EXECUTIVE SECRETARY KARL R. HADE

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY & LEGAL COUNSEL EDWARD M. MACON

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM LELIA BAUM HOPPER, DIRECTOR

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CAROLINE E. KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR

FISCAL SERVICES JOHN B. RICKMAN, DIRECTOR SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



100 NORTH NINTH STREET RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2334 (804) 786-6455

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 3, 2012

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

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr. Chairman, Senate Courts of Justice Committee P.O. Box 6205 Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

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 economic situation, the Supreme Court has not intended to seek authorization for any new judgeships, and the Judicial Council has not conducted a study 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, KlRIH

Karl R. Hade

KRH:jrp

The Honorable Susan C. Schaar, Clerk cc:

The Honorable G. Paul Nardo, Clerk

Mr. Richard E. Hickman, Jr., Senate Finance

Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations

Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Legislative Services

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