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CRAWFORD

George W. Crawford Black Bar Association

November 23, 2020

Judicial Compensation Commission
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591


Dear Mr. Chairperson Jepsen and Distinguished Members:

I am writing on behalf of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association ("Crawford") to express our support for a salary increase for Connecticut judges. By way of background, Crawford is the volunteer state-wide professional organization for Black attorneys, judges and lawyers in Connecticut. Since 2012, our organization has supported the passing of Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 51-47c, the Judicial Compensation Commission and the need to review judicial salaries as set forth in the statute.

Our organization maintains a deep respect for judicial service and believes it to be the pinnacle of the legal profession. We recognize that our judicial system is distinct from that of other countries because of our highly skilled jurists and their judicial independence, which together create faith in the system and belief that justice will be served. In order to maintain such independence and to continue to attract highly skilled jurists, we believe that judicial salaries must be increased sufficiently and a failure to do so will adversely affect the judiciary and dissuade candidates from the bench. For these reasons, we support fully a salary increase for Connecticut judges as determined to be appropriate but sufficient to ensure that we attract the best and diverse candidates and promote judicial independence.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Very truly yours,



Alan H. Bowie, Jr.
President