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KARL R. HADE

**ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY &
LEGAL COUNSEL**
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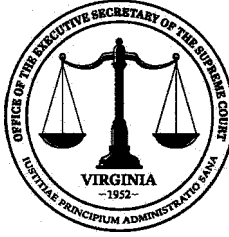
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December 2, 2024

The Honorable Scott Surovell, Chair
Courts of Justice Committee
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 289
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Chair
Finance and Appropriations Committee
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 700
Portsmouth, VA 23705

The Honorable Patrick A. Hope, Chair
Courts of Justice Committee
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 3148
Arlington, VA 22203

The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Virginia House of Delegates
4222 Fortuna Plaza, Suite 659
Dumfries, VA 22025

Virginia Code § 16.1-69.10 provides that the Committee on District Courts shall make a study and report to the General Assembly on the number of district court judges needed and the districts for which they shall be authorized.

At the October 24, 2024, meeting of the Committee on District Courts, the Committee approved recommending 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 Virginia Code § 16.1-69.10
December 2, 2024
Page Two

Please find enclosed the Judgeship Requests provided by the 9th and 31st Judicial District General District Courts, and the Judgeship Request provided by the 2nd Judicial District Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court.

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, appearing to read "Karl R. Hade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karl R. Hade

KRH:jrs

Enclosures



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

WADE A. BOWIE
JUDGE

York County General District Court
York-Poquoson Courthouse
P.O. Box 316
YORKTOWN, VA 23690-0316

BROOKE L. REED
CLERK
(757) 890-3450

September 17, 2024

Re: Request for an Additional Judgeship for the General District Court in the Ninth Judicial District, Meeting of the Committee on District Courts, October 24, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in support of our request for an additional judicial position in the General District Court for the Ninth Judicial District (hereinafter "GDC"). The Ninth is composed of the Counties of Charles City, Gloucester, James City, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, and York, the Cities of Poquoson and Williamsburg, and the Town of West Point. This area covers approximately 2,112 square miles¹ and serves a population of approximately 305,106 people.² For the last 34 years, these localities have been served by three GDC Judges.³ Currently, four Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges and five Circuit Court Judges serve the same population. We are confident that the statistical data discussed below will convince you that the current number of sitting GDC Judges in the Ninth is insufficient to meet the public's need for effective and efficient access to justice. As well, we intend to impress upon you the fact that this need is urgent and immediate.

PRESENT JUDICIAL WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION

Based on annualized filings through September 2024, the current judicial workload for the GDC in the Ninth is 3.63 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for 2024 with a three year

¹ See <https://en.wikipedia.org> (last visited September 5, 2024). See also <https://www.vaco.org/virginia-counties/> (last visited September 5, 2024).

² See <https://www.coopercenter.org/virginia-population-estimates> (last visited September 6, 2024).

³ The General Assembly added the third GDC position in the Ninth in 1990. See <https://dailypress.com/1990/02/02/bar-adds-endorsement-for-renne-as-new-judge> (last visited September 6, 2024).

average workload of 3.23 FTE.⁴ This is the highest per judge GDC workload in the Commonwealth of Virginia.⁵ Indeed, as demonstrated by the graph attached as Exhibit A, the Ninth has maintained either the highest or one of the highest per judge GDC workloads every year of the preceding six years.

We have, in recent years, utilized our existing resources to the fullest. We have convened stakeholder groups to revise dockets with the goal of maximizing efficiency, shifted internal workloads between the three sitting Judges, and added permanent substitute judge dockets to reduce the tensions created by increasingly heavy daily dockets. Currently, one judge presides in King William, King and Queen, Poquoson, and York, one judge presides in Charles City, New Kent, James City, and Williamsburg and one judge presides in New Kent, Gloucester, Matthews, and Middlesex. The Supreme Court has also authorized additional substitute judge days to allow court to be held in New Kent, York, and King William on certain monthly dates when the Presiding Judge sits in another jurisdiction.

According to the 2017 Assessment, “when the workload per judge is greater than 1.15 FTE, there is a need for one or more additional judicial positions.”⁶ The workload for the Judges of the Ninth exceeds this level.

Below are the individual 2024 Judicial Workloads for GDC:

York County/City of Poquoson, King William, and King and Queen	1.36
Gloucester, Matthews, Middlesex, and New Kent	1.18
Williamsburg/James City County, Charles City, and New Kent	1.09

York County has the heaviest caseload in the Ninth with a .99 assigned judicial workload.⁷ As of July 31, 2024, traffic and criminal case filings in York reached 75 percent of the total 2023 filings and civil filings reached 67 percent of the total 2023 filings with five months remaining in the year. These caseloads are consistent with the trajectory of the rising, pre-pandemic statistics.⁸ Unlike larger jurisdictions with multiple presiding judges, there are no colleagues to step in to help with these large dockets. Despite the need for additional docket time in York, the single judge sitting in York, can only hold court there weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and certain Fridays as he is also required to sit in two other counties. This makes it exceedingly difficult to set contested cases that require any substantial amount of trial time. As a

⁴ The 2017 Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment (hereinafter the “Assessment”) indicated a total judicial need of 3.13 full time judicial positions with a per judge workload of 1.04. The current workload numbers are based on the weights assigned to cases in the 2017 study. *See Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment*, National Center for State Courts, 2017, p.30.

⁵ See Exhibit A.

⁶ 2017 Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment, p. 27

⁷ See Exhibit B.

⁸ See Exhibit B.

result, contested civil cases are currently being set out approximately five months from the first calling in York.

Additionally, the travel demands of a district as geographically large as the Ninth are a significant consideration, which the Assessment suggests should be taken into consideration.⁹ As noted above, each Judge sits in multiple jurisdictions. Travel to each Court is extensive and time consuming.

GROWTH OF JURISDICTION

The Ninth is one of the only Judicial Districts in the Commonwealth that has experienced nearly universal growth since 2000.¹⁰ According to the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center, most of the counties within the District have experienced growth over the years, and the expectations are that such growth will continue into the foreseeable future. In fact, New Kent County is now the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth, and according to U.S. News & World Report, is the tenth fastest growing county in the United States.¹¹

Illustrative of this growth, according to the United States Census Bureau the overall population in the Ninth in 2000 was 210,750 while the 2020 census recorded 276,321 residents living within the District.¹² The Weldon Cooper Center estimates the population to be 305,106 as of 2023.¹³ The growth that has occurred within the Ninth District since 2000 has had the equivalent effect of adding a county with a population similar to the current population of York County, yet the District still has the same number of GDC Judges that it had in 2000.

Each of our fellow stakeholders, clerks, sheriff's offices, and prosecutor's offices, have also grown in personnel numbers over the years in response to the demands of this growing population. As an example, the York County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has grown from two prosecutors to nine prosecutors and has added several paralegals and support staff as well. The Williamsburg and James City County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has grown from two prosecutors to seven. Gloucester now has six full time prosecutors. Even in the smaller counties, several of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices have doubled in size. Meanwhile, the size of the GDC bench remains static.

⁹ 2017 Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment, p. 5.

¹⁰ Lombard, Hamilton, Weldon Cooper Center, <https://statchatva.org/2023/01/30/after-a-decade-of-slow-growth-many-of-virginias-exurbs-are-booming-again/> (last visited September 6, 2024).

¹¹ See <https://www.coopercenter.org/virginia-population-estimates> (last visited September 6, 2024). See also <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/slideshows/fastest-growing-counties-in-america?slide=2> (last visited September 6, 2024).

¹² See <https://www.census.gov> (last visited September 6, 2024).

¹³ See <https://www.vaco.org/virginia-counties/> (last visited September 5, 2024).

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF MEETING JUDICIAL WORKLOAD NEEDS

Adequate Court Days for the Larger Counties:

As indicated by census data and the recent OES workload reports, New Kent County and York County have large dockets and fast-growing populations.¹⁴ To attempt to meet the current needs of these two localities, court days were taken away from Mathews, Williamsburg, and Gloucester. Additionally, we have requested and received additional funding for semi-permanent substitute judge dockets in New Kent, York, and King & Queen. For example, on the second Thursday of each month, a substitute judge sits in New Kent while the Presiding Judges sit in Gloucester and Williamsburg. By adding a judicial position, the District's workload could be re-assigned to afford each large county adequate judicial time.

Additional Court Days in the Smaller Counties:

With the current judicial resources, Mathews and Charles City Counties have only two court days per month. The slightly larger counties of King William, King and Queen, and Middlesex have three court days per month. This means emergency issues are not addressed as quickly as would be ideal. Citizens often travel long distances to other courthouses, essentially following their Presiding Judge around the District, to be heard on tenant's petitions for unlawful exclusion and vehicle impoundment release requests. Issues of bond and unlawful detainer possession may not be addressed for several weeks. The current computer models for caseload distribution in the Ninth suggest addressing the judicial resources shortfall by cutting the judicial time devoted to Charles City down to 0.9 days per month and reducing Mathews and Middlesex Counties down to 1.4 or 1.5 days per month. However, this is not an acceptable level of court services for these counties.¹⁵ Further reductions in access to justice in these areas would be a potential violation of the citizens' Constitutional right to Due Process. As well, the lengthy travel distances between these courthouses make it impractical, if not impossible, for a judge to attempt to split their day between two work locations. As an example, the driving distance between the New Kent and Mathews County courthouses is 44 miles. An additional judicial position would allow the allocation necessary of additional judicial time to these smaller localities.

Williamsburg and James City County Mental Health Docket:

The Williamsburg and James City County area has a significant number of criminal cases involving individuals with mental health concerns. Although the exact cause of this issue is unproven, it seems likely the situation can be linked to the fact that one of the largest public psychiatric hospitals in the state is located within the jurisdiction of

¹⁴ See Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Virginia Population Estimates, <https://www.coopercenter.org/virginia-population-estimates> (last visited September 6, 2024); Office of the Executive Secretary Workload Summary, Exhibit B.

¹⁵ See Exhibit B.

this Court. To address these cases, the Presiding Judge in the Williamsburg and James City County General District Court intends to establish a Mental Health Specialty Docket. The application for this docket is currently pending with the State Advisory Committee on Specialty Dockets.

Specialty dockets, focusing on mental health or substance abuse, require the Presiding Judge to work with a team of knowledgeable and experienced service providers. Research strongly suggests that these dockets offer crucial resources for our citizens and have proven success in reducing recidivism and time spent incarcerated. While beneficial, these types of dockets also require significant resources and time.¹⁶ An additional Judge in the District would afford the Presiding Judge in Williamsburg and James City County the time to adequately address this urgent community need.

Achieving Demeanor Goals:

The members of the General Assembly have made it clear that demeanor is one of the most important metrics of judicial performance. Without question, we agree with the aspirational goals of perfecting and consistently displaying the appropriate judicial temperament. Although hard to define, certain hallmarks of judicial temperament include patience, kindness, thoroughness, and emotional regulation. These traits become more difficult to maintain when judges are faced with hundreds of cases to complete in small periods of time, without time for adequate breaks from the courtroom to eat, use the restroom, or even stand for a moment. With our current judicial workload at 1.21, the highest in the state, we find ourselves working in these conditions with increasing and alarming frequency. By adding a judicial position and diluting this workload to a more appropriate and manageable number, we would have a much better and, frankly much fairer, chance to present this temperament to every litigant.

Meeting Necessary Non-Case-Related Obligations:

Judges have important non-case-related obligations. As recognized by the 2017 Workload Assessment, General District Court judges have administrative obligations such as staff supervision, court management, mentoring, legal research, legal education and training, committee meetings, community activities, and work-related travel.¹⁷ Unfortunately, meeting these obligations with the current caseload is extraordinarily difficult. We understand from our colleagues in other areas that most Virginia judges have at least one administrative day per month to address many of these tasks. No judge in the Ninth currently has a day dedicated to concentrate on non-case-related obligations each month. Adding a judicial position in the Ninth, would permit the GDC

¹⁶ See *The Essential Elements of Mental Health Dockets in Virginia*, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, 2016. See also American Psychiatric Association, *Resource Document on Mental Health Courts*, Approved by the Joint Reference Committee, 2020.

¹⁷ 2017 *Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment*, p. 39.

Judges the necessary time during the workday to satisfy these important responsibilities.

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

In support of our request for additional judicial resources, we are including letters of support from just a few of our stakeholders. Please find at Exhibit C letters from:

Benming Zhang, Esq., President, Williamsburg Bar Association

Rodney A. Hathaway, County Administrator, New Kent County

Tiffany M. Webb, Esq., Commonwealth's Attorney, King William County

Nicole L. White, Esq., The Law Office of Nicole Lang White, PLC

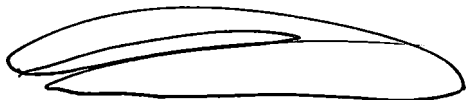
CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to demonstrate the urgent need for additional judicial support in the General District Court in the Ninth. Given the fact that we have the highest per judge workload in the Commonwealth, the unique geographical factors of a District that spans more than 2000 square miles, and the exhaustion of our internal efforts to manage the issue within existing resources, we respectfully request that you consider adding a judicial position to the District. As well, we ask that you recommend separating our request for an additional judicial position from any actions related to the anticipated 2024 Judicial Workload Study as this position is immediately needed. We would be happy to make ourselves available to discuss this issue or provide any additional information you require.

Respectfully Presented,



Wade A. Bowie
Chief Judge



Matthew D. Danielson
Judge



Stephanie M. Revere
Judge

EXHIBIT A

**STATEWIDE JUDICIAL
WORKLOAD GRAPH**

Approximate Judicial Workload by District
(based on Judges assigned per District in 2023)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	1.13	0.85	0.87	0.94	1.08	1.21
31	1.05	0.75	0.75	0.79	0.96	1.02
22	1.12	0.83	0.87	0.83	0.92	1.02
14	1.05	0.84	0.77	0.83	0.89	1.02
12	1.11	0.88	0.92	0.96	0.96	0.99
24	1.08	0.91	0.82	0.81	0.93	0.97
26	1.07	0.81	0.84	0.83	0.93	0.93
20	0.86	0.60	0.69	0.69	0.85	0.89
16	0.95	0.62	0.65	0.72	0.84	0.87
15	0.92	0.70	0.65	0.68	0.77	0.84
27	0.97	0.73	0.68	0.68	0.79	0.84
8	0.84	0.61	0.57	0.60	0.71	0.82
19	0.88	0.53	0.51	0.58	0.72	0.82
23	1.02	0.76	0.67	0.71	0.74	0.82
25	0.90	0.72	0.74	0.74	0.77	0.80
6	1.10	0.85	0.76	0.73	0.75	0.80
10	0.91	0.62	0.58	0.64	0.80	0.80
28	0.86	0.71	0.63	0.58	0.70	0.79
7	0.93	0.71	0.56	0.64	0.75	0.78
11	0.95	0.68	0.59	0.64	0.75	0.78
32	0.75	0.63	0.68	0.63	0.71	0.77
2	0.84	0.62	0.62	0.68	0.77	0.77
5	0.83	0.68	0.71	0.66	0.69	0.76
3	0.83	0.65	0.60	0.59	0.72	0.72
13	1.02	0.61	0.52	0.54	0.58	0.68
17	0.77	0.59	0.57	0.58	0.71	0.68
4	0.88	0.54	0.53	0.53	0.59	0.67
30	0.87	0.66	0.60	0.60	0.64	0.66
1	1.00	0.77	0.61	0.54	0.62	0.65
29	0.92	0.70	0.67	0.65	0.64	0.63
18	0.67	0.49	0.47	0.50	0.59	0.60
21	0.64	0.47	0.49	0.49	0.54	0.57

EXHIBIT B
9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CASELOAD SUMMARY AS OF
SEPTEMBER 2024

GENERAL DISTRICT COURTS OF VIRGINIA

2019-2024 Judicial Workload Summary (2024 Based on January - August 2024)

District

9

Judicial Workload 3 Year Average

2019-2021

2.84

2022-2024

3.23

Judges Assigned to District

3

3 Year Totals (Filings and Judicial Workload)

% of Overall Judicial Workload

	2019-2021	2022-2024	% Change	2019-2021	2022-2024
District Total	196,129 2.84	260,660 3.23	32.9% 13.5%	2.8	3.2
Charles City	3,761 0.07	4,248 0.06	12.9% -2.9%	2.3%	2.0%
Gloucester	30,030 0.44	40,239 0.49	34.0% 11.8%	15.5%	15.3%
King & Queen	14,868 0.19	15,941 0.17	7.2% -9.5%	6.8%	5.4%
King William	9,546 0.15	16,040 0.19	68.0% 21.2%	5.4%	5.7%
Mathews	4,730 0.08	6,475 0.09	36.9% 17.5%	2.6%	2.7%
Middlesex	5,503 0.09	6,601 0.10	20.0% 1.4%	3.3%	3.0%
New Kent	31,316 0.48	43,514 0.56	38.9% 16.8%	16.8%	17.3%
Williamsburg	50,715 0.67	62,572 0.75	23.4% 12.3%	23.4%	23.2%
York	45,660 0.68	65,031 0.82	42.4% 21.2%	23.8%	25.4%

Judge Year Value

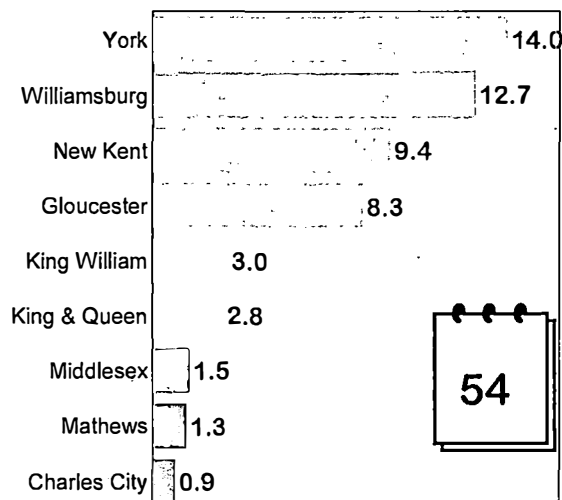
216 Days

Days Per Month

18 Days

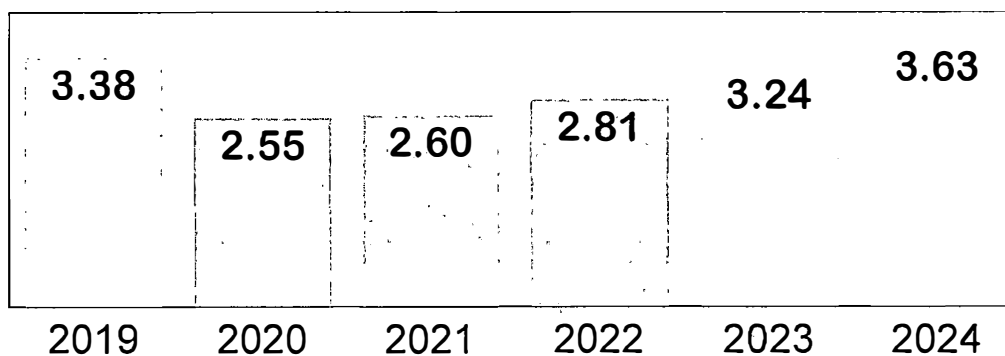
3 Judges * 18 Days = 54 Days Per Month

Recommended Judge Days Per Month



3 Year Totals by Performance Measures

	2019-2021	2022-2024
Filings	196,129	260,660
Dispositions	198,137	190,863
Clearance Rate	101.0%	73.2%
Age to Disposition	76	69
Continuance Rate	0.39	0.35
Hearings Per Case	1.66	1.55

Judicial Workload
by Year

Year Totals (Filings and Judicial Workload)

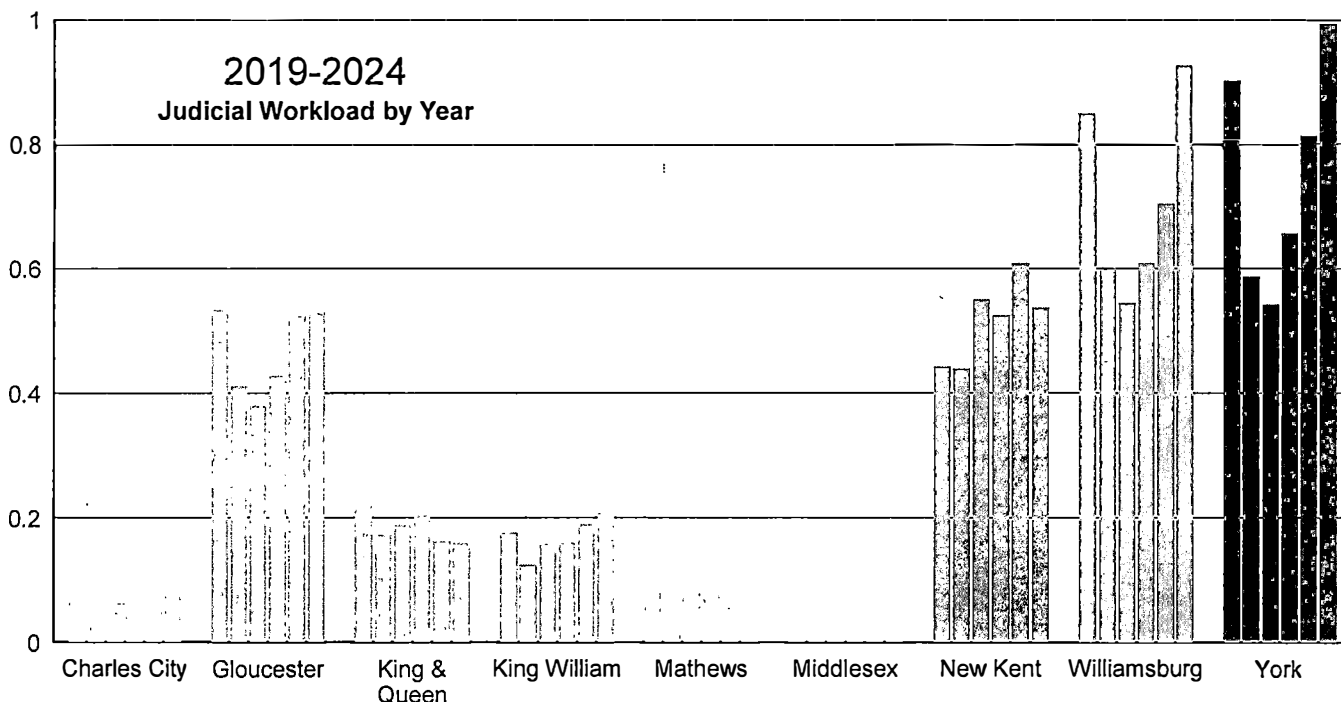
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
District Total	80,395 3.38	56,509 2.55	59,225 2.60	64,864 2.81	72,722 3.24	82,049 3.63
Charles City	1,164 0.07	1,301 0.07	1,296 0.06	987 0.06	1,012 0.06	1,499 0.07
Gloucester	13,235 0.53	8,607 0.41	8,188 0.38	10,048 0.43	11,750 0.52	12,294 0.53
King & Queen	5,671 0.22	4,464 0.17	4,733 0.19	5,711 0.20	4,527 0.16	3,802 0.16
King William	3,418 0.18	2,359 0.12	3,769 0.16	4,036 0.16	4,927 0.19	4,718 0.21
Mathews	1,731 0.08	1,170 0.06	1,829 0.08	2,161 0.09	1,836 0.09	1,652 0.09
Middlesex	2,044 0.11	1,615 0.09	1,844 0.09	1,515 0.09	1,882 0.09	2,136 0.11
New Kent	10,676 0.44	9,021 0.44	11,619 0.55	11,549 0.52	12,601 0.61	12,909 0.54
Williamsburg	21,552 0.85	15,201 0.60	13,962 0.54	14,150 0.61	15,692 0.70	21,820 0.93
York	20,904 0.90	12,771 0.59	11,985 0.54	14,707 0.66	18,495 0.81	21,219 0.99
% of Overall Judicial Workload	<u>2019</u> 3.4	<u>2020</u> 2.6	<u>2021</u> 2.6	<u>2022</u> 2.8	<u>2023</u> 3.2	<u>2024</u> 3.6
Charles City	1.9%	2.7%	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%
Gloucester	15.8%	16.1%	14.6%	15.2%	16.2%	14.6%
King & Queen	6.5%	6.7%	7.2%	7.2%	5.0%	4.4%
King William	5.2%	4.9%	6.1%	5.7%	5.8%	5.7%
Mathews	2.5%	2.4%	3.1%	3.1%	2.7%	2.5%
Middlesex	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%
New Kent	13.1%	17.2%	21.2%	18.7%	18.8%	14.8%
Williamsburg	25.1%	23.6%	21.0%	21.7%	21.7%	25.6%
York	26.7%	23.0%	20.9%	23.3%	25.1%	27.4%

GENERAL DISTRICT COURTS OF VIRGINIA

2019-2024 Judicial Workload Summary (2024 Based on January - August 2024)

District

9



District Totals by Overall Yearly Performance Measures

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Filings		80,395	56,509	59,225	64,864	72,722	82,049
Dispositions		81,108	57,317	59,712	64,882	72,424	53,557
Clearance Rate		100.9%	101.4%	100.8%	100.0%	99.6%	65.3%
Age to Disposition		66	87	78	73	68	67
Continuance Rate		0.35	0.46	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.34
Hearings Per Case		1.55	1.86	1.62	1.57	1.53	1.53
Charles City		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		1,164	1,301	1,296	987	1,012	1,499
		1,221	1,315	1,288	1,018	994	974
		104.9%	101.1%	99.4%	103.1%	98.2%	65.0%
		74	81	66	78	66	68
		0.34	0.41	0.30	0.32	0.34	0.35
Gloucester		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		13,235	8,607	8,188	10,048	11,750	12,294
		13,289	8,489	8,284	9,868	11,810	8,043
		100.4%	98.6%	101.2%	98.2%	100.5%	65.4%
		82	93	95	82	81	75
		0.29	0.45	0.38	0.33	0.33	0.34
King & Queen		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
		5,671	4,464	4,733	5,711	4,527	3,802
		5,663	4,406	4,766	5,788	4,557	2,845
		99.9%	98.7%	100.7%	101.3%	100.7%	74.8%
		52	76	67	61	54	52
		0.27	0.35	0.31	0.28	0.24	0.25
		1.36	1.49	1.46	1.44	1.34	1.29

GENERAL DISTRICT COURTS OF VIRGINIA

2019-2024 Judicial Workload Summary (2024 Based on January - August 2024)

District

9

		<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
King William		3,418	2,359	3,769	4,036	4,927	4,718
		3,397	2,293	3,852	4,049	4,893	3,678
		99.4%	97.2%	102.2%	100.3%	99.3%	78.0%
		52	67	82	78	53	55
		0.26	0.37	0.28	0.26	0.23	0.22
		1.34	1.51	1.43	1.36	1.30	1.31
Mathews		1,731	1,170	1,829	2,161	1,836	1,652
		1,779	1,131	1,781	2,210	1,861	1,177
		102.8%	96.7%	97.4%	102.3%	101.4%	71.2%
		61	81	98	64	57	61
		0.27	0.42	0.29	0.24	0.23	0.28
		1.41	1.66	1.39	1.35	1.32	1.38
Middlesex		2,044	1,615	1,844	1,515	1,882	2,136
		2,047	1,596	1,864	1,549	1,821	1,418
		100.1%	98.8%	101.1%	102.2%	96.8%	66.4%
		61	81	181	101	62	64
		0.34	0.43	0.30	0.38	0.35	0.33
		1.52	1.73	1.46	1.67	1.49	1.53
New Kent		10,676	9,021	11,619	11,549	12,601	12,909
		10,748	8,916	11,680	11,704	12,210	7,510
		100.7%	98.8%	100.5%	101.3%	96.9%	58.2%
		73	92	75	73	81	98
		0.38	0.49	0.41	0.39	0.43	0.42
		1.61	1.92	1.71	1.66	1.67	1.87
Williamsburg		21,552	15,201	13,962	14,150	15,692	21,820
		21,865	15,609	14,155	13,888	15,768	13,534
		101.5%	102.7%	101.4%	98.1%	100.5%	62.0%
		55	76	62	61	62	59
		0.37	0.48	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38
		1.60	1.96	1.68	1.61	1.63	1.57
York		20,904	12,771	11,985	14,707	18,495	21,219
		21,099	13,562	12,042	14,808	18,510	14,378
		100.9%	106.2%	100.5%	100.7%	100.1%	67.8%
		72	100	76	81	64	59
		0.38	0.47	0.38	0.37	0.35	0.32
		1.66	1.98	1.66	1.63	1.54	1.45

Performance Measure Glossary

Filings	New or Incoming Cases
Dispositions	Outgoing Cases (Concluded)
Clearance Rate	The number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases
Age to Disposition	Average Number of Days from File Date to Disposition Date
Continuance Rate	Number of Continued Hearings divided by Transactions (Transactions= All Scheduled Hearings)
Hearings Per Case	Average Number of Hearings Before a Case is Disposed or Concluded

EXHIBIT C
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

KAUFMAN & CANOLES
attorneys at law

Benming Zhang
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Mailing Address
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F (888) 360.9092

kaufCAN.com

August 29, 2024

HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Wade A. Bowie, Chief Judge
Williamsburg/James City County General District Court
Ninth Judicial District of Virginia
5201 Monticello Avenue, Suite 2
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188-8218

Re: Williamsburg Bar Association – Judicial Council of Virginia

Dear Chief Judge Bowie:

As the President of the Williamsburg Bar Association (the "Bar") and with the unanimous consent of the Bar's Board of Directors, I am writing to you to convey the Bar's support to add an additional General District Court ("GDC") Judge to support the Ninth Judicial District of Virginia (the "9th District"). While the Bar members deeply appreciate the dedication and time given to them by the sitting Judges of the 9th District, it is clear to our members that additional assistance is urgently needed.

First and foremost, we acknowledge and appreciate the dedicated work of our sitting GDC Judges of the 9th District on handling the ever-increasing caseload. We write in support as a plea for assistance to ensure that the 9th District continues to operate as efficiently as it has for many years.

Much has changed over the past few decades in the communities that make up the 9th District. Since 1990, James City County has grown from a bedroom community of 35,000 residents to a rapidly urbanizing area of 80,000 people with no slowdown in sight. New Kent County was home to 10,000 residents and tens of thousands of acres of trees grown for the Chesapeake Corporation and is now recognized as the fastest-growing community in the Commonwealth, outpacing those in Northern Virginia. York County has nearly doubled in size from 42,000 residents to more than 70,000. With new residents come more legal needs and issues, which have given rise to new law firms and more attorneys; indeed, the Bar membership has grown from a few dozen to more than 115 active members in 2024.

Finally, it is the Bar's opinion that the growth in case numbers due to the explosion of population in our communities has not been adequately mitigated by an increase in judicial appointments on the General District Court. The aggregate amount of GDC filings in the 9th District from January through July of 2024 is 46,933 compared with 42,806 for the same period in 2023, representing an increase of 4,127 filings (or approximately 9%) year over year. The significant increase can be attributed to a few factors: Williamsburg, James City County, and York County saw major increases in traffic infraction cases (for

The Honorable Chief Judge Wade A. Bowie
August 29, 2024
Page 2

Williamsburg and James City County: 4,617 cases in 2024 compared with 2,857 for 2023; and York County: 6,617 cases in 2024 compared with 5,497 cases in 2023). Criminal cases have increased in every county in the 9th District except for King & Queen and Charles City counties. The increase in caseload is only expected to continue across the 9th District which adds further strain to our sitting Judges and risks delays in trials.

In conclusion, the members of the Bar offer our unmitigated support of your request that the 9th District Judicial Council recommend that the General Assembly seat an additional General District Court judge in the 9th District. We believe that this addition has been made necessary by the boundless influx of new residents to the communities that make up the 9th District and the resultant increase in caseload.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of the Bar's membership. I hope that it is of assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benming Zhang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benming Zhang
President, Williamsburg Bar Association

BZ:

CC: The Honorable Matthew Daren Danielson, Judge
The Honorable Stephanie M. Revere, Judge
Williamsburg Bar Association Board of Directors



Board of Supervisors

Thomas W. Evelyn	District 1
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	District 2
Patricia A. Paige	District 3
Ron Stiers	District 4
John N. Lockwood	District 5

Rodney A. Hathaway
County Administrator

www.co.new-kent.va.us

August 19, 2024

Honorable S. Benard Goodwyn, Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Virginia
100 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Subject: Letter of Support for an Additional General District Court Judicial Position in the 9th Judicial District of Virginia

Dear Chief Justice Goodwyn,

On behalf of the New Kent County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to you and the Committee on District Courts to express our strong support for the Ninth Judicial District's request for an additional Judicial position.

The Ninth judicial district is experiencing significant growth, with New Kent County being among the fastest growing localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to the 2020 census, New Kent's population increased from 18,432 in 2010 to 23,091 in 2019, a 25.3% increase which was the 2nd highest growth rate in Virginia, just behind Loudon County. This growth rate is over three times the Virginia growth rate of 7.9% during the same period. The University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center's latest population estimates, published on January 29, 2024, indicate that New Kent has grown 11.9% since the 2020 census which is currently the highest growth rate in Virginia. It is clear that New Kent has been, and will likely continue to be, one of the fastest growing localities in the Commonwealth.

In addition to population growth, New Kent County is also seeing a significant increase in economic development activity, leading to exponential growth in visitors and commuters. The Colonial Downs Racetrack and Rosie's Gaming Emporium is having another record year in regard to visitors and revenues. We eagerly anticipate the opening of a new AutoZone Distribution Center in early 2025, which will employ over 350 individuals. Additionally, last year the County announced that a Buc-ees Travel Center has plans to construct and open a 74,000 square foot travel center in 2027 that

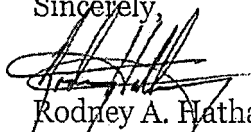
employee over 170 individuals and attract approximately two million vehicle visits per year. Several other large economic development projects are also in the pipeline, promising to bring hundreds of new employees into the County from neighboring localities.

The increases in population and travelers through the County have directly impacted the provision of County services. We have observed increases in public safety demands, utility needs, land use permitting, and significant increases in court services demand. The Ninth Judicial District has consistently experienced one of the highest workloads per judge in the Commonwealth over the past six years. In response to the rising workloads and demands for court services, we have added court days to our schedule and funded additional positions in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

New Kent County believes it is essential for judges to have manageable caseloads to prioritize justice, rather than expedience, when making life-altering decisions. Unfortunately, underfunding of the judiciary has become an increasingly critical issue in Virginia, placing additional burdens on localities and the judicial system. New Kent County fully supports the Ninth Judicial District's request for an additional judgeship to ensure that the judiciary can continue to fulfill its vital role as intended and required.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you and members of the General Assembly to ensure adequate funding and resources for our judiciary in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Rodney A. Hathaway
County Administrator

cc: Members, New Kent County Board of Supervisors
Members, New Kent County Delegation in the General Assembly
9th Judicial District Judges
Joshua Everard, County Attorney

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF KING WILLIAM

TIFFANY M. WEBB SANDY L. WALTER

Commonwealth's

Tiffany.webb@kwc.gov

GREGORY OVERHOLSER LIBERTY A. WALTON

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney ROBIN L. BOSTIC

Gregory.overholser@kwc.gov



Legal Assistant

Attorney Sandy.walter@kwc.gov

LIBERTY A. WALTON

Records Manager

Victim Witness

Program Director

Robin.bostic@kwc.gov

OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

351 Courthouse Lane, Suite 120

King William, VA 23086

Telephone: (804) 769-4211

Facsimile: (804) 769-2234

September 11, 2024

The Honorable Wade A. Bowie, Chief Judge

King William General District Court

Ninth Judicial District

351 Courthouse Lane, Suite 201

King William, Virginia 23086

Dear Chief Judge Bowie:

On behalf of the King William Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, please accept this letter in support of adding an additional General District Court ("GDC") Judge to the Ninth Judicial District of Virginia (the "9th District") to support the current sitting Judges of the 9th District.

Over the last three years, the number of cases originating in the GDC that this office is involved in has steadily increased. That does not account for the matters that this office does not handle, specifically certain traffic matters and misdemeanor offenses where jail time is not sought that are handled on the same court docket, but usually at a different time. I do not anticipate the volume of cases will slow down any time soon and would guess that with the ongoing residential development here in the County, that as the population increases, so will the caseloads.

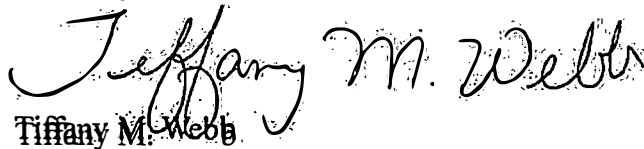
In addition, as you are aware, here in King William County, the Defense Bar is very limited. Those attorneys who are available to represent Defendants in this jurisdiction often appear in surrounding jurisdictions as well. Their limited availability, paired with the sometimes limited

GDC dates, often causes scheduling conflicts and prolonged delays in trying and/or resolving cases.

This Office believes that adding an additional GDC Judge to this District would hopefully allow for additional court dates to be offered during the month, thereby making the judicial process more available to and efficient for all involved parties. We stand in full support of this and will make ourselves available as needed should additional court dates be added in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if any additional information is needed that could be of assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany M. Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tiffany M. Webb

Commonwealth's Attorney for King William County

Nicole Lang White, Esq.
PO Box 64669
Virginia Beach, VA 23467
nicolelangwhite@gmail.com

Hon. Wade A. Bowie, Chief Judge
9th Judicial District of Virginia
300 Ballard Street
Yorktown, VA 23690

September 10, 2024

Dear Judge Bowie,

I am writing to express my support for adding a Judge to the 9th Judicial District of Virginia. I am a civil litigator with a high-volume practice. I regularly represent banks, insurance companies, and landlords in the 9th District and most of the courts in Southeastern Virginia. I am a past President of the Virginia Creditors Bar Association, and I have practiced in the courts of the Commonwealth for twenty years.

Caseload statistics show that the General District Courts are the workhorse of the Virginia judicial system. Constituents are most likely to have contact with a General District Court. It is important that there are sufficient resources to handle the needs of the community.

Currently, the Judges of the 9th District cover nine jurisdictions with only three permanent Judges. Changing demographics and increased suburban sprawl have led to increased caseloads. Limited judicial resources mean that civil dockets regularly run until the court closes or later. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to get trials scheduled in a timely manner. The long dockets exhaust the public, attorneys, and the clerks. Per my recent conversations with clients, I expect civil filings to increase exponentially in the coming year. One civil docket day a week in York and Williamsburg is not enough to handle the current volume of cases. It is vital that additional civil dockets days be added to handle the expected surge in cases. An additional Judge would allow the court to add additional civil docket dates to relieve some of the pressure on the system. The public and the bar would be better served by adding a General District Court Judge to the 9th Judicial District of Virginia. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lang White, Esq.



DISTRICT JUDGES

William E. Jarvis
Wallace S. Covington, III
Turkessa B. Rollins
Ché C. Rogers
Abigail A. Miller

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Thirty-First Judicial District of Virginia

9311 LEE AVENUE
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110

JURISDICTIONS

Prince William County
City of Manassas
City of Manassas Park
(703) 792-6140

October 23, 2024

Dear Members for the Committee on District Courts:

The Prince William General District Court serves a diverse, vibrantly growing Northern Virginia community. Our Court is allocated five (5) judges, but our growing population and dockets support the need of a (6) sixth judge. Prince William County is the second most populous locality in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our Court also serves the independent cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

U.S. Census data illustrates the following:

	2020 Population	2010 Population	Increase
City of Manassas	42,772	37,821	4,951 (13.1%)
City of Manassas Park	17,219	14,273	2,946 (20.6%)
<u>Prince William County</u>	<u>482,204</u>	<u>402,002</u>	<u>80,202 (20%)</u>
Totals	542,195	454,096	88,099 (19.4%)

The localities we serve have the highest percentage of residents that speak a language other than English in their home in Virginia. We have supported that need for foreign language services by adding a full-time staff interpreter paid for with funds from Prince William County Government. The foreign language services this employee provides are not reflected in the data reported to Office of the Executive Secretary, thus making our use of interpreters artificially low.

Language other than English spoken at home:

City of Manassas	42%
Prince William County	38%
City of Manassas Park	51.9%
Virginia (statewide)	17.8%

Prince William GDC had the third highest filings for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 with 117,370 total filings¹. We expect that number to continue to grow. New dockets have commenced and are generating filings not reflected in prior years. Interstate 66 Express Lanes has begun filings for High Occupancy Toll (HOT Lanes) road violation enforcement. Prince William County has also started a pilot program with automated traffic enforcement for school zones at several local high schools and high-volume intersections. These new dockets will generate several thousand new filings.

Courts across Virginia experienced reductions in filings and caseloads starting FY 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prince William GDC is rapidly rebounding with its FY 2024 filings closely matching FY 2018 filings². Our caseloads continue to increase. Therefore, we are asking for a sixth judge to meet the needs of the public.

Very truly yours,

Ché C. Rogers, Chief Judge

¹ Caseload Statistics of General District Courts – Filings by District (Districts 2, 4, 12, 13, 19, & 31)

² Caseload Statistics of General District Courts – Filings for Prince William GDC from FY 2018 to FY 2024

CASELOAD STATISTICS OF THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTS

July 2023 thru June 2024

Filings by District

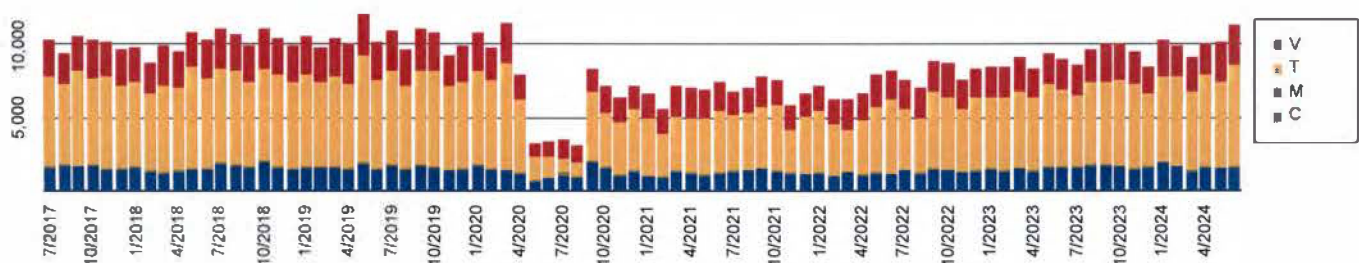
		2	4	12	13	19	31	Total
Criminal	Misdemeanor	8,734	6,560	7,102	5,029	16,501	9,614	10,708
	Felony	4,066	2,872	3,842	2,444	10,880	4,554	5,732
	Capias	915	206	1,511	1,005	2,312	3,223	1,834
	Show Cause	188	287	580	261	672	853	568
	Civil Violation	761	125	156	110	265	581	400
	Motion	0	0	17	0	12	0	6
	Restricted O/L	0	0	1	10	0	0	2
	Total	14,664	10,050	13,209	8,859	30,642	18,825	19,250
Traffic	Infraction	40,186	32,992	21,678	17,952	139,386	56,925	61,824
	Misdemeanor	13,980	4,561	12,553	7,117	18,073	11,873	13,631
	Capias	1,174	9	901	229	920	171	681
	Show Cause	440	150	654	123	620	56	409
	Felony	0	118	362	172	505	206	273
	Other	371	172	3	470	2	46	213
	Civil Violation	120	1	178	3	424	183	182
	Motion	0	0	191	0	252	0	89
	Restricted O/L	11	47	72	51	23	26	46
	Total	56,282	38,050	36,592	26,117	160,205	69,486	77,346
Civil	Warrant in Debt	15,951	9,635	14,641	15,935	12,819	11,287	16,054
	Garnishment	21,119	14,435	9,903	12,163	5,694	7,145	14,092
	Unlawful Detainer	11,170	9,647	7,751	13,148	8,978	4,989	11,137
	Emer Protective Order	944	1,561	821	987	424	271	1,002
	Admin License	1,294	227	621	133	1,425	983	937
	Prelim Prot Order	719	993	591	526	525	465	764
	Motion for Judgment	2,278	250	257	529	137	15	693
	Show Cause	812	523	450	424	349	561	624
	Protective Order	626	841	580	152	410	384	599
	Abstract	1,136	568	164	113	119	226	465
	Interrogatory	521	215	200	187	284	372	356
	Other	56	181	296	676	44	365	324
	Detinue	475	232	185	248	82	44	253
	Bond Forfeiture	475	310	126	0	248	5	233
	Zoning Viol	0	0	0	0	143	520	133
	Impoundment	113	18	115	7	207	146	121
	Tenants Assertion	90	110	35	100	62	39	87
	Counter Claim	48	32	23	60	110	54	65
	Others	96	18	88	76	216	119	123
	Total	57,923	39,796	36,847	45,464	32,276	27,990	48,059
Civil Commitments	Mental Commitment	1,159	275	3	1,549	1,801	406	1,039
	Temporary Detention Order	583	86	351	1,227	1,933	525	941
	Emer Custody	104	261	150	135	313	131	219
	Other	146	54	0	0	116	0	63
	Petition	0	48	0	0	10	14	14
	Med Emer TDO	2	3	7	1	37	3	11
	Med Emer Custody Order	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
	Total	1,994	728	511	2,912	4,210	1,081	2,287
Total		130,863	88,624	87,159	83,352	227,333	117,382	146,943

CASELOAD STATISTICS OF THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTS

Prince William

July 2023 thru June 2024

Filings		FY-2018	FY-2019	FY-2020	FY-2021	FY-2022	FY-2023	FY-2024
Criminal	Misdemeanor	9,876	11,646	9,907	7,575	7,988	8,870	9,610
	Felony	4,619	4,749	3,961	3,531	3,258	4,038	4,554
	Capias	1,427	1,448	1,132	1,447	1,660	2,344	3,219
	Show Cause	809	714	552	804	768	733	853
	Civil Violation	341	467	460	616	501	474	581
	Other	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	17,073	19,027	16,012	13,973	14,175	16,459	18,817
Traffic	Infraction	58,607	60,387	52,591	30,553	37,411	47,199	56,925
	Misdemeanor	12,113	13,101	11,037	8,977	9,071	10,647	11,872
	Capias	400	465	350	217	155	154	168
	Felony	208	197	189	167	166	212	206
	Other	175	164	291	142	273	121	48
	Civil Violation	58	5	8	4	116	150	181
	Show Cause	41	48	55	61	75	60	56
	Restricted O/L	87	58	61	45	37	28	26
	Total	71,689	74,425	64,582	40,166	47,304	58,571	69,482
Civil	Warrant in Debt	13,188	14,437	11,435	10,535	8,965	9,076	11,288
	Garnishment	5,438	6,224	6,773	4,298	6,469	7,118	7,145
	Unlawful Detainer	5,873	5,818	4,622	1,956	2,107	4,538	4,989
	Admin License	0	0	1,038	1,065	993	908	983
	Other	1,634	1,796	290	142	125	268	365
	Zoning Viol	580	510	312	234	483	608	520
	Show Cause	401	409	381	415	428	464	561
	Interrogatory	593	510	431	435	354	359	372
	Prelim Prot Order	329	367	328	364	422	410	465
	Protective Order	267	285	221	291	314	339	384
	Emer Protective Order	304	286	196	253	253	252	271
	Abstract	203	175	146	181	225	243	226
	Impoundment	0	34	166	130	139	140	146
	Detinue	131	184	68	91	115	82	43
	Overweight	128	110	85	61	91	60	70
	Bond Forfeiture	77	133	55	46	17	21	5
	Motion for Judgment	58	98	16	29	30	34	15
	Capias	55	32	31	23	32	20	18
	Others	17	24	68	72	83	96	124
	Total	29,276	31,432	26,662	20,621	21,645	25,036	27,990
Civil Commitments	Temporary Detention Order	825	807	628	699	497	441	525
	Mental Commitment	726	582	541	585	392	339	406
	Emer Custody	120	141	83	150	188	176	131
	Petition	26	15	6	8	2	4	14
	Med Emer TDO	9	7	1	10	7	6	3
	Med Emer Custody Order	0	1	0	0	1	8	2
	Other	2	2	1	1	0	2	0
Total		1,708	1,555	1,260	1,453	1,087	976	1,081
Grand Total		119,746	126,439	108,516	76,213	84,211	101,042	117,370



GENERAL DISTRICT COURT DOCKETING SCHEDULE

<u>Courtroom 1</u>	9:00 AM	Civil Returns or Trials
	11:00 AM	Civil Returns – (Not on Fridays)
	1:00 PM	Civil Returns
	1:30 PM	Civil Trials
WALK-INS ALL DAY (8:30AM – 4:00PM) PROTECTIVE ORDERS (8:30AM-3:30PM)		

SEE ATTACHED CIVIL DOCKET SCHEDULE FOR CASE TYPE

Courtroom 3	9:00 AM	Traffic Cases & Infractions (RD First Returns)
	10:30 AM	Criminal Docket- Misdemeanor Criminal Cases, Reckless Driving trials with counsel, DOS, NO OL, Trespassing, Trooper Cases
	11:30 AM	Felony Docket
	1:30 PM	Civil Trials
Courtroom 4	9:00 AM	Traffic Cases & Infractions (RD First Returns)
	10:30AM	Criminal Docket- Misdemeanor Criminal Cases, Reckless Driving trials with counsel, DOS, NO OL, Trespassing, Trooper Cases
	11:30 AM	Felony Docket
	1:30 PM	ASAP Returns (Thursdays)
	1:30 PM	Red Light Camera (Thursdays)
	1:30 PM	Civil Trials (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)
	2:05 PM	Transurban (Thursdays)
Courtroom 5	9:00 AM	Traffic Cases & Infractions (RD First Returns); Delayed sentencing report
	10:30 AM	Criminal Docket- Misdemeanor Criminal Cases, Reckless Driving trials with counsel, DOS, NO OL, Trespassing, Trooper Cases
	11:30 AM	Felony Docket
	1:30 PM	Civil Trials
Courtroom 6	8:30 AM	Bond Motions, Discovery Motions, Continuances, etc.
	9:30 AM	Video Arraignments
	11:00 AM	Walk-In Arraignments
	11:30 AM	Deferrals & SIS Returns
	1:00 PM	Civil Returns
	1:30 PM	Civil Trials

CIVIL COURT DOCKETING SCHEDULE

Monday	9:00 AM	Attorney Unlawful Detainers Returns & Trials
	11:00 AM	Post Judgment – Motions, Garnishments, Interrogatories, Show Cause & Capias
	1:00 PM	Post Judgment – Motions, Garnishments, Interrogatories, Show Cause & Capias
	1:30 PM	Warrant in Debt/Civil Trials
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Pro Se Unlawful Detainers Returns
	10:00 AM	Small Claims
	11:00 AM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Returns
	1:00 PM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Returns
	1:30 PM	Pro Se Unlawful Detainer Trials
Wednesday		Small Claims Trials
	9:00 AM	Attorney Unlawful Detainers Returns & Trials
	11:00 AM	Post Judgment- Motions, Garnishments, Interrogatories, Show Cause, Capias
	1:00 PM	Post Judgment- Motions, Garnishments, Interrogatories, Show Cause, Capias
	1:30 PM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Trials
Thursday	9:00 AM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Returns
	11:00AM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Returns
	1:00 PM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Returns
	1:30 PM	Warrants in Debt/Civil Trials
Friday	9:00 AM	Attorney Unlawful Detainers Trials
	1:00 PM	Attorney Unlawful Detainers Returns
	1:30 PM	Attorney Unlawful Detainers Trials



OFFICE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

AMY ASHWORTH
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

JUDICIAL CENTER
9311 Lee Avenue, Suite 200
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110

Phone: (703)792-6050
Email: CWOffice@pwcgov.org

October 23, 2024

Chief Judge Che Rogers
Prince William County General District Court
9311 Lee Avenue, 2nd Floor
Manassas, VA 20110

Re: Request for 6th General District Court Judge
Prince William County and Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park

Dear Judge Rogers:

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office supports your request for an additional General District Court Judge.

As we have discussed, the volume of criminal cases heard in this jurisdiction, the addition of the Office of the Public Defender, the increased use of body worn camera footage, and the reliance upon foreign language interpreters have all negatively impacted the ability of the General District Court to handle the criminal matters in a timely and efficient manner.

It is not uncommon for witnesses who have been subpoenaed to appear in court to wait for hours for their case to be heard or be turned away and told to come back another day because a case had to be continued or rescheduled due to the high caseload on a particular day. This practice inhibits our ability to put cases forward as people will often get fed up and stop coming to court.

A sixth Judge would alleviate many of the problems caused by lengthy delays on heavy court days and in general. Please let me know if you need any additional information. I remain,

Very truly yours,


Amy Ashworth



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Chief Judge
TIMOTHY J. QUICK

Judges
PHILIP C. HOLLOWELL
CHESHIRE I. EVELEIGH
ADRIANNE L. BENNETT
JAMES P. NORMILE, IV
JENNIFER B. SHUPERT

City of Virginia Beach
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

2425 Nimmo Parkway, Bldg. 10A
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-9058
(757) 385-4391

Clerk of Court
AMY K. BURNHAM

Chief Deputy Clerk of Administration
SARAH W. QUIROGA

Chief Deputy Clerk of Operations
LISA C. SHELTON

October 21, 2024

The Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia
100 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: October 24th CDC meeting

Dear Justice Goodwyn:

Thank you for the opportunity to present our request for a seventh judge to the Committee on District Courts. Enclosed please find a spreadsheet for consideration by the committee that I would request be circulated to all members of the CDC. This spreadsheet represents a condensed version of Virginia Beach JDR case statistics compiled from JCMS over the past ten years. It has been narrowed down to three of the ten JDR District Court Judge Case Type Categories contained in Appendix C on pages 34-35 of the Judicial Workload Assessment Final Report.

Our Court focused on just three of the ten categories because these are the practice areas where the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court has seen an explosion in percentage increase of case filings in the last ten years. These case types are commanding a disproportionate amount of our daily workload. They are also the types of cases that demand almost immediate attention, and often these cases must be "off-docketed" onto other case type dockets. That off-docketing, in turn, decreases the daily efficient operation of the seven other very important dockets.

As I am sure you are aware, Virginia Beach JDR had a seventh judge up until 2018, when it lost that judge after falling slightly shy of the Total Judge Need FTE number required in the 2017 caseload study. Since that time, our court has been operating with six judges while the case filings have been skyrocketing in the areas identified in the attached spreadsheet. In summary, the filings have increased as follows in these three areas over the last ten years:

Child Dependency filings have increased 74%
CHINS/Supervision filings have increased 215%
Protective Order filings have increased 47%

As a result of the above increases, the 2024 Final Report identifies the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court as having the highest Judge Need FTE of any JDR Court in the Commonwealth. In fact, at an unrounded Total Judge Need FTE of 7.62, the Final Report suggests a need closer to an eighth judge. Of course, that is not our request, at this time.

I have been sitting in our court since April, 2019, a year after losing our seventh judge, and have personally seen and felt the impact of our court being shorthanded. I firmly believe that the 2024 Final Report accurately reflects our true need for a seventh judge again. I truly hope the Committee on District Courts agrees, and ultimately, the General Assembly. I look forward to the opportunity to address the entire committee on October 24th.

Very truly yours,



Timothy J. Quick,
Chief Judge

TJQ/akb

Enclosure

cc: Committee on District Courts membership

10 Year Analysis of Virginia Beach JDRC Caseload

Docket Type	Case Type	2013 - 1 st Study 7 Judges		2015 7 Judges		2017 - 2 nd Study 7		2019 6 Judges		2021 6 Judges		2023 - 3 rd Study 6 Judges		10 Year Increase
		Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	Number of Cases	Cases per Judge	
A. Child Dependency Dockets	Abuse And Neglect - AN	174	25	242	35	219	31	341	57	277	46	275	46	74%
	Child at Risk - RI	31	4	55	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Entrustment Agreement - ET	4	1	23	3	16	2	36	6	3	1	9	2	
	Foster Care Review - FC	152	22	198	28	142	20	113	19	115	19	130	22	
	Initial Foster Care Review - IF	78	11	79	11	75	11	84	14	76	13	82	14	
	Motion To Modify Prot. Order - MP ¹	22	3	29	4	48	7	257	43	284	47	331	55	
	Permanency Planning - PH	132	19	176	25	204	29	182	30	152	25	141	24	
	Qualified Residential Treatment - QR ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	
	Relief Of Custody - CR	18	3	21	3	19	3	17	3	19	3	13	2	
	Termination Of Parental Rights - TP	25	4	65	9	55	8	111	19	91	15	101	17	
	Voluntary Continuing Agreement - VA	0	0	0	0	19	3	15	3	20	3	21	4	
	Child Dependency Totals	636	91	888	127	797	114	1,156	193	1,042	174	1,104	184	
B. Child in Need of Services/ Supervision Dockets	Child In Need Of Services - CS	4	1	10	1	8	1	5	1	6	1	19	3	215%
	Truancy/Runaway - TR	6	1	7	1	7	1	15	3	12	2	28	5	
	Other - Parental Participation ¹	36	5	38	5	77	11	365	61	146	24	98	16	
	Services/Supervision Totals	46	7	55	8	92	13	385	64	164	27	145	24	
H. Protective Order Dockets	Adult Family Abuse - FP	739	106	730	104	836	119	836	139	806	134	941	157	47%
	Adult Motion To Modify PO - MP	76	11	69	10	77	11	140	23	125	21	119	20	
	Adult Non-Family Abuse - AP	17	2	24	3	24	3	36	6	19	3	73	12	
	Juvenile Family Abuse - FP	1	0	2	0	2	0	5	1	12	2	8	1	
	Juvenile Non-Family Abuse - AP	3	0	40	6	22	3	36	6	34	6	89	15	
	Protective Order Totals²	836	119	865	124	961	137	1,053	176	996	166	1,230	205	

¹These case types belong in these categories, however, they are not listed in Appendix C: JDR District Court Judge Case Type Categories in the Supreme Court of Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment Final Report.

²Emergency Protective Order - PE case type was not included on this chart because Virginia Beach Judges do not hear these cases.