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## **‘A Better Path’: Chief Justice Focuses on Judges’ Pay, Effective Courts in Annual Speech**

Chief Justice G. Richard Bevan urged lawmakers on Wednesday to help stem challenges in recruiting and keeping judges in Idaho’s state courts, by changing how those judges are compensated for their work.

“Experienced judges are leaving office early. Experienced attorneys are less interested in replacing them,” Chief Justice Bevan said during his annual State of the Judiciary address.

The yearly speech to both chambers of the Idaho Legislature discusses the work of the courts and matters important to maintaining this state’s fair, timely and impartial court system.

The chief justice used this year’s speech to continue his call for more fair pay for judges and an independent committee to advise on future salary increases. The Idaho Supreme Court proposes increasing judicial salaries to around \$200,000 annually for trial court judges.

“To be clear, this will not place Idaho at the top of the pay scale, but it will make judicial service more attractive to qualified candidates and encourage current judges to stay on the bench,” he said.

And that, Chief Justice Bevan said, will ensure Idahoans continue to be served by a high-quality judiciary.

“We understand the importance of being good stewards,” he told legislators. “... When we bring you matters involving funding, we make sure they are meaningful — things we simply cannot do otherwise. Fair and competitive compensation is one of those matters.”

A copy of the chief justice’s speech is now available to read at [isc.idaho.gov](http://isc.idaho.gov). Video of the speech will be posted as it becomes available. More information on the Supreme Court’s compensation proposal is posted at [annualreport.isc.idaho.gov](http://annualreport.isc.idaho.gov).

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