

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MARCH 2025 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

PAUL W. VITALE

Paul Vitale is a resident of Arlington, Virginia and is a Senior Assistant Commonwealth Attorney in Fairfax County. Paul received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Villanova University in 2005. He received a Juris Doctor degree from St John's University in 2008.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

After receiving his Juris Doctor degree, Mr. Vitale was first employed with the Kings County District Attorney's office in Brooklyn, New York, where he began working at the Red Hook Community Justice Center Courthouse, which prioritized problem solving over punishment. Early in his career, Paul recognized that poverty, lack of resources, and systemic inequalities were important factors in criminal justice. Paul has used the model he learned at Red Hook and implemented it in Fairfax County. As a Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. Vitale is responsible for training and mentoring newer prosecutors on trial preparation, evidence, trial practice and procedure, witness preparation, and alternative sentencing.

Mr. Vitale successfully sat for the bar in Virginia in 2021. After only one year in the Commonwealth Attorney's office, Mr. Vitale was prosecuting murder cases and other serious felonies. Mr. Vitale was promoted to Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in March 2023.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

The panel believes that Mr. Vitale has excellent judicial temperament and would be an approachable and earnest judge. Mr. Vitale's responses to the panel's questions exhibited honesty, thoughtfulness, and integrity and were consistent with his extensive experience in practice in both Virginia and New York. Mr. Vitale was open to new ideas and sensitive, yet appropriate about approaching pro-se and inexperienced litigants. Mr. Vitale demonstrated his openness to evaluating each case on its merits and understanding the perspectives of both prosecuting and defense attorneys.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

The panel has no concerns about Mr. Vitale's integrity to serve as a General District Court judge. He displayed honesty, professionalism, compassion, as well as commitment to the law. He displayed initiative by moving from New York to Virginia, learning Virginia law and immersing himself in the bar and the community.

Paul communicated adeptly, demonstrated active listening skills and expressed himself clearly. His answers were forthright. His diversity of experience and congenial personality make him well suited to sit on the bench.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mr. Vitale has extensive experience in criminal, civil, and landlord-tenant law. Mr. Vitale displayed a remarkable ability to connect with individuals of different backgrounds and empathize with litigants and attorneys alike. Mr. Vitale meets all of the minimum ABA requirements for integrity, legal knowledge, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence and public service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED