

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

**Retired Judge**

Full Name: Robert S. Armstrong

Business Address: P.O. Box 1124, Beaufort, SC 29901

Business Telephone: 843 255 5662

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
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?  
Calm, attentive, respectful
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 mark them off my docket as I receive them.

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

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

I would handle it consistent with our Code of Ethics and Judicial Canons.

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 would recuse myself if I had any question that I would not be impartial. This has not happened.

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 are only allowed in emergency situations, for example, a party filing an affidavit seeking emergency relief.

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 err on the side of caution and grant the motion to recuse myself to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

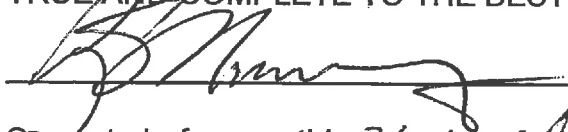
15. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality?

I do not accept gifts. I would attend a social event if it was open to all judges and lawyers.

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.



Sworn to before me this 26 day of July, 2016.



(Signature)

Amanda V. Tharin

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 12-1-21