

A judge's most important quality is their ability to treat all parties who appear before them with respect. Studies have shown that the public's perception of the fairness of the judicial system is more closely related to the perception that they were treated fairly, not that they achieved their desired outcome. Listening to the parties and their advocates, treating everyone with dignity and respect, and taking the time to explain decisions are very simple ways a judge can contribute to the public's perception of procedural fairness. Adherence to the law and procedural fairness are not mutually exclusive. Acting in a manner that promotes procedural fairness is consistent with my belief that a judge's role is primarily defined by their service to the community, not the authority they hold.

Wherever my family has been stationed during my wife's career as a United States Air Force officer, I endeavored to find ways to serve my community. In Colorado, I volunteered in the local prosecutor's office, worked in my law school's Domestic Violence Clinic and sponsored cadets at the United States Air Force Academy. In Germany, I volunteered at the Army Garrison legal office providing legal assistance to service members and their families, advising the leadership regarding morale and welfare programs and mentoring military justice lawyers. For the better part of the last 18 years, I have served the Arlington legal community.

As President of the Arlington County Bar Association, I continued monthly educational programs with our courts, provided appellate updates and expanded to include court related services such as the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) and the jail and county mental health teams. As Chair of Arlington's Disciplinary committee, I reviewed bar complaints to ensure local lawyers were upholding their ethical obligations. I joined the Arlington ASAP Policy Board to ensure that ASAP's customers, clients ordered to participate in their programs, had a voice. Having represented an increasing number of individuals with serious mental illnesses, I volunteered to teach Arlington and regional law enforcement officers the legal requirements related to involuntary commitment, competency, and pleas of not guilty by reason of insanity as part of Arlington Department of Human Service's Crisis Intervention Team training. As Chair of the Arlington Bar Foundation, I led efforts to raise and distribute charitable contributions to programs and organizations that support the Arlington legal community such as Argus House, Doorways, Arm in Arm, Legal Services of Northern Virginia and many others. Since 2021, I have served as a representative of our district on the Virginia State Bar Council. Outside of the legal community, I have served on the board of the local Jewish Day School and been active in the high school and county sports in which my children participate. I graduated the Leadership Center for Excellence's Leadership Arlington program in 2020.

In addition to my volunteer service, I have been a licensed Virginia attorney since 2003. Having appeared almost daily in the state and federal courts of Virginia since 2005, I have had the opportunity to observe many judges. Most upheld the highest standards of the law, and a small few could have done more to ensure that the parties that came before them felt they had been heard and afforded a fair and impartial hearing. This remained true whether I appeared as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County, a defense attorney, a child's

Guardian *ad Litem* or representing parents who were brought before the court because their child was in need of services or suffered from abuse or neglect.

My belief that a judge's role is to serve their community has been confirmed through my service as a substitute judge. Each day I have the privilege to sit, I strive to live up to the example of the finest judges I have appeared before and, most importantly, ensure that every person that comes before the court leaves feeling heard, respected and that they received a fair and impartial hearing regardless of who they are, where they have come from, or why they have appeared before the court. It is this experience that has led me to apply for the judicial vacancy in the Arlington General District Court.