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SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



100 NORTH NINTH STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2334
(804) 786-6455
WWW.COURTS.STATE.VA.US

CLERK
PATRICIA L. HARRINGTON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
KARL R. HADE

CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY
K. LORRAINE LORD

REPORTER OF DECISIONS
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PRESS RELEASE – September 19, 2018

The Supreme Court of Virginia Announces the Appointment of Douglas B. Robelen as the Clerk of the Court, Effective February 1, 2019

The Justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia have appointed Douglas B. Robelen as the Clerk of the Court, effective February 1, 2019. Mr. Robelen will succeed Patricia L. Harrington, who has served as the Clerk since July 1, 2003, and will retire effective February 1, 2019.

Mr. Robelen has served as the Chief Deputy Clerk since July 7, 2003. Previously, he served as a hearing officer for the Department of Medical Assistance Services, a staff attorney with the Chief Staff Attorney's Office for the Court of Appeals of Virginia, an appeals examiner for the Virginia Employment Commission, and worked as an attorney in private practice.

Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons said, "Doug Robelen has been the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia for over 15 years. The Justices have worked closely with him during these years and have grown to respect and trust his competence and his judgment. We look forward to his service as the Clerk of the Court."

Mr. Robelen received his undergraduate degree from Davidson College and his law degree from the University of Virginia.

Mr. Robelen currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks and is the committee chair for Boy Scout Troop 777.

About the Supreme Court of Virginia: The Supreme Court of Virginia possesses both original and appellate jurisdiction. The Court reviews decisions of lower courts, including the Court of Appeals, from which appeals have been allowed. Virginia does not allow an appeal to the Supreme Court as a matter of right except in cases involving the State Corporation Commission, certain disciplinary actions against an attorney, and review of the death penalty. The Court's original jurisdiction is limited to cases of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, and actual innocence. The Supreme Court also has original jurisdiction in matters filed by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission relating to judicial censure and retirement, and removal of judges. The Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia receives, processes, and maintains permanent records of all appeals and other official documents filed with the Court. The Clerk also maintains records of attorneys qualified to practice in the Court, as well as other administrative records.

Media Contact: Kristi S. Wright, Director of Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, (804) 786-6455.