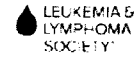




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READERS' COMMENTS

# 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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1. **Midlantic**  
Upstate New York  
August 26th, 2011  
1:30 pm

As a member of this state's bar for 45 years, I am of the opinion that the state judges I have dealt with are not worth their present -- much less their enhanced -- rates of pay. Paradoxically, the only remedy is to increase their pay, in the hope of attracting better.

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2. **Mister Fluffy**  
DC  
August 26th, 2011  
1:32 pm

Three years from now judges in New York State will be paid as much as a law school graduate will earn in their first year out of law school at a private sector job.

**Problem solved!**

[Recommend](#) Recommended by 7 Readers

3. **Ray77**  
Big Indian, NY  
August 26th, 2011  
1:32 pm

My wife is/was a New York State court reporter. Never missed a day, covered for people from albany to Monticello,She was recently laid off, as the state was running out of money. Funny how there is always enough money for those at the top! I understand that these judges have not been given a raise in some time, but the state should have offered them other incentives and they should have foregone the raise during these economic times for the good of their colleagues. You will soon see the error of their decision. You think justice was slow before, just wait! what's the term those at the top use..... JUST-US!

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4. **G. Reda**  
Brooklyn  
August 26th, 2011  
1:32 pm

What a sensible decision.

[Recommend](#) Recommended by 5 Readers

5. **Marco Lalo**  
Manhattan  
August 26th, 2011  
1:33 pm

Do Judges deserve a raise? No, giving them one will not exacerbate our budget problems, it's a drop in the bucket as the saying goes.

The real problem are the massive numbers of public employees and their corrupt influence on government and their massive pensions.

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6. **Bluerain**  
Queens, NYC  
August 26th, 2011  
1:33 pm

Just a thing to sneak into legislation right before a hurricane.

Can I have my pork today too?



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7. Joe  
Chicago  
August 26th, 2011  
1:33 pm

How many other people can get voted a 27% raise in three years? Right now, people are fighting for--and often not getting--2% raises. And these are people who don't already make six figure salaries. Why are judges any more important than anyone else? Because they're part of the massively overpaid legal system, whose sole job, it seems, is to promote the law into keeping the wealthy as rich as they are at the expense of everyone else? The masses of humanity are not going to put up with things like this for much longer. (See: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya.)

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8. Diane  
Chicago  
August 26th, 2011  
1:50 pm

Meanwhile the readers here will demand pay cuts for "greedy" pediatricians and other primary care physicians who make \$150k a year working 60 hrs a week with no pension, and double the education and training of a judge.

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9. eiliery  
New York  
August 26th, 2011  
1:55 pm

I would like to have seen them get more (most school janitors get more, if not much more). However, I would also like to do away with elected judges, as it seems most in NY are (except for the highest level, where at some point it was recognized that brains do count).

They should all be appointed and vetted by appropriate bar associations. Then they should get additional raises.

Having said all this, I must say that when I served on a criminal jury in Manhattan a couple of years ago, I was very impressed with the judge (I am a former lawyer and law review editor). I honestly don't know if criminal judges are elected or appointed, but if elected, that experience may disprove the argument I made earlier.

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10. Jonathan  
Midwest  
August 26th, 2011  
2:05 pm

The judges were not underpaid; it's the private sector biglaw lawyers in general who are overpaid. It has always been obscene that a first year biglaw associate straight out of school can earn \$160k a year with zero working experience. This has led to a massive sense of entitlement among all lawyers (regardless of the type of work, hours worked, benefits) to demand equivalent pay.

In medicine, doctors have to earn their future salary through years of crushing residency making as little as minimum wage after medical school. Many dedicated and accomplished doctors in NY make a lot less than \$170k a year after residency and have been faced with cuts after cuts in Medicare and Medicaid in the past decade.

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11. novo2  
NY  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm

Disappointed ? tell them to get a real job!

Recommend Recommended by 25 Readers

12. JAMES FM  
NEW YORK  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm

12 yrs without a raise! The only place where that ever happened was in the old Soviet Union or Cuba, Its about time the judges got a raise !

Recommend Recommended by 15 Readers

13. Ecce Homo  
Jackson Heights, NY  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm

I have no problem with the raises for New York judges. They haven't had a raise in a dozen years, and you have to pay good salaries to get good people. Still, I'm disappointed that the decision was to equate New York judges' pay to federal judges' pay. With precious few exceptions, New York judges aren't nearly as good, and don't work nearly as hard, as federal judges.

Recommend Recommended by 32 Readers

14. Sarah A.  
New York, New York  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm
- "How many other people can get voted a 27% raise in three years?"
- They went twelve years without a raise - you read that part, right?
- Recommend Recommended by 33 Readers
15. SC  
Brooklyn, ny  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm
- boo hoo, don't cry me a river when you have:
- 1) Job security
  - 2) Other job options at private law firms
  - 3) a raise when everybody else gets no pay raise or even have a job
  - 4) an overpaid salary
- Recommend Recommended by 31 Readers
16. S.A. Haerdesty  
New York  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm
- They get paid a LOT more than other public servants.
- Recommend Recommended by 23 Readers
17. Z  
TN  
August 26th, 2011  
2:21 pm
- One important consideration should be the size of the gray income (or lack thereof) that these judges receive.
- Recommend Recommended by 1 Reader
18. Abraham Ben Judea  
Fl  
August 26th, 2011  
2:25 pm
- Do you know that there are two types of unions/  
One type produces no product, feeds upon the host/citizens and uses the people's property as their personal piggy bank to obtain whatever benefit they see fit.
- Let's look at each type of union. The Agriculture/ poultry union, the screen actors guild and the UAW are examples of unions that protect workers who actually produce a product.
- The other type such as the Police, fire, and municipal employees union or syndicates produce nothing. The one side effect having a police and fire union is that they get their pay and benefits from the ever increasing taxes and fines the municipality collects. Meaning that you and I are their personal piggy bank. Most of the time the problem is not the salary these people earn, because earn their pay the do and then some. However for the tax payers to be forced into paying 75k per year as retirement pay plus benefits for each and every one of these retirees is beyond abuse.
- No one knows just how widows are made are made homeless thorough the sale of tax certificates to satisfy the retirement benefits extorted from you.
- The real rub it in your nose is not only the Municipal, Fire, police syndicates. Now they have a National Mayors Union known as the mayor's conference. How about the Judges Union? That is just too much. Don't believe it? Here's the link.  
[www.aalj.org](http://www.aalj.org)
- Recommend Recommended by 7 Readers
19. decker  
WA  
August 26th, 2011  
2:25 pm
- One hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars per year for sitting on their duffs administering what passes for justice in New York State, whilst the millions of unemployed cannot get a job, or extended unemployment benefits because the State is "broke," but not than broke that the Oligarchy cannot reward their undeserving own.
- One more reason to get out of the United States.
- Recommend Recommended by 26 Readers
20. Elaine Bennis  
NYC  
August 26th, 2011  
2:55 pm
- As a citizen who has served on jury duty and observed the judicial work ethic,I have one comment- these judges are over paid for the actual amount of work they do. Short hours, long vacations, and many not to bright comments, these dressed up lawyers with political connections should stand down if they don't like their salaries and get a real job.
- Recommend Recommended by 45 Readers
21. yourkiddingmeright  
upstate NY  
August 26th, 2011  
3:10 pm
- I find this amusing to some extent. They are whining and crying because they ONLY get paid 160k a year. How about the people who pay your wages that are earning minimum wage? They haven't seen a significant

increase in pay in years (sorry 25 cents and hour is not significant). this shows nothing more than the "good ole boy network" of NY at work once again. They make more than alot of people that are required to have much more education, they recieve much better benefits and retirement, yet they are underpaid?? Waht in the world justifies the wage they are paid now? They work fewer hours than many other professions since most of the real work is done by law clerks. I am sorry but this raise is undeserved and unwarranted. With this logic maybe minimum wage should be increased to reflect the cost of living in this state. fifteen thousand dollars a year isn't enough for housing much less food clothing etc. At 400 dollars a month for rent/mortgage that means 1/3 of thier wages are paid into housing alone, and god forbid if they have children they stand no chance at all. So, all in all i would say 160k a year is plenty for the work they do and services they supposedly offer. Maybe thier life of entitlement is living beyond thier means and nothing more. Raise justified or deserved I think not.

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- 22. **Jeremy**  
Atlanta, GA  
August 26th, 2011  
3:15 pm  
So the amount of their raise will be an amount equal to or greater than the average salary of teachers in most states. I find it difficult to sympathize with people who complain that they make only \$136,000 per year. Be glad you can feed your family, pay your mortgage, and put gas in your car. It is obscene to give a raise to anyone that is larger than the income of just under 50% of the population, especially in these lean economic times.

Recommend Recommended by 24 Readers

- 23. **Kyle Johnson**  
Seattle  
August 26th, 2011  
3:20 pm  
They could drop the salaries and there would still be huge demand. They people are receiving benefits, security, assistants incredible retirement benefits and prestige. High-powered government officials have been receiving big money for so long they blow away the private sector. This idea that a first-year lawyer makes as much money is absurd. They occurs in about three cities in the U.S., they are usually paying off giant student loans from a fancy school and they are working twice as much as these judges with no power or authority - a terrible comparison.

Recommend Recommended by 24 Readers

- 24. **Jonathan**  
Midwest  
August 26th, 2011  
3:25 pm  
I thought there was an oversupply of lawyers in this country? Surely it wouldn't be that hard to staff 1000 talented lawyers at \$136,000 a year working 40 hours a week plus generous pension, every holiday off and four weeks paid vacation?

Don't tell me all the unemployed lawyers are unqualified.

Recommend Recommended by 25 Readers

- 25. **Candace-**  
Cambridge, MA  
August 26th, 2011  
3:25 pm  
This was long overdue. Finally, a sensible decision in government. Hopefully it helps in retaining and attracting more legal talent to the bench. Wish more issues were settled like this one way by taking the long-term view of what's best for our society. Now if only they could reform to having them appointed like they do in NJ, instead of having them run for office. Judges should not be politicians.

Recommend Recommended by 12 Readers

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