



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
*Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission*

Michael E. Untiedt, Esquire, Chairman  
Judge H. Lee Chitwood, Vice-Chairman  
James P. Fisher, Esquire  
Judge Bradley B. Cavado  
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December 1, 2015

**REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

In accordance with Section 17.1-905 of the Code of Virginia, the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission makes the following report concerning its activities during the past twelve months:

1. The Commission maintains statistical information on all incoming complaints, telephone calls and correspondence. Complaints and inquiries are separated into categories indicating the source, the nature of the complaint or inquiry, and whether a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct was alleged. The statistics are attached and made a part of this report.
2. The Commission's 2015 statistical report also includes the number of times during the year that the Commission issued formal charges against a judge; the number of formal hearings conducted; the number of suspensions; the number of informal meetings with judges to discuss complaints; the number of cases in which Commission findings were reported to the General Assembly; and the number of formal complaints filed in the Supreme Court of Virginia.
3. Commission Counsel provides informal ethics advice to Virginia judges on a daily basis. During the past twelve months, Counsel responded to more than 700 such requests.
4. Information concerning the Commission also is available on the Internet on the home page of the Virginia Supreme Court. The Commission's Rules, the Canons of Judicial Conduct and complaint forms are accessible on the website.

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5. The Commission presents educational programs concerning judicial ethics. Commission Counsel participated in ethics training sessions at the Judicial Conference of Virginia, the District Court Judges' Annual Conference, and for new judges and special justices.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine B. Burnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Katherine B. Burnett  
Commission Counsel

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Enclosure

JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION  
December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015

Judges subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission	848
State Corporation Commission Judges	3
Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission	3

Telephone inquiries received		Nature of telephone inquiry	
Attorneys	34	Ruling/decision	88
Judges	571	Ex parte	3
Court employees	9	Bias or prejudice	16
General public	139	Delay	5
Litigants	3331	Rude behavior	12
Victims	0	Failure to follow the law	12
Inmates	1	Ethics opinion	608
Media	0	How to file	322
Other	35	Other	271
In Person	51		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1171</b>		<b>1337</b>

Written inquiries received		Nature of written inquiry	
Attorneys	14	Ruling/decision	318
Judges	107	Ex parte	13
Court employees	2	Bias or prejudice	78
General public	15	Delay	10
Litigants	235	Rude behavior	41
Victims	1	Failure to follow the law	9
Inmates	141	Ethics opinion	101
Media	0	How to file	32
Other	23	Other	243
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>538</b>		<b>845</b>

Files opened upon the complaint of		Commission Dispositions	
Attorney	15	Informal Meetings	2
Litigant	2	Dismissed	28
Judge	2	Suspensions	1
Inmate	0	Formal charges	1
Court Staff	0	Formal hearings	0
Commission	9	Canons breached	1
Victims	1	Findings reported to General Assembly	1
Other	3	Supreme Court complaints	0
		Retired	1
		Resigned	0
		Under Supervision	1
		Pending	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>		

Recusals	
Staff	0
Commission	4

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