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# SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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December 9, 2014

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

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
10660 Aviation Lane  
Manassas, Virginia 20110-2701

The Honorable S. Chris Jones  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
P.O. Box 5059  
Suffolk, Virginia 23435-0059

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

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain  
Co-Chairman, Senate Courts of Justice Committee  
P.O. Box 555  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803

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

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. In December 2013, the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council adopted the National Center for State Courts' report and recommendations contained in the Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment Report.

Based on the recommendations made in the Report, the number of judicial positions in the circuits authorized in Va. Code § 17.1-507 were amended and became effective July 1, 2014. Additional study regarding the need for new circuit court judgeships this year was not conducted as the assessments and recommendations made in the Report remain pertinent. Please find attached a list of the current and announced circuit court vacancies as of December 9, 2014.

In accordance with Item 37, Paragraph D of the Appropriations Act, Chapter 3, 2014 Special Session I, Virginia Acts of Assembly, the fiscal impact for the creation of each new circuit court judgeship will be \$284,672. Please find attached a statement showing the costs for the creation of a new circuit court judgeship.

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

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard E. Hickman, Jr., Senate Finance Committee  
Mr. Michael Jay, House Appropriations Committee  
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Division of Legislative Services  
Division of Legislative Automated Systems

**Current and Announced Judicial Vacancies**

Circuit/District	Circuit		General District		J&DR District	
	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies
1	5	1	4	-	4	1
2	9	-	7	-	7	-
2A			1	-	1	-
3	4	-	2	-	3	-
4	8	-	6	2	5	-
5	3	-	2	-	2	-
6	3	1	4	-	2	-
7	6	2	4	-	4	-
8	3	-	3	-	3	-
9	4	-	3	-	4	1
10	4	-	3	-	4	1
11	3	1	3	-	3	1
12	6	-	5	-	6	-
13	8	2	6	-	4	-
14	5	1	5	1	5	-
15	11	1	8	3	10	4
16	6	1	4	-	6	1
17	3	-	3	-	2	-
18	4	1	2	-	2	-
19	15	3	11	1	7	-
20	5	1	4	-	3	-
21	2	-	1	-	2	-
22	5	1	2	-	4	1
23	5	-	4	-	5	2
24	5	2	3	-	6	2
25	5	1	3	-	5	1
26	8	2	5	-	7	1
27	7	1	5	1	5	-
28	4	1	2	-	3	1
29	5	-	2	-	3	2
30	4	-	2	-	2	-
31	6	2	5	1	5	-
<b>State</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>19</b>

\*\*Authorized Judges" refers to the maximum number of judges stated in Virginia Code § 17.1-507 (circuit) and § 16.1-69.6:1 (district) as of 2014.

Source: People Soft, 2014

Prepared by: Department of Judicial Planning, 12/09/2014

**New Judgeships - 2015 Session**

				Circuit	District
Salary (July 1, 2014)				\$ 162,878	\$ 146,599
Retirement	51.66%			84,143	75,733
Group Life	1.19%			1,938	1,745
Retiree Health Insurance	1.05%			1,710	1,539
FICA Base	117,000	@7.65%		8,951	8,951
FICA (above cap)	45,878	@1.45%		665	429
Health				16,680	16,680
Deferred Comp. Match				480	480
Clerk Hire				1,500	-
Substitute/Retired Judges					
Avg per Circuit/District Judge*				5,320	7,320
FICA - Retired Judge				407	560
Total				\$ 284,672	\$ 260,036
Note:					
Circuit Substitute/Retired Judge costs based on 26.6 days @ \$200 per day (2012 Annual Report)					
District Substitute/Retired Judge costs based on 36.6 days @ \$200 per day (2012 Annual Report)					