

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**JANUARY 2015 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING**

**MANUEL A. CAPSALIS**

Manuel Capsalis resides in Herndon, Virginia with his wife and three adult children. Mr. Capsalis graduated from Duke University in 1981 with a B.A. in history. He received an M.A. in history in 1984 and his J.D. in 1988 from George Mason University. Mr. Capsalis was admitted to practice law in Virginia in 1988, and was admitted to practice before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1989. Mr. Capsalis became a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1992. Mr. Capsalis has been associated with a number of law firms including Odin Feldman & Pittleman, PC from 1988 to 1992, Cohen Gettings & Dunham, PC from 1992 to 2005 and Capsalis Bruce & Reaser & Caulkins, PLC from 2005 to 2011. Presently, he has been in private practice with the law firm of Capsalis Fitzgerald, PLC since 2011.

**EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY**

Over twenty-six years, Mr. Capsalis has gained extensive trial experience both as a criminal and civil practitioner. As a criminal defense attorney, he has litigated thousands of misdemeanors and felony cases throughout the Commonwealth. His active criminal trial practice includes weekly appearances for over 24 years in the Fairfax County General District Court as the prosecutor for the Town of Herndon. His civil litigation experience includes representing clients in contract disputes, personal injury cases and matters involving professional negligence.

**FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT**

Since 2003, Mr. Capsalis has served with distinction as a substitute judge. In the course of his service as a substitute judge, he has consistently exhibited an impressive judicial temperament and has proven himself to be open-minded, courteous, compassionate and fair.

**PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY**

This candidate has demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and integrity. His service to the legal profession is nearly unparalleled. Mr. Capsalis served as president of the Virginia State Bar in 2008-2009. He was a member of Bar Council from 2001-2011. He is a member of the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism and was on the faculty of the State Bar's professionalism course from 2000-2003. He was the first Chair of the State Bar's Diversity Conference and a founding member of its Board of Governors. He served as president of the Virginia Law Foundation in 2012-2013, served on its board of directors from 2006-2014, and was made a Fellow in 2008. In 2011, he was made a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is an emeritus member of the George Mason American Inn of Court. In 2009, he received the William L. Winston Award the highest honor bestowed by the Arlington County Bar Foundation.

## **OVERALL EVALUATION**

Mr. Capsalis's outstanding record of service to the legal profession and demonstrated abilities as a litigator and substitute judge gives the Committee confidence that he would be an excellent addition to the General District Court bench. The Committee recognized his enthusiasm and preparedness for the challenges he would face as a General District Court Judge. Mr. Capsalis surpasses all of the requirements of experience, intellect, fairness, temperament, professionalism, and integrity to be appointed as a General District Court Judge in Fairfax County.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**