

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2016 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT JUDICIAL SCREENING

DAVID BERNHARD

David Bernhard resides in Fairfax County, Virginia. Mr. Bernhard received his B.A. from Brandeis University in 1983 and his J.D. from Washington University in 1985. Mr. Bernhard was admitted to practice in Missouri (1986), District of Columbia (1987), Virginia (1988), Maryland (1989), the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (1988) and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

EXPERIENCE AND LEGAL ABILITY

The Committee was extremely impressed with Mr. Bernhard's commitment to the Rule of Law and vigilant efforts to represent clients from all walks of life. He is a fluent speaker of Spanish and German. Since 1989, Mr. Bernhard has practiced law in Northern Virginia, after first practicing in Washington, D.C. His practice focuses on criminal matters at all levels of the Virginia court system, including the Supreme Court of Virginia. His experience also includes family law, personal injury, product liability and other civil matters.

FAIRNESS AND TEMPERAMENT

Mr. Bernhard possesses an in-depth and thorough understanding of the law and compassion for the individuals involved in the justice system. He believes in justice for all and works to ensure the underrepresented gain access to the legal system. Mr. Bernhard also exhibits the requisite level of fairness and temperament that would be required of a judge.

PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY

Mr. Bernhard demonstrates high ethical standards and integrity. In addition to his law practice, he is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association, and a past member of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He has been actively involved in promoting continuing legal education. Mr. Bernhard's prominence in the legal profession has led to praise from his contemporaries, as well as media coverage and features in Virginia Lawyers Weekly. It is important to note that Mr. Bernhard founded and spearheads the VADefense Listserv Group, which is a unique Internet-based forum for the advancement of ethics and competence in the practice of criminal law.

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mr. Bernhard's impressive record of service, demeanor and legal curiosity make him well suited to be a judge. Based on the Committee's review of his application and interview Mr. Bernhard is highly qualified to serve as a Circuit Court judge.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED