

# **Amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.244**

The Florida Supreme Court, on its own motion, recently adopted amendments to Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.244. The amendments adjust the title, remove the references to salary relationships among levels of state judges, and renumber the subdivisions detailing the Unified Committee on Judicial Compensation.

The Court invites all interested persons to comment on the amendments, which are reproduced in full below. All comments must be filed with the Court on or before November 16, 2021, as well as a separate request for oral argument if the person filing the comment wishes to participate in oral argument, which may be scheduled in this case. If filed by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, the comment must be electronically filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal (Portal) in accordance with *In re Electronic Filing in the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC13-7 (Feb. 18, 2013). If filed by a nonlawyer or a lawyer not licensed to practice in Florida, the comment may be, but is not required to be, filed via the Portal. Any person unable to submit a comment electronically must mail or hand-deliver the originally signed comment to the Florida Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927; no additional copies are required or will be accepted.

## **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

**IN RE: AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA RULE OF GENERAL PRACTICE AND JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION 2.244, CASE NO. SC21-1223**

**Rule 2.244. JUDICIAL COMPENSATION UNIFIED COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL COMPENSATION**

~~**(a) Statement of Purpose.** The purpose of this rule is to set forth the official policy of the judicial branch of state government concerning the appropriate salary relationships between justices and judges at the various levels of the state courts system and the mechanism for advancing judicial compensation and benefits issues. Although ultimate discretion in establishing judicial compensation is vested in the Florida Legislature, the salary relationships referenced in this rule reflect the policy of the judicial branch when requesting adjustments to judicial salaries.~~

~~**(b) Annual Salaries.** The annual salary of a district court of appeal judge should be equal to 95 percent of the annual salary of a supreme court justice. The annual salary of a circuit court judge should be equal to 90 percent of the annual salary of a supreme court justice. The annual salary of a county court judge should be equal to 85 percent of the annual salary of a supreme court justice.~~

~~**(c) Unified Committee on Judicial Compensation.**~~

~~**(1)(a) Creation.** There shall be created a Unified Committee on Judicial Compensation to address judicial pay and benefits issues.~~

~~**(2)(b) Purpose.** The purpose of the Unified Committee on Judicial Compensation shall be to:~~

~~(A)(1) develop and recommend to the supreme court judicial pay and benefits priorities; and~~

~~(B)(2) advocate for judicial pay and benefits issues approved by the supreme court for inclusion in the annual judicial branch budget request.~~

~~**(3)(c) Membership.** The membership shall include the chief justice of the supreme court, the presidents and presidents-elect of the Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges, the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, and the Conference of County Court Judges, and the chairs and vice-chairs of the District Court Budget Commission and the Trial Court Budget Commission.~~

**(4)(d) Staffing.** The Office of the State Courts Administrator will provide primary staff support to the committee.