

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 2024 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

JAMES F. DAVIS

James F. Davis was born in Washington DC in 1972 and currently lives in Chantilly, Virginia. He attended University of Maryland in College Park and graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Mr. Davis is married and his wife works at the Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Acton Program (ASAP). James graduated from George Mason School of Law in 1997. He has practiced in Northern Virginia, with at least one low bono foray into the Eastern District of Virginia Federal Court.

James started his legal career at the law firm of Greenspun Shapiro (formerly Greenspun, Shapiro, Davis & Leary, PC), and has focused on traffic, criminal defense, personal injury and civil litigation. He opened his own firm in 2011 and expanded his practice to landlord/tenant disputes and other transactional litigation. He has federal litigation experience and has experience assisting small business clients in the formation, operation and dissolution of companies.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

James Davis has practiced in Northern Virginia and especially in Fairfax County since he began practicing law in 1998. Mr. Davis has extensive experience in both civil and criminal cases. He practices in GDC, Circuit Court, and JDR Court. Mr. Davis also sits as a substitute judge in Fairfax County in GDC and JDR, having been appointed on August 1, 2022. He has a robust private practice and is more than willing to close his practice to serve on the bench if selected.

Mr. Davis was elected to Bar Council for the Virginia State Bar as the representative for the 19th Judicial Circuit from 2014 to 2017. He was also appointed to be a representative for the Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) Policy Board from 2008 through 2018.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

James Davis has an appropriate judicial temperament. He expressed the need for empathy, patience, understanding and compassion. He also understands the need to apply the law to the facts, no matter how difficult the decision may be or how sympathetic one side may present.

Mr. Davis understands the difficulty of managing a large docket while ensuring litigants have their moment in court and are heard. He demonstrates extreme patience in his private practice and as a substitute judge.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Mr. Davis has the requisite professionalism, integrity and commitment to serve as a General District Court judge. He is well known and highly regarded within the Fairfax County Bar. The Committee recognizes him as a known attorney in the Fairfax County Courthouse. Mr. Davis is dedicated to the Fairfax County Bar and wants to improve the face of the Fairfax County Bar.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mr. Davis has extensive experience in criminal law, civil law and juvenile and domestic relations law. He has experience as a substitute judge in GDC and JDR Court. His dedication to Fairfax County and being a lawyer in Fairfax County is commendable.

He is eager to take the bench on a permanent basis and is willing to learn and this Committee believes he will continue to grow.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED