



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

**Master-in-Equity  
(Incumbent)**

Full Name: Jeffrey M. Tzerman

Business Address: 304 Hampton Park, Camden, S. C. 29020

Business Telephone: 803-432-8459

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-appointed? Yes
  
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?  
My position is part-time. I currently practice.
  
3. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice?  
Yes
  
4. What is your philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision *ex parte* communications being tolerated?  
I only discuss procedural issues unilaterally. I do not tolerate substantive ex parte communications.
  
5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you?  
I am guided by Canon 2 of Rule 501 of the Appellate Court Rules, together with my good common sense concerning the issue of Recusal.
  
6. 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? Once, I feel compelled to disclose some matter, I would recuse myself upon motion of any party.
  
7. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I do not accept gifts from any person likely to appear in my Court, except when offered to all judges.

8. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct or appearance of infirmity of a lawyer or of a judge?  
If I learned of these situations from my own observations, I would have to make a report.
9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.  
None
10. How do you handle the drafting of orders? Generally, the prevailing party prepares an order with a copy to opposing counsel.
11. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? We log deadlines on my calendar. I have never missed a deadline since November 1981 when I was admitted to practice.
12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?  
There is no place for judicial activism in a trial judge.
13. 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 been a presenter at seminars in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
14. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? No How do you address this?
15. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?  
No
16. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? Yes
17. 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? No If so, please identify the entity and

explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on these bases.

18. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses for the past reporting period? Yes
  
19. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? A judge should be a good, listener, maintain impartiality and be patient with the parties and their attorneys.
  
20. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you? No Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? 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 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_