

**Ulster County Bar Association
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November 10, 2023

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

Re: 2023 Quadrennial Salary Commission

Dear Justice Fahey:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ulster County Bar Association, I am strongly recommending that the 2023 Quadrennial Salary Commission increase the salary of Supreme Court Justices to \$232,600, which is the amount paid to Federal District Court Judges.

The last pay raise for Supreme Court Justices occurred in 2019. The cost of living has significantly increased since 2019, thereby warranting a pay increase to keep pace with inflation.

Moreover, a pay increase will encourage well qualified candidates to become Supreme Court Justices, while stagnant pay will deter some attorneys from seeking the position. We believe a pay increase for Supreme Court Justices to \$232,600 is appropriate, fair, and necessary to continue to attract and retain qualified candidates.

Further, to maintain balance among the three branches of government, the judiciary deserves the same remunerative treatment as has been reflected in the recent substantial pay increases of our State Legislators and Governor.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek J. Spada

Ulster County Bar Association Past President