

Association of the Judges of the Criminal Court of the City of New York

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Dear Chairperson Birnbaum and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Association of the Criminal Court Judges of the City of New York, representing the one hundred seven (107) judges appointed by the Mayor of the City on recommendation of the Mayor's Advisory Committee, we enthusiastically endorse the request of the New York State Office of Court Administration that the salary of a Supreme Court Justice be equal to that of a federal District Court judge. The statistical data justify parity with the federal bench.

Our members constitute the backbone of the criminal justice system in New York City. Approximately two-thirds of our number are Acting Supreme Court Justices sitting in the Criminal Terms of the Supreme Courts of the five counties.

We respectfully bring to your attention an important, additional issue.

The current salary deferential between a Supreme Court Justice and a Criminal Court Judge sitting in the lower court is \$14,100. If a deferential is to be maintained, we urge that the salary difference be left at its current dollar level, i.e., \$14,100, and not be set as percentage of the Supreme Court salary. If the salary for the lower court is set as a percentage of the Supreme Court salary, the salary gap between the Supreme Court and the Criminal Court will continue to grow. This is what

occurred in 2011 when the salary differential grew from \$11,100 to \$14,100. Thus, if the benchmark for setting the salaries for appellate, administrative and lower court judges is the recommended salary for a Supreme Court Justice, we urge the Commission to set the lower court salary at no less than \$14,100 below the Supreme Court salary.

Criminal Court judges who sit in the lower court are eminently deserving of this consideration. They handle the vast majority of criminal cases in New York City. The volume of cases is staggering. By and large, the criminal justice system in New York City is centered in the Criminal Court - the lower court in the criminal justice system.

We thank you for taking on this vital responsibility and your consideration of our suggestions.

We respectfully request that this letter be made part of the record of the Commission's public hearing on November 30, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Garnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon. William E. Garnett
President