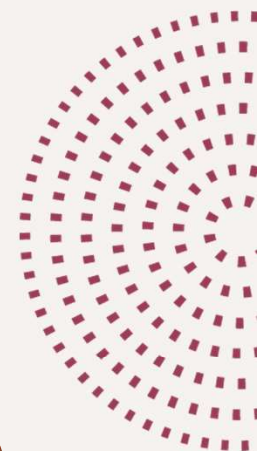


# MDJA

MINNESOTA DISTRICT  
JUDGES ASSOCIATION



**Judge Mary Mahler, MDJA President**

MINNESOTA DISTRICT  
JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
MDJA

**AGENDA**

1. Overview of MDJA
2. Judicial Staff and Pay
3. Pensions
4. Safety Law Changes
5. Compensation Council  
Modifications

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# OVERVIEW

# MDJA MISSION

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- The Association (MDJA) is a professional association of Minnesota District Court Judges and Retired District Court Judges.
- Its purpose is to promote the common professional interests of Minnesota judges, improve the administration of justice in Minnesota courts, and coordinate government and legislative activity regarding Minnesota judges and courts.
- MDJA works to maintain and improve the administration of justice in Minnesota courts and establish standards of judicial practice and ethics.

# MDJA LEGISLATIVE WORK

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Activities of the Association include working with the Legislature in an effort to advance the interests of judges in the state. The MDJA has a number of committees working on legislative issues, including fair judicial elections, court security, pensions and benefits, access to justice, and other current issues of interest to judges and the Legislature.

MDJA reviews and responds to legislative proposals and actions that relate to the courts and judiciary.

# MDJA – OTHER ACTIVITIES

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Other non-legislative activities of MDJA include:

- Reviewing proposals and advising members on standards of judicial practice and ethics.
- Working with other stakeholders such as the Judicial Council that strive to keep Minnesota courts efficient, well-run, and open to all.
- Coordinating with the Minnesota Justice Foundation in furthering the professional education of judges.

# MDJA – OTHER ACTIVITIES

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- Reviewing and responding to proposed rules of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Board of Judicial Standards, Judicial Canons of Ethics, and General Rules for District Courts.
- The MDJA prepares the Minnesota Civil and Criminal Jury Instruction Guides, widely utilized written instructions for courts, attorneys, and juries on the process for arriving at verdicts following trials.



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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #1

## JUDICIAL BRANCH COMPENSATION



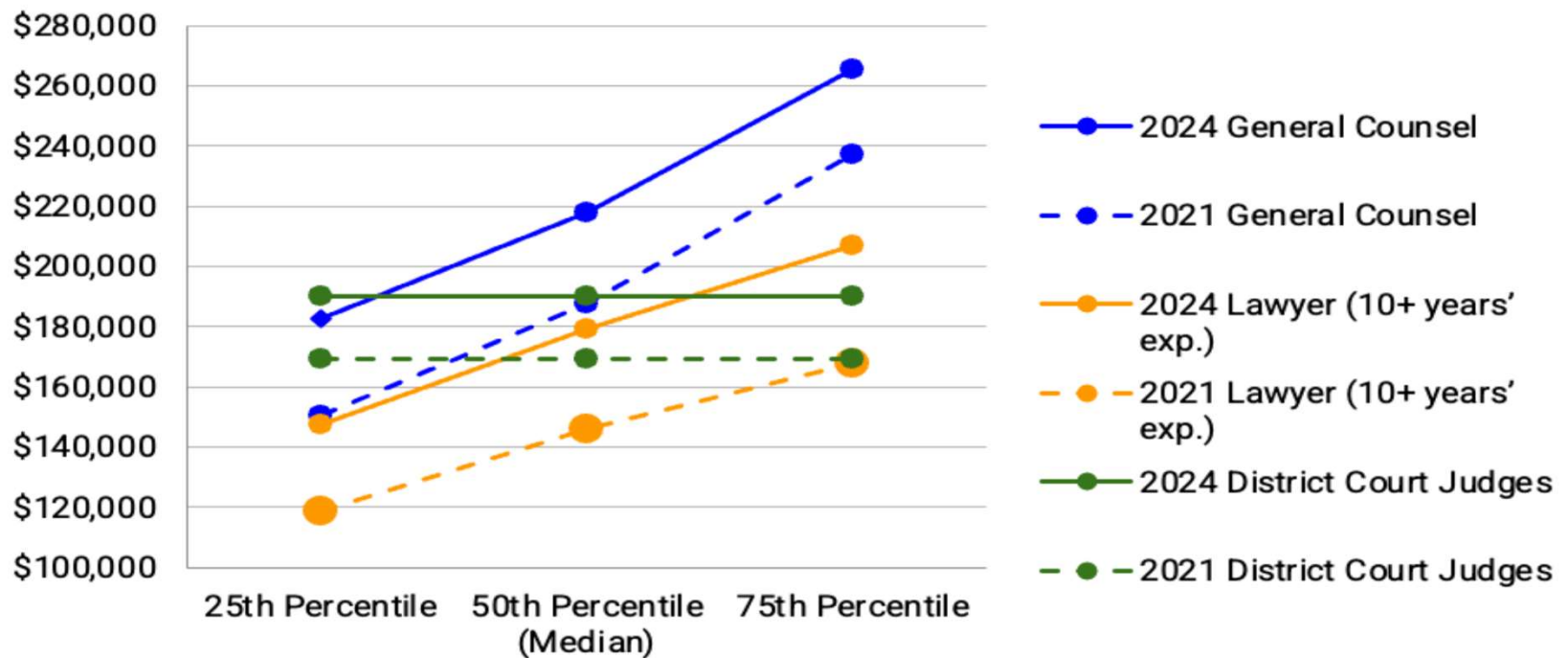
# MINNESOTA'S JUDGE PAY

## *Judicial Salaries*

Year	District Court	Court of Appeals	Supreme Court
2019	\$161,108	\$171,624	\$182,139
2020	\$165,136	\$175,915	\$186,692
2021	\$169,264	\$180,313	\$191,359
2022	\$169,264	\$180,313	\$191,359
2023	\$169,264	\$180,313	\$191,359
2024	\$182,805	\$194,738	\$206,668
2025	\$190,117	\$202,528	\$214,935

# JUDICIAL SALARY TRACKING

## *Private Sector Comparisons*



# MDJA RECOMMENDATION

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## To Attract Attorneys:

**Pay commensurate to recruit** the best, brightest and most qualified attorneys.

## To Retain Judges:

**Regular judicial pay increases to keep** quality judges. This sends the necessary message that judges and their work is appreciated and valued.

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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #2

## JUDICIAL PENSION FUNDING

# MDJA RECOMMENDATION

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- MDJA supports the annual \$6 million contribution to the retirement fund in the base budget.
- This payment began six years ago and will end when the plan is adequately funded.
- Safeguarding Minnesota Judges' pension stability and ensuring the availability of pension contributions in retirement is essential to the recruitment and retention of quality judges.

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# **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #3**

## **JUDICIAL AND COURT SAFETY AND PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENT**

# MDJA RECOMMENDATION

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- MDJA supports real estate updates to the Judicial and Court Staff Safety and Privacy Act passed in 2024.
- The safety of Minnesota's Judges, court staff, and members of their households are put at risk by the dissemination and perpetual internet access of home addresses and personal information. The Judicial and Court Staff Safety and Privacy Act was a step toward alleviating those safety concerns.
- Extending the Act to real estate is a top priority during the 2025 Legislative Session. MDJA led an interim workgroup to recommend consensus changes to the application of the Act to real estate transaction.



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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #4

## MODIFICATIONS TO

### COMPENSATION COUNCIL STATUTE

# MDJA RECOMMENDATION

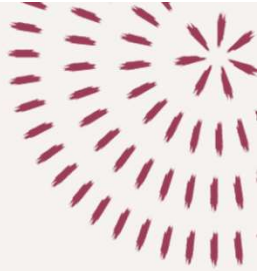
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- MDJA and Judicial Council jointly support legislation to modify recent changes to the Compensation Council that directly impact the Judicial Branch.
- The two Compensation Council modification changes to be advanced include:
  1. Changing the report date from April 1 in odd-numbered years to August 1 in even-numbered years.
  2. Removing ex parte communication prohibitions between any member of the judiciary and members of the Compensation Council.

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**MINNESOTA MUST CONTINUE TO  
ASSURE EQUAL JUSTICE TO ALL**

# MINNESOTA'S JUSTICE RANKING



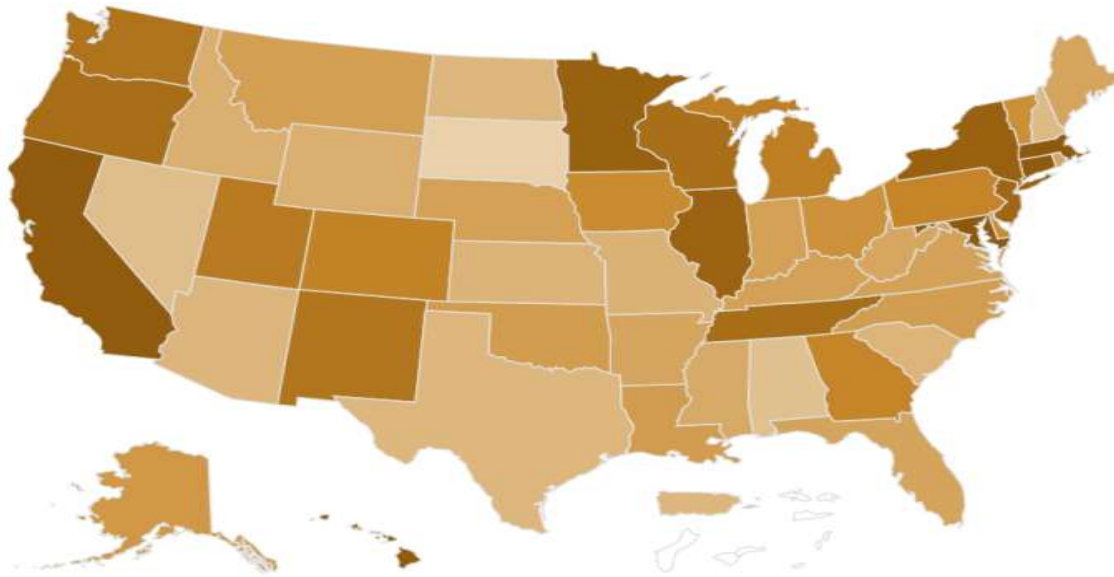
All Regions

Midwest

Northeast

South

West



## Minnesota

← BACK

### Overall Score

57.26 out of 100

### National Ranking

7 states scored higher

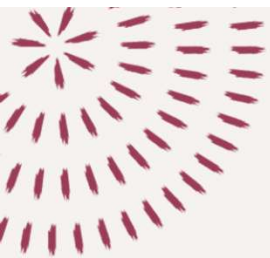
44 states scored lower

*\*Includes District of Columbia and Puerto Rico*

**NCAJ** National Center for  
Access to Justice

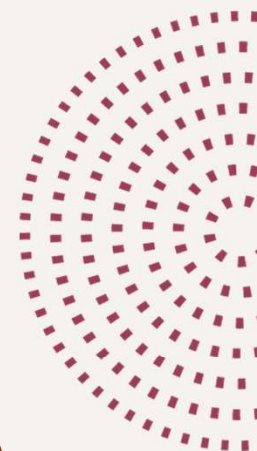
## Justice Index

- Minnesota's courts currently rank 8th in the nation for ensuring justice.
- **Minnesota's courts rank first in the Midwest for ensuring justice.**



# MDJA

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JUDGES ASSOCIATION



**Judge Mary Mahler, MDJA President**