



VIRGINIA WOMEN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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June 29, 2018

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*Via First Class Mail and Email*  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
c/o Nicholas Devereaux  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
[Nicholas\\_Devereux@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Nicholas_Devereux@warner.senate.gov)

*Via First Class Mail and Email*  
The Honorable Timothy Kaine  
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231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
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Re: Vacancy on the United States District Court for the  
Eastern District of Virginia

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

On behalf of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association ("VWAA"), a judiciary committee (the "Committee") was impaneled to evaluate candidates for a vacancy on the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia occasioned by Judge Henry E. Hudson's decision to take senior status as of June 1, 2018.

The VWAA requested that interested candidates complete the VWAA Judicial Candidates Questionnaire (the "Application"), submit a short biography, and participate in an interview with the Committee. Prior to the interviews, members of the Committee contacted the references listed on each candidate's Application as well as other members of the local bar and legal community to inquire as to each candidate's suitability for the vacancy. On June 27, 2018, the Committee interviewed five (5) candidates. Pursuant to VWAA's Judicial Committee rules, six (6) candidates who previously interviewed for Judge Lee's vacancy for the Eastern District of Virginia elected to keep their prior rating. Those candidates are denoted with an asterisk and their prior executive summaries are enclosed.

It is worth noting that the VWAA ratings are based upon a review of each candidate's merits against published standards and guidelines, including the following: fairness, integrity, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, and pro bono service. Ratings are not a function of a general vote by the VWAA membership, nor are they a comparison of candidates within the "pool" presented.

The following rating categories are used by the VWAA:

- (1) NOT QUALIFIED: Applied to any applicant who fails to meet the minimum requirements for fairness, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, integrity and/or other basic criteria set forth in the ABA Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications for Judicial Office ("ABA Guidelines").
- (2) QUALIFIED: Applied to any applicant who meets the minimum requirements for fairness, experience, intellect, temperament, professionalism, integrity and/or other basic criteria set forth in the ABA Guidelines.
- (3) RECOMMENDED: Applied to any applicant whose qualifications are sufficiently above the minimum requirements to warrant the Committee's affirmative recommendation.
- (4) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Reserved for any candidate who is especially well-qualified for the position and merits special recommendation.

The VWAA's procedures provide that ratings of "Qualified" and "Recommended" require a vote in support by at least a simple majority of the Committee. A rating of "Highly Recommended" requires a vote in support by at least a two-thirds majority of those voting. In order for the Committee to find that a candidate fails to meet the minimum qualifications and is "Not Qualified," at least two-thirds of those voting must so find.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the VWAA has approved, in accordance with its procedures, the following endorsements of the Committee for this judicial vacancy:

The Honorable David Novak is found *Highly Recommended*. \*  
The Honorable Victoria A. B. Willis is found *Highly Recommended*.

Patricia Giles is found *Recommended*. \*  
The Honorable David Johnson is found *Recommended*.  
The Honorable Lawrence Leonard is found *Recommended*. \*  
Jay Prabhu is found *Recommended*.  
Coke Morgan Stewart is found *Recommended*. \*

George Doumar is found *Qualified*. \*  
Daniel Mauler is found *Qualified*. \*  
Patricia Nagel is found *Qualified*.  
Brian Pandya is found *Qualified*.

Executive summaries of the qualifications of each of the above candidates are attached to this letter.

For your further information, the Committee members participating in the interview process were as follows:

**Amy Whitelaw** is a personal injury attorney in the Richmond, Virginia, office of Allen & Allen. She focuses her practice exclusively on personal injury cases including auto accidents, motorcycle accidents, truck accidents, dog bites, and wrongful death. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Amy received her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government) from American University's School of Public Affairs. She earned her Juris Doctor cum laude from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. She was a member of both the Trial Advocacy Board and the Moot Court Board. Amy also served as an Articles Editor for the University of Richmond Law Review. Following graduation, Amy was admitted to the Order of the Barristers and awarded the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award. She worked as a Summer Associate for the Allen Law Firm while in law school.

**Anne C. Lahren** is an Attorney with Pender & Coward, P.C. in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her practice focuses on civil litigation, immigration, employment law, and family law. She is a 2006 graduate from William & Mary School of Law and is licensed to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). She has a B.B.A. in International Finance and Marketing as well as an M.B.A. with a Finance concentration, both from the University of Miami (FL). She is a Past President of the James Kent American Inn of Court and a Past President of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

**Ellen C. Carlson** practices solo at Carlson Law, PLC, in Norfolk, Virginia, focusing on bankruptcy, family law and 'life-planning.' She received her B.A. in political science in 1970 from Wellesley College, and her J.D. in 1988 from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Ms. Carlson was admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 1988 and is admitted to practice in the United States Bankruptcy Court, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Carlson is a member of Virginia State Bar, Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association, and Norfolk-Portsmouth Bar Association.

**Kristi C. Kelly:** Mrs. Kelly is a partner at the law firm of Kelly & Crandall, PLC. She focuses her practice on consumer rights litigation, including credit reporting errors, mortgage servicing abuses and predatory lending, throughout the Eastern District of Virginia. She was previously a shareholder at Surovell Isaacs Petersen & Levy, PLC and

an attorney at Legal Services of Northern Virginia. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2006.

**Michelle Parker:** Ms. Parker is with The Decker Law Firm in Norfolk, VA. She primarily practices in the areas of personal injury, civil litigation, and Wills, Trusts and Estates. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2004. She is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. She is currently the President of VWAA and was recently installed on the Executive Committee of The James Kent American Inn of Court.

**Tara Tighe** is a personal injury attorney in the Fredericksburg and Stafford offices of Allen & Allen. She graduated with a B.A. from Tufts University and with a J.D. from the George Washington University School of Law. While in law school she was a member of the Moot Court team and won awards for two separate International Law competitions. She practices in courts throughout courts in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Prior to joining Allen & Allen, she worked at Cohen & Cohen in Washington, DC. During law school she spent a summer working at the United States Embassy in Madrid, Spain and spent 6 months working at the National Archives and Records Administration's Controlled Unclassified Information Office.

We hope that this information will prove helpful to you during your review process for this very important judicial position. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Cordially yours,



Michelle Parker  
President/Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association



Kristi C. Kelly  
Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Virginia Women Attorneys Association

Enclosures: Executive Summary of George Doumar\*  
Executive Summary of Patricia Giles\*  
Executive Summary of the Honorable David Johnson  
Executive Summary of the Honorable Lawrence Leonard\*  
Executive Summary of Daniel Mauler\*  
Executive Summary of Patricia Nagel  
Executive Summary of the Honorable David Novak\*  
Executive Summary of Brian Pandya  
Executive Summary of Jay Prabhu  
Executive Summary of Coke Morgan Stewart\*  
Executive Summary of the Honorable Victoria A. B. Willis

cc (by email only): George Doumar  
Patricia Giles  
The Honorable David Johnson  
The Honorable Lawrence Leonard  
Daniel Mauler  
Patricia Nagel  
The Honorable David Novak  
Brian Pandya  
Jay Prabhu  
Coke Morgan Stewart  
The Honorable Victoria A. B. Willis

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**GEORGE DOUMAR\***

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Mr. Doumar earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School in 1986. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1986 and the District of Columbia in 1987.

Mr. Doumar is the principal and founder of George R.A. Doumar, PLLC and Doumar Martin, PLLC, an eight-attorney law firm. Prior to that, he was member of Dilworth Paxson LLP and Storch & Brenner, LLP, a partner with Ludwig & Doumar, PLLC, and an associate at Storch & Brenner, LLP and Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. His practice is focused on business law, civil litigation and complex disputes. He possesses over thirty years of legal experience, practicing mainly in the area of civil litigation.

Mr. Doumar has lectured at Virginia Continuing Legal Education Programs on issues pertaining to eminent domain. He has been published in the Dickinson Law Journal and most recently authored a publication for the Arab Center in Washington, D.C. He is a Virginia and District of Columbia *Super Lawyer* for 2017 and Virginia Business Legal Elite in Civil Litigation for 2016.

Mr. Doumar is an active member of the Virginia State Bar, the Arlington Bar Association, and the Fairfax Bar Association. In addition, he has been a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference for over a decade. Mr. Doumar was formally a Commissioner for the Fairfax County Commission on Aging and a Member of the Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Montessori School of McLean, the American Near East Refugee Aid and the Arab Center Washington DC, Inc. He also serves on the National Policy Council for the Arab American Institute.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Throughout the application and interview process, Mr. Doumar demonstrated that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Mr. Doumar possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Mr. Doumar meets the minimum requirements for the position of a District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. He warrants the Committee's rating of **QUALIFIED**.

**PATRICIA GILES\***

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Patricia Giles earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia in 1998. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1998.

Ms. Giles has served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia since 2003. Since 2013, she has served in the Major Crimes Unit of that Office. Of particular note is Ms. Giles' role in prosecuting a capital murder case against members of the violent street gang MS-13 for killing a pregnant federal witness.

Ms. Giles began her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable Gerald Lee for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Virginia, and subsequently as a law clerk for Judge Lee in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division from 1998 to 2000. From 2000 to 2003, Ms. Giles worked as a Litigation Associate with the firm Cooley Godward, LLP, where she counseled clients on litigation matters, primarily in the areas of general commercial litigation, intellectual property, securities, and employment law.

While Ms. Giles currently is prohibited from providing pro bono legal service as an Assistant United States Attorney, she has been active in the Kamp Kappa Street Law Program, a week-long camp for at-risk boys between the ages of 10 and 16 with a Street Law Program that introduces the participants to the law via a mock trial. Ms. Giles served as a faculty member of the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course from 2007 to 2010, was a member of the George Mason Inn of Court from 2006 to 2009, and was Secretary of the Old Dominion Bar Association from 2000 to 2002. She has received performance awards from the United States Attorney's Office consistently during her employment with that office.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions and Interview, Ms. Giles has demonstrated to the Committee that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Ms. Giles possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Ms. Giles is very well qualified for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and merits special recommendation. She warrants the Committee's rating of **RECOMMENDED**.

**THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE LEONARD\***

Experience and Legal Ability: The Honorable Lawrence Leonard earned his Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 1982. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1995. During the period between 1982 and 1994, he was a member of the Missouri Bar Association.

Judge Leonard has served as a Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk and Newport News Divisions since 2012, where he handles criminal and civil dockets.

Judge Leonard began his legal career in the Kansas City, Missouri law firm of Warson, Ess, Marshall, and Enggas, where he practiced civil litigation for 12 years in the firm's Personal Litigation Department. Judge Leonard served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division from 1994 through 2012, serving the last 13 years as Managing Assistant. In addition to his supervisory duties, Judge Leonard litigated all manner of civil cases, including *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, a habeas action involving an American citizen who was captured in the Afghanistan war and deemed an enemy combatant.

Judge Leonard is a member of the I'Anson Hoffman American Inn of Court and the Federal Bar Association, and has served as faculty for the Virginia State Bar's Professionalism program since 2014. This year, Judge Leonard served as the keynote luncheon speaker at the Hampton course. During his employment with the United States Attorney's Office, he received the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney on multiple occasions.

Fairness and Temperament: Through his submissions and interview, Judge Leonard has demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Professionalism and Integrity: The Committee finds that Judge Leonard possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Judge Leonard is well qualified for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and merits special recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **RECOMMENDED**.



**DANIEL MAULER\***

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Mr. Mauler earned his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2006. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2006.

Mr. Mauler began his legal career at Hunton & Williams, LLP, in the Washington, D.C. office. He focused his practice on litigation, intellectual property and white collar crime. In 2007, he joined the firm of Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, LLP, where he became a partner in 2013 and is presently a member of the firm's Management Committee. He possesses over ten years of legal experience, practicing mainly in the area of civil litigation.

Over the past three years, Mr. Mauler has lectured at four Virginia Continuing Legal Education Seminars with a focus on evidentiary and e-discovery issues. In addition, he has authored at least four publications on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 37(e), motions to seal in the United States Eastern District of Virginia and the amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence. Since 2013, he has also drafted over 35 publications for the EDVA Update Blog available at [www.rpb-law.com/EDVAUpdate](http://www.rpb-law.com/EDVAUpdate).

Mr. Mauler is an active member of the Virginia State Bar, the Federal Bar Association and the Alexandria Bar Association. In addition, he is the Treasurer and Executive Committee Member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Mauler also serves on the Executive Committee of the Alexandria Bar Foundation, the William B. Bryant American Inn of Court and the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. He is also an avid photographer who regularly donates his work for charitable purposes.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Throughout the application and interview process, Mr. Mauler demonstrated that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Mr. Mauler possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Mr. Mauler meets the minimum requirements for the position of a District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. He warrants the Committee's rating of **QUALIFIED**.

**THE HONORABLE DAVID NOVAK\***

**Experience and Legal Ability:** The Honorable David Novak earned his Juris Doctor from Villanova University School of Law in 1986. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1995.

Judge Novak has served as a Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, since 2012. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law teaching “National Security Law” at the University of Richmond School of Law (spring semester) and William & Mary School of Law (fall semester).

Judge Novak began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, he worked as a Trial Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice. From 1991 to 1994, he worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. From 1994 to 2012, he worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, serving as Senior Litigation Counsel from 2004 to 2009 and Chief of the Criminal Division from 2009 to 2012. Of particular note is Judge Novak’s role in prosecuting Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person convicted of offenses involving the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Throughout his career, Judge Novak has generously devoted a significant amount of time to the Richmond Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and other legal organizations within the community. He served as Honorary Vice President of the Richmond Bar Association from 2013 to 2014 and on the Executive Committee of the Federal Bar Association from 2012 to 2013. He has also served as a faculty member on the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course since 2008. Judge Novak has received numerous awards and honors, including *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*’s “Leaders in the Law” (2013), Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation (2010), Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in Furthering Interests of United States National Security (2006), Central Intelligence Agency Seal Medallion for contributions to the war on terrorism (2006), Appellate Advocacy Award from the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation (2005), Director’s Award for Superior Performance (Department of Justice) (2001, 1998), Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator’s Award of Excellence (1998), and International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association’s Special Award of Honor (1998).

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through his submissions and interview, Judge Novak has demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve as a federal District Judge.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Judge Novak possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity to serve as a federal District Judge.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Judge Novak is especially well qualified for the position of federal District Judge and merits special recommendation. He warrants the Committee’s rating of **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**.

**COKE MORGAN STEWART<sup>1\*</sup>**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Coke Morgan Stewart earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1997, where she was Executive Editor of the *Virginia Tax Review* and Editor-in-Chief of the *Virginia Law Weekly*. She was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1997.

Ms. Stewart has served as Associate Solicitor in the Office of the Solicitor, Office of General Counsel, U.S Patent and Trademark Office from 2011 to the present. In that position, she defends decisions of the Director and the Patent Trial and Appeal Board in appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia and the District of Columbia. She also advises the Justice Department Civil Appellate Staff and the Solicitor General on patent, trademark and copyright cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. From February to June 2017, Ms. Stewart was detailed to serve as Senior Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff in the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where she served as the acting principal policy advisor to the Under Secretary and Director, managed senior office staff and coordinated the Director's initiative to reform the rules of procedure for the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. During her tenure at the Patent and Trademark Office, Ms. Stewart earned a Special Act Award and was appointed Special Assistant United States Attorney.

Ms. Stewart began her legal career in 1997 as a law clerk to the Honorable James T. Turner, U.S. Court of Claims. From 1998 to 2001, she practiced at the law firm of Verner Liipfert as an associate in the firm's Litigation Group. In 2001, she joined the Global Litigation Group at Howrey, LLP, where she litigated complex general civil and intellectual property cases and conducted internal investigations. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Stewart founded and operated C.M. Stewart Consulting, advising law firms on time management, billing, legal writing and ethics, while caring for a child. In 2007, Ms. Stewart joined the Intellectual Property Group at Kaye Scholer, where she litigated complex intellectual property cases in district courts throughout the United States until she joined the Patent and Trademark Office in 2011.

Ms. Stewart is also active in the legal community, serving as a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, a member of the Federalist Society, co-chair of the ABA Intellectual Property Litigation Committee from 2009 to 2011, founding member of Women Under Forty Political Action Committee, and volunteer on the University of Virginia Law School Foundation from 1997 to 2007.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions and interview, Ms. Stewart demonstrated that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Ms. Stewart possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Ms. Stewart's father, The Honorable Michael Coke Morgan, is a Senior United States District Court Judge in the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division. According to Ms. Stewart, her father expects to retire in the event that she is appointed to the vacant position.

Overall Evaluation: The Committee finds that Ms. Stewart is well qualified for the position of a District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. She merits the Committee's rating of **RECOMMENDED**.

**THE HONORABLE DAVID E. JOHNSON**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** The Honorable David Johnson earned his B.A. from the college of William & Mary in 1983 and J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law in 1987. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1987 and has also been admitted to practice in front of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Judge Johnson has served on the Circuit Court for Chesterfield County since December 1, 2014 where he handles criminal, civil, and domestic dockets. Judge Johnson has written numerous opinions in his 3 ½ years on the circuit court bench. His submissions demonstrate a wealth of legal research and consideration going into his written opinions.

Judge Johnson engaged in the private practice of law for 10 years at three different law firms in Virginia from 1987-1998 practicing a mix of civil and domestic relations law. Following that he was an Assistant Attorney General for 3 months before being promoted to Counsel to the Attorney General in January 1998 and became Senior Counsel to the Attorney General of Virginia in June 2001. During that time Judge Johnson was also a visiting research associate in the History Department at the University of Richmond.

From September 2002 – May 2012 Judge Johnson served as the Deputy Attorney General of Virginia managing attorneys for the Division of Health, Education, and Social Services and supervised more than 100 attorneys. During this time Judge Johnson also served as counsel to several universities in the Commonwealth.

In May 2012 Judge Johnson became counsel for Virginia Commonwealth University where he supervised three Assistant Attorneys General and his work included state and federal compliance and Title IX compliance.

Judge Johnson has been a member of various professional and community activities and has served as a judge for numerous moot court and mock trial competitions. He is married with three adult children and one granddaughter. In addition to his professional legal research and writing, Judge Johnson is a published author in American History.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through his submissions and interview, Judge Johnson has demonstrated to the Committee that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Judge Johnson possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Judge Johnson is well qualified for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and merits special recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **RECOMMENDED**.

**JAY PRABHU**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Jay Prabhu earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1996. He was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia as a prosecutor in 2005, and was admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 2013.

Mr. Prabhu has worked for the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia since 2007, first as an Assistant United States Attorney and presently as Chief of the Cybercrime Unit. In his current role, Mr. Prabhu is responsible for computer crime, intellectual property, and child exploitation investigations and prosecutions, and serves as the National Security Cyber Specialist for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Prabhu is intellectually, well qualified to handle the wide range of subject matters that a District Court Judge would handle. Mr. Prabhu previously worked for the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section from 2002 to 2007, and was a litigation associate at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering from 1996 to 2002, where his practice included litigation of criminal, corporate, and business/intellectual property matters, antitrust cases and international mergers.

Mr. Prabhu is a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Virginia, Co-Chair of the Government Attorneys Forum for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area, and a member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Mr. Prabhu has received many awards and honors too numerous to list in this summary. Most recently, he was nominated for 2017 Senator Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award and named in *Virginia Lawyers Weekly's* "Leaders in the Law" (2016). A few others include, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director's Award for Protecting the Homeland; U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner's Award; U.S. Assistant Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Advocacy in Protecting Citizens from Online Crime; Anti-Piracy Leadership Award from the Software & Information Industry Award; and Pro Bono Service Award from Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. These outside activities and experiences indicate that Mr. Prabhu would be able to draw from a variety of experiences and unique perspective if he were appointed.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through his submissions and interview, Mr. Prabhu demonstrated that he possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** The Committee finds that Mr. Prabhu possesses the requisite professionalism and integrity for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Mr. Prabhu's is very well qualified for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and merits special recommendation. He warrants the Committee's rating of **RECOMMENDED**.

**PATRICIA PALMER NAGEL**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Patricia Palmer Nagel earned her Juris Doctor from University of San Francisco School of Law in 1990 and was licensed to practice in Virginia in 1995 after working in California for several years.

Ms. Nagel served as an assistant public defender with the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office from 1990-1991. She opened her own firm and worked as a solo practitioner from 1991-1994. She worked with the Indigent Defense Commission from 1995-2001 and again from 2008-2009. While with the Indigent Defense Commission she was promoted to supervise the appellate division, which included developing appellate policies and procedures and training appellate attorneys. In 2009, Ms. Nagel returned to her solo practice and has spent the rest of her professional career as a solo practitioner in Williamsburg, Virginia. She has extensive experience in criminal defense work from trial to appellate practice and procedure in state courts. Ms. Nagel does have some limited experience with domestic relations and tort claims and has served as a guardian ad litem for children. She has tried numerous cases before juries and has argued extensively in front of multiple state appellate courts, primarily in criminal matters. Ms. Nagel has had an impressive 65 writs of appeal granted in the Virginia Appellate courts in criminal matters and recently argued 4 cases before the Supreme Court of Virginia in a single day.

Ms. Nagel has sat on the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals CJA panel from 2010 until the present and is a member of the ABA, ODBA, Williamsburg Bar Association, and the VWAA. Ms. Nagel has served on 11 court appointed lists for indigent criminal defendants and performs an estimated 300+ hours of pro bono work per year representing criminal defendants. She has served as a faculty C.L.E. presenter for the Old Dominion Bar Association (ODBA) annual conference where she presented on state and federal appellate practice and procedure.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through her submissions and interview, Ms. Nagel demonstrated that she possesses the requisite fairness and temperament for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** Through the interview and information gathered, Ms. Nagel indicated a level of professionalism and integrity sufficient for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. That professionalism extends to her sense of responsibility to all litigants, including those of diverse economic backgrounds.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Patricia Palmer Nagel meets the minimum requirements or basic criteria for the position of the United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia and warrants the Committee's rating of **QUALIFIED**.

**BRIAN HIMANSHU PANDYA**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Mr. Pandya earned his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in December 2004. He clerked for the Honorable Leonard Davis of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas from December 2004 through September 2005 before transitioning to private practice in November 2005. Mr. Pandya was licensed to practice law in Virginia in June 2006 and in Washington D.C. in December 2006. He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States; the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Federal Circuits; The U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia, the Eastern District of Texas, and the District of California; the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Pandya works in private practice for the law firm Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C. where he is a litigation partner who focuses his practice primarily on Business and IP litigation. Mr. Pandya began working at Wiley Rein LLP as an associate in November 2005 and was promoted to partner in January 2013. Mr. Pandya is a member of the Federalist Society and the Republican National Lawyers Association and has authored or co-authored numerous publications, primarily related to intellectual property law. Mr. Pandya is often interviewed and quoted by publications including *The American Banker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News*, *Campaigns & Elections*, *Law 360*, *Bloomberg BNA*, *Above the Law*, *Forbes*, *the Financial Times Policy & Regulatory Report*, and *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*. Mr. Pandya enjoys legal writing, including motions and briefs in federal court. He has extensive trial experience as both first- and second-chair counsel. He is a strong proponent of pro bono service and has been twice-honored by the Federal Circuit Bar Association for his pro bono work on behalf of military veterans, among other pro bono endeavors.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through the interview and from the information gathered, Brian Pandya demonstrates a respect for the judicial process and the role of the court and exhibits a strong desire to learn areas of law beyond business and intellectual property litigation. He values the jury system as well as appreciates and understands Federal Court motion practice. He is familiar with federal procedure and recognizes the need to reduce the backlog of cases in the federal courts as well as control the costs of litigating cases in federal court to ensure access to justice for individuals and small businesses in addition to larger businesses and corporations. Mr. Pandya expressed his desire to get out in the community and increase pro bono representation of qualified clients by members of the bar. Brian Pandya demonstrates the requisite fairness and temperament for a judge of the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** Through the interview and information gathered, Brian Pandya indicated a level of professionalism and integrity sufficient for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. That professionalism extends to his sense of responsibility to all litigants, including those of diverse economic backgrounds.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds that Brian Himanshu Pandya meets the minimum requirements or basic criteria for the position of the United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia and warrants the Committee's rating of **QUALIFIED**.



**THE HONORABLE VICTORIA A. B. WILLIS**

**Experience and Legal Ability:** Judge Willis earned her law degree from T.C. Williams School of Law in 1986 and was licensed to practice law the same year. She clerked for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Harry L. Carrico, from 1986 to 1988.

Judge Willis worked in private practice in Fredericksburg and Richmond where she gained experience handling civil litigation, corporate matters (transactional and governance), criminal litigation, state and federal compliance matters, employment cases, healthcare cases and finance matters. Later, she worked in-house for a health system, rising to General Counsel and Vice President before returning to private practice in 2001. She was appointed as a judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit on December 1, 2014, where she currently sits. Judge Willis has served as faculty for the Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course, at the University of Mary Washington and at the University of Auburn. She also conducts judicial training for new judges on how to preside over jury trials. Judge Willis has contributed to multiple publications and while on the bench, has written numerous opinions. Since her appointment to the bench, she has embraced a leadership role, including a push to institute a drug court, while also maintaining her previous workload. Judge Willis has considered judgment, experience with the interplay of state and federal courts, and experience in a wide variety of practice areas in both state and federal courts.

**Fairness and Temperament:** Through the interview and from the information gathered, Judge Willis demonstrates a respect for the judicial process and the role of the court. She values the jury system and embraces her role in helping litigants before her to appreciate and understand the process. While she makes her decisions based on the law and evidence before her, Judge Willis seeks to ensure each litigant knows that she heard and understood their argument/position. Judge Willis expressed her observations about how the justice system can provide those of diverse backgrounds with the same opportunities and responsibilities under the law. Judge Willis demonstrates the requisite fairness and temperament for a judge of the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Professionalism and Integrity:** Through the interview and information gathered, Judge Willis indicated a level of professionalism and integrity sufficient for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. That professionalism extends to her sense of responsibility to all litigants, including those of diverse cultural backgrounds.

**Overall Evaluation:** The Committee finds Judge Victoria A. B. Willis is very well-qualified for the position of District Court Judge of the United States District Court for Eastern District of Virginia and warrants the Committee's rating as **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**.