EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
JANUARY 2025 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

KARIN RILEY PORTER

Ms. Porter graduated from the George Mason University School of Law in 2002. She attended Penn State University and received a bachelor of arts degree in Labor Studies and Industrial Relations in 1991. Ms. Porter was admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 2002, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in 2013, and the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 2015.

Ms. Porter resides in Burke, Virginia.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Porter began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Stanley P. Klein in the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Following her clerkship, Ms. Porter was employed as a Commonwealth Attorney in the City of Alexandria where she became an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. Ms. Porter worked there from 2003 to 2012. Ms. Porter then went into private practice at Price Benowitz, where she continues to practice criminal law from the defense side. Ms.Porter practices in the General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and the Circuit Court for Fairfax County and the surrounding jurisdictions. Ms. Porter has tried numerous cases involving misdemeanors, felonies, and protective orders.

Ms. Porter handles pro bono cases that run the gambit from eviction proceedings to abuse and neglect cases.

Ms. Porter also currently serves as a substitute judge in Fairfax County since October 31, 2024 and is serving a six year term.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The Committee feels that Ms. Porter has the appropriate demeanor and temperament to be a Circuit Court Judge. The Committee appreciates her commitment to fairness and to see matters from all perspectives. The committee believes she will be respectful and courteous to all litigants and court personnel.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

The Committee believes Ms. Porter will be well prepared if she is selected by the General Assembly. Ms. Porter is very well versed in criminal law, but she has also taken active steps to prepare in areas of law where she is less familiar such as taking continuing legal education courses and training with active and retired judges.

Ms. Porter has significant jury trial experience and would certainly bring those skills to the bench if she were selected. She has strong trial experience and knowledge of evidence law which would translate well to the bench.

Ms. Porter is dedicated to access to justice and the rule of law. She conducts herself in a way that enhances the public trust in the judicial system.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Ms. Porter significantly exceeds the minimum requirements for integrity, legal knowledge, professionalism, diligence, health, financial responsibility, and public service. The committee is confident that if selected Ms. Porter would be prepared from day one.

The Committee is of the view that Ms. Porter would be an excellent addition to the bench if selected.

The Committee believes Ms. Porter would benefit from her continued role as a substitute judge and her ongoing efforts to expand her breadth of legal knowledge.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED