



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

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

Full Name: Stephen Bryan Doby

Business Address: PO Box 106, Bishopville, SC 29010

Business Telephone: 803-484-5454

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? The position I am seeking is only a part-time position, therefore, I am currently in private 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? *Ex parte* communications are prohibited except as allowed by ethical rules regarding scheduling only.

5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? Current law partners appearing in my Court are not permitted, but lawyer-legislators and former associates are allowed to appear.

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? A party's request for recusal is taken seriously, but if recusal is not required by the applicable rules, recusal is not automatic, but is handled on a case by case basis.

7. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? None are permitted.
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? Such misconduct must be reported to the appropriate authority.
9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. No
10. How do you handle the drafting of orders? Most orders are drafted by one of the parties, but I have drafted some orders when appropriate.
11. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? A calendar is maintained to assist with deadlines.
12. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? Judges are the interpreters of the law and do not set or promote public policy.
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 served as Moderator for a CLE involving MIE Bench Bar and have served as a speaker at a CLE.
14. 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? The position, along with the practice of law, is stressful, but I have been successful in handling the stress since 2008.
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? No

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? If so, please identify the entity and explain if this organization practices invidious discrimination on these bases. No

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? Kind and courteous to the litigates is a must and applies at all times.

20. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public who would appear before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? Anger is never appropriate and I try to deal with all litigates and attorneys with respect and courtesy.

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 July, 2018.

(Signature)
Cherlyn H. Arrants

(Print Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires: 03/28/28