



Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, J.S.C.
Chief Administrative Judge

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November 9, 2023

Hon. Eugene M. Fahey
Chair
NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial
and Executive Compensation
64 Beaver Street, Box 454
New York, New York 10004

Dear Chair Fahey:

I write on behalf of the Unified Court System (UCS) in response to questions posed by the Commission during the deliberation meeting held on November 6, 2023, and to offer the court system's position on the issues raised during the Commission's discussion. The questions, and UCS's responses, are set forth below:

1. How many Judges preside in the New York City Housing Court?

There are 50 Housing Court Judges in the Housing Part of the New York City Civil Court, commonly known as the New York City Housing Court. Of these, four (4) are designated as Borough Supervising Judges, and one (1) is designated as Citywide Supervising Judge.

2. How many Judges preside in the City Courts?

There are 169 Judges in City Courts outside of New York City. Of these, 118 are full-time Judges, with the remainder serving in part-time roles.

3. What would the incremental annual cost be if Housing Court Judges and City Court Judges were paid a salary equal to 93% of that of a New York State Supreme Court Justice, assuming that a New York State Supreme Court Justice's salary is at parity with that of a Federal District Court Judge as of April 1, 2024?

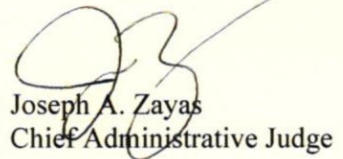
As you know, UCS estimated a total first-year cost of \$34.5 million to achieve salary parity between Supreme Court Justices and Federal District Court Judges, and that estimate included maintaining the salaries of New York City Housing Court Judges and City Court Judges outside of New York City at 90% of a Supreme Court Justice's salary (assumed to be at parity with a Federal District Judge). The additional cost to raise the salaries of New York City

Housing Court Judges and City Court Judges outside of New York City from 90% to 93% would be approximately \$1,329,900 in the first year.

UCS supports this increase to 93% of the salary of a Supreme Court Justice, which would appropriately reflect that the efforts and achievements of these hard-working judges who preside in some of New York State's busiest courts – often handling cases in which one or both parties are self-represented – are as vital to a fair and equitable justice system as the work of our Judges in New York City Civil and Criminal Courts and in District Courts. We expect that such an increase would help attract a more diverse and dedicated group of candidates for these critical judicial roles.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Very truly yours,



Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge