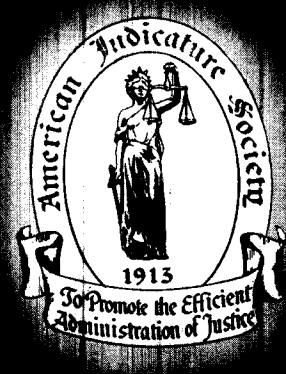


*Journal*  
*of the American*  
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*A Survey of*  
*Judicial Salaries*  
*and*  
*Retirement Plans*  
*in the*  
*United States*

AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY, 1100 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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*The Campaign for Adequate Judicial Compensation  
A Progress Report and Challenge*

**I**N 1961, the American Judicature Society launched a nation-wide campaign to increase judicial compensation generally, and specifically to raise those judicial salaries clearly below an adequate minimum level. These minimum standards were not less than \$15,000 a year for judges of any trial court of general jurisdiction in the country and a retirement pension of not less than 50 per cent of the salary.

There has been commendable progress in the past 5 years, but there is still a substantial amount of work to be done if even these standards are to be attained in every state.

When the campaign began, salaries of all trial judges of courts of general jurisdiction in 20 states were less than the \$15,000 minimum. In an additional 9 states some trial court judges received less than \$15,000 a year. By the end of 1965, only 7 states had still failed to meet this 1961 minimum standard for their trial court bench and 5 states continued to pay some judges of their trial courts less than this amount.

The purchasing power of the current dollar,

however, is not that of its 1961 counterpart. This is reflected in an increase of the consumer price index. It has risen almost 10 per cent during the intervening five years.

To assess the present economic position of judges, their salaries must now be measured against a minimum standard of not less than \$16,500 a year. An examination of current judicial salaries based on this adjusted minimum standard reveals only modest accomplishments in up-grading judicial salaries. There are still 13 states where all trial court judges receive less than \$16,500 annually and 9 other states where some judges are paid below this minimum standard. In other words, 40 per cent of our states still fall short of even this goal for some or all of their trial court judges.

It is worthy to note that at least one new state has attempted to protect judicial compensation from the inroads of inflation. In 1962 a decision of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky allowed a constitutionally limited salary to be increased within the purchasing power of the dollar. (*Matthews v. Allen* (1962) Ky., 360 S.W. 2d 135). Responding to the trend