



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

**Administrative Law Court**  
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Robert L. Reibold

Business Address: S.C. Administrative Law Court  
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Columbia, SC 29201

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1. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected?  
  
Yes.
2. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?  
  
No.
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 improper apart from minor administrative issues such as scheduling.  
  
As a judge, I have not had direct contact with counsel or a party about a case before me outside of a formal setting such as a hearing, trial, or joint telephone conference.
5. 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?

It is impossible to say how I might rule on a generic hypothetical motion. While on the bench, I have endeavored to inform the parties on the record of any information which a party might reasonably believe would create an appearance of bias or impropriety, even when I did not believe the circumstances required disqualification under applicable rules. I have not yet been asked to recuse myself in such a situation. I would, however, give strong consideration to recusal under such circumstances.

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

Apart from gifts from family or friends to commemorate a holiday or special occasion, I have not accepted gifts apart from ordinary social hospitality from persons with whom I have an independent social relationship.

I have accepted invitations from the South Carolina Bar Association and the South Carolina Association of Justice to attend law related events.

7. How would 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 follow the applicable code of conduct. If the misconduct or appearance of infirmity was not so significant that it affected the judge's ability to properly serve, I would counsel the judge and attempt to correct the conduct. If the misconduct or infirmity was significant enough to affect the judge's ability to properly serve, I would report such conduct.

8. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe.

Decades ago I help raise money for the American Cancer Society, and, when I was not a candidate for judicial office, I participated in fund-raising activities as a board member of the Salvation Army of the Midlands.

9. How do you handle the drafting of orders?

I have rarely sought proposed orders from parties and have done so primarily on complex cases or cases with a lengthy record. I conference each case with my law clerk and staff attorney. Depending on the complexity of the matter, a member of my staff may prepare an initial rough draft for my review and editing. On difficult or complex matters, I personally draft the entire order and then conference with my staff before finalizing the order.

10. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

We calendar applicable deadlines and work in advance of said deadlines.

11. What is your philosophy on “judicial activism,” and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy?

I believe courts should interpret the law, not legislate new policy.

12. 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 written several articles for the South Carolina Lawyer Magazine, and am the co-author of a legal text published by the Bar Association. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of that book was released in 2021. I hope to continue writing on legal topics.

Additionally, I have spoken to law students and attorneys on administrative law on several occasions since my election. I hope to continue making similar presentations.

13. 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 do not feel the pressure of serving as a judge has imposed a substantial strain on my personal relationships.

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

No.

15. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved?

If I were aware that a family member had a *de minimis* financial interest in a party before the court, I would disclose the interest to the parties. If a party objected to my participation, I would most likely recuse myself.

16. 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.

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

I met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for the period ending March of 2024. While I have undertaken continuing legal education since then, I have not yet satisfied the requirement for the period ending March of 2025.

18. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?

I believe deeply that a judge should be calm when in the courtroom. Everyone appearing before the court should not only feel that they were treated fairly but be treated fairly. Anger, inappropriate or demeaning comments, or dismissiveness are inappropriate in the courtroom.

Outside of the courtroom, I believe a judge can be more relaxed, but a judge must always remember that he or she represents the bench in or out of the robe.

19. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public appearing before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant?

With the caveat that judges are human, I do not believe anger is appropriate in the courtroom.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_