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December 5, 2023

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

The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
Co-Chair, Finance and Appropriations  
Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 2608  
Reston, VA 20195-0608

The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds  
Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 5462  
Charlottesville, VA 22905-5462

The Honorable George L. Barker  
Co-Chair, Finance and Appropriations  
Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 10527  
Alexandria, VA 22310

The Honorable Leslie R. Adams  
Vice Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
P.O. Box K, 4 North Main Street  
Chatham, VA 24531

The Honorable Barry D. Knight  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
1852 Mill Landing Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

RE: Report pursuant to Item 42, Paragraph D of the Appropriation Act (Special Session I, 2023)

Dear Chairs Edwards, Deeds, Howell, Barker, Knight, and Vice Chair Adams:

Item 42, Paragraph D of the Appropriation Act, Chapter 1, 2023 Special Session I, requests that prior to January 1 of each year the Judicial Council and the Committee on District Courts submit a fiscal impact assessment of their recommendations for the creation of any new judgeships, including the cost of judicial retirement, to the Chairs of the House Committee on Court of Justice, Senate Judiciary Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Please find enclosed assessments of the annual cost of each authorized district court judgeship and each authorized circuit court judgeship. The Judicial Council recommends the

Report pursuant to Item 42, Paragraph D of the 2023 Appropriation Act  
December 5, 2023  
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authorization of four additional circuit judgeships, one each in the First Judicial Circuit, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, and Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit. The Committee on District Courts recommends the authorization of two new juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeships, one each in the Twentieth Judicial District and the Thirty-First Judicial District. I have enclosed a report of current and announced judicial vacancies for circuit, general district, and juvenile and domestic relations district courts.

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

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K R H', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karl R. Hade

KRH: jrs

Enclosures

cc: Catherine Robertson, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee  
Andrea Peeks, House Appropriations Committee  
Division of Legislative Automated Systems

**Virginia Circuit Courts  
Cost for a new Judgeship  
As of December 10, 2023**

		<u>Cost</u>
SALARY		\$207,611
RETIREMENT	30.67%	63,674
GROUP LIFE	1.34%	2,782
RETIREE HEALTH I	1.12%	2,325
FICA BASE	168,600 @7.65%	12,898
FICA (above cap)	39,011 @1.45%	566
HEALTH		23,220
DEF COMP MATCH		480
CLERK HIRE		1,500
PERSONAL COMPUTER		3,300
RET JUDGES:		
CIRCUIT AVG.EXP. PER JUDGE		10,084
FICA FOR SUB JUDGE		771
AVG. TRAVEL COSTS		510
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u><u>\$329,722</u></u></b>

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 25.21 DAYS @ \$400 (FY2023)

# **Virginia District Courts** **Cost for a new Judgeship** **As of December 10, 2023**

		<u>Cost</u>
SALARY		\$186,851
RETIREMENT	30.67%	57,307
GROUP LIFE	1.34%	2,504
RETIREE HEALTH I	1.12%	2,093
FICA BASE	168,600 @7.65%	12,898
FICA (above cap)	18,251 @1.45%	265
HEALTH		23,220
DEF COMP MATCH		480
PERSONAL COMPUTER		3,300
SUB/RET JUDGES:		
DISTRICT AVG. EXP. PER JUDGE		12,804
FICA SUB JUDGE		980
AVG. TRAVEL COSTS		811
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u><u>\$303,512</u></u></b>

DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 32.01 DAYS @ \$400 (FY2023)

## 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	2	7	-	6	-
2A			2	-	1	-
3	4	-	2	-	3	1
4	8	1	6	-	5	
5	4	-	3	-	2	-
6	3	-	5		3	-
7	5	-	4	-	4	-
8	3	-	3	1	3	-
9	4	-	3	-	4	-
1-	4	-	3	-	3	-
11	3	-	3	-	3	-
12	6	-	5	1	6	-
13	7	1	6	1	5	-
14	5	-	5	-	5	-
15	11	1	8	1	9	1
16	6	-	4	-	6	1
17	4	-	3	-	2	-
18	3	1	2	-	2	
19	15	1	12	2	8	1
20	5	-	4	1	3	1
21	3	-	2	-	2	-
22	4	1	3	2	4	-
23	5	-	4	-	5	-
24	6	-	3	-	6	-
25	6	-	4	-	5	1
26	8	-	5	-	7	-
27	6	-	5	-	5	1
28	4	-	3	1	3	-
29	5	1	2	-	3	-
3-	4	-	2	-	3	-
31	7	-	5	-	5	-
<b>State</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>7</b>

\*"Authorized Judges" refers to the maximum number of judges stated in Virginia Code § 17.1-5-7 (circuit) and § 16.1-69.6:1 (district) as of July 1, 2023.

Source: People Soft, 2023

Prepared by: OES, 12/1/2023