EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2026 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

JENNIFER LEIGH BLACKWELL

Ms. Blackwell received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina in 1993. She received her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1996 where she was elected to the Order of the Coif. Ms. Blackwell is admitted to practice in Virginia (1996), the Supreme Court of the United States (2002), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (2010), the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (1997), the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (2008), and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (2021).

Ms. Blackwell resides in Great Falls, Virginia with her family.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Blackwell currently serves as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and City of Falls Church. In her career as a federal prosecutor, she has litigated high-stakes cases, including serving as supervisor of the Capitol Siege Section, which prosecuted well over a thousand people in connection with the January 6, 2021, Capitol riots. She also investigated and prosecuted several individuals in the *United States v. Volkswagen AG et al.* litigation.

Prior to her work in federal government, she spent several years in private practice at Venable LLP, where she served as a Senior Litigation Associate. Her work at Venable included successfully defending two prominent Enron executives.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Ms. Blackwell has the appropriate temperament for a jurist. Through her interview and conversations with her references, the Committee has found Ms. Blackwell to be intelligent, very well respected, accomplished, earnest, and thoughtful.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

In addition to Ms. Blackwell's wealth of legal experience, she has received several honors, prizes and awards, including the United States Attorney's Office STAR Award 2024, EPA Bronze Medal for Commendable Service (2021), Department of Justice Special Act Awards (2009-2013, 2017-2020, 2021-2023) and the EOUSA Director's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigative Team in 2018 (*Volkswagen*, *AG*) and 2015 (*Kwame Kilpatrick et al.)*.

OVERALL EVALUATION

The Committee was impressed by Ms. Blackwell's depth of litigation and courtroom experience, legal knowledge, and her demeanor and dedication to public service. While we believe that Ms. Blackwell would be an impartial, thoughtful, and decisive jurist, she would benefit from additional experience in Fairfax County Court.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: QUALIFIED