



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION

JOHN S. MASSAD, CHAIRMAN
JUDGE WILLIAM T. NEWMAN, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN
BEVIN R. ALEXANDER, ESQUIRE
THOMAS E. GLASCOCK, ESQUIRE
DR. DELORES Z. PRETLOW
JUDGE JOSEPH S. TATE
JUDGE LARRY D. WILLIS, SR.

P.O. Box 367
Richmond, Virginia 23218-0367
(804) 786-6636
FAX (804) 371-0650

DONALD R. CURRY
Counsel
KENNETH MONTERO
Assistant Counsel
DIANE KAESTNER
Administrative Assistant

December 1, 2001

REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

In accordance with Section 17.1-905 of the Code of Virginia, the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission makes the following report concerning its activities for the prior year:

1. The Commission continues to keep statistical information on all incoming telephone calls and correspondence. These inquiries are separated into categories indicating the source, nature of the inquiry, and whether a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct is alleged. The statistics are attached and made a part of this report.
2. The Rules of the Commission have been revised regarding the required preservation of the Commission's confidential records. The revision more accurately reflects the mandates of Section 17.1-913 of the Code of Virginia. The change became effective December 1, 2001.
3. Pamphlets describing the function of the Commission have been made available to the public and distributed to all the Clerks' offices of General District, Juvenile, and Circuit Courts. The pamphlet describes how complaints are initiated, the confidential nature of the proceedings, and the array of dispositions that might be made. Different pamphlets specifically aimed at lawyers also have been distributed widely to members of the bar.
4. The Commission has presented numerous educational programs concerning judicial ethics. These programs have been presented at local, regional, and state meetings for judges at all levels. Training programs for substitute judges were conducted throughout the state during November. These programs were held in Abingdon, Harrisonburg, Henrico, Manassas, Rustburg, and Suffolk.
5. Information concerning the Commission now may be found on the Internet on the home page of the Virginia Supreme Court. The Commission's Rules, the Canons of Judicial Conduct and complaint forms are now available to the public through the Internet.

6. The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee responds to inquiries from judges concerning whether proposed future conduct complies with the Canons of Judicial Conduct. The Commission staff has continued to provide administrative support for this Committee. Information concerning the Ethics Committee and an index of the Committee's formal opinions also are available on the Internet.

7. Donald R. Curry became Commission Counsel on January 1, 2001. He replaced Donald H. Kent who had been Commission Counsel since 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Massad, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

John S. Massad, Sr.
Chairman

dk

Enclosure

JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION
December 1, 2000 to November 30, 2001

Judges subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission	777
State Corporation Commission Judges	3
Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission	3

Written inquiries received		Nature of written inquiry	
Attorneys	16	Ruling/decision	159
Judges	13	Ex parte	6
Court employees	2	Bias or prejudice	57
General public	11	Delay	16
Litigants	125	Rude behavior	35
Victims	3	Failure to follow the law	34
Inmates	170	Ethics opinion	13
Media	0	How to file	30
Other	20	Other	77
TOTAL	360		427

Telephone inquiries received		Nature of telephone inquiry	
Attorneys	45	Ruling/decision	242
Judges	241	Ex parte	13
Court employees	21	Bias or prejudice	66
General public	63	Delay	28
Litigants	432	Rude behavior	84
Victims	12	Failure to follow the law	52
Inmates	4	Ethics opinion	232
Media	3	How to file	125
Other	81	Other	161
In Person	9		
TOTAL	911		1003

Files opened upon the complaint of		Commission Dispositions	
Attorney	3	No jurisdiction	2
General public	0	No violation	4
Litigant	5	Not a substantial breach	13
Judge	3	Canons breached	3
Inmate	0	Retired or removed	1
Court Staff	0	Pending	4
Commission	7		
Victims	0	TOTAL	27
Other	5		
TOTAL	23		

Recusals	
Staff	0
Commission	13

dk
12/3/01