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Press Release – May 18, 2022

### **THE HONORABLE DONALD W. LEMONS IS RECIPIENT OF 2021 HARRY L. CARRICO OUTSTANDING CAREER SERVICE AWARD**

The Judicial Council of Virginia has named the Honorable Donald W. Lemons, Senior Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, as the recipient of the 2021 Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award. Senior Justice Lemons was presented the award at the annual meeting of the Judicial Conference of Virginia on May 12, 2022.

Awarded in honor of the longest serving chief justice and the longest serving member in the history of the Supreme Court of Virginia, The Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award is presented annually by the Judicial Council of Virginia to a Virginia judge who, over an extended career, has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the administration of the courts while exhibiting the traits of integrity, courtesy, impartiality, wisdom, and humility. All appellate, circuit and district court judges are eligible for nomination.

Senior 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. Senior Justice Lemons was twice elected Chief Justice by the Justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia and retired on February 1, 2022.

In nominating Senior Justice Lemons for the award, Justice Kelsey noted “Justice Lemons has a unique capacity to manage the competing demands of constancy and change. In his role as Chief Justice, his leadership style respected the traditions of the past while embracing the never-ending task of initiating reforms for a better future. His emphasis on calm professionalism, both among judges and lawyers, was a wholesome force during times of rancor and discontent. All of these characteristics showed their worth in recent memory, particularly when he faced the challenge of providing access to our courts during the pandemic and when he was called upon to preside over the judicial creation of the first-ever nonpartisan legislative voting districts in the history of our Commonwealth.”

Senior Justice Lemons received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Virginia. After receiving his law degree, he served as Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of

Law at the University of Virginia School of Law. He has also served on the faculties of the University of Richmond School of Law and Washington and Lee University School of Law. Senior Justice Lemons has held leadership roles in numerous legal and civic organizations and is the former President of the American Inns of Court (2010 – 2014), and an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple in London. In 2019, Senior Justice Lemons was awarded the American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics.

**About the Judicial Council of Virginia:** The Judicial Council of Virginia is charged with the responsibility for making a continuous study of the organization, rules and methods of procedure and practice of the judicial system of the Commonwealth. It is also responsible for examining the work accomplished and results produced by the system and its individual offices and courts. A report of the proceedings and recommendations of the Council is made to the General Assembly and to the Supreme Court on an annual basis. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is presiding officer for the Council whose membership includes one Court of Appeals judge, six circuit court judges, one general district court judge, one juvenile and domestic relations district court judge, two attorneys qualified to practice in the Supreme Court, and the Chairman of the House Committee for Courts of Justice and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The Chief Justice and legislative members serve terms coincident with their terms of office, while other Council members are appointed by the Chief Justice and serve for four years or at the pleasure of the Chief Justice.

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