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November 28, 2007

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 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 six new circuit court judgeships (one each in the Tenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Judicial Circuits) effective July 1, 2008. 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 \$254,454.

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

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Karl R. Hade in black ink.

Karl R. Hade

KRH:bsw

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Susan C. Schaar, Clerk
The Honorable Bruce F. Jamerson, Clerk
Mr. Richard E. Hickman, Jr., Senate Finance Staff
Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations Staff
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Legislative Services



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 2006 population of the area was 156,356, an increase of 1.9% 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 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 6,738 cases were commenced in the Tenth Circuit during the year, a decrease of 3.1% or 218 cases from 2005 levels. This decline was due to a rise of 4.2% in civil cases and a decline of 5.5% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 18.1% during the year, from 5,864 in 2005 to 6,924 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled rose 122.2% from 18 in 2005 to 40 last year. The circuit judges averaged 18 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants declined by 65 (or 3.9%) from 1,670 to 1,605.

The three judges in the Tenth Circuit averaged 2,246 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 4th among the 31 circuits. The Tenth averaged 2,308 concluded cases per judge, 3rd highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced cases per judge was 400 above the state average of 1,846 and 212 above the rural average of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,308) was 529 above the

state average (1,779) and 329 above the rural average (1,979).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Tenth totaled 5,915, an increase of 18.7% from 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 1,972, 9th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases increased 4.2% in 2006 to total 1,777. Of these cases, 1.5% were general district appeals, 56.4% other law, 30.7% divorce, 4.0% other equity and 7.4% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.8% general district appeals, 55.0% other law, 33.2% divorce, 4.0% other equity and 5.2% J&DR appeals.

Of the 1,587 civil cases concluded in 2006, 38.8% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 6.8% of concluded civil cases while 0.4% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.5% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 22.3% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 75.3% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 73.8% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 86.1% reached conclusion within two years. 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 592 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 17th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the

The Tenth Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	156,356
Cases Commenced	
Law	1,029
Equity	748
Felony	3,817
Misdemeanor	1,144
Total	6,738
Cases Concluded	
Law	865
Equity	722
Felony	4,066
Misdemeanor	1,271
Total	6,924
Judges	3.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Tenth	2,246
State	1,846
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Tenth	2,308
State	1,779
Rural (2006)	1,979

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,325
With 4 Judges	1,744
State (2006)	1,846
State (2007)*	1,901
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,399
With 4 Judges	1,799
State (2006)	1,779
State (2007)*	1,834
Rural (2006)	1,979

*Estimate based on historical data.

year totaled 656 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 598 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Tenth Circuit decreased 5.5% in 2006 from 5,251 cases to 4,961. Of these cases, 76.9% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.8%.

Of the 5,337 criminal cases concluded, 40.7% were disposed of by a judge trial while 1.0% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 29.8% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.4% by a jury trial.

Approximately 34.5% of felony cases concluded in the Tenth Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 51.6% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 45.2% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 64.4% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Tenth disposed of 28.0% within 60 days and 46.6% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.4% and 65.8%, 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 1,654 criminal cases each in 2006, 4th among the 31 circuits. This was 464 above the average for judges statewide (1,190) and 217 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,437 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Tenth Circuit is forecast to increase 3.5%, from 6,738 cases in 2006 to

6,976 in 2007. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 3.9%, from 6,924 to 7,197.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the three judges in the Tenth Circuit would each average 2,325 commenced cases and 2,399 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 424 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,901 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 564 cases above the projected state average of 1,834 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the four judges would fall to 1,744, 157 cases below the projected state average of 1,901 cases per judge and 290 less than the 2006 average for rural circuits of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,799, 35 less than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,834) and 180 fewer than the 2006 average for rural circuits (1,979 cases per judge).



Judicial Workload Analysis

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit serves the locality of Henrico. The estimated 2006 population of the area was 286,842, an increase of 9.4% from the 2000 population of 262,300.

The Fourteenth Circuit has five authorized judgeships. Serving currently are Daniel T. Balfour, Catherine C. Hammond, Lee A. Harris Jr., Gary A. Hicks, and Burnett Miller III. The Fourteenth Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 11,060 cases were commenced in the Fourteenth Circuit during the year, an increase of 1.4% or 148 cases from 2005 levels. This growth was due to a rise of 0.3% in civil cases and an increase of 1.7% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 10.8% during the year, from 10,183 in 2005 to 11,281 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled rose 33.9% from 59 in 2005 to 79 last year. The circuit judges averaged 21 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants declined by 45 (or 1.1%) from 3,929 to 3,884.

The five judges in the Fourteenth Circuit averaged 2,212 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 5th among the 31 circuits. The Fourteenth averaged 2,256 concluded cases per judge, 5th highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced cases per judge was 366 above the state average of 1,846 and 510 above the urban average of 1,702. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,256)

was 477 above the state average (1,779) and 630 above the urban average (1,626).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Fourteenth totaled 7,050, an increase of 7.4% from 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 1,410, 21st in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases increased 0.3% in 2006 to total 2,853. Of these cases, 3.4% were general district appeals, 50.1% other law, 37.6% divorce, 2.1% other equity and 6.8% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.8% general district appeals, 55.0% other law, 33.2% divorce, 2.1% other equity and 5.2% J&DR appeals.

Of the 3,107 civil cases concluded in 2006, 19.0% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 1.4% of concluded civil cases while 1.6% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.5% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 22.3% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 62.3% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 73.8% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 75.8% reached conclusion within two years. 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 five judges in the Fourteenth Circuit averaged 571 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 20th among the 31

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	286,842
Cases Commenced	
Law	1,526
Equity	1,327
Felony	5,528
Misdemeanor	2,679
Total	11,060
Cases Concluded	
Law	1,567
Equity	1,540
Felony	5,459
Misdemeanor	2,715
Total	11,281
Judges	5.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Fourteenth	2,212
State	1,846
Urban	1,702
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Fourteenth	2,256
State	1,779
Urban	1,626

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,293
With 6 Judges	1,911
State (2006)	1,846
State (2007)*	1,901
Urban (2006)	1,702
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,339
With 6 Judges	1,949
State (2006)	1,779
State (2007)*	1,834
Urban (2006)	1,626

*Estimate based on historical data.

circuits. The state average for the year totaled 656 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in urban circuits was 700 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Fourteenth Circuit increased 1.7% in 2006 from 8,068 cases to 8,207. Of these cases, 67.4% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.8%.

Of the 8,174 criminal cases concluded, 24.6% were disposed of by a judge trial while 0.8% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 29.8% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.4% by a jury trial.

Approximately 41.9% of felony cases concluded in the Fourteenth Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 67.5% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 45.2% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 64.4% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Fourteenth disposed of 54.8% within 60 days and 76.3% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.4% and 65.8%, 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 Fourteenth Circuit averaged 1,642 criminal cases each in 2006, 5th among the 31 circuits. This was 452 above the average for judges statewide (1,190) and 640 above the average for judges in urban circuits (1,002 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the

number of cases commenced in the Fourteenth Circuit is forecast to increase 3.7%, from 11,060 cases in 2006 to 11,467 in 2007. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 3.7%, from 11,281 to 11,695.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the five judges in the Fourteenth Circuit would each average 2,293 commenced cases and 2,339 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 392 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,901 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 505 cases above the projected state average of 1,834 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the six judges would climb to 1,911, 10 cases above the projected state average of 1,901 cases per judge and 209 more than the 2006 average for urban circuits of 1,702. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,949, 115 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,834) and 323 more than the 2006 average for urban circuits (1,626 cases per judge).



Judicial Workload Analysis

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Circuit Court Additional Judgeship Request

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit serves the localities of Caroline, Essex, Fredericksburg, Hanover, King George, Lancaster, Northumberland, and Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland. The estimated 2006 population of the area was 464,994, an increase of 20.2% from the 2000 population of 386,706.

The Fifteenth Circuit has eight authorized judgeships. Serving currently are John Richard Alderman, J. Martin Bass, David H. Beck, George Mason III, Horace A. Revercomb III, John W. Scott Jr., Harry T. Taliaferro III, and Gordon F. Willis. The Fifteenth Circuit is requesting an additional judgeship.

Review of 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 17,650 cases were commenced in the Fifteenth Circuit during the year, an increase of 0.4% or 70 cases from 2005 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 5.6% in civil cases and an increase of 3.3% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded fell 5.2% during the year, from 18,371 in 2005 to 17,409 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled fell 5.4% from 129 in 2005 to 122 last year. The circuit judges averaged 21 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants declined by 137 (or 2.7%) from 5,009 to 4,872.

The eight judges in the Fifteenth Circuit averaged 2,206 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 6th among the 31 circuits. The Fifteenth averaged 2,176 concluded cases per judge, 6th highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced

cases per judge was 360 above the state average of 1,846 and 172 above the rural average of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,176) was 397 above the state average (1,779) and 197 above the rural average (1,979).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Fifteenth totaled 14,944, a decrease of 0.6% over 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 1,868, 11th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 5.6% in 2006 to total 5,441. Of these cases, 2.4% were general district appeals, 51.9% other law, 35.2% divorce, 3.5% other equity and 6.9% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.8% general district appeals, 55.0% other law, 33.2% divorce, 3.5% other equity and 5.2% J&DR appeals.

Of the 5,034 civil cases concluded in 2006, 36.9% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 6.5% of concluded civil cases while 0.2% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.5% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 22.3% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 69.8% of civil cases concluded reached termination with 12 months of filing. Statewide, 73.8% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 81.9% reached conclusion within two years. The Judicial Council's voluntary case processing time guidelines establish a goal of concluding 90% of civil cases within

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	464,994
Cases Commenced	
Law	2,958
Equity	2,483
Felony	8,602
Misdemeanor	3,607
Total	17,650
Cases Concluded	
Law	2,660
Equity	2,374
Felony	8,644
Misdemeanor	3,731
Total	17,409
Judges	8.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Fifteenth	2,206
State	1,846
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Fifteenth	2,176
State	1,779
Rural (2006)	1,979

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 8 Judges	2,305
With 9 Judges	2,049
State (2006)	1,846
State (2007)*	1,901
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 8 Judges	2,230
With 9 Judges	1,982
State (2006)	1,779
State (2007)*	1,834
Rural (2006)	1,979

*Estimate based on historical data.

one year and 100% within two years.

The eight judges in the Fifteenth Circuit averaged 680 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 11th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 656 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 598 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Fifteenth Circuit increased 3.3% in 2006 from 11,817 cases to 12,209. Of these cases, 70.5% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.8%.

Of the 12,375 criminal cases concluded, 20.6% were disposed of by a judge trial while 1.9% reached conclusion by a trial by jury.

Statewide, 29.8% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.4% by a jury trial.

Approximately 35.4% of felony cases concluded in the Fifteenth Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 58.6% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 45.2% of criminal cases were concluded within 120 days and 64.4% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Fifteenth disposed of 40.1% within 60 days and 60.7% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.4% and 65.8%, 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 Fifteenth Circuit averaged 1,527 criminal cases each in 2006, 7th among the 31 circuits. This was 337 above the average for judges statewide (1,190) and 90 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,437 criminal cases

each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Fifteenth Circuit is forecast to increase 4.5%, from 17,650 cases in 2006 to 18,440 in 2007. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 2.5%, from 17,409 to 17,837.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the eight judges in the Fifteenth Circuit would each average 2,305 commenced cases and 2,230 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 404 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,901 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 395 cases above the projected state average of 1,834 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the nine judges would climb to 2,049, 148 cases above the projected state average of 1,901 cases per judge and 15 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,982, 148 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,834) and 3 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits (1,979 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 2006 population of the area was 327,217, an increase of 11.5% from the 2000 population of 293,449.

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

Review of 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 12,341 cases were commenced in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit during the year, an increase of 12.8% or 1,401 cases from 2005 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 5.9% in civil cases and an increase of 22.1% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 9.9% during the year, from 10,476 in 2005 to 11,513 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled rose 7.2% from 69 in 2005 to 74 last year. The circuit judges averaged 21 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants increased by 402 (or 14.8%) from 2,714 to 3,116.

The five judges in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit averaged 2,468 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 3rd among the 31 circuits. The Twenty-Sixth averaged 2,303 concluded cases per judge, 4th highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced cases per judge was 622 above the state average of 1,846 and 434 above the

rural average of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,303) was 523 above the state average (1,779) and 324 above the rural average (1,979).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Twenty-Sixth totaled 9,153, an increase of 19.6% over 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 1,831, 12th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 5.9% in 2006 to total 3,428. Of these cases, 2.1% were general district appeals, 45.4% other law, 43.0% divorce, 3.4% other equity and 6.0% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.8% general district appeals, 55.0% other law, 33.2% divorce, 3.4% other equity and 5.2% J&DR appeals.

Of the 3,466 civil cases concluded in 2006, 25.6% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 15.6% of concluded civil cases while 0.5% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.5% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 22.3% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 71.6% of civil cases concluded within 12 months of filing. Statewide, 73.8% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 86.2% reached conclusion within two years. 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 five judges in the Twenty-

The Twenty-Sixth Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	327,217
Cases Commenced	
Law	1,629
Equity	1,799
Felony	6,601
Misdemeanor	2,312
Total	12,341
Cases Concluded	
Law	1,639
Equity	1,827
Felony	5,949
Misdemeanor	2,098
Total	11,513
Judges	5.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Sixth	2,468
State	1,846
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Sixth	2,303
State	1,779
Rural (2006)	1,979

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,571
With 6 Judges	2,142
State (2006)	1,846
State (2007)*	1,901
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,389
With 6 Judges	1,991
State (2006)	1,779
State (2007)*	1,834
Rural (2006)	1,979

*Estimate based on historical data.

Sixth Circuit averaged 686 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 10th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 656 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in rural circuits was 598 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit increased 22.1% in 2006 from 7,299 cases to 8,913. Of these cases, 74.1% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.8%.

Of the 8,047 criminal cases concluded, 24.0% were disposed of by a judge trial while 1.5% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 29.8% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.4% by a jury trial.

Approximately 37.6% of felony cases concluded in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 55.8% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 45.2% of felony cases were concluded within 120 days and 64.4% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Twenty-Sixth disposed of 40.8% within 60 days and 57.9% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.4% and 65.8%, 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 1,783 criminal cases each in 2006, 3rd among the 31 circuits. This was 593 above the average for judges statewide (1,190) and 346 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,437 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit is forecast to increase 4.2%, from 12,341 cases in 2006 to 12,854 in 2007. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 3.7%, from 11,513 to 11,945.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the five judges in the Twenty-Sixth Circuit would each average 2,571 commenced cases and 2,389 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 670 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,901 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 554 cases above the projected state average of 1,834 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the six judges would climb to 2,142, 241 cases above the projected state average of 1,901 cases per judge and 108 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 1,991, 157 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,834) and 12 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits (1,979 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 2006 population of the area was 253,550, an increase of 2.0% from the 2000 population of 252,679.

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

Review of 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 12,849 cases were commenced in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit during the year, an increase of 3.1% or 389 cases from 2005 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 3.7% in civil cases and an increase of 5.3% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 3.2% during the year, from 11,933 in 2005 to 12,311 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled fell 36.4% from 11 in 2005 to 7 last year. The circuit judges averaged 2 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants increased by 150 (or 4.6%) from 3,238 to 3,388.

The five judges in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit averaged 2,570 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 2nd among the 31 circuits. The Twenty-Seventh averaged 2,462 concluded cases per judge, 2nd highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced cases per judge was 786 above the state average of 1,784 and 628 above the

rural average of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,462) was 737 above the state average (1,726) and 559 above the rural average (1,903).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Twenty-Seventh totaled 11,505, an increase of 13.4% over 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 2,301, 4th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 3.7% in 2006 to total 2,905. Of these cases, 2.9% were general district appeals, 48.9% other law, 39.8% divorce, 3.0% other equity and 5.4% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.6% general district appeals, 40.6% other law, 32.7% divorce, 3.0% other equity and 5.3% J&DR appeals.

Of the 2,659 civil cases concluded in 2006, 25.3% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 19.2% of concluded civil cases while 0.2% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.6% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 20.6% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 70.1% of civil cases concluded within 12 months of filing. Statewide, 72.4% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 81.8% reached conclusion within two years. 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 five judges in the Twenty-

The Twenty-Seventh Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	253,550
Cases Commenced	
Law	1,504
Equity	1,401
Felony	7,490
Misdemeanor	2,454
Total	12,849
Cases Concluded	
Law	1,352
Equity	1,307
Felony	7,247
Misdemeanor	2,405
Total	12,311
Judges	5.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Seventh	2,570
State	1,784
Rural (2006)	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Twenty-Seventh	2,462
State	1,726
Rural (2006)	1,903

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,691
With 6 Judges	2,242
State (2006)	1,784
State (2007)*	1,820
Rural (2006)	1,942
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 5 Judges	2,572
With 6 Judges	2,143
State (2006)	1,726
State (2007)*	1,762
Rural (2006)	1,903

*Estimate based on historical data.

Seventh Circuit averaged 581 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 19th 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 5.3% in 2006 from 9,442 cases to 9,944. Of these cases, 75.3% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.0%.

Of the 9,652 criminal cases concluded, 23.9% 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 29.1% of felony cases concluded in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 50.3% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 47.1% of felony cases were concluded within 120 days and 66.1% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Twenty-Seventh disposed of 27.2% within 60 days and 43.2% 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 1,989 criminal cases each in 2006, 2nd among the 31 circuits. This was 866 above the average for judges statewide (1,123) and 659 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,330 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit is forecast to increase 4.7%, from 12,849 cases in 2006 to 13,453 in 2007. The number of cases concluded is expected to rise 4.4%, from 12,311 to 12,858.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the five judges in the Twenty-Seventh Circuit would each average 2,691 commenced cases and 2,572 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 871 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,820 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 809 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 2,242, 422 cases above the projected state average of 1,820 cases per judge and 300 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits of 1,942. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 2,143, 381 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,762) and 240 more than the 2006 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 2006 population of the area was 94,355, an increase of 1.3% from the 2000 population of 93,105.

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

Review of 2006 Caseload

Caseload data for 2006 show that 8,582 cases were commenced in the Thirtieth Circuit during the year, an increase of 25.2% or 1,727 cases from 2005 levels. This growth was due to a decline of 2.2% in civil cases and an increase of 33.1% in criminal cases.

The total number of cases concluded rose 21.2% during the year, from 6,697 in 2005 to 8,115 in 2006. The number of juries impaneled fell 6.5% from 31 in 2005 to 29 last year. The circuit judges averaged 11 jury trial days each during the year while the number of criminal defendants increased by 177 (or 9.9%) from 1,795 to 1,972.

The three judges in the Thirtieth Circuit averaged 2,861 commenced cases each in 2006, ranking 1st among the 31 circuits. The Thirtieth averaged 2,705 concluded cases per judge, 1st highest in the state in 2006. The number of commenced cases per judge was 1,015 above the state average of 1,846 and 827 above the rural average of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge (2,705) was 926 above the state average (1,779) and 726 above the rural average (1,979).

At the end of 2006, pending cases in the Thirtieth totaled 6,315, an increase of 4.6% from 2005 levels. The number of pending cases per judge stood at 2,105, 7th in the state among the circuits.

Civil Cases

The number of commenced civil cases decreased 2.2% in 2006 to total 1,508. Of these cases, 2.8% were general district appeals, 47.7% other law, 36.1% divorce, 5.3% other equity and 8.1% appeals from the J&DR district courts. Statewide, the distribution was 2.8% general district appeals, 55.0% other law, 33.2% divorce, 5.3% other equity and 5.2% J&DR appeals.

Of the 1,404 civil cases concluded in 2006, 19.8% were concluded prior to trial by settlement or voluntary dismissal. Bench trials accounted for 24.5% of concluded civil cases while 1.0% were concluded by a jury trial. Statewide, 31.5% of civil cases settled prior to trial in 2006, 22.3% were concluded by bench trial and 0.7% ended by a trial by jury.

Approximately 60.4% of civil cases concluded within 12 months of filing. Statewide, 73.8% of civil cases ended within that time frame. About 74.9% reached conclusion within two years. 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 503 civil cases each in 2006, ranking 26th among the 31 circuits. The state average for the year totaled 656 civil cases per judge, and the average for judges in

The Thirtieth Judicial Circuit 2006 AT A GLANCE

Population	94,355
Cases Commenced	
Law	762
Equity	746
Felony	4,365
Misdemeanor	2,709
Total	8,582
Cases Concluded	
Law	690
Equity	714
Felony	4,200
Misdemeanor	2,511
Total	8,115
Judges	3.0
Commenced Cases/Judge	
Thirtieth	2,861
State	1,846
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
Thirtieth	2,705
State	1,779
Rural (2006)	1,979

2007 FORECAST*

Commenced Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	3,015
With 4 Judges	2,262
State (2006)	1,846
State (2007)*	1,901
Rural (2006)	2,034
Concluded Cases/Judge	
With 3 Judges	2,835
With 4 Judges	2,126
State (2006)	1,779
State (2007)*	1,834
Rural (2006)	1,979

*Estimate based on historical data.

rural circuits was 598 civil cases per judge.

Criminal Cases

The number of criminal cases filed in the Thirtieth Circuit increased 33.1% in 2006 from 5,313 cases to 7,074. Of these cases, 61.7% were felonies compared to the statewide average of 70.8%.

Of the 6,711 criminal cases concluded, 6.1% were disposed of by a judge trial while 0.6% reached conclusion by a trial by jury. Statewide, 29.8% of criminal cases were concluded by a judge trial and 1.4% by a jury trial.

Approximately 32.4% of felony cases concluded in the Thirtieth Circuit in 2006 reached termination within 120 days of initiation while 47.0% were disposed of within 180 days. Statewide, 45.2% of felony cases were concluded within 120 days and 64.4% within 180 days. Among misdemeanor cases, the Thirtieth disposed of 44.3% within 60 days and 59.5% within 90 days compared to state averages of 48.4% and 65.8%, 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 2,358 criminal cases each in 2006, 1st among the 31 circuits. This was 1,168 above the average for judges statewide (1,190) and 921 above the average for judges in rural circuits (1,437 criminal cases each).

Forecast for 2007

Based on historical data, the number of cases commenced in the Thirtieth Circuit is forecast to increase 5.4%, from 8,582 cases in 2006 to 9,046 in 2007. The number

of cases concluded is expected to rise 4.8%, from 8,115 to 8,505.

At the forecast caseload levels for 2007, the three judges in the Thirtieth Circuit would each average 3,015 commenced cases and 2,835 concluded cases. This number of commenced cases per judge would be 1,114 cases above the projected state average for 2007 of 1,901 cases per judge. The number of concluded cases per judge would be 1,000 cases above the projected state average of 1,834 cases per judge.

If the additional judgeship is granted, the number of commenced cases per judge for the four judges would climb to 2,262, 361 cases above the projected state average of 1,901 cases per judge and 228 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits of 2,034. The number of concluded cases per judge would total 2,126, 292 more than the forecast average for judges statewide (1,834) and 147 more than the 2006 average for rural circuits (1,979 cases per judge).

JUDGESHIP COSTS
SALARY EFFECTIVE 11/25/07

		Circuit
SALARY		\$155,033
RETIREMENT	43.01%	66,680
GROUP LIFE	1.00%	1,550
RETIREE HEALTH INS.	1.20%	1,860
FICA BASE	97,500 @7.65%	7,459
FICA (above cap)	57,533 @1.45%	834
HEALTH		12,420
DEF COMP MATCH		480
CLERK HIRE		1,500
PERSONAL COMPUTER		2,500
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
CIRCUIT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		3,844
FICA FOR SUB JUDGE		294
TOTAL		 \$254,454

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 19.2 DAYS @ \$200.00