



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

Retired Judge

Full Name: Leslie Kirkland Riddle

Business Address: PO Box 853, Lexington, SC 29071

Business Telephone: 803 629-5729

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 engage in an active mediation practice handling Family Court matters.
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?
I feel it is very important to be courteous to the litigants and attorneys while still maintaining the integrity and orderliness of the proceedings.
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 keep copies of the dockets of all matters that come before me. I then check off the cases as the Orders are done to ensure that all are completed in a timely manner.

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 maintain the dignity of the proceedings and the Judge's demeanor is an integral part of that process.

11. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or fellow judge?

I would consult the Rules of Judicial Conduct/Lawyer Conduct and the Judicial Canons and take action as dictated by the appropriate rules

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 recuse myself whenever there could even be the appearance of impropriety. I do not handle contested matters involving attorneys I have practiced law with and 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?

I do not engage in *ex parte* communications.

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 give such motions great deference. Since Family Court Judges are the fact finders, it is important that all parties have confidence that no bias or lack of impartiality is present.

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

I do not accept gifts or hospitality from lawyers or litigants who appear before me. I do accept normal social hospitality as permitted by the Judicial Canons such as attendance at Bar meetings and functions put on by state and local Bar associations.

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.

Leticia Kuhlman Riddle

Sworn to before me this 2nd day of July, 2016.

D. Michael Taylor

(Signature)

J. MICHAEL TAYLOR

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 3-11-2021