

**NEW YORK
CITY BAR**

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November 20, 2006

Governor George Pataki
The Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

We write to you to urge that the Legislature act immediately to increase the salaries of the State's judges and to establish a mechanism that provides for appropriate periodic increases in these salaries. Such a measure can be enacted in a special session of the Legislature held between now and December 31, 2006.

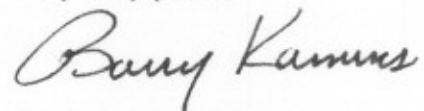
Salaries for New York's judges have not been raised since 1999, even though the cost of living during that period has increased about 26 per cent. State Supreme Court Justices, who have historically received salaries in parity with federal district court judges, now earn \$30,000 less than their federal counterparts. New York judicial salaries also compare poorly with those of other states.

The quality of justice is directly related to the quality of the judiciary. Compensation is a major consideration both for those currently on the bench and those considering becoming a judge. To the extent the salaries discourage or inhibit people of quality from serving in the judiciary, the entire state is disserved. With over four million new matters filed annually in New York's courts, preserving the standing of judges and maintaining the highest quality bench is of vast importance.

New York's business community has recognized the significance of this issue, and we applaud The Partnership for New York City for taking a leadership role in pressing for not only a salary increase, but for a method of assuring that judges do not have to continually go hat-in-hand to the other branches of government, and see their compensation needs rebuffed for years at a time. Some commission, such as proposed by Chief Judge Judith Kaye, or other method has to be established so that future periodic pay raises are either provided automatically, or established unless the Legislature chooses to act otherwise.

We join the Partnership, Chief Judge Kaye and many civic organizations in calling for an immediate and substantial increase in State judicial salaries.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Kamins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barry Kamins