

Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment

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Overall Questions

- How many judicial officers are needed in Virginia to provide effective case resolution?
- How should Virginia's judicial boundaries be redrawn to ensure more efficient allocation and use of judicial resources?

Recent NCSC Experience With Workload Assessment

- Judges

Alabama, California, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota,
Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin

- Court Support Staff

California, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon

- Public Defenders

Virginia, Maryland, New Mexico

Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment

Current Practice
“What is”

JNAC

Time
Study

Quality Adjustment
“What should be”

Sufficiency
Survey

Site Visits

Delphi
Adjustments

Boundary
Realignment

Formation of Judicial Needs Assessment Committee

- Provide project guidance and oversight
- Case types
- Establish scope and method of time study data collection (e.g., participation, sampling strategy, duration)

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Current Practice
“What is”

JNAC

**Time
Study**

Time Study

- Benchmark of current practice
- Statewide participation
 - Retired judges
- Event based analysis
- Accurate measure of average time per case
- Case weights describe “what is”

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Time Study

Final Participation

	# of Full Time Judges	# of Respondents	Percent of Judges
Circuit Court	150	146	97%
General District Court	119	115	97%
J&DR District Court	116	114	98%
Overall	385	375	97%

Calculating Resource Need

An Example

Case Type A
Case Type B
Case Type C

Calculating Resource Need

An Example

	Number of new filed cases
Case Type A	1,000
Case Type B	3,000
Case Type C	200
	4,200

Filings

Calculating Resource Need

An Example

	Number of new filed cases	*	Time Per Case (mins)
Case Type A	1,000	*	300
Case Type B	3,000	*	50
Case Type C	200	*	125
	4,200		

Case
Weights

Calculating Resource Need

An Example

	Number of new filed cases	*	Time Per Case (mins)	=	Workload (mins)
Case Type A	1,000	*	300	=	300,000
Case Type B	3,000	*	50	=	150,000
Case Type C	200	*	125	=	25,000
	4,200				475,000

Workload

Quality Adjustment Process

“What is” → “What should be”

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Sufficiency Survey

- Web-based survey
- Input from judges statewide
- *“Identify particular tasks, **if any**, where additional time would allow you to more effectively handle your cases. If no additional time is needed, do not check any activities”*
- Used by Delphi groups to identify tradeoffs, bottlenecks, or areas of perceived resource constraints

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Site Visits

- Series of focus groups at 11 locations -- meet with judges who handle different types of cases
- Obtain information on the way that cases are currently handled
- Identify proven efficient and effective case processing policies and strategies
- Help identify challenges or bottlenecks to effective case processing

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**Delphi
Adjustments**

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Quality Adjustment Sessions (Delphi)

Structured method for assessing reasonableness of case weights

- Review key case-related activities
- Think explicitly about how specific types of cases are handled
- Discuss how much time is required
 - Provide specific rationales for adjustments
 - Consensus-based approach

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**Boundary
Realignment**

Boundary Realignment will consider

- Judicial workload
- On- and off-bench time (e.g., travel)
- Geographical and topographical barriers
- Cultural ties between communities
- Longstanding community partnerships
- Administrative responsibilities of chief judges

Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment Proposed Project Plan

