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DAILY NEWS

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

O'Rourke's appointment was illegal

White Plains: We share your outrage that former Westchester County Executive Andrew O'Rourke, now a Court of Claims judge, is collecting an \$80,000 pension on top of his new \$113,000 salary, (Feb. 5 editorial, "O'Rourke's pork"). But it is not a loophole that allows this. Rather, the Office of Court Administration broke the law in approving O'Rourke.

The law is clear that for O'Rourke to be employed in public service as a retired person, his new employer had to make a written request showing that he met specific requirements. These include: that he is duly qualified; that there is a need for his services; that there are no other qualified people to perform the duties of such position, and that his employment is in the best interests of government service. The office could not approve the application unless these requirements had been met.

The office must respect the public's right to inspect O'Rourke's application and the other relevant documents. O'Rourke's appointment should be rescinded based on the requirements of the law, and there should be an investigation of the office for its blatant misrepresentation of the law to cover up its improper approval of the request.

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