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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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76. Gary Virginia August 27th, 2011 11:23 am  
Long overdue.  
And @Joe (comment 7)... they haven't gotten a raise since 1999. So it's really 27% over 15 years... not even 2% a year. They're getting a raise that more or less keeps up with inflation.

You either overlook, or want us to overlook, that most judges haven't been on the bench that long. So they are getting quite the windfall!

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77. Mark New York August 27th, 2011 11:24 am  
The comparisons to the salary of teachers, firefighters and cops isn't relevant. Judges can make over \$1 million a year if they go into private practice. (Teachers cannot.) If you want good judges, you need to pay them a competitive salary.

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78. smi2le San Francisco August 27th, 2011 11:24 am  
Law Professors would kill for these job, for even less money.

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79. Mike Mo Bronx, NY August 27th, 2011 11:29 am  
It's about time!

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80. Gerry New York City August 27th, 2011 11:29 am  
Oh, good! Emily Jane Goodman can keep her summer home in the Hamptons!!! (see NY Times article on Judges' salaries, 7/4/2011)

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81. charles almon brooklyn NYC August 27th, 2011 11:30 am  
I have been on three juries and get taken to court bi-annually by a harassing landlord; Tenant /Landlord AND Small Claims , for over two decades.

My Brooklyn opinion of judges the WOIST!

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82. Robert Washington, DC August 27th, 2011 11:31 am  
No raises! The state is broke!

Robert Washington, DC

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83. [webbel](#)  
Bronx  
August 27th, 2011  
11:31 am
- I think we should do what the private sector does - hire paralegals to do the job and pay them half as much with no pension. Oh, and of course, only working under a temp-to-hire arrangement, hiring them if and only when judicial backlogs are gone.

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84. [Mitchell](#)  
Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.  
August 27th, 2011  
11:31 am
- A non-binding proposal, \*not\* a done deal. Great job making that clear, Times.

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85. [perlov](#)  
Manhattan  
August 27th, 2011  
11:31 am
- Urban public education is still in a cycle of crisis.  
Teachers in NYC have been working without a new contract for 2 years now.  
Half on new teachers quit within 5 years - too little money for too much stress.  
How Ironic we can give these judges 9% a year for three years!  
Gotta keep those courts happy and running, right?!  
Gotta love NYS priorities!!

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86. [hc](#)  
Florida  
August 27th, 2011  
11:35 am
- The 27% raise after 12 years of no raise comes out to a 3% raise annually. For what? They can't live like lawyers in the private sector who graduated much higher in their classes and deserve the overblown salaries they are offered to start work, which, by the way, often turns out to be a sixteen hour day. I know. There are such lawyers in my family. The lawyers who are making \$167K per year, can live on it, and don't need to worry about higher income taxes, or the multiple weeks off with pay, which brings their monthly pay to about 8 to 9K a year. Consider the short work day, and you can up that to 10K a month. That is surely enough to live on, if living within one's means is practiced.  
It is a known fact that those who enter public service are not the brightest or the best, but it is the best they can get. They have some nerve to vote themselves a raise that no unemployed worker in the USA can possibly have any sympathy for.

Shakespeare said it a long time ago: first, kill all the lawyers. They are the ones who obstruct our lives with unnecessary moralizing over our behaviors, over-regulating our businesses, and looking the other way when corruption is revealed amongst those who pay them off for voting as demanded, certainly not for the constituency, we the people, whose interests should come first and foremost in their deliberations. A pox on them, and may they be one day forced to live by the laws they have passed. Res ipse loquitur and nolo contendere.

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87. [Terek](#)  
Queens, NY  
August 27th, 2011  
11:40 am
- A great number of American people who make less than six figures are being forced to try and get by with less. This is a slap in the face as many hard working citizens can not even afford to feed and take care of their families! And, throw in the millions who can not even find work! I thought the country was in an economic recession? How is it then they can find the money to dole out 27% raises? When will this country wake up?! Wage increases for CEO's and judges, tax breaks for corporations and the rich, while the working poor and middle class is forced to get by with decreased wages and benefits! Recession for who?! Not them!

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88. [Daniel](#)  
Detroit  
August 27th, 2011  
11:50 am
- Government just don't get it. 9-10% unemployment in a shrinking economy, laying people off and giving themselves a 27% raise, which is quite unheard of in the private sector. State like federal government. Just the same.

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89. [BlueMoose](#)

Binghamton NY  
August 27th, 2011  
12:30 pm

The ignorance reflected in many comments here is distressing. Before lambasting New York for giving judges a 27% raise over three years people should note that they have had no raises at all for the past 12 years. During that time the cost of living has gone up by some 60%. We owe our judges significantly more than that 27%. We need good judges and we can not recruit or retain them if we do not pay them reasonable salaries.

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90. escapefromyonkers  
westchester,ny  
August 27th, 2011  
1:15 pm

social security recipients have gone without an increase for 2 years. no COLA since the govt says there has been no increase in prices. I guess these people don't buy gas or food or pay housing costs. Normal increases have been \$30 to \$50 for social security, this includes disability, this SSDI is the one that their FICA taxes and employer matches funds for over 25 years. The vans that the wheelchair users need in nonaccesssable areas, eat a lot of gas, so the increase in gas prices alone are higher than the last increase 3 years ago. Amazing how all these high govt employees are getting raises and the social security people who have paid into the system for 25 plus years, get zero. IN Yonkers there were 8 public workers including cops and fireman that retired at over \$200,000 a year, one was a sergeant with about \$267,000, another was \$250,000 a year. Yet they want to take away medicare and social security, items that we paid into. These public workers did not put in funds that equaled 250,000 a year retirement at 55 years old. There is an article in lo hud-journal news that has the exact figures of the people who retired over \$200,000 plus many of the pensions that are extremely higher then the private sector and their base pay.

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91. scott  
seattle, wa  
August 27th, 2011  
1:40 pm

Any one who decides to join the bench because of the pay is not someone we want on the Bench. Most Judges I have dealt with in NY before relocating were political hacks who were only marginally employable in the private sector. To call a 27% increase over 3 years modest is an insult to the taxpayers of NY

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92. Gary  
Virginia  
August 27th, 2011  
5:15 pm

Yes, the judges have not gotten a raise in 12 years. However, very few judges have been there for that long. I'd be curious to know the average judicial tenure. If they were elected last year, they still get the 27 percent windfall. And am I correct that their pension will shoot up by the same amount?

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93. brandnutopian  
Seattle  
August 27th, 2011  
5:40 pm

A 27% increase in pay at a time of record budget deficits?

What happened to Cuomo's proposal on wage freezes for state employees? Oh, that only seems to apply to teachers!

Just slash away at education and Medicare, but by all means give the lawyers more money. Sickening.

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94. PAUL FEINER  
greenburgh  
August 27th, 2011  
6:21 pm

Judges may be deserving of salary increases. But, there is a budget crisis. If exceptions are made for one group of state government employees it will be difficult to get other unions/management to take the budget crisis seriously. Other civil servants will argue that if there is money for Judges there should be money for them. Everyone, including the Judges, should pitch in during the budget crisis. Is it fair for Judges to get big salary hikes when other state employees are being asked to take UNPAID furloughs? PAUL FEINER

Greenburgh Town Supervisor

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95. matt  
nyc

Its amazing, state employees are forced to take furloughs but yet its raise

August 27th, 2011  
6:21 pm

time ny judges. Thats our state. Thats why people leave it.

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96. pat  
medford,ny  
August 27th, 2011  
6:21 pm

I find it hard to believe that judges are complaining about their raise, when they are over paid. They have lots of benefits, in a time when working people who pay their salaries are taking cuts in every area of their pay and benefits. We ARE NOT WORKING, so don't tax us more or come up with ways to make money off of the real workers to pay for raises for higher up gov, officials. You are a bunch of vampires.

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97. crusading gramma  
locust hill, va  
August 27th, 2011  
6:21 pm

all i want to know is, how many other members of NY's team received 9% per year salary increases?

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98. Marge  
Queens, NY  
August 27th, 2011  
6:21 pm

I would like to give myself a raise too, but can't. Since we (the people) voted to elect these judges in, can WE vote NO to their raises.

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99. Observer  
Long Island, New  
York  
August 27th, 2011  
6:22 pm

It is absolutely astonishing that the Times can report on judiicial salaries without examining the pensions and health benefits judges receive. If you look at the full compensation (salary, pension and benefits) provided to our judges, you'll see why there is no shortage of candidates for judgeships and why the only judges resigning are those who have effectively "maxed out" on the pensions and benefits they will receive.

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100. Danny  
New YorkCity  
August 27th, 2011  
6:22 pm

The comment that suggested the the increase is actually 27% over 15 years is absolutely correct...while inflation has risen at about double that rate.

If the truth be told...unlike legislators, judges can have only one job and work 49 weeks a year (with 3 weeks vacation), handle everything from complex, international business issues; to family matters; to crime and punishment; to strikes, to landlord/tenant matters, to small claims matters...at a salary less than a non admitted law school graduate earns at a medium sized or larger law firm the day on her first job. By the way, many of the NY judges are Ivy League graduates and went top law schools...and are held in the highest esteem by the attorneys who actually litigate before them on a regular basis...not the hacks and quacks who show up unprepared and clueless and are angry if they don't prevail on a weak case.

The citizens of New York State deserve skilled, experienced justices and judges who are problem solvers...and not someone who takes the job because no one else want it.

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