

Journal
of the American
JUDICATURE
Society

Special Issue—

A Survey of
JUDICIAL SALARIES

In the
United States
and Canada



AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY, 800 FEDERAL BUILDING

Journal of
The American
JUDICATURE
Society

BIBLIOTECA DE LA CORTE SUPREMA	
NO. DE ORDEN	37-388
UBICACIÓN	Ref. 107

Vol. 45, No. 10
March, 1962

GLENN R. WINTERS, Editor

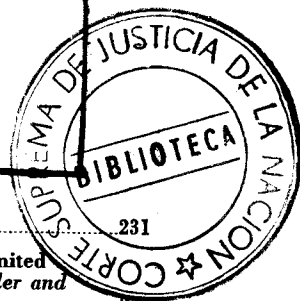
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Better Justice through Better Paid Judges

SINCE its founding in 1913 the American Judicature Society has been committed to the proposition that adequate compensation is a necessary prerequisite to judicial office. In the fall of 1961 President Cecil E. Burney pledged the American Judicature Society to leadership of a new nationwide campaign for increase of judicial salaries and especially for bringing up those that are below adequate levels. In a statement calling on the legal profession to take action to correct these inequalities, Mr. Burney declared that any person capable of discharging the great responsibilities of the office of judge of a general trial court should receive a minimum of \$15,000 a year. Six states, however, he observed, had major court judges receiving \$10,000 or less, and 28 states \$14,000 or less. Speaking before a regional audience in Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Burney said:

“We all know that good judges are the most important ingredient in any judicial system, and that without them first rate justice is not possible. We also know that among the greatest roadblocks to putting the best available talent on the bench are the low salaries paid in many jurisdictions. State legislative bodies and the public must be made aware of this problem, and if the job is properly done you can confidently look forward to the time when your states will join the many jurisdictions throughout the nation who have met the problem head on, increased the compensation of their