EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 2024 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

ANDREW TODD ELDERS

Andrew Elders presently resides in McLean, Virginia. Mr. Elders attended Duke University (BA, '99) and Georgetown University Law Center (JD, '02). Mr. Elders currently serves as Deputy Public Defender. He began his career in private practice at Richards, Spears, Kibbe & Orbe. After two years of practice, Mr. Elders began working at the Public Defender's Office (first in Alexandria and then in Fairfax). In 2008 he co-founded the firm of Elders, Zinicola & Blanch, PLLC, where he worked until 2016 when he elected to return to the Fairfax Public Defender's Office.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Mr. Elders has practiced in Fairfax County for the majority of his career. He appears in court regularly, has extensive trial experience, and routinely practices before the General District Court. The scope of his current practice is criminal defense representation of indigent clients, where he is highly regarded in the legal community for his breadth of knowledge and ability to train and educate other attorneys in the practice of law and the rules of evidence. As a public defender, he handled criminal defense matters involving the full spectrum, from infractions and traffic offenses to several weeks-long jury trials for double murder. He has been instrumental in the training of the attorneys for the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission across the Commonwealth and has been asked to serve as faculty for their Advanced Trial Advocacy program *every year* since 2017.

Mr. Elders has demonstrated humility and a genuine interest and dedication to learning those areas of the law where he has not extensively practiced. To do so, he has consulted with civil practitioners, interviewed litigants, judges and has intently observed civil dockets.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Mr. Elders possesses the temperament necessary of a judge, demonstrating compassion, humility, patience, insight and decisiveness. The committee is confident that Mr. Elders will treat all parties, attorneys, witnesses and jurors with the utmost respect and courtesy and apply the law evenly.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Mr. Elders exhibits the professionalism and integrity required of a judge. His reputation in the legal community is one of high ethics, honesty, integrity, and obedience to the law. The committee found his dedication to public service exemplary.

OVERALL EVALUATION

The Committee was impressed with Mr. Elders' extensive experience and his thorough knowledge of the law as well as his willingness to actively engage in expanding his knowledge, prior to the interview, in areas outside his normal purview. Mr. Elders exceeds the minimum ABA

requirements for integrity, legal knowledge, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, health, financial responsibility, and public service. The Committee believes Mr. Elders' compassion and patience will make him a dedicated jurist who will faithfully serve Fairfax County.

It was the opinion of the Judicial Screening Committee that Mr. Elders would make an excellent jurist and will continue to elevate the bench.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED