



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission

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December 1, 2016

ANNUAL REPORT

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 the disposition of each complaint and inquiry, including whether a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct was found. The statistics required by § 17.1-905 are set forth in the attachment to this report, and are incorporated herein by this reference.

2. Commission Counsel provides confidential, informal ethics advice to Virginia judges on a daily basis.

3. The Commission presents educational programs concerning judicial ethics. During the past twelve months, Commission Counsel and Assistant Counsel participated in ethics training sessions at the Judicial Conference of Virginia, the District Court Judges' Annual Conference, the annual training for new Judges, and the regional training sessions for Substitute Judges.

4. Information concerning the Commission also is available on the Internet on the home page of the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Commission's Rules, the Canons of Judicial Conduct, and complaint forms are accessible on the website.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Katherine B. Burnett
Commission Counsel

ATTACHMENT to ANNUAL REPORT of
THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY AND REVIEW COMMISSION of VIRGINIA
December 1, 2016

- I. Persons subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission:
 - A. Judges: 1018
 - B. State Corporation Commissioners : 3
 - C. Virginia Workers' Compensation Commissioners: 3

- II. Calls received from Judges for confidential ethics advice: 649

- III. Statistics required by Virginia Code § 17.1-905:
 - A. Number of complaints received: 510
 - 1. originating from attorneys: 13
 - 2. originating from judges: 4
 - 3. originating from court employees: 4
 - 4. originating from general public: 482

 - B. Number of complaints dismissed¹: 591
 - 1. failure to fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission: 405
 - 2. failure to state a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct: 168
 - 3. failure to conclude the Canons were breached: 6

 - C. Number of complaints for which the Commission concluded the Canons of Judicial Conduct were breached:
 - 1. dismissed: 12
 - 2. misconduct found: 1

 - D. Number of cases from which staff or any Commission member recused: 7

¹ | Complaints may be dismissed for more than one reason.