occasions. I enjoy normal hospitality. I do not accept gifts or enjoy social hospitality forbidden by the Canons of Ethics.
18. Have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? No

19. Provide any other information which may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. None
20. For the last fully completed calendar year, itemize the income, expenses, fees, payments, or additional benefits exceeding \$500, in the aggregate, received by you or a member of your immediate family from South Carolina state and local entities. List the type, source, and amount or value of the benefit. Be sure to list any expense reimbursement you received separately from your income.
- (a) Wages: \$126,254.88
 - (b) Office Expense: \$6,000.00
 - (c) Taxable Travel: \$3,792.00
 - (d) Non-Taxable Travel: \$2,009.44
21. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency; None
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200; or None
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina. None
- List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:
- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest; n/a
 - (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and n/a
 - (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property. n/a
22. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. None

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

Signature: Donna S. Strom

Date: August 10, 2009

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

Full Name: Donna S. Strom
Business Address: 1701 Main Street, Suite 312
Post Office Box 192
Columbia, S.C. 29202-0192
Business Telephone: (803) 576-1760

1. Have you met the Constitutional or statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?
Yes
2. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses?
Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?
I do not plan to return to private practice; however, I do intent to participate in mediation.
4. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?
Not at this time.
5. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
No
6. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender?
No
7. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement?
No
8. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge?
A judge must be courteous, patient, diligent, prompt, open-minded, humble, and compassionate.
9. In your position as a retired judge, what methods do you employ to ensure that deadlines for the timely issuance of orders are met?
I will continue to ensure that I issue orders within 48 hours of receipt of final drafting.
10. 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?
It is never appropriate to show anger toward a litigant, the public, a criminal defendant or an attorney.

11. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or fellow judge?
My handling of this situation would depend upon the extent of my knowledge and the degree of misconduct. If allowed, I would discuss the misconduct. If required, I would report the misconduct.
12. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law clerks are to appear before you?
I have never been asked to consider recusal in a lawyer-legislator situation, but I would apply the same standard as in any other recusal request. If the appearance of impropriety cannot be overcome, I would recuse.
13. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
Ex parte communication is inappropriate. However, the law allows certain *ex parte* communication in extraordinary exigent circumstances.
14. 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 disclose fully any potential appearance of bias. I believe the appearance of bias in Family Court is as detrimental as actual bias. If a serious request is made to recuse, I do so.
15. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?
I accept only gifts of nominal value from close personal friends for special occasions. I enjoy normal hospitality. I do not accept gifts or enjoy social hospitality forbidden by the Canons of Ethics.
16. 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.

s/ Donna S. Strom

Sworn to before me this 10th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 02-21-2018