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## SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA



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### CALL FOR COMMENT – June 22, 2020

### JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON THE JURISDICTION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

During its 2020 Session, the General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 47, which requests the Judicial Council of Virginia to study the jurisdiction and organization of the Court of Appeals of Virginia. In conducting its study, the Judicial Council is required, among other considerations, to:

- 1) Make recommendations on implementing an appeal of right in all cases decided by and appealed from the circuit courts to the Court of Appeals, with further review by the Supreme Court available thereafter on a petition (certiorari) basis;
- 2) Make recommendations on organizing the Court of Appeals into four geographic circuits, approximately encompassing central Virginia, eastern Virginia, northern Virginia, and western and southwestern Virginia; including how many additional judges would be necessary to effectuate such a system; and
- 3) Make recommendations on a proposed implementation schedule.

Any observations you wish to make on the issues raised by the Joint Resolution are welcome and will be carefully studied. A copy of the Joint Resolution is attached. To allow the Judicial Council to comply with the timetable established in the Resolution by the General Assembly, please submit any comments by August 21, 2020, to the following address:

[SJ47study2020@vacourts.gov](mailto:SJ47study2020@vacourts.gov)

Anyone without access to email may submit comments by mail, noting the topic as **SJ47 Study**, to the following address:

Karl Hade, Secretary of the Judicial Council  
Executive Secretary  
Supreme Court of Virginia  
100 N. Ninth Street, Third Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

**About the Judicial Council:**

The Judicial Council is established by statute (Va. Code § 17.1-700) in the Judicial Branch and is composed of 14 members. The Chief Justice chairs the Council, which consists of one judge of the Court of Appeals, six circuit court judges, one general district court judge, one juvenile and domestic relations district court judge, two attorneys qualified to practice in the Supreme Court, and the Chairmen of the Committees for Courts of Justice of the Senate and the House of Delegates or their designees who shall be members of the Courts of Justice committees. The Council is charged with making "a continuous study of the organization and the rules and methods of procedure and practice of the judicial system of the Commonwealth, the work accomplished and the results produced by the system and its various parts; and shall make studies of the need, or lack of need, of additional judges or justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and the circuit courts." Va. Code § 17.1-703.