



HON. THOMAS L. RAMICH
CITY COURT JUDGE

HON. STEVEN W. FORREST
CITY COURT JUDGE

ELMIRA CITY COURT

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TERESA B. SEELEY
CHIEF CLERK

SHARON E. RACE
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK

July 14, 2011

Special Commission on Judicial Compensation
P.O. Box 7342
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Sirs:

Re: Judicial Compensation

Please be advised that I am sending this letter to you as President of the New York State Association of City Court Judges, an organization of about eighty (80) sitting and retired city court judges comprising of approximately fifteen percent (15%) of all sitting judges in the State of New York.

Over the past twelve (12) years, our salaries have remained frozen, with no cost-of-living adjustment whatsoever. Our upstate city court judges during this period of time have experienced a tremendous surge in rising caseloads, as well as undertaking the responsibilities of a wide array of new problem solving courts. Our city court judges remain dedicated to their duties and they continue to operate their courts in a most dignified manner, despite the recent time constraints placed upon us to close the courts early and during the normal lunch hour.

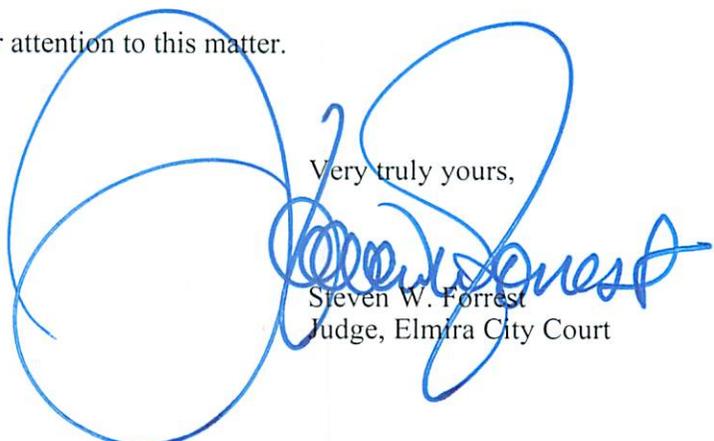
As each of you undertake the critical issue of an appropriate salary adjustment for judges, I strongly urge that you consider:

(1.) A full pay raise in one installment, effective April 1, 2012 and **NOT** a phased-in program of salary adjustments spread out over several years. Given the relative costs involved, a phased-in program likely would **NOT** be meaningful budgetarily to the State and would hardly be fair to the judges who have so honorably served this State for many years; and, more importantly,

(2.) The Commission should remedy the decades-long intra-court and inter-court pay disparities. The Commission is urged to take immediate and swift action to repair the disparities or, at the very least, report your recommendation to the Legislature, so it may act independently in order to address the problem.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Steven W. Forrest
Judge, Elmira City Court

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