

I, Sandro Tomasi, support the positions of the Chief Administrative Judge Zayas and former Chief Administrative Judge Marks regarding federal-court compensation parity for judges in the New York State Unified Court System.

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*October 13, 2023*

*HON. JOSEPH ZAYAS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE*

*STATEMENT TO THE 2023 COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL, AND EXECUTIVE  
COMPENSATION*

*“...dissatisfaction with frozen salaries and the attrition that inevitably comes with long periods of stagnant pay will make this critical work immeasurably more difficult. Indeed, in my view, further erosion of the value of judicial salaries would likely cause an exodus of our most experienced judges at a time when their collective experience at case resolution is most needed.”*

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*2015*

*HON. LAWRENCE K. MARKS, FORMER CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE*

*SUBMISSION TO THE 2015 COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE  
COMPENSATION*

*“The proper adjustment of salaries has implications far beyond fairness to individual judges. As the New York Court of Appeals recognized, the adequacy of salaries has an important impact on the diversity and quality of judges. If salaries are too low, ‘only those with means will be financially able to assume a judicial post, negatively impacting the diversity of the Judiciary and discriminating against those who are well qualified and interested in serving, but nonetheless unable to aspire to a career in the Judiciary because of financial hardship that results from stagnant compensation over the years.’”*

If the pay falls further below federal parity, there will be an exodus of judges, as Chief Administrative Judge Zayas has warned, and it will create a situation where there will be a limited diversity and quality of judges serving in our State’s bench as former Chief Administrative Judge Marks has echoed the Court of Appeals’ decision in *Maron v. Silver*, 14 N.Y.3d 230, 263 (2009). Since much of the information provided by prior testimony has been mostly anecdotal and hypothetical regarding compensation for

the judiciary, I provide the Commission with some factual evidence with regard to court interpreters in the Unified Court System so that you may draw analogies therefrom.

