

 [Click to Print](#) or Select 'Print' in your browser menu to print this document.

Page printed from: [New York Law Journal](#)

State Judges Getting Heftier Paychecks Beginning This Month

Joel Stashenko, New York Law Journal

April 12, 2017

ALBANY - The arrival of a new fiscal year has [brought a pay raise](#) for the 1,250 state judges in New York.

The salary increases approved in late 2015 by the Commission on Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation provided higher salaries at the same level as any raises received by federal district judges for the same period.

With federal judges getting a 1 percent increase in 2017—district judges will make \$205,100 this year, compared with \$203,100 in 2016—state judges are entitled to a 1 percent pay increase as well, under the commission's plan.

New York Supreme Court justices who made \$193,000 in the previous fiscal year are receiving a pay hike to \$194,930 this month. Other judges receiving different rates according to the benches they sit on and for the administrative roles, if any, they fill, will also see a 1 percent pay hike.

The latest pay hikes automatically began on April 1. Further adjustments in judicial pay in New York are also scheduled.

Under the [pay plan](#) approved by the commission in 2015, Supreme Court justices will go to full parity with their federal district court judicial counterparts beginning April 1, 2018 (NYLJ, Dec. 28, 2015). Other state judges will get increases corresponding to those that Supreme Court justices receive.

Next year's increases will face possible rejection by the governor and Legislature, though those two branches of government have not exercised their right to undo judicial raises since they took effect in April 2012.

State Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks said Wednesday that in addition to not altering the 2017 pay adjustment for judges, the state budget adopted last weekend ([NYLJ, April 10](#)) made no changes in the judiciary's \$2.18 billion spending request for the fiscal year.

The courts had [proposed](#) a 2 percent increase (NYLJ, Dec. 1).

"We are extremely pleased with the approval of this budget," Marks said. "It will allow us to continue to make further progress with the chief judge's Excellence Initiative."

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore has promoted the initiative as a way of improving the efficiency of the courts and its responsiveness to people using them (NYLJ, Feb. 23).

Included in the new budget is \$15 million to replace aging metal screening devices at courthouses and older bulletproof vests worn by court officers. Marks said money also will be available to begin reversing cuts sustained by several court programs in 2011, including those to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program and the Justice Court Assistance Program.

In addition, Marks said money will be available to increase night hours in New York City's small-claims courts, which were each cut to one night a week in 2011.

Marks said the small-claims courts will begin operating four nights a week in Queens, three nights a week in Brooklyn and two nights a week in Manhattan and the Bronx. On Staten Island, where the small-claims schedule had been reduced to one night a month, Marks said the court will be in session two nights a month.

Contact Joel Stashenko at jstashenko@alm.com. On Twitter: [@JoelStashenko](https://twitter.com/JoelStashenko)

Copyright 2017. ALM Media Properties, LLC. All rights reserved.