

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

**GRETCHEN L. TAYLOR**

Gretchen L. Taylor is married with two children, ages 9 and 10, and resides in Herndon, Virginia. She received her B.A. in Communications from Virginia Tech in 1992, and her J.D. from the College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 1995. Ms. Taylor is admitted to practice law in the federal and state trial courts of Virginia, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Taylor has been a sole practitioner in Fairfax, Virginia since August 2008. Prior to moving to Northern Virginia, Ms. Taylor was an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division, from October 2002 through June 2008. Ms. Taylor also served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Newport News from January 1998 through October 2002. Prior to that, Ms. Taylor was an Assistant Public Defender for the City of Roanoke from November 1995 through December 1997.

**EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY**

Ms. Taylor's area of practice consists primarily of criminal defense. In the past five years, she has tried ten to twenty cases to conclusion in courts of record. She has appeared in general district courts throughout the Commonwealth, and has tried numerous cases as a prosecutor and as a public defender. She also appears regularly and has tried in excess of twenty cases to conclusion in the Fairfax General District Court in Fairfax, Virginia since 2008.

**FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT**

The committee concluded that Ms. Taylor has the demeanor to serve as a General District Court judge.

**PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY**

The Committee had concerns regarding an incident that raised a question of Ms. Taylor's tact and discretion in her interactions with opposing counsel. The Committee asked Ms. Taylor if she understood that she was perceived as having a difficult relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. In response, she said that she thought that she had good relationships with 75% of the attorneys in that office.

**OVERALL EVALUATION**

The Committee believes that Ms. Taylor is qualified to be a judge of the Fairfax County General District Court. The Committee also believes that with additional time practicing in diverse areas of law, Ms. Taylor's credentials as a candidate for the bench could improve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: QUALIFIED**