



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

October 26, 2023

Hon. Eugene M. Fahey (Ret.), Chair
NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation
64 Beaver Street, Box 454
New York, NY 10004

Dear Judge Fahey,

The members of our Bar Association urge the 2023 Quadrennial Salary Commission to return Supreme Court Justices to pay parity with Federal District Court Judges, consistent with the 2011 and 2015 Commission recommendations. Judges have not had a pay raise since receiving a 1.39% increase in April of 2019.

Stagnant pay coupled with unprecedented inflation, means the buying power of a \$210,900 salary in 2019 would require a nearly \$254,000 salary in 2023 accounting for the 20.4% cumulative rate of inflation. A return to federal parity, or \$232,600, representing a 10% increase in pay -- or half of that inflationary factor -- is not only modest, but necessary to retain judges, and attract quality judicial candidates.

The Judges in our State are professional, hard-working, and committed to the people they serve. They have earned a pay increase. As a co-equal independent branch of government, the judiciary is deserving of the same remunerative treatment as has been reflected in the pay increases of our elected State legislators and Governor.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Betz
President