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PRESS RELEASE

KYANA GIVENS TO BECOME FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE DISTRICTS OF MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND RHODE ISLAND

BOSTON (March 31, 2022) — Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Howard of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today that the Court has selected Kyana Givens to serve as the next Federal Public Defender (FPD) for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Attorney Givens will fill the vacancy resulting from Miriam Conrad's retirement and will assume the position upon the successful completion of a full FBI background investigation.

Attorney Givens is currently an Assistant FPD in the Eastern District of North Carolina and has been involved in criminal defense work since she earned her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 2002. Attorney Givens earned a B.A. in sociology from Seattle Pacific University in 1996. In 2002, upon her graduation from law school, Ms. Givens became the Albert M. Sacks Fellow at the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School where she provided litigation support to Professor Charles Ogletree. In 2005, Attorney Givens joined The Defender Association in Seattle, Washington, as a state public defender, where she worked in the juvenile and felony units. After four years with The Defender Association, in 2009, Ms. Givens joined the FPD Office for the Western District of Washington

as an Assistant FPD, where she remained until 2018, when she joined the Defender Services Office Training Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts as a Visiting Attorney Advisor. During her 18-month temporary duty year with the Defender Services Office, Ms. Givens researched, helped create, and taught monthly National Training Division continuing legal education programs and lectured at seminars for Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorneys and FPDs nationwide. In 2020, following her term with the Defender Services Office, Ms. Givens joined the FPD Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina where she is an Assistant FPD. As an Assistant FPD, Attorney Givens has provided public defense for indigent clients accused of a variety of federal offenses, including but not limited to, drug smuggling, complex conspiracies, money laundering, social security fraud, human trafficking, weapons charges, illegal re-entry, and Environmental Protection Agency violations.

Attorney Givens is a faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College and the National Forensic College. Attorney Givens has extensive training experience, including but not limited to, providing numerous trainings for CJA attorneys and FPD offices, continuing legal education sessions, and bar association lectures.

Chief Judge Howard stated that "Attorney Givens is a highly respected and experienced criminal defense attorney, and the Court is pleased that she will serve as the next Federal Public Defender. Attorney Givens has a demonstrated commitment to indigent criminal defense, and the Court is confident that the Federal Public Defender Office for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island will continue to respond expertly to the needs of the defense community and the federal courts." Chief Judge Howard expressed appreciation to Miriam Conrad, who has served as FPD since 2005, for her many years of dedicated service. The Chief Judge also thanked Circuit Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, who chaired the Committee for the Appointment of the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and Circuit Judge William J. Kayatta, Jr., who also served on the Committee.

In addition, Chief Judge Howard commended the other members of the Appointment Committee: Circuit Executive Susan J. Goldberg; Tara Allen, Esq., of Roger Williams University School of Law and former Assistant FPD for the District of Rhode Island; Richard Guerriero, Esq., of Lothstein Guerriero, PLLC; Nadiyah Humber, Esq., of University of Connecticut School of Law; Charles P. McGinty, Esq., former First Assistant FPD for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island (retired); Jaye L. Rancourt, Esq., of Brennan Lenehan Iacopino & Hickey; Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross, Esq., of Committee for Public Counsel Services; and Michael C. Andrews, Esq., CJA Case Budgeting Attorney for the First Circuit.