

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE

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March 3, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Evaluation of The Honorable Robert A. Shuker

Dear Mr. President:

The term of Robert A. Shuker, an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, expires on May 4, 1992. It has been a fifteen year term.

Judge Shuker filed his declaration of candidacy for reappointment as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court with the Commission on November 1, 1991. The Commission hereby submits this evaluation of Judge Shuker's performance during his present term of office and his fitness for reappointment to another term pursuant to Section 433(c) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P.L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 774 ("The Home Rule Act"), as amended by the District of Columbia Judicial Efficiency and Improvement Act of 1986, P.L. 99-573, 100 Stat. 3228. Section 433(c) provides as follows:

The Commission's interviews and review of the record have identified an overwhelming amount of praise regarding Judge Shuker's courtroom demeanor, his fairness, acute sense of legal issues, diligence, and devotion of time and energy to the administration of justice. In virtually every instance commenters strongly supported Judge Shuker for reappointment and praised him as an outstanding trial judge.

Judge Shuker has served in all of the major divisions of the Superior Court except the Probate Division. A review of the published opinions by Judge Shuker indicates that his decisions are analytically precise, fully cited to authority and the record, well organized, issued in a timely manner, and exhibit meticulous attention to all facets of the controversies presented to him for resolution. A review of his appellate record indicates that Judge Shuker has an excellent affirmance rate by the D.C. Court of Appeals.

As noted above, Judge Shuker has served with distinction in all divisions of Superior Court except Probate. The Commission believes, however, that particular attention is appropriate to the outstanding service of Judge Shuker as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Criminal Division from July, 1986 to October, 1989. As Presiding Judge the full brunt of the Superior Court's ever increasing criminal docket fell upon Judge Shuker from the standpoint of overall management. The Commission has found that Judge Shuker helped devise and institute new and innovative programs to effectively deal with the situation while at all times protecting the rights of defendants. Judge Shuker's efforts in this regard were not limited to the courthouse. As Presiding Judge he also attended numerous public meetings and Citizen Advisory Counsel meetings in an attempt to hear complaints and receive public input. The Commission considers Judge Shuker's leadership of the Criminal Division to have been exemplary.

In addition to the public activities of the Court, Judge Shuker has also been involved in the day-to-day administration of the Superior Court by serving on various committees and assisting in the reorganization of various Court calendars. Finally, Judge Shuker has participated fully in various Superior Court training programs imparting his experience to others that follow. The Commission strongly believes that as the Superior Court continues to attract highly qualified and talented jurists, the Court as an

institution will be made stronger through a concerted effort of training by experienced Superior Court Judges. Judge Shuker is a leader in this area.


For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that Judge Shuker's judicial service merits his automatic reappointment to the bench. The extraordinary manner in which Judge Shuker has performed as a trial judge entitles him to a rating in the highest category which this Commission is statutorily empowered to place a judge. We therefore determine Judge Robert A. Shuker to be well qualified for reappointment, and his term shall be automatically extended for a full term of fifteen years from May 4, 1992.


Respectfully submitted,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON
JUDICIAL DISABILITIES AND TENURE


Bette L. Catoe, M.D., Chairperson


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Honorable Norma Holloway Johnson