



COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL COMPENSATION

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024
1:00pm via Zoom**

Commission Members* Present:

Karen Buffkin	Eboni Nelson
Moy Ogilvie	Jay Malcynsky
Herbert Shepardson	Daniel Papermaster
Dan Hitchell	Karen Noble

Commission Members Absent:

Perry Rowthorn
James Horwitz
Herman Woodward, Jr

*One slot has not yet been filled

1. Call to Order

Chairman Karen Buffkin called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

2. Remarks of the Chair

Chairman Buffkin welcomed Chief Justice Raheem Mullins to the Commission and thanked him for his presentation.

3. Presentation by Chief Justice Mullins

Chief Justice Raheem Mullins presented his report to the Commission, which included his recommendations for judicial compensation. He also discussed the current climate of the state as well as the seven statutory factors the Commission must consider. The report can be viewed [here](#), and the slides and link to a recording of the presentation can be found [here](#).

4. Recap and discussion of factors for consideration under [CGS § 51-47c](#)

Chairman Buffkin asked if any Commission members had any questions or concerns that they would like to address. Daniel Papermaster asked what timeframe the Commission is setting compensation for, and Chairman Buffkin responded that the recommendation would typically be in place for four years until the next Commission meets. Karen Noble asked if in the past, Commissions

recommended set increases or percentage increases over time like the Chief Justice has suggested. Chairman Buffkin responded that in 2021 was for a salary increase of 4.5% and then in subsequent years an increase based on the CPI-U with a floor of 2.5%. She also noted that should a Commission not convene in 2024, the 2021 Commission recommended that the cost-of-living adjustments should be maintained until such time as a subsequent commission is convened and issues its report. Dan Hitchell asked how other state employees receive their increases, Chairman Buffkin explained the process. Chairman Buffkin then commented that she would like to know the cost of getting to the median judge salary, to which Dan Hitchell asked if the Commission would consider going higher than that. Herb Shepardson noted that he was surprised where Connecticut fell considering the cost of living in the Northeast, and that he would be interested in looking at that possibility. Chairman Buffkin said the Commission should look at the cost before committing to anything. Karen Noble pointed out that Connecticut judges' salaries are consistent with Rhode Island and Massachusetts when adjusted for cost of living, and wondered whether the size of the state would potentially be a factor.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Buffkin closed the meeting by reminding the Commission that the next meeting would be held on November 20th and would include a presentation by the National Center for State Courts. The meeting was properly adjourned at 1:42PM.