

HON. DANNY THRAILKILL  
STATE DISTRICT COURT  
JUDGE



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**24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
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Independent Citizens Commission  
State of Arkansas  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Request of Arkansas District Judges Judicial Council

Dear Commissioners,

As President of the Arkansas District Judges Judicial Council, I am writing on behalf of our membership, which includes 70 district court judges serving all 75 counties in the state. District judges handle the majority of the state court caseload, approximately one million cases each year, and work diligently to ensure justice is delivered fairly and efficiently.

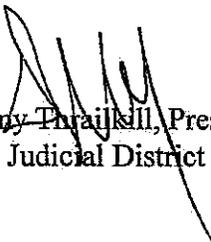
First, the Commission has done an outstanding job in supporting salary adjustments that promote a professional judiciary. We are especially grateful for your efforts to provide cost-of-living increases consistent with those granted to other state employees. We trust that you will continue to apply the same fairness this year.

Second, the salary for state district judges is \$178,932. By comparison, Division A prosecuting attorneys earn \$194,268.88, circuit judges earn \$204,493.54, Court of Appeals judges earn \$209,452.05, and Supreme Court justices earn \$215,842.43. The pay gap between district court judges and circuit judges is proportionally larger than the gap between circuit and appellate Judges. We believe this is important to highlight, and we also want to propose a constructive path forward.

We intend to reach out to the Judicial Council to propose forming a joint working group regarding judicial salaries with the goal of exploring potential recommendations to present to you next summer.

Thank you for your continued support and for the important work you do on behalf of all Arkansans.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Danny Thrailkill, President  
24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge