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Anne Lester Named 2020 EBRI Lillywhite Award Recipient

SAN DIEGO – October 26, 2021 – The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) is pleased to recognize Anne Lester as the organization’s most recent winner of the annual Lillywhite Award. Named after Ray Lillywhite, a pioneer in the pension field, the award honors employee benefits professionals for extraordinary lifetime contributions to Americans’ economic security.

“Anne Lester has set the standard for innovation and thought leadership in the retirement space for much of her career,” says Lori Lucas, President and CEO of EBRI. “Through harnessing data and empirical analysis—and also through her many collaborations—she has advanced the understanding of how Americans save for, and spend in, retirement.”

A 29-year veteran of JPMorgan Asset Management, Anne was Head of Retirement Solutions for over a decade prior to her retirement. Known as an innovator, she holds patents for her progressive design to simplify and automate the retirement planning process. Since retiring from JPMorgan last year, Anne has been working on a book which will help younger savers understand how to overcome their own behavioral biases and set out on the path to long-term savings success.

Anne’s policy-related work includes testifying for the US Department of Labor and the Securities and Exchange Commission. In partnership with AARP, she founded the Aspen Leadership Forum on Retirement Savings. The Forum’s goal is to find breakthrough solutions to Americans’ far-reaching problem of inadequate savings. She is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies and Princeton University, and was awarded a Fulbright Graduate Research Fellowship, where she was based in Japan.

Past Lillywhite award winners include Howard Fluhr of Segal, Anna Rappaport of Anna Rappaport Consulting; Karin Brodbeck, former leader of Retirement Investments North America at Nestlé USA, Inc.; Olivia Mitchell, Executive Director of the Pension Research Council at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; Christine C. Marcks — President of Prudential Retirement; Mary Nell Billings — Director of Global Retirement Programs for Hilton Worldwide; and William F. Sharpe — Stanford University.

EBRI’s Lillywhite award represents EBRI’s mission by honoring those that devote their careers to improving employee benefits, which makes for a stronger American workforce, and a more secure U.S. economy.

Lester will be honored at EBRI’s December Board Meeting after being recognized at the Pensions & Investments West Coast Defined Contribution Conference.

About EBRI

The Employee Benefit Research Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute and membership organization based in Washington, DC, that focuses on health, savings, retirement, and financial security issues. EBRI does not lobby and does not take policy positions. The work of EBRI is made possible by funding from its members and sponsors, who include a broad range of public, private, for-profit and nonprofit organizations. For more information visit www.ebri.org.