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## SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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### **SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA HIRES INAUGURAL WELLNESS COORDINATOR**

RICHMOND - As recommended in the report of the Supreme Court of Virginia's Committee on Lawyer Well-Being, [A Profession at Risk](#), the Supreme Court has hired Margaret Hannapel Ogden to serve as the first Wellness Coordinator in the Office of the Executive Secretary. Ogden 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, Ogden served as the Staff Attorney for the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness, which is considered a model among the nation's courts. Ogden began her career in the Roanoke City Commonwealth Attorney's Office before going in to private practice as a criminal defense attorney in the Roanoke and New River Valleys.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ogden graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Maryland's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. She earned a J.D. from Washington & Lee School of Law in 2011.

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](#) (formerly Lawyers Helping Lawyers), 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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