EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2026 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

PAUL W. VITALE

Mr. Vitale was born in Brooklyn, New York and currently is a resident of Arlington County. He graduated Villanova University with honors with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Minor in Spanish Language/Literature. He received his Juris Doctorate 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, Mr. Vitale recognized that poverty, lack of resources, and systemic inequalities were important factors in criminal justice. Mr. Vitale 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 has increased his civil experience by taking CLEs on civil law topics, volunteering at the Self-help Law Center, researching civil law statutes, observing civil dockets and provides representation to low-income tenants in housing matters through the Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) program, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and FACETS.

Additionally, Mr. Vitale has taken Spanish language classes to improve his Spanish comprehension and speaking skills.

Mr. Vitale's answers to the panel's questions and his application materials demonstrate a strong enthusiasm for the law.

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, a strong ability to listen, 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.

Mr. Vitale 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, while applying the law accurately and fairly. Mr. Vitale is especially well-qualified for this position, merits special recommendation, and satisfies the ABA requirements for integrity, legal knowledge, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence and public service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED