



Association of Judges of the Family Court of the State of New York

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

HON. CONRAD D. SINGER
1200 Old Country Road
Westbury, New York 11590
Phone: 516-493-3865
Fax: 516-493-3949
csinger@nycourts.gov

PRESIDENT-ELECT

HON. TIMOTHY LAWLISS
137 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
Phone: 518-565-4404
Fax: 518-565-4692
llawliss@nycourts.gov

VICE PRESIDENT

HON. MARGARET T. WALSH
30 Clinton Avenue
Albany, New York 12207
Phone: 518-285-8673
Fax: 518-462-4236
mtwalsh@nycourts.gov

TREASURER

HON. PHILIP V. CORTESE
58 Broadway
P.O. Box 1500
Fonda, New York 12068-1500
Phone: 518-853-8133
Fax: 518-238-4390
pcortese@nycourts.gov

SECRETARY

HON. MARTHA MULROY
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315-728-7234
Fax: 315-266-4773
mmulroy@nycourts.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FIRST DEPARTMENT

HON. JANE PEARL
HON. ALMA GOMEZ
HON. JOAN PICCIRILLO
HON. ERIK PITCHAL

SECOND DEPARTMENT

HON. ELLEN R. GREENBERG
HON. ROBIN M. KENT
HON. DEBORAH POULOS
HON. LILLIAN WAN

THIRD DEPARTMENT

HON. JILL S. POLK
HON. CATHERINE CHOLAKIS
HON. DEREK CHAMPAGNE
HON. CECILY L. MORRIS

FOURTH DEPARTMENT

HON. ERIC ADAMS
HON. LISA BLOCH - RODWIN
HON. JOAN KOHOUT
HON. KATHLEEN
WOJTASZEK-GARIANO

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

HON. SIDNEY GRIBETZ
900 Sheridan Avenue
Bronx, New York 10451
Phone: 718-618-2210
Fax: 212-457-2667
sgribetz@nycourts.gov

November 20, 2015

By: Email and Regular Mail

NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and
Executive Compensation
64 Beaver Street
Box 454
New York, New York 10004

Re.: Judicial Salaries

Dear Commission Members:

As you will recall, in 2011 the Special Commission made various recommendations with respect to setting compensation for judges and justices of the state paid courts of the Unified Court System. The Commission was created to ensure the economic independence of our judiciary. It was also established knowing that the judiciary may be powerless to set its own pay.

In 2011, the Commission considered various factors to set what they believed was appropriate judicial compensation in light of the State's 2011 financial situation. In 2011, the Commission acknowledged the inequity that existed in judicial pay. Unfortunately, that inequity continues to exist. The basis for the continued inequity goes beyond a judge's current salary and is exemplified by the lack of yearly cost of living adjustments and the fact that the first salary increase for the judiciary in over twelve years was phased in over a four year period.

The Family Court Judges of this State are the judges who are responsible for our family unit; for protecting the health, safety and welfare of our children; for educating parents about proper ways to raise their children; from keeping the family intact and keeping children in their homes and out of placement. We respectfully request that this Commission recommend the following to Governor Cuomo and the Legislature, as it relates to "state judge salaries":

- 1) State judges' salaries each year shall be tied into and equivalent with federal judges' salaries. Currently, that salary is approximately \$201,000.00;
- 2) The state judges shall receive yearly cost of living adjustments to their salary; and
- 3) The salary adjustment be made immediately, without a phase in period. A phase in period only compounds the financial injury that state court judges have experienced over the past seventeen plus years.

The financial condition of this State is drastically different than it was in 2011. It should be noted that the State has saved millions over the past seventeen years by not increasing judicial salaries over the first thirteen years and then phasing in the judges' increase over the past four years. Increasing New York State judges' salaries to be in parity with that of their federal peers will ensure that this State retains a strong, highly qualified and independent judiciary.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter and to consider the position of our Family Court Judges - whose dedication to the people of this State is second to none.

Very truly yours,



Honorable Conrad D. Singer
President - NYSFCJA