

Judges last had their pay increased in 1999, to \$136,700 at the trial court level. No other judges in the country have gone as long without a pay increase.

A citizen watchdog group, the Center for Judicial Accountability, has opposed any raises until what it calls "a multitude of miscreant judges" are removed from their jobs.

From the **The Business Review**:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/albany/blog/insider/2011/07/judges-pay.html>

Hearing on judicial pay set for Wednesday

The Business Review - by [Adam Sichko](#)

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Judges will inch closer to their first pay raise in 12 years before a hearing Wednesday in Albany, which will study just how much to boost salaries.

The **New York State Bar Association** is pushing a \$55,000 pay raise to take effect in April 2012, the start of the state's next fiscal year.

The 40 percent increase would cost the state about \$76 million, enough to cover cost-of-living adjustments from 1999, the last time judges received a pay raise, to the present.

Under law approved last year, the state Special Commission on Judicial Compensation has the power to set pay raises for judges, unless the Legislature acts to change its decisions.

Vincent Doyle III, president of the 77,000-member bar, is among those expected to testify. Others include **Howard Levine**, a former judge on the state's highest court and now senior counsel at **Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP**, in Albany.

Judge **W. Dennis Duggan**, of Albany County Family Court, will testify at the hearing. Duggan said the pay issue deters potential talent from seeking judgeships.

"Across the state, when you look at who is running for judgeships, nobody is running who is a partner in a law firm. The kind of legal talent you would want in your judiciary is not applying," Duggan said. "We see it as a matter of fairness.

"You're talking about a fraction of a percent of the state budget, when you look at the total cost of those raises," Duggan added. "The amounts involved aren't really a strain."