

# Metro News Briefs

**NEW YORK**

## *Ex-County Chief's Deal On Pension Is Questioned*

ALBANY — A longtime Republican officeholder should not be allowed to receive a pension while serving as a State Court of Claims judge, two Democratic state senators said yesterday.

Andrew P. O'Rourke, a former Westchester County executive and the Republican Party's 1986 candidate for governor against Mario M. Cuomo, will collect a pension of about \$80,000 a year on top of the \$113,000 he is making in the Court of Claims.

Gov. George E. Pataki, also a Republican, nominated Mr. O'Rourke to the judgeship and he was confirmed earlier this month by the State Senate. Mr. O'Rourke retired at the end of December after 15 years as Westchester County Executive.

State Senators Richard A. Dolinger and Franz S. Leichter wrote to the chief administrative judge of the court system, Jonathan Lippman, asking for more information about the O'Rourke payment plan and whether any other state judges were getting their pensions while serving on the bench.

"I think this is clearly an F.O.G. — 'Friend of George' — deal," Mr. Dolinger, of Rochester, said. "What is disappointing about this for me is that Andrew O'Rourke, at least by reputation, was a fiscal conservative who believed that people shouldn't be taking advantage of government."

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