

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2017 JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT
JUDICIAL SCREENING

LAUREN WALLER SMITH

Lauren Waller Smith earned her A.B. from Dartmouth in 1990, and her J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law in 1995. Ms. Waller Smith was admitted to the District of Columbia in March 2002 and the Supreme Court of Virginia in June 2007. Ms. Waller Smith has held various legal employment positions in Georgia from 1995 to 2001. From 2001 to 2004, Ms. Waller Smith worked at Ayuda, Inc. in Washington, D.C. From 2001 to 2011 Ms. Waller Smith continued her work in the public interest sector, working at Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice. In 2011, Ms. Waller Smith entered private practice and in 2012 she formed Parents Works, PLLC, concentrating on domestic issues.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Waller Smith manages a small law firm concentrating on low-income family law representation of parents. Most of her cases are divorce cases involving custody and support. Although Ms. Waller Smith has had prior experience as a prosecutor in another state, the Committee is concerned that her recent experience in representing defendants in criminal and juvenile delinquency matters is limited. Further, she lacks any judicial experience as a substitute judge.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The Committee has some reservations about Ms. Waller Smith's judicial temperament and her ability to communicate complex legal concepts to juvenile litigants.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

The Committee is satisfied that she meets the requirements for professionalism and integrity.

OVERALL EVALUATION

The Committee finds that Ms. Waller Smith is extremely dedicated and committed to her clients, however, due to her lack of relevant experience in all aspects of cases that are heard in the Court, the Committee finds that she does not meet the requirements to serve as a judge on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT FOUND QUALIFIED