

Protestant. At 12:45 pm all present for the hearing were admitted into the court room. At 3pm when the hearing had not started, I asked a court employee why the delay, and I was 'unofficially' told that Judge Jefferson had decided to move Mr. Delustro's hearing from first on the docket to last on the docket. No official information was given to those waiting in the court room. At 4:30 pm Judge Jefferson entered the court room. The first order of business was for Judge Jefferson to adjust her blond wig and then clean her glasses. No apology or explanation was given to the attendees for the very late start of the proceedings. After the formality of the warrants and charges against the Defendant, Judge Jefferson stated that the bond hearing was going to end by 5pm, because she "had an event" to attend. This left approximately 20 minutes for the hearing. Next Judge Jefferson asked Mr. Delustro's attorney, Mr. Joe Cannarella, to proceed with his presentation. Sadly, Mr. Delustro was left standing in the jury box, shackled and standing with the aid of crutches; Mr. Cannarella had to ask the Judge to allow Mr. Delustro to be seated at the Defense table. About ten minutes into his presentation, Judge Jefferson reminded Mr. Cannarella about the time constraint. No witnesses were allowed to speak, no video material or other materials were allowed to be presented.

Next the Solicitor, Scarlett Wilson, began her short presentation against granting bail to the Defendant. After presenting some evidence in the case, a conflict began when Mr. Cannarella asked the Solicitor to speak to the victim's extensive criminal history. The Solicitor became loud and vocal telling Mr. Cannarella that his client could not use a 'self-defense' argument in his case or introduce the victim's criminal history. This went on for several minutes and Judge Jefferson then sided with the Solicitor but said she was not making a ruling on these questions. At this point it was near 5pm and Judge Jefferson said she would consider the bond request and have her ruling by Friday, 19 July 2024. A decision was not rendered until 16 August 2024, and bail was denied.

Specific Concerns:

- (1) Judge Jefferson showed disrespect to the citizens who gave up their time to appear in court in a timely manner. She failed in the common courtesy, to apologize for the delay or even offer a reason for the delay.
- (2) Arrogant and condescending attitude displayed with her wig adjustment and eye glass cleaning behavior in the courtroom.
- (3) Disrespect and mistreatment of an injured prisoner (he was run over by a car) left standing in a jury box in shackles and on crutches and not allowed to be seated with his attorney until she gave permission.
- (4) Failure to allow sufficient time for the defense to provide ALL testimony including witness statements.
- (5) Failure in public service, by putting her personal priorities over that of her duties as a Judge. (If she was so busy, why not reschedule the bond hearing?)
- (6) Failure to render her decision in a timely manner. (She said she would give a decision on 19 July, but did not do so until 16 August.)

Rev. Mr. Eldon L. Smith

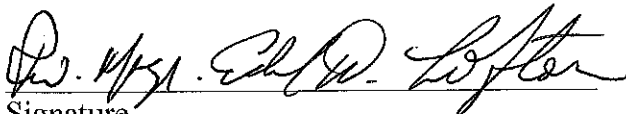
- (7) Failure to be impartial in rendering a decision. Why was the hearing delayed by 3.5 hours, causing some witnesses to leave the hearing? Why was the Solicitor treated in a friendly manner and given deference throughout the hearing? Why was the hearing only given less than thirty minutes? And why did it take a month to finally give a negative decision? The overall appearance was that the Solicitor was in charge of this hearing and Judge Jefferson did what the Solicitor wanted. The way this bond hearing was conducted, clearly had the appearance that the negative outcome was predetermined well before this hearing ever took place.

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.

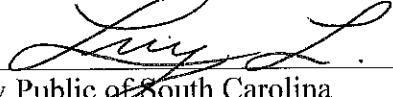
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I further understand that my testimony before the Judicial Merit Selection Commission may require the disclosure of information that would otherwise be protected by the attorney-client privilege. Therefore, in order that my complaint may be fully investigated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

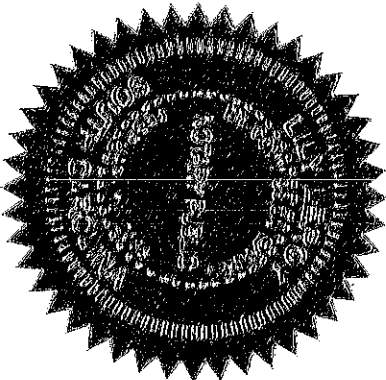
I hereby waive any right that I may have to raise the attorney-client privilege as that privilege may relate to the subject of my complaint. I further understand that by waiving the attorney-client privilege for this matter, I am authorizing the Commission to question other parties, including my attorney,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


Signature

Sworn to me this 8th day of October, 2024

 L.S.
Notary Public of South Carolina

My commission expires: 02/16/33



OCT 08 2024

