EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2026 FAIRFAX GENERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

DERELLA "CINDY" YOON

Cindy Yoon was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1984 and currently lives in Fairfax, Virginia. She graduated Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Studies and International Studies in 2007. She received her Juris Doctorate from Liberty University in 2012. She is fluent in Korean.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

Ms. Yoon's career has focused on protecting the rights of indigent clients as an Assistant Public Defender employed by the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission since 2013. During her career she has defended clients charged with crimes ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. Balanced with her time as a Public Defender, she has added diligent work with the Kids in Need of Defense Program, the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center, and Firms in Service Pro Bono Program.

Ms. Yoon has been employed by the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission as an Assistant Public Defender since 2013. She began her career in the Winchester Public Defender's Office in February of 2013. During her time there she handled misdemeanors to felonies in Winchester and Frederick Counties.

Ms. Yoon began working at the Fauquier Public Defender's Office in January of 2016. During her time, she handled cases in Fauquier and Rappahannock County. Once again, she handled a wide range of cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies in all three courts.

Finally in March of 2020, Ms. Yoon joined the Fairfax County Public Defender's Office. She continued her efforts for the indigent handling serious and violent felonies. She has focused on clients requiring mental health treatment and care and seeking the best possible outcomes for them.

She is a consistent provider of pro bono legal services. In 2023, she began work with the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center and the Kids in Need of Defense Program. During this work she has expanded her knowledge of civil practice. In 2026, Ms. Yoon was a founding member of the Firms in Service Pro Bono Program. As a valued member of the team, she provides pro se divorce litigants with forms and helped litigants navigate Landlord Tenant Disputes.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Ms. Yoon has an appropriate judicial temperament. She expressed a profound understanding of the need to extend grace to all parties in the Courtroom. She made clear the necessity for empathy, patience, understanding and compassion from the bench. She displayed an ability to calmly and concisely explain the law with a special ability to communicate with clients suffering from mental health difficulties.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

The panel has no concerns about Ms. Yoon's professionalism and integrity. The panel noted her service in the public defender's office across multiple jurisdictions. Additionally, Ms. Yoon is active in pro bono work through the Firms in Service Pro Bono program, Kids in Need of Defense - Special Immigrant Juvenile Status volunteerism and training, and Legal Services of Northern Virginia's Landlord Tenant

Clinic. Ms. Yoon also volunteers for a variety of programs designed to encourage youth engagement with the courts.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Ms. Yoon has demonstrated compassion, dedication to access to justice through pro bono work, and strong command of the duties and responsibilities expected of attorneys in Fairfax County. The Committee recommends Ms. Yoon for the General District Court Bench.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDED