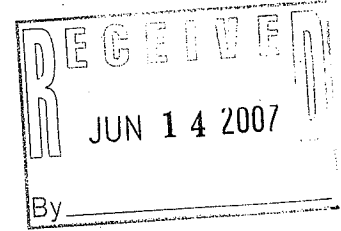




VERMONT STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

P.O. Box 858 • Montpelier, Vermont 05601-0858 • (802) 223-5229 • Fax (802) 223-1123

June 12, 2007



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Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Salary increase for federal judges

Dear Senator ^{Pat}Leahy:


I am writing to urge that Congress increase the salaries of federal judges.

From the letter of John Sweeney, President of the National AFL-CIO and who supports this issue, federal judges have not received a significant pay increase since 1989. This leaves federal judges almost 24% behind where they would have been had their pay kept pace with that of other lawyers employed at the top levels of the federal government.

Only independently wealthy individuals will be able to afford to serve in that capacity leaving underpaid federal judges at a disadvantage. To ensure that the federal judiciary not become surrounded by only the wealthy, it is important that federal judges receive a fair salary to compensate them for their high level of responsibility.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Best regards,


Lindol Atkins, Jr., President

Cc: Robert M. Paolini, Esq.
Executive Director
Vermont Bar Association

LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL

