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Administrative Director

POST OFFICE BOX 3806

MERRIFIELD, VIRGINIA 22116-3806

PHONE: 804-282-6363

www.VWAA.org

E-Mail: VWAA@live.com

February 12, 2016

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & FACSIMILE:

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL:

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chair, Courts of Justice Committee
Senate
P.O. Box 6205
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL:

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain
Co-Chair, Courts of Justice Committee
Senate
P.O. Box 555
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL:

The Honorable David T. Albo
Chair, Courts of Justice
House of Delegates
6367 Rolling Mill Place, Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Re: Anticipated Vacancies on the Fairfax Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

Dear Governor McAuliffe, Senator Norment, Senator Obenshain, and Delegate Albo:

On behalf of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association ("VWAA"), a regional committee ("the Committee"), was impaneled to evaluate candidates for two (2) anticipated vacancies on the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court.

The VWAA requested that interested candidates complete the VWAA Judicial Questionnaire (the "Application"), submit a short biography, and participate in an oral interview with the Committee. Prior to the interviews, members of the Committee contacted the references listed on each candidate's Application as well as other members of the local bar and legal community to inquire as to each candidate's suitability for the vacancy. On January 19, 2016, the Committee interviewed eleven (11) candidates.

It is worth noting that the VWAA ratings are based upon a review of each candidate's merits against published standards and guidelines, including the following: fairness, integrity, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, and *pro bono* service. Ratings are not a function of a general vote by the VWAA membership nor are they a comparison of candidates within the "pool" presented.

The following rating categories are used by the VWAA:

- (1) NOT QUALIFIED: Applied to any applicant who fails to meet the minimum requirements for fairness, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, integrity and/or other basic criteria set forth in the ABA Guidelines.
- (2) QUALIFIED: Applied to any applicant who meets the minimum requirements for fairness, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, integrity and/or other basic criteria set forth in the ABA Guidelines.
- (3) RECOMMENDED: Applied to applicants whose qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements to warrant the Committee's affirmative recommendation.
- (4) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Reserved for any candidate who is especially well-qualified for the position and merits special recommendation.

The VWAA's procedures provide that ratings of "Qualified" and "Recommended" require a vote in support by at least a simple majority of the Committee. A rating of "Highly Recommended" requires a vote in support by at least a two-thirds majority of those voting. In order for the Committee to find that a candidate fails to meet the minimum qualifications and is "Not Qualified," at least two-thirds of those voting must so find.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the VWAA has approved, in accordance with its procedures, the following endorsements of the Committee for these judicial vacancies:

Jennifer S. Joffe, Esquire is found *highly recommended*.
Todd G. Petit, Esquire is found *highly recommended*.

Joseph B. Dailey, Esquire is found *recommended*.
Timothy A. Davis, Esquire is found *recommended*.
Jessica L. Greis Edwardson, Esquire is found *recommended*.
Brian M. Hirsch, Esquire is found *recommended*.
Edward V. O'Connor, Jr., Esquire is found *recommended*.
Kyle E. Skopic, Esquire is found *recommended*.

Donna R. Banks, Esquire is found *qualified*.
Jenna Sands, Esquire is found *qualified*.
Kathryn A. Untiedt, Esquire is found *qualified*.

Executive summaries of the qualifications of each of the above candidates are attached to this letter.

For your further information, the Committee members participating in the interview process were as follows:

Diana H. D'Alessandro, Esquire: Ms. D'Alessandro is an associate with the law firm of Pesner Kawamoto PLC. She focuses her practice on general civil litigation. Prior to joining Pesner Kawamoto, Ms. D'Alessandro served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable David S. Schell of the Fairfax Circuit Court for two years. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2010.

Michelle Kaminsky, Esquire: Ms. Kaminsky is a partner with The Law Offices of Kelly S. Hite, PLLC. She focuses her practice on family law and domestic relations litigation, including divorce, custody and visitation, child support, grandparent/third party visitation and custody, spousal support, equitable distribution, and adoption. Prior to joining The Law Offices of Kelly S. Hite, PLLC, Ms. Kaminsky served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable David S. Schell. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2009.

Carolé C. Krogmann, Esquire: Ms. Krogmann is a partner at the law firm of Masterman Krogmann, P.C. She focuses her practice in the area of domestic relations, including divorce, child custody and visitation, child support, spousal support, and equitable distribution. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 1997.

Sameena Sabir, Esquire: Ms. Sabir is a solo practitioner with The Law Office of Sameena Sabir, PC. She focuses her practice on family and child welfare law, including divorce, child custody and support, juvenile misdemeanor and felonies, and abuse and neglect. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2000.

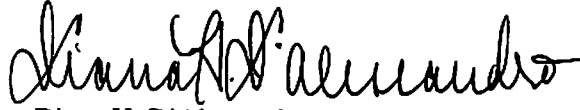
K. Leigh Taylor, Esquire: Ms. Taylor is a partner at The Susan Hicks Group, PC. She focuses her practice in family law and domestic relations litigation, including divorce, custody and visitation, child support, spousal support, and equitable distribution. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2003.

Ann M. Thayer, Esquire: Ms. Thayer is a partner at the Taylor Law Company. She focuses her practice in the areas of criminal defense litigation, including traffic offenses, criminal misdemeanors and felonies, juvenile matters, and protective orders. Ms. Thayer is a former Assistant Public Defender for the City of Fredericksburg. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2004.

Julia A. Yolles, Esquire: Ms. Yolles is an associate with The Havrilak Law Firm, P.C. She focuses her practice on family law and domestic relations litigation, including divorce, child custody and visitation, child support, spousal support, equitable distribution, juvenile law, and abuse and neglect. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2011.

We hope that this information will prove helpful to you during your selection process for these very important judicial positions. Please feel free to contact VWAA President Betsy Sue Scott should you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully yours,



Diana H. D'Alessandro
Judicial Chair, Northern Virginia Chapter
Virginia Women Attorneys Association

Enclosures: Executive Summary of Jennifer S. Joffe, Esquire
Executive Summary of Todd G. Petit, Esquire
Executive Summary of Joseph B. Dailey, Esquire
Executive Summary of Timothy A. Davis, Esquire
Executive Summary of Jessica L. Greis Edwardson, Esquire
Executive Summary of Brian M. Hirsch, Esquire
Executive Summary of Edward V. O'Connor, Esquire
Executive Summary of Kyle E. Skopic, Esquire
Executive Summary of Donna R. Banks, Esquire
Executive Summary of Jenna Sands, Esquire
Executive Summary of Kathryn A. Untiedt, Esquire

CC (by email only): Jennifer S. Joffe, Esquire
Todd G. Petit, Esquire
Joseph B. Dailey, Esquire
Timothy A. Davis, Esquire
Jessica L. Greis Edwardson, Esquire
Brian M. Hirsch, Esquire
Edward V. O'Connor, Esquire
Kyle E. Skopic, Esquire
Donna R. Banks, Esquire
Jenna Sands, Esquire
Kathryn A. Untiedt, Esquire

CC (by email only): Senator Adam Ebbin
Senator Barbara Favola
Senator David Marsden
Senator George L. Barker
Senator J. Chapman Petersen
Senator Janet D. Howell
Senator Linda T. Puller
Senator Jennifer T. Wexton
Senator Richard L. Saslaw
Delegate Alfonso Lopez
Delegate Barbara Comstock
Delegate David Albo

Delegate David Bulova
Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn
Delegate James LeMunyon
Delegate Charniele L. Herring
Delegate Robert J. Krupicka, Jr.
Delegate Kenneth R. Plum
Delegate Patrick A. Hope
Delegate L. Kaye Kory
Delegate Mark D. Sickles
Delegate Mark. L. Keam
Delegate Marcus B. Simon
Delegate Richard C. Sullivan, Jr.
Delegate Timothy D. Hugo
Delegate Scott A. Surovell
Delegate Thomas Davis Rust
Delegate Vivian E. Watts

CC (by email only): Michelle Kaminsky, Esquire
Carolé C. Krogmann, Esquire
Sameena Sabir, Esquire
K. Leigh Taylor, Esquire
Ann M. Thayer, Esquire
Julia A. Yolles, Esquire

Betsy Sue Scott, Esquire, VWAA President
Chandra Lantz, Chair of VWAA's Judiciary Committee
Camille Allan Crandall, VWAA, Northern Virginia Chapter, President

JENNIFER S. JOFFE

Experience and Legal Ability: Jennifer S. Joffe earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan in 1975. She earned her Juris Doctor from American University, Washington College of Law in 2001. She was admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2002.

Ms. Joffe is currently a shareholder at the law firm of Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent PC, a boutique family law firm in Fairfax, Virginia, specializing in the areas of domestic relations and civil litigation. Ms. Joffe's practice area includes complex family law counseling and litigation, which encompasses divorce, custody and visitation, child support, spousal support and equitable distribution. Additionally, throughout her career, she has litigated relocation cases and custody and support modification matters.

Prior to her admission to the Bar, she served as a probation and parole officer in Fairfax County for over 25 years. Additionally, she served as the judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jane Marum Roush from 2002 to 2003.

Ms. Joffe has taken *pro bono* custody cases in the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and serves on the Board of Directors of T.E.R.R.I.F.I.C, a non-profit housing and human services organization whose primary goal is to respond to families in crisis.

She served as the Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Circuit Court Committee in 2012 and was the Chair of the Fairfax County Domestic Relations Subcommittee in 2012-2013. She is also a member of the Fairfax County Pro Se Committee, a Neutral Case Evaluator and a Guardian *ad litem*.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions, interview, and professional references, Ms. Joffe demonstrated that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Joffe possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Joffe is especially well-qualified for the position and merits special recommendation. She warrants this Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.

TODD G. PETIT

Experience and Legal Ability: Todd G. Petit earned his Juris Doctor from Catholic University of America - Columbus School of Law in 1997. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1997.

Mr. Petit has been associated with the Office of the Public Defender of Fairfax County for over 14 years and has served as the Chief Public Defender since 2005. He manages 35 employees, 20 of whom are attorneys under his supervision. In addition to taking an active role in training and supervising the attorneys, he continues to represent clients in court on a regular basis.

Mr. Petit left the Public Defender Office to engage in the private practice of law as a sole practitioner from 2001-2004. He concentrated his practice on juvenile and criminal law but also began the process of learning domestic relations and personal injury law. He gained experience in various aspects of domestic relations law during his time in private practice.

In 2015, Mr. Petit received the Community Advocate Award from the Cair Coalition (Capital Area Immigration Rights Coalition). In 2008, he received the Spirit of the Law Award from Marymount University, Forensic Psychology Department. He served as a faculty member for the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course from 2006-2009.

Mr. Petit is President of Friends of the Fairfax County Juvenile Court. He is a Member of the Citizen's Advisory Council of the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Fairfax County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Fairfax County Community Criminal Justice Board, and Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council. He also volunteers with the Safer Together Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions, interview, and professional references, Mr. Petit demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Mr. Petit possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Mr. Petit is especially well-qualified for the position and merits special recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.

JOSEPH B. DAILEY

Experience and Legal Ability: Joseph B. Dailey earned his Juris Doctor from the George Mason University School of Law in 2003. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2003.

Mr. Dailey is presently a sole practitioner at the Law Office of Joseph B. Dailey, PLLC, where he engages in a combination of court-appointed and private retained work. Mr. Dailey only accepts court-appointed work from the courts of Fairfax County with the majority of his work coming from the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. He has represented juveniles in cases ranging from misdemeanors to serious felonies such as robbery, gang participation, and malicious wounding. He also accepts appointments to represent adults charged with criminal misdemeanors and felonies in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. In addition to criminal matters, Mr. Dailey also accepts civil cases, such as contempt motions for violation of custody and visitation orders, child support enforcement defense cases, and civil abuse and neglect cases involving protective orders, foster care placement and removal, and termination of parental rights.

Prior to opening his own firm, Mr. Dailey was employed by The Magee Law Firm in McLean, Virginia from 2007 to 2013. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Dailey worked for the Fairfax County Office of the Public Defender.

Mr. Dailey's bar and legal affiliations include the Virginia State Bar, the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the George Mason Inn of Court, the McLean Bar Association, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations Friends of Court Board of Directors, the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations Drug Court Team, the Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket Steering Committee and the Legal Services of Northern Virginia Attorney of the Day Volunteer Attorney Panel.

Once a month, Mr. Dailey provides *pro bono* legal services for Legal Services of Northern Virginia's Attorney of the Day program where he represents clients who have applied for two year protective orders in the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions, interview, and professional references, Mr. Dailey demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Mr. Dailey possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Mr. Dailey's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended**.

TIMOTHY A. DAVIS

Experience and Legal Ability: Timothy A. Davis earned his Juris Doctor from George Mason University School of Law in 2006. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2006.

Mr. Davis is a partner with The Davis Law Firm, which he joined in March of 2009. Mr. Davis works alongside his father, Gary V. Davis. Mr. Davis' practice focuses on criminal defense and family law. Since 2009, nearly half of Mr. Davis' practice has been devoted to family law in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court and Circuit Court. He also occasionally handles personal injury cases and drafts estate planning documents. Prior to joining The Davis Law Firm, Mr. Davis served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County from November 2006 to March 2009. At the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, he handled hundreds of bench and jury trials in every area of criminal law in the Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts of Fairfax. During his time there, he also served on the SHOCAP committee in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Fairfax County.

Mr. Davis is a member of the American Inns of Court, George Mason Chapter, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and currently serves as President of the McLean Bar Association. Mr. Davis takes pride in being a lifelong Fairfax County resident and is actively involved in his community as well as his church.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions, interview, and professional references, Mr. Davis demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Mr. Davis possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Mr. Davis' qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended**.

JESSICA L. GREIS EDWARDSON

Experience and Legal Ability: Jessica L. Greis Edwardson earned her Juris Doctor from New England School of Law in 2002. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2003.

Ms. Greis Edwardson presently serves as a Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney's Office where she routinely prosecutes misdemeanors and felonies in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, General District, and Circuit Courts in Fairfax County. She specializes in cases involving domestic violence, child sex and child pornography/exploitation cases. She also provides training to law enforcement officers and new assistant commonwealth attorneys.

Prior to joining the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Ms. Greis Edwardson worked with Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Inc. as a domestic violence and family law attorney from 2003 to 2006. From 2006-2008, she worked as an associate with MacDowell & Associates, P.C. before taking a position as an Attorney and Litigation Coordinator with Potomac Legal Aid Society, Inc from 2008-2009. She gained experience in vast areas of domestic relations while working in these positions.

Ms. Greis Edwardson serves as Co-Chair on the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. She is also a member of the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council and Domestic Violence Action Center Advisory Board, and George Mason American Inn of Court. She was the recipient of the 2011 Champion of Justice Award from Northern Virginia Victim Assistance Coalition.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions, interview, and professional references, Ms. Greis Edwardson demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Greis Edwardson possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Greis Edwardson's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. She warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended**.

BRIAN M. HIRSCH

Experience and Legal Ability: Mr. Hirsch earned his Juris Doctor from American University, Washington College of Law in 1982. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1985.

Mr. Hirsch serves as the senior attorney in his firm, Hirsch & Ehlenberger, P.C., in Reston, Virginia, which practices in the area of domestic relations. His practice is dedicated solely to family law, which includes divorce, child custody, child support, spousal support, protective orders, property division, prenuptial agreements and other related matters. As the senior attorney in the firm, Mr. Hirsch handles the more complex cases.

He is certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia in family mediation, at the Circuit and Juvenile Court levels, and currently enjoys a healthy mediation practice as well.

In July of 2015, Mr. Hirsch was appointed to serve as a substitute judge in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court as well as the General District Court. Prior to this appointment, he was named a Commissioner in Chancery in 2003 for Fairfax County and has heard fault-based divorces and made recommendations to the Circuit Court regarding the same. He was also appointed as a Judge *Pro Tempore* in 2009 and 2011, hearing cases involving divorce, custody and support.

With regard to *pro bono* services, Mr. Hirsch offers reduced fees to family law clients referred to his firm who cannot afford to pay the firm's regular hourly rates for legal services. Additionally, his *pro bono* legal work includes speaking at over twenty (20) continuing legal education seminars, writing numerous family law articles and devoting about eighty (80) to one hundred (100) hours per year editing *The Virginia Family Law Quarterly*.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions, interview, and professional references, Mr. Hirsch demonstrated that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Mr. Hirsch possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Mr. Hirsch's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended**.

EDWARD V. O'CONNOR, JR.

Experience and Legal Ability: Mr. Edward V. O'Connor, Jr. earned his Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School in 1981. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1982.

Mr. O'Connor began his career in Washington D.C., working in general litigation in practice areas including traffic, criminal, civil, and family law. He then became a partner at Byrd Mische, P.C., in Fairfax, working in general litigation but with emphasis specifically on domestic relations issues. He presently is a sole practitioner in Fairfax, focusing on domestic relations issues and family law, including divorce, equitable distribution, child and spousal support, domestic violence, protective orders, child custody, and appeals to both the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Virginia. He serves as a guardian *ad litem* in child custody and abuse and neglect cases, both at the trial level and at the appellate level. Mr. O'Connor also provides pro bono service in family law cases to parties in need, garnering referrals through Legal Services of Northern Virginia or the Pro Bono Coordinator of the Fairfax Bar Association.

Mr. O'Connor has served as a District Court Substitute Judge since January of 2007 and was reappointed in January of 2013. He has presided over approximately 1,000 or more cases in that capacity.

Mr. O'Connor is a regular Continuing Legal Education Lecturer for the Virginia State Bar, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Arlington County Bar Association, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers' Association on Family Law and Ethics Issues. He has presented at the Fairfax Bar Annual Pro Bono Divorce Seminar for over 20 years. He received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award from Legal Services of Northern Virginia in 1997, the James Keith Public Service Award in 1998, and has been AV rated in Martindale-Hubbell from 1992 to the present. He has also been featured in Virginia Super Lawyers from 2007 to the present.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions, interview, and professional references, Mr. O'Connor demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the bench.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Mr. O'Connor possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the bench.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Mr. O'Connor's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended**.

KYLE E. SKOPIC

Experience and Legal Ability: Ms. Skopic earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law, in 1987. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1987.

Ms. Skopic is the founding partner of her own solo practice, Law Office of Kyle E. Skopic. Ms. Skopic focuses her practice on juvenile and family law, DCSE cases, adult guardianship cases, mental health commitment hearings, and has served extensively as a GAL in a variety of matters. She is also an active Commissioner, originally appointed in 2005. In the past, Ms. Skopic has served as Counsel for DCSE in several juvenile courts across the Northern Virginia area and was a County Attorney for the County of Fairfax primarily representing the local social services agency in child welfare and adult protection service cases. She was also a Judicial Law Clerk for the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria from 1987-1989.

Ms. Skopic earned the Fairfax Bar Association's James Keith Award in 2014, the Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates' ("CASA") Child Advocacy Award in 2013, and previously testified as the Virginia State Bar's GAL designee before the General Assembly in 2003. Ms. Skopic sat on the Board of CASA from 2010 – 2015 and serves currently as *pro bono* legal counsel for CASA. She frequently volunteers with the Attorney of the Day Program through Legal Services of Northern Virginia in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Fairfax County. She has also sat on numerous committees within the Fairfax Bar Association, including several years of leading many of those committees.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions, interview, and professional references, Ms. Skopic demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Skopic possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Skopic's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge and merit the Committee's affirmative recommendation. She warrants the Committee's rating of **Recommended.**

DONNA R. BANKS

Experience and Legal Ability: Donna R. Banks earned her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law in 1992. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1992.

Ms. Banks has served as an Assistant County Attorney for the Fairfax County Department of Family Services since 2001. In this position, she manages a heavy, litigation-based caseload averaging in excess of 300 active cases, which involve matters such as abuse and neglect of children, foster care, and termination of parental rights in Fairfax County courts and surrounding jurisdictions. She is also responsible for the litigation of Adult Protective Services cases.

Prior to joining the Fairfax County Attorney's Office, Ms. Banks served as an Assistant Attorney General from 1999-2001 where she represented the Department of Social Services in matters involving the modification and enforcement of child support cases. During this time, she also served as lead attorney for the Fairfax office, handling rules to show cause for nonpayment of child support, Uniform Interstate Foreign Support Act cases for out of state court, administrative support order and determination of paternity.

From 1993-1999, Ms. Banks was a Magistrate for Fairfax County where she was actively involved in many criminal matters, including issuing arrest and search warrants after making a determination of probable cause, interacting with law enforcement regarding criminal cases, determining bond or release for accused parties, issuing civil mental detention and emergency custody and protective orders, and interpreting laws and state regulations. She also instructed newly appointed magistrates on Virginia civil procedure for Magistrate Certification and formulated Magistrate Guidelines for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

Within the legal community, Ms. Banks is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association, the George Mason University American Inns of Court, the Best Practices Courts Committee for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, the Council of Governments Planning for Possible Border Agreements regarding Child Welfare, the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Bar Association, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Committee, and the Black Women United for Action.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions, interview, and professional references, Ms. Banks demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Banks possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Banks meets the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge. She warrants the Committee's rating of **Qualified**.

JENNA K. SANDS

Experience and Legal Ability: Jenna K. Sands earned her Juris Doctor from the Washington and Lee School of Law in 2000. She was admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2000.

Ms. Sands is currently a partner at Hamilton, Petrocelli, Sprissler & Sands, LLP, a position she has held since 2009. Ms. Sands represents clients in each of the Northern Virginia Courts on felony and misdemeanor criminal and traffic charges. She also represents clients in matters of divorce, custody, child support, personal injury, and contract disputes. Prior to 2009, Ms. Sands worked as an associate for Phillips, Beckwith, Hall & Chase where she also represented clients in both criminal and traffic matters, in addition to having a substantial civil practice.

From 2003-2006, Ms. Sands was with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office where she tried numerous felony matters to both juries and judges. While there, she was also selected to prosecute sexual offenses against minors and was responsible for representing the Commonwealth in Civil Asset Forfeiture cases.

Ms. Sands was appointed as a substitute judge by the Fairfax County Circuit Court in 2010. In that capacity, she has served in Fairfax County General and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts, Alexandria General and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts, Prince William County General District Court, and Loudoun County General and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts. Ms. Sands has averaged 60 days of service per year since her appointment, with the majority of her time devoted to the Fairfax Courts.

Ms. Sands has volunteered over 100 hours in the past five years to support Legal Services of Northern Virginia by representing victims of domestic violence in protective order hearings before the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court as well as by providing representation in uncontested divorce matters. Ms. Sands is a member of the Fairfax County Bar Association as well as the Fairfax County Bar Association's General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Committees. Ms. Sands is on the PTO of Daniel's Run Elementary School and Merritt Academy and is on the Family Committee of the Farrcroft Homeowner's Association.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions, interview, and professional references, Ms. Sands demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Sands possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Sands meets the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge. She warrants the Committee's rating of **Qualified**.

KATHRYN A. UNTIEDT

Experience and Legal Ability: Kathryn A. Untiedt earned her Juris Doctor from the George Mason University School of Law in 1991. She was admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1991.

Ms. Untiedt is presently a sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Kate Untiedt. Since 1996, she has concentrated her practice on all civil and criminal matters before the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, including custody and visitation, abuse and neglect, protective orders, child support, and felonies and misdemeanors. She also serves as a Guardian *ad litem* and court appointed counsel for children and adults.

Ms. Untiedt has been actively involved in the Fairfax Bar Association throughout her career. She served as Editor of the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Practice Manual in April of 2006 and Co-Chair of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Committee from 2005 to 2006. She has volunteered as a Motions Conciliator for the Fairfax Circuit Court since 2006 and a Motions Conciliator for the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court since 2003. She is presently a member of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Committee, the Library Committee, the CLE Committee, and the Family Law Committee. In addition, Ms. Untiedt guides eighth grade court tours and volunteers for the Wills on Wheels Program.

In addition to her work with the Fairfax Bar Association, Ms. Untiedt has donated her time to the Citizens Advisory Council for the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court since 2004, serving as Vice Chair in 2006. She also volunteers with Legal Services of Northern Virginia's Attorney of the Day Program, where she assists petitioners seeking protective orders before the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. She has mentored new attorneys and newly qualified Guardians *ad litem* since 2003.

In April of 2006, Ms. Untiedt received the Guardian *ad litem* of the Year award for Fairfax County.

Fairness and Temperament: Through her submissions and interview, Ms. Untiedt demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Ms. Untiedt possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Untiedt meets the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge. She warrants the Committee's rating of **Qualified**.