

## Laura Griffin

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**From:** Laura Griffin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 10:52 AM  
**To:** district32@senate.virginia.gov; district35@senate.virginia.gov; district03@senate.virginia.gov; district24@senate.virginia.gov; district18@senate.virginia.gov; district23@senate.virginia.gov; district15@senate.virginia.gov; district27@senate.virginia.gov; district39@senate.virginia.gov; district21@senate.virginia.gov; district25@senate.virginia.gov; district02@senate.virginia.gov; district34@senate.virginia.gov; district37@senate.virginia.gov; district30@senate.virginia.gov; district09@senate.virginia.gov  
**Cc:** Terri Rea; Rick Kahl  
**Subject:** Letter from the Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia  
**Attachments:** District Clerks Association Letter - June 22 2020.pdf

Good morning, Honorable Senators of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee,

The attached letter was penned several months ago by the current President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President of the Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia. We would respectfully ask that you consider the information herein germane to the issues you are discussing this week with your colleagues regarding funding “essential services” to the Commonwealth.

Virginia’s district courts are suffering: the courts are understaffed, and the clerks and deputy clerks are woefully underpaid. We are the first responders to the tenants who are evicted; the landlords whose unlawful detainers go unheard; the parents whose children are taken away; the victims of domestic and sexual violence; and, the myriad of other citizens who use Virginia’s district courts to solve a myriad of emergency and non-emergency issues. We offer to you that *every single one of these issues* are emergencies to the citizens who are living them. The Judicial Emergency did not obviate the need for courts, it amplified it.

As you go into Special Session today, please consider unfreezing the funds for the 90 district court positions you previously authorized this year; additionally, if there is anything you can do to recognize district court staff financially, it would go a long way to improve the morale of the 1,571 district court employees who have not been able to telework, and who have been at work daily throughout this pandemic.

With very kind regards,  
Laura Griffin, President-Elect, Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia

**Laura G. Griffin,**  
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