



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

**Retired Judge**

Full Name: Dana A. Morris

Business Address: 1121 Broad Street, Camden SC 29021

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1. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period?

Yes

2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice? Not at this time.

3. Are you engaged in any legal activities other than your service as a retired judge, such as acting as an arbitrator or mediator?

I do not retire until June 30, 2019

4. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?

No

5. Are you a member of any organization or association that, by policy or practice, prohibits or limits its membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin? If so, please identify the entity and explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on any basis.

No

6. Have you engaged in any partisan political activity since your retirement?  
Please describe No

7. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? When do these rules apply?

I believe a Judge should be calm, patient and understanding. The Judge should use the minimum authority necessary to maintain control but allow the litigants to effectively present their case. These rules apply at all times.

8. 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 created the system my office uses when I first became a Judge as I did not have an Assistant for many months. I will continue to use the same methods to document when orders are received and follow up by email for delinquent orders.

9. 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 to both questions.

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

Misconduct has to be reported to the Disciplinary Counsel. As to an infirmity I would first approach the Attorney or Judge and express my observations and see if they responded appropriately by seeking help and notifying the Disciplinary Counsel or Court Administration themselves. If they fail to do so, I would notify the Disciplinary Counsel and Court Administration.

11. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law clerks are to appear before you?

I have never had a law clerk and I do not generally recuse myself when lawyer-legislators have appeared in front of me. As to former associates I have disclosed the potential conflict and will only hear the matter if both parties waive the conflict. However, even in these cases I have recused myself if it appears to be a seriously contested matter.

12. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?

They should be avoided at all costs. Under the rules Judges are allowed to execute *ex-parte* orders where appropriate and handle administrative matters. However, I generally try to avoid these whenever possible due to the potential for problems.

13. 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 and would most likely continue to grant such motions as litigants are entitled to both the reality and the belief they have an unbiased Judge.

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

I do not accept gifts or social hospitality. I do not go to many parties as a rule. If I go out with others I always pay for my own meals or entertainment. I have gone to the South Carolina Association of Justice Convention occasionally and the South Carolina Bar Convention but I report this each year on my financial disclosure form.

15. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_