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Press Release – May 29, 2024

THE HONORABLE LISA BONDAREFF KEMLER IS RECIPIENT OF 2023 HARRY L. CARRICO OUTSTANDING CAREER SERVICE AWARD

The Judicial Council of Virginia has named the Honorable Lisa Bondareff Kemler, a judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit, as the recipient of the 2023 Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award. Judge Kemler was presented the award at the annual meeting of the Judicial Conference of Virginia on May 16, 2024.

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.

Judge Kemler has presided as a judge of the Alexandria Circuit Court since June 17, 2004, and has served as Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit since 2012. Judge Kemler has presided as the Judge of the Alexandria Treatment Court docket since 2019. Judge Kemler serves as a judicial coach and judicial mentor and is a frequent lecturer and panel speaker at continuing legal education seminars.

Judge Kemler is a member of the Committee on District Courts and the Virginia Model Jury Instructions Committee, and a past member of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission. Judge Kemler has served on the Judicial Conference of Virginia's Judicial Administration and Judicial Education Committees. She is a member of the Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board, a speaker at the Alexandria City Academy, and a past member of the Boyd-Graves Conference.

Judge Kemler received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, and her juris doctorate from George Mason University School of Law. Prior to taking the bench, Judge

Kemler was engaged in the private practice of law in Alexandria and served as a Substitute Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

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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