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November 30, 2009

The Honorable Charles J. 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 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 Mills 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. As reported last fall, the Committee on District Courts 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). 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.

In light of the continuing economic crisis, the Chief Justice did not intend to seek authorization for any new judgeships during the 2010 Session of the General Assembly.

Accordingly, no study was conducted in 2009 regarding the need for new district 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 Committee
Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations Committee
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Division of Legislative Services