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PRESS RELEASE

TARA I. ALLEN TO BECOME FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE DISTRICTS OF MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND RHODE ISLAND

BOSTON (June 4, 2024) — Chief Judge David J. Barron of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today that the Court has selected Attorney Tara I. Allen to serve as the next Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Ms. Allen will assume the position upon the successful completion of a full FBI background investigation.

Tara Allen is currently the Bruce I. Kogan Distinguished Service Professor of Law at Roger Williams University School of Law and has been focused on criminal defense litigation and education for the majority of her approximately 25-year career. Ms. Allen earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1991 and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in 1998. After graduating from law school, she served for one year as Pro Se Law Clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1998-1999), before becoming Senior Staff Attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2000-2005).

In 2005, Ms. Allen joined the Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California as a Research & Writing Specialist and Misdemeanor Trial Unit Supervisor; and, two years later, she returned to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as Supervising Senior

Staff Attorney for the Civil Law Unit. Ms. Allen then served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 2010 until 2018, first in the Western District of Pennsylvania (2010-2012), and then in the District of Rhode Island (2012-2018), before becoming Associate Professor of Law at Roger Williams University School of Law, where she was selected as the Professor of the Year in 2020. Prior to becoming a full-time professor, Ms. Allen taught various legal courses part-time at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law (2004-2010), the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (2006-2007), and Roger Williams University School of Law (2013-2018).

Attorney Allen has also been involved in the national and local legal communities. For example, from 2020 to 2021, Attorney Allen was a member of the National Sentencing Resource Counsel, providing training assistance and advice to criminal defense attorneys on federal sentencing law, policy, and practice. Ms. Allen has participated as faculty in the Federal Criminal Justice Act Trial Skills Academy and the National Criminal Defense College Trial Practice Institute since 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Chief Judge Barron stated: "The First Circuit is thrilled to have Tara Allen return to the office where she served indigent defendants so well and for so long, now as the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Attorney Allen is a highly regarded member of the criminal defense bar and a distinguished professor of law, and the Court is confident that her varied experience will enable her to provide superb leadership to this critical and well-respected office, as well as the federal courts." The Chief Judge thanked Circuit Judge Lara E. Montecalvo, who served as chair of the Committee for the Appointment of the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and Circuit Judge Julie Rikelman, who also served on the Committee. In addition, Chief Judge Barron commended the other members of the Committee: Circuit Executive Susan J. Goldberg; Pamela E. Chin, Esq., of Lynch and Pine Attorneys at Law, in Providence, Rhode

Island; Martin F. Murphy, Esq., of Manatt, Phelps, and Phillips, LLP, in Boston, Massachusetts; John Newman, Esq., of the Newman Law Office, in Manchester, New Hampshire; Walter B. Prince, Esq., of Prince Lobel, in Boston, Massachusetts; Stelio Sinnis, Esq., former Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Federal Public Defender Office for the District of Massachusetts; and Dehlia Umunna, Esq., Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.