



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

Family Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Angela Renee Taylor

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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge? I would like to serve another term as a family court judge to be able to have a positive effect on the children whose cases are brought before the court either through a juvenile proceeding or an abuse and neglect action. I think being a family court judge is one way I can help improve the lives of children in my community.

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

3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? Not at this time.

4. Have you met the statutory 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 *ex parte* communications should be avoided, However, there are instances where the Department of Social Services seeks *ex parte* orders. In those cases and in similar private cases, *ex parte* communications may be necessary for the limited purpose of determining if an emergency exists.

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 have not recused myself when lawyer-legislators have appeared before me. In the case of a former associate or a law partner, I think it would be necessary to disclose the relationship and recuse myself especially if the case is contested.

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? Yes, I would recuse myself in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety or bias to the person making the Motion.
8. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I would recuse myself in such an instance.
9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I only receive gifts from friends or family. I limit social hospitalities to events with friends, family, church functions, and Bar functions.
10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? I would attempt to have a discussion with the individual or ask someone who knows the person to speak to him or her about any misconduct or any infirmity. If the situation did not improve, I would report it to the appropriate authorities.
11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. My church has had fund raisers in order to pay for repairs to the sanctuary or to retire a debt. I have not participated in any fund raising for social or community organizations.
12. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench? No

13. Since Family Court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle the drafting of orders? I have drafted some orders on occasions myself, but on most occasions I send a memorandum to the attorneys and request one of the attorneys to prepare a proposed Order consistent with the memorandum. Other times, I have asked each of the attorneys to submit proposed orders or briefs.
14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I calendar deadlines in advance of the due date to remind me and my assistant when a task needs to be completed or something is due.
15. What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the guidelines of the guardian ad litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I have asked for interim reports from guardians to insure they are making contact with the families. I review the court files to ensure the guardian reports are filed timely and that they comport with the statutory requirements. I ask for an itemized statement of fees from the guardians in private custody cases and adoption cases.
16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? It is not a judge's function to set or promote public policy.
17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I have spoken at churches and at public schools and I will continue to do so. I will also participate on panels and workshops to help the public have a better understanding of the law.
18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this? I think the serving as a judge can lead to stress which can impact one's relationship with others, but I feel it is necessary to spend time with the significant others in one's life outside of the work environment in order to relieve those stressors and to facilitate open communication.

19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No, I am not.
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 not hear the case.
21. 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
22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes
23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? I believe a judge should carry himself or herself in a respectable manner at all times so as not to reflect negatively on the judiciary or the legal profession.
24. 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 a pro se litigant? I believe the behavior of individuals can cause one to become angry, but I do not believe it is appropriate to lash out in anger in response to inappropriate behavior that may be exhibited by a member of the public, a criminal defendant, a pro se litigant or an attorney.

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

Angela R. Taylor

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2018.

(Signature)

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: _____