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November 11, 2020

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & FACSIMILE:

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL:

Senator John S. Edwards  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Senate of Virginia  
Pocahontas Building, Room E506  
900 E. Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[district21@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district21@senate.virginia.gov)

VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL & EMAIL:

Representative Charniele Herring  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Pocahontas Building, Room E606  
900 E. Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelCHerring@house.virginia.gov)

**Re: Two vacancies in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Virginia, Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court**

Dear Governor Northam, Senator Edwards, and Representative Herring:

On behalf of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association ("VWAA"), a regional committee (the "Committee") was impaneled to evaluate candidates for two anticipated vacancies in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Virginia, Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court.

The VWAA requested that interested candidates complete the VWAA Judicial Candidates Questionnaire (the "Application"), submit a short biography, and participate in an interview with the Committee. On October 29, 2020 the Committee conducted virtual interviews of nine (9) 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 any applicant whose qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for fairness, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, integrity and/or other basic criteria set forth in the ABA Guidelines 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 approved, in accordance with its procedures, the following endorsements of the Committee for this judicial vacancy:

Melissa Sanchez Cardoce was found *highly recommended*.

Joseph B. Dailey was found *highly recommended*.

Jennifer S. Joffe was found *highly recommended*.

Melinda L. VanLowe was found *highly recommended*.

Donna R. Banks was found *recommended*.

Kristina A. Cruz Skidmore was found *recommended*.

Tamika D. Jones was found *qualified*.

Danielle A. Quinn was found *not 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:

Carole' Krogmann: 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.

Sara Leiner Schuler: Ms. Schuler is the managing partner at the Law Office of Sara Leiner Schuler, PLC, and her practice focuses on all aspects of family law, to include divorce, custody, support, adoption, enforcement issues and equitable distribution. Before entering private practice, Ms. Schuler served as a law clerk for the Honorable Randy I. Bellows at the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Ms. Schuler has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2003.

Jamel Rowe: Ms. Rowe is a senior associate at Livesay & Myers, P.C., where she exclusively practices family law. She handles matters such as separation, divorce, custody, visitation, support and adoption. Ms. Rowe has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2012.


Natalia Wilson: Ms. Wilson is a Principal & Managing Partner at Ain & Bank, 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. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Wilson served as a law clerk to the Honorable John Ramsey Johnson of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2005.

Dana M. Wolfson: Ms. Wolfson is an associate at Hicks Crandall Juhl, PC. 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 2013.

Respectfully yours,



Margaret Hardy  
President  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association



Michelle Kaminsky  
Judicial Chair, Northern Virginia Chapter  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association

Enclosures: Executive Summary of Donna R. Banks, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Melissa Sanchez Cardoce, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Kristina A. Cruz Skidmore, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Joseph B. Dailey, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Jennifer S. Joffe, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Tamika D. Jones, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Danielle A. Quinn, Esquire  
Executive Summary of Melinda VanLowe, Esquire

CC (by email only): Donna R. Banks, Esquire  
Melissa Sanchez Cardoce, Esquire  
Kristina A. Cruz Skidmore, Esquire  
Joseph B. Dailey, Esquire  
Jennifer S. Joffe, Esquire  
Tamika D. Jones, Esquire  
Danielle A. Quinn, Esquire  
Melinda VanLowe, 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 Jennifer B. Boysko  
Senator Richard L. Saslaw  
Senator Scott Surovell  
Delegate Alfonso Lopez  
Delegate Kathy KL Tran  
Delegate David Bulova  
Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn  
Delegate Karrie K. Delaney  
Delegate Mark H. Levine  
Delegate Charniele L. Herring  
Delegate Kathleen J. Murphy  
Delegate Kenneth R. Plum  
Delegate Patrick A. Hope  
Delegate Kaye Kory  
Delegate Mark D. Sickles  
Delegate Mark. L. Keam  
Delegate Marcus B. Simon  
Delegate Richard C. Sullivan, Jr.  
Delegate Daniel I. Helner  
Delegate Vivian E. Watts

CC (by email only): Maureen E. Carr, Esquire, VWAA, Northern Virginia Chapter, President  
Carole' Krogmann, Esquire  
Sara Leiner Schuler, Esquire  
Jamel Rowe, Esquire  
Natalia Wilson, Esquire  
Dana Wolfson, Esquire

**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, custody and visitation, Adult Protective Services cases, and termination of residual parental rights in Fairfax County courts.

Prior to joining the Fairfax County Attorney's Office, Ms. Banks served as an Assistant Attorney General from 1999 to 2001, where she represented the Department of Social Services in matters involving the modification and enforcement of child support cases.

From 1993 to 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 the current President of the Fairfax Bar Association and past board member of the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association. She sits on the Fairfax Bar Association Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Committee and was a contributing author and editor of the court's manual for attorneys. She is also an educator with the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA). Ms. Banks is a member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Reston, Virginia Chapter), the George Mason University American Inns of Court, the Council of Governments Planning for Possible Border Agreements regarding Child Welfare, and Black Women United for Action.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions, references, and interview, Ms. Banks has demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Donna R. Bank's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge and merits the Committee's recommendation. Accordingly, the Committee rates her as **Recommended**.

**MELISSA SANCHEZ CARDOCE**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Melissa Sanchez Cardoce earned her Juris Doctor degree from The George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School in 2008. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008.

Ms. Cardoce is currently a Senior Associate Attorney at Powell Radomsky, LLC, located in Fairfax, Virginia, where she practices family law. Prior to her position at Powell Radomsky, Ms. Cardoce worked as a Senior Associate Attorney with Arif & Associates, PC in Fairfax from December 2011 to February 2017, where she handled both domestic and criminal cases. Ms. Cardoce also practiced criminal, contract and estate law with the firm of Martin, Arif & Greene, PLC in Springfield from August 2008 to December 2011.

On March 1, 2019, Ms. Cardoce was appointed to be a substitute judge in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, where she sits in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court an average of two times each month. As a substitute judge, Ms. Cardoce presides over both criminal and civil matters.

Ms. Cardoce is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association, the Fairfax Bar Association Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Committee, the Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia, the Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia Judicial Screening Committee, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, the Diversity and Inclusion Alliance, and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

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

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Melissa Sanchez Cardoce is especially well-qualified for the position of Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge, and her application merits special recommendation. Ms. Cardoce warrants the Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.

**KRISTINA CRUZ SKIDMORE**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Kristina Cruz Skidmore earned her Juris Doctor from the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law in 2007. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2008.

Ms. Cruz Skidmore has been a shareholder at Odin, Feldman, & Pittleman, P.C. in Reston, Virginia since 2012. She practices exclusively in the area of family law, with cases ranging from complex equitable distribution, custody and visitation, and protective order matters. Ms. Cruz Skidmore previously served as an associate with Livesay & Myers, PC from 2011 to 2012, where she practiced family law, and as an associate with Clingan Tull Easley, PLLC from 2008 to 2011, where she practiced in the areas of family law, criminal, traffic, and civil litigation.

In 2019, Ms. Cruz Skidmore was appointed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit to be a substitute judge, and she has presided over cases in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court on approximately 20 occasions.

Ms. Cruz Skidmore is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia. From 2017 to 2018, she volunteered at the St. Anthony Legal Clinic at St. Anthony Catholic Church, providing free consultations on a range of legal matters.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions and interview, Ms. Cruz Skidmore has demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Ms. Cruz Skidmore possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Ms. Cruz Skidmore's qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements for the position of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge and merits the Committee's recommendation. Accordingly, the Committee rates her as **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 & Domestic Relations Friends of Court Board of Directors, the Fairfax Juvenile & 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:** Throughout the application and interview process, Mr. Dailey demonstrated that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Joseph B. Dailey is especially well-qualified for the position of a Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge, and that he merits special recommendation. Mr. Dailey warrants the Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.

**JENNIFER S. JOFFE**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Ms. Joffe earned her Juris Doctor degree from American University, Washington College of Law in 2001. She was admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2002.

In January 2017, Ms. Joffe established the Law Office of Jennifer S. Joffe, where she practices in the area of complex family law, as well as other areas of civil litigation. Prior to the establishment of her own firm, Ms. Joffe was a shareholder at Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent PC, a former boutique family law firm in Fairfax, Virginia, where she litigated various family matters, including custody and child support issues, for approximately 14 years.

Prior to her admission to the Bar, Ms. Joffe served as a probation and parole officer in Fairfax County for over twenty-five years. Additionally, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Jane Marum Roush from 2002 to 2003 in the Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Ms. Joffe has taken pro bono custody cases in the Fairfax Juvenile & 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. Additionally, she is a member of the Fairfax Law Foundation's Board of Directors.

Ms. Joffe is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association, Criminal and Family Law Sections. She served as the Vice Chair of the Fairfax Bar Association Juvenile & Domestic Relations 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. She is currently a mentor to law students at George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School.

While Ms. Joffe is not currently engaged in the practice of criminal law, she has taken measures to re-acquaint herself with this practice area. In the past few years, she has attended various criminal law seminars and has been an active member of the Criminal Law Section of the Fairfax Bar Association. Additionally, she regularly reads the latest criminal law court opinions and meets with respected criminal law practitioners to keep current in this area of law.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Throughout the application and interview process, Ms. Joffe demonstrated that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Jennifer S. Joffe is especially well-qualified for to be a judge on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, and that she merits special recommendation. Ms. Joffe warrants the Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.

**TAMIKA D. JONES**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Tamika Dawn Jones earned her Juris Doctor from the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America in 2008. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Ms. Jones worked as a litigation clerk in Washington, DC, as a probation officer in Lynchburg, Virginia, as a special investigator for United States Investigations Services in Annandale, Virginia, as a special assistant and intern for the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC, and as a law clerk in Arlington, Virginia. After graduating from law school, Ms. Jones worked briefly at The Law Offices of Fluet, Huber and Hoang, PLLC in Lake Ridge, before founding her own firm in 2009. Currently, Ms. Jones practices primarily criminal and domestic relations law at The Jones Practice, PLLC. Her practice consists of court-appointed criminal and abuse and neglect cases, as well as domestic relations and criminal cases for private clients.

Ms. Jones is the 2020-2021 President of the Alexandria Bar Association. She is also a member of the Fairfax Bar Association and past-member of the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association and the Old Dominion Bar Association. In 2018, Ms. Jones was awarded the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) Lawyer of the Year Award by the Alexandria Bar Association. In the non-legal community, Ms. Jones is a member of the Governance and Legal Committee at the Alfred Street Baptist Church.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions and interview, Ms. Jones has demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Tamika D. Jones meets the minimum requirements to be a judge on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. Accordingly, the Committee rates Ms. Jones as **Qualified**.

### **DIPTI PIDIKITI-SMITH**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Dipti Pidikiti-Smith earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of the District of Columbia – David A. Clarke School of Law in 2006. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the same year.

Ms. Pidikiti-Smith began her legal career with the District of Columbia Superior Court, where she was law clerk to the Honorable Russell F. Canan and law clerk to the Civil Division for the D.C. Superior Court supervisor, Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters. After completing her clerkships, Ms. Pidikiti-Smith began working as an attorney with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV). During her employment with LSNV, Ms. Pidikiti-Smith has earned several promotions, including to Senior Staff Attorney, Chair of the Housing Law and Consumer Law department and to her current position of Deputy Director of Advocacy. As Deputy Director of Advocacy, Ms. Pidikiti-Smith assists in the development and implementation of policies to address the effects of poverty and racism through individual representation and systemic change. She also oversees the training of approximately 71 employees and 42 attorneys in substantive legal issues and advocacy. During her tenure at LSNV, Ms. Pidikiti-Smith has handled over 1400 cases ranging from protective orders, custody and visitation to housing and consumer cases.

Ms. Pidikiti-Smith has taught family law as an adjunct professor at the University of the District of Columbia – David A. Clarke School of Law for multiple semesters. In addition, she has presented to her peers at various CLE seminars and in-house LSNV trainings.

Ms. Pidikiti-Smith is actively involved in the community including volunteering for the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services, where she served as Vice-Chair, and for the Fairfax County Fair Housing Task force, where she served as Co-Chair.

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

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Ms. Pidikiti-Smith possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court bench.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Dipti Pidikiti-Smith meets the minimum requirements to be a judge on the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Accordingly, the Committee rates Ms. Pidikiti-Smith as **Qualified**.

**DANIELLE A. QUINN**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Danielle A. Quinn earned her Juris Doctor degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2015. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2015.

Ms. Quinn is a senior associate at Dycio & Biggs, where she represents clients in a multitude of areas of law, ranging from DUIs and larceny charges to domestic violence and protective orders. Further, Ms. Quinn is the only family law practitioner at her firm and handles divorce, child custody, and child support matters.

Ms. Quinn has assisted in preparing CLE materials for the Fairfax Bar Association DUI CLE. Further, for the past four years, Ms. Quinn has been invited to participate as a judge at the Thacher Moot Court Competition at the Antonin Scalia School of Law.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions, interview and professional references, Ms. Quinn demonstrated to the Committee that she does not yet possess the requisite fairness and temperament for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court bench. Her breadth and depth of experience has not completely developed for service as a judge.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that at this time, Ms. Quinn does not yet possess the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve on Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court bench. Her breadth and depth of experience has not completely developed for service as a judge.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Danelle A. Quinn is not currently qualified for the position of a Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge. Ms. Quinn warrants the Committee's rating of **Not Qualified**.

**MELINDA L. VANLOWE**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Melinda L. VanLowe earned her Juris Doctor degree from American University, Washington College of Law in 2002. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2003.

Ms. VanLowe began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Dennis J. Smith in the Fairfax County Circuit Court from August 2002 to August 2004. From 2004 to 2011, Ms. VanLowe worked as a trial attorney at Greenspun Shapiro, P.C. in Fairfax, where she represented adult and juvenile clients in criminal, civil and administrative matters. Ms. VanLowe opened The Law Office of Melinda L. VanLowe in 2011, and she has maintained her practice to the present time. Ms. VanLowe represents clients in criminal, administrative and civil litigation in state and federal courts. In addition, Ms. VanLowe was an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, in 2011 and 2012.

In 2016, Ms. VanLowe was appointed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit to be a substitute judge, and she has presided over cases in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts of Fairfax County and Loudoun County, and in the General District Court of Fairfax County.

Ms. VanLowe served on the Virginia State Bar Council from 2012 to 2018 and the Virginia State Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board from 2009 to 2015. Ms. VanLowe is the present Board Chair for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Ms. VanLowe is also a member of the Fairfax Bar Association Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Committee.

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

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

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Melinda L. VanLowe is especially well-qualified for the position of a Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge, and her application merits special recommendation. Ms. VanLowe warrants the Committee's rating of **Highly Recommended**.