



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission

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December 1, 2003

REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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 during the past twelve months:

1. The Commission continues to keep statistical information on all incoming telephone calls and correspondence. Complaints and inquiries are separated into categories indicating the source, the nature of the complaint or inquiry, and whether a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct was alleged. The statistics are attached and made a part of this report.

2. The Commission's 2003 statistical report also includes the number of times during the year that the Commission issued formal charges against a judge, the number of formal hearings conducted, and the number of informal meetings with judges to discuss complaints.

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 explains how complaints are initiated, the confidential nature of Commission proceedings, and the array of dispositions available to the Commission. Similar pamphlets specifically aimed at lawyers also have been distributed widely to members of the bar.

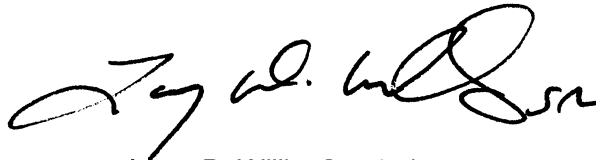
4. Information concerning the Commission also is available on the Internet on the home page of the Virginia Supreme Court. The Commission's Rules, the Canons of Judicial Conduct and complaint forms are accessible on the website.

5. Commission Counsel also provides informal ethics advice to Virginia judges on a daily basis. During the past twelve months, Counsel responded to 330 such requests.

6. The Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee responds to requests from judges for formal opinions concerning whether proposed future conduct complies with the Canons of Judicial Conduct. Commission staff continues 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. The Commission has presented numerous educational programs concerning judicial ethics. These programs have been conducted at local, regional, and state meetings for judges and bar groups. Commission staff also held training programs for substitute judges during October and November in Abingdon, Harrisonburg, Henrico, Manassas, Rustburg, and Suffolk.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry D. Willis, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Larry D. Willis, Sr., Judge
Chairman

dk

Enclosure

11/7/03

JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION
December 1, 2002 to November 30, 2003

Judges subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission	772
State Corporation Commission Judges	3
Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission	3

Written inquiries received		Nature of written inquiry	
Attorneys	20	Ruling/decision	248
Judges	14	Ex parte	13
Court employees	1	Bias or prejudice	49
General public	34	Delay	22
Litigants	157	Rude behavior	45
Victims	2	Failure to follow the law	33
Inmates	231	Ethics opinion	12
Media	0	How to file	55
Other	47	Other	101
TOTAL	506		578

Telephone inquiries received		Nature of telephone inquiry	
Attorneys	55	Ruling/decision	235
Judges	349	Ex parte	13
Court employees	14	Bias or prejudice	71
General public	43	Delay	28
Litigants	396	Rude behavior	84
Victims	12	Failure to follow the law	70
Inmates	1	Ethics opinion	341
Media	5	How to file	142
Other	145	Other	162
In Person	6		
TOTAL	1026		1143

Files opened upon the complaint of		Commission Dispositions	
Attorney	9	No violation	2
General public	1	Not a substantial breach	14
Litigant	5	Informal meetings	14
Judge	2	Formal charges	5
Inmate	1	Formal hearings	5
Court Staff	1	Supreme Court complaints	0
Commission	10	Canons breached	5
Victims	0	Retired	4
Other	3	Removed from docket	6
TOTAL	32	Pending	16

Recusals	
Staff	0
Commission	7

dk
12/1/03