

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

JENNIFER SHELLEY JOFFE

Jennifer Shelley Joffe resides with her husband in Silver Spring, Maryland, but is prepared to relocate to Fairfax County if selected as a judge. She earned her B.A. from Ohio State University in 1973, a M.S. in social work from the University of Michigan in 1975, and a J.D. from American University in 2001. She was admitted to practice in all Virginia State Courts in 2002. From 1976 to 2001, Ms. Joffe served as a probation and parole officer for the Fairfax County Circuit Court. In 2002, she served as a law clerk in the Juvenile Division of the Montgomery County Circuit Court and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Justice Jane M. Roush from September 2002 – August 2003. From September 2003 to December 2016, she practiced with the law firm Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent, P.C. in Fairfax, Virginia, where she became a shareholder in 2009. In January 2017 she established the Law Office of Jennifer S. Joffe, PLC where she continues to practice solely family law.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

In her practice, Ms. Joffe has concentrated on family law counseling and litigation, which includes divorce, custody, visitation, spousal support, equitable distribution, enforcement actions, and protective orders. She has also litigated relocation cases and modification of child support, spousal support, and custody and visitation matters. Additionally, Ms. Joffe is a Guardian *ad litem*. Although she has dealt with criminal cases as a probation and parole officer, she has not represented clients charged with criminal or juvenile delinquency offenses.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The Committee has no reservations about Ms. Joffe's demeanor and temperament.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Ms. Joffe is a recipient of an AV Preeminent rating in Legal Ability and Ethical standards with Martindale Hubbell in 2013 and the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Attorneys in 2014 demonstrating her professionalism and integrity. She has been recognized in Northern Virginia Magazine as one of Northern Virginia's Best Lawyers and in Virginia SuperLawyers® (2014 – 2017). She is recognized in Best Lawyers© in America (2018).

OVERALL EVALUATION

Ms. Joffe demonstrates a high degree of knowledge and ability in the field of family law. This experience, coupled with a background in social work and service as a former probation and parole officer, gives her a unique perspective that could benefit the Court. The Committee was impressed with the high level of Ms. Joffe's community involvement. The Committee does believe Ms. Joffe could benefit from more juvenile criminal law experience which might be gained through service as a substitute judge.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED