

**REX FLYNN**  
(General District Court)

Rex Flynn was born on Long Island, NY. He attended Hampton University, graduating in December of 1998. He attended law school at George Mason, where he received the Dean's Service Award and multiple scholarships, graduating in May of 2008. Mr. Flynn was admitted to the Virginia Bar in October of 2009. Additionally, he is barred in both the District of Columbia and Maryland, as well as a myriad of federal courts.

Before entering the legal profession, Mr. Flynn held a variety of occupations, including food service, APAC, and over 4 years with Nextel Communications. Mr. Flynn has owned and operated his firm, The Flynn Law Firm, PLLC, since 2010. Initially, the firm was a general practice, handling landlord/tenant, divorce, support, custody, and other civil matters. Since then, Mr. Flynn has shifted to solely practicing criminal law in both state and federal courts. In addition to Arlington, Mr. Flynn practices in Alexandria and Fairfax Counties, with occasional appearances in Prince William and Loudoun Counties.

**LEGAL ABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Flynn has extensive experience with both civil and criminal matters, which the committee feels is important for an incoming General District Court judge. Mr. Flynn has also been practicing in front of multiple courts for nearly 20 years. He did have a firm understanding of the judge's role as a neutral arbiter of the law. For example, Mr. Flynn made it clear that he felt it was never appropriate for a judge to "act as prosecutor" when the Commonwealth Attorney has declined to be involved with a prosecution. Additionally, he has actively sought out opportunities to enhance his legal ability, such as attending the National College of Criminal Defense.

However, the Committee did have some reservations about Mr. Flynn's trial experience. When discussing with the Committee various legal scenarios, Mr. Flynn often gave replies that the committee perceived as tangential. While Mr. Flynn regularly appears in various courts, it was unclear to the Committee whether he had significant actual trial experience.

**TEMPERAMENT**

Mr. Flynn is known in the Arlington legal community as being likable and congenial, and he presented in that manner during his interview with the Committee.

Mr. Flynn stated that he always tries to be collegial with everyone he comes in contact with, from prosecutors to litigants and judges, and Mr. Flynn assured the committee that he has no intention of letting the Bench change him. Mr. Flynn also relayed his experiences with various professional organizations and his ability to navigate issues and conflicts in a collegial but firm manner. He also expressed a desire to shift some of the entrenched Arlington judicial culture, including increased interaction between attorneys and the bench outside of the courtroom.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Flynn that his likable demeanor could slow courtroom proceedings. The Committee is satisfied that Mr. Flynn is aware of and would address these concerns should he be selected.

### **IMPARTIALITY**

The Committee believes Mr. Flynn would exercise the impartiality required of a sitting judge. Mr. Flynn told the Committee that it is important that judges do not have preconceived notions, also pointing out racial disparities within our current system. The Committee was impressed with his specific observations of systemic issues affecting access to the court and ease of participation in the legal process.

### **DILIGENCE AND SERVICE TO THE LAW**

Mr. Flynn has presented exceptional diligence and service to the law. He is extensively involved in both the Arlington and Virginia legal communities. Mr. Flynn is currently the president-elect of the Old Dominion Bar Association; general counsel for the National Hampton Alumni Association; the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Representative for the Virginia State Bar Council; a member of the Virginia State Bar Council for Local and Specialty Bar Associations Executive Committee; and the Judicial Screening Chair for the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys' Association. He is also a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Mr. Flynn has won multiple awards, including the Virginia State Bar's Specialty Bar Leader of the Year and an Award of Merit from the Old Dominion Bar Association.

### **OVERALL EVALUATION**

The Committee was impressed with Mr. Flynn's friendly manner and community involvement. His ideas for the bench and enthusiasm for the legal community would be an asset to the General District Court. Additionally, as a Black man, Mr. Flynn would

bring diversity to the bench. However, concerns about Mr. Flynn's trial experience gave committee members varying degrees of reservations.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Highly recommended: 0

Recommended: 6

Not recommended: 0

Abstained: 1