



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

Family Court
(Incumbent)

Full Name: Angela R. Taylor

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1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court judge?
I would like to continue to serve for the protection and interest of the children in this state.
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? I think *ex parte* communications should not occur. However, in the case of an emergency such as a DSS abuse and neglect action, a private emergency case or an emergency juvenile custody case, an *ex parte* communication may be warranted.
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? I would probably recuse myself so as to not

give the appearance of bias no matter whether I felt I could be impartial or not.

7. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative?
I would recuse myself from hearing any matter because of the financial or social involvement of a spouse or close relative.
8. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I only accept gifts from close friends or co workers such as birthday or Christmas gifts. I limit my interaction in social contexts to people within my social circle.
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 attempt to discuss the matter with the attorney or judge who appears to have an infirmity or I would ask someone close to that person to speak with him or her. If I became aware of misconduct on the part of a judge or attorney, I would attempt to discuss the matter with him or her, but if that was not a viable alternative, I would report the individual to the proper authorities.
10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. My church has had fund raisers to help pay for debts or repairs to the sanctuary. I do not solicit funds for these activities, but I do make donations, I do not engage in fund raising activities in the community or in any social organizations.
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 have drafted orders on some occasions. In cases where I don't rule from the bench, I frequently prepare a memorandum and direct one of the attorneys to prepare an Order consistent with the memorandum.

13. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I have a tickler system and physical calendars to make sure deadlines are met.
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 review the orders in the court files to insure the guardian has submitted preliminary reports if required to do so and to determine he or she has made the necessary disclosures.
15. What is your philosophy on “judicial activism,” and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? A judge should not engage in activism or attempt to set public policy. A judge should follow and apply the law to the facts of the case before him or her.
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? I plan to speak at public forums about the judicial system and how it operates. I also intend to attend educational programs to increase my knowledge of the 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? When I was elected to the bench for the very first time, I felt serving as a judge put a little strain on my personal relationships, but as time has gone on, I feel my family and friends have a greater understanding of what I am allowed to do or not do in my capacity as a judge.
18. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?

No, I am not.

19. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? I would not.

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. I am not in any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, gender, or national origin.

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? I think a judge should be level headed. I also think a judge should be circumspect in his or her conduct and language both publicly and privately. I believe these rules should apply at all times, but especially in public.

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? Although it may occur, it is not appropriate to be angry with a criminal defendant, a member of the public or a self- represented litigant.

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: _____