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# SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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December 15, 2016

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain  
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 authorized vacancies filled.

Please find attached a list of the current and announced circuit court vacancies as of December 14, 2016.

The cost for filling each authorized, vacant, circuit court judgeship will be \$288,822. Please find attached a statement itemizing the costs for the filling of such a 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 that reads "KRH".

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. David Reynolds, 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	2
2A			1	-	1	-
3	4	1	2	-	3	-
4	8	-	6	1	5	-
5	3	-	2	1	2	1
6	3	1	4	-	2	-
7	6	2	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	1
13	8	1	6	1	4	-
14	5	-	5	-	5	-
15	11	-	8	2	10	1
16	6	1	4	-	6	1
17	3	-	3	-	2	-
18	4	1	2	-	2	-
19	15	2	11	1	7	-
20	5	1	4	-	3	1
21	2	-	1	-	2	-
22	5	1	2	-	4	-
23	5	-	4	-	5	-
24	5	-	3	-	6	1
25	5	1	3	-	5	1
26	8	-	5	-	7	1
27	7	1	5	1	5	-
28	4	1	2	-	3	-
29	5	-	2	-	3	-
30	4	-	2	-	2	-
31	6	1	5	-	5	-
<b>State</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>14</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 July 1, 2016.

Source: People Soft, 2016

Prepared by: Department of Judicial Planning, 12/14/2016

JUDGESHIP COSTS  
SALARY EFFECTIVE 1/1/17

		Circuit
SALARY		\$166,136
RETIREMENT	46.97%	78,034
GROUP LIFE	1.31%	2,176
RETIREE HEALTH INS.	1.18%	1,960
FICA BASE	127,200 @7.65%	9,731
FICA (above cap)	38,936 @1.45%	565
HEALTH		18,756
DEF COMP MATCH		480
CLERK HIRE		1,500
PERSONAL COMPUTER		2,500
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
CIRCUIT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		6,488
FICA FOR SUB JUDGE		496
 TOTAL		 \$288,822

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 25.95 DAYS @ \$250.00 (CY2015)