VIRGINIA:

In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March, 2021.

IN RE: EIGHTEENTH ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Under the constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court unanimously EXTENDS the Declaration of Judicial Emergency through March 28, 2021, and ORDERS that the provisions of the *Seventeenth Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency In Response To Covid-19 Emergency*, entered February 8, 2021 (Seventeenth Order), shall continue to apply in all courts of the Commonwealth for the duration of this Order except as modified herein, and unless amended by future order.

To address the backlog of pending cases, any court may, in the exercise of its sound discretion: (i) grant continuances for good cause shown or as otherwise provided by law; and (ii) increase the use of in-person court proceedings whenever the court determines it is safe to do so.

This Order shall be in effect from March 8, 2021, through March 28, 2021. Accordingly, the Period of Judicial Emergency now extends from March 16, 2020, through March 28, 2021. The Declaration of Judicial Emergency may be extended for additional periods as provided in Va. Code § 17.1-330(E). It is so ORDERED.

_____(SEAL)

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia