

READERS' COMMENTS

Commission Raises N.Y. Judges' Pay 27% Over 3 Years

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By WILLIAM GLABERSON

The increases were less than what some had hoped for the more than 1,200 state judges after 12 years without a raise, but also come at a difficult time politically.

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51. Gary Virginia
August 26th, 2011
10:20 pm
- The judges haven't had raises for several years? Well, some taxpayers haven't had jobs for several yeats, and there's almost no inflation. The positions are popular, any judges who care to quit will find quite a few lawyers queueing for the spot.
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52. RGV Boston, MA
August 26th, 2011
11:30 pm
- Current levels of pay for NY judges are sufficient to attract competent jurists. There does not appear to be many judges leaving the bench. If judges wish to earn more than \$136k per year, they should return to private practice. I suspect, however, that few of them are prepared to work hard enough in private practice to earn more than that. Giving them a 9% raise per year for three years is simply ridiculous. The legislature should reverse this unsupportable decision.
- [Recommend](#) Recommended by 3 Readers
53. WGM Dalton, GA
August 26th, 2011
11:40 pm
- While most Americans have lost up to 5% per year of spendable income our judges will recieve 27% increase, Why? Because they recieve 105% of their income at retirement. Where the rest of use have lost our retirement and homes due to the greed of the junk investment fraude pass off as AAA rated investments. No the Judges should not get raises until the people who have instagated the Global Investment Frade are brought to justice.
- [Recommend](#) Recommended by 4 Readers
54. Libby Nantucket
August 27th, 2011
12:05 am
- This is insane! Short work hours, complete authority over one's work domain, generous benefits, pensions, long vacations all make for an situation that many qualified lawyers would jump at for \$60K.
- Another sign of the slow but sure demise of the US.
- [Recommend](#) Recommended by 5 Readers
55. B.C. Bayport,NY
August 27th, 2011
12:30 am
- The majority of Judges in NYS do work hard. It is disappointing when the public thinks otherwise. When they are not on the bench they are in chambers researching and writing. Being on the bench is often the easiest part of the job. Yes they have law clerks who help write a lot of the pro forma decisions. Without the help of law clerks the number of applications in today's modern courts would log jam the system. Judges spend a lot of time researching, thinking and writing the more

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complicated decisions - an often tedious and time consuming process. The popularity of TV judges have been a dis-service to the public. The public has the impression that decisions are quick and easy and that a lot of yelling goes on. To see what really goes on the public should read a few modern decisions and see how complicated and they are and how much research and reasoning goes into them. It's a job that requires temperament, scholarship and hard work. The compensation should be commensurate with someone who possess such qualities. The judiciary is a corner stone of our democracy. Should it be filled by the lowest bidder?

One more thing. For those in other part of the country who thinks 160 thousand dollars per year is a high salary, keep in mind that many New York suburban police officers and school administrators earn such salaries and often more. The high cost of living in New York requires such salaries to attract qualified individuals.

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56. WellWell
Albany, NY
August 27th, 2011
1:40 am
- Albeit I do not wish to defend raises for NYS judges, I felt that, due to a reference to sacrificial police pay, I should point out that I recently read that NYS troopers' average pay is "\$112,537 for all ranks in 2010."

I would also like to point out that NYS judges feel entitled, without finding that the number of hours stated as expended is inaccurate, to slash assigned-counsel invoices even though the law specifies statutorily the amounts that assigned counsel are to be paid per hour.

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57. jim l
New York
August 27th, 2011
2:50 am
- Yeah, I completely agree that judges are overpaid. We should cut their salary to the same \$79,500 as a NY State senator. Because, as we all know, that modest rate of pay has attracted the best and brightest to the Senate, which is filled with incredibly honest, dedicated and committed legislators. In fact, even \$79K is too much. Since it's always a good idea to pay less money to the public servants to whom we entrust so much, why not pull a full Bloomy and pay all the judges \$1.00? That will encourage them to be resourceful and make billions of dollars on the side while selflessly working for the public good, exactly as New York City's mayor has done.

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58. Markie
Chicago
August 27th, 2011
8:45 am
- Let's see. I get a 2% raise after three years of being underpaid as my salary has dropped about \$20,000 over the last five years. I guess I should be happy, given that the good old HB-1 visa has resulted in ruining my profession and killed any hopes of any sensible young people of going into the IT industry and to add insult to injury, I have to deal with higher everything including taxes to pay for wages of people who make way more than I do and then pay for the benefits for their retirement plans, when I cannot even afford to save anything for my retirement plan, meaning I guess I will not be retiring. No, I do not live in NY but Chicago plays the same political games and have founds other ways to fleece its residence of money. It is time that everything else got into check. If no one wants to pay people a living wage and given that there are many more people than ever, then I see no reason that prices cannot be brought into line with wages. The problem with our system is the greed factor: Everything goes up but salaries for the masses and that can and eventually lead to very dangerous things and you see it happening all over the world. Get with it America.

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59. TheLionScribe
Worcester, MA
August 27th, 2011
9:30 am
- Wrong Move at the Wrong Time
- The NY judges pay-raise is a mockery of America, and a kick from capitalism. We are in times of shrinking prices in real estate, people are losing their jobs, salaries and benefits are being reduced, and economists see nothing but doom and gloom. These are times of belt-tightening while judges are getting a 27% pay raise; something is wrong.

These raises all get back to royal traditions and classism, where the purpose of power and influence is simply to line their pockets, with one hand washing the other.

There is no way that a judge or politician or any ruler or king or president can properly have a sound judgment of its subjects when the level of comfort or has a wide gap between ruler and ruled. Those rulers simply do not understand the needs nor the motivations for people's acts, when those rulers don't know the conditions where the average citizen lives.

How can a judge fairly judge an unemployed father with back child-support, or a mother who shop-lifted a loaf of bread to feed the children, when the judge has a guaranteed job with all the comforts of a secured home, and with plenty on the table? Despite all the rules, that judge will never understand the pains inside those people whom he or she condemns.

Some people say that keeping judges well paid will deter corruption. If corruption can only be deterred by the judges getting comfortable salaries, than those judges are nothing but a bunch of dishonest lawyers who got to be judges by having good connections. If that is the case we need common people to be judges, for the lawyers are the ones who need to present the evidence. Jurors don't have any law-training to decide who is guilty or innocent. That means that judges are obsolete. Therefore, judges don't need to be paid more than the average, citizen or juror.

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60. Doubtom
California
August 27th, 2011
10:00 am
- Commissions are for getting desired results; what's wrong is letting the victims of our judicial system determine the worth of these over-priced paper shufflers? In the end, all these judges do is push paper around and "interpret" the law. They are the original societal parasites and the world wouldn't miss one of them if they all disappeared overnight. Judges deal in words alone, they produce nothing but hot air, like their close parasitical cousins, the priests; no wonder they both like to spout Latin, dress up in robes and mount small platforms so they can look down on the populace. They both are very fond of titles also, as are most phonies.

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61. Michael
Janesville WI
August 27th, 2011
10:20 am
- How sad that the uneducated and ignorant cannot understand why they don't have jobs. Next time, pay attention in school and don't waste taxpayer dollars. Without judges, none of you would have jobs because businesses cannot operate without basic contract enforcement. And, if the bigoted and ignorant are going to ignore the fact that public employees pay taxes too, then why are they?

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62. DWH
McLeod
August 27th, 2011
10:20 am
- Yet another "spin" to grab more money from taxpayers, who are being forced to underwrite pensions and health benefits that they themselves can only dream about. I wonder what PR firm they hired to "sugar coat" this and this article? There's always one excuse after another why government workers deserve more and more loot.

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63. Mashed Potatos
Florida
August 27th, 2011
10:35 am
- @#1 and #3 - Judges have been underpaid for so long, is it any wonder it has been so difficult finding and keeping good people for the bench? NYS has always been the pride of the American judicial system, but it has fallen from its perch owing to the penurious Legislature which gave itself constant raises, while holding the judicial branch financial hostage. @Ray77 - your wife has fantastic, difficult to acquire skills that few possess. Attorneys constantly require the use of stenographers. If your beef is with her loss of a civil service position, that is a different issue, which will likely work out eventually and she will be rehired. However, the stenographers I have dealt with over the years are a wonderful bunch of extremely intelligent, talented and resourceful people, well capable of earning a living, even in hard times. I am truly sorry she was laid off, but it is important to separate the issues. Judges being locked in a stagnated

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69. Dave
Ventura, CA
August 27th, 2011
11:16 am
- Okay; so visualize this headline: "Sanitation workers, nursing home employees, ditch diggers and fruit pickers lock up 27% pay increase over next 3 years". Uh huh. Right. Got it.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
70. Hipnick
Elsewhere
August 27th, 2011
11:17 am
- You get what you pay for, part 467: in Utah, one doesn't even have to be a lawyer to be a judge. The pay is atrocious, and the level of professionalism even lower.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
71. S.A. Haerdesty
New York
August 27th, 2011
11:20 am
- Hoped for?!?
How dare they!
- Recommend Recommended by 0 Readers
72. Peter
Upstate, NY
August 27th, 2011
11:20 am
- About time! This has got to stop being a political football.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
73. Danielle
Chicago
August 27th, 2011
11:20 am
- To #49: The same could be said of teachers - when you underpay the people teaching your children, you get a generation of ignoramuses. If you want to attract good teachers, you need to pay them more, too. So why do judges get a pay raise when teachers don't?
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
74. AVN
New York City
August 27th, 2011
11:22 am
- So, be it! Journalist must make themselves concern with the fact that expelled/forced to resign representatives are entitled to the life-time life-support at the level that no average tax-payer is entitled.
- Why is that? Do you, so called "journalists", have the guts to ask this question?
- Leave the judges alone. At least the do their job.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
75. Henry
New York, NY
August 27th, 2011
11:22 am
- Like everything in life, you get what you pay. Hopefully, this pay increase will attract the cream of the crop, and lessen the temptation for bribery.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader

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