

**West Virginia Legislature
Judicial Compensation Commission**

August 13, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Room 208-W

The Judicial Compensation Commission met at 11:00 a.m. in the Senate Judiciary Committee Room, Room 208-W, of the West Virginia State Capitol, on August 13, 2019. Gregory Bowman, Dean of WVU Law School, Chairman, called the meeting to order and took a roll to establish a quorum.

Members present: Gregory Bowman, Chairman, Virginia King, Dr. Edwin Welch, Phillip “Ben” Robertson and John “Danny” Martin.

Chairman Bowman recognized Virginia King for the purpose of a motion to approve the minutes from July 9, 2019, 11:00 a.m. meeting. The motion was adopted.

Anne B. Ellison, Counsel to the Commission and Assistant Director of Legislative Services, distributed copies of the revised 2019 draft report and explained the updated information to the Commission members and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the updates made to the report and suggestions on new recommendations.

The Commission took a short recess to finalize changes to the report.

Dean Bowman called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Ellison reviewed with the Commission the final changes and recommendations made.

Discussion ensued.

Dean Bowman reviewed the final changes to the report with the Commission members.

Chairman Bowman recognized Virginia King for the purpose of a motion to adopt the revised version of the final report. By a vote of 5/0, the motion was adopted.

The recommendations from the Commission are as follows:

In its 2018 report, the Commission made various recommendations to adjust judicial salaries according to both the market information and the cost of living. Those figures from the 2018 report remain relevant to achieving appropriate judicial compensation in West Virginia.

For its 2019 recommendations, the Commission is taking a more streamline approach and is recommending a single raise amount for each type of judge. This single raise amount is the 2022 salary amount recommended in the Commission's 2018 report. (The recommendations chart from the 2018 report is set forth at the end of this section for reference.)

Based upon a 5-0 vote, the Commission recommends that the salaries of the justices, circuit court judges, family court judges, and magistrate judges be increased as set forth below:

Judicial Officer	Current Salary	Recommended Salary
Justice	\$136,000	\$160,901
Circuit judge	\$126,000	\$149,070
Family Court judge	\$94,500	\$113,930
Magistrate	\$57,500	\$68,068

The Commission is making these recommendations in order to adjust judicial salaries in West Virginia to reflect national mean and median increases over the recent past and through the next several years, and thus prevent West Virginia's judicial salaries from falling further behind what this Commission recommended in its 2018 report.

**2018 Judicial Compensation Commission Report recommendations. This chart is for reference only.*

Judicial Officer	Current Salary	2019 Increase	2019 Salary	Increase for the next 3 Years	2020 Salary	2021 Salary	2022 Salary
Justice	\$136,000	8.27%	\$147,241	3%	\$151,658	\$156,208	\$160,894
Circuit judge	\$126,000	8.27%	\$136,420	3%	\$140,513	\$144,728	\$149,069
Family Court judge	\$94,500	10.33%	\$104,262	3%	\$107,390	\$110,612	\$113,930
Magistrate	\$57,500	8.27%	\$62,253	3%	\$64,123	\$66,047	\$68,028

Chairman Bowman adjourned by acclamation. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned