



Minnesota
State Bar
Association

600 Nicollet Mall
Suite 380
Minneapolis, MN 55402

March 8, 2023

Re: Judicial compensation

Chair Kaplan and Compensation Council Members:

The Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) is a voluntary professional association representing approximately 13,000 attorneys statewide. The MSBA supports raising judicial salaries to help ensure that Minnesota courts will continue to benefit from a first-class judiciary.

Lawyers have unique and direct insight regarding the importance of having well-rounded and experienced judges on the bench. The number, complexity, and diversity of cases handled by Minnesota's justice system is staggering, but the high esteem with which our courts are held can only be maintained with sufficient resources to retain and recruit high-quality judges.

Because judges are public servants, it is not expected that their salaries should equal the compensation available to private practice attorneys. But the significant gap in earning potential undoubtedly discourages excellent private sector candidates from applying for positions on the bench. It is critically important that the state's judiciary reflect diversity in all respects—including a diversity of professional experience—to supply a foundation of knowledge necessary to understand and competently adjudicate the diversity of cases that flow through our court system. The MSBA therefore urges the Compensation Council to recommend a significant compensation increase for judges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Peterson", written in a cursive style.

Paul Peterson
MSBA President 2022-23