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December 29, 2006

The Honorable David B. Albo
Chairman, House Courts of Justice Committee
6367 Rolling Mill Place, Suite 102
Springfield, VA 22152

The Honorable Kenneth W. Stolle
Chairman, Senate Courts of Justice Committee
2101 Parks Ave., Suite 700
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

Virginia Code § 17.1-507 provides that the Judicial Council shall make a study and report to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate on the number of new circuit court judgeships needed and the circuits for which they should be authorized. The Judicial Council recommends the authorization of four new circuit court judgeships (one each in the tenth, twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and thirtieth judicial circuits), and that the General Assembly amend § 17.1-507 to reflect the addition of these new judgeships. These positions are recommended to be effective July 1, 2007. Please find enclosed the reports outlining the workload analysis for each judicial circuit referenced above, and the fiscal impact statement. As you will see, the financial impact for the creation of each new circuit court judgeship will be \$231,831.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Karl R. Hade

KRH:bsw

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Susan C. Schaar, Clerk
The Honorable Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Legislative Services
Division of Legislative Automated Systems



Judicial Workload Analysis The Tenth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Tenth Judicial Circuit serves the localities of Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward. The estimated 2005 population of the area was 154,269, an increase of 0.6% from the 2000 population of 153,412.

The Tenth Circuit has three authorized judgeships. Serving currently are Richard S. Blanton, Leslie M. Osborn, and William L. Wellons. The Tenth Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2005 Caseload

Caseload data for 2005 show that 6,956 cases were commenced in the Tenth Circuit during the year, an increase of 10.1% or 640 cases from 2004 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 4.8% in civil cases and an increase of 16.0% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded fell 0.6% during the year, from 5,901 in 2004 to 5,864 in 2005. The number of juries impaneled fell 21.7% from 23 in 2004 to 18 last year. The circuit judges averaged 7 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants increased by 148 (or 9.7%) from 1,522 to 1,670.

The three judges in the Tenth Circuit averaged 2,319 commenced cases each in 2005, ranking 4th among the 31 circuits. The Tenth averaged 1,955 concluded cases per judge, 8th highest in the state in 2005. The number of commenced cases per judge was 535 above the state average of 1,784 and 377 above the rural average of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge (1,955)

was 229 above the state average (1,726) and 52 above the rural average (1,903).

At the end of 2005, pending cases in the Tenth totaled 5,999, an increase of 15.4% over 2004 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 2,000, 10th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 4.8% in 2005 to total 1,705. Of these cases, 2.5% were general district appeals, 36.8% other law, 31.3% divorce, 23.4% other equity and 6.0% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.6% general district appeals, 40.6% other law, 32.7% divorce, 23.4% other equity and 5.3% J&DR appeals.

Of the 1,669 civil cases concluded in 2005, 34.1% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 5.5% of concluded civil cases while 0.3% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.6% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2005, 20.6% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 67.1% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 72.4% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 77.1% reached conclusion within two years while 4.3% actually took five years or longer. The Judicial Council's voluntary case processing time guidelines establish a goal of concluding 90% of civil cases within one year and 100% within two years.

The three judges in the Tenth Circuit averaged 568 civil

The Tenth Judicial Circuit 2005 AT A GLANCE	
Population	154,269
Cases Commenced	
Law	670
Equity	1,035
Felony	4,117
Misdemeanor	1,134
Total	6,956
Cases Concluded	
Law	694
Equity	975
Felony	3,104
Misdemeanor	1,091
Total	5,864
Judges	3.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Tenth	2,319
State	1,784
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Tenth	1,955
State	1,726
Rural	1,903
2006 FORECAST*	
Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,388
With 4 Judges	1,791
State (2005)	1,784
State (2006)*	1,820
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	1,996
With 4 Judges	1,497
State (2005)	1,726
State (2006)*	1,762
Rural	1,903
*Estimate based on historical data.	

cases each in 2005, ranking 22nd among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 661 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 612 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Tenth Circuit increased 16.0% in 2005 from 4,525 cases to 5,251. Of these cases, 78.4% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.0%.

Of the 4,195 criminal cases concluded, 30.0% were disposed of by a judge trial while 0.3% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 30.2% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.3% by a jury trial.

Approximately 37.1% of felony cases concluded in the Tenth Circuit in 2005 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 60.0% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 47.1% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 66.1% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Tenth disposed of 32.8% within 60 days and 50.7% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.7% and 67.3%, for the same 60 and 90 day time frames. For criminal cases, the Judicial Council's guidelines call for 90% of all felonies to be concluded within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days, and 100% within one year. For misdemeanor cases, the goal is to conclude 90% within 60 days and 100% within 90 days from the date of arrest.

The judges of the Tenth Circuit averaged 1,751 criminal cases each in 2005, 3rd among the 31 circuits. This was 628 above the average for judges statewide (1,123) and 421 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,330 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2006

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Tenth Circuit is forecast to increase 3.0%, from 6,956 cases in 2005 to 7,163 in 2006. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 2.1%, from 5,864 to 5,989.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2006, the three judges in the Tenth Circuit would each average 2,388 commenced cases and 1,996 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 568 cases above the projected state average for 2006 of 1,820 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 234 cases above the projected state average of 1,762 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the four judges would fall to 1,791, 29 cases below the projected state average of 1,820 cases per judge and 151 less than the 2005 average for rural circuits of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,497, 265 less than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,762) and 406 fewer than the 2005 average for rural circuits (1,903 cases per judge).



Judicial Workload Analysis

The Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit serves the localities of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Harrisonburg, Shenandoah, Warren, and Winchester. The estimated 2005 population of the area was 318,707, an increase of 8.6% from the 2000 population of 293,449.

The Twenty-Sixth Circuit has five authorized judgeships. Serving currently are Dennis Lee Hupp, James V. Lane, John J. McGrath Jr., John R. Prosser, and John E. Wetsel Jr. The Twenty-Sixth Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2005 Caseload

Caseload data for 2005 show that 10,940 cases were commenced in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit during the year, a decrease of 7.3% or 865 cases from 2004 levels. This decline was due to a decline of 0.8% in civil cases and a decline of 10.3% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded fell 8.6% during the year, from 11,457 in 2004 to 10,476 in 2005. The number of juries impaneled fell 22.5% from 89 in 2004 to 69 last year. The circuit judges averaged 18 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants declined by 178 (or 6.2%) from 2,892 to 2,714.

The five judges in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit averaged 2,188 commenced cases each in 2005, ranking 6th among the 31 circuits. The Twenty-Sixth averaged 2,095 concluded cases per judge, 6th highest in the state in 2005. The number of commenced cases per judge was 404 above the state average of 1,784 and 246 above the rural average of 1,942. The number

of concluded cases per judge (2,095) was 370 above the state average (1,726) and 192 above the rural average (1,903).

At the end of 2005, pending cases in the Twenty-Sixth totaled 8,356, an increase of 7.0% over 2004 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 1,671, 13th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 0.8% in 2005 to total 3,641. Of these cases, 2.1% were general district appeals, 34.0% other law, 41.9% divorce, 16.3% other equity and 5.7% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.6% general district appeals, 40.6% other law, 32.7% divorce, 16.3% other equity and 5.3% J&DR appeals.

Of the 3,240 civil cases concluded in 2005, 26.6% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 18.1% of concluded civil cases while 0.4% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.6% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2005, 20.6% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 79.5% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 72.4% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 94.3% reached conclusion within two years while 0.4% actually took five years or longer. The Judicial Council's voluntary case processing time guidelines establish a goal of concluding 90% of civil cases within one year and 100% within two years.

The Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit 2005 AT A GLANCE	
Population	318,707
Cases Commenced	
Law	1,313
Equity	2,328
Felony	5,302
Misdemeanor	1,997
Total	10,940
Cases Concluded	
Law	1,144
Equity	2,096
Felony	5,189
Misdemeanor	2,047
Total	10,476
Judges	5.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Sixth	2,188
State	1,784
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Sixth	2,095
State	1,726
Rural	1,903
2006 FORECAST*	
Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,257
With 6 Judges	1,881
State (2005)	1,784
State (2006)*	1,820
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,161
With 6 Judges	1,801
State (2005)	1,726
State (2006)*	1,762
Rural	1,903
*Estimate based on historical data.	

The five judges in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit averaged 728 civil cases each in 2005, ranking 6th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 661 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 612 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit decreased 10.3% in 2005 from 8,136 cases to 7,299. Of these cases, 72.6% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.0%.

Of the 7,236 criminal cases concluded, 24.5% were disposed of by a judge trial while 1.2% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 30.2% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.3% by a jury trial.

Approximately 41.8% of felony cases concluded in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit in 2005 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 61.1% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 47.1% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 66.1% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Twenty-Sixth disposed of 41.7% within 60 days and 59.5% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.7% and 67.3%, for the same 60 and 90 day time frames. For criminal cases, the Judicial Council's guidelines call for 90% of all felonies to be concluded within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days, and 100% within one year. For misdemeanor cases, the goal is to conclude 90% within 60 days and 100% within 90 days from the date of arrest.

The judges of the Twenty-Sixth Circuit averaged 1,460 criminal cases each in 2005, 7th among the 31 circuits. This was 337 above the average for judges statewide (1,123) and 130 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,330 criminal

cases each).

Forecast for 2006

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit is forecast to increase 3.2%, from 10,940 cases in 2005 to 11,285 in 2006. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 3.2%, from 10,476 to 10,807.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2006, the five judges in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit would each average 2,257 commenced cases and 2,161 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 437 cases above the projected state average for 2006 of 1,820 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 399 cases above the projected state average of 1,762 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the six judges would climb to 1,881, 61 cases above the projected state average of 1,820 cases per judge and 61 less than the 2005 average for rural circuits of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,801, 39 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,762) and 102 fewer than the 2005 average for rural circuits (1,903 cases per judge).



Judicial Workload Analysis

The Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit serves the localities of Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Galax, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Radford, and Wythe. The estimated 2005 population of the area was 253,550, an increase of 0.3% from the 2000 population of 252,679.

The Twenty-Seventh Circuit has five authorized judgeships. Serving currently are J. Colin Campbell Sr., Brett L. Geisler, Colin R. Gibb, Ray Wilson Grubbs, and Robert M. D. Turk. The Twenty-Seventh Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2005 Caseload

Caseload data for 2005 show that 12,460 cases were commenced in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit during the year, an increase of 4.3% or 514 cases from 2004 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 3.5% in civil cases and an increase of 7.1% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 4.3% during the year, from 11,440 in 2004 to 11,933 in 2005. The number of juries impaneled fell 69.4% from 36 in 2004 to 11 last year. The circuit judges averaged 3 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants increased by 99 (or 3.2%) from 3,139 to 3,238.

The five judges in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit averaged 2,492 commenced cases each in 2005, ranking 1st among the 31 circuits. The Twenty-Seventh averaged 2,387 concluded cases per judge, 1st highest in the state in 2005. The number of commenced cases per judge was 708 above the state average of 1,784 and 550

above the rural average of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,387) was 661 above the state average (1,726) and 484 above the rural average (1,903).

At the end of 2005, pending cases in the Twenty-Seventh totaled 10,880, an increase of 4.7% over 2004 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 2,176, 4th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 3.5% in 2005 to total 3,018. Of these cases, 2.8% were general district appeals, 28.3% other law, 37.0% divorce, 24.8% other equity and 7.0% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.6% general district appeals, 40.6% other law, 32.7% divorce, 24.8% other equity and 5.3% J&DR appeals.

Of the 2,983 civil cases concluded in 2005, 23.7% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 16.6% of concluded civil cases while 0.2% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.6% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2005, 20.6% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 64.3% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 72.4% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 74.9% reached conclusion within two years while 6.6% actually took five years or longer. The Judicial Council's voluntary case processing time guidelines establish a goal of concluding 90% of civil cases within

The Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit 2005 AT A GLANCE	
Population	253,550
Cases Commenced	
Law	939
Equity	2,079
Felony	7,059
Misdemeanor	2,383
Total	12,460
Cases Concluded	
Law	992
Equity	1,991
Felony	6,682
Misdemeanor	2,268
Total	11,933
Judges	5.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Seventh	2,492
State	1,784
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Seventh	2,387
State	1,726
Rural	1,903
2006 FORECAST*	
Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,597
With 6 Judges	2,164
State (2005)	1,784
State (2006)*	1,820
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,484
With 6 Judges	2,070
State (2005)	1,726
State (2006)*	1,762
Rural	1,903
*Estimate based on historical data.	

one year and 100% within two years.

The five judges in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit averaged 604 civil cases each in 2005, ranking 18th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 661 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 612 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit increased 7.1% in 2005 from 8,819 cases to 9,442. Of these cases, 74.8% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.0%.

Of the 8,950 criminal cases concluded, 23.8% were disposed of by a judge trial while 0.2% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 30.2% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.3% by a jury trial.

Approximately 34.9% of felony cases concluded in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit in 2005 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 52.7% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 47.1% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 66.1% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Twenty-Seventh disposed of 29.3% within 60 days and 44.0% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.7% and 67.3%, for the same 60 and 90 day time frames. For criminal cases, the Judicial Council's guidelines call for 90% of all felonies to be concluded within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days, and 100% within one year. For misdemeanor cases, the goal is to conclude 90% within 60 days and 100% within 90 days from the date of arrest.

The judges of the Twenty-Seventh Circuit averaged 1,889 criminal cases each in 2005, 1st among the 31 circuits. This was 766 above the average for judges

statewide (1,123) and 559 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,330 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2006

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit is forecast to increase 4.2%, from 12,460 cases in 2005 to 12,987 in 2006. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 4.1%, from 11,933 to 12,418.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2006, the five judges in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit would each average 2,597 commenced cases and 2,484 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 777 cases above the projected state average for 2006 of 1,820 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 721 cases above the projected state average of 1,762 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the six judges would climb to 2,164, 344 cases above the projected state average of 1,820 cases per judge and 222 more than the 2005 average for rural circuits of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 2,070, 308 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,762) and 167 more than the 2005 average for rural circuits (1,903 cases per judge).



Judicial Workload Analysis The Thirtieth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Thirtieth Judicial Circuit serves the localities of Lee, Norton, Scott, and Wise. The estimated 2005 population of the area was 92,322, a decrease of 0.8% from the 2000 population of 93,105.

The Thirtieth Circuit has three authorized judgeships. Serving currently are John C. Kilgore, Tammy S. McElyea, and Birg E. Sergent. The Thirtieth Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2005 Caseload

Caseload data for 2005 show that 6,855 cases were commenced in the Thirtieth Circuit during the year, an increase of 3.5% or 230 cases from 2004 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 9.9% in civil cases and an increase of 8.1% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 14.0% during the year, from 5,877 in 2004 to 6,697 in 2005. The number of juries impaneled fell 16.2% from 37 in 2004 to 31 last year. The circuit judges averaged 16 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants declined by 160 (or 8.2%) from 1,955 to 1,795.

The three judges in the Thirtieth Circuit averaged 2,285 commenced cases each in 2005, ranking 3rd among the 31 circuits. The Thirtieth averaged 2,232 concluded cases per judge, 4th highest in the state in 2005. The number of commenced cases per judge was 501 above the state average of 1,784 and 343 above the rural average of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,232) was 507 above the state average (1,726) and 329 above the rural

average (1,903).

At the end of 2005, pending cases in the Thirtieth totaled 6,189, an increase of 0.7% over 2004 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 2,063, 8th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 9.9% in 2005 to total 1,542. Of these cases, 1.9% were general district appeals, 34.0% other law, 36.4% divorce, 16.7% other equity and 11.0% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.6% general district appeals, 40.6% other law, 32.7% divorce, 16.7% other equity and 5.3% J&DR appeals.

Of the 1,499 civil cases concluded in 2005, 25.8% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 27.1% of concluded civil cases while 0.5% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.6% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2005, 20.6% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 60.0% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 72.4% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 74.0% reached conclusion within two years while 5.3% actually took five years or longer. The Judicial Council's voluntary case processing time guidelines establish a goal of concluding 90% of civil cases within one year and 100% within two years.

The three judges in the Thirtieth Circuit averaged 514 civil cases each in 2005, ranking 26th

The Thirtieth Judicial Circuit 2005 AT A GLANCE	
Population	92,322
Cases Commenced	
Law	554
Equity	988
Felony	2,669
Misdemeanor	2,644
Total	6,855
Cases Concluded	
Law	551
Equity	948
Felony	2,609
Misdemeanor	2,589
Total	6,697
Judges	3.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Thirtieth	2,285
State	1,784
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Thirtieth	2,232
State	1,726
Rural	1,903
2006 FORECAST*	
Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,358
With 4 Judges	1,768
State (2005)	1,784
State (2006)*	1,820
Rural	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,324
With 4 Judges	1,743
State (2005)	1,726
State (2006)*	1,762
Rural	1,903
*Estimate based on historical data.	

among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 661 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 612 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Thirtieth Circuit increased 8.1% in 2005 from 4,913 cases to 5,313. Of these cases, 50.2% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.0%.

Of the 5,198 criminal cases concluded, 9.1% were disposed of by a judge trial while 0.5% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 30.2% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.3% by a jury trial.

Approximately 32.8% of felony cases concluded in the Thirtieth Circuit in 2005 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 45.6% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 47.1% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 66.1% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Thirtieth disposed of 50.0% within 60 days and 65.3% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.7% and 67.3%, for the same 60 and 90 day time frames. For criminal cases, the Judicial Council's guidelines call for 90% of all felonies to be concluded within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days, and 100% within one year. For misdemeanor cases, the goal is to conclude 90% within 60 days and 100% within 90 days from the date of arrest.

The judges of the Thirtieth Circuit averaged 1,771 criminal cases each in 2005, 2nd among the 31 circuits. This was 648 above the average for judges statewide (1,123) and 441 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,330 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2006

Based on historical data, the

number of cases commenced in the Thirtieth Circuit is forecast to increase 3.2%, from 6,855 cases in 2005 to 7,073 in 2006. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 4.1%, from 6,697 to 6,971.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2006, the three judges in the Thirtieth Circuit would each average 2,358 commenced cases and 2,324 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 538 cases above the projected state average for 2006 of 1,820 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 561 cases above the projected state average of 1,762 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the four judges would fall to 1,768, 52 cases below the projected state average of 1,820 cases per judge and 174 less than the 2005 average for rural circuits of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,743, 19 less than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,762) and 160 fewer than the 2005 average for rural circuits (1,903 cases per judge).

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIP COSTS
SALARY EFFECTIVE 11/25/06

		<u>Circuit</u>
SALARY		\$143,549
RETIREMENT	41.47%	59,530
GROUP LIFE	1.13%	1,622
RETIREE HEALTH INS.	1.07%	1,536
FICA BASE	94,200 @7.65%	7,206
FICA (above cap)	49,349 @1.45%	716
HEALTH		8,176
DEF COMP MATCH		480
CLERK HIRE		1,500
PERSONAL COMPUTER		2,500
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
CIRCUIT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		4,660
FICA FOR SUB JUDGE		356
TOTAL		\$231,831

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 23.3 DAYS @ \$200.00