



JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION )  
)  
In the Matter of: Jocelyn Newman )  
Candidate for South Carolina Supreme Court )  
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**WITNESS AFFIDAVIT  
FORM**

I will appear to testify concerning the qualifications of the above-named candidate and will produce all documents in my possession, if any, which will further develop or corroborate my testimony.

I understand that this written statement and all supporting documentation, if any, must be completed and the hard copies of all such documents shall be returned to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission by the deadline for complaints in order for the Commission to hear my testimony, and that the deadline for complaints is **12:00 Noon, Thursday, April, 2024**. I understand I must be available to testify at the Public Hearing, and **failure to appear will result in a dismissal of my complaint.**

In regard to my intended testimony, I will offer information as to the following:

- (1) Set forth your full name, age, address, and both home and work telephone numbers.  
**Rhonda Meisner, 59, Post Office Box 689 271 Blythe Creek Drive Blythewood, SC 29016 (803)206-3402 (803)210-0224**
  
- (2) Set forth the names, addresses, and telephone numbers (if known) of other persons who have knowledge of the facts concerning your testimony.
  1. **Potentially the attorneys on the Webex hearing; however, I do not think they will testify. They benefitted from her misconduct in the form of favorable ruling.**
  2. **I request the Judicial Merit Selection Committee to request the Webex recording via Court Administration as I cannot get it.**
  
- (3) State the nature of your testimony regarding the qualifications of the above-named judicial candidate, including:
  - (a) specific facts relating to the candidate's character, competency, or ethics, including any and all allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct on the part of the candidate;

According to CANON 3

A JUDGE SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL OFFICE IMPARTIALLY AND DILIGENTLY

It appeared to me, as evidenced in the Motion to Alter and Amend that Judge Newman had *ex-parte* communications with Mr. Bradley who was present on the WEBEX. It appeared that Mr. Bradley told her that because there was a corporate and individual the corporate service must be perfected. However, this is a single member Limited liability company with the address with the secretary of state being the same as the service address. The facts are secondary to the fact it appeared she communicated *ex parte* during the hearing because at the end of the hearing she said to him "that was good" "you did good" to which Mr. Bradley responded "right?" of course she denied that interchange was related to the hearing; however, there was no intermediary conversation or anything else. Additionally, the Judge's comments that "you did good" was obviously directed at Mr. Bradley otherwise why would he answer? I request the Judicial Merit Selection committee not only get the audio and transcript of the WEB ex but disqualify Judge Newman as honesty is part of competency.

(4) A judge shall require\* order and decorum in proceedings before the judge.

**Judge Newman's off the record conversation with Mr. Bradley amounts to corruption in the proceedings for which an investigation is warranted and will be requested from other agencies in addition to this legislative committee.**

(4) A judge shall be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity, and shall require \* similar conduct of lawyers, and of staff, court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control.

Commentary:

**I was also scheduled for jury duty where Judge Newman joked that she was not involved with the "mess" of the main case, she was just there to "qualify or disqualify" the witnesses preliminarily for the trial judge. It was my opinion and upon information and belief, her "joking" and lackadaisical attitude towards the main case gave the appearance that the trial was simply a formality and there was no real issue with the serious charges of the man on trial. It appeared to me that she was downplaying the serious allegations about the defendant by her joking and downright jovial activities of interviewing the potentially jurors personally, some of which upon information and belief were chosen as jurors. I am very concerned about judicial corruption.**

A judge shall perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice.

A judge must perform judicial duties impartially and fairly. A judge who manifests bias on any basis in a proceeding impairs the fairness of the proceeding and brings the judiciary into disrepute. Facial expression and body language, in addition to oral communication, can give to parties or lawyers in the proceeding, jurors, the media and others an appearance of

judicial bias. A judge must be alert to avoid behavior that may be perceived as prejudicial.

**Please see above regarding denying continuance for good cause and the extra jovial voire dire represented to the potential jurors, in my opinion that nothing serious was going on in the upcoming trial that had very serious allegations against the defendants. In effect, mitigating the serious voire dire process.**

(7) A judge shall accord to every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or that person's lawyer, the right to be heard according to law.\*

**See above explanation that I think I was not afforded a proper hearing based not only on the denial of the continuance but believe this was intentional because the hearing was scheduled remotely in the first place! This is judicial corruption that the public wants corrected.**

(5) A judge must make reasonable efforts, including the provision of appropriate supervision, to ensure that Section 3B(7) is not violated through law clerks or other personnel on the judge's staff.

**It is clear that the staff at Richland County Court processes are unconstitutional when a judge puts a process (that only she controls) about when and how hearings are scheduled and who she grants relief in the form of continuances is an unconstitutional aberration of the previously processes. I have previously testified how the court staff is used for this purpose.**

specific dates, places, and times at which or during which such allegations took place; The hearing was on July 11, 2023 at the Richland County Courthouse with the participants remotely involved I was in Austin Texas and the Jury Voire Dire was later.

how this information relates to the qualifications of the judicial candidate.

**I think the committee should review the audio of the July 11, 2023 hearing and consider whether they themselves or their family might be subject to a Supreme Court Judge that manipulates hearings and therefore justice and answer the question. Is this best for South Carolina. I would say based on the answer by 92 Percent of South Carolinians on the ballot this summer the answer is a resounding NO.**

(6) Set forth a list of and provide a copy of any and all documents to be produced at the hearing which relate to your testimony regarding the qualifications of the judicial candidate.

**Please see hearing and Orders attached to this affidavit.**

State any other facts you feel are pertinent to the screening of this judicial candidate.

I of course do not know Judge Newman personally but based on her character and willingness to entertain *ex parte* communications during a hearing, joke during voire dire, deny continuances

based on valid business travel made in advance of scheduling and deny continuances for good cause, I do not want a judge like her on our Supreme Court and would respectfully request you NOT confirm her. I understand some legislator/lawyers will have a lot to say about this, but at some point to clean up the judiciary we must "investigate" and not simply rubber stamp these candidates. One instance of impropriety is enough to disqualify.

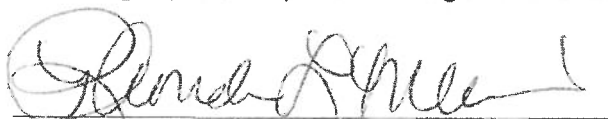
**I request a copy of her response prior to the hearing so that I can address her response in my testimony.**

I understand that the information I have provided herein is confidential and is not to be disclosed to anyone except the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, the candidate, and counsel.

### WAIVER

I further understand that my testimony before the Judicial Merit Selection Commission may require the disclosure of information that would otherwise be protected by the attorney-client privilege. Therefore, in order that my complaint may be fully investigated by the Commission,


I hereby waive any right that I may have to raise the attorney-client privilege as that privilege may relate to the subject of my complaint. I further understand that by waiving the attorney-client privilege for this matter, I am authorizing the Commission to question other parties, including my attorney, concerning the facts and issues of my case.

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ April 25, 2024

Sworn to me this 25 day of April, 2024

  
Notary Public of South Carolina \_\_\_\_\_ L.S.

My commission expires: 06/08/2031

 **Christopher Anderson**  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
Commission Expires: 06/08/2031