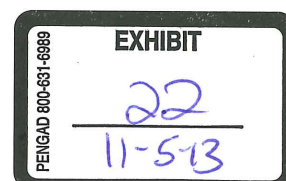


JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Retired Judge

Full Name: James A. Spruill
Business Address: 230 Third St
Cheraw, SC 29520
Business Telephone: 843 537-3387

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? No
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?
Temperate and considerate.
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?
As I don't have a secretary, I do not do a good job at getting orders submitted that I have requested. I write and issue any order that I may not have decided at the time of the hearing very punctually.
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 not helpful with either a litigant or an attorney. Any resolution of a question before you is better arrived at without temper.
11. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or fellow judge?
It would depend on the nature of the misconduct. If it were sufficiently serious, I would report it to the proper grievance authority.



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 no qualms about hearing matters in which a party is represented by a legislator or a former associate as I have not practiced in more than 20 years and believe that no matter now being litigated would have been in the office before I left. I have never had a law clerk.

13. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?

Ex parte communications regarding scheduling and similar logistics problems are appropriate, but not conversations about the merits of any case.

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 would be likely to. I might well decline if I had already heard the matter at length or I believed that the motion to recuse was prompted by a desire for a new judge based on my reaction to evidence already submitted or arguments already made or for the purpose of delay.

15. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

I would be very careful to avoid accepting any gift or invitation I felt might have been offered to curry professional favor.

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/James A. Spruill

Sworn to before me this 12 day of July, 2013.

Johnnee B. Stafford

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 4/1/21