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December 8, 2015

The Honorable Thomas K. Nörment, 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. The Judicial Council does not recommend the authorization of any new circuit court judgeships, but seeks to have existing vacancies filled.

As you are aware, 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. The assessments and recommendations made in the Report remain pertinent, and authorized judicial positions in the circuit courts are still unfilled. Please find attached a list of the current and announced circuit court vacancies as of December 8, 2015.

Report to the General Assembly
Judicial Council
December 8, 2015
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The fiscal impact for filling each authorized circuit court judgeship will be \$301,302. Please find attached a statement showing the costs for the filling of a vacant circuit court judgeship.

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

Enclosures

cc: Members, Senate Courts of Justice Committee
Members, House Courts of Justice Committee
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*		Authorized*		Authorized*	
	Judges	Vacancies	Judges	Vacancies	Judges	Vacancies
1	5	1	4	-	4	1
2	9	-	7	-	7	-
2A			1	-	1	-
3	4	-	2	-	3	-
4	8	-	6	1	5	-
5	3	-	2	-	2	1
6	3	1	4	-	2	-
7	6	1	4	-	4	-
8	3	-	3	1	3	-
9	4	-	3	-	4	1
10	4	-	3	-	4	1
11	3	-	3	-	3	1
12	6	-	5	-	6	-
13	8	1	6	-	4	-
14	5	-	5	-	5	-
15	11	1	8	3	10	1
16	6	1	4	1	6	1
17	3	-	3	-	2	1
18	4	1	2	-	2	-
19	15	2	11	2	7	1
20	5	-	4	-	3	-
21	2	-	1	1	2	-
22	5	1	2	-	4	-
23	5	1	4	-	5	-
24	5	-	3	1	6	1
25	5	2	3	1	5	1
26	8	-	5	-	7	1
27	7	1	5	1	5	-
28	4	1	2	-	3	-
29	5	-	2	-	3	1
30	4	-	2	-	2	-
31	6	-	5	1	5	-
State	171	15	124	13	134	13

*"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 July 1, 2014.

Source: People Soft, 2015

Prepared by: Department of Judicial Planning, 12/8/2015

JUDGESHIP COSTS
SALARY EFFECTIVE 8/10/15

		Circuit
SALARY		\$166,136
RETIREMENT	55.02%	91,408
GROUP LIFE	1.19%	1,977
RETIREE HEALTH INS.	1.05%	1,744
FICA BASE	118,500 @7.65%	9,065
FICA (above cap)	47,636 @1.45%	691
HEALTH		17,124
DEF COMP MATCH		480
CLERK HIRE		1,500
PERSONAL COMPUTER		2,500
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
CIRCUIT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		8,060
FICA FOR SUB JUDGE		617
 TOTAL		 \$301,302

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 32.24 DAYS @ \$250.00 (CY2014)