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December 1, 2008

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

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

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 has found the need for six new circuit court judgeships (one each in the Tenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Judicial Circuits).

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,

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, Legislative Services