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December 15, 2016

The General Assembly of Virginia
Division of Legislative Automated Systems
201 North 9th Street
General Assembly Building, Suite 660
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Senators and Delegates:

Virginia Code § 16.1-69.10 provides that the Committee on District Courts shall make a study and report to the General Assembly on the number of district court judges needed and the districts for which they are authorized.

As you are aware, in December 2013, the Executive Committee of the Committee on District Courts 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 districts authorized in Va. Code § 16.1-69.6:1 were amended and became effective July 1, 2014. During the 2016 Session, one new general district judgeship in the 25th Judicial District, and one new juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeship in the 19th Judicial District were authorized in Va. Code § 16.1-69.6:1, and will become effective July 1, 2018. Even with these changes, the assessments and recommendations made in the Report remain pertinent, and authorized judicial positions in the district courts are unfilled. Please find enclosed a list of the current and announced vacancies of general district and juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeships as of December 14, 2016.

The cost of filling each authorized, vacant, district court judgeship will be \$263,539. Please find attached a statement itemizing the costs for the creation of such a district 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: Mr. Richard E. Hickman, Jr., Senate Finance Committee
Mr. David Reynolds, House Appropriations Committee
Ms. Mary Kate Felch, Division of Legislative Services

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	-
State	171	16	124	8	134	14

*"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

		<u>District</u>
SALARY		\$149,531
RETIREMENT	46.97%	70,235
GROUP LIFE	1.31%	1,959
RETIREE HEALTH INS.	1.18%	1,764
FICA BASE	127,200 @7.65%	9,731
FICA (above cap)	22,331 @1.45%	324
HEALTH		18,756
DEF COMP MATCH		480
PERSONAL COMPUTER		2,500
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
DISTRICT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		7,673
FICA SUB JUDGE		587
TOTAL		\$263,539

DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 30.69 DAYS @ \$250.00 (CY2015)