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**From:** Elizabeth Yalin Tao  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 4:46 PM  
**To:** contact@judicialcompensation.ny.gov  
**Subject:** To the Judicial Compensation Commission:

To the Judicial Compensation Commission:

I implore you to consider a judicial pay increase that would restore the New York State judges to a level of compensation that is comparable with the rest of the nation.

As a single parent, who has been a state employee since I graduated from law school, first as a Court Attorney in the Housing Court and since 1994 as a Housing Court Judge, it has been an extreme hardship to provide for my family, two boys and an elderly parent, on a salary that has remained unchanged since 1999. With the economy on a downward spiral, the workload in Housing Court has increased tremendously over the last few years. I deal with over 100 cases and ex parte applications on a daily basis. The conditions have become intolerable. If it were not for the passion that I still have for my job and the three pension loans that I have been forced to take out, I would have had no choice but to seek greener pastures, if there were any left out there.

I don't believe that the legislature or the public realizes that most of the judges are not older, independently wealthy men anymore. We are young hardworking family men and women who rely on our salary to provide for our family in a very tough economy. Prices have gone up for everything. We need to have an increase that would put us on par with all of our colleagues in the system. If I had remained a court attorney, I would be making more than I do now. In fact some of the court attorneys who have been in the system do make more than the judges they work for. Although they are entitled to their increases it is a bit embarrassing to work with a court attorney who makes more than you. Something must be done.

The commission has been given the responsibility to right a terrible wrong. I hope that the members of the commission have the courage to overlook political and public opinions and just do the right thing. That's what I have been trying to do throughout the years even though I have not been rightly compensated for it.

I appreciate your giving me an opportunity to voice my opinion and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Tao