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December 8, 2020

The Honorable John S. Edwards
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 1179
Roanoke, Virginia 24006-1179

The Honorable Charniele L. Herring
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 11779
Alexandria, VA 22312

Dear Chairs Edwards and Herring:

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 was amended and became effective July 1, 2018.

In 2020, the recommendations made in that Report remain relevant, and the Judicial Council does not recommend the authorization of new circuit court judgeships but encourages the filling of the current and announced vacancies set forth in the enclosed document.

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

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Karl R. Hade in black ink.

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	1	4	1	4	-
2	8	-	7	1	6	-
2A			2	1	1	-
3	4	-	2	-	3	-
4	8	-	6	-	5	-
5	4	-	3	1	2	-
6	3	-	5	-	3	-
7	5	1	4	-	4	1
8	3	-	3	-	3	-
9	4	1	3	1	4	-
10	4	-	3	-	3	-
11	3	-	3	-	3	-
12	6	1	5	-	6	-
13	7	1	6	-	5	-
14	5	1	5	-	5	-
15	11	-	8	2	9	-
16	6	-	4	-	6	-
17	4	-	3	-	2	-
18	3	1	2	-	2	-
19	15	1	12	1	8	2
20	5	-	4	1	3	-
21	3	-	2	-	2	-
22	4	-	2	-	4	1
23	5	-	4	-	5	1
24	6	-	3	-	6	-
25	6	-	4	-	5	1
26	8	-	5	-	7	-
27	6	-	5	-	5	-
28	4	-	3	-	3	-
29	5	-	2	-	3	-
30	4	-	2	-	3	-
31	6	1	5	-	5	-
State	170	9	131	9	135	6

**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, 2020.

Source: People Soft, 2020

Prepared by: Department of Judicial Planning, 12/7/2020