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## SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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December 14, 2010

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

The Honorable Henry L. 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 Springfield, VA 22152

## 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 shall be authorized. The Committee on District Courts last studied the need for new district court judges in 2008. At that time, the Committee found the need for four new general district court judgeships and six new juvenile and domestic relations district 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 district court judgeships.

Report to the General Assembly Committee on District Courts December 14, 2010 Page Two

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

Very truly yours,

KIRH

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 Committee

Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations Committee

Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Division of Legislative Services