COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you may have heard, Judge Edward D. Berry is retiring as a judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for the Sixteenth District of Virginia effective July 31, 2017. Given the fact that the Virginia General Assembly will not be in session at that time, the responsibility for filling that vacancy falls to the judges of the Sixteenth Circuit pursuant to Virginia Code §16.1-69.9 (2). The need for the filling of the vacancy has also been certified by the Committee on District Courts.

As Chief Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, I am asking for your assistance in notifying members of your bar associations of the existence of this vacancy and the procedure in how it will be filled. Any lawyer interested in filling this position should send a letter to me at the address noted on this letterhead by June 9, 2017. The letter should set forth the qualifications of the applicant for the position. The letter should specifically include the applicant's experience in handling matters before the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts.

Given the importance of this position, and as required for judges elected by the Virginia General Assembly as well as for substitute district court judges appointed by the chief judge of the circuit, each applicant will be required to present to us a fingerprinted criminal history. To obtain the appropriate fingerprint card, the applicant should contact Mrs. Valerie Crickenberger, my administrative assistant, in order that she may send the necessary card to the applicant.

Members of the bar who wish for the judges to consider their opinion as to certain candidates may again send them to me by June 23, 2017. The information received regarding the candidates will be shared by the Sixteenth Circuit Court judges with the Sixteenth Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judges in order that we may consider their opinions regarding the candidates. The judges do not wish to receive personal solicitations from prospective candidates and/or their supporters.

The Sixteenth Circuit Court judges will meet on July 8, 2017 to select the individual to fill this vacancy. It is important for the candidates to note that the appointment to such vacancy by the circuit court judges shall be by commission to expire at the end of thirty days after the commencement of the next session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention to and cooperation in these matters.

Very truly yours,

Timothy K. Sanner, Chief Judge

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

TKS/vc