Judicial Retirement Survey - 2014

Survey Questions

1. Do judges in your state have a defined benefit plan or a defined contribution plan or a combined defined benefit and defined contribution plan for retirement?

2. What percentage of his/her salary does a judge contribute to the judicial retirement plan?

3. What percentage of a judge’s salary does the state or other employer contribute to the judicial retirement plan?

4. What is the judicial retirement plan benefit calculation formula in your state?

5. What are the age, length of service, and other requirements for different pension payment levels?

6. What is the maximum amount or percentage of salary that a judge can receive in annual pension payments from the judicial retirement plan?

7. Does your judicial retirement plan include benefit payments to a disabled judge? If so, what is the benefit calculation formula? If not, how is disability addressed?

8. Does your judicial retirement plan include benefit payments to the surviving spouse of a judge who dies while in service? If so, what is the benefit calculation formula?

9. Does your judicial retirement plan include benefit payments to the surviving spouse of a judge who dies after retirement? If so, what is the benefit calculation formula?

10. Does your judicial retirement plan include life insurance?

11. Is your judicial retirement plan funded through a pension trust fund with employee and/or employer contributions, through direct annual legislative appropriations to retired judges, or through some other means?

12. If your judicial retirement plan is funded through a pension trust fund, what percentage of the plan is funded?

13. If a judge leaves the bench before s/he is eligible to retire and receive a pension, what benefit is paid out to that judge on departure?

14. Does your state have a mandatory retirement age for judges? If so, what is the mandatory retirement age?

15. Is your state considering changing from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan?