

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

JESSICA L. GREIS-EDWARDSON

Jessica L. Greis-Edwardson lives in Falls Church, Virginia, with her husband. She earned her undergraduate degree from Wichita State University in 1998, and her J.D. from New England School of Law in 2002, and was admitted to practice in Virginia in 2003. Ms. Greis-Edwardson has had a strong focus on public interest throughout her career, and has been at the Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney's Office since 2009.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Greis-Edwardson began her career in July 2003 through April 2006 with Legal Services of Northern Virginia, representing domestic violence victims in all aspects of domestic relations litigation. She joined MacDowell & Associates in 2006, continuing representation of domestic violence victims and handling general domestic relations litigation. In 2008 she began working at Potomac Legal Aid Society, where she continued to represent domestic violence victims and supervised and trained other staff attorneys in the areas of domestic relations, consumer protection and bankruptcy. In 2009, Ms. Greis-Edwardson joined the Commonwealth Attorney's Office as the only dedicated domestic violence prosecutor. She currently represents the Commonwealth of Virginia in the prosecution of violations of criminal law, specializing in domestic violence and child sex and child pornography exploitation cases.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Ms. Greis-Edwardson possesses the demeanor and temperament required of a judge in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. She has strong prosecutorial experience. She expressed compassion and empathy towards all parties were she to become a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge. The Committee found these statements credible.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Ms. Greis-Edwardson's extensive work within the domestic violence legal community is impressive. She has participated as a presenter in various educational programs about domestic violence trial advocacy. She is currently the co-chair of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. In 2011, Ms. Greis-Edwardson received the Champion of Justice Award from the Northern Virginia Victim Assistance Coalition. Since 2009, she has been a member of the George Mason Inn of Court and the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council and served as Co-Chair of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. She has served as a member of the Domestic Violence Action Center Advisory Board since 2010.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Ms. Greis-Edwardson demonstrates a high degree of dedication to public interest. The Committee recognizes that Ms. Greis-Edwardson has made an effort to re-familiarize herself

with current domestic relations issues. However, the Committee believes she would benefit from additional efforts in this regard including, for example, attending CLEs outside the area of domestic violence. The Committee also believes that Ms. Greis-Edwardson could address the Committee's concerns about any perception of bias by participating in community activities that afford her a more multi-dimensional perspective.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED