

FEDERAL JUDGES' SALARY RATES (1789-1988)

Year	Chief Justices of the United States	Associate Justices	Circuit court of appeals <sup>1</sup>	District court	Court of claims	Court of International Trade	Claims Court
1789	\$4,000 1 Stat. 72	\$3,500 1 Stat. 72					
1819	\$6,000 3 Stat. 484	\$4,000 3 Stat. 484					
1855	\$6,500 10 Stat. 655	\$6,000 10 Stat. 655			\$4,000 10 Stat. 612		
1869			\$5,000 16 Stat. 45				
1871	\$8,500 16 Stat. 494	\$8,000 16 Stat. 494					
1872					\$4,500 17 Stat. 85		
1873	\$10,500 17 Stat. 486	\$10,000 17 Stat. 486					
1891				\$5,000 26 Stat. 783			
1903	\$13,000 32 Stat. 825	\$12,500 32 Stat. 825	\$7,000 22 Stat. 825	\$6,000 32 Stat. 825	\$6,500 32 Stat. 825		
1911	\$15,000 26 Stat. 1152	\$14,500 26 Stat. 1152					
1919			\$8,500 40 Stat. 1157	\$7,500 40 Stat. 1157	\$8,000 40 Stat. 1157		
1926 <sup>4</sup>	\$20,500 44 Stat. 919	\$20,000 44 Stat. 919	\$12,500 44 Stat. 919	\$10,000 44 Stat. 919	\$12,500 44 Stat. 919		
1946	\$25,500 60 Stat. 716	\$25,000 60 Stat. 716	\$17,500 60 Stat. 716	\$16,000 60 Stat. 716	\$17,500 60 Stat. 716		
1955	\$36,500 69 Stat. 9	\$36,000 69 Stat. 9	\$25,500 69 Stat. 10	\$22,500 69 Stat. 10	\$25,500 69 Stat. 10		
1964	\$40,000 78 Stat. 484	\$39,500 78 Stat. 484	\$33,000 78 Stat. 434	\$30,000 78 Stat. 434	\$33,000 78 Stat. 434		
1969 <sup>5</sup>	\$52,500	\$50,000	\$42,500	\$40,000	\$42,500		
1975 <sup>6</sup>	\$65,500	\$63,000	\$44,500	\$42,000	\$44,500		

**FEDERAL JUDGES' SALARY RATES—Continued**  
(1789-1988)

Year	Chief Justices of the United States	Associate Justices	Circuit court of appeals <sup>1</sup>	District court	Court of claims	International Trade	Claims Court
1976 *	89 Stat. 419 \$68,800	89 Stat. 419 \$68,000	89 Stat. 419 \$46,800	89 Stat. 419 \$44,000	89 Stat. 419 \$46,800		
1977 *	76,000	72,000	57,500	54,500	57,500		
1978 *	79,100	76,000	60,700	57,500	60,700		
1979 *	84,700	81,300	65,000	61,500	65,000		
1980 *	92,400	88,700	70,900	67,100	70,900		
1981 *	96,800	93,000	74,300	70,300	74,300		
1982 *	100,700	96,700	77,300	73,100	(10)		
1984 *	104,700	100,600	80,400	76,000		\$76,000	11 \$65,200
1985 *	108,400	104,100	83,200	78,700		78,700	12 67,800
1987 *	111,700	107,200	85,700	81,100		81,100	13 72,300
1987 *	116,000	110,000	95,000	89,500		89,500	14 82,500
1988 *							14 89,500

<sup>1</sup> Circuit courts were established in 1789. The 13 judicial districts were divided into 3 circuits with 2 Justices of the Supreme Court and the district judge of the district of jurisdiction presiding (1 Stat. 74-76). Under the reorganization of the judicial system in 1869, 9 circuit judges were appointed and ordered to sit with designated Supreme Court Justices and district judges (16 Stat. 44-46). The Circuit Court of Appeals was established in 1891 (26 Stat. 826).

<sup>2</sup> Prior to 1891, salaries of the district judges varied among the several districts. The 13 district judgeships established in 1789 ranged in salaries from \$800 to \$1,800 (1 Stat. 72). An act in 1891 established a uniform salary (26 Stat. 783).

<sup>3</sup> Rate for presiding judge; others received \$600 less.

<sup>4</sup> The salaries of Federal judges were unaffected by the reductions which took place during the period 1982 to 1985. Article III, section 1, of the Constitution provides that Federal judges' compensation "shall not be diminished during their continuance in office."

<sup>5</sup> See p. 29 for information on the Commission on Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Salaries.

<sup>6</sup> Automatic adjustment, Public Law 94-82 (89 Stat. 419).

<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act of 1979, pay for these positions was limited to the rate in effect on Sept. 30, 1978, i.e., the 1977 rates.

<sup>8</sup> Salary increased retroactively pursuant to section 2207 of Public Law 98-369, July 18, 1984.

<sup>9</sup> Salary increased retroactively pursuant to Public Law 98-88, August 15, 1985.

<sup>10</sup> The Court of Claims was merged with the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals to form the new Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit pursuant to Public Law 97-164 (96 Stat. 26). The Court of Claims' trial functions were transferred to the new United States Claims Court.

<sup>11</sup> The Claims Court judges' salary was \$62,700 from October 1982 until December 18, 1982, at which time they received an automatic increase pursuant to Public Law 94-82 (89 Stat. 419).

<sup>12</sup> Claims Court judges are Article I judges and are not affected by section 149 of Public Law 97-92.

<sup>13</sup> Salaries increased effective January 1987 pursuant to Public Law 99-591, October 30, 1986.

<sup>14</sup> Pursuant to section 1023 of Public Law 100-702 (Nov. 19, 1988), salary rate was made equivalent to rate of pay for District Court Judges.

## Judicial Salaries Since 1968

<b>End of Year</b>	<b>Senators</b>	<b>Members of the House of Representatives</b>	<b>Circuit Judges</b>	<b>District Judges</b>
2003	\$154,700	\$154,700	\$164,000	\$154,700
2002	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$159,100	\$150,000
2001	\$145,100	\$145,100	\$153,900	\$145,100
2000	\$141,300	\$141,300	\$149,900	\$141,300
1999	\$136,700	\$136,700	\$145,000	\$136,700
1998	\$136,700	\$136,700	\$145,000	\$136,700
1997	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600
1996	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600
1995	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600
1994	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600
1993	\$133,600	\$133,600	\$141,700	\$133,600
1992	\$129,500	\$129,500	\$137,300	\$129,500
1991 <sup>1</sup>	\$125,100	\$125,100	\$132,700	\$125,100
1990	\$98,400	\$96,600	\$102,500	\$96,600
1989	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500
1988	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500
1987 <sup>2</sup>	\$89,500	\$89,500	\$95,000	\$89,500
1986	\$75,100	\$75,100	\$83,200	\$78,700
1985	\$75,100	\$75,100	\$83,200	\$78,700
1984	\$72,600	\$72,600	\$80,400	\$76,000
1983	\$77,300	\$77,300	\$77,300	\$73,100
1982 <sup>3</sup>	\$69,800	\$69,800	\$77,300	\$73,100
1981	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$74,300	\$70,300
1980	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$70,900	\$67,100

<b>End of Year</b>	<b>Senators</b>	<b>Members of the House of Representatives</b>	<b>Circuit Judges</b>	<b>District Judges</b>
1979 <sup>4</sup>	\$60,663	\$60,663	\$65,000	\$61,500
1978	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$54,500
1977 <sup>5</sup>	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$57,500	\$54,500
1976 <sup>6</sup>	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$46,800	\$44,000
1975	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$44,600	\$42,000
1974	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1973	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1972	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1971	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1970	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1969 <sup>7</sup>	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$42,500	\$40,000
1968	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$33,000	\$30,000

### Explanatory Notes

Unless otherwise indicated, all increases were the result of annual pay adjustments.

1. This pay raise went into effect on January 1, 1991, and reflects a 25 percent increase provided to judges and other senior Government officials by the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Pub. L. No. 101-194, § 703, 103 Stat. 1716, 1768, and a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment for the 1991 fiscal year.
2. The pay adjustment was actually provided in two steps. First, Public Law Number 99-500, §406, provided a three percent cost-of-living adjustment for the Judiciary as of January 1, 1987, bringing the salaries of circuit judges to \$85,700 and district judges (and other top Government officials) to \$81,100. Then President Reagan on January 5, 1987, recommended to Congress further adjustment for justices, judges, and other executive level officers under the Federal Salary Act of 1967, as amended 2 U.S.C. § 358, to the rates shown. These rates became effective March 1, 1987, following Congressional failure to effectively disapprove them. This was the first time since 1978 that congressional members were paid the same as judges; however, their pay only was made equal to district judges, rather than circuit judges as had been the custom prior to 1978.
3. By legislation, salaries for Senators remained at \$60,663 until raised to \$69,800, effective July 1, 1983.
4. *United States v. Will*, 449 U.S. 200 (1980), held that 1979 legislation violated the Non-Diminution clause of Article III in denying judges joint implementation of 1978 and 1979 annual cost-of-living adjustments; congressional members, not covered by the constitutional holding in *Will*, received only the 1978 annual cost-of-living adjustment under this legislation.
5. Quadrennial Commission increases, effective March 1, 1977, not only increasing pay generally, but also restoring parity between the pay of circuit judges and congressional members.
6. Implementation of the 1976 annual cost-of-living adjustment for judges only, pursuant to *United States v. Will, supra*, holding that retroactive cancellation of the 1976 adjustment violated the Non-Diminution Clause of Article III.
7. Quadrennial Commission increases effective March 1, 1969.