

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**OCTOBER 2020 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING**

**VERNIDA ROCHELLE CHANEY**

Vernida Chaney graduated from the University of Virginia in 1999. She received her MBA in 2002 from Virginia Commonwealth University. She earned her J.D. from the Howard University School of Law in 2005. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2006. She was subsequently admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 2015 and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in 2014.

Ms. Chaney resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

**EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY**

Vernida Chaney began her career with the Fairfax County Public Defender Office in 2005. She then moved to the Northern Virginia Capital Defender Office in 2012. She returned to the Fairfax County Public Defender Office as a Senior Assistant Public Defender from 2013. In 2015 Ms. Chaney opened her own practice, Chaney Law Firm, PLLC in Fairfax, VA.

Throughout her practice, Ms. Chaney has focused on criminal law, representing clients in all aspects of trial and appellate practice, in both State and Federal court. Her experience ranges from copyright infringement to capital murder cases.

Ms. Chaney is an active member of the Virginia State Bar, Fairfax Bar Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Northern Virginia Parent Representation Program. She is further currently serving as President of the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association.

**FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT**

Ms. Chaney demonstrated the temperament expected of a candidate for Circuit Court consideration. It was further evident to the Committee that she would exhibit fairness as a jurist.

**PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY**

Ms. Chaney has demonstrated professionalism and integrity throughout her career. She has demonstrated a commitment to the Fairfax Bar Association through her participation in committees and to the Northern Virginia community through her work with the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association as well as her pro bono efforts, particularly during COVID.

**OVERALL EVALUATION**

The Committee concludes that Ms. Chaney is qualified to execute the duties of a Circuit Court Judge with dignity and fairness. Based on the Committee's review of Ms. Chaney's application and in consideration of her interview, the Committee recommends Ms. Chaney to serve as a

Circuit Court Judge. Although she does not have much experience in the area of Family Law, the Committee recognized her efforts to familiarize herself with this area of law.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED**