



## **Judicial Compensation Committee**

# **Judicial Compensation in Perspective 2013 Report**

**Prepared by the staff of the  
Ohio Judicial Conference  
July 20, 2013**

## About the Judicial Compensation Committee



The Judicial Compensation Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference conducts research, evaluates legislation, and makes recommendations regarding judicial compensation, retirement, life insurance, medical benefits, and other related issues. The committee compiles research comparing salaries and compensation packages for judges around the country and reports the results to Ohio's judges and members of the General Assembly to keep legislators informed about the importance of competitive salaries as part of an overall strategy of attracting qualified candidates to the bench and retaining experienced judges.

## Co-Chairs

Judge Timothy J. Grendell  
Geauga Co. Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge Everett H. Krueger  
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The purpose of this report is to compare and contrast judicial salaries in Ohio with those in our peer states of Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. In addition, comparison is also made between judicial salaries in Ohio and the Federal government. The salaries compared in this report are Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, Associate Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, Court of Appeals judge, and Court of Common Pleas judge. Salaries for Municipal and County judges were not compared as the salary figures vary significantly within Ohio.

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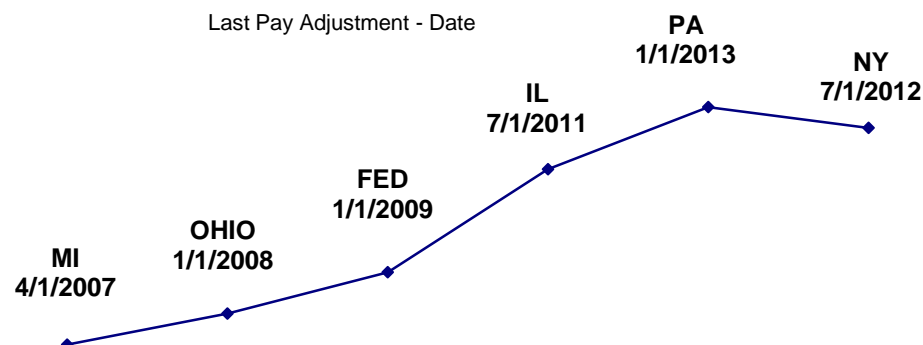
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## Last Pay Adjustment

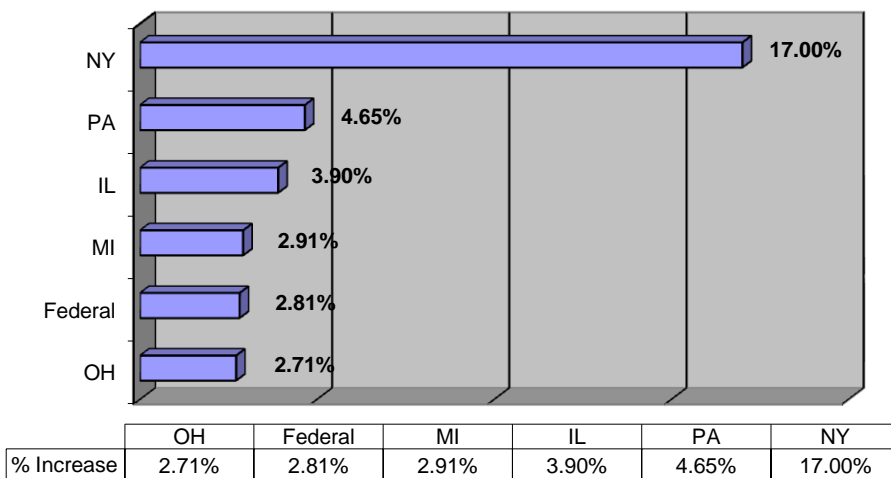
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Last Pay Adjustment - % Increase



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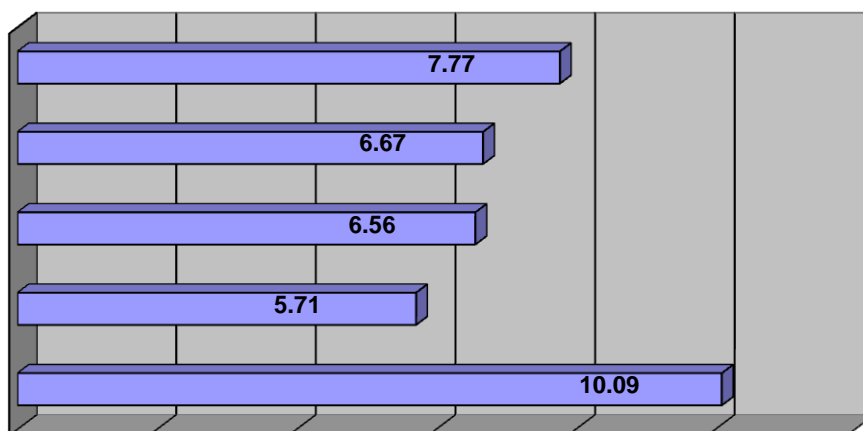
**New York**

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## State Revenue Per Capita Analysis

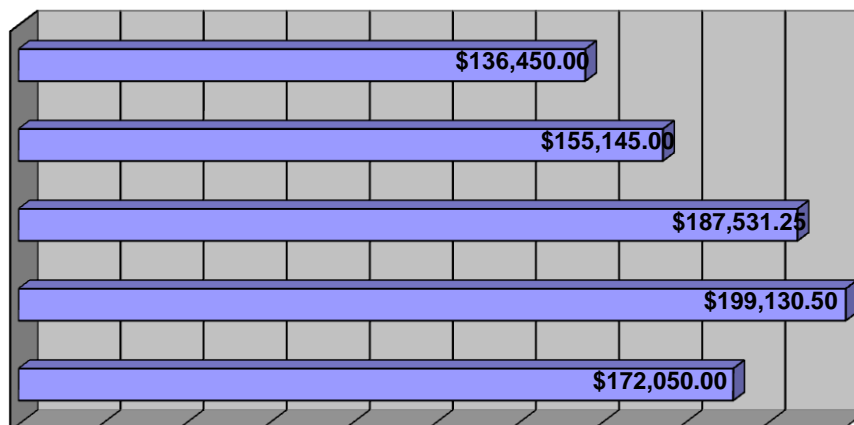
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**2010 Total State Revenue Per Capita (Thousands)**



	New York	Illinois	Pennsylvania	Michigan	Ohio
Revenue Per Capita (Thousands)	10.09	7.77	6.67	6.56	5.71

**2010 Average Judicial Salary by State**

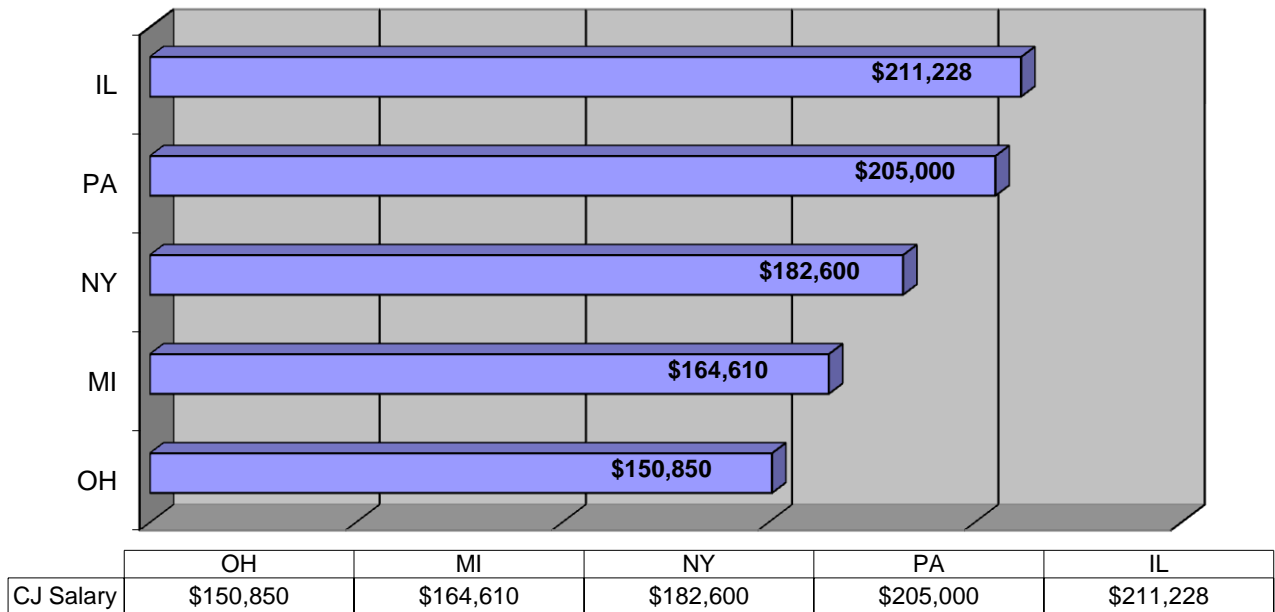


	New York	Illinois	Pennsylvania	Michigan	Ohio
Average Judicial Salary	\$199,130.50	\$187,531.25	\$172,050.00	\$155,145.00	\$136,450.00

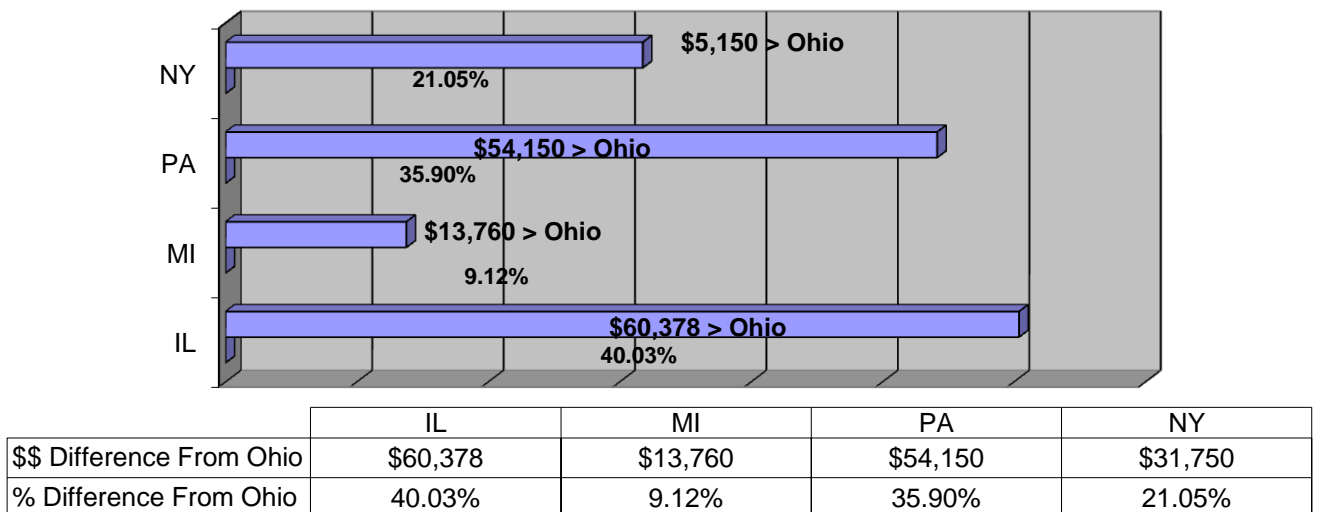
## Chief Justice Salary Comparison

The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary for each Chief Justice in the comparison group, as well as a dollar and percentage difference.

**Chief Justice Salary Comparison**



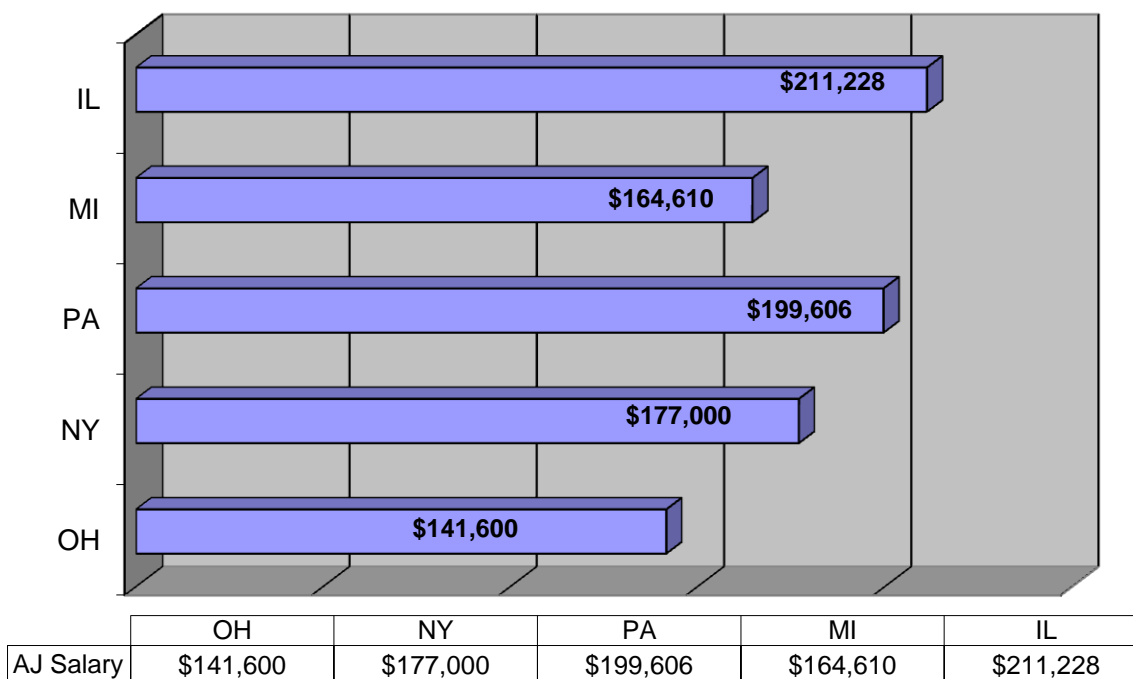
**Chief Justice Salary Comparison  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$150,850**



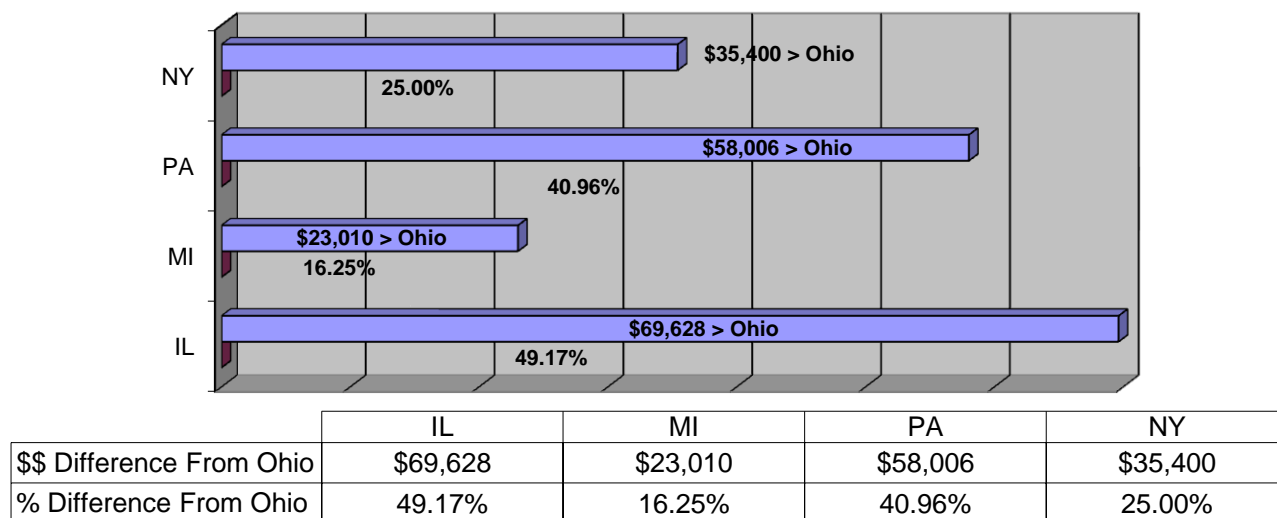
## Associate Justice Salary Comparison

The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary for each Associate Justice in the comparison group, as well as a dollar and percentage difference comparison.

**Associate Justice Salary Comparison**



**Associate Justice Salary Comparison**  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$141,600



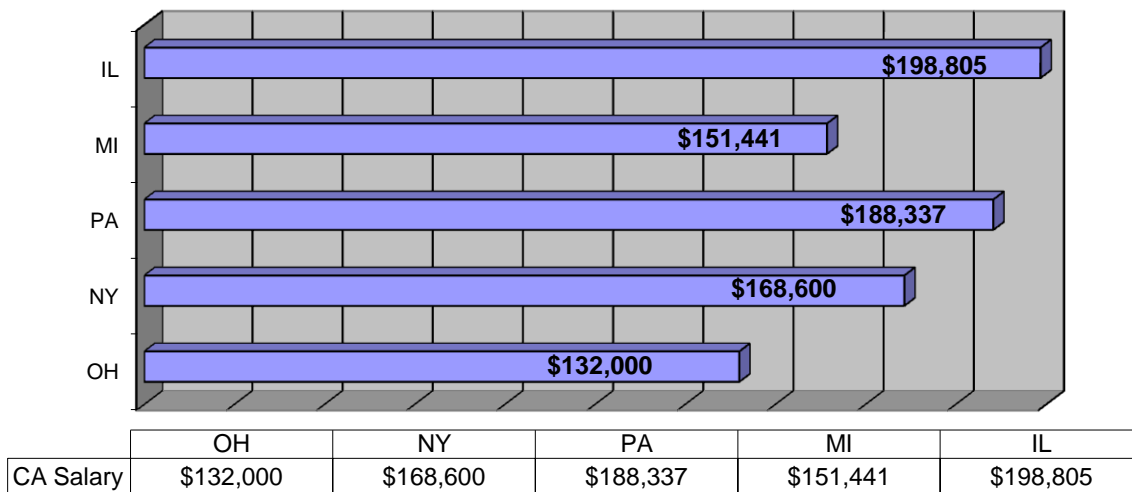
## Court of Appeals Salary Comparison

Salaries for the position of a Court of Appeals judge were compared.

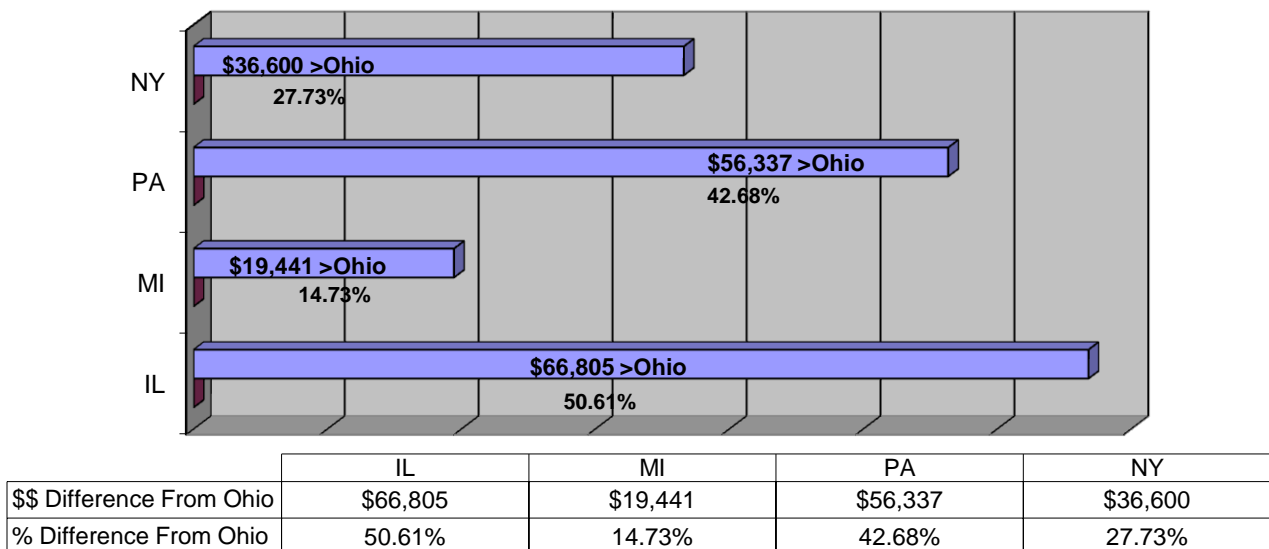
Of interest is the fact that New York lists three (3) different positions and corresponding salaries for Appellate Court judges: (1) Presiding Justice-\$172,800, (2) Associate Justice - \$168,600, and (3) Appellate Terms-\$163,600.

For the purpose of this report the position of "Associate Justice" was selected as the salary as it seemed similar to Ohio's Appellate Court judgeship. The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary for each Appellate Court judge in the comparison group, as well as a dollar and percentage variance comparison.

**Court of Appeals Salary Comparison**



**Court of Appeals Salary Comparison**  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$132,000



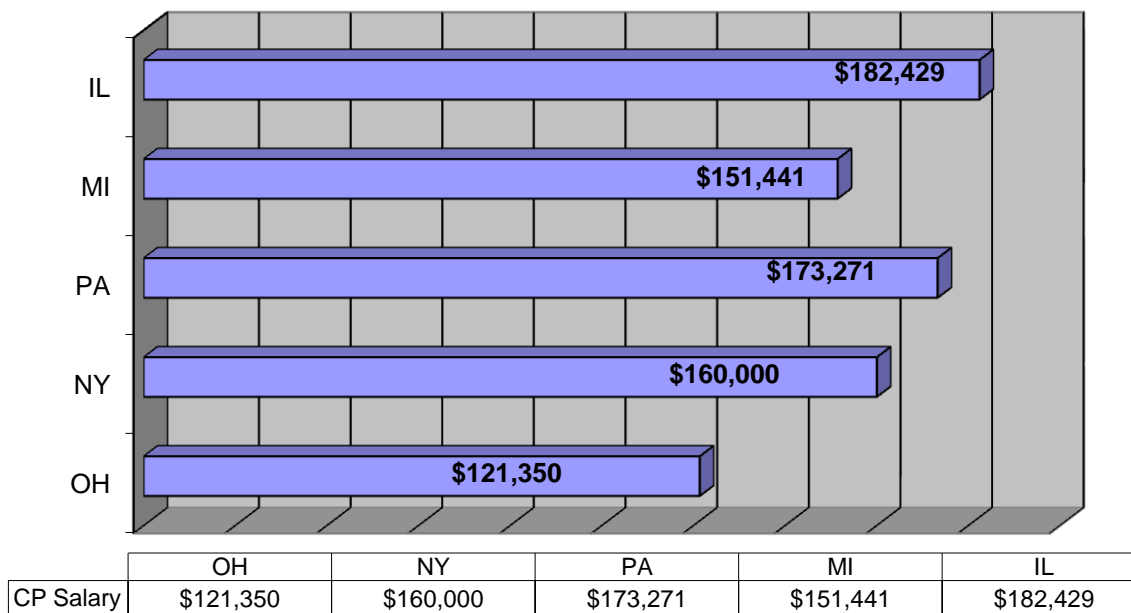


## Common Pleas Salary Comparison

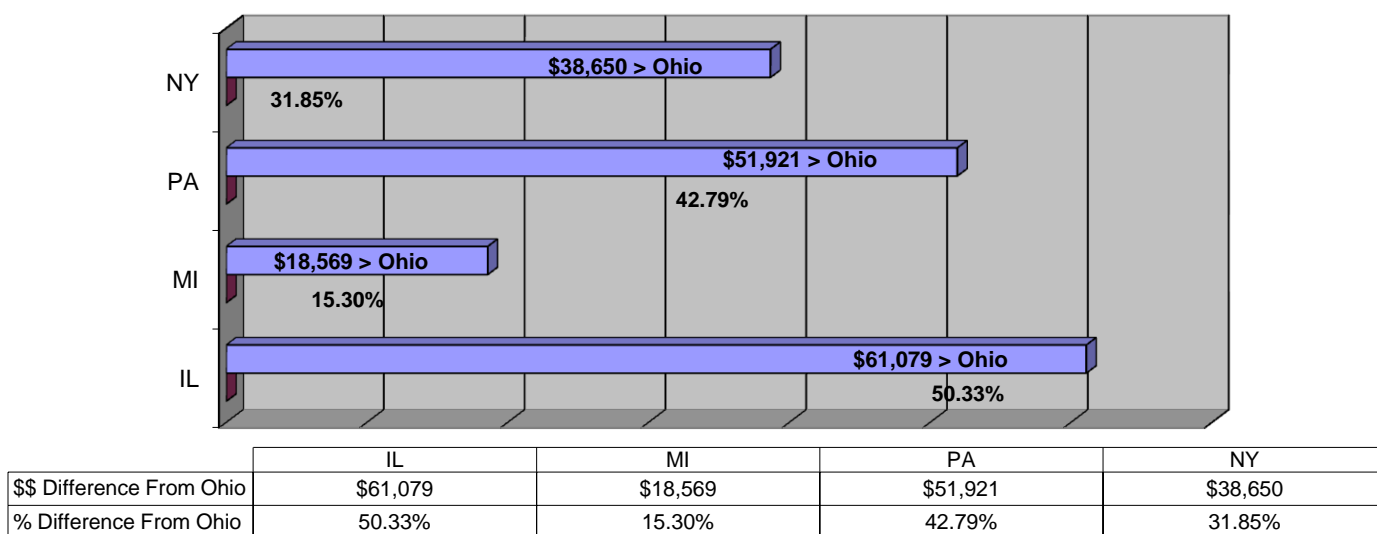
Salaries for the position of a Common Pleas judge were compared. For Pennsylvania, the salary for a Common Pleas judge varies based on the county and the number of judges in a district. Therefore the average between the high and low salary is listed in the underlying table and is used as the basis for dollar and percent comparisons.

The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary and a dollar and percentage difference comparison.

**Common Pleas Salary Comparison**



**Common Pleas Salary Comparison**  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$121,350



## Comparison Group Summary Table

	Ohio	Illinois	Michigan	New York	Pennsylvania
Last Pay Adjustment	1/1/2008	7/1/2011	4/1/2007	4/1/2012	1/1/2013
% Increase	2.71 %	3.9%	2.91%	17%	4.65%
<b>Chief Justice</b>					
Salary	\$150,850	\$211,228	\$164,610	\$182,600	\$205,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$60,378	\$13,760	\$31,750	\$54,150
% Difference From Ohio	--	40.03%	9.12%	21.05%	35.90%
<b>Associate Justice</b>					
Salary	\$141,600	\$211,228	\$164,610	\$177,000	\$199,606
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$69,628	\$23,010	\$35,400	\$58,006
% Difference From Ohio	--	49.17%	16.25%	25%	40.96%
<b>Court of Appeals</b>					
Salary	\$132,000	\$198,805	\$151,441	\$168,600	\$188,337
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$66,805	\$19,441	\$36,600	\$56,337
% Difference From Ohio	--	50.61%	14.73%	27.73%	42.68%
<b>Common Pleas</b>					
Salary	\$121,350	\$182,429	\$139,919	\$160,000	\$173,271
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$61,079	\$18,569	\$38,650	\$51,921
% Difference From Ohio	--	50.33%	15.30%	31.85%	42.79%

## Market Salaries of Lawyers and Law School Professor Salaries

In order for Ohio to maintain its recognized leadership in good government, all Ohio elected officials need to be compensated at a fair market rate. The Ohio Judicial Conference supports market increases for judges and all Ohio elected officials in order to elicit high quality candidates for office.

- **Market Salaries of Lawyers**

New legal associates fresh from law schools with no experience are earning salaries commensurate with compensation earned by Ohio Judges.

### Law Firms – Large Firm / 1st Year Salary

#### Cincinnati

Dinsmore & Shohl	\$ 105,000
Frost, Brown & Todd	\$ 100,000
Graydon, Head & Ritchey	\$ 90,000
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister	\$ 112,500

#### Cleveland

Baker & Hostetler	\$ 120,000
Calfee, Halter & Griswold	\$ 110,000

#### Columbus

Bricker & Eckler	\$ 100,000
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur	\$ 115,000
Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn	\$ 100,000
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey	\$ 130,000
Thompson Hine	\$ 100,000
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease	\$ 120,000

- **Market Salaries of Law School Professors**

Law professors in Ohio and comparable states earn more than Ohio Judges who make real everyday decisions on matters that affect thousands of citizens.

### Law Schools – Full Professor Salaries

#### Ohio

Capital Law School	\$ 154,471
University of Dayton	\$ 116,209
University of Toledo	\$ 125,442
The Ohio State University	\$ 170,648

#### Illinois

University of Illinois	\$ 153,955
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#### Michigan

University of Michigan	\$ 206,000
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#### Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh	\$ 155,082
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## Ohio Courts versus Full Professor

This section of the report compares Ohio's Chief and Associate Justices, Court of Appeals, and Common Pleas salaries with that of Full Professors at Ohio universities and a university in a state whose courts are comparable to Ohio's. In addition, it will show the dollar and percentage difference that exist between these salaries.

### Comparison Group Summary Table

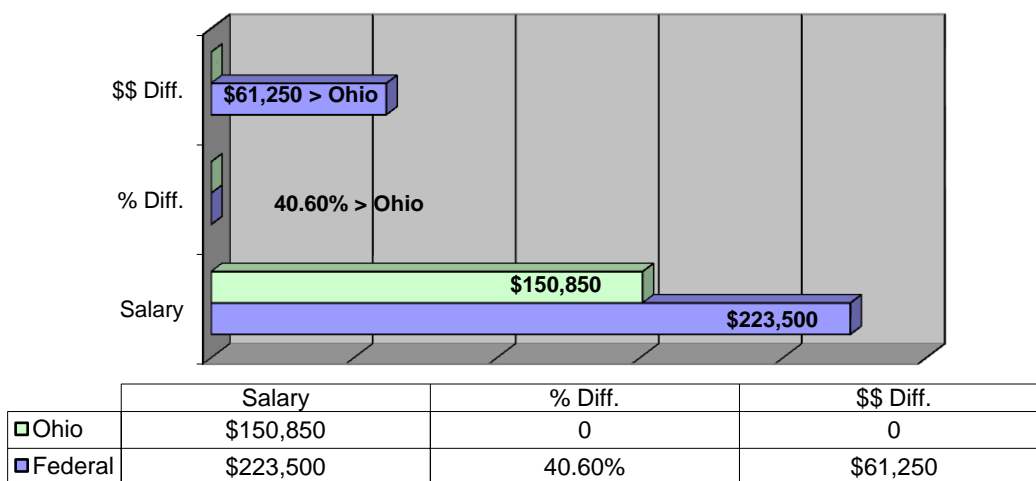
	Ohio Courts	The Ohio State University	Capital University	University of Pittsburgh	University of Michigan
Last Pay Adjustment	1/1/2008	2012	2012	2012	2008
% Increase	2.71 %	-3.13%	9.71%	8.31%	-.048%
<b>Chief Justice</b>					
Salary	\$150,850	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$19,798	\$3,621	\$4,232	\$55,150
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	13.12%	2.40%	2.81%	36.56%
<b>Associate Justice</b>					
Salary	\$141,600	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$29,048	\$12,871	\$13,482	\$64,400
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	20.51%	9.11%	9.52%	45.48%
<b>Court of Appeals</b>					
Salary	\$132,000	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$38,648	\$22,471	\$23,082	\$74,000
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	29.28%	17.02%	17.51%	56.06%
<b>Common Pleas</b>					
Salary	\$121,350	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$49,298	\$33,121	\$33,732	\$84,650
% Difference	--	40.62%	27.29%	27.80%	69.76%

## Ohio versus Federal Salary Comparison

Another aspect of this report is to compare Ohio's Chief and Associate Justices, Court of Appeals, and Common Pleas salaries with their federal counterparts. This section of the report will accomplish this. In addition, charts will show the dollar and percentage difference that exists between these salaries.

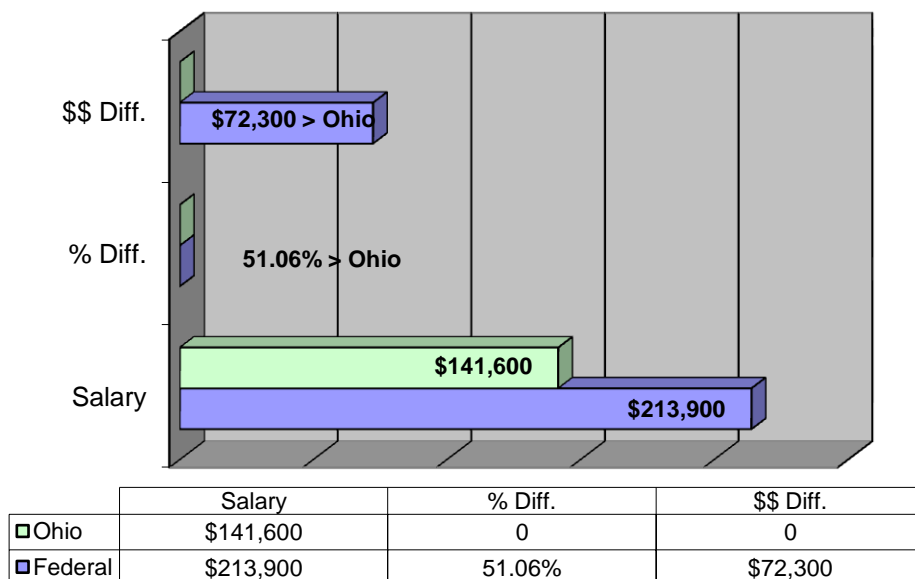
### Comparing Ohio versus U.S. Chief Justice Salaries

Ohio Chief Justice vs. U.S. Chief Justice  
Salary Comparison



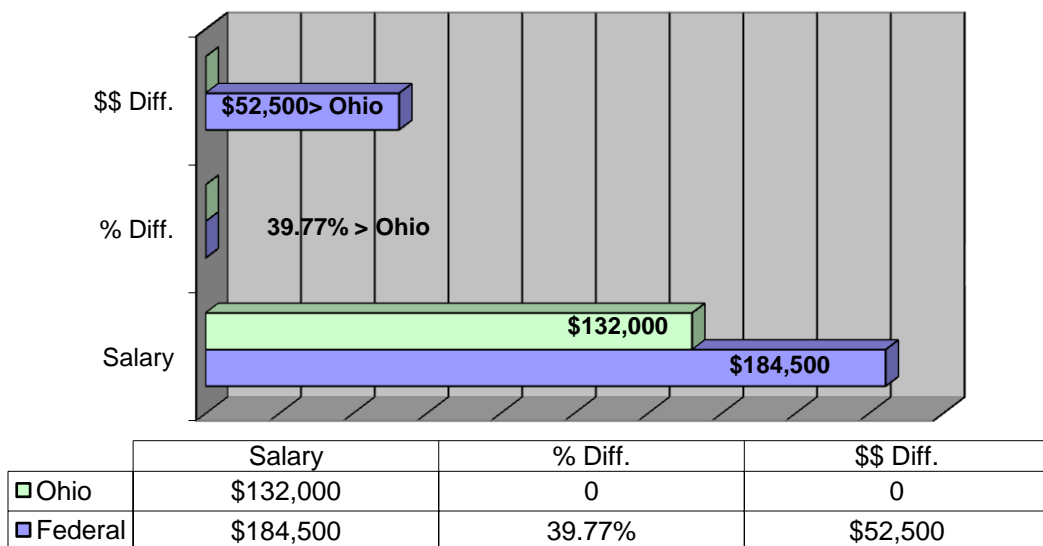
### Comparing Associate Justice Salaries

Ohio Associate Justice vs. U.S. Associate Justice  
Salary Comparison



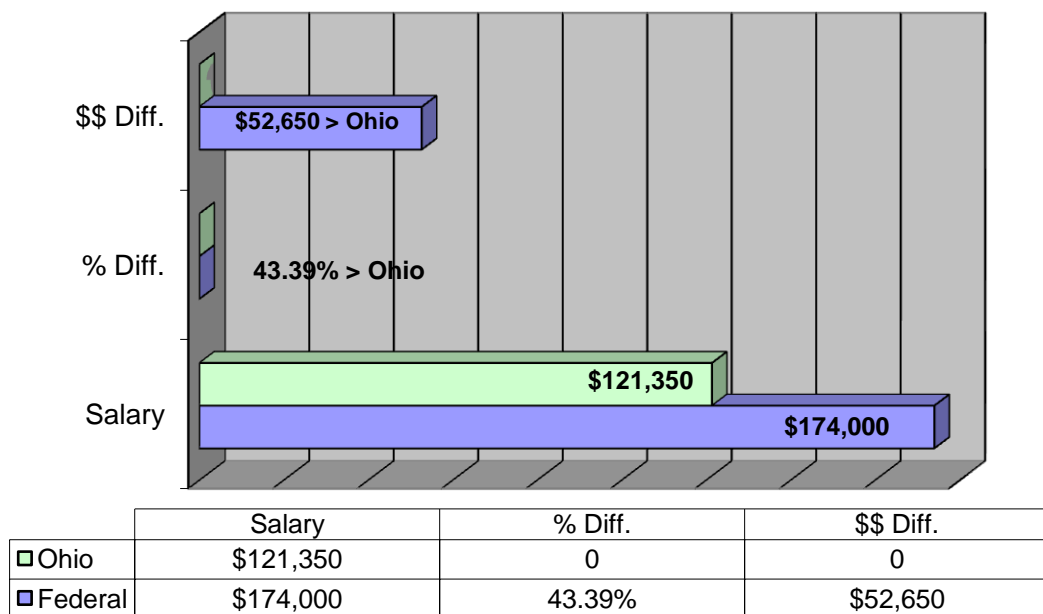
## Comparing Ohio Appellate versus U.S. Circuit Judges Salaries

Ohio Court of Appeals vs. U.S. Circuit Judge  
Salary Comparison



## Comparing Ohio Common Pleas versus U.S. District Judges Salaries

Ohio Common Pleas vs. U.S. District Judge  
Salary Comparison

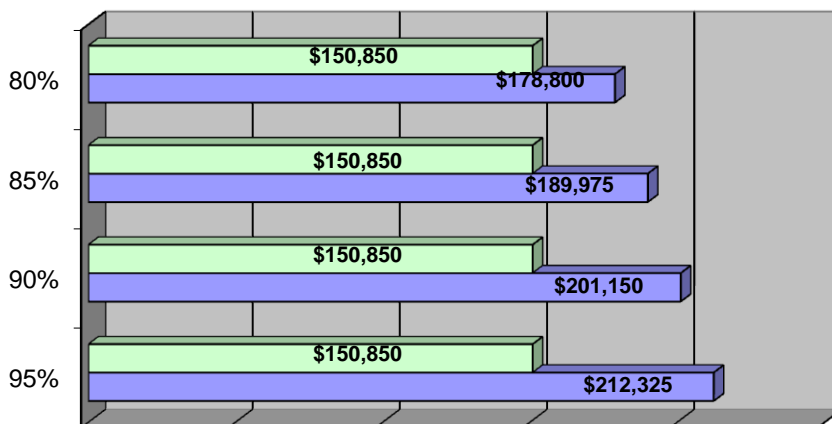


## Current Ohio Judicial Salaries Compared to Percentages of Federal Judicial Salaries

A formula currently under consideration is to set judicial salaries in Ohio based on a percentage of their federal counterpart's salary. This section provides a graphical comparison between the current salary of the judges with the projected salary of the judge at specific percentages. The percentages of the federal salaries explored are 95, 90, 85 and 80 percent. As noted earlier, the latest Federal pay raise took place in 2009, with a 2.81% increase.

### Comparing Chief Justice Salaries

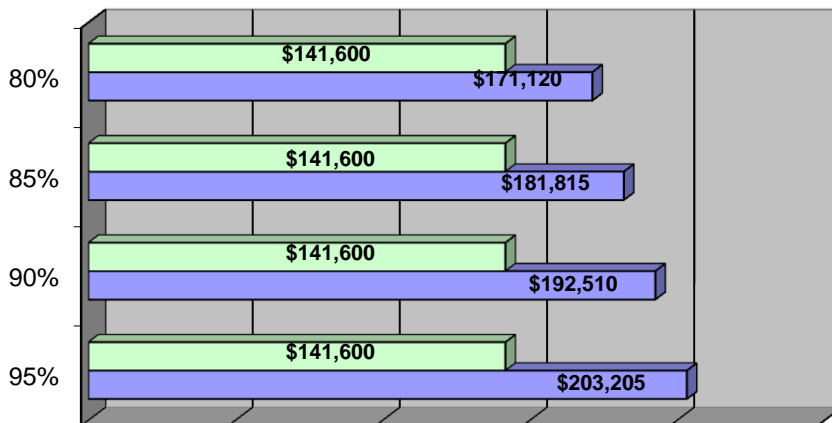
Current Ohio Associate Justice Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of Current U.S. Associate Justice Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHAJ	\$150,850	\$150,850	\$150,850	\$150,850
Projected Salary	\$212,325	\$201,150	\$189,975	\$178,800

### Comparing Associate Justice Salaries

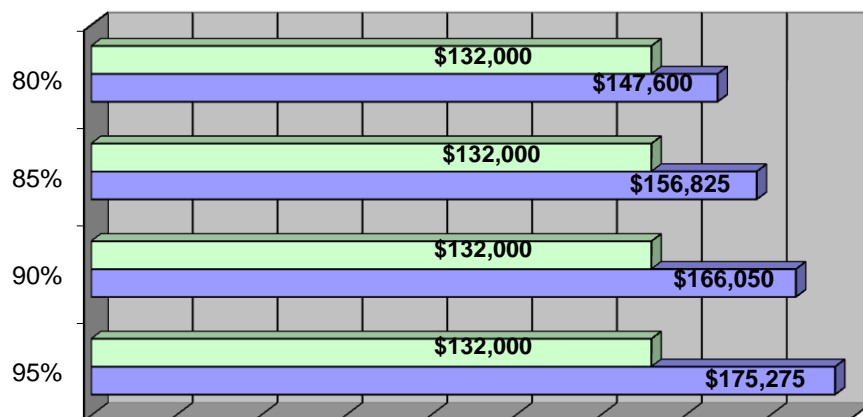
Current Ohio Associate Justice Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
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	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHAJ	\$141,600	\$141,600	\$141,600	\$141,600
Projected Salary	\$203,205	\$192,510	\$181,815	\$171,120

## Comparing Ohio Appellate versus U.S. Circuit Judges Salaries

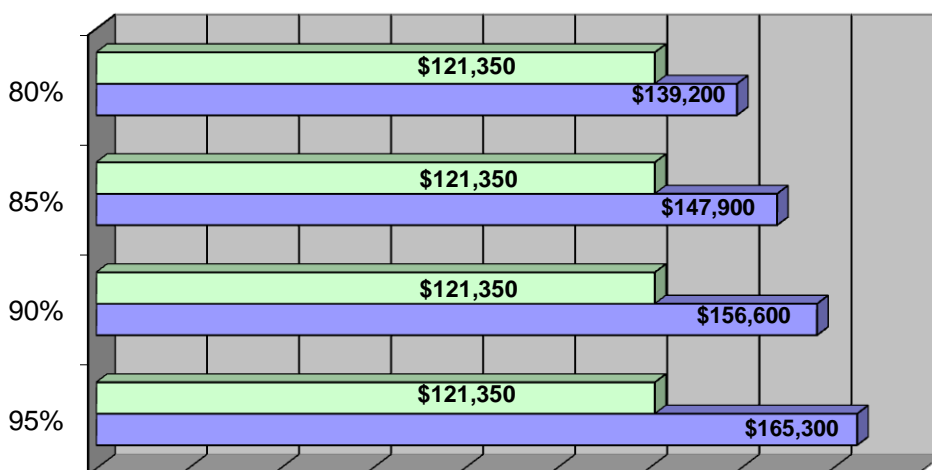
Current Ohio Court of Appeals Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of Current U.S. Circuit Judge Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
■ Current OHCA	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000
■ Projected Salary	\$175,275	\$166,050	\$156,825	\$147,600

## Comparing Ohio Common Pleas versus U.S. District Judges Salaries

Current Ohio Common Pleas Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of U.S. District Judge Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
■ Current OHCP	\$121,350	\$121,350	\$121,350	\$121,350
■ Projected Salary	\$165,300	\$156,600	\$147,900	\$139,200



## Projecting Ohio Municipal Court Salaries based on Proposed Federal Percentage Scenario

In Ohio, a full-time, maximum salary Municipal Court judge earns \$6,950 less than a Common Pleas judge (\$114,400 versus \$121,350). If the proposed formula of setting judicial salaries in Ohio based on a percentage of their federal counterpart's salary is used, as described in this report (see page 12), and the \$6,950 differential were to remain constant, then the following salary projections can be made concerning a full-time Municipal Court judge.

	<b>80% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>85% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>90% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>95% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>
Projected Common Pleas Salary	\$139,200	\$147,900	\$156,600	\$165,300
Projected Municipal Salary (CP less \$6,950)	\$132,250	\$140,950	\$149,650	\$158,350

# APPENDICES

## Appendix A ....Articles Re: Judicial Compensation

The Columbus Dispatch, *“Judges in Ohio rank low in pay, survey says”*

The Wall Street Journal, *“State Courts Concerned about Losing Judges After No Salary Growth”*

Court News Ohio *“NCSC Survey Examines Judicial Salaries Nationwide”*

The New York Times *“Pay Frozen, More New York Judges Leave Bench”*

The New York Times *“Commission Raises N.Y. Judges’ Pay 27% Over 3 Years”*

## Appendix B.....National Center for State Courts Salary Rankings

## Appendix C.....Federal Judicial Salary Chart Since 1968

## Appendix D ....Ohio Judicial Salary History

## Appendix E.....A Statement in Support of Judicial Reform

## Appendix F..... State Total Revenue/Per Capita Revenue Chart



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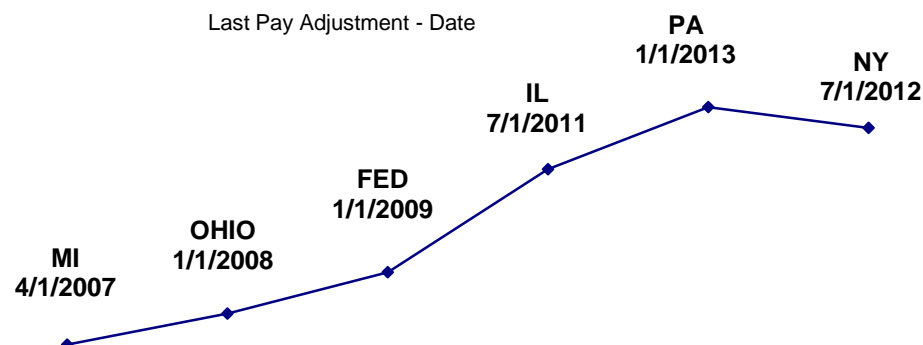
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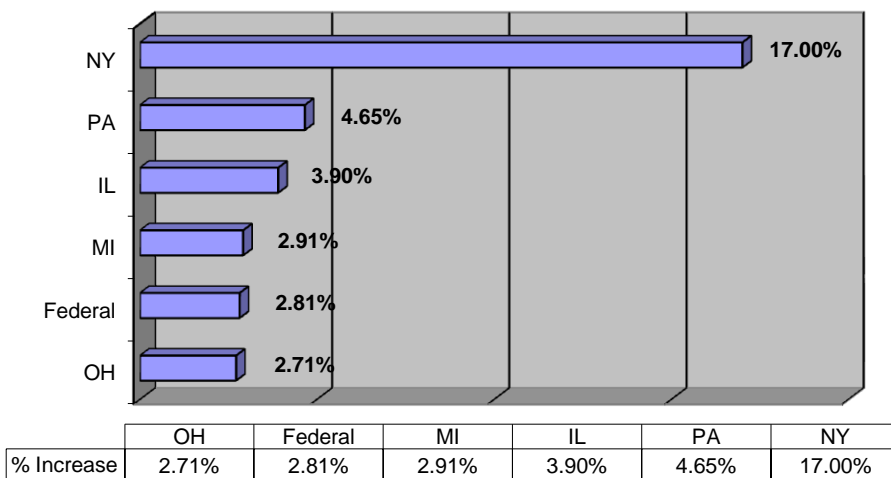
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Last Pay Adjustment - % Increase



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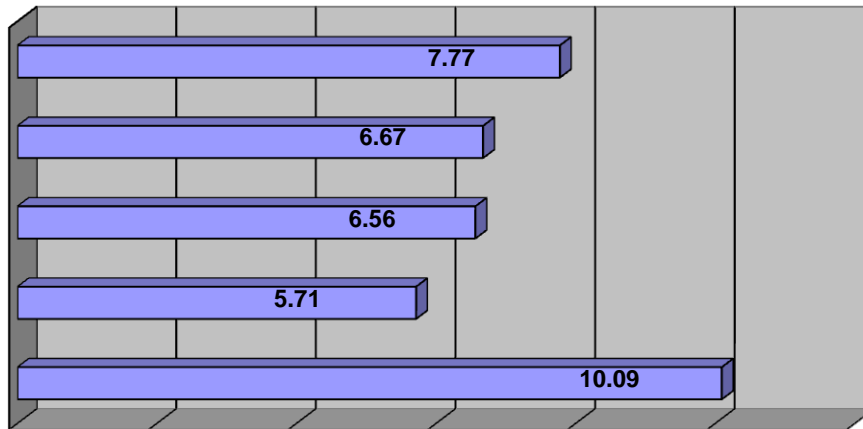
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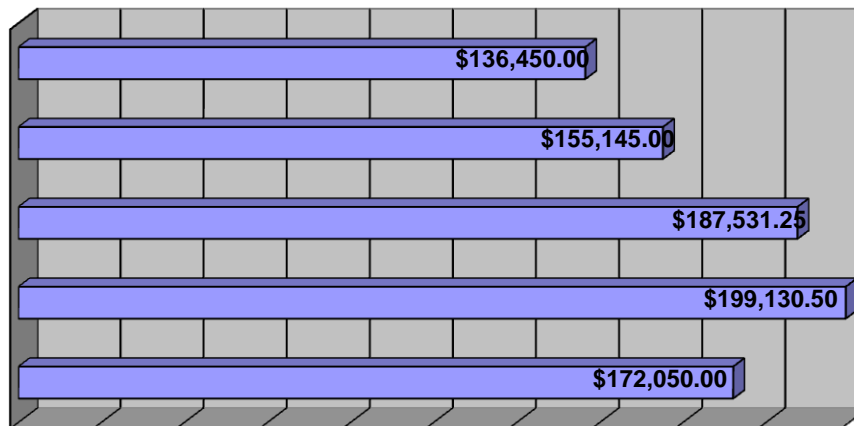
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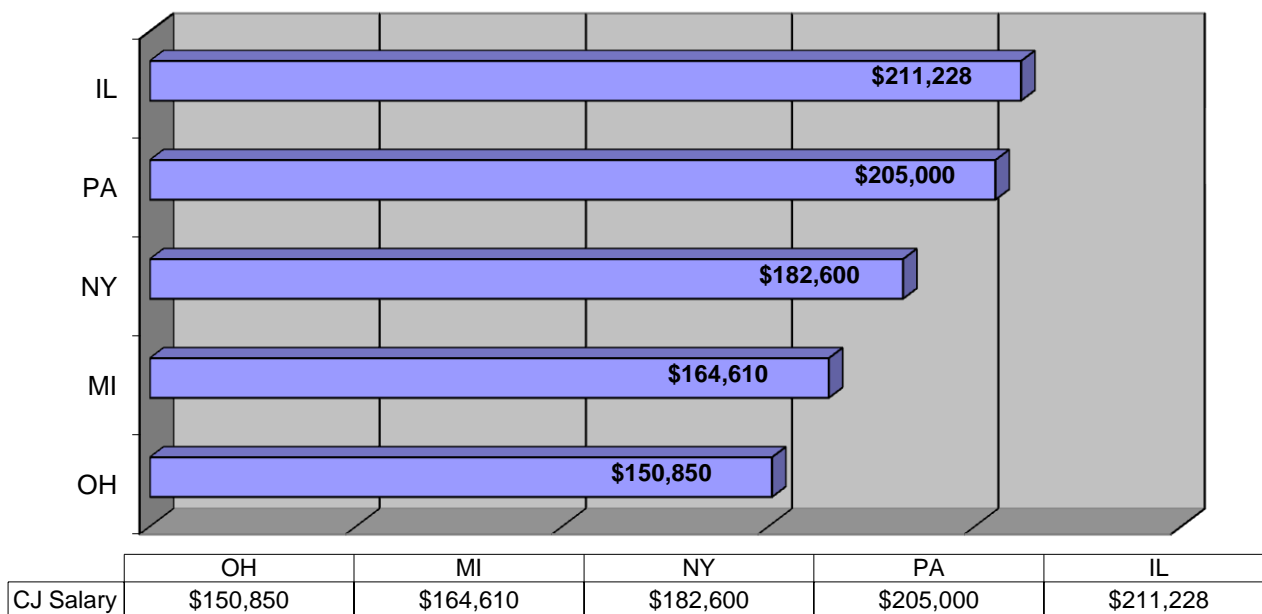


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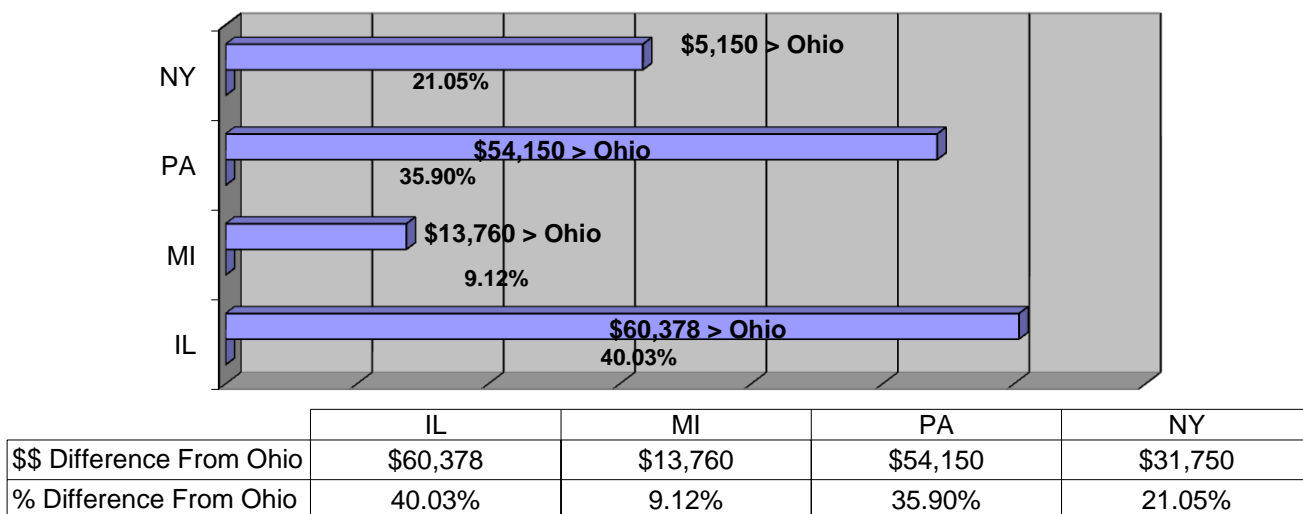
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Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$150,850**

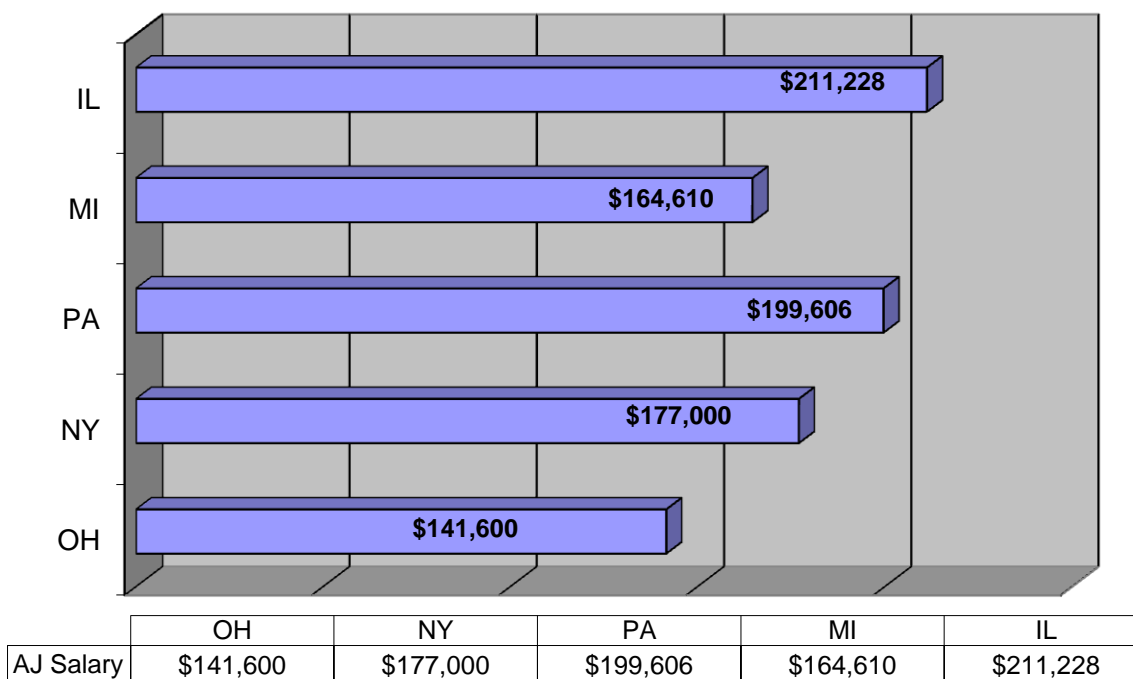




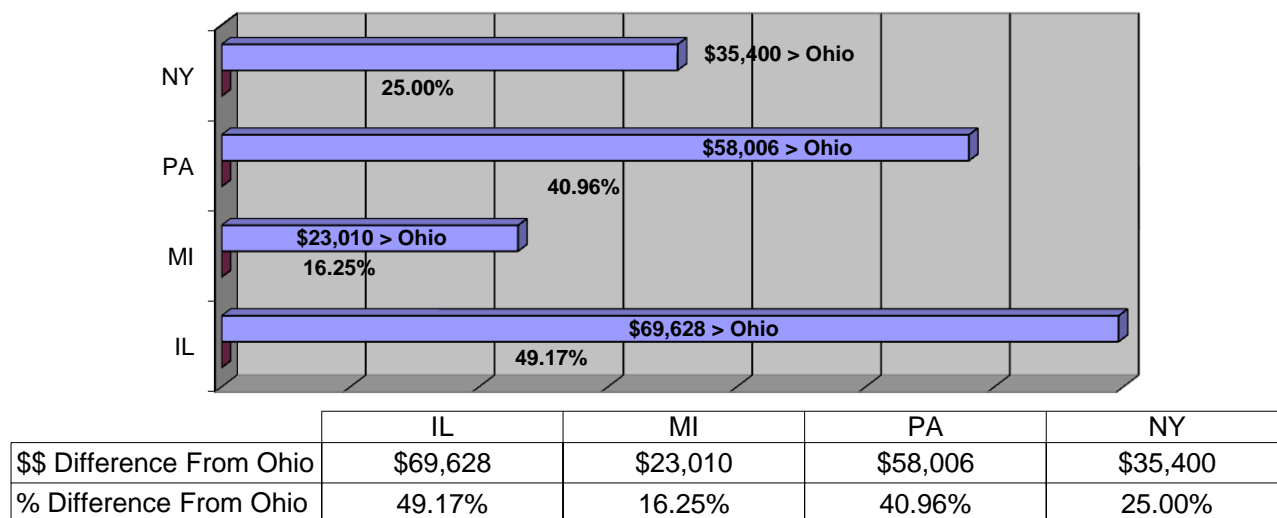
## Associate Justice Salary Comparison

The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary for each Associate Justice in the comparison group, as well as a dollar and percentage difference comparison.

**Associate Justice Salary Comparison**



**Associate Justice Salary Comparison**  
**Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$141,600**



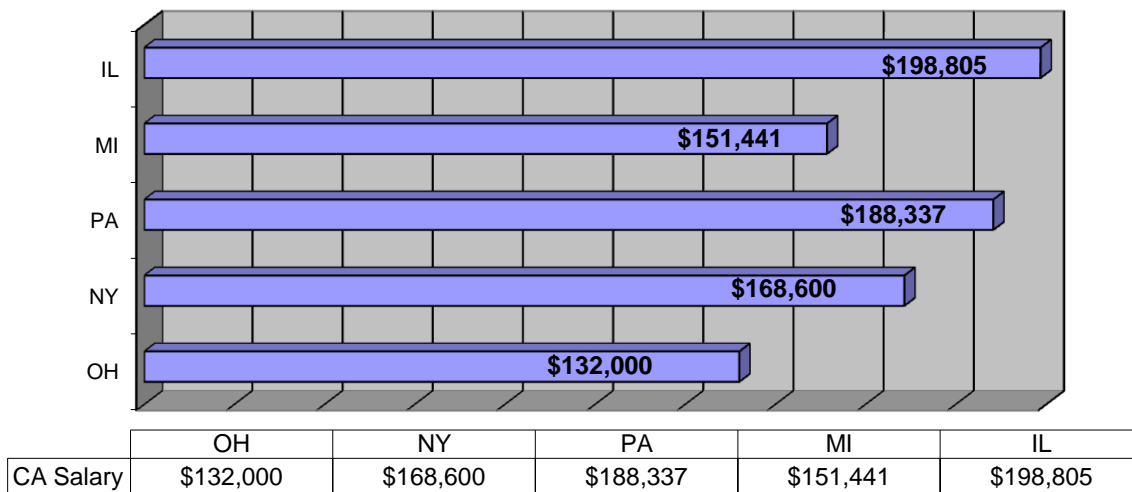
## Court of Appeals Salary Comparison

Salaries for the position of a Court of Appeals judge were compared.

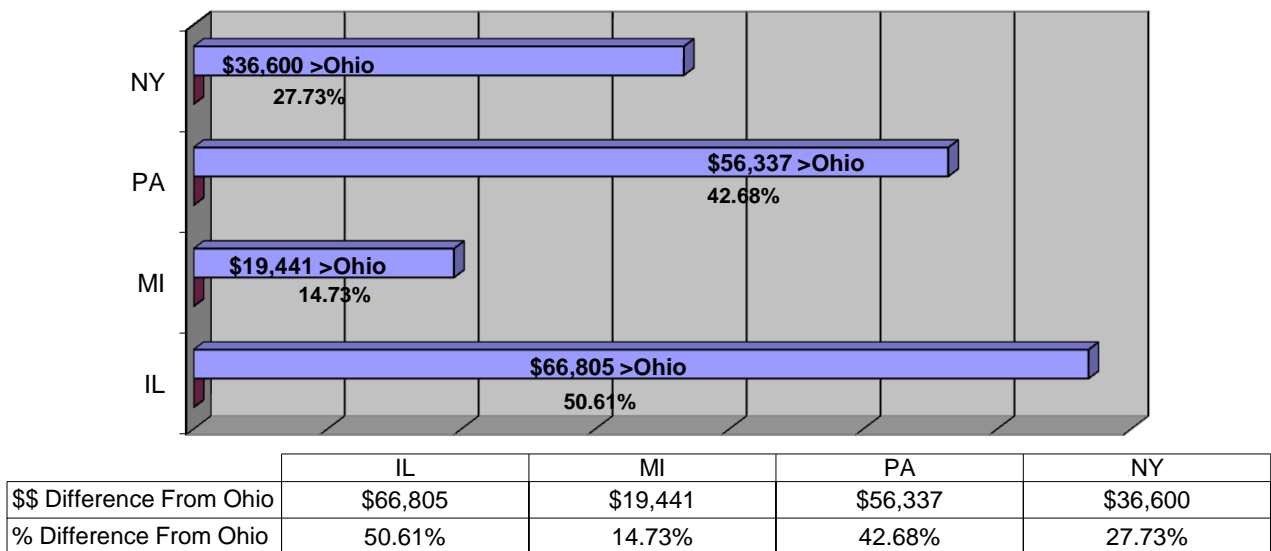
Of interest is the fact that New York lists three (3) different positions and corresponding salaries for Appellate Court judges: (1) Presiding Justice-\$172,800, (2) Associate Justice - \$168,600, and (3) Appellate Terms-\$163,600.

For the purpose of this report the position of "Associate Justice" was selected as the salary as it seemed similar to Ohio's Appellate Court judgeship. The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary for each Appellate Court judge in the comparison group, as well as a dollar and percentage variance comparison.

**Court of Appeals Salary Comparison**



**Court of Appeals Salary Comparison**  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$132,000

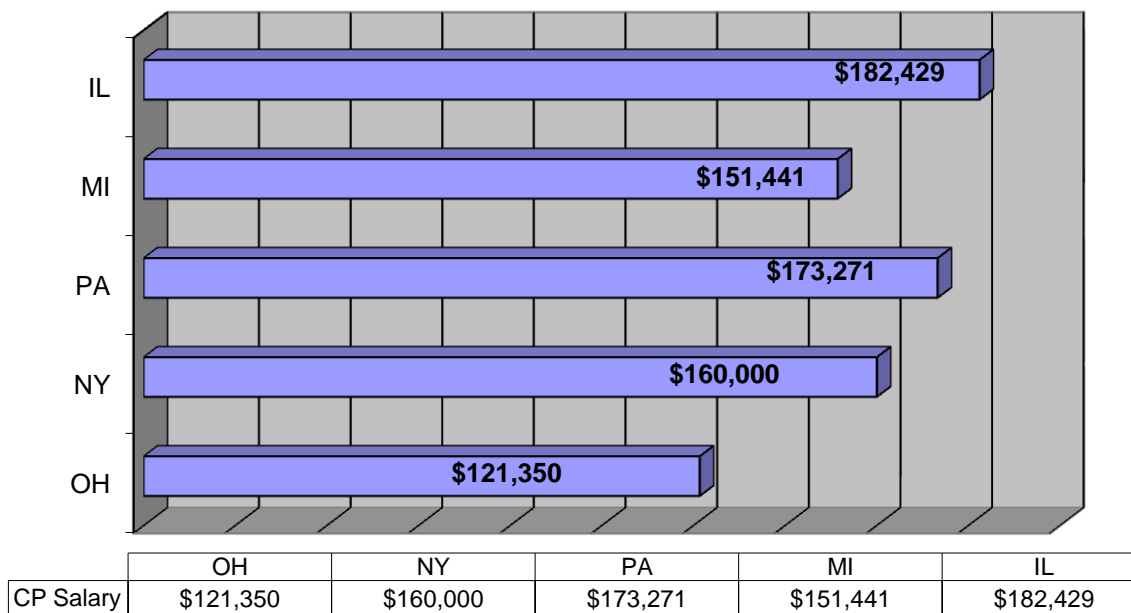


## Common Pleas Salary Comparison

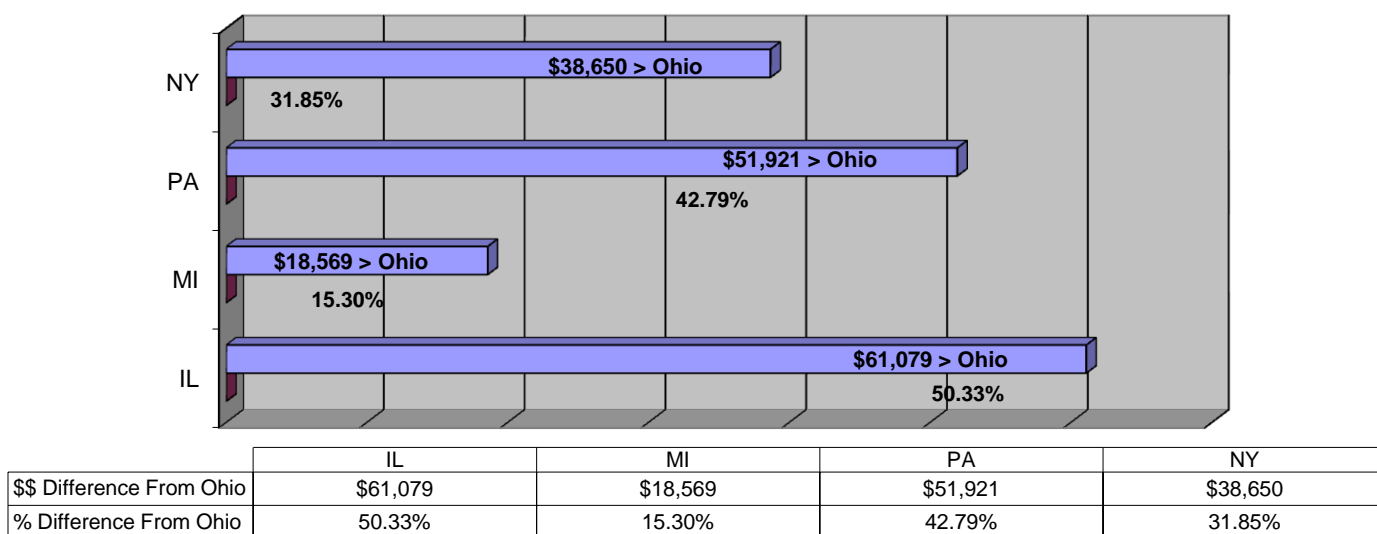
Salaries for the position of a Common Pleas judge were compared. For Pennsylvania, the salary for a Common Pleas judge varies based on the county and the number of judges in a district. Therefore the average between the high and low salary is listed in the underlying table and is used as the basis for dollar and percent comparisons.

The following charts depict a comparison of the annual salary and a dollar and percentage difference comparison.

**Common Pleas Salary Comparison**



**Common Pleas Salary Comparison**  
Dollar and Percent Difference From Ohio's Salary of \$121,350



## Comparison Group Summary Table

	Ohio	Illinois	Michigan	New York	Pennsylvania
Last Pay Adjustment	1/1/2008	7/1/2011	4/1/2007	4/1/2012	1/1/2013
% Increase	2.71 %	3.9%	2.91%	17%	4.65%
<b>Chief Justice</b>					
Salary	\$150,850	\$211,228	\$164,610	\$182,600	\$205,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$60,378	\$13,760	\$31,750	\$54,150
% Difference From Ohio	--	40.03%	9.12%	21.05%	35.90%
<b>Associate Justice</b>					
Salary	\$141,600	\$211,228	\$164,610	\$177,000	\$199,606
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$69,628	\$23,010	\$35,400	\$58,006
% Difference From Ohio	--	49.17%	16.25%	25%	40.96%
<b>Court of Appeals</b>					
Salary	\$132,000	\$198,805	\$151,441	\$168,600	\$188,337
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$66,805	\$19,441	\$36,600	\$56,337
% Difference From Ohio	--	50.61%	14.73%	27.73%	42.68%
<b>Common Pleas</b>					
Salary	\$121,350	\$182,429	\$139,919	\$160,000	\$173,271
\$\$ Difference From Ohio	--	\$61,079	\$18,569	\$38,650	\$51,921
% Difference From Ohio	--	50.33%	15.30%	31.85%	42.79%

## Market Salaries of Lawyers and Law School Professor Salaries

In order for Ohio to maintain its recognized leadership in good government, all Ohio elected officials need to be compensated at a fair market rate. The Ohio Judicial Conference supports market increases for judges and all Ohio elected officials in order to elicit high quality candidates for office.

- **Market Salaries of Lawyers**

New legal associates fresh from law schools with no experience are earning salaries commensurate with compensation earned by Ohio Judges.

### Law Firms – Large Firm / 1st Year Salary

#### Cincinnati

Dinsmore & Shohl	\$ 105,000
Frost, Brown & Todd	\$ 100,000
Graydon, Head & Ritchey	\$ 90,000
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister	\$ 112,500

#### Cleveland

Baker & Hostetler	\$ 120,000
Calfee, Halter & Griswold	\$ 110,000

#### Columbus

Bricker & Eckler	\$ 100,000
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur	\$ 115,000
Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn	\$ 100,000
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey	\$ 130,000
Thompson Hine	\$ 100,000
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease	\$ 120,000

- **Market Salaries of Law School Professors**

Law professors in Ohio and comparable states earn more than Ohio Judges who make real everyday decisions on matters that affect thousands of citizens.

### Law Schools – Full Professor Salaries

#### Ohio

Capital Law School	\$ 154,471
University of Dayton	\$ 116,209
University of Toledo	\$ 125,442
The Ohio State University	\$ 170,648

#### Illinois

University of Illinois	\$ 153,955
------------------------	------------

#### Michigan

University of Michigan	\$ 206,000
------------------------	------------

#### Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh	\$ 155,082
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## Ohio Courts versus Full Professor

This section of the report compares Ohio's Chief and Associate Justices, Court of Appeals, and Common Pleas salaries with that of Full Professors at Ohio universities and a university in a state whose courts are comparable to Ohio's. In addition, it will show the dollar and percentage difference that exist between these salaries.

### Comparison Group Summary Table

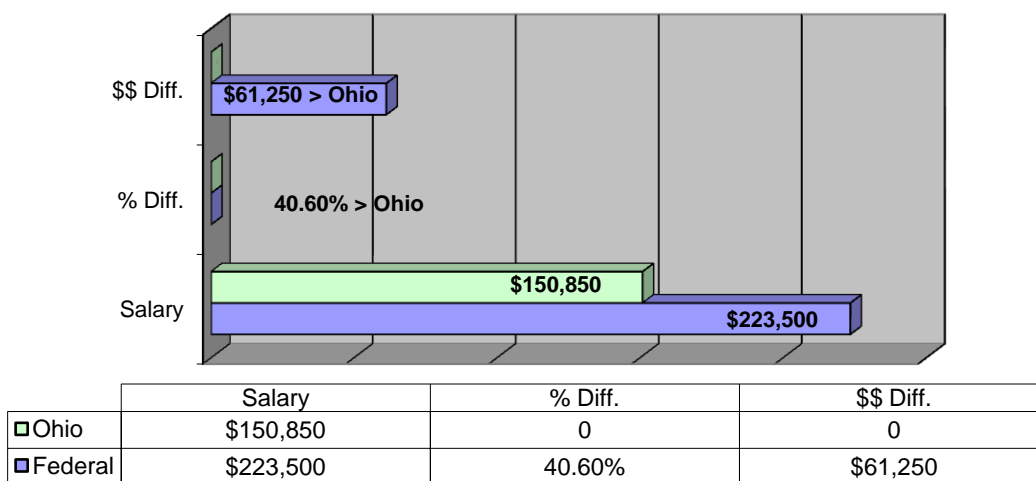
	Ohio Courts	The Ohio State University	Capital University	University of Pittsburgh	University of Michigan
Last Pay Adjustment	1/1/2008	2012	2012	2012	2008
% Increase	2.71 %	-3.13%	9.71%	8.31%	-.048%
<b>Chief Justice</b>					
Salary	\$150,850	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$19,798	\$3,621	\$4,232	\$55,150
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	13.12%	2.40%	2.81%	36.56%
<b>Associate Justice</b>					
Salary	\$141,600	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$29,048	\$12,871	\$13,482	\$64,400
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	20.51%	9.11%	9.52%	45.48%
<b>Court of Appeals</b>					
Salary	\$132,000	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$38,648	\$22,471	\$23,082	\$74,000
% Difference From Ohio Courts	--	29.28%	17.02%	17.51%	56.06%
<b>Common Pleas</b>					
Salary	\$121,350	\$170,648	\$154,471	\$155,082	\$206,000
\$\$ Difference From Ohio Courts	--	\$49,298	\$33,121	\$33,732	\$84,650
% Difference	--	40.62%	27.29%	27.80%	69.76%

## Ohio versus Federal Salary Comparison

Another aspect of this report is to compare Ohio's Chief and Associate Justices, Court of Appeals, and Common Pleas salaries with their federal counterparts. This section of the report will accomplish this. In addition, charts will show the dollar and percentage difference that exists between these salaries.

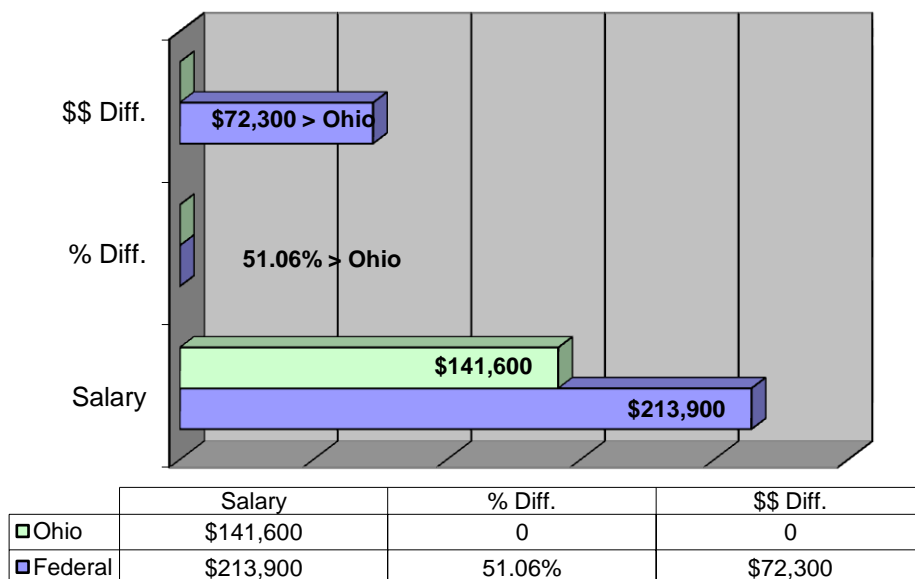
### Comparing Ohio versus U.S. Chief Justice Salaries

Ohio Chief Justice vs. U.S. Chief Justice  
Salary Comparison



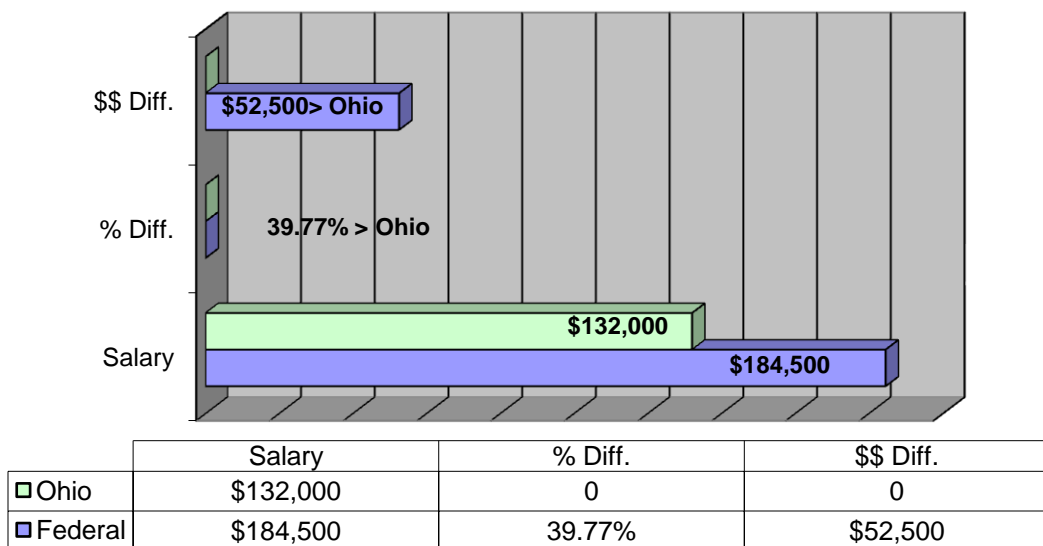
### Comparing Associate Justice Salaries

Ohio Associate Justice vs. U.S. Associate Justice  
Salary Comparison



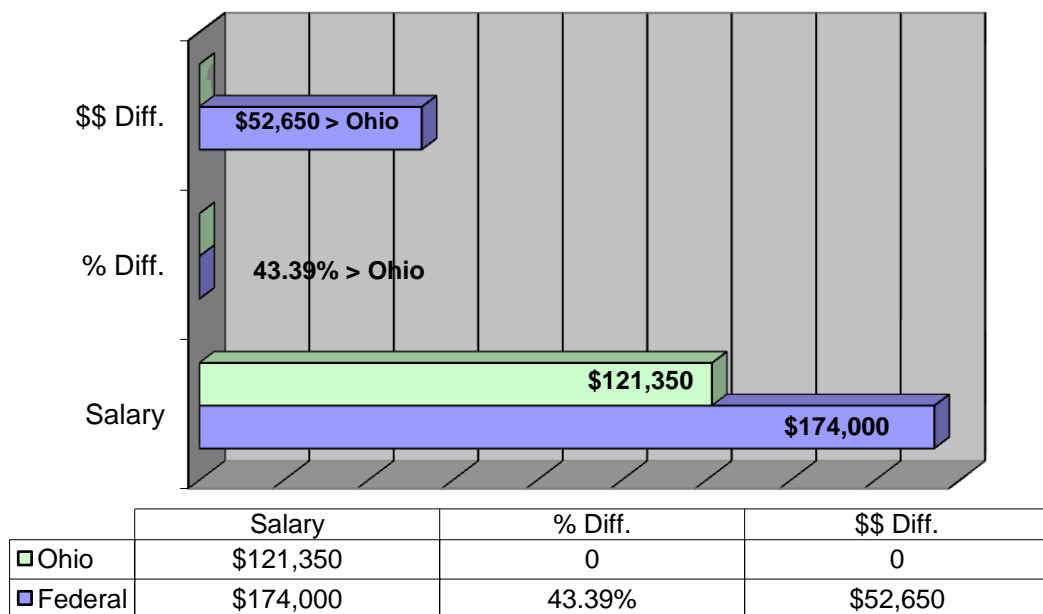
## Comparing Ohio Appellate versus U.S. Circuit Judges Salaries

Ohio Court of Appeals vs. U.S. Circuit Judge  
Salary Comparison



## Comparing Ohio Common Pleas versus U.S. District Judges Salaries

Ohio Common Pleas vs. U.S. District Judge  
Salary Comparison



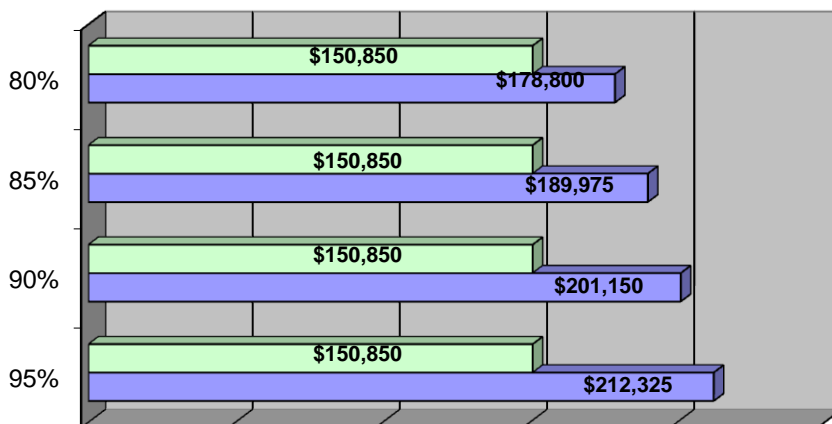


## Current Ohio Judicial Salaries Compared to Percentages of Federal Judicial Salaries

A formula currently under consideration is to set judicial salaries in Ohio based on a percentage of their federal counterpart's salary. This section provides a graphical comparison between the current salary of the judges with the projected salary of the judge at specific percentages. The percentages of the federal salaries explored are 95, 90, 85 and 80 percent. As noted earlier, the latest Federal pay raise took place in 2009, with a 2.81% increase.

### Comparing Chief Justice Salaries

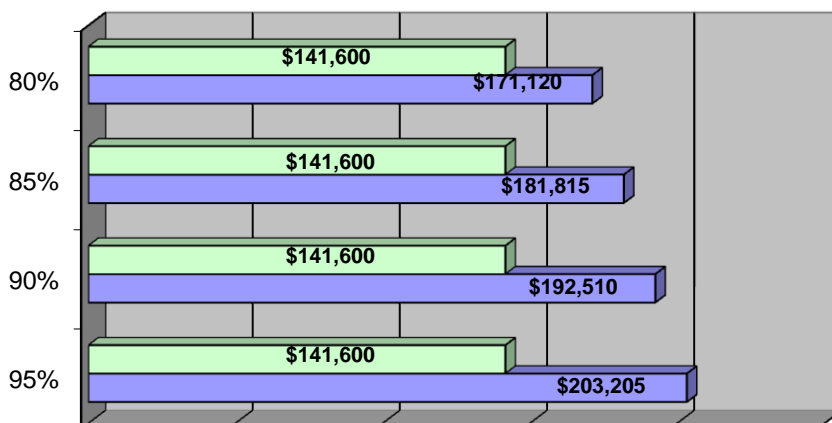
Current Ohio Associate Justice Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of Current U.S. Associate Justice Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHAJ	\$150,850	\$150,850	\$150,850	\$150,850
Projected Salary	\$212,325	\$201,150	\$189,975	\$178,800

### Comparing Associate Justice Salaries

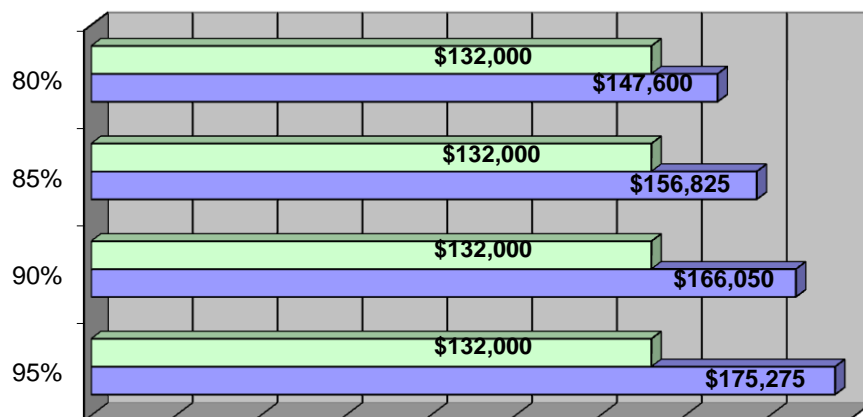
Current Ohio Associate Justice Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of Current U.S. Associate Justice Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHAJ	\$141,600	\$141,600	\$141,600	\$141,600
Projected Salary	\$203,205	\$192,510	\$181,815	\$171,120

## Comparing Ohio Appellate versus U.S. Circuit Judges Salaries

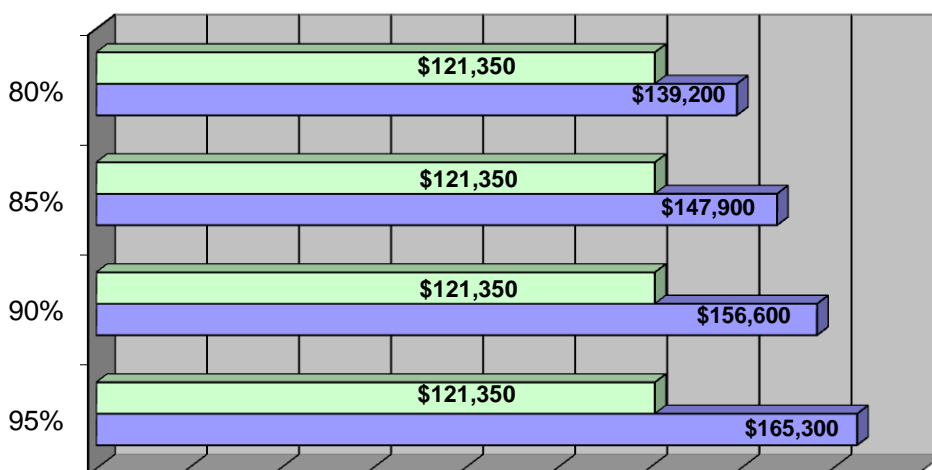
Current Ohio Court of Appeals Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of Current U.S. Circuit Judge Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHCA	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000
Projected Salary	\$175,275	\$166,050	\$156,825	\$147,600

## Comparing Ohio Common Pleas versus U.S. District Judges Salaries

Current Ohio Common Pleas Salary Compared to a Projected Salary  
Tied to a Percentage of U.S. District Judge Salary



	95%	90%	85%	80%
Current OHCP	\$121,350	\$121,350	\$121,350	\$121,350
Projected Salary	\$165,300	\$156,600	\$147,900	\$139,200

## Projecting Ohio Municipal Court Salaries based on Proposed Federal Percentage Scenario

In Ohio, a full-time, maximum salary Municipal Court judge earns \$6,950 less than a Common Pleas judge (\$114,400 versus \$121,350). If the proposed formula of setting judicial salaries in Ohio based on a percentage of their federal counterpart's salary is used, as described in this report (see page 12), and the \$6,950 differential were to remain constant, then the following salary projections can be made concerning a full-time Municipal Court judge.

	<b>80% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>85% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>90% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>	<b>95% of U.S. District Judge Salary</b>
Projected Common Pleas Salary	\$139,200	\$147,900	\$156,600	\$165,300
Projected Municipal Salary (CP less \$6,950)	\$132,250	\$140,950	\$149,650	\$158,350

# APPENDICES

## Appendix A ....Articles Re: Judicial Compensation

The Columbus Dispatch, *“Judges in Ohio rank low in pay, survey says”*

The Wall Street Journal, *“State Courts Concerned about Losing Judges After No Salary Growth”*

Court News Ohio *“NCSC Survey Examines Judicial Salaries Nationwide”*

The New York Times *“Pay Frozen, More New York Judges Leave Bench”*

The New York Times *“Commission Raises N.Y. Judges’ Pay 27% Over 3 Years”*

## Appendix B.....National Center for State Courts Salary Rankings

## Appendix C.....Federal Judicial Salary Chart Since 1968

## Appendix D ....Ohio Judicial Salary History

## Appendix E.....A Statement in Support of Judicial Reform

## Appendix F..... State Total Revenue/Per Capita Revenue Chart

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Judges in Ohio rank low in pay, survey says

By Alan Johnson

*The Columbus Dispatch* Saturday July 21, 2012 5:17 AM

The dampened economy is affecting a little-discussed group: judges.

Judicial salaries nationwide have slipped below the rate of inflation, according to a survey done annually by the National Center for State Courts.

Ohio judges, from the Supreme Court to municipal level, have not received a raise since 2008. In Ohio, judicial salaries are set by the General Assembly.

Nationally, state court judges received an average 0.63 percent salary increase last year, the survey showed. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation, rose 3.2 percent in 2011.

The survey, now in its 30th year, provides the benchmark for compensation for state judges. It does not include the federal judiciary.

The Ohio Supreme Court, which issued a release about the survey, noted that Ohio ranks “in the bottom half for each category” nationally. The state was 33rd for the Supreme Court, 30th for appellate courts, and 41st for common pleas trial courts.

Ohio Supreme Court justices are paid \$141,600 annually, far below California’s \$218,237. Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor is paid \$150,850, less than the average \$157,759 for comparable top court judges in other states and well below California’s \$228,856.

Ohio appellate judges receive \$132,000, common pleas judges \$121,350, full-time municipal judges \$114,000, and part-time municipal and county court judges \$65,650.

The survey cites a decline in judicial pay increases as the economy hit the skids in recent years. Increases averaged 3.24 percent annually from 2003-07, dipped to 1.67 percent in 2008-09, and to less than 1 percent in 2010 and 2011.

[ajohnson@dispatch.com](mailto:ajohnson@dispatch.com)

July 24, 2012, 11:07 AM ET

## State Courts Concerned about Losing Judges After No Salary Growth

State judicial salaries have flatlined over the past two years, and state courts are worried about experienced judges leaving, leading to slower handling of cases and more case overturns.

Nationwide, judicial salaries are increasing at a yearly rate of less than 1%, according to the National Center for State Court's [Survey of Judicial Salaries](#).

The report looked at salary data between 2007 and January 1, 2012 for judges in all 50 states. It found that these judicial salary increases essentially flatlined, increasing less than 1% nationwide compared with pre-recession pay rates between 2003 and 2007, which rose on average around 3.24% per year.

"Judges are like anybody, they want to know they're advancing in life," said Greg Hurley, an analyst for NCSC that worked on the report. "An experienced mechanic would be able to fix your car faster and do a better job, and it's the same with judges."

Judiciaries have been losing judges to higher-paying jobs for years now, usually at private law firms which can pay well over \$1 million year, Law Blog reports [here](#). Mr. Hurley says that if the judicial salaries aren't competitive, talented and diverse types of legal practitioners will turn to private practice over the bench.

Judges make anywhere from \$115,000 to \$229,000, and while that salary range is no small potatoes, the temptation of the pay raise at a large private law firm has clearly been a temptation many judges couldn't resist.

The stagnant judicial salaries are symptoms of a wider nationwide state court [budget crisis](#).

"The economy's getting better but the state governments are still really struggling. There's really no end to this in sight," Mr. Hurley said.

States courts have been forced to cut costs in response to tightening government budgets during the fiscal crisis. They have delayed filling vacancies, increased fees and fines, reduced hours of operation and increased backlog where cases sit pending for much longer than they should be.

Nearly all states, [42 in all](#), have resorted to some form of salary freeze. And [13 states](#) have even reduced salaries to cut costs.

The state with the highest judicial salaries is California, a state wracked with debt and with courts suffering from budget cuts and staff layoffs. The average judicial salary in the highest court in California is just over \$218,000 and in the intermediate appellate courts an average salary of \$204,600. California's court system lost \$300 million in state appropriations for the 2012 fiscal year, going from \$3.9 billion to \$3.6 billion.

South Dakota has the lowest judicial salary in the country with an average salary of around \$118,000.

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## MOST SHARED

### HAPPENING NOW

# NCSC Survey Examines Judicial Salaries Nationwide

By Bret Crow | July 20, 2012



Judges salaries nationwide and in Ohio are not keeping pace with inflation, according to an annual report released last week.

The 2011 survey of judicial salaries shows an average increase of slightly more than one-half of 1 percent from the year before, while inflation rose 3.2 percent in 2011 based on Consumer Price Index data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Published for nearly 30 years by the National Center for State Courts, the survey serves as the primary record of compensation for state judicial officers and state court administrators. The survey uses figures for courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts and general jurisdiction trial courts to calculate the average increase from one year to the next.

While a handful of states experienced slight salary increases for judges last year, Ohio did not. In fact, there's been no salary increase for Ohio judges since 2008. The chief justice and justices on the Ohio Supreme Court make \$150,850 and \$141,600 annually. Courts of appeals judges are paid \$132,000 per year. Common pleas judges earn \$121,350 each year. As for full-time municipal court judges, their salaries are \$114,100 while part-time municipal court judges and county court judges have annual salaries of \$65,650. View more detailed information of [judges' salaries in Ohio](#).

As far as where states rank in the survey, Ohio is in the bottom half for each category: 33 for highest court, 30 for intermediate appellate courts and 41 for general jurisdiction trial courts.

View the [survey](#).

The New York Times

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July 4, 2011

## Pay Frozen, More New York Judges Leave Bench

By [WILLIAM GLABERSON](#)

There is perhaps no more fitting finale to a long legal career than a judgeship. Ascending the bench after years appearing before it can bring power, respect, personal satisfaction, reasonable hours and, often, free parking. There have traditionally been few steps beyond: Retirement. Or death.

But across the country — and in New York, more than most places — being a judge has in recent years come with one big negative: the salary. New York judges have not had a raise in 12 years, making the state one of the more extreme examples of a growing pay gap nationally between judges and other professionals, including partners at top law firms, who can earn 10 times the salary of the judge before whom they are arguing a case.

Now, for the first time in memory, judges are leaving the bench in relatively large numbers — not to retire, but to return to being practicing lawyers. Turnover in New York has increased rapidly in the last few years: nearly 1 in 10 judges are now leaving annually, a new study shows.

In New York State, at least a dozen have resigned and explicitly cited the pay. The latest is James M. McGuire, a judge on the intermediate state appeals court in Manhattan, who last week resigned his position at the white marble courthouse on Madison Avenue. His judicial salary was \$144,000. He stepped down to be a partner at a law firm, Dechert LLP, where average partner pay is \$1.4 million.

New York, as the state with what officials say is the longest judicial pay freeze, is the focus of a national debate about whether controversial rulings, court corruption and politicized judicial campaigns have so eroded support for courts that there is no constituency for increasing judges' pay. "I never expected to get rich as a judge, but I never expected to get poor either," said Robert A. Spolzino, who resigned as an appellate judge in Brooklyn two years ago to return to law practice.

Judges in New York were the best paid nationally in the 1970s. But their salaries [now are ranked 46th](#) in the country when measured by the cost of living, according to the [National Center for State Courts](#).

Critics contend that some judges do not work very hard and that many of them would never earn the profession's top pay. Eric A. Posner, a University of Chicago law professor, argued in a law review article in 2009 with two other law professors that there was no evidence that better-paid judges did a better job.



“The absence of raises,” he wrote in a recent e-mail exchange, “is a problem only if judges weren’t overpaid to begin with.”

Indeed, in a series of interviews, judges acknowledged that it could be difficult to make the case for a judicial pay raise in hard economic times. Justices of New York’s highest-level trial court, the State Supreme Court, make \$136,700. The chief judge of the state makes \$156,000. Across the country, “there is a devaluing of the job that judges do,” so there is little pressure to pay them well, said Seth S. Andersen, the executive director of the [American Judicature Society](#) in Des Moines, which studies and evaluates judicial systems.

Current and former judges described the pressures they felt in fending off offers and trying to pay for mortgages and tuition bills. Mr. Spolzino, 52, said he had expected that he would remain until retirement, as judges did in the past.

“It’s very heady when you walk into a room and everybody rises, people laugh at your jokes,” he said.

Emily Jane Goodman, a State Supreme Court justice in Manhattan, said the practical effect of her stalled pay was that she had to sell a summer home in the Hamptons and was having trouble paying for increasing fees on her two-bedroom apartment in the city.

“Here I am,” Justice Goodman said, “in a position where I’m working to achieve justice for other people and I don’t feel that I’m experiencing justice.”

On one of his final days at the Appellate Division on Madison Avenue, Justice McGuire, who was once chief counsel to Gov. George E. Pataki, said he had grown increasingly dismayed as the state failed year after year to raise judicial pay.

“I tormented myself for the longest period of time about whether I should go, because I love the work,” he said. “And then I realized, ‘I’ve got no choice. The only responsible thing for my family is to go.’ ” Justice McGuire, 57, has two children, ages 5 and 3.

In New York, the financial pressures are particularly intense because top law firms compete to hire lawyers — and, now, judges. In response to questions for this article, the state’s Office of Court Administration studied judicial attrition. The analysis found that in 1999, 48 of the 1,300 state judges left their positions. Last year, 110 judges left, with the number of departures increasing sharply over the last five years.

New York’s chief judge, Jonathan Lippman, said in an interview that the departures showed only part of the problem. “Why would a talented lawyer,” Judge Lippman asked, “want to join an institution that hasn’t had even a cost of living increase in 12 years?”

The State Legislature's failure to increase judicial pay since 1999 was the subject of bitter political disputes and court battles before legislation passed in November creating a commission on judicial salaries. It is expected to decide by September whether state judicial salaries will increase and by how much.

Nationally, many judicial salaries have lagged behind the pay not only of top lawyers, but also of some academics, school administrators, elected officials and even some courthouse employees. In New York City, some law clerks earn more than the judges they work for.

The chief justice of the United States, John G. Roberts Jr., has noted that federal judicial salaries have slipped below the pay of top law school deans and other law professors and has said the pay gap could undermine the strength of the federal courts.

The salaries of state trial judges nationally rose 34 percent to a median of \$116,100 in the decade ending in 2005. But during the same period, the median partners' share of profits at large law firms jumped 141 percent to \$957,500, Roy A. Schotland, an emeritus law professor at Georgetown, showed in a law review article. In an interview, Professor Schotland, who studies state courts, said that, nationally, stagnant pay was "the single most important problem for our courts."

**The New York Times**

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August 26, 2011

## **Commission Raises N.Y. Judges' Pay 27% Over 3 Years**

By **WILLIAM GLABERSON**

A state commission decided on Friday to increase the pay of the more than 1,200 New York State judges by 27 percent over three years, ending a decade of battles in Albany and the courts, and giving judges their first raise in 12 years.

The seven-member commission, appointed by the leaders of all three branches of government, had been expected to grant a raise. Still, the amount it settled on was considered very modest — and some judges even expressed bitter disappointment.

The commission voted 4 to 3 to approve the increase, with its members sharply divided in a brief meeting in Lower Manhattan that included accusations of political grandstanding. The dissenters said the raises were too small.

Over years of legislative and legal struggles on the judicial-pay issue, New York's judges, once among the best paid nationally, slipped to being among the lowest paid.

The increase was small compared with some proposed ones that had called for judicial raises across the court system of as much as 60 percent.

The commission was created under a bill passed last year to try to resolve one of the most contentious and long-stalled issues in state government. "This is a start at correcting the injustice that has been done to New York State's judiciary over more than a decade of neglect," said the commission's chairman, William C. Thompson Jr., the former New York City comptroller.

But Mr. Thompson and other members of the commission also said that the fragile state economy required restraint. Under the commission's decision, the highest level of trial judges in the state, the justices of the State Supreme Court, would receive an increase to \$174,000 from the current \$136,700, phased in over three years. That would match the salary of United States District Court judges. The raises for all the judges would cost the state about \$50 million a year when they are fully implemented.

The creation of the commission was an effort to minimize political fallout from what was likely to be an unpopular decision in a time of budget cutbacks.

The three commission members appointed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo were joined in voting for the proposal by the appointee of the Assembly speaker, Sheldon Silver, who, like the governor, is a Democrat. The two appointees of the state's chief judge, Jonathan Lippman, opposed it as inadequate, as did the appointee of the leader of the State Senate, Dean G. Skelos, a Republican. The Cuomo administration had expressed concern about a large judicial pay raise, so it was not unexpected that the governor's appointees would limit the increase.

The raises will go into effect next spring unless they are overruled or modified by legislation passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the governor. Mr. Thompson said he hoped the size of the increase would dissuade the Legislature and the governor from seeking to overturn the decision, which he said would be "disastrous" for the judiciary.

The commission's decision would govern judicial pay for four years, after which time another commission would revisit the issue. The pay increase would apply to judges from low-level courts like New York City Civil Court and Criminal Court to the members of the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The salary of Supreme Court justices had been viewed as a benchmark, with the commission agreeing to keep in place the relative differences in pay across a complex state court system with many pay levels.

The salary of judges in Criminal Court who earn \$125,600, for example, would increase proportionally over the next three years, to \$160,100. The salary of the chief judge of the state would go from \$156,000 to \$198,600.

Judges have argued that the pay stagnation forced some judges to leave the bench. On Friday, some judges said the decision would amplify dissatisfaction in the judiciary. "I think it's very demoralizing," said Judge Margaret Parisi McGowan of Queens Family Court.

Phillip R. Rumsey, president of the state association of Supreme Court justices, said the salary levels in New York "will continue to reflect the low regard that other branches of state government apparently have for the judiciary."

Judge Lippman said that he was disappointed that the raise was not larger and that it would be phased in over three years.

Judge Lippman was deeply involved in the plan to create the commission and said at the time that it was the "holy grail" to remove negotiations over judicial salaries from the political process. Asked Friday if the decision was a setback, Judge Lippman said the commission had been successful because it ended with a pay increase at a time of economic crisis.

"We live in the real world," he said. "We see what's happening in Washington and in our own state. We see what's happening in the stock market."

The commission had always appeared divided 3 to 3 over how generous an increase would be, with Mr. Silver's appointee, James Tallon Jr., a former Democratic member of the Assembly, holding the decisive seventh vote. The increase that was approved, Mr. Tallon said Friday, "balances all of the factors that are out there, including an economy that has tanked."

But in a switch of usual roles, in which Republicans criticize Democrats for spending, Mark S. Mulholland, Mr. Skelos's appointee, criticized Mr. Tallon.

Mr. Mulholland said the Republican-controlled Senate stood with the judges in seeking higher pay. He said that by bringing the salaries of State Supreme Court justices to \$174,000 instead of \$190,000 or higher, the state would be continuing what he called its neglect of the judiciary. He said he was "disappointed" that Mr. Tallon had "not seen fit to close ranks with me." One of Mr. Cuomo's appointees, Richard B. Cotton, criticized Mr. Mulholland, a Long Island lawyer, saying it was "highly unfortunate to inject scoring political points into this discussion."

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## MOST SHARED

### HAPPENING NOW

# NCSC Survey Examines Judicial Salaries Nationwide

By Bret Crow | July 20, 2012



Judges salaries nationwide and in Ohio are not keeping pace with inflation, according to an annual report released last week.

The 2011 survey of judicial salaries shows an average increase of slightly more than one-half of 1 percent from the year before, while inflation rose 3.2 percent in 2011 based on Consumer Price Index data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Published for nearly 30 years by the National Center for State Courts, the survey serves as the primary record of compensation for state judicial officers and state court administrators. The survey uses figures for courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts and general jurisdiction trial courts to calculate the average increase from one year to the next.

While a handful of states experienced slight salary increases for judges last year, Ohio did not. In fact, there's been no salary increase for Ohio judges since 2008. The chief justice and justices on the Ohio Supreme Court make \$150,850 and \$141,600 annually. Courts of appeals judges are paid \$132,000 per year. Common pleas judges earn \$121,350 each year. As for full-time municipal court judges, their salaries are \$114,100 while part-time municipal court judges and county court judges have annual salaries of \$65,650. View more detailed information of [judges' salaries in Ohio](#).

As far as where states rank in the survey, Ohio is in the bottom half for each category: 33 for highest court, 30 for intermediate appellate courts and 41 for general jurisdiction trial courts.

View the [survey](#).

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Judges in Ohio rank low in pay, survey says

By Alan Johnson

*The Columbus Dispatch* Saturday July 21, 2012 5:17 AM

The dampened economy is affecting a little-discussed group: judges.

Judicial salaries nationwide have slipped below the rate of inflation, according to a survey done annually by the National Center for State Courts.

Ohio judges, from the Supreme Court to municipal level, have not received a raise since 2008. In Ohio, judicial salaries are set by the General Assembly.

Nationally, state court judges received an average 0.63 percent salary increase last year, the survey showed. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation, rose 3.2 percent in 2011.

The survey, now in its 30th year, provides the benchmark for compensation for state judges. It does not include the federal judiciary.

The Ohio Supreme Court, which issued a release about the survey, noted that Ohio ranks “in the bottom half for each category” nationally. The state was 33rd for the Supreme Court, 30th for appellate courts, and 41st for common pleas trial courts.

Ohio Supreme Court justices are paid \$141,600 annually, far below California’s \$218,237. Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor is paid \$150,850, less than the average \$157,759 for comparable top court judges in other states and well below California’s \$228,856.

Ohio appellate judges receive \$132,000, common pleas judges \$121,350, full-time municipal judges \$114,000, and part-time municipal and county court judges \$65,650.

The survey cites a decline in judicial pay increases as the economy hit the skids in recent years. Increases averaged 3.24 percent annually from 2003-07, dipped to 1.67 percent in 2008-09, and to less than 1 percent in 2010 and 2011.

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**The New York Times**

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August 26, 2011

## **Commission Raises N.Y. Judges' Pay 27% Over 3 Years**

By **WILLIAM GLABERSON**

A state commission decided on Friday to increase the pay of the more than 1,200 New York State judges by 27 percent over three years, ending a decade of battles in Albany and the courts, and giving judges their first raise in 12 years.

The seven-member commission, appointed by the leaders of all three branches of government, had been expected to grant a raise. Still, the amount it settled on was considered very modest — and some judges even expressed bitter disappointment.

The commission voted 4 to 3 to approve the increase, with its members sharply divided in a brief meeting in Lower Manhattan that included accusations of political grandstanding. The dissenters said the raises were too small.

Over years of legislative and legal struggles on the judicial-pay issue, New York's judges, once among the best paid nationally, slipped to being among the lowest paid.

The increase was small compared with some proposed ones that had called for judicial raises across the court system of as much as 60 percent.

The commission was created under a bill passed last year to try to resolve one of the most contentious and long-stalled issues in state government. "This is a start at correcting the injustice that has been done to New York State's judiciary over more than a decade of neglect," said the commission's chairman, William C. Thompson Jr., the former New York City comptroller.

But Mr. Thompson and other members of the commission also said that the fragile state economy required restraint. Under the commission's decision, the highest level of trial judges in the state, the justices of the State Supreme Court, would receive an increase to \$174,000 from the current \$136,700, phased in over three years. That would match the salary of United States District Court judges. The raises for all the judges would cost the state about \$50 million a year when they are fully implemented.

The creation of the commission was an effort to minimize political fallout from what was likely to be an unpopular decision in a time of budget cutbacks.



The three commission members appointed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo were joined in voting for the proposal by the appointee of the Assembly speaker, Sheldon Silver, who, like the governor, is a Democrat. The two appointees of the state's chief judge, Jonathan Lippman, opposed it as inadequate, as did the appointee of the leader of the State Senate, Dean G. Skelos, a Republican. The Cuomo administration had expressed concern about a large judicial pay raise, so it was not unexpected that the governor's appointees would limit the increase.

The raises will go into effect next spring unless they are overruled or modified by legislation passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the governor. Mr. Thompson said he hoped the size of the increase would dissuade the Legislature and the governor from seeking to overturn the decision, which he said would be "disastrous" for the judiciary.

The commission's decision would govern judicial pay for four years, after which time another commission would revisit the issue. The pay increase would apply to judges from low-level courts like New York City Civil Court and Criminal Court to the members of the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The salary of Supreme Court justices had been viewed as a benchmark, with the commission agreeing to keep in place the relative differences in pay across a complex state court system with many pay levels.

The salary of judges in Criminal Court who earn \$125,600, for example, would increase proportionally over the next three years, to \$160,100. The salary of the chief judge of the state would go from \$156,000 to \$198,600.

Judges have argued that the pay stagnation forced some judges to leave the bench. On Friday, some judges said the decision would amplify dissatisfaction in the judiciary. "I think it's very demoralizing," said Judge Margaret Parisi McGowan of Queens Family Court.

Phillip R. Rumsey, president of the state association of Supreme Court justices, said the salary levels in New York "will continue to reflect the low regard that other branches of state government apparently have for the judiciary."

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Asked about the comments, Mr. Silver said he had not spoken to Mr. Tallon about his vote, adding that "an independent commission was created to take the decision away from the Legislature and away from political finger-pointing."

The New York Times

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July 4, 2011

## Pay Frozen, More New York Judges Leave Bench

By [WILLIAM GLABERSON](#)

There is perhaps no more fitting finale to a long legal career than a judgeship. Ascending the bench after years appearing before it can bring power, respect, personal satisfaction, reasonable hours and, often, free parking. There have traditionally been few steps beyond: Retirement. Or death.

But across the country — and in New York, more than most places — being a judge has in recent years come with one big negative: the salary. New York judges have not had a raise in 12 years, making the state one of the more extreme examples of a growing pay gap nationally between judges and other professionals, including partners at top law firms, who can earn 10 times the salary of the judge before whom they are arguing a case.

Now, for the first time in memory, judges are leaving the bench in relatively large numbers — not to retire, but to return to being practicing lawyers. Turnover in New York has increased rapidly in the last few years: nearly 1 in 10 judges are now leaving annually, a new study shows.

In New York State, at least a dozen have resigned and explicitly cited the pay. The latest is James M. McGuire, a judge on the intermediate state appeals court in Manhattan, who last week resigned his position at the white marble courthouse on Madison Avenue. His judicial salary was \$144,000. He stepped down to be a partner at a law firm, Dechert LLP, where average partner pay is \$1.4 million.

New York, as the state with what officials say is the longest judicial pay freeze, is the focus of a national debate about whether controversial rulings, court corruption and politicized judicial campaigns have so eroded support for courts that there is no constituency for increasing judges' pay. "I never expected to get rich as a judge, but I never expected to get poor either," said Robert A. Spolzino, who resigned as an appellate judge in Brooklyn two years ago to return to law practice.

Judges in New York were the best paid nationally in the 1970s. But their salaries [now are ranked 46th](#) in the country when measured by the cost of living, according to the [National Center for State Courts](#).

Critics contend that some judges do not work very hard and that many of them would never earn the profession's top pay. Eric A. Posner, a University of Chicago law professor, argued in a law review article in 2009 with two other law professors that there was no evidence that better-paid judges did a better job.

“The absence of raises,” he wrote in a recent e-mail exchange, “is a problem only if judges weren’t overpaid to begin with.”

Indeed, in a series of interviews, judges acknowledged that it could be difficult to make the case for a judicial pay raise in hard economic times. Justices of New York’s highest-level trial court, the State Supreme Court, make \$136,700. The chief judge of the state makes \$156,000. Across the country, “there is a devaluing of the job that judges do,” so there is little pressure to pay them well, said Seth S. Andersen, the executive director of the [American Judicature Society](#) in Des Moines, which studies and evaluates judicial systems.

Current and former judges described the pressures they felt in fending off offers and trying to pay for mortgages and tuition bills. Mr. Spolzino, 52, said he had expected that he would remain until retirement, as judges did in the past.

“It’s very heady when you walk into a room and everybody rises, people laugh at your jokes,” he said.

Emily Jane Goodman, a State Supreme Court justice in Manhattan, said the practical effect of her stalled pay was that she had to sell a summer home in the Hamptons and was having trouble paying for increasing fees on her two-bedroom apartment in the city.

“Here I am,” Justice Goodman said, “in a position where I’m working to achieve justice for other people and I don’t feel that I’m experiencing justice.”

On one of his final days at the Appellate Division on Madison Avenue, Justice McGuire, who was once chief counsel to Gov. George E. Pataki, said he had grown increasingly dismayed as the state failed year after year to raise judicial pay.

“I tormented myself for the longest period of time about whether I should go, because I love the work,” he said. “And then I realized, ‘I’ve got no choice. The only responsible thing for my family is to go.’ ” Justice McGuire, 57, has two children, ages 5 and 3.

In New York, the financial pressures are particularly intense because top law firms compete to hire lawyers — and, now, judges. In response to questions for this article, the state’s Office of Court Administration studied judicial attrition. The analysis found that in 1999, 48 of the 1,300 state judges left their positions. Last year, 110 judges left, with the number of departures increasing sharply over the last five years.

New York’s chief judge, Jonathan Lippman, said in an interview that the departures showed only part of the problem. “Why would a talented lawyer,” Judge Lippman asked, “want to join an institution that hasn’t had even a cost of living increase in 12 years?”

The State Legislature's failure to increase judicial pay since 1999 was the subject of bitter political disputes and court battles before legislation passed in November creating a commission on judicial salaries. It is expected to decide by September whether state judicial salaries will increase and by how much.

Nationally, many judicial salaries have lagged behind the pay not only of top lawyers, but also of some academics, school administrators, elected officials and even some courthouse employees. In New York City, some law clerks earn more than the judges they work for.

The chief justice of the United States, John G. Roberts Jr., has noted that federal judicial salaries have slipped below the pay of top law school deans and other law professors and has said the pay gap could undermine the strength of the federal courts.

The salaries of state trial judges nationally rose 34 percent to a median of \$116,100 in the decade ending in 2005. But during the same period, the median partners' share of profits at large law firms jumped 141 percent to \$957,500, Roy A. Schotland, an emeritus law professor at Georgetown, showed in a law review article. In an interview, Professor Schotland, who studies state courts, said that, nationally, stagnant pay was "the single most important problem for our courts."

July 24, 2012, 11:07 AM ET

## State Courts Concerned about Losing Judges After No Salary Growth

State judicial salaries have flatlined over the past two years, and state courts are worried about experienced judges leaving, leading to slower handling of cases and more case overturns.

Nationwide, judicial salaries are increasing at a yearly rate of less than 1%, according to the National Center for State Court's [Survey of Judicial Salaries](#).

The report looked at salary data between 2007 and January 1, 2012 for judges in all 50 states. It found that these judicial salary increases essentially flatlined, increasing less than 1% nationwide compared with pre-recession pay rates between 2003 and 2007, which rose on average around 3.24% per year.

"Judges are like anybody, they want to know they're advancing in life," said Greg Hurley, an analyst for NCSC that worked on the report. "An experienced mechanic would be able to fix your car faster and do a better job, and it's the same with judges."

Judiciaries have been losing judges to higher-paying jobs for years now, usually at private law firms which can pay well over \$1 million year, Law Blog reports [here](#). Mr. Hurley says that if the judicial salaries aren't competitive, talented and diverse types of legal practitioners will turn to private practice over the bench.

Judges make anywhere from \$115,000 to \$229,000, and while that salary range is no small potatoes, the temptation of the pay raise at a large private law firm has clearly been a temptation many judges couldn't resist.

The stagnant judicial salaries are symptoms of a wider nationwide state court [budget crisis](#).

"The economy's getting better but the state governments are still really struggling. There's really no end to this in sight," Mr. Hurley said.

States courts have been forced to cut costs in response to tightening government budgets during the fiscal crisis. They have delayed filling vacancies, increased fees and fines, reduced hours of operation and increased backlog where cases sit pending for much longer than they should be.

Nearly all states, [42 in all](#), have resorted to some form of salary freeze. And [13 states](#) have even reduced salaries to cut costs.

The state with the highest judicial salaries is California, a state wracked with debt and with courts suffering from budget cuts and staff layoffs. The average judicial salary in the highest court in California is just over \$218,000 and in the intermediate appellate courts an average salary of \$204,600. California's court system lost \$300 million in state appropriations for the 2012 fiscal year, going from \$3.9 billion to \$3.6 billion.

South Dakota has the lowest judicial salary in the country with an average salary of around \$118,000.

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## Salaries and Rankings for Appellate and General-Jurisdiction Judges - Listed Alphabetically by State Name

The table below lists the salaries and rankings for associate justices of the courts of last resort, associate judges of intermediate appellate courts, and judges of general jurisdiction trial courts (actual salaries and cost of living adjusted salaries) as of January 1, 2013. Where possible, the salary figures are actual salaries. In jurisdictions where some judges receive supplements, the figures are the most representative available—either the base salary, the midpoint of a range between the lowest and highest supplemented salaries, or the median. Salaries are ranked from highest to lowest, with the highest salary for each position having a rank of “1.” The lowest salary has a rank of “51” except for intermediate appellate courts, which exist in only 39 states. The mean, median, and salary range for each of the positions are also shown.

	<b>Highest Court</b>		<b>Intermediate Appellate Court</b>		<b>General-Jurisdiction Trial Court</b>				
	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Adjusted for Cost of Living</i> <i>Adjustment Factor</i>	<i>Adjusted Salary</i>	<i>Adjusted Rank</i>
Alabama	\$180,005	9	\$178,878	5	\$134,943	26	95.87	\$140,756	10
Alaska	\$196,224	4	\$185,388	4	\$181,440	2	131.13	\$138,362	15
Arizona	\$155,000	23	\$150,000	17	\$145,000	17	103.78	\$139,720	12
Arkansas	\$145,204	33	\$140,732	20	\$136,257	24	92.02	\$148,073	6
California	\$218,237	1	\$204,599	1	\$178,789	4	134.22	\$133,203	23
Colorado	\$139,660	37	\$134,128	30	\$128,598	34	107.98	\$119,089	36
Connecticut	\$162,520	20	\$152,637	12	\$146,780	16	137.24	\$106,951	46
Delaware	\$190,639	5			\$180,233	3	108.78	\$165,684	3
District of Columbia	\$184,500	7			\$174,000	5	147.00	\$118,367	37
Florida	\$157,976	21	\$150,077	16	\$142,178	19	107.03	\$132,840	24
Georgia	\$167,210	13	\$166,186	10	\$148,891	14	100.62	\$147,969	7
Hawaii	\$151,118	24	\$139,924	22	\$136,127	25	150.48	\$90,463	51
Idaho	\$121,900	48	\$120,900	37	\$114,300	46	99.16	\$115,270	40
Illinois	\$211,228	2	\$198,805	2	\$182,429	1	106.29	\$171,637	1
Indiana	\$156,667	22	\$152,293	14	\$130,080	30	95.87	\$135,677	17
Iowa	\$163,200	19	\$147,900	18	\$137,700	23	99.30	\$138,669	14
Kansas	\$135,905	42	\$131,518	33	\$120,037	44	101.65	\$118,091	39
Kentucky	\$135,504	43	\$130,044	35	\$124,620	41	91.93	\$135,558	18
Louisiana	\$150,772	25	\$143,647	19	\$137,744	22	93.94	\$146,628	9
Maine	\$119,476	51			\$111,969	50	115.99	\$96,537	50
Maryland	\$165,600	15	\$152,543	13	\$143,160	18	117.48	\$121,864	35
Massachusetts	\$145,984	30	\$135,087	28	\$129,694	31	131.04	\$98,972	49
Michigan	\$164,610	17	\$151,441	15	\$139,919	20	99.78	\$140,233	11
Minnesota	\$145,981	31	\$137,552	25	\$129,124	32	104.08	\$124,066	32
Mississippi	\$122,460	47	\$114,994	39	\$112,128	49	94.79	\$118,291	38
Missouri	\$147,591	27	\$134,685	29	\$127,020	35	99.94	\$127,101	29
Montana	\$121,434	50			\$113,928	47	102.02	\$111,675	43
Nebraska	\$145,615	32	\$138,334	23	\$134,694	27	100.40	\$134,152	20
Nevada	\$170,000	12			\$160,000	10	106.83	\$149,775	5
New Hampshire	\$146,917	28			\$137,804	21	122.74	\$112,274	42
New Jersey	\$185,482	6	\$175,534	6	\$165,000	7	125.36	\$131,624	25
New Mexico	\$123,691	46	\$117,506	38	\$111,631	51	102.39	\$109,028	44
New York	\$177,000	10	\$168,600	7	\$160,000	9	152.78	\$104,726	47
North Carolina	\$138,896	38	\$133,109	31	\$125,875	39	99.45	\$126,571	30
North Dakota	\$138,159	39			\$126,597	36	99.33	\$127,456	27
Ohio	\$141,600	35	\$132,000	32	\$121,350	43	99.53	\$121,922	34
Oklahoma	\$137,655	40	\$130,410	34	\$124,373	42	92.63	\$134,273	19
Oregon	\$125,688	45	\$122,820	36	\$114,468	45	114.56	\$99,920	48
Pennsylvania	\$199,606	3	\$188,337	3	\$173,271	6	108.75	\$159,331	4
Rhode Island	\$165,726	14			\$149,207	13	122.10	\$122,202	33
South Carolina	\$141,286	36	\$137,753	24	\$134,221	28	97.96	\$137,014	16
South Dakota	\$121,718	49			\$113,688	48	99.72	\$114,010	41
Tennessee	\$173,352	11	\$167,592	9	\$161,808	8	96.49	\$167,694	2
Texas	\$150,000	26	\$137,500	26	\$125,000	40	99.86	\$125,177	31
Utah	\$146,800	29	\$140,100	21	\$133,450	29	100.01	\$133,441	21
Vermont	\$132,928	44			\$126,369	37	116.63	\$108,353	45
Virginia	\$183,839	8	\$168,322	8	\$158,134	11	107.63	\$146,926	8
Washington	\$164,221	18	\$156,328	11	\$148,832	15	115.96	\$128,352	26
West Virginia	\$136,000	41			\$126,000	38	94.58	\$133,219	22
Wisconsin	\$144,495	34	\$136,316	27	\$128,600	33	101.16	\$127,124	28
Wyoming	\$165,000	16			\$150,000	12	107.74	\$139,221	13
Mean	\$155,143		\$148,834		\$139,166				
Median	\$150,000		\$140,732		\$134,943				
Range	\$119,476 \$218,237		\$114,994 to \$204,599		\$111,631 to \$182,429				

### Using the ACCRA Cost-of-Living Index

The Council for Community and Economic Research—C2ER (formerly the ACCRA organization)—is the most widely accepted U.S. source for cost-of-living indices, with nearly 400 reporting jurisdictions across America. The cost-of-living indices used in this report were developed by C2ER using a multi-variable model which incorporates the costs of goods and services within a reporting jurisdiction, community population, population density, income, growth rate, utility rates, efficiency of the government sector, and location of the region. More detailed information can be found at [www.accra.org](http://www.accra.org) or [www.c2er.org](http://www.c2er.org). [www.accra.org](http://www.accra.org) or [www.c2er.org](http://www.c2er.org).

## Judicial Salaries Since 1968

Year	Senators	Members of the House of Representatives	Circuit Judges	District Judges	Associate Justices	Chief Justice
2010	\$174,000	\$174,000	\$184,500	\$174,000	\$213,900	\$223,500
2009	\$174,000	\$174,000	\$184,500	\$174,000	\$213,900	\$223,500
2008	\$169,300	\$169,300	\$179,500	\$169,300	\$208,100	\$217,400
2007	\$165,200	\$165,200	\$175,100	\$165,200	\$203,000	\$212,100
2006	\$165,200	\$165,200	\$175,100	\$165,200	\$203,000	\$212,100
2005	\$162,100	\$162,100	\$171,800	\$162,100	\$199,200	\$208,100
2004	\$158,100	\$158,100	\$167,600	\$158,100	\$194,300	\$203,000
2003	\$154,700	\$154,700	\$164,000	\$154,700	\$190,100	\$198,600
2002	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$159,100	\$150,000	\$184,400	\$192,600
2001	\$145,100	\$145,100	\$153,900	\$145,100	\$178,300	\$186,300
2000	\$141,300	\$141,300	\$149,900	\$141,300	\$173,600	\$181,400
1999	\$136,700	\$136,700	\$145,000	\$136,700	\$167,900	\$175,400
1998	\$136,700	\$136,700	\$145,000	\$136,700	\$167,900	\$175,400
1997	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600	\$164,100	\$171,500
1996	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600	\$164,100	\$171,500
1995	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600	\$164,100	\$171,500
1994	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600	\$164,100	\$171,500
1993	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600	\$164,100	\$171,500
1992	\$129,500	\$129,500	\$137,300	\$129,500	\$159,000	\$166,200
1991(1)	\$125,100	\$125,100	\$132,700	\$125,100	\$153,600	\$160,600
1990	\$98,400	\$96,600	\$102,500	\$96,600	\$118,600	\$124,000
1989	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500	\$110,000	\$115,000
1988	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500	\$110,000	\$115,000
1987(2)	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500	\$110,000	\$115,000
1986	\$75,100	\$75,100	\$83,200	\$78,700	\$104,100	\$108,400
1985	\$75,100	\$75,100	\$83,200	\$78,700	\$104,100	\$108,400
1984	\$72,600	\$72,600	\$80,400	\$76,000	\$100,600	\$104,700
1983	\$77,300	\$77,300	\$77,300	\$73,100	\$96,700	\$100,700
1982(3)	\$69,800	\$69,800	\$77,300	\$73,100	\$96,700	\$100,700
1981	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$74,300	\$70,300	\$93,000	\$96,800
1980	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$70,900	\$67,100	\$88,700	\$92,400
1979(4)	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$65,000	\$61,500	\$81,300	\$84,700
1978	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$54,500	\$72,000	\$75,000
1977(5)	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$54,500	\$72,000	\$75,000
1976(6)	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$46,800	\$44,000	\$66,000	\$68,700
1975	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$42,000	\$63,000	\$65,600
1974	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1973	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1972	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1971	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1970	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1969(7)	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$62,500
1968	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$33,000	\$30,000	\$39,500	\$40,000



## Explanatory Notes

Unless otherwise indicated, all increases were the result of annual pay adjustments.

1. This pay raise went into effect on January 1, 1991, and reflects a 25 percent increase provided to judges and other senior Government officials by the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Pub. L. No. 101-194, § 703, 103 Stat. 1716, 1768, and a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment for the 1991 fiscal year.  
adjustment for the 1991 fiscal year.
2. The pay adjustment was actually provided in two steps. First, Public Law Number 99-500, §406, provided a three percent cost-of-living adjustment for the Judiciary as of January 1, 1987, bringing the salaries of circuit judges to \$85,700, district judges (and other top Government officials) to \$81,100, Chief Justice to \$111,700 and the salaries of the Associate Justices to \$107,200. Then President Reagan on January 5, 1987, recommended to Congress further adjustment for justices, judges, and other executive level officers under the Federal Salary Act of 1967, as amended 2 U.S.C. § 358, to the rates shown. These rates became effective March 1, 1987, following Congressional failure to effectively disapprove them. This was the first time since 1978 that congressional members were paid the same as judges; however, their pay only was made equal to district judges, rather than circuit judges as had been the custom prior to 1978.
3. By legislation, salaries for Senators remained at \$60,663 until raised to \$69,800, effective July 1, 1983.
4. *United States v. Will*, 449 U.S. 200 (1980), held that 1979 legislation violated the Non-Diminution clause of Article III in denying judges joint implementation of 1978 and 1979 annual cost-of-living adjustments; congressional members, not covered by the constitutional holding in *Will*, received only the 1978 annual cost-of-living adjustment under this legislation.
5. Quadrennial Commission increases, effective March 1, 1977, not only increasing pay generally, but also restoring parity between the pay of circuit judges and congressional members.
6. Implementation of the 1976 annual cost-of-living adjustment for judges only, pursuant to *United States v. Will*, *supra*, holding that retroactive cancellation of the 1976 adjustment violated the Non-Diminution Clause of Article III.
7. Quadrennial Commission increases effective March 1, 1969.



SCO HOME » JUDICIARY » SALARY » JUDICIAL SALARY HISTORY

Judicial Salary History

Following is an explanation of the funding of salaries paid to judges in the state of Ohio for the:

- Supreme Court
- Courts of Appeals
- Common Pleas Courts
- Municipal Courts
- County Courts

View the full Judicial Salary History charts.

Supreme Court

Salaries paid to the chief justice and justices of the Supreme Court are paid from the state treasury.

Courts of Appeals

Salaries paid to the judges of the courts of appeal are paid from the state treasury.

Common Pleas Courts

Salaries paid to judges of the courts of common pleas consist of a state base share, which is fixed by statute, and a local *per capita* share, which is stated in terms of cents multiplied by the population of the county in which the judge serves. The base share is paid from the state treasury, and the *per capita* share is paid by the county.

Beginning July 1, 1997, all common pleas judges are paid the same salary consisting of a local and state share. The local share is based on the population of the county and cannot be less than \$3,500 or more than \$14,000. The local share is deducted from the total salary to determine the state share.

Municipal Courts--Fulltime

Through June 1987, salaries paid to full-time municipal court judges were paid entirely by the local government entity or entities (municipal corporation or county) responsible for funding the court. Beginning in July 1987, a state supplement, payable from the state treasury, was added. The total salaries paid to full-time municipal court judges varied depending on the population of the municipal court district and were limited to the amounts shown in the table.

Effective July 1, 1997, the *per capita* share was eliminated, and the local share payable to all full-time municipal court judges was fixed at \$61,750. Percentage increases through 2008 will be calculated on the full salary with the entire amount added to the state share.

Municipal Courts--Part Time

Salaries paid to part-time municipal court judges traditionally have been paid by the local government entity or entities (municipal corporation or county) responsible for funding the court. Prior to August 1975, this amount was set by the legislative authority of the municipality, but could not be less than the amount stated in the table.

In August 1975, a uniform base salary was established by statute, and a *per capita* share was added. The total salary payable to a part-time municipal court judge could exceed the amount stated in the table.

Effective July 1, 1997, the *per capita* share was eliminated and a base salary of \$35,500 was fixed by statute. This base salary, which will be paid by the local funding authority, will be supplemented by a state share payable from the state treasury.

County Courts

Through June 1997, salaries payable to county court judges are paid from the county treasury. The amounts stated in the table represent the maximum salary payable to county court judges when combining the uniform base salary and the maximum *per capita* . Effective July 1, 1997, the *per capita* share was eliminated and a base salary of \$35,500 was fixed by statute. This base salary, which is paid by the county, will be supplemented by a state share payable from the state treasury.

Dates	Chief Justice	Justice	Courts of Appeals	Common Pleas <sup>1</sup>
10/53 - 10/55	\$16,500	\$16,000	\$13,500	\$13,000 <sup>2</sup>
10/55 - 10/59	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$16,000	\$15,000 <sup>3</sup>
10/59 - 12/64	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$9,000-\$17,000 <sup>4</sup>
12/64 - 6/68	\$24,500	\$24,000	\$21,000	\$11,000-\$19,000 <sup>5</sup>
6/68 - 11/73	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$28,000	\$14,500-\$26,000 <sup>6</sup>
11/73 - 4/78	\$43,500	\$40,000	\$37,000	\$23,500-\$34,000 <sup>7</sup>
4/78 - 1981	\$55,000	\$51,000	\$47,000	\$33,000-\$43,500 <sup>7</sup>
1982	\$62,000	\$58,000	\$54,000	\$40,000-\$50,500 <sup>7</sup>

1983	\$67,000	\$63,000	\$59,000	\$45,000-\$55,500 <sup>7</sup>
1984	\$72,000	\$68,000	\$64,000	\$50,000-\$60,500 <sup>7</sup>
1985	\$75,000	\$70,500	\$66,000	\$52,000-\$62,500 <sup>7</sup>
1986	\$78,000	\$73,000	\$68,000	\$54,000-\$64,500 <sup>7</sup>
1987	\$81,000	\$75,500	\$70,000	\$56,000-\$66,500 <sup>7</sup>
7/1987	\$86,000	\$80,750	\$75,000	\$60,750-\$71,250 <sup>7</sup>
1988	\$88,500	\$83,250	\$77,500	\$63,250-\$73,750 <sup>7</sup>
1989	\$92,950	\$87,400	\$81,400	\$66,250-\$76,750 <sup>7</sup>
1990	\$97,600	\$91,750	\$85,450	\$69,400-\$79,900 <sup>7</sup>
1991	\$102, 500	\$96,350	\$89,700	\$72,700-\$83,200 <sup>7</sup>
1992 - 2/96	\$107,650	\$101,150	\$94,200	\$76,150-\$86,650 <sup>7</sup>
3/1996	\$110,900	\$104,200	\$97,050	\$78,750-\$89,250 <sup>7</sup>
1997	\$114,250	\$107,350	\$99,950	\$80,800-\$91,950 <sup>7</sup>
7/1997	*	*	*	\$91,950 <sup>8</sup>
1998	\$117,700	\$110,550	\$102,950	\$94,700 <sup>8</sup>
1999	\$121,250	\$113,850	\$106,050	\$97,550 <sup>8</sup>
2000	\$124,900	\$117,250	\$109,250	\$100,500 <sup>8</sup>
2001	\$128,650	\$120,750	\$112,550	\$103,500 <sup>8</sup>
2002	\$132,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$123,900 <sup>9</sup>	\$115,500 <sup>9</sup>	\$106,200 <sup>8,9</sup>
2003	\$133,700 <sup>9</sup>	\$125,500 <sup>9</sup>	\$117,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$107,600 <sup>8,9</sup>
2004	\$136,800 <sup>9</sup>	\$128,400 <sup>9</sup>	\$119,700 <sup>9</sup>	\$110,050 <sup>8,9</sup>
2005	\$140,100 <sup>9</sup>	\$131,500 <sup>9</sup>	\$122,550 <sup>9</sup>	\$112,700 <sup>8,9</sup>
2006	\$144,300 <sup>9</sup>	\$135,450 <sup>9</sup>	\$126,250 <sup>9</sup>	\$116,100 <sup>8,9</sup>
2007	\$146,750 <sup>9</sup>	\$137,750 <sup>9</sup>	\$128,400 <sup>9</sup>	\$118,050 <sup>8,9</sup>
2008	\$150,850 <sup>9</sup>	\$141,600 <sup>9</sup>	\$132,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$121,350 <sup>8,9</sup>
2009	\$150,850	\$141,600	\$132,000	\$121,350 <sup>8</sup>
2010	\$150,850	\$141,600	\$132,000	\$121,350
2011	\$150,850	\$141,600	\$132,000	\$121,350
2012	\$150,850	\$141,600	\$132,000	\$121,350

<sup>1</sup> Salaries listed for 10/53 - 10/59 indicate the maximum salary payable to common pleas judges. Salaries listed for 10/59 - 7/97 indicate the minimum and maximum salaries payable to common pleas judges. Salaries listed for 7/97 - 2001 indicate the total salary payable to each common pleas judge.

<sup>2</sup> \$4,000 base salary plus a *per capita* share not to exceed \$9,000.

<sup>3</sup> \$5,000 base salary plus a *per capita* share not to exceed \$10,000.

<sup>4</sup> \$7,000 base share plus a *per capita* share not less than \$2,000 or more than \$10,000.

<sup>5</sup> \$9,000 base share, a *per capita* share not less than \$2,000 or more than \$10,000, plus an additional county share based on county population of \$500, \$1,000, or \$1,500.

<sup>6</sup> Base share plus *per capita* share not less than \$3,500 and not more than \$15,000.

<sup>7</sup> Base share plus *per capita* share not less than \$3,500 and not more than \$14,000.

<sup>8</sup> Effective 7/1/97, salaries of all common pleas judges are made equal. Common pleas salaries consist of a local *per capita* share of not less than \$3,500 and not more than \$14,000 and a state share determined by subtracting the applicable *per capita* share from the total salary listed.

<sup>9</sup> Salary adjustments for 2002 through 2008 are based on cost of living, not to exceed three percent. In the case of common pleas judges, the cost of living percentage is applied to the total salary with the resulting adjustment added to the state share.

**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COURTS**

(Figures listed through June 1997 are the maximum salary payable, except as otherwise noted.)

Dates	Municipal (full-time)	Municipal (part-time)	County
1953 - 10/55	\$12,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$2,000 <sup>2</sup>	No county courts until 1957
9/1957			\$1,000

10/55 - 1/61	\$13,000 <sup>3</sup>		
10/55 - 12/64		\$3,000 <sup>2</sup>	
9/59 - 6/68			\$4,500 <sup>4,5</sup>
1/61 - 12/64	\$15,000 <sup>6</sup>		
12/64 - 6/68	\$18,000 <sup>6</sup>	\$4,000 <sup>2</sup>	
6/68 - 11/73	\$23,000 <sup>7</sup>	\$6,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$6,000 <sup>5</sup>
11/73 - 8/75	\$30,000 <sup>7</sup>	\$8,000 <sup>2</sup>	
11/73 - 4/78			\$8,000 <sup>8</sup>
8/75 - 4/78	\$31,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$20,000 <sup>10</sup>	
4/78 - 1981	\$38,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$25,000 <sup>12</sup>	\$14,000 <sup>13</sup>
1982	\$45,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$29,200 <sup>12</sup>	\$18,200 <sup>13</sup>
1983	\$50,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$32,200 <sup>12</sup>	\$21,200 <sup>13</sup>
1984	\$55,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$35,200 <sup>12</sup>	\$24,200 <sup>13</sup>
1985	\$57,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$36,400 <sup>12</sup>	\$25,400 <sup>13</sup>
1986	\$59,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$37,600 <sup>12</sup>	\$27,600 <sup>13</sup>
1/1987	\$61,750 <sup>11</sup>	\$38,800 <sup>12</sup>	\$28,600 <sup>13</sup>
7/1987	\$66,250 <sup>14</sup>	\$39,550 <sup>12</sup>	\$29,100 <sup>13</sup>
1988	\$68,750 <sup>14</sup>	\$40,300 <sup>12</sup>	\$29,600 <sup>13</sup>
1989	\$71,700 <sup>14</sup>	\$41,800 <sup>12</sup>	\$30,700 <sup>13</sup>
1990	\$74,800 <sup>14</sup>	\$43,400 <sup>12</sup>	\$31,850 <sup>13</sup>
1991	\$78,050 <sup>14</sup>	\$45,050 <sup>12</sup>	\$33,050 <sup>13</sup>
1992-2/96	\$81,450 <sup>14</sup>	\$46,800 <sup>12</sup>	\$34,350 <sup>13</sup>
3/96-12/96	\$83,900 <sup>14</sup>	\$48,200 <sup>12</sup>	\$35,400 <sup>13</sup>
1/97-6/97	\$86,400 <sup>14</sup>	\$49,650 <sup>12</sup>	\$36,450 <sup>13</sup>
7/97-12/97	\$86,400 <sup>15</sup>	\$49,650 <sup>16</sup>	\$49,650 <sup>16</sup>
1998	\$89,000 <sup>15</sup>	\$51,150 <sup>16</sup>	\$51,150 <sup>16</sup>
1999	\$91,650 <sup>15</sup>	\$52,700 <sup>16</sup>	\$52,700 <sup>16</sup>
2000	\$94,400 <sup>15</sup>	\$54,300 <sup>16</sup>	\$54,300 <sup>16</sup>
2001	\$97,250 <sup>15</sup>	\$55,950 <sup>16</sup>	\$55,950 <sup>16</sup>
2002	\$99,800 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$57,400 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$57,400 <sup>16,17</sup>
2003	\$101,100 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$58,150 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$58,150 <sup>16,17</sup>
2004	\$103,450 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$59,500 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$59,500 <sup>16,17</sup>

2005	\$105,950 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$60,950 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$60,950 <sup>16,17</sup>
2006	\$109,150 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$62,800 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$62,800 <sup>16,17</sup>
2007	\$111,000 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$63,850 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$63,850 <sup>16,17</sup>
2008	\$114,100 <sup>15,17</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16,17</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16,17</sup>
2009	\$114,100 <sup>15</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>
2010	\$114,100 <sup>15</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>
2011	\$114,100 <sup>15</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>
2012	\$114,100 <sup>15</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>	\$65,650 <sup>16</sup>

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> \$4,000 base salary plus *per capita* share. Legislative authority could grant an additional amount not to exceed \$3,000. Total salary could not exceed the lesser of \$12,000 or the salary of a common pleas judge in the same county.

<sup>2</sup> Amount stated represents the **minimum** salary payable; salary set by municipal legislative authority.

<sup>3</sup> \$6,000 base salary plus *per capita* share. Legislative authority could grant an additional amount. Total salary could not exceed lesser of \$13,000 or the salary of a common pleas judge in the same county.

<sup>4</sup> Effective 12/64 through the present, the county could approve an additional payment not to exceed \$2,000 of each county court judge. This optional payment is not included in the salary listed.

<sup>5</sup> *per capita* share could not exceed \$3,000.

<sup>6</sup> *per capita* amount tiered based on population. Legislative authority could grant an additional amount. Total salary could not exceed the lesser of the amount stated or the salary of a common pleas judge in the same county.

<sup>7</sup> *per capita* amount tiered based on population. Total salary could not exceed lesser of the stated amount or the salary of a common pleas judge in the same county minus \$2,000.

<sup>8</sup> *per capita* share could not exceed \$4,000.

<sup>9</sup> Current *per capita* formula (\$0.18/person) established. Total salary could not exceed lesser of \$31,000 or the salary of a common pleas judge in the county minus \$2,000.

<sup>10</sup> *per capita* share could not exceed \$9,000.

<sup>11</sup> Total salary could not exceed lesser of the amount stated or the salary of a common pleas judge in the county minus \$3,000.

<sup>12</sup> *per capita* share could not exceed \$10,000.

<sup>13</sup> *per capita* share could not exceed \$7,500.

<sup>14</sup> Total salary consists of a local base share, local *per capita* share, and a state share. Total of the local base and *per capita* shares could not exceed the lesser of \$61,750 or the salary of a common pleas judge in the county minus \$3,000.

<sup>15</sup> Salaries of full-time municipal court judges equalized. Local *per capita* share eliminated; total salary consists of local base share (fixed at \$61,750) and state share (amount stated minus \$61,750).

<sup>16</sup> Salaries of part-time municipal court judges and county court judges equalized. Local *per capita* share eliminated; total salary consists of local share (fixed at \$35,500) and state share (amount stated minus \$35,500).

<sup>17</sup> Salary adjustments for 2002 through 2008 are based on cost of living, not to exceed three percent. The cost of living percentage is applied to the total salary with the resulting adjustment added to the state share.



**A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
JUDICIAL REFORM**

**By**

**John S. Stith**

**President, Ohio State Bar Association**

**As Approved by the OSBA Board of Governors**

**May 16, 2007**

Comprehensive judicial reform legislation that deserves strong support has recently been introduced into the Ohio General Assembly. We Ohioans expect our judges to make the most difficult decisions within our society day after day and, in so doing, to be fair and impartial as well as to assure access to justice for all citizens. Persons serving in judicial capacities make tremendous sacrifices for the benefit of the rest of us. We should do everything reasonably possible to make those positions attractive enough to bring well-qualified attorneys to the bench and, once there, to retain them.

In an effort to improve both judicial qualifications and judicial compensation in Ohio, House Majority Whip Bill Seitz and Assistant Minority Leader Todd Book have introduced H.B. 173 which, among other things, increases the number of years in practice required for aspiring judges, improves pre-judicial education requirements, codifies the concept of judicial appointment review commissions, and includes provisions to bring judicial salaries into line with those paid in states similar to Ohio. Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer emphasized the significance of this proposed legislation in his most recent State of the Judiciary remarks. The importance of this well-balanced, bipartisan legislative effort to Ohio's future wellbeing is clear. H.B. 173 should be enacted as soon as possible.

We think it is appropriate to insist upon higher qualifications in those who make such important decisions. Additional years of practice and a heavier dose of pre-judicial education will help insure that only the best-qualified lawyers are eligible. Codification of Governor Strickland's concept for a judicial appointment review commission is a further step towards institutionalizing a process that the OSBA has previously applauded. But the most important part of this legislation is to bring judicial compensation, through adjustments made over a period of three years, to a point closer to that offered by comparable states. Such improvements in judicial compensation would include annual cost of living adjustments that are designed to maintain the fairness of that compensation over an extended period of time.

As Chief Justice Moyer has repeatedly pointed out, it is important not only to take steps to assure that persons sitting on the Bench are as well-qualified as possible, but also to deepen the pool of those lawyers who are attracted to judicial service. Both the judicial appointment review commission concept and reasonable assurance of fair and adequate judicial compensation will help make the judiciary more attractive as a career objective for Ohio's most talented lawyers, thereby deepening—and broadening—that pool.

The Ohio State Bar Association believes that increasing judicial qualifications and improving judicial compensation are long overdue and clearly in the best interests of Ohio citizens. This Association has long supported fair and adequate compensation for judges, as well as the other concepts contained in H.B. 173. By helping our State attract and retain well-qualified persons to serve in these key roles, the changes proposed by Representatives Seitz and Book will go a long way toward assuring the continuation of excellence in our court system.

The following chart displays all 50 states ranked in order of total government revenue in the year 2010. Also calculated and displayed in the far right column of the chart is that particular state's ranking in revenue earned per capita in 2010.

For some perspective: Ohio ranks 5th in the nation in total revenue, and 11th out of 50 in revenue per capita. Despite this- Ohio average judicial salaries rank 41st in terms of dollar amount, and 28th when cost of living is considered (See: Appendix B.)

## Total Revenue & Per Capita Revenue by State in 2010 \*

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)

	State	Total Revenue	Population	Per Capita Revenue	Per Capita Ranking
1	CALIFORNIA	\$278,494,901.00	37,253,956	7.48	17
2	NEW YORK	\$195,460,010.00	19,378,102	10.09	3
3	TEXAS	\$120,389,837.00	25,145,561	4.79	48
4	FLORIDA	\$91,653,258.00	18,801,310	4.87	47
5	OHIO	\$89,664,151.00	11,536,504	7.77	11
6	PENNSYLVANIA	\$83,287,051.00	12,702,379	6.56	27
7	ILLINOIS	\$73,274,871.00	12,830,632	5.71	37
8	NEW JERSEY	\$66,740,281.00	8,791,894	7.59	13
9	MICHIGAN	\$65,971,789.00	9,883,640	6.67	25
10	NORTH CAROLINA	\$57,467,430.00	9,535,483	6.03	32
11	MASSACHUSETTS	\$50,471,792.00	6,547,629	7.71	12
12	WISCONSIN	\$48,088,136.00	5,686,986	8.46	9
13	VIRGINIA	\$46,356,567.00	8,001,024	5.79	36
14	GEORGIA	\$44,878,023.00	9,687,653	4.63	50
15	WASHINGTON	\$44,298,597.00	6,724,540	6.59	26
16	MINNESOTA	\$39,887,029.00	5,303,925	7.52	14
17	MARYLAND	\$37,394,440.00	5,773,552	6.48	28
18	INDIANA	\$35,575,267.00	6,483,802	5.49	44
19	MISSOURI	\$33,915,612.00	5,988,927	5.66	38
20	ARIZONA	\$32,841,609.00	6,392,017	5.14	46
21	LOUISIANA	\$32,188,166.00	4,533,372	7.10	21
22	TENNESSEE	\$29,719,569.00	6,346,105	4.68	49
23	SOUTH CAROLINA	\$28,867,808.00	4,625,364	6.24	30
24	OREGON	\$28,703,267.00	3,831,074	7.49	16
25	COLORADO	\$27,990,510.00	5,029,196	5.57	41
26	KENTUCKY	\$26,993,403.00	4,339,367	6.22	31
27	CONNECTICUT	\$26,840,365.00	3,574,097	7.51	15
28	ALABAMA	\$26,823,681.00	4,779,736	5.61	40
29	OKLAHOMA	\$23,692,058.00	3,751,351	6.32	29
30	IOWA	\$21,265,049.00	3,046,355	6.98	23
31	MISSISSIPPI	\$20,978,550.00	2,967,297	7.07	22
32	ARKANSAS	\$19,595,441.00	2,915,918	6.72	24
33	NEW MEXICO	\$17,566,599.00	2,059,179	8.53	7

34	<b>KANSAS</b>	\$16,545,579.00	2,853,118	5.80	34
35	<b>UTAH</b>	\$16,022,191.00	2,763,885	5.80	35
36	<b>NEVADA</b>	\$14,053,177.00	2,700,551	5.20	45
37	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>	\$13,564,289.00	1,852,994	7.32	18
38	<b>ALASKA</b>	\$12,374,672.00	710,231	17.42	1
39	<b>HAWAII</b>	\$11,565,500.00	1,360,301	8.50	8
40	<b>NEBRASKA</b>	\$10,062,763.00	1,826,341	5.51	43
41	<b>MAINE</b>	\$9,539,306.00	1,328,361	7.18	20
42	<b>IDAHO</b>	\$8,859,444.00	1,567,582	5.65	39
43	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>	\$8,809,270.00	1,052,567	8.37	10
44	<b>DELAWARE</b>	\$7,975,651.00	897,934	8.88	6
45	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>	\$7,827,936.00	1,316,470	5.95	33
46	<b>WYOMING</b>	\$7,411,311.00	563,626	13.15	2
47	<b>MONTANA</b>	\$7,141,352.00	989,415	7.22	19
48	<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>	\$6,118,449.00	672,591	9.10	5
49	<b>VERMONT</b>	\$6,001,197.00	625,741	9.59	4
50	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	\$4,492,586.00	814,180	5.52	42

\*This chart depicts a ranking of the 50 states in order of total government revenue, as well as a number correlating to the "per capita" revenue amount, derived via the formula (Revenue/Population)

Source: 2010 Annual Survey of State Government Finances. Data users who create their own estimates using data from this report should cite the U.S. Census Bureau as the source of the original data only. The data in this table are based on information from public records and contain no confidential data. Although the data in this table come from a census of governmental units and are not subject to sampling error, the census results do contain nonsampling error. Additional information on nonsampling error, response rates, and definitions may be found at [http://www2.census.gov/govs/state/10\\_methodology.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/govs/state/10_methodology.pdf).

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