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January 10, 2025

The Honorable Scott A. Surovell  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Senate of Virginia  
P. O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Patrick A. Hope  
Chair, Courts of Justice Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
Chair, Finance and Appropriations  
Senate of Virginia  
P. O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Luke E. Torian  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Virginia House of Delegates  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218

RE: Report pursuant to Item 31, Paragraph D of the Appropriation Act (Special Session I, 2024)

Dear Chairs Surovell, Lucas, Hope, and Torian:

Item 31, Paragraph D of the Appropriation Act, Chapter 2, 2024 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.

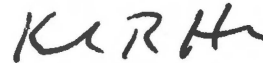
Please find enclosed assessments of the annual cost of each authorized district court judgeship and each authorized circuit court judgeship. The Judicial Council continues to study the need for additional circuit court judgeships and does not recommend the authorization of any new circuit court judgeships at this time, but seeks to have existing authorized vacancies filled. The Committee on District Courts recommends the authorization two additional general district court judgeships, one each in the Ninth Judicial District and the Thirty-First Judicial District, and an additional juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeship in the Second Judicial District.

Report pursuant to Item 31, Paragraph D of the 2024 Appropriation Act  
January 10, 2025  
Page Two

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 District Courts  
Cost for a new Judgeship  
As of July 1, 2024**

	<b>Cost</b>
SALARY	\$192,457
RETIREMENT            30.67%	59,027
GROUP LIFE            1.18%	2,271
RETIREE HEALTH I    1.12%	2,156
FICA BASE            168,600 @7.65%	12,898
FICA (above cap)    23,857 @1.45%	346
HEALTH	24,672
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>\$312,202</b>

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

**Virginia Circuit Courts  
Cost for a new Judgeship  
As of July 1, 2024**

	<b>Cost</b>
SALARY	\$213,839
RETIREMENT            30.67%	65,584
GROUP LIFE            1.18%	2,523
RETIREE HEALTH I    1.12%	2,395
FICA BASE            168,600 @7.65%	12,898
FICA (above cap)    45,239 @1.45%	656
HEALTH	24,672
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>\$339,212</b>

CIRCUIT SUBSTITUTE BASED ON 25.21 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	6	1	4	0	4	0
2	8	0	7	0	6	0
2A			2	1	1	0
3	4	2	2	0	3	0
4	8	2	6	0	5	0
5	4	0	3	1	2	0
6	3	0	5	1	3	0
7	5	1	4	0	4	0
8	3	1	3	0	3	0
9	5	0	3	0	4	0
10	4	0	3	0	3	0
11	3	0	3	0	3	0
12	6	0	5	0	6	0
13	7	0	6	0	5	0
14	5	1	5	0	5	1
15	12	3	8	1	9	1
16	6	0	4	0	6	0
17	4	0	3	1	2	0
18	3	1	2	0	2	1
19	15	2	12	1	8	0
20	5	0	4	0	4	0
21	3	0	2	0	2	1
22	4	0	3	0	4	1
23	5	0	4	0	5	0
24	6	0	3	0	6	0
25	7	0	4	0	5	0
26	8	0	5	0	7	1
27	6	0	5	0	5	0
28	4	1	3	0	3	0
29	5	0	2	0	3	0
30	4	0	2	0	3	1
31	7	2	5	0	6	0
<b>State</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>7</b>

\*"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, 2024.

Source: People Soft, 2025

Prepared by: OES, 01/10/2025