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December 9, 2019

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 2019, the Judicial does not recommend the authorization of new circuit court judgeships, but encourages the filling of the enclosed current and announced vacancies.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Karl R. Hade (by EMM)

Karl R. Hade

KRH:jrp

Enclosure

Current and Announced Judicial Vacancies

Circuit/District	Circuit		General District		J&DR District	
	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies	Authorized* Judges	Vacancies
1	5	-	4	-	4	-
2	8	1	7	-	6	-
2A			2	1	1	1
3	4	-	2	-	3	-
4	8	-	6	-	5	-
5	4	-	3	-	2	-
6	3	-	5	-	3	-
7	5	-	4	-	4	-
8	3	-	3	-	3	-
9	4	-	3	-	4	-
10	4	-	3	-	3	-
11	3	-	3	-	3	-
12	6	1	5	-	6	-
13	7	-	6	-	5	-
14	5	-	5	-	5	1
15	11	1	8	1	9	1
16	6	1	4	-	6	-
17	4	-	3	-	2	-
18	3	-	2	1	2	1
19	15	-	11	-	8	-
20	5	-	4	2	3	-
21	3	-	2	-	2	-
22	4	-	2	-	4	1
23	5	1	4	-	5	-
24	6	1	3	-	6	-
25	6	1	4	-	5	-
26	8	1	5	1	7	-
27	6	-	5	-	5	-
28	4	-	3	-	3	-
29	5	-	2	-	3	-
30	4	-	2	-	3	-
31	6	-	5	-	5	2
State	170	8	130	6	135	7

*"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, 2019.

Source: People Soft, 2019

Prepared by: Department of Judicial Planning, 12/3/19