



Appendix C: Summary of Plan Provisions

Membership

Includes Metropolitan judges and all judges of district courts and justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Judges in office on or before July 1, 1980 had the opportunity to choose coverage under the post July 1, 1980 plan upon filing of an irrevocable election prior to December 1, 1980.

Voluntary Retirement

A judge may voluntarily retire:

- 1) At age 65 with 5 or more years of service.
- 2) At age 60 with 15 or more years of service.

For members hired after July 1, 2005:

- 1) At age 65 with 5 or more years of service.
- 2) At age 55 with 16 or more years of service.

Retirement Pension

Pre 7-1-80 plan: 37.5% of one year final average salary plus 7.5% of one year final average salary for each year of service in excess of 5 years. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (10 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Post 7-1-80 plan: 37.5% of one year final average salary plus 3.75% of one year final average salary for each year of service in excess of 5 years. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (15 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Post 7-1-05 plan: 3.75% of one year final average salary for each year of service. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (20 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Early Retirement Pension

Applicable to judges between the ages of 50 and 60 with 18 or more years of service. The pension is equal to 70% of FAS plus ½% of FAS multiplied by the number of complete years the age at retirement exceeds age 50. Members hired after July 1, 2005 are not eligible for early retirement.



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Final Average Salary

For service credit earned before June 30, 2014, the salary received during the last 1 year in office prior to retirement. For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, the average salary received for the highest 5 year consecutive period.

Deferred Retirement Pension

If judicial service terminates after 5 years of such service, the judge and spouse retain entitlement to benefits of the Fund. Five-year service requirement is waived if the result of a duty-related disability.

Pre 7-1-80 plan: 37.5% of one year final average salary plus 7.5% of one year final average salary for each year of service in excess of 5 years. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (10 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Post 7-1-80 plan: 37.5% of one year final average salary plus 3.75% of one year final average salary for each year of service in excess of 5 years. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (15 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Post 7-1-05 plan: 3.75% of one year final average salary for each year of service. Maximum is 75% of one year final average salary (20 or more years of service). For service credit earned on or after July 1, 2014, 3.5% of five year final average salary with a maximum of 85% of 5 year final average salary.

Payment of the judge's pension commences upon reaching the age and service requirement for voluntary retirement.

Survivor's Pension – Retired Judges

The surviving spouse of a retired judge receives a pension of 75% of the judge's retirement pension until death. Pension is payable to deceased judge's minor and dependent children if there is no eligible surviving spouse.

Survivor's Pension – Active Judges

Applicable if judge had 5 or more years of service. The surviving spouse would receive 75% of the judge's vested pension until death. Pension is payable to deceased judge's minor and dependent children if there is no eligible surviving spouse.



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Disability

Applicable if judge has 5 or more years of service and becomes incapacitated to perform duties of office. The amount of the disability pension is equal to the judge's accrued vested benefit.

Cost-of-Living Increases

Effective July 1, 2014, there will be no COLA increases for 2014 and 2015. Starting July 1, 2016, annual 2% COLA increases will be subject to PERA's certification based on the Fund's current year and projected next year funded ratio being equal to or greater than 100%. At a minimum, a 2% COLA increase will be granted every third year. COLA increases are subject to the following eligibility periods:

- If member retires prior to July 1, 2014, COLA is payable after retirement has been in effect for at least 2 full calendar years.
- If member retires on or after July 1, 2014 but prior to July 1, 2015, COLA is payable after retirement has been in effect for at least 3 full calendar years.
- If member retires on or after July 1, 2015 but prior to July 1, 2016, COLA is payable after retirement has been in effect for at least 4 full calendar years.
- If member retires on or after July 1, 2016, COLA is payable after retirement has been in effect for at least 7 full calendar years.

If retired on account of disability or if at least age 65, the above waiting period is reduced to 1 full calendar year.

Judge's Contributions

Members contribute 10.5% of salary.

Refund of Judge's Contributions

If a judge leaves service or dies and no pension becomes payable, the accumulated contributions are refunded or paid to the designated beneficiary.

Public Payments

Payroll based contributions: 15.0% of salary. Dollar Contributions: \$38.00 from each civil case docket fee paid in the district court (increased from \$27.25 effective June 19, 1987) plus \$25.00 from each civil case docket fee and \$10.00 from each civil action jury fee paid in the metropolitan courts.



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Other Service

PERA, MRA and ERA service may be combined with Judicial service for purposes of satisfying age and service requirements once a member has attained one month of Judicial service. When combining service, members may retire under the JRA after satisfying either the JRA or PERA age and service requirements for immediate benefits.