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New York Judges Due to Get Paid More. But is it Enough?

New York's Commission on Judicial Compensation voted today in favor of boosting the pay of state trial judges next year.

Unless the commission's recommendation is modified or rejected by the state legislature, judges will enjoy their first raise since 1999. As we noted yesterday, New York judges have characterized their current salary of \$136,700 as well below market.

The commission voted to increase the annual salaries of state Supreme Court justices to \$160,000 in 2012, \$167,000 in 2013 and \$174,000 in 2014.

Judges are likely thrilled, right?

Maybe not.

New York State Bar Association President Vincent E. Doyle III today issued a statement expressing concern that the proposed raise is too modest.

"During the past 12 years, the cost-of-living increased by 40 percent, eroding judicial salaries. Yet the commission voted to adjust judicial salaries by only 17 percent in 2012," said Doyle, of Connors & Vilaro in Buffalo.

"Salary stagnation is more than a personal hardship for judges. It threatens to undermine our judiciary, making it harder to attract and retain talented judges," he said.

In a July report, the New York state bar called for raising salaries of state trial judges from \$136,700 to \$192,000, to reflect the increase in the cost-of-living since 1999.

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