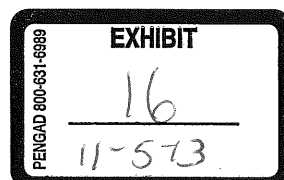


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: William Thomas Sprott, Jr.
Business Address: P. O. Drawer 180, (115A South Congress Street)
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Business Telephone: 803-712-6734

1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge?
I want to continue to use my skills and experiences in resolving conflicts, promoting the best interests of children, and granting relief to the families of the State. I believe I serve competently and compassionately, and to do so satisfies me greatly. I enjoy my work and the people I come in contact with. This is the best way I can contribute to this State.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?
I plan to serve until mandatory retirement which will be December 31, 2018. This is less than a full term.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No
4. Have you met the statutory 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 to be avoided. They may be tolerated in emergency situations or for scheduling and administrative purposes.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?
Recuse if there is a conflict or the appearance of a conflict.
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 recuse myself.
8. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?
I would recuse myself.



9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?
Limit them to friends and family aside from ordinary social hospitality.
10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?
Tell them they should report themselves and report them to the appropriate disciplinary commission.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions which, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated? No
12. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench? No
13. Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle the drafting of orders?
I instruct the attorneys to do so and modify them as may be appropriate. When there are no attorneys involved, I do the orders myself.
14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
I deal with matters promptly. Specific deadlines are put on a calendar and handled in a timely manner by me and my Administrative Assistant.
15. What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case?
Ensure the order appointing the Guardian Ad Litem sets forth clearly the duties and powers of the Guardian Ad Litem, and direct what the court wants from the Guardian Ad Litem. They are subject to cross examination during the proceedings.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?
Decisions are to be made on existing law as related to the facts, and not for some politically motivated interest.
17. 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?
Continue to meet with school children when they have programs on being employed in law related fields.
18. 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? No, N/A

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?
If all parties requested that I hear the case, I would consider doing so, but I would have to decide myself as to whether these facts would constitute an appearance of impropriety.
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?
Be patient and courteous and render good, explainable decisions based on the law. Listen carefully and give parties an opportunity to be heard.
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?
These rules always apply.
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? No
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? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf?
I have not asked anyone to contact members of the General Assembly and know of no one doing so.
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/William Thomas Sprott, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of July, 2013.

Wanda G. Marthers

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: June 25, 2017