

SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

CHIEF JUSTICE

DONALD W. LEMONS

JUSTICES

S. BERNARD GOODWYN

WILLIAM C. MIMS

CLEO E. POWELL

D. ARTHUR KELSEY

STEPHEN R. MCCULLOUGH

TERESA M. CHAFIN

SENIOR JUSTICES

CHARLES S. RUSSELL

LAWRENCE L. KOONTZ, JR.

LEROY F. MILLETTE, JR.



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GAIL WARREN

Press Release: December 20, 2021

The Honorable Donald W. Lemons, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, to Step Down, Effective December 31, 2021. The Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn Elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Effective January 1, 2022.

Donald W. Lemons, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, has announced to the Court his intention to step down as Chief Justice, effective December 31, 2021. Chief Justice Lemons has served at every level of the court system in Virginia. He served as a substitute judge in General District Court and in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In 1995, he was elected by the General Assembly to be a Judge in the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond. He was then elected by the General Assembly to serve as a Judge on the Court of Appeals of Virginia. In 2000, he was elected by the General Assembly as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and again in 2012. Chief Justice Lemons is the former President of the American Inns of Court (2010 – 2014), and an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple in London. In 2019, Chief Justice Lemons was awarded the American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics.

The Justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia have elected Justice S. Bernard Goodwyn as Chief Justice-elect. Chief Justice-elect Goodwyn will assume office on January 1, 2022. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia by Governor Timothy M. Kaine in 2007 and was unanimously elected by the General Assembly to the Supreme Court of Virginia in 2008 and re-elected in 2020. Previously, Chief Justice-elect Goodwyn served as a judge of the Circuit Court for the City of Chesapeake for over 10 years, and also served as a judge of the General District Court for the City of Chesapeake for two years. Prior to going on the bench, he served as a Research Associate Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law and a litigation partner at a Norfolk, Virginia, law firm. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, magna cum laude, in 1983 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1986.

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