



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

Retired Judge

Full Name: The Honorable Levy (Lee) S. Alford
Business Address: 1048 Estate Drive, York, SC 29745
Business Telephone: 803-684-3481

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?
I am certified in S. C. as a civil mediator, but have not served as a mediator or arbitrator.
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 should conduct himself or herself with dignity, patience and always in a manner, on or off the bench, which promotes respect and confidence in our justice system.
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 follow all cases under advisement and issue orders as quickly as possible, almost always within thirty (30) days.
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?
No. A judge must be patient, especially with a pro se party.
11. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or fellow judge?
I would report it to the commission on judicial or attorney discipline for investigation.
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 put on the record any prior relationships and allow any party to request I recuse myself from the case. I put my ruling on the record—I have a liberal recusal policy.

13. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?
I am very careful to avoid *ex parte* communications and insist on all party's participation. *Ex parte* communications are only permitted when authorized by statute.
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 have a liberal recusal policy if there is an reason that a party might question my impartiality, even if I believe I could. It is important that each party believes in the fairness and impartiality of our justice system.
15. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?
I do not accept any gifts or social hospitality from attorneys, law firms or groups of attorneys, nor from anyone who may appear before me.
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?
None.

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

s/Levy "Lee" S. Alford

Sworn to before me this 31st day of July, 2015.

Renée G. Barker

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 7/21/18