

Decker, Cardon, Thomas, Weintraub & Neskis, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors At Law

Peter G. Decker, Jr.
(1935-2012)
Lawrence M. Cardon (Ret.)
Martin A. Thomas
George A. Neskis
Peter G. Decker, III
Martin A. Thomas, Jr.
Michelle R. Parker
Jeffrey P. Partington
Lindsey M. Cole
Jennifer L. Gebler

Towne Bank Building
109 East Main Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 3787
Norfolk, Virginia 23514-3787

Telephone: (757) 622-3317
Facsimile: (757) 626-0562

Of Counsel
H. Joel Weintraub

Administrator
Paul D. Miller, CPA

November 22, 2022

Ed Booth, Esq.
President, Virginia Beach Bar Association
2425 Nimmo Parkway, Room 0049
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Re: Nomination of Gordon Carl Ufkes for Judicial Vacancy

Dear Mr. Booth,

As members in good standing with the Virginia Beach Bar Association, it is a pleasure for us to nominate Mr. Gordon Carl Ufkes as a candidate for a judicial appointment to any opening that may result from the notice of vacancy in Virginia Beach Circuit Court. Specifically, this nomination is for either the Virginia Beach General District Court or the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

We have known Gordie both personally and professionally for over thirty years. He was born on May 11, 1967, in Norfolk, Virginia. A 55 year-old native of the City of Virginia Beach, and the youngest of five children, Gordie worked his way through undergraduate and law school by lifeguarding and working construction and service industry jobs. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University in 1998, and a Juris Doctorate from Regent University in 2001. Gordie and his wife, Beth, also a practicing attorney, have two children, ages 12 and 8, and have resided at 525 Barberton Drive, Virginia Beach, near the Oceanfront, for over 15 years. Gordie has been a member of the Virginia State Bar and in good standing since 2002. Gordie became active with the Virginia Beach Bar Association in October of 2002. He is a former member of the Federal Bar Association, was a member of the Virginia State Bar's Bench-Bar Committee and currently serves on the Virginia State Bar's Second District Disciplinary Committee.

In his twenty-one years of practice, Gordie clerked for the late Dick Brydges, and spent a majority of his legal career litigating in various courts, including Virginia Beach and Norfolk. He has experience in a variety of areas of the law, including but not limited to: criminal prosecution and defense, juvenile delinquency hearings, social services cases, child support hearings, school disciplinary hearings, matters involving custody and visitation and civil litigation. He was certified as a Guardian *ad litem*, where he advocated for children and persons under a disability, conducted home visits and authored reports with recommendations to the Court. Gordie has a strong moral character and possesses the utmost integrity. He has never been publicly reprimanded, nor has his license to practice law been suspended or revoked by any agency.

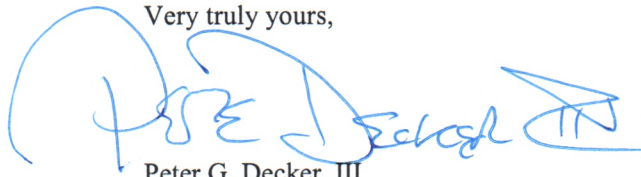
Gordie is currently serving as a Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Norfolk, managing high-volume felony and misdemeanor dockets. He desires to continue his career in public service on the bench of either the Virginia Beach General District Court or the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. In addition to his courtroom experience, Gordie possesses a great disposition for working with the public and exhibits compassion when dealing with families and children who are going through difficult situations and unfamiliar with legal processes that can be both confusing and life-changing.

Outside of work, Gordie is a devoted father and husband. He is involved with his children's sports and activities and volunteers weekly at Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Virginia Beach. He is a person who will always be fair and thoughtful in his decision-making and will treat his litigants equally.

It is a privilege for us to attach our names to the nomination of Gordon Carl Ufkes. If there is anything else we can do to assist in this process, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

With kind regards, we remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Decker, III". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and "D".

Peter G. Decker, III

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Goodove". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael L. Goodove

Biographical Sketch: Gordon Carl Ufkes

Gordon Carl Ufkes is a lifetime resident of Virginia Beach. He worked his way through college as an oceanfront lifeguard, waiter, bartender and as a construction laborer. He graduated from Old Dominion University in 1998 with a B.S. in Political Science and the Regent University School of Law in 2001. He has been in court nearly every day in 20 years of practice. He is currently a Prosecutor in the Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. He has experience handling high-volume caseloads and litigating criminal matters of all levels. In his experience as a Public Defender and Prosecutor, he has litigated most every type of criminal matter from traffic offenses to murder charges. While in private practice he handled criminal defense in those same areas, as well as being a Plaintiff and Defense advocate for numerous civil matters: including Warrant in Debt issues, contract disputes, Personal Injury matters, Unlawful Detainer actions, and collections dockets. He has been certified as a Guardian *ad Litem* and handled child support, custody and visitation matters regularly while in private practice. He is married to his wife Beth, and has an 12 year-old daughter, Maggie and 8 year-old son, Luke.

GORDON C. (GORDIE) UFKES

525 BARBERTON DRIVE VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23451
(757) 635-9999 (C) ♦ (757) 227-9614 (H) ♦ gcufkes@gmail.com

EDUCATION: 1998 Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA B.S. Political Science

2001 Regent. University, Virginia Beach, VA J.D.

EXPERIENCE: 2012-present Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Norfolk, VA
Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
Prosecute criminal cases daily with assignments on General Prosecution, the Drug Team and now Violent Crime Division of the office. I handle all ranges of criminal cases, from DUI to murder. Several jury trials per year, with a number of bench trials and motions before all Courts in this city.

2007-2012 Office of Commonwealth's Attorney, Virginia Beach
Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney
High-volume caseload with numerous cases on a daily basis. Prosecuted traffic and felony matters, handled all matters from arraignment to trial in all range of criminal cases. Several years experience in Circuit and General District Court as a focus; and 3years with an emphasis in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Consistently carried one of the highest caseloads in the office.

2005-2007 Stallings & Bischoff, P.C.; Associate
Daily court appearances in numerous jurisdictions throughout the state. Focused on criminal matters, from bail to traffic to serious felony (murder) defense work. Also gained vast amount of civil experience. Numerous domestic matters, plaintiff and defense work in civil trial matters, depositions, collections, as well as personal injury. Federal court appointed work also expanded my criminal defense experience. Advocated for individuals with Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Committee, Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Worker's Compensation Commission and Virginia Beach Personnel Board. Left the firm on good terms to gain prosecutorial experience.

2003-2005 Office of the Public Defender, Virginia Beach;
Assistant Public Defender
Handled over 2,000 criminal matters from bail hearings to felony trials. Trial preparation, witness interviews, and daily court appearances for the high volume caseload were the norm, Left on good terms with the office, with a desire to gain civil experience.

2002-2003 Berry, Ermlich, Lomax & Bennett; Associate
General criminal and civil trial practice. I focused mainly on traffic, Juvenile court matters, divorce matters and criminal matters in many jurisdictions. Court on a daily basis, and assisted in Federal and Bankruptcy matters, Firm was dissolving (partners leaving) so I obtained employment with Public Defender's Office.

ADMITTED: Commonwealth of Virginia-2002
United States District Court, 4th Circuit-2002
United States Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit-2002
United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia-2003

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: Virginia Beach Bar Association, former member
Virginia Bar Association
Federal Bar Association, former member
American Bar Association
Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys
Fraternal Order of Police

- OTHER:
- Former Member: Virginia Beach Bar Association Judicial Selection Committee
 - Former Member: Virginia State Bar's Bench/Bar Relations Committee
 - Served as a CLASS attorney (Concerned Lawyers Advocating Spousal Safety)
 - Certified (and served) as a Guardian *Ad Litem* in juvenile and Circuit Courts of Virginia Beach by the Virginia State Bar
 - Served as a mentor to third graders at Seatack Elementary School (program sponsored by former Chief Circuit Court Judge Thomas Shadrick)
 - Member: Disciplinary Committee for the Virginia State Bar

OVERVIEW OF PRACTICE: All areas of criminal actions—both prosecution and defense
Majority of civil actions—including, but not limited to contracts, business dissolution, unjust enrichment, personal injury, unlawful detainer, collections and condominium/HOA matters

Domestic relations matters to include divorce, child custody, visitation, support—both as an advocate and Guardian *ad Litem*

Various other tribunals—to include Chesapeake Bay Preservation Board, Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Workers Compensation Commission and the Virginia Beach Board of Zoning Appeals and Personnel Board.