

Judicial Evaluation Surveys

Each year, the South Carolina Bar conducts a Judicial Evaluation Survey of South Carolina judges who have completed all or one-half of their current terms. Judges are evaluated on their legal skills, impartiality, judicial temperament, industry and promptness. Bar members evaluate the judges using a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being excellent; 3, good; 2, satisfactory; and 1, deficient. Members are asked to evaluate only those judges with whom they have had sufficient professional experience to make an informed evaluation.

The Judicial Evaluation Survey is a separate evaluation from the Judicial Qualifications Committee Reports that rate judicial candidates based on interviews with lawyers and others. Only the percentage of “excellent” responses for each of the selected categories is reproduced below.

Current Candidates

A. Knowledge and Application of Rules of Evidence and Procedure Law

Judge John C. Few 67.20%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 75.30%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 35.20%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 78.30%/ 80.90%*
Judge H. Bruce Williams 81.60%

B. Knowledge and Application of Substantive Law

Judge John C. Few 66.90%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 73.60%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 34.60%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 80.10%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 84.20%

C. Fair and Effective Settlement Skills

Judge John C. Few 56.80%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A**
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 39.60%

Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams 82.90%

D. Absence of Bias or Prejudice in Criminal Cases

Judge John C. Few 62.20%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 77.80%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 56.10%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

E. Attentiveness to Arguments

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 77.50%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

F. Clarity of Written Opinions

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 69.20%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 41.70%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

G. Usefulness of Opinions to Bench and Bar

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 67.10%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

H. Absence of Favoritism toward Plaintiff (Civil Only)

Judge John C. Few 58.50%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 71.00%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 50.20%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

I. Absence of Favoritism toward Defendant (Civil Only)

Judge John C. Few 61.50%

Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 75.80%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 53.70%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams N/A

J. Absence of Bias or Prejudice in Juvenile Cases

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 80.2%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 81.40%

K. Absence of Favoritism toward Mother/Wife

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 71.10%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 81.70%

L. Absence of Favoritism toward Father/Husband

Judge John C. Few N/A
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 74.00%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 80.30%

M. Not influenced by Identities of Lawyers

Judge John C. Few 52.40%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 62.70%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 43.60%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 69.50%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 80.30%

N. Not Influenced by Identities of Litigants

Judge John C. Few 60.80%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 67.90%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 45.60%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 73.60%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 87.80%

O. Avoidance of Sexual, Racial and Ethnic Bias

Judge John C. Few 73.30%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 81.50%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 55.30%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 77.60%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 89.30%

P. Judicial Temperament and Demeanor in General

Judge John C. Few 59.20%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 76.40%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 53.10%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams 87.00%

Q. Courtesy to Litigants and Witnesses

Judge John C. Few 64.60%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 58.20%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 67.30%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 87.00%

R. Courtesy to Lawyers

Judge John C. Few 61.20%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn 78.30%
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 54.60%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 66.90%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 87.00%

S. Promptness in Making Judicial Decisions

Judge John C. Few 61.80%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 39.00%
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 76.60%
Judge H. Bruce Williams 82.90%

T. Punctuality and Diligence

Judge John C. Few 67.10%
Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A
Judge Deadra L. Jefferson N/A
Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III N/A
Judge H. Bruce Williams 82.90%

U. Fair and Efficient Trial Management and Docket Control

Judge John C. Few 64.70%

Chief Judge Kaye G. Hearn N/A

Judge Deadra L. Jefferson 44.20%

Judge Arthur E. Morehead, III 76.40%

Judge H. Bruce Williams 82.90%

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