

40. Please attach a short statement on why you want to be a judge.

Personal Statement

Ruth Bader Ginsburg said: “Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don’t just do it for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived.”

I aspire to live a life that leaves tracks. I have served Arlington County and the City of Falls Church for the last 20 years as a member of the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. I have appeared in our courts for hours a day 3-5 times a week since 2002 handling matters that range from homicide to traffic infractions. In that role I am a minister of justice; in its simplest terms my job for the last 20 years has been to do the right thing. I began my legal career as a teacher’s assistant, then law clerk, staff attorney, and now an attorney in the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office. At this stage in my career my skills, experience, and knowledge can best serve the community as a General District Court judge and I am honored to apply for this judicial vacancy.

I do not apply for this position just for myself. I was raised in a career Army family. I learned that service to my community is part of being a good citizen. And I learned to examine the needs of the community and to evaluate where and how my skills and experience could best serve. I want to be a judge for my parents. I would like them to know I am continuing the example they set. I want to be a judge for my daughter and niece; I want to be a judge for my sons. I want them to see and learn from my commitment to being a good citizen in service to her community and the importance of giving back. I want to encourage them by my service to find their own path to serve in ways best suited to their talents and skills. I want to be a judge for my community. This is a natural progression of my public service that enables me to take what I’ve learned through my life experiences and in each of the legal positions I’ve held and apply that knowledge to positively impact others in service to my community. It is an opportunity to leave tracks.

Another famous quote from Ruth Bader Ginsburg is “When there are nine.” I am excited by the opportunity to have an Arlington court comprised of a majority of women judges – for the first time in my 20 years of service and I believe for the first time ever. I am excited for what it says about our community and what it means for our community. I was raised in an Army family, but I grew up in the Arlington County Courthouse. I don’t just want to be a judge. I want to be a judge in Arlington County in order to further serve my community – and to leave it a little better for my service.