



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

**Family Court**  
**(Incumbent)**

Full Name: Angela Johnson Moss

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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court judge?  
Throughout my time on the Bench, I have continued to learn. Every day, every case is a new challenge and opportunity. The pace is fast and emotions run high. In Family Court, we are dealing with the things people hold most dear. Decisions made in Family Court may have far-reaching and long-lasting effects. This fact is not lost on me, and I take the responsibility seriously. I sincerely strive to maintain a respectful, even playing field in my courtroom as I consider carefully the disputes brought before me. I enjoy serving my state and would consider it a great honor and privilege to continue to serve South Carolina as a Family Court Judge.
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 should be completely avoided, except in the circumstances set out in The Canons of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3, Rule 501, SCACR. Examples of permissible ex parte

communication include communications regarding scheduling, administrative purposes or some emergencies. Canon 3 acknowledges that a judge may have ex parte communication when expressly authorized by law. Examples of this include temporary restraining orders and ex parte communication in cases involving abused and neglected children (Section 63-7-740 South Carolina Code of Laws). In short, ex parte communications are not generally favored and should be avoided except in specific circumstances permitted by Canon 3. All appearing before the Court should have confidence that there is a level playing field. Ex parte communications undermine this confidence and affect the integrity of the Family Court.

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?

In the event of a situation as stated, I would most likely grant the recusal. However, the motion should be evaluated in the context of the particular situation. I would consider if the motion was being made for proper purposes or merely to undermine the process. Additionally, if it is an emergency situation, no other judge is available and I could hear the case impartially, I would consider hearing the case and issuing a temporary order until there could be another hearing before a different judge. However, I would not hear the case unless I could be impartial and the situation was permissible under the Judicial Canons.

7. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?

As the appearance of impropriety undermines public confidence in the judicial system, I would disclose the involvement and recuse myself if my impartiality might be questioned.

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

The Judicial Canons give specific guidance on this issue in Canon 4. I do not accept gifts or social hospitality from anyone who may appear before me or from anyone if there is the possibility of the appearance of impropriety. Generally, I would only accept appropriate gifts and social hospitality from family and close friends and only in

accordance with the guidance provided in Canon 4.

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?

While I would take no pleasure in doing so, I would report any such misconduct or appearance of infirmity as dictated by the Canons of Judicial Conduct.

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

While serving as a judge, I have not engaged in any such activities. Prior to becoming a judge, I was involved in PTA, school, dance team and/or little league sports fundraisers. I also volunteered in a church sponsored car show fundraiser to benefit a mission trip.

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?

The Seventh Judicial Circuit has had a law clerk since September, 2023. The Law Clerk has drafted some orders for my review. However, the majority of the orders are drafted by one of the attorneys involved based on my detailed and supported findings and rulings. The designated attorney reduces the proposed order to writing and circulates the document among the attorneys and/or pro se parties for review. Following this, the order is forwarded to me for review and signature. At times, I draft the order myself.

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

My office has a system wherein my assistant keeps a calendar and tracks orders. If there are any outstanding orders, the attorneys are contacted and reminded until the orders are provided.

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 generally use an order of appointment which sets out the specific duties and responsibilities of the Guardian ad Litem. Having served as a Guardian ad Litem for many years, I am familiar with the responsibilities and processes associated with the role. As most guardians are attorneys, there are very few issues with the statutory guidelines being met. It is important to appoint a reputable and thorough guardian ad litem from the outset of the case as such will most likely respect and follow the statutes. However, if there are any problems, these issues are usually detected early in the process at temporary or motion hearings and are usually resolved without delay.

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

The role of the judge does not include setting or promoting public policy. Judicial activism is not appropriate as the role of the judiciary is to determine the facts then interpret and apply the law established by the Legislature.

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?

As a judge, it is imperative to continue to learn and study to stay abreast of any changes or new developments in the law. There is always more to learn and wisdom is gained through continuing education and experience. I have, and will continue, to make myself available in an appropriate manner, to the members of the bar, community, students, etc. and be willing to speak and participate appropriate educational activities. I have had students visit my courtroom and enjoy teaching them about our judicial process.

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?

My personal relationships are strong and have stood the test of time. Having worked as a prosecutor, public defender, private attorney and guardian ad litem, my family and friends were already oriented to a different type of lifestyle. My family and friends are safety-conscious

and aware that I am not at liberty to discuss confidential matters. My family is respectful of the need for privacy and do not pry for information. My husband and children are unwaveringly supportive. If any issues arise, I am sure we would address them as we have through the years.

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?  
As the interest is *de minimis* financial interest, while I could hear the case, I could disclose the interest fully and hear the case if all involved consented without reservation. However, I would most likely refuse to hear the case in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
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 maintain self-control and be patient, dignified and respectful. A judge should maintain high standards at all times – not just in the courtroom.
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? While it may be necessary for a Judge to be firm, or even stern, at times, anger is not appropriate.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

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Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_