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December 3, 2012

The Honorable Walter A. Stosch
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Innsbrook Centre
4551 Cox Road, Suite 110
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060-6740

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

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

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 economic situation, the Supreme Court has not intended to seek authorization for any new judgeships, and the Committee on District Courts has not conducted a study 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KRH', written in a cursive style.

Karl R. Hade

KRH: jrp

cc: The Honorable Susan C. Schaar, Clerk
The Honorable G. Paul Nardo, Clerk
Mr. Richard E. Hickman, Jr., Senate Finance Committee
Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations Committee
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Division of Legislative Services