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Press Release: September 26, 2022

HETAL CHALLA TO SERVE AS WELLNESS COORDINATOR

RICHMOND - Hetal Challa has been hired to serve as Wellness Coordinator in the Office of the Executive Secretary, effective September 26, 2022. Challa will coordinate the [Virginia Lawyers' Wellness Initiative](#), which provides education of, and assistance to, judges, lawyers, and law students regarding professional health and wellness initiatives, with a focus on improving mental health and addressing substance abuse in the legal profession.

Prior to joining the Office of the Executive Secretary, Challa was an attorney in private practice and served as a guardian ad litem for children in many courts in the Hampton Roads area. She has served as Chair of the Lawyer Wellness Committee of the Virginia Bar Association and participated in the Virginia State Bar, Special Committee on Lawyer Well-Being.

Before practicing law, Challa obtained a degree in psychology and worked as a counselor in an outpatient treatment center, where she addressed mental health and substance abuse issues for adolescents and adults. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tennessee and her Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.

About the Virginia Lawyers' Wellness Initiative: The Virginia Lawyers' Wellness Initiative coordinates the education of, and assistance to, judges, lawyers, and law students regarding professional health and wellness initiatives, with a specific focus on improving mental health and addressing substance abuse in the legal profession. Since 2019, the Virginia Lawyers' Wellness Initiative has administered funding to the [Virginia Judges & Lawyers Assistance Program](#), an independent non-profit organization, which provides confidential, non-disciplinary assistance to members of the Virginia legal profession, as well as their family members, who experience impairment as a result of substance abuse or mental health issues.

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