

## Bring justice to judges' salaries

Published 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 30, 2011

New Yorkers have every right to expect and even demand that the state's judges observe the highest ethical standards and dispense justice fairly, impartially and in a timely manner. To meet these goals, the state must attract the most qualified, motivated and public-spirited individuals possible.

It does not take a Ph.D. in economics or labor relations to understand that to attract, retain and motivate such individuals costs money.

The Times Union advocates a pay raise for judges that is roughly \$20,000 less than the amount necessary to index judicial salaries for 13 years of inflation since the Legislature last set judicial salaries in the waning days of 1998. The figure advanced by this newspaper will not even raise judicial salaries to the national average, adjusted for this state's high cost of living. The difference in cost between a full cost-of-living adjustment and this newspaper's suggested salary is an amount that would run this state for about one hour.

If New York wants, as many have expressed, to maintain its prominence as a commercial and banking center for the world, it must have a judicial system worthy of the challenges such prominence requires.

Some say that there are many attorneys waiting to take these jobs at current salaries. But ask yourselves, "Will these bargain basement lawyers make the kind of judges that New York wants and needs?"

Everyone understands the basic principle "You get what you pay for." So, why does this newspaper advocate discount judicial salaries? The practice of denying cost of living adjustments to judges, while all around them are provided such raises, is inherently discriminatory and demoralizing, especially when one considers that many state and municipal employees, who make more than any judge, have been the beneficiaries of such raises.

Certainly we are in tough economic times. But that does not justify or excuse the continued second-class treatment of New York's judges. The proposed CSEA and PEF labor contracts call for wage freezes, but these contracts protect wage scales that include many years of accumulated cost-of-living adjustments that the judges have been denied. If the state is willing to pay such adjusted wages and salaries to more than 100,000 employees, how is it then, that it cannot afford to do the same thing for 1,250 judges?

What judges ask for is justice dispensed fairly, impartially and in a timely manner.

Carl F. Becker

Delaware County judge

Stamford

**Get Paid for Surveys**

Participate in Free Paid Surveys. Make Money Today. 100% Free.  
[SurveyMoneyMachine.com](http://SurveyMoneyMachine.com)

**Earn Daily Commissions**

No-Brainer Way To Generate Extra Income From Home.  
[mybrowsercash.com](http://mybrowsercash.com)

**"paid for online surveys"**

Take Real Online Paid Surveys. Get \$4 free & take a \$20 Survey now.  
<http://www.yourfreesurveys.com>

Ads by Yahoo!