

To the Speaker, & delegates members of the House  
of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia, the  
undersigned <sup>Citizens of Virginia, & of the County of Stafford</sup> respectfully represent.

That there is no better principle better establish:  
ed, that in a republican government, <sup>that every officer should be unda:</sup> a proper respon:  
sibility, ~~should~~ and that a rotation in office, particu:  
larly of executive offices, is equally essential to the  
correct, & proper execution of the Laws. At present  
the county & superior courts select their respective  
attorneys for the Commonwealth; and these attorneys  
usually remain in that situation for life: they frequently  
become negligent, & inattentive to their duties, & the  
public interest must necessarily suffer. The Justices  
of the county courts, or the Judges of the superior  
courts feel great delicacy in removing them: and  
nothing but a flagrant ~~and~~ dereliction of duty  
induces their removal. It is thus that from  
false delicacy, & a misplaced tenderness towards  
the attorney, the public interest is materially  
injured.

The remedy which your petitioners would  
respectfully suggest to your honorable  
body, is that it be the duty of the Justices of  
the several county courts, & of the Judges of the  
superior courts, once in each, & every year  
to elect their respective attorneys for one year.  
only. - and your petitioners respectfully request

that such other <sup>remedy</sup> as the wisdom of the legislature may  
suggest be applied in this case for the redress  
of the aforesaid grievances.

all which is respectfully submitted

Wm. Brent Jr.

Wm. H. W. W. W.

12<sup>th</sup> Nov: 1823

Wm. Brent jr. &c  
Petition to the  
Speaker, & members  
of the house of  
Delegates of V.<sup>a</sup>.  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1823  
ref<sup>d</sup> to ~~law~~  
Attorneys for  
the Commonwealth

---

Stafford.

Dec. 15. 1823. Motion to be  
discharged from further con-  
sideration agreed in Prop<sup>s</sup>.

1823

Dec. 30. Reasonable