

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2017 FAIRFAX JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT
COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

MAHA-REBEKAH RAMOS ABEJUELA

Maha-Rebekah Abejuela is a lifelong resident of Virginia and will permanently reside in Fairfax as of mid-December 2017. She double-majored with B.A. degrees from the University of Virginia in 2003. She received her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 2007. Ms. Abejuela began her career as a Staff Attorney with Legal Services of Northern Virginia/Potomac Legal Aid Society (LSNV) (2007-2011). In January 2011, she began working as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Fairfax County. Currently, Ms. Abejuela serves as an Assistant County Attorney in Fairfax, Virginia, representing the Department of Family Services (DFS).

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Abejuela has dedicated her law practice to public service with a significant amount of her experience concentrated on matters of domestic violence. She has spent a substantial amount of her time as an attorney appearing in the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. As a Staff Attorney for LSNV, her practice consisted mainly of family law and foreclosure cases. As an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, she initially prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies with a concentration on cases involving domestic violence, and later handled all areas of criminal law. As an Assistant County Attorney she represents DFS in cases involving abuse and neglect of both children and incapacitated adults.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The Committee finds Ms. Abejuela possesses appropriate judicial temperament and demeanor. The Committee was impressed by her poise and discretion which offset the Committee's potential concerns for her relative experience.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

The Committee finds that Ms. Abejuela possesses the requisite professionalism, integrity and dedication to serve as a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge. In addition to her practice, Ms. Abejuela has participated as a CLE panelist addressing Guardians *ad litem* and CASA volunteers in 2017 and was also invited to be a guest lecturer for the Honorable Janine M. Saxe's Juvenile Justice class at Marymount University in 2016 and 2017.

OVERALL EVALUATION

The Committee finds that Ms. Abejuela demonstrates a high degree of knowledge, ability, and temperament, sufficiently above the minimum requirements. The Committee believes that Ms. Abejuela might benefit from pursuing additional education and experience in non-County related domestic relations matters.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED