

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

Retired Judge

Full Name: Donna Savoca Strom
Business Address: 2110 North Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29204
Business Telephone: 803-252-4800

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?
No.
4. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?
Yes. I serve as a mediator.
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 towards 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 the situation would depend upon the extent of my knowledge and the degree of 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.

Donna S. Strom

Sworn to before me this 25th day of July, 2013.

Denise J. Holtz

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: January 20, 2015