



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

**Master-in-Equity
(New Candidate)**

Full Name: James Patterson Saverance, Jr
Business Address: 210 North Main Street Bishopville, SC 29010
Business Telephone: 803-483-2000

1. Do you plan to serve your full term if appointed? Yes.

2. If appointed, do you have any plans to return to private practice one day?

I plan to continue in private practice as the owner and operator of Saverance Law Firm, LLC.

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 believe *ex parte* communications should be avoided. If an unauthorized communication occurred I would be required to disclose said communication. My intention would be to avoid these types of communications to honor the rules and avoid an appearance of impropriety.

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?

I would give the party a great deal of deference and would likely grant the motion. An appearance of bias can be damaging to the judge and the judicial system.

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

I do not intend to accept any gifts and I would be very careful as to any social events I attend.

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?

Our rules of professional conduct would be my guide. If required, I would report this information. I would not take any satisfaction in this, but I would uphold my duties as a member of the SC Bar.

8. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed? No.

9. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. None.

10. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders?

I would continue the practice I currently have when serving as Special Referee whereby I typically request the prevailing party to draft the Order. I typically send over my findings and indicate what the Order should include.

11. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines?

I would set up a tickler system both electronically and hard copy. This system is already in place at my office.

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

A judge should not legislate from the bench. I should always allow the law and evidence to guide my decisions and not personal opinions.

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?

Helping those in my area have a better understanding of the legal system.

14. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge will strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this?

No. I have been in private practice since 1999 and owned my own law firm since 2006. I believe this has prepared me to handle any additional pressure.

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. Just the appearance of a conflict would deter me from hearing the case.

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 any basis.

No.

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

Yes.

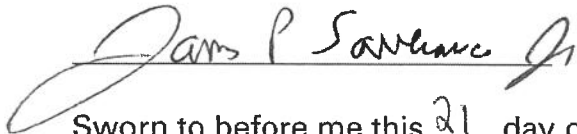
19. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply?

I should always strive to be courteous and respectful. I should display these traits at all times.

20. 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?

No to each question. I should always have a professional demeanor and anger has no place in these legal dealings.

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 21 day of August, 2024.



Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 10-3-32