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Press Release – May 29, 2026

THE HONORABLE DANIEL R. BOUTON IS RECIPIENT OF 2025 HARRY L. CARRICO OUTSTANDING CAREER SERVICE AWARD

The Judicial Council of Virginia has named the Honorable Daniel R. Bouton, Retired Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Virginia, as the recipient of the 2025 Harry L. Carrico Outstanding Career Service Award. Judge Bouton was presented the award at the annual meeting of the Judicial Conference of Virginia on May 14, 2026.

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 Bouton was first elected a judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit by the General Assembly in 2000 and served as a circuit court judge for 18 years, nine years of which he was Chief Judge. Judge Bouton was the presiding circuit court judge of Orange, Madison, and Greene Counties, and served all nine jurisdictions of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit during his tenure. In 2012, he was appointed as a Mentor Judge in the inaugural Judicial Mentoring Program, providing an immediate source of guidance and support for new judges. Judge Bouton continues to serve as a Retired, Recalled Judge and as a Judicial Settlement Conference Program Judge.

In nominating Judge Bouton for the award, his peers emphasized that his “commitment to service reflects the highest ideals of Virginia’s Judiciary,” and that “Judge Bouton’s empathy, respect, and humility wove through how he ran his courtroom on a daily basis;” with one noting that as an attorney appearing before Judge Bouton, “my clients felt seen and heard during the most challenging and stressful times of their lives.”

Judge Bouton has served Virginia’s judiciary as a member of the Judicial Education Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia, and as a chair of the Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia. Judge Bouton has

presented at the Judicial Conference of Virginia and served as a presenter at New Judge Orientation. Judge Bouton has served as a jurist member of the Virginia Criminal Justice Conference, as faculty for the Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course, and was a trial advocacy adjunct professor at the University of Virginia School of Law. Judge Bouton continues to be actively involved in mentoring new judges, bar association activities, and community outreach.

Judge Bouton received his bachelor's degree from Brown University, and his juris doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Bouton served as Greene County Commonwealth's Attorney and was engaged in the private practice of law in the Piedmont Region.

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.

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