

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

Family Court
(Incumbent)



Full Name: Alex Kinlaw, Jr.
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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge?
The Family Court directly impacts the lives of families and I want to continue to assist them in navigating through their difficult day to day issues in my role as Judge.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?
Yes.
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 should never be done by a Judge no matter what the circumstances may be.
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?
If there is any appearance of a potential conflict of interest, I always recuse myself.
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?
Out of an abundance of caution, I would grant Counsel's Motion for me to 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?
I would never accept gifts from anyone except close friends and family members.
10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge?
I would report the misconduct immediately to the appropriate Disciplinary Board.
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?
Typically the prevailing attorney prepares the proposed order for my review. In complex matters I would draft the order.
14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?
We have a computerized tickler system that serves as a reminder of deadlines.
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?
I always have a copy of the Statutes in front of me in every case where a Guardian ad Litem is involved.
16. What is your philosophy on “judicial activism,” and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?
Judges can educate the community on the workings of the Judicial System but should not promote public policy.
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?
I would engage in activities (such as speaking engagements) to educate the community about the legal system.
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?
In my current role, I have been able to keep a good balance between my position and family and friends.
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?
No.
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?
A Judge should have a calm and focused demeanor.
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?
You should always respect the position of being a Judge at all times and always display composure.

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?
A Judge should be firm but should never express anger.
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?
No.
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/Alex Kinlaw, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of July, 2015.

Ameerah Barnes

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 08/28/2016