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Commonwealth's Attorney Stolle Receives Prestigious Award at VA Prosecutors' Conference

Virginia Beach, Va. – At its annual Executive Program in Charlottesville on December 1, 2021, the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys (VACA) presented the 2021 Robert F. Horan, Jr. Award to Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney Colin D. Stolle. The Horan Award, named after the longtime Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax, was first presented in 1989 to Bob Horan. This award recognizes outstanding service to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the citizens of the recipient's home jurisdiction, and to the members of VACA.

Stolle has dedicated his entire career to public safety, with 29 years of service in the Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. He was elected Commonwealth's Attorney in 2013 and continues to serve the citizens of Virginia Beach in that role today. Stolle was the President of VACA for the 2021 term.

Stolle has handled every type of case from speeding to Capital Murder since being hired as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in 1996. By successfully handling one of the heaviest and most serious caseloads in the office, Stolle worked his way to Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney and, in 2005, to Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney. Today he supervises 44 attorneys, 22 paralegals, and with the rest of the staff, a total office of about 100 dedicated public servants. He oversees and manages a multi-million-dollar budget consisting of both state and local funds. Even with the demands of office stewardship and policy responsibilities, Stolle continues to handle some of the most serious and high-profile cases that come into the office.

As Commonwealth's Attorney, Stolle has worked tirelessly with law enforcement, community groups, and state and local officials to establish prosecutorial policies and programs that hold offenders accountable and keep the citizens of Virginia Beach safe. He was instrumental in developing the Virginia Beach Drug Treatment Court, The First Step Program (an alternative to

arrest for those experiencing opioid addiction), and a specialized DUI Prosecution Team to combat drunk driving. He is dedicated to domestic violence prosecution and helping vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Stolle has supported discovery reform to create a more balanced approach for both sides in preparing for trial, provided training to local law enforcement and citizen groups, and advocated for pay increases for Virginia Beach's public defenders.

In addition to recently serving as VACA President, Stolle also served as the chairman of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Services Council, a member of VACA's Justice and Professionalism Committee, past co-chair of the Virginia Criminal Justice Conference, and was just elected to serve as Virginia's representative to the Board of Directors of the National District Attorney's Association.

"I am honored to receive the Horan Award," Stolle said. "I've dedicated over half of my life to public service for the citizens of Virginia Beach and will continue to fight to keep Virginia Beach safe using innovative ideas and programs that best serve my community."

Please contact Macie Allen if additional information is desired.

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