



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

Circuit Court
(New Candidate)

Full Name: Joshua Chuck Bronson Allen

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1. Why do you want to serve as a Circuit Court judge? It is my belief that I have the experience and background to serve my community by being a fair, impartial, and effective circuit judge. I have extensive experience in all levels of state courts and currently serve as the City of Anderson's Chief Judge. This has given me a unique perspective with dealing with members of the public directly as they are often self-represented and this experience has made me a better judge and lawyer. While I know the position I am seeking comes with great responsibility, I am confident that I can provide litigants with a fair forum to have their disputes heard and give each case a fair analysis of the law and issues that they deserve.
2. Do you plan to serve your full term if elected? Yes
3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? I do not have any plans to return to private practice at this time should I be elected to the circuit bench.
4. Have you met the Constitutional 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? My philosophy regarding *ex parte* communications is that they should be avoided as much as possible and are only done in limited situations according to Judicial Canon 3(B)(7) and only when the

requirements of the rule have been met accordingly. Otherwise, I believe that all attorneys should be made part of all communications with the 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? If I disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, I would look to the procedures laid out in Judicial Canon 3(F). In my experience, I have stated that I am recused unless the parties agree to waive my recusal outside of my presence.
7. How would you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? I believe the first way to avoid the appearance of impropriety is by defensively ensuring that those appearances of impropriety do not arise in the first place. I would make every effort to explain to my spouse and four children the limitations on financial and social involvement in our community, all in accordance with Judicial Canon 3(E)(2). I would also have to consider whether the appearance of impropriety rose to the level of recusal or disclosure as provided in Judicial Canon 3(F).
8. What standards would you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would set for myself all standards found in Judicial Canon 4(D)(5) regarding gifts and social hospitality.
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? First, I would ensure that I was given all the relevant facts and ensure that the alleged misconduct or appearance of infirmity was in fact true. If I had confidence that the alleged conduct was confirmed, I would be required to contact the appropriate authority according to the requirements found in Judicial Canon 3(D).
10. 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
11. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? Please describe. Yes. I have

donated to local high school athletics and in the past as a board member of Anderson Interfaith Ministries.

12. Do you have any business activities that you would envision remaining involved with if elected to the bench? Yes, I am the sole proprietor of five LLCs that hold rental properties and would envision remaining involved with those though they are under third party management.
13. If elected, how would you handle the drafting of orders? In most all hearings before me, I would instruct one of the attorneys to draft a proposed order in accordance with my ruling. I would always instruct the attorney drafting the proposed order to share that order with opposing counsel prior to submitting to my office. Otherwise, there may be exceptions, especially with pro se litigants, where I would write the order myself.
14. If elected, what methods would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I would use a notification system on office computers that would track all deadlines to ensure they are met in a timely fashion.
15. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not believe a judge's role is to set public policy or promote one policy over another. The branches of government set policy through the passage of laws and my role as a circuit judge is to rule based upon a fair interpretation of those laws and prior court precedent.
16. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. If elected, what activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I would look forward to undertaking opportunities to speak at various CLEs or serve on any committees as requested.
17. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge would strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you address this? I do not believe that serving as judge would strain my personal relationships. While serving as circuit judge comes with great responsibility, I currently am engaged in the private practice of law, serve as Anderson's Chief Municipal Judge, and am the associate judge for the Anderson County Drug Court. I believe these responsibilities and the time

commitments they require have prepared me for this next endeavor.

18. The following list contains five categories of offenders that would perhaps regularly appear in your court. Discuss your philosophy on sentencing for these classes of offenders.

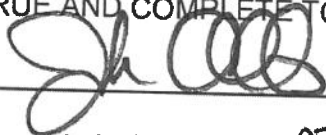
- a. Repeat offenders: My philosophy on sentencing repeat offenders is in line with other Defendants listed below. However, I also believe that repeat offenders have likely been given opportunities in the past to deter their conduct and the repeated criminal acts by such a Defendant should be given proper consideration.
- b. Juveniles (that have been waived to the Circuit Court): I believe that juveniles waived to Circuit Court should be given a very thorough examination of not only the facts of the case, but also the personal background of the Defendant, their home life, education level, prior record, and any other factors that would be relevant. It is my belief that for juveniles, every effort should be made to rehabilitate the child before considering incarceration. However, circumstances may arise that require incarceration.
- c. White collar criminals: My philosophy regarding white collar crimes is in line with all other criminal defendants. I also believe that white collar crimes, depending on their severity, can be just as damaging to society as other crimes. A top priority in these cases would be to have the funds due to victims returned to them as part of any sentence.
- d. Defendants with a socially and/or economically disadvantaged background: My philosophy regarding this class of individuals is that first, every effort should be made to provide them adequate legal counsel if they are indigent. Also, their social and economic background should be considered in sentencing when it comes to probation or active time as it should in all criminal cases.
- e. Elderly defendants or those with some infirmity: It is my belief that elderly defendants should if at all possible be given a sentence that does not place them in a state of incarceration. There may be some instances that would require a prison sentence base up the severity of the violent act, but typically I would attempt a fair sentence that did not place an elderly or infirm individual in jail.

19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional

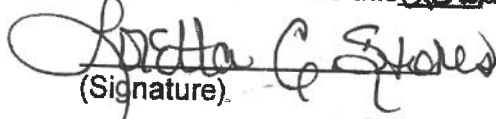
income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No

20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? 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? I think first and foremost, a judge should be respectful and considerate of all parties and attorneys that come before him. A judge should be courteous while also maintaining and ensuring that proper decorum is observed in the courtroom. There are also times that do require a judge to be firm, but a judge can do so while also being respectful.
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 pro se litigants? I do not think it is ever appropriate to be angry with the public or anyone in a courtroom. In my experience, anger often creates even more hostilities and serves no useful purpose. Often times, especially with pro se litigants, if the party is given an opportunity to speak and the judge is respectful, that far more often leads to courteous interactions than does losing one's temper and elevating hostilities that already exist. Also, the parties will listen more attentively and respect the judge's ruling more often than when a judge is angry.

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 23rd day of August, 2024.


(Signature)

Loretta C. Stokes
(Print Name)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: 12-31-29