October 28, 2013

RE: Funding and Filling of All Judicial Vacancies

Dear : 

Nine statewide bar associations representing thousands of Virginia lawyers seek your support for the full funding and filling of every existing and anticipated judicial vacancy.

Since 2010, the number of funded judgeships has fallen from 402 to 386. While the number of funded judgeships has declined, Virginia’s population has continued to grow.

Unfilled judicial vacancies and the resulting case overload in our courts severely harm the sound and efficient administration of our judicial system. They also hinder access to justice by our citizens and businesses.

Failure to act now to support fully one of the finest state judiciaries in the nation is likely to lengthen the time to resolve cases. That could delay – and deny – justice.

The undersigned statewide bar associations believe that when our courts operate efficiently, the Commonwealth’s economy benefits and Virginia’s reputation as a place where businesses want to locate, remain and transact business is enhanced.

We implore you to support our court system. Virginia’s courts bring in far more revenue than is spent to operate them.

Details are provided in the attached resolution, endorsed by the nine statewide bar associations.

We hope you will join us in supporting our judiciary and the efficient operation of our courts, for the good of our citizens and to retain Virginia’s reputation as a Best State for Business.
If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact any of the signatories of the resolution. The statewide bar associations appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to assisting you in any way we can.

Very truly yours,

Thomas R. Bagby, President
The Virginia Bar Association

Elizabeth Guilbert Perrow, President
Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys

Cynthia E. Hudson, President
Local Government Attorneys of Virginia

Maryse C. Allen, President
Virginia Women Attorneys Association

Nhon Nguyen, President
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Virginia, Inc.

Barbara S. Williams, President
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association

Vinceretta Taylor Chiles, President
Old Dominion Bar Association

David B. Ashe, President
Virginia Creditors Bar Association

Manuel E. Leiva
Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia

Bc: Yvonne C. McGhee