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The Honorable Charles I. Colgan
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
10677 Aviation Lane
Manassas, VA 20110-2701

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 127
Bedford, VA 24523

The Honorable Henry I. Marsh III
Chairman, Senate Courts of Justice Committee
422 East Franklin Street, Suite 301
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable David B. Albo
Chairman, House Courts of Justice Committee
6367 Rolling Mill Place, Suite 102
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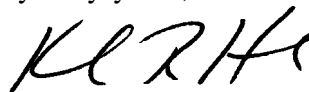
Dear Chairmen:

Virginia Code § 16.1-69.10 provides that the Committee on District Courts shall make a study and report to the General Assembly on the number of district court judges needed and the districts for which they should be authorized. The Committee on District Courts has found the need for four new general district judgeships (one each in the Second, Eleventh, Fifteenth and Twenty-sixth Judicial Districts), and six new juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeships (one each in the First, Eleventh, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Judicial Districts),

Despite the documented need for these new judgeships, the Chief Justice is aware of the significant economic difficulties facing the Commonwealth. For this reason, the Chief Justice does not intend to seek authorization of these new judgeships during the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KRH', written in a cursive style.

Karl R. Hade

KRH:bsw

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