

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2023 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

JAMES FRANCIS DAVIS

James Davis is a native Washingtonian, born in the District in 1972. He presently resides in Chantilly, Virginia with his wife, Jennifer. They have a son, Brody, and daughter, Jessica. He received his Bachelors of Science from the University of Maryland College Park in Accounting in 1994, and earned his Juris Doctor from the George Mason University School of Law in 1997.

Mr. Davis began his career at the law firm of Greenspun Shapiro, formerly Greenspun, Shapiro, Davis & Leary, PC, focusing on traffic, criminal defense, personal injury, and civil litigation. In 2011, he opened the Law Office of James F. Davis, PC, where he expanded his practice to add landlord/tenant disputes, business litigation, and civil litigation. He has additional experience in Federal Court in criminal matters, including complex drug conspiracy cases, and has additionally spent time advising and assisting small business clients in the formation, operation, and dissolution of companies.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Mr. Davis has practiced in the Northern Virginia community and in Fairfax County in particular since graduation in 1998. He routinely appears as a defense attorney before the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and the General District Court. The scope of his practice is comprehensive and includes a near equal breakdown of criminal and civil litigation. Mr. Davis is regularly engaged in practice before the Circuit Court as well, having brought in excess of twenty cases to conclusion over the past five years.

Mr. Davis highlighted in his application extensive litigation experience in matters regularly before the General District Court as well as Circuit Court, ranging a full array of practice areas which come regularly before the bench.

Mr. Davis holds additional experience in the local community and specifically the local legal community. In addition to working with students in school disciplinary hearings and with individuals in Child Protective Services investigations, Mr. Davis has served as a representative in the Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board (2008-2018) and as an elected representative for the 19th Judicial Circuit for the Bar Council for the Virginia State Bar from 2014 to 2017. Mr. Davis' exemplary experience and community service continues to be demonstrated in his current role as a Substitute Judge, for which he was appointed in the Fairfax County General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in August of 2022. Since his appointment, he has served in excess of twenty times as a substitute judge, approximately twice a month.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Mr. Davis is found to have an appropriate judicial temperament. He expressed the difficulties of exuding the appropriate display of empathy and compassion while being cognizant that his

dockets may regularly have in excess of 200 cases on any given day. He made a specific note to the Committee of the importance of consideration of an individual's mental health or addiction issues in the context of fairness in outcomes in legal proceedings.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Mr. Davis possesses the requisite professionalism, integrity, and commitment to serve as a General District Court Judge. The Committee found that he has extensive experience with the Fairfax Courthouse in particular, and members of the Committee specifically identified Mr. Davis as a familiar face and genial colleague. Mr. Davis has demonstrated a strong level of dedication to the Fairfax Bar and the Court.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mr. Davis came before the Committee with extensive criminal, civil, and substitute judge experience. He presented with thoughtfulness, empathy, and a deep understanding of the specifics of the Fairfax County General District Court. Throughout his presentation the committee was impressed with the scope of his practice and dedication to the practice of law in Fairfax County.

Mr. Davis displayed a well-developed understanding of the nuances of practice before the bench. The Committee believes that further service in this role will continue to strengthen his candidacy.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED