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# SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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December 20, 2018

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 555  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803

The Honorable Robert B. Bell  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
2309 Finch Court  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Dear Chairmen Obenshain and Bell:

Virginia Code § 17.1-507 provides that no additional circuit court judge shall be authorized or provided for any judicial circuit until the Judicial Council has made a study of the need for such additional circuit court judge. As you are aware, in December 2017, the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council adopted the National Center for State Courts' report and recommendations contained in the *2017 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, 2018.

In 2018, the Judicial Council did not conduct a study regarding the need for new circuit court judgeships, and does not recommend the authorization of new circuit court judgeships, but encourages the filling of existing vacancies.

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