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## President's Page

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THE WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

**The President's Page**

H. R. 8716, introduced by Maurice K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona, and Joel T. Broyhill, Republican of Virginia, now pending before Congress, represents a conscientious attempt to accomplish a Federal pay reform, not simply a Federal pay raise. Its enactment has been urged by the American Bar Association following extensive studies by its Committee on Judicial Selection, Tenure and Compensation. This proposed legislation deserves the attention of the lawyers of West Virginia not only because of its increase in compensation to members of the federal judiciary, but because it points up the need for a comprehensive study of the compensation of members of the judiciary in West Virginia.

The Udall-Broyhill Bill would increase salaries of our federal district judges to \$35,000 annually and has received active support from the President, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Salary Systems, and many organizations familiar with the problems involved. W. VA. CODE ch. 6, art. 7, § 4 (Michie 1961), as amended, provides that judges of the Circuit Courts in West Virginia are to be compensated according to population of their districts. Circuit judges in our most populous counties receive \$12,200 and the County Court has the right to contribute additional compensation, but in no event shall a circuit judge be compensated more than \$18,200. It is interesting to note that state trial court judges in California, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania receive salaries in excess of \$22,500.

The West Virginia Bar Association, West Virginia State Bar and Judicial Council should jointly undertake a thorough study of judicial compensation in West Virginia and report its recommendations to the Governor, Board of Public Works, and Legislature. It is the poorest kind of economy to make our judicial positions unavailable to qualified individuals merely because of financial considerations.

*C. Howard Hardesty, Jr.*

