


# Chief Justice John Roberts Calls for Higher Judicial Pay

**U**nited States Chief Justice John Roberts devoted his year-end report on the federal judiciary to a single topic—the need to increase pay for federal judges. He said that he focused on a single issue in an effort to get public attention on it.

Roberts noted that in 1969 a federal trial judge was paid \$40,000, more than a dean at a top law school (\$33,000) or a senior law-school professor (\$28,000).

Today, he said that federal judges make about *half* what those deans and professors are paid.

He argued that substantial salary increases are needed to keep a diverse pool of qualified applicants available for new vacancies and to keep current judges on the bench for the lifetime appointments that ensure judicial independence. His remarks can be found on the Web at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/publicinfo/year-end/2006year-endreport.pdf>. 

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