



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

Family Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Monet Stacey Pincus

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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court judge? I would like to have the opportunity to continue serving the public and lawyers as a Family Court Judge, especially children and vulnerable adults that are abused or neglected or involved with DJJ.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected? Yes.
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No.
4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes.
5. 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 unacceptable and undermine the integrity and honor of our judicial system. In Family Court, *ex parte* requests are tolerated and customary in the context of abuse and neglect, or when an attorney believes an emergency hearing is necessary to avoid an imminent threat of harm to a child. Orders granting *ex parte* relief are sometimes necessary to protect children or a spouse from harm.
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? Even if my impartiality was not prejudiced, I would protect the integrity of the legal system from the litigant's standpoint and err on the side of caution and likely grant the motion.

7. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I have never had this situation occur, but I would recuse myself from the matter.
8. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I have never been offered a gift and I would not accept a gift if it was offered. With regard to social hospitalities, I would consider the situation, the extent of the hospitality and the offering party before accepting. If acceptance would conflict with the ethical rules governing members of the judiciary or give the appearance of impropriety, I would not accept.
9. 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 encourage a fellow judge to seek appropriate help and counsel; encourage the judge to self-report if there was misconduct involved; or I would have to report the misconduct myself if the judge could not or would not. With regard to lawyers, I would encourage the lawyer to self-report if misconduct is involved or I would report the misconduct myself.
10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. No
11. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench? No
12. Since Family Court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle the drafting of orders? I either draft my own order or I instruct an attorney to draft an order for my review and/or approval.
13. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I use a shared electronic calendar and a docketing system reviewed weekly.
14. What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the guidelines of the guardian ad litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? I sign detailed orders clearly delineating the

scope of a Guardian's duties and investigation and deadlines for filing reports. The order is also detailed regarding fees, billing and responsibility for payment. When Guardians appear before me, I question them about their investigation, reports and fees. When Guardians appear at trial, they have to adhere to the applicable statutes, rules of family court, rules of evidence and civil procedure.

15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? My philosophy has not changed since my last application. I oppose judicial activism and I oppose setting public policy. I will promote the public policy of our State that has already been adopted by statute or our appellate courts.
16. 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? If asked, I speak at CLEs or seminars.
17. 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? Serving as a Family Court Judge has not strained my personal relationships. As for job pressure or stress that I might occasionally experience, I eat well, exercise, and take time off to spend with family.
18. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
19. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? No.
20. 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.

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

22. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge and when do these rules apply? A judge should be patient, impartial, controlled, even tempered, attentive, dignified, professional, courteous, and respectful of other's time. These rules apply all the time.

23. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? No and 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 _____, 2024.

(Signature)

(Print name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: _____