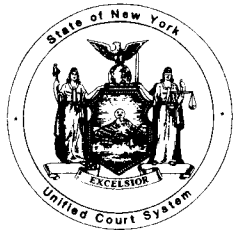


Supreme Court  
of the  
State of New York



**PHILIP S. STRANIERE**  
ACTING JUSTICE SUPREME COURT  
SUPERVISING JUDGE  
RICHMOND COUNTY

CHAMBERS  
927 CASTLETON AVENUE  
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10310  
(718) 675-8437

November 19, 2015

**New York State Commission  
On Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation  
64 Beaver Street, Box 454  
New York, NY 10004**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you on behalf of the Acting Supreme Court Justices Association to support the Office of Court Administration's proposal to increase judicial salaries in New York.

Our Association represents in excess of three hundred judges serving either exclusively in the Supreme Court or in the Supreme Court addition to the court to which they were elected or appointed. This is done pursuant to New York State Constitution Article 6 Section 26. In fact, over the last few years there have been more judges designated to serve in the Supreme Court on a temporary basis than are elected to that court.

I am sure you will be receiving a substantial amount of information which will point out the continuing economic hardship New York State judges suffer in spite of having received a salary increase in April 2012 following thirteen years of stagnant wages. Those submissions will justify an immediate increase in pay as of April 1, 2016.

Others will spell out how when adjusted for the regional cost of living, New York judges are near the bottom of the national judicial compensation totem pole.

Our organization supports the efforts to set the pay for all judges as of April 1, 2016 at the same rate the Federal District Court Judges will receive as of January 1, 2016, \$203,100.00. This was the criterion recommended by the prior compensation commission in 2011.

Our organization supports annual cost of living increases to be instituted irrespective of the Commission's actions.

**Our organization supports ending the pay disparity that exists around the State where judges in a particular court in one part of New York receive less pay than colleagues in the same court in another part of the state. For example, this unacceptable practice continues to exist in County Court, payment at four different rates, and Family Court, payment at five different rates.**

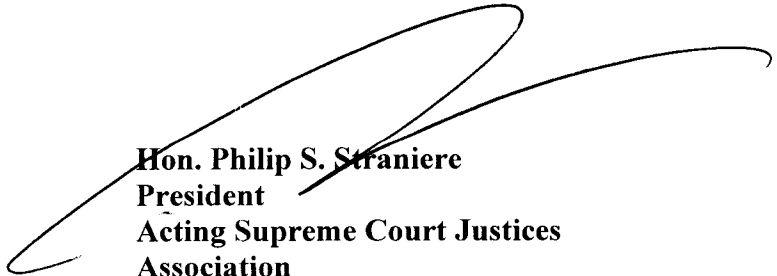
**Our organization supports elimination of judges in "lower court" having their salary set as a percentage of Supreme Court pay. All judges should receive the same pay. In fact, the judges in these "lower" courts often have numerically larger calendars.**

**Our organization opposes any incremental increase to match Federal District Court salaries and believes parity with the Federal Court should be put in place as of April 1, 2016. Any incremental increase would continue to have salaries lag behind the Federal rate. Failure to do so would keep judges in a financial predicament analogous to Sisyphus rolling a boulder up a hill only to see it roll back down again.**

**On the other hand, we do not want the fact that there are other issues to be addressed in order to continue to have a vibrant and properly compensated judiciary in New York, to divert the Commission from the main issue at hand, increasing compensation to the Federal District Court level.**

**On behalf of the Acting Supreme Court Judges, I thank you for your service and implore you to use your best efforts to insure the New York continues to have vibrant, competent, but properly compensated judiciary.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Hon. Philip S. Stranieri  
President  
Acting Supreme Court Justices  
Association**