

MINNESOTA DISTRICT
JUDGES ASSOCIATION
MDJA

March 16, 2021

Compensation Council Chair Samuel Kaplan and Members of the Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the Minnesota District Judges Association position on judicial salaries. Consistent with our over 50-year history of providing an *independent* economist review of judicial salaries as outlined in Minnesota Statute 15A.082 Subd. 4, and provided to the Compensation Council, we support the recommendation in the report submitted by Dr. Kristine West dated July 6, 2020, which is for the *next biennium, not this one*. Minnesota State Court Judicial Salaries should be increased by:

- **4.05% in 2023 and**
- **4.05% in 2024.**

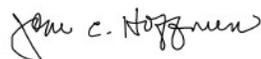
Our Association supports this recommendation because it is independent, evidence-based, focused on the statutory parameters for consideration, and barely keeps up with inflation. Further, it seeks to address barriers to entry for high-quality legal talent from backgrounds underrepresented in the profession.

For decades, our Association has appreciated the thoughtful and independent review of judicial salaries this Commission has conducted and recommended. We have regularly shared your reports and used your analysis to convince legislators not only to make meaningful investments in the third branch of government but to improve the quality of the third branch to ensure the public has confidence in those who call balls and strikes every day in the courtroom.

The Judicial Branch is relied upon by all branches of government and all citizens of this State to hear and resolve the most complex of differences. Yet, we as a Branch are seeing reduced applications and predicted higher early retirements. Failing to fully fund the Judicial Branch is failing the State of Minnesota.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarifying letter and wish you the best in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



John Hoffman, President, Minnesota District Judges Association

CC: Compensation Council Members

PRESIDENT
Honorable John C. Hoffman
Tenth Judicial District
Washington County Gov't Center
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 430-6341

VICE PRESIDENT
Honorable Lois Conroy
Fourth Judicial District
Hennepin County Gov't Center
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 596-9010

PAST PRESIDENT
Honorable Teresa R. Warner
Second Judicial District
1070 Ramsey County Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 266-8221

TREASURER
Honorable Eric Schieferdecker
Ninth Judicial District
Clearwater County Courthouse
213 Main Avenue, #303
Bagley, MN 56621
(218) 694-6177

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STAFF ATTORNEY  
Jenifer J. O'Leary  
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 130  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 297-7582

PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
Jen Rico  
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 120  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 297-6821