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December 14, 2010

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 last studied the need for new circuit court judgeships in 2008. At that time, the Council found the need for six new circuit court judgeships. However, due to the economic difficulties faced by the Commonwealth, the Chief Justice did not seek authorization for these new judgeships during the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.

Since that time, in light of the continuing tenuous economic situation, the Supreme Court has not intended to seek authorization for any new judgeships, and no new study has been conducted regarding the need for new circuit court judgeships.

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

Very truly yours,

Karl R. Hade

KRH:jrp

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