

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2023 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

ANTHONY H. NOURSE

Anthony H. Nourse was born in Boston, Massachusetts and is a long time Virginia resident, currently residing in Fairfax County, Virginia. He earned his Bachelors of Science in electrical engineering from Boston University and his Juris Doctor from George Mason University School of Law where he graduated with distinction and was the Notes Editor for the Civil Rights Law Journal. He served five years active duty in the United States Military as a commissioned Officer.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Anthony Nourse has been licensed to practice law in Virginia since 1996. He is admitted to practice before the Virginia Supreme Court (1996), Eastern District of Virginia (1996) and the United States Supreme Court (2021).

Upon being admitted to practice, Mr. Nourse served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Judges of the Prince William County Circuit Court for two years. Thereafter, he worked as an associate attorney in patent law at Fleshner & Kim, PC from 1998 until 2003 where he practiced in multiple state jurisdictions. Currently, Mr. Nourse is the Principal Attorney at the Law Office of Anthony H. Nourse, PLC.

Mr. Nourse has extensive trial experience, with the majority of his experience being in the General District Court. He has a broad range of litigation experience in both civil and criminal law and also regularly serves as a Court Appointed Attorney. Mr. Nourse was appointed in April of 2023 to serve as a Substitute Judge by the Fairfax County Circuit Court and since that time presided an average of seven times per month, gaining an impressive amount of judicial experience. The feedback from experienced practicing attorneys who have appeared before him has been exemplary.

Mr. Nourse is an integral part of the legal community as a whole and to the Fairfax community specifically. He was an instrumental part of the following Court initiatives: Fairfax Courthouse Self Help Resources Center Committee; Co-Founder of the pilot program for Right to Counsel in Unlawful Detainer Actions; Local Access to Justice Committee of the Fairfax Circuit Court; and LSNV Housing Clinic Volunteer Trial Attorney since 2021. Additionally, he regularly assists *pro se* defendants in the hallways of the courthouse and has conducted numerous *pro bono* trials outside of his work with LSNV to include protective orders, traffic and criminal trials and other unlawful detainer trials where LSNV has a conflict.

Additionally, Mr. Nourse is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association and the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is very well respected by the legal community as evidenced by the multiple attorney endorsements received as part of his application which spoke to the strength of his candidacy and breadth of his involvement with the Bar. This is further illustrated by his receipt of numerous awards including the 2022 Legal Service of Northern Virginia Award for Pro Bono Attorney of the Year (Housing Law); 2022-2023 Legal Service of Northern Virginia 6.1 Award for pro bono hours pursuant to Rule 6.1; 2021, 2022, 2023 “Best Lawyers” (Criminal Defense); 2021, 2022, 2023 Northern Virginia Magazine Best Lawyers (Criminal Defense); and the 2022 Arlington Magazine Best Lawyers (Pro Bono).

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The Committee was very impressed with Mr. Nourse’s patience and demeanor, especially regarding *pro se* litigants. The Committee noted Mr. Nourse to be thoughtful, deliberate, and kind while communicating decisions which often may be disappointing to the recipient. He demonstrated an empathetic disposition and demeanor which the committee notes is of particular importance for a General District Court Judge. In the time he has served as a substitute Judge, Mr. Nourse has demonstrated the ability to be a balanced jurist who is capable of great gentleness without sacrificing the discipline necessary to move a Court docket at an acceptable pace.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Upon careful review of his application, background and interview responses, this Committee has no qualms regarding Mr. Nourse’s professionalism and integrity and believe them to be at the highest levels desirable for a jurist. As noted, but worth mentioning again, he is integrally involved with the entire Fairfax legal system through his work with different committees of the Bar. He has the necessary experience interacting with a diverse community and faithfully treats them all with respect and equality.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mr. Nourse is an extremely well-rounded candidate with extensive legal experience. The Committee found that he exceeds the qualifications necessary of a jurist regarding integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, health, financial responsibility, and public service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED