



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

Circuit Court
(New Candidate)

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1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge? Recently, I observed a group of elementary students discussing the judicial system. The group leader asked them if anyone knew what a judge does. Overwhelmingly, the children's responses included some variation of "a judge sends people to jail." I was quite sad because I understand that a judge does far more. Our judges are the personification of our judicial system and often the yardstick by which the system is measured. Citizens look for our judges to be the face of fairness and justice in the law. This is particularly true of trial court judges – the judges who interact with individuals and corporate entities every day. I want to serve as a Circuit Court judge because I want to contribute to a positive view of the judiciary, build confidence in our judicial system, and fairly administer the rule of law in our society. I have been in training for this office for the duration of my career. I have spent approximately six years in private practice litigating a wide range of civil matters in state and federal court on the trial and appellate levels. The remaining five years of my practice has been under the tutelage of a Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court and a District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina. I have a genuine love for the law and for this state. I can think of no better way to serve those two passions than as a Circuit Court judge.

2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes.

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No.

4. Have you met the Constitutional 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? I believe that *ex parte* communications are generally inappropriate. However, there are circumstances that warrant such communications. Therefore, my philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications would accord with Judicial Canon 3(B)(7).
6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? I believe that a judge should preside over a case unless there is a conflict of interests, such as the involvement of a relative or personal financial interest, with the judge's participation in the case. Additionally, judges should also consider whether recusal is appropriate in any circumstance where the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. In cases involving lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners, I would only find that recusal is warranted if my impartiality is reasonably in question.
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? The reputation and impartiality of the judiciary are critically important to me. Therefore, I would give strong consideration to a party requesting my recusal from a matter in which I had disclosed something that had the appearance of bias. I would grant the motion if it is made in good faith and has a reasonable basis.
8. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? It is difficult, if not impossible to control other's actions and activities. However, it is my responsibility to make sure that I have not place myself in a situation to enable my spouse or a close relative to exploit my service as a judicial officer. If my spouse or a close relative has engaged in any financial activity that gives the appearance of impropriety, I would recuse myself from any matter involving those financial activities. If it concerns a social activity of my spouse or close relative, I would only find that recusal is warranted if my impartiality is reasonably in question.

9. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would act in accordance with Judicial Cannon 4(D)(5), accepting only ordinary social hospitality and gifts in limited circumstances as outlined in the rule.
10. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? I would report the misconduct to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel as required by Judicial Cannon 3.
11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that, if you were elected, would need to be re-evaluated? I have no current affiliation with political party activities and would continue to refrain from such activities as a judge. I am very active in the South Carolina Bar Association. If I am elected, I would need to re-evaluate my level of participation in various Bar committees and would resign from any committee which would conflict with or compromise my judicial duties. I also would resign my appointment as chair of the Board of Paralegal Certification if elected.
12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? My husband and I are co-owners of Karidan Logistics Company, LLC, a business primarily engaged in general freight trucking. If elected to the bench, I would continue my association with the business for the period of time necessary to fulfill currently outstanding obligations for which I have personally guaranteed performance.
13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders? I would use judicial forms for simple matters that do not require in-depth analysis of facts and law. I would also ask the prevailing party to draft orders for uncomplicated, routine matters, which I would review after comments from opposing counsel. Otherwise, I would prefer to draft the orders with coordination of my law clerk and staff.
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would use a calendaring system to set deadlines to complete orders. I would consider the urgency and complexity of each matter in setting its priority in the system. My staff and I will have regular conferences to discuss the status of pending matters and resolve any

issues that may delay me in issuing an order in a timely manner after the hearing.

15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not think judges should engage in "judicial activism." Judges do not make law but apply the law to the circumstance of each case before the judge. Similarly, judges do not establish public policy.
16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I am actively engaged in the South Carolina Bar and local activities with legal practitioners. I would like to continue my involvement in these activities to help facilitate and implement changes in the practice and procedures used in our judiciary to deliver effective and efficient service to the community. I would continue to speak at legal seminars and community events to teach and promote a better understanding of the role of the judiciary.
17. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you address this? I do not believe that serving as a judge would strain my personal relationships. They understand that I will need to act in accordance with the canons of judicial ethics. My family and friends are supportive of my desire to be a judge.
18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

My general sentencing philosophy is based on my strong belief that all sentencing decisions should be based on the circumstances of each individual case including the nature of the offense, the criminal history of the defendant, and material personal characteristics of the defendant (such as mental deficiencies).

a. Repeat offenders: There are multiple theories concerning recidivism and the effect of repeated incarceration. Many theories depend on whether you view incarceration as a form of punishment or a conduit for rehabilitation. Because South Carolina's prison system is currently best

suiting to incarcerate for purposes of punishment, I would consider harsher sentences for defendants facing repeat sentencing for violent offenses or offenses that threaten public safety. While I would sentence in accordance with the requirements of the law, I would also encourage non-violent repeat offenders to seek rehabilitation services and vocational training to potentially avoid further recidivism.

b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court): My approach to sentencing juvenile offenders transferred to Circuit Court would follow my general sentencing philosophy. I would strongly consider the nature of the offense; violent offenses would warrant harsher sentences. However, where possible, I would encourage the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders by using diversion programs.

c. White collar criminals: White collar crime often involves serious offenses that cause great harm to its victims. Therefore, I would sentence a defendant who has committed a white collar crime in accordance with my general sentencing philosophy explained above.

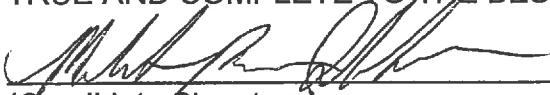
d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: There is a wealth of research about the impact of socio-economic factors in the criminal justice system. I am keenly aware of the potential for sentencing disparities resulting from the impact of the socio-economic background of a defendant. I do not believe that a defendant's social and/or economical background should create any bias in sentencing. I will maintain a measured level of vigilance in my sentencing to ensure that such factors do not inappropriately factor into my general sentencing philosophy.

e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: My approach to sentencing elderly or infirmed defendants would follow my general sentencing philosophy. I am sensitive to the fact that the incarceration of elderly or infirmed defendants heavily taxes the state's financial and human resources. Accordingly, I would consider alternatives to incarceration for those elderly or infirmed defendants with non-violent or minor offenses.

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? I would disclose any known financial interest, even if it is *de minimis*. If any party objects to my hearing

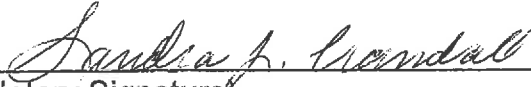
- the matter or request recusal, I would not hear the case.
21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No.
 22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes.
 23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? A judge should be poised under pressure, thoughtful and deliberate in decision making, principled, and courteous.
 24. Would the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or would these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? The rules in the previous answer are generally applicable at all times. If elected, the community will look to me to be a judge seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, and I would always protect my reputation as a judge. But, practically, I am likely to be a bit more informal and relaxed when participating in activities with my friends and family or activities unrelated to court business.
 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 pro se litigants? Anger is a natural emotion and there will, undoubtedly, be times when someone behaves in a manner that causes me to feel anger. A judge has a responsibility to manage those emotions while requiring respect for the court, judicial office, and the rule of law. Therefore, I feel that a judge must control the courtroom with a firmness of hand, but that does not require a display of anger.

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



(Candidate Signature)

Sworn to before me this 1st day of August, 2016.



(Notary Signature)

Sandra J. Cranall

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 9/15/23