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#### **Contract Database Metadata Elements**

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Nys Unified Court System And  
Citywide Assn Law Assts Civil/Crimn

**A G R E E M E N T**

between the

**STATE OF NEW YORK -  
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM**

and

**CITYWIDE ASSOCIATION OF LAW  
ASSISTANTS OF THE CIVIL,  
CRIMINAL AND FAMILY COURTS**

**1999-2003**

357 emps.

CITYWIDE ASSOCIATION OF  
LAW ASSISTANTS OF THE CIVIL,  
CRIMINAL AND FAMILY COURTS

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## AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made by and between the State of New York-Unified Court System (hereafter referred to as the State) and the Citywide Association of Law Assistants of the Civil, Criminal and Family Courts (hereafter referred to as the Union). The term "employees" shall hereafter refer to employees within the negotiating unit as defined in Article 1 of this Agreement.

### ARTICLE 1

#### RECOGNITION

The State, pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (Public Employees' Fair Employment Act), recognizes the Union as the exclusive representative for collective negotiations with respect to salaries, wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for full-time and part-time employees in the Unified Court System within the City of New York whose job title or position is set forth in Appendix A.

## ARTICLE 2

### STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PURPOSE

2.1 It is the policy of the State to continue harmonious and cooperative relationships with its employees and to insure the orderly and uninterrupted operations of government. This policy is effectuated by the provisions of the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act granting public employees the rights of organization and collective representation concerning the determination of the terms and conditions of their employment.

2.2 The State and the Union now desire to enter into an agreement reached through collective negotiations which will have for its purposes, among others, the following:

(a) To recognize the legitimate interests of the employees of the State to participate through collective negotiations in the determination of the terms and conditions of their employment.

(b) To promote fair and reasonable working conditions.



(c) To promote individual efficiency and service to the citizens of the State.

(d) To avoid interruption or interference with the efficient operation of the State's business.

(e) To provide a basis for the adjustment of matters of mutual interest by means of amicable discussion.

### ARTICLE 3

#### UNCHALLENGED REPRESENTATION

The State and the Union agree, pursuant to Section 208 of the Civil Service Law, that the Union shall have unchallenged representation status for the maximum period permitted by law on the date of execution of this Agreement.

### ARTICLE 4

#### EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION RIGHTS

**4.1 Exclusive Right to Negotiate.** The Union shall have the exclusive right to negotiate with respect to salaries, wages, hours and other terms and

conditions of employment on behalf of those employees it represents under this Agreement and the State shall not negotiate or meet with any other employee organization with reference to terms and conditions of employment of employees represented by the Union under this Agreement.

**4.2 Payroll Deduction.** The Union shall have exclusive payroll deduction of membership dues and insurance premiums with this privilege accorded to no other employee organization. Payroll deductions shall also be provided without service charge for savings and loans to credit unions as authorized in writing by an employee and in accordance with the Rules of the Comptroller. Further, to the extent allowed by law, payroll deductions shall also be provided without service charge for approved Individual Retirement Accounts and Deferred Compensation Programs as authorized in writing by an employee and in accordance with the Rules of the Comptroller.

Subject to the consent and agreement of the State Comptroller, employees shall be allowed to participate in a program established in accordance with §200.4 of the State Finance Law for the "direct deposit" of an employee's paycheck to a bank or other financial institution designated by the Comptroller.

### **4.3 Bulletin Boards.**

(a) The State shall provide a reasonable amount of exclusive bulletin board space in an accessible place in each area occupied by a substantial number of employees for the purpose of posting bulletins, notices and material issued by the Union which shall be signed by a designated official of the Union. Where practicable, the bulletin boards shall be glass enclosed. No material shall be posted which is defamatory of the State or its representatives, or which constitutes election campaign material for or against any person, organization or faction thereof. Until such time as a bona fide representation petition has been filed with the Public Employment Relations Board, no other employee organization except employee organizations which have been certified or recognized as the representative for collective negotiations for other State employees at such locations, shall have the right to post material upon State bulletin boards.

(b) The number and location of bulletin boards as well as arrangements with reference to placing material thereon and removing material therefrom, shall be subject to mutual understandings, provided, however, that any material objected to by the State shall be removed, which removal may be contested

pursuant to the contract grievance procedure provided for herein.

**4.4 Meeting Space.** Where there is appropriate available meeting space in buildings owned or leased by the State, the Union will be accorded the privilege of using such space for specific meetings subject to the consent of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, provided that there is no extraordinary expense incurred by the State in the furnishing of such space, and written request for the use of such space is made in advance to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee as set forth above.

**4.5 Access to Employees.** The Union shall, on an exclusive basis, have access during working hours to employees it represents, to consult regarding membership services and programs under mutually developed arrangements with the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee. Any such arrangements shall insure that such access shall not interfere with work duties or performance and shall be reasonably controlled.

**4.6 Employee Lists.** The State shall furnish to the Union, without charge, upon written request, but not

more than quarterly, information showing the name, title, home address, negotiating unit designation, social security number, payroll agency and salary of all unit employees. The State shall provide to the Union a monthly list of new employee names and work locations.

#### **4.7 Employee Organization Leave.**

(a) The Union shall designate at least quarterly, in writing, those employees who are authorized to take employee organization leave. The Chief of Employee Relations shall establish uniform procedures regarding the maintenance and submission of monthly reports of employee organization leave.

(b) Individuals duly designated by the Union shall be permitted to perform the following functions without loss of pay or other employee benefits, except as limited by Section 4.7(d):

(1) To investigate grievances, assist in their early resolution, and to process them at all levels of the grievance procedure.

(2) To participate in meetings of the Labor/Management Committee and the

## Labor/Management Subcommittees.

(3) To meet or confer with the Chief Administrative Judge or any of his/her representatives on matters affecting labor/management relations, where such meetings or conferences have been previously approved by the Chief Administrative Judge.

(4) To negotiate, prepare for negotiations, or confer with the Chief of Employee Relations or his/her representative, and to participate in fact-finding or other collective bargaining impasse procedures.

(5) To confer with and/or appear before PERB, Department of Audit and Control, New York State Employees Retirement System, and the Civil Service Commission on matters which may have any effect on labor/management relations.

(6) To confer with and/or appear before any Federal wage regulatory agency or Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

(7) To attend award, honor, graduating and promotional ceremonies as employee representatives, provided that no more than ten workdays in any calendar year are used for such purposes.

(8) To attend funerals and memorial services for employees who are killed in the line of duty (officers of the Union and such others as the Chief of Employee Relations may approve).

(9) To engage in any other activity which may be approved by the Chief of Employee Relations consistent with the conduct of labor/management relations.

(10) To attend meetings as a trustee of the Union Welfare Fund, up to four such meetings per year.

(11) Subject to the reasonable operating needs of the court or court-related agency, no more than ten employees will be granted up to five days plus travel time in any calendar year for the purpose of attending Union conferences, seminars or work shops, and to appear before and confer with members of the Legislature. Travel time shall mean actual and necessary travel time not to exceed five hours each way.

(12) Conferences with counsel to prepare for trial or a hearing or attendance as a witness in an action commenced by or against the Union concerning a claimed violation of the interpretation of this

Agreement or a reclassification of employees.

(13) Subject to reasonable operating needs, the Union shall be granted up to one hour to meet with new employees, in the first six months of service, during working hours to explain Union services, programs and benefits.

(c) Individuals duly designated by the Union shall be granted leave without pay to perform the following function: to attend Welfare Trustee conferences offered by a recognized foundation, up to a maximum of two conferences per year per trustee.

(d) Individuals duly designated and authorized in writing by the Union shall be granted employee organization leave for time actually spent performing appropriate employee relations functions as specified in Section 4.7(b), provided that such time shall not exceed five hours per represented employee per year and, provided, further, that unused time shall be carried over from one fiscal year to the next for the term of this Agreement. If employee organization leave is utilized beyond such amount, the Union shall have 30 days to determine whether to repay such amount to the State in cash as provided below or through a charge to the accrued annual leave credits or compensatory time



credits of the employee who was absent from work performing such appropriate employee relations functions. Provided, however, that if an employee does not have sufficient annual leave or compensatory time credits to cover such absence from work, appropriate deductions shall be taken from subsequent paychecks. Provided further, however, that if the Union chooses to reimburse the State in cash for such excess time used, such payment shall be based on the hourly rate of the individual for whom such reimbursement is made. Such reimbursement by the Union shall be made within 30 days after the State has notified the Union by certified mail that a deficit exists. If the Union fails to make such cash payment within 30 days and the Union has not notified the State that a dispute exists concerning the amount of employee organization leave due and owing, the State shall make an appropriate deduction from the affected employee's leave credits or subsequent paychecks. The hourly rate shall be determined by dividing an employee's basic annual salary plus any additional compensation payable because of hours of work or location by 1,827. If the Union notifies the State within 30 days that a dispute exists concerning the amount of employee organization leave due and owing, then the Union must simultaneously notify the State whether it chooses to place the disputed amount of cash or leave credits in

escrow pending resolution of the dispute by arbitration pursuant to Article 17 of the Agreement. The Union may elect to place a certified check for the full disputed amount in an escrow account which the State selects. If the Union does not make a timely election when it notifies the State within 30 days of notification of the overage of a dispute, the State will automatically freeze the disputed amount of leave credits of affected employees. Such leave credits cannot be used by affected employees while frozen and such leave credits will not be released until there is a final resolution of the dispute.

In scheduling the use of employee organization leave time for such appropriate employee relations functions, the State shall use its best efforts to accommodate authorized requests for employee organization leave.

**4.8 Job Descriptions.** Copies of amendments to the court wide classification plan shall be furnished to the Union at least five days in advance of promulgation.

## ARTICLE 5

### MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

Except as expressly limited by other provisions of this Agreement, all of the authority, rights and responsibilities possessed by the State are retained by it, including but not limited to, the right to determine the mission, purposes, objectives, and policies of the State; to determine the facilities, methods, means and number of personnel required for the conduct of State Judiciary programs; to administer the Merit System, including the examination, selection, recruitment, hiring, appraisal, training, retention, promotion, assignment or transfer of employees pursuant to law; to direct, deploy, and utilize the work force; to establish specifications for each class of positions and to classify or reclassify and to allocate or reallocate new or existing positions in accordance with law, and to discipline or discharge employees in accordance with law and the provisions of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 6

### NO STRIKES

6.1 The Union shall not engage in a strike, nor

cause, instigate, encourage or condone a strike.

6.2 The Union shall exert its best efforts to prevent and terminate any strike.

6.3 Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the rights, remedies or duties of the State or the rights, remedies or duties of the Union or employees under State Law.

## ARTICLE 7

### COMPENSATION

7.1 The State and the Union shall prepare, secure introduction, and recommend passage by the Legislature of such legislation as may be appropriate and necessary to provide the benefits described in this Article.

7.2 The lag payroll shall continue. Repayment of such lagged salary shall be made when an employee leaves State service. The employee's final salary check shall be paid at the employee's then-current salary rate and shall be issued at the end of the payroll period next following the payroll period in which service is discontinued.

### **7.3 Performance Evaluation.**

(a) The State shall continue to utilize a performance evaluation system for all employees. All increments, longevity increments and bonuses will be conditioned on ratings pursuant to the performance evaluation system as provided herein. Such performance evaluation system shall provide for an annual initial and annual final employee performance review by a supervisor. Additional reviews shall be required of employees who are reassigned or transferred within six months of the annual evaluation, probationary employees and employees who have received an unsatisfactory rating during the previous rating period. Additional informal reviews are encouraged. No increment or longevity payment normally due under Section 37 of the Judiciary Law and provided for in this Agreement or bonus payable under Section 7.9 shall be released unless an employee receives a final annual rating greater than unsatisfactory under the State's performance evaluation system. An employee will receive a copy of the performance evaluation form. An unsatisfactory rating in one year will not be a bar to increments, longevity payments or bonuses in future years, if eligible.

(b) A written appeal of an unsatisfactory

performance evaluation review shall be made within ten workdays of the receipt of the final performance evaluation form. Such appeal shall be made on a form acceptable to the State and the Union to a panel to be composed of one Union representative, one management representative and one third-party neutral to be designated by agreement of the parties. The panel shall review whether the unsatisfactory performance evaluation was a reasonable determination by the supervisor considering the performance evaluation form and the written appeal form. The panel may determine, in its discretion, that additional information, oral argument or witnesses are necessary to make an adequate review. The panel shall determine in writing by March 1 whether the unsatisfactory rating shall be sustained or denied. Such decision shall be final and binding and unreviewable in any forum.

7.4(a) Effective March 31, 1999, a new salary schedule shall be established which will consist of a hiring rate, six interim steps, a maximum rate, a first longevity step and a second longevity step.

(b) Effective April 1, 1999, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance

Law, each graded employee eligible for an increment pursuant to Section 37 of the Judiciary Law whose performance is rated higher than unsatisfactory shall receive such increment based on the salary schedule in effect on March 31, 1999, added to basic annual salary.

(c) Effective October 1, 1999, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, the basic annual salary of each employee shall be increased by 3.0% or \$800, whichever is greater. Such percentage increase shall be added to the salary schedule.

(d) Effective as soon as practicable following the execution of this Agreement, each employee in active status on the date of execution shall receive a bonus of \$500, which shall not be a part of basic annual salary but which shall be pensionable.

7.5(a) Effective April 1, 2000, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, each graded employee eligible for an increment pursuant to Section 37 of the Judiciary Law whose performance is rated higher than

unsatisfactory shall receive such increment based on the salary schedule in effect on March 31, 2000, added to basic annual salary.

(b) Effective April 1, 2000, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, the basic annual salary of each employee on April 1, 2000, shall be increased by 3.0% or \$850, whichever is greater. Such percentage increase shall be added to the salary schedule.

7.6(a) Effective April 1, 2001, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, each graded employee eligible for an increment pursuant to Section 37 of the Judiciary Law, whose performance is rated higher than unsatisfactory, shall receive such increment, based on the salary schedule in effect on March 31, 2001, added to basic annual salary.

(b) Effective April 1, 2001, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, the basic annual salary of each employee on April 1, 2001, shall be increased by 3.5% or \$900, whichever



is greater. Such percentage increase shall be added to the salary schedule.

7.7(a) Effective April 1, 2002, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, each graded employee eligible for an increment pursuant to Section 37 of the Judiciary Law, whose performance is rated higher than unsatisfactory, shall receive such increment, based on the salary schedule in effect on March 31, 2002, added to basic annual salary.

(b) Effective April 1, 2002, or on a different day of the biweekly period for administrative convenience as provided for in Section 200(1) of the State Finance Law, the basic annual salary of each employee on April 1, 2002, shall be increased by 3.5% or \$900, whichever is greater. Such percentage increase shall be added to the salary schedule.

#### **7.8 Location Pay.**

(a) The location differential in effect on March 31, 1999, shall remain in effect except as modified below.

(b) Effective April 1, 2000, the State shall pay, in addition to basic annual salary, a location differential of \$1,000 per annum (prorated for employees working less than full time) to each employee assigned to a workstation in the City of New York.

(c) Effective April 1, 2001, the State shall pay, in addition to basic annual salary, a location differential of \$1,100 per annum (prorated for employees working less than full time) to each employee assigned to a workstation in the City of New York.

(d) Effective April 1, 2002, the State shall pay, in addition to basic annual salary, a location differential of \$1,200 per annum (prorated for employees working less than full time) to each employee assigned to a workstation in the City of New York.

### **7.9 Longevity Bonus.**

Effective April 1, 1999, an employee who has at least 20 years of continuous service in the Unified Court System and who has served the equivalent of 120 workdays in each fiscal year for which eligibility is being determined, shall receive an annual payment of \$1,500 (prorated for employees working less than full time at the time of payment) beginning on April 1, 1999, which

payment shall not be added to basic annual salary but which shall be pensionable. For the purpose of this section, a break in continuous service shall not include a resignation followed by re-employment within one year.

## ARTICLE 8

### HEALTH INSURANCE

8.1(a) The State shall continue to provide health and prescription drug benefits administered by the Department of Civil Service. Except as otherwise provided in this section, employees enrolled in such plans shall receive health insurance benefits to the same extent, at the same contribution level, and in the same form, including the Benefits Management Program, that the majority of represented Executive Branch employees covered by such plans receive such benefits and prescription drug benefits to the same extent, at the same contribution level, and in the same form that State Executive Branch managerial and confidential employees receive such benefits.

(b) Office visit charges by participating providers will be subject to an \$8 copayment per covered individual.

8.2 The joint committee composed of representatives from the State and all unions representing nonjudicial employees of the Unified Court System shall continue. This committee shall investigate and make recommendations concerning health insurance-related issues including the elimination or duplication of State-provided and Welfare Fund benefits, the restructuring of benefits or additional benefits, provided such recommendations shall not increase the total cost of such benefits to the State, and the establishment of short-term and long-term disability insurance programs and wellness programs. This committee shall meet as necessary, but not less than twice a year, and shall review all health plan-related matters such as experience of utilization of benefits and premium increases, at meetings specifically scheduled for this purpose.

8.3 The issue of an annual Health Insurance Buy-Out Program shall be subject to reopened negotiations during the term of the Agreement should a similar benefit become permanently available to Executive Branch employees represented by the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc.

8.4 The State and the Union have agreed to participate in a pilot Health Option Program for calendar

year 2001. Under this pilot program employees will be permitted to receive a credit of up to \$300 toward their health insurance premiums by electing to reduce their sick leave accrual earning rate from 13 to ten days for calendar year 2001. Employees who elect to participate in this pilot program must make such election by November 1, 2000. The State shall advise the Union by October 1, 2001 if this program will be continued.

## ARTICLE 9

### TIME AND LEAVE

#### 9.1 Attendance.

(a) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support or his/her designee shall establish uniform procedures regarding the maintenance and submission of time and attendance records. Upon the establishment of such uniform procedures, all employees shall sign time and attendance records on a form provided by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support in accordance with his/her procedures. Until such uniform procedures are established, current practices regarding time and attendance records shall be continued.

**(b) Tardiness.**

(1) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support or his/her designee may establish rules and schedules of penalties for tardiness. Such rules and schedules shall be established after consultation with the Union at Labor/Management Committee meetings. Penalties imposed pursuant to such rules and schedules shall not preclude disciplinary action in cases of excessive tardiness.

(2) In the event of public transportation difficulties, strikes, severe storms or floods, or similar uncontrollable conditions affecting employees, tardiness may be excused by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee.

(3) Lateness caused by a verified major failure of public transportation, such as a widespread or total power failure of significant duration or other catastrophe of similar severity, shall be excused.

(4) Employees shall charge tardiness to accrued annual leave on a minute-for-minute basis.

(c) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

(New York City Courts) or his/her designee shall excuse a reasonable amount of tardiness caused by direct emergency duties of duly authorized volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance drivers. In such cases, he/she may require the employee to submit satisfactory evidence that the lateness was due to such emergency duties.

## **9.2 Annual Leave.**

(a)(1) Employees shall be entitled to combined vacation, personal, business and religious holiday leave of 20 days annually and, unless otherwise provided in this section, shall be entitled to one additional day for each completed year of continuous service in the Unified Court System up to a maximum of 27 work days annually. Employees heretofore officially entitled to receive additional annual leave and religious holiday leave days may continue to receive such leave, provided that such leave is limited to a maximum of 30 days annual leave and 3 days religious holidays per year. Religious holiday leave days shall be credited on a calendar year basis. Such days only may be used in the calendar year in which they are credited, and may not be carried over from one calendar year to the next. Religious holiday leave days only may be used for recognized days of religious observance for which the

faith requires its members to make religious observance. An employee shall not earn annual leave credit for any bi-weekly pay period unless he/she is in full-pay status for at least seven workdays during such bi-weekly pay period.

(a)(2) A part-time, per diem or hourly employee eligible to earn annual leave credits pursuant to Section 9.2(g) shall earn annual leave credits as provided herein, but his/her total pay when absent on such leave shall be the amount which would have been due him/her if he/she had worked his/her usual number of hours or days during such period.

(b) A leave of absence without pay, or a resignation followed by reemployment in the Unified Court System within one year following such leave of absence or resignation, or time spent on a preferred list while awaiting reinstatement, shall not constitute an interruption of continuous service for the purpose of this section. However, a leave of absence without pay for more than six months or the period between resignation and reemployment, during which the employee is not in the service of the Unified Court System, shall not be counted in determining eligibility for additional annual leave credits under this section.



(c) After the anniversary date on which an employee has been credited with seven days of additional annual leave credits, he/she shall thereafter earn annual leave for completed bi-weekly pay periods at a rate which will equal 27 days for 26 such pay periods.

(d) No accumulation of annual leave credits in excess of 54 days shall be permitted except that the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may grant an employee specific permission (which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld) to exceed the 54-day maximum for a period of no longer than one year where the needs of the court or court-related agency require that the employee postpone his/her vacation. This section shall be effective November 23, 1989. Effective April 1, 1993, no accumulation of annual leave credits in excess of 54 days may be carried from one fiscal year to the next. Any such accumulation in excess of 54 days at the end of a fiscal year shall be converted into sick leave. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may grant an employee specific permission to exceed the 54-day maximum for a period of no longer than one year where the needs of the court or court-related agency require that the employee postpone his/her vacation.

(e) The time at which annual leave may be drawn by an employee shall be subject to the prior approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee. All requests for use of annual leave shall be initiated by application of the employee on a form provided by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee.

(f) As far as practicable, annual leave credits shall be used prior to appointment, promotion, reassignment or transfer to a different court or court-related agency. The court or court-related agency to which an employee is appointed, promoted, reassigned or transferred shall credit him/her with all of his/her accumulated annual leave credits not used prior to such appointment, promotion, reassignment or transfer.

(g) **Part-time Definition.** Employees compensated on a part-time, per diem or hourly basis who are employed at least half-time and who are expected by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support to be so employed continuously for nine months without a break in service exceeding one full payroll period shall be eligible to observe holidays and to accrue pro rata annual leave and sick leave which shall be granted and shall be subject to the

same limitations and restrictions as would apply if they were compensated on an annual salary basis.

(h) An employee who has completed 25 years of Unified Court System or State service shall be entitled to one additional annual leave day each year.

(i) An employee who has completed 30 years of Unified Court System or State service shall be entitled to one additional annual leave day each year, in addition to the one additional annual leave day provided in Section 9.2(h).

(j) Annual leave accruals shall be used in units of not less than 15 minutes.

(k) Employees entering the service of the Unified Court System shall be entitled to accrue annual leave, retroactive to their date of entry, only after they have completed 13 bi-weekly pay periods of service.

(l) If an employee's properly submitted request for use of accrued leave credits is denied, the employee shall receive, upon written request, a written statement of the reasons for such denial.

(m) In the event the State determines that it will

recess operations in a particular court or courts for at least four consecutive workdays, it may require employees during such recess to charge up to four days annual leave in each fiscal year.

### **9.3 Sick Leave.**

(a)(1) Sick leave is absence with pay necessitated by the illness or disability of the employee including illness or disability caused by pregnancy or childbirth.

(2) Effective with the execution of this agreement, an employee shall be allowed to charge a maximum of ten days of sick leave in any one calendar year for absences from work in the event of illness of the employee's spouse; domestic partner; natural, foster or step: parent; child; or any relative residing with the employee or an individual for whom the employee is the primary caregiver. Such leave is subject to notice to the supervisor in accordance with 9.3(c) and will be used by the employee to enable the employee to care for a family member as defined herein during a time of illness. Sick leave used for this purpose shall be charged separately as part of uniform time and attendance procedures.

(b) Employees shall earn sick leave credits at the rate of one-half day per biweekly pay period. No more than 165 days of such credits may be used for retirement service credit unless a greater benefit is provided by law, UCS rule or UCS regulation, and no more than 200 days of such credits may be used to pay for health insurance in retirement.

A part-time, per diem or hourly employee eligible to earn sick leave credits pursuant to Section 9.2(g) shall earn sick leave credits as provided herein, but his/her total pay when absent on such leave shall be the amount which would have been due him/her if he/she had worked his/her usual number of hours or days for such period.

(c). An employee absent on sick leave shall notify his/her supervisor, or the supervisor's designee if appointed, of such absence and the reason therefor on the day of such absence and within sixty minutes after the beginning of his/her workday; provided, however, that where the work is such that a substitute may be required, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may require earlier notification, but not earlier than two hours prior to the beginning of the employee's workday. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City

Courts) shall waive such notice requirements where he has determined that a medical emergency existed which prevented the employee from complying with such notice requirements. Sick leave credits may be used in such units as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may approve, but shall not be used in units of less than 15 minutes.

(d) Before absence for personal illness may be charged against accumulated sick leave credits, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may require such proof of illness as may be satisfactory to him/her, or may require the employee to be examined, at the expense of the State, by a physician selected from a panel to be established by the parties. In the event of failure to submit proof of illness upon request, or in the event that, upon such proof as is submitted or upon the report of medical examination, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee finds that there is not satisfactory evidence of illness sufficient to justify the employee's absence from the performance of his/her duties, such absence may be considered as unauthorized leave and shall not be charged against accumulated sick leave credits. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.

(e) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may require any employee who has been absent because of personal illness, prior to and as a condition of his/her return to duty, to be examined at the expense of the State by a physician designated by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support or his/her designee from a mutually acceptable panel of physicians, to establish that the employee is not disabled from the performance of his/her normal duties and that his/her return to duty will not jeopardize the health of other employees.

(f) In addition to personal illness of an employee, personal visits to a doctor, dentist, or other medical practitioner by the employee when approved in advance when practicable by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, may be charged against accumulated sick leave credits. Proof of the need for such absence, satisfactory to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, may be required.

(g) When an employee is transferred or reassigned, his/her accumulated sick leave credits shall be transferred with him/her. When an employee is

separated from service, for other than disciplinary reasons, and is subsequently reinstated or reemployed within one year after such separation, or is reinstated by action of the Chief Administrative Judge, or is reinstated or reemployed while eligible for reinstatement from a preferred list, his/her sick leave credits accumulated and unused at the time of his/her separation shall be restored.

(h) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may, in his/her discretion, advance sick leave credits to an employee absent due to personal illness who has exhausted his/her accumulated sick leave, annual leave, and overtime credits. Such advanced sick leave credits shall be repaid, as soon as practicable after the employee's return to duty, from subsequent accumulations of time credits. The outstanding unrepaid sick leave credits advanced to any employee under the provisions of this section shall not at any time exceed the amount earnable in one year of service unless further extended by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee. Upon termination of the employee's services, any such advanced sick leave not offset by subsequent accumulations of sick leave, annual leave and overtime credits, shall be deducted from salary or



wages due the employee.

(i) Charges to an employee's annual leave shall be changed to a charge to sick leave during a period of verified hospitalization. An employee may request that a charge to annual leave be changed to a charge to sick leave during a period of documented verified illness. Such request shall be submitted to the Chief of Employee Relations or his/her designee for final determination.

(j) The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may, in his/her discretion, grant sick leave at half-pay for personal illness to an employee having not less than one year of service, provided all of his/her sick leave and annual leave credits have been exhausted. Provided further, however, that the cumulative total of all sick leave at half-pay granted to any employee during his/her service shall not exceed one pay period for each completed six months of service. Any such sick leave at half-pay granted shall be from the employee's current position. An employee requesting sick leave at half-pay shall submit his/her request for such sick leave benefit to the Chief Clerk on forms to be established by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support. A decision shall be made within 15 days after the

request is properly submitted. In the event a request for sick leave at half-pay is rejected, written notice of such rejection shall be sent to the employee and a copy to the Union.

Effective April 1, 1988, any such sick leave at half-pay granted pursuant to this section shall be repaid, as soon as practicable after the employee's return to duty, from subsequent accumulations of sick leave and compensatory time credits at the full rate of accumulation and annual leave credits at one-half the rate of accumulation. Upon termination of the employee's services as a result of resignation, retirement or involuntary separation (other than by reason of death), any such sick leave at half-pay not offset by subsequent accumulations of sick leave, annual leave, compensatory time credits and overtime credits, shall be deducted from the salary or wages due the employee including, but not limited to, payments for lag payroll, but only to the extent that such payments are due the employee.

This section shall not be construed to require extension of any employment beyond the time at which it would otherwise terminate by operation of law, rule or regulation.

**(k) Sick Leave Donation Program.**

(1) An employee who has a sick leave balance in excess of 15 days may assign any sick leave credits in excess of the 15 days to any annual salaried nonjudicial employee who has exhausted all of his/her sick leave, annual leave and compensatory time credits. A donor must assign sick leave credits in full-day, seven hour units on forms developed by the State. Such assigned sick leave credits will be deducted from the donating employee's sick leave accruals immediately upon notification to the State.

(2) An employee who is assigned sick leave under this section may not be credited with a total of more than 130 days of such leave credits and will not be eligible to apply for benefits pursuant to Section 9.3(h) and Section 9.3(j) of the Agreement until all such assigned sick leave, and accrued annual leave and sick leave is exhausted. An employee will continue to earn and accrue annual and sick leave credits while utilizing assigned credits under this section.

(3) Any assigned sick leave credits not used by an employee prior to his/her first return to duty shall not be restored to those employees who made the donations, but shall be retained by the employee-

recipient for his/her use. In the event the employee-recipient separates from service, such donated credits shall become property of the State.

(4) Upon separation from State service for reasons other than retirement, and notwithstanding the minimum balance requirements set forth in Subsection (1) above, an employee may elect to donate all of his/her accrued and unused sick leave accruals to any nonjudicial employee eligible to receive such donations or to the Sick Leave Bank established pursuant to Section 9.3(m) of the Agreement. Provided, however, that if an employee who donates his/her accruals to the Bank is subsequently reinstated or re-employed he/she shall have his/her sick leave credits restored from the credits of the Bank. No employee who is removed from State service as a result of disciplinary action, or who resigns after charges of incompetency or misconduct have been served upon him/her, shall be entitled to donate his/her accruals under the provisions of this section.

**(f) Incapacitated Employees.**

(1) When there is reason to believe that an employee to whom the disciplinary procedures of this Agreement apply is physically and/or mentally disabled

from performing the duties of his/her position, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) may require such employee to undergo a physical and/or psychiatric examination at the expense of the State, to be conducted by a medical officer selected by the Chief Administrative Judge or his/her designee, to establish whether he/she is able to perform the full duties of his/her position and/or whether his/her continued presence on the job will jeopardize the health and safety of himself/herself or other employees.

(2) Where the continued presence of an employee on the job represents a potential danger to persons or property or would significantly interfere with operations, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) may place such employee on an involuntary leave of absence immediately, provided, however, that the employee shall be entitled to draw all accumulated and unused sick leave, annual leave, compensatory time, overtime credits and other time allowances standing to his/her credit. If such employee is finally determined to be physically and mentally fit to perform the duties of his/her position, he/she shall be restored to his/her position and shall have any leave credits or salary that he/she may have lost because of such involuntary leave of absence restored to him/her,

less any compensation he/she may have earned in other employment or occupation and any unemployment benefits he/she may have received during such period.

(3) An employee who is temporarily disabled from performing the full duties of his/her position may, as far as practicable, be assigned to in-title and related duties in the same title during the period of the employee's disability. If a suitable position is not available, the State may offer the employee any available opportunity for appointment to another title for which the employee is qualified pursuant to applicable rules of the Chief Administrative Judge. If no suitable position is available, and there is no offer of appointment to another title, or the employee refuses such offer, such employee shall be placed on leave and allowed to draw all accumulated and unused sick leave, annual leave, compensatory time, overtime credits and other time allowances standing to his/her credit prior to being placed on leave without pay. An employee who chooses to draw his/her accumulated leave credits under this section shall cease to earn and accrue sick and annual leave credits during that period. An employee placed on leave pursuant to this subsection who is not reinstated within one year after the date of commencement of such leave, may be terminated by

the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and his/her position may be filled by a permanent appointment.

(4) When an employee who is not permanently incapacitated from performing the duties of his/her position has been absent from and unable to perform the duties of his/her position by reason of sickness or disability either for a consecutive period of one year or more or for a cumulative total of 250 workdays or more within a period of 24 consecutive calendar months and who reasonably cannot be expected to be able to resume performing his/her duties on a full-time basis shortly thereafter, his/her employment status may be terminated by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and his/her position may be filled by a permanent appointment.

(5) This section shall not be construed to require the extension of any employment beyond the time at which it would otherwise terminate by operation of law, rule or regulation.

(6)(a) Absent exceptional circumstances, prior to being placed on leave pursuant to Section 9.3(l)(2) or Section 9.3(l)(3) or terminated pursuant to Section 9.3(l)(4), or, under exceptional circumstances, as soon

thereafter as reasonably possible, an employee shall be provided with written notice thereof, including written notice of the facts relied on therefor and written notice of the employee's right to appeal the determination and of the procedures for perfecting such appeal. Such notice shall be served in person or by first class, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, upon the employee and the Union. If such person elects to appeal, he/she shall file a written request for a hearing with the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) within ten workdays from service of the notice of the determination to be reviewed. The request for such hearing shall be filed by the employee personally or by first class, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

(b) Upon receipt of such request, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall supply to the employee or his/her personal physician or authorized representative, copies of all diagnoses, test results, observations and other data supporting the determination, and imposition of the leave or termination shall be held in abeyance until a final determination is made by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) as provided in Section 9.3(l)(6)(c).



(c) A hearing shall be held by a hearing officer designated for that purpose by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts). The hearing officer shall be vested with all the powers of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts), and shall make a record of the hearing which shall, with his/her recommendation, be referred to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) for review and decision and which shall be provided to the employee free of charge. The employee shall, upon request, receive a copy of the transcript of the hearing without charge. The employee may be represented at the hearing by counsel or a representative of the Union and may present medical experts and other witnesses or evidence. The burden of proving mental or physical unfitness shall be upon the State. Compliance with technical rules of evidence shall not be required. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) will render a final determination and may either uphold the original notice of leave of absence, withdraw such notice or modify the notice as appropriate. A final determination of an employee's request for review shall contain notice to the employee of his/her right to appeal from such determination and of the procedures for perfecting such appeal.

(d) If such person elects to appeal, he/she shall make application to the Chief Administrative Judge. Such employee shall be afforded an opportunity to present facts and arguments, including medical evidence, in support of his/her position at a time and place and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Chief Administrative Judge. The reviewing authority shall make his/her determination on the basis of the medical records and such facts and arguments as are presented.

(7) An employee on leave pursuant to Section 9.3(l)(2) or Section 9.3(l)(3) may, within one year of the commencement of such leave, make application to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) for a medical examination to be conducted by a medical officer selected for that purpose by the Chief Administrative Judge or his/her designee. An employee whose employment status has been terminated pursuant to Section 9.3(l)(3) or Section 9.3(l)(4), may, within one year after the termination of his/her disability, make application to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) for a medical examination to be conducted by a medical officer selected for that purpose by the Chief Administrative Judge or his/her designee. If, upon such medical examination, the medical officer shall certify that such

person is physically and mentally fit to perform the duties of his/her former position, he/she shall be reinstated to the former position, if vacant, or to a vacancy in a similar position or a position in a lower title in the same occupational field in his/her former promotion unit. If no appropriate vacancy shall exist to which such reinstatement may be made, or if the work load does not warrant the filling of such vacancy, the name of such person shall be placed on a preferred list for his/her former position in his/her former promotion unit, and he/she shall be eligible for reinstatement in such former promotion unit from such preferred list for a period of four years. In the event that such person is reinstated in a position in a title lower than that of his/her former position, his/her name shall be placed on the preferred eligible list for the former position or any similar position in such former promotion unit.

(8) This section shall not be deemed to modify or supersede any other provisions of law applicable to the re-employment of persons retired from the public service on account of disability.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, when an employee's disability permanently incapacitates him/her from performing the duties of his/her position, his/her employment status may be

terminated and his/her position may be filled by a permanent appointment. Such employees shall be entitled to due process and hearing as enumerated in Section 9.3(l).

(m) **Sick Leave Bank.** The Labor/Management Committee established for the purpose of discussing and agreeing to the establishment of a Sick Leave Pool for the purpose of providing sick leave benefits for employees who are medically unable to work due to illness or disability, whether or not work related, and whose sick leave credits have been exhausted, shall continue. The Union agrees that its committee members or their designees are delegated the unilateral right to determine on behalf of the Union the amounts and times when sick leave credits shall be transferred from employees to the pool.

#### **9.4 Workers' Compensation Leave.**

(1)(a) Effective on the date of execution of this Agreement or as soon thereafter as is practicable, employees necessarily absent from duty because of an occupational injury, disease or condition as defined in the Workers' Compensation Law, shall be eligible for a Workers' Compensation Benefit as provided in this Article. Determinations of the Workers' Compensation

Board regarding compensability of claims shall be binding upon the parties.

(b) A workers' compensation injury shall mean any occupational injury, disease or condition found compensable as defined in the Workers' Compensation Law.

(2)(a) An employee who suffers a compensable occupational injury shall, upon completion of a ten-workday waiting period, be placed on a leave of absence without pay for all absences necessitated by such injury and shall receive the benefit provided by the Workers' Compensation Law except as set forth in this Article.

(b) An employee necessarily absent for less than a full day in connection with a workers' compensation injury as defined in 9.4(1)(b) due to therapy, a doctor's appointment, or other required continuing treatment, may charge accrued leave for said absences.

(c) The UCS will make previously authorized payroll deductions for periods the employee is in pay status receiving salary sufficient to permit such deductions. The employee is responsible for making

payment for any such deductions during periods of leave without pay, such as those provided in 9.4(2)(a) above.

(3) An employee required to serve a waiting period pursuant to Subsection 2(a) shall have the option of using accrued leave credits or being placed on leave without pay. Where an employee charged credits, upon receipt of documentation from the State Insurance Fund issuing a credit to the State for the time charged, the employee shall be entitled to restoration of credits charged proportional to the net monetary award credited to the State by the Workers' Compensation Board.

(4) When annual leave credits are restored pursuant to this Article and such restoration causes the total annual leave credits to exceed 54 days, a period of one year from the date of the return of the credits or the date of return to work, whichever is later, is allowed to reduce the total accumulation to 54 days.

(5) An employee receiving workers' compensation payments for a period of disability found compensable by the Workers' Compensation Board shall be treated as though on the payroll for the length of the disability not to exceed twelve months per injury

for the sole purposes of accruing seniority, continuous service, health insurance and Employee Benefit Fund contributions normally made by the UCS, accrual of annual leave and sick leave. Additionally, such employee shall be treated as though on payroll for the period of disability not to exceed twelve months per injury for the purposes of retirement credit and contributions normally made by the UCS and/or the employee.

(6)(a) Where an employee's workers' compensation claim is controverted by the State Insurance Fund upon the ground that the disability did not arise out of or in the course of employment, the employee may utilize leave credits (including sick leave at half pay if eligible) pending a determination by the Workers' Compensation Board.

(b) If the employee's controverted or contested claim is decided in the employee's favor, any leave credits charged (and sick leave at half pay eligibility) shall be restored proportional to the net monetary award credited to the UCS by the Workers' Compensation Board.

(c) If the employee was in leave without pay status pending determination of a controverted or

contested claim, and the claim is decided in the employee's favor, the employee shall receive the benefits in Paragraph 9.4(5) for the period covered by the award not to exceed twelve months per injury.

(d) Where a claim for workers' compensation is controverted or contested by the State Insurance Fund, the parties will abide by the determination of the Workers' Compensation Board.

(7)(a) If the date of the disabling incident is prior to April 1, 1986, the benefits available shall be as provided in the 1982-85 UCS/CALA Agreement.

(b) If the date of the disabling incident is on or after April 1, 1986 and prior to the date of execution of this Agreement, the benefits available shall be as provided in the 1988-91 UCS/CALA Agreement.

(c) If the date of the disability incident is on or after June 17, 1993, the benefits available shall be as provided herein.

(8)(a) The State and the Union shall establish a committee whose purpose shall include but not be limited to reviewing and making recommendations on the following: (1) the effects of the implementation and



administration of the workers' compensation statutory benefit, including resulting savings and costs associated with it; (2) the accident and injury data focusing on incidence of injuries or accidents in order to develop prevention strategies and means to reduce and/or eliminate the risk of on the job injury.

(b) With respect to the issue of costs or savings mentioned above, the committee shall report its findings on or before October 1, 1998.

(9) The UCS retains all its managerial rights to monitor all workers' compensation claims.

#### **9.5 Other Leaves With Pay.**

(a). **Leave for Subpoenaed Appearance and Jury Attendance.** Upon application to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, together with proof satisfactory to the State of the necessity of each day's absence from work, an employee shall be granted a leave of absence with pay for documented absences resulting from jury service or appearance as a witness pursuant to subpoena or other order of a court or body. Provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any absence by an employee occasioned by such an

appearance where the employee, or his/her relative as defined in paragraph (f) of this subdivision, has a personal interest in the underlying action or proceeding; nor shall this section apply to any absence by an employee who receives a fee for testifying as an expert witness.

Employees entitled to leave under this section shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration for jury service except mileage and transportation expenses when serving on a New York State Unified Court System jury. Should an employee receive a New York State Unified Court System jury fee, the State will require reimbursement from the employee.

**(b) Leave for Civil Service Examinations.** An employee shall be allowed leave with pay to take Civil Service examinations at the appropriate examination center for positions in the Unified Court System. An employee also shall be allowed leave with pay to appear for an official investigation or appointment interview for competitive class, noncompetitive class or exempt class positions in the Unified Court System. Prior to such leave being granted, due notice and proof satisfactory to the State shall be submitted by the employee to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee.

Upon application to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, together with proof satisfactory to the State, employees registered to take the New York State Bar examination shall be allowed two days leave with pay to take the Bar examination and, if necessary, one day leave with pay to review the results of such examination.

(c) **Leave for Quarantine.** If an employee who is not ill himself/herself is required to remain absent because of quarantine and presents a written statement of the attending physician or local health officer having jurisdiction proving the necessity of such absence, he/she shall be granted leave with pay for the period of his/her required absence, without charge against accumulated sick leave, annual leave or overtime credits. Prior to return to duty, such employee may be required to submit a written statement from the local health officer having jurisdiction that his/her return to duty will not jeopardize the health of other employees.

(d) **Leaves Required by Law.** An employee shall be allowed such other leaves of absence with pay, including military leave, as are required by law.

**(e) Leave for Civil Defense Duties.** Upon certification by the State Director of Civil Defense of the necessity for the participation in State or local civil defense drills of an employee enrolled as a civil defense volunteer and required to perform civil defense duties, pursuant to the State Defense Emergency Act, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, may allow such employee to absent himself/herself from his/her position, without loss of pay or charge against leave credits, for such time as is necessary for participation in such drills, but not exceeding cumulatively five workdays per calendar year.

**(f) Death in the Immediate Family.** Leave of up to four consecutive State workdays (based on a standard Monday to Friday workweek and not to exceed a total of 28 work hours), shall be allowed immediately following the death of an employee's spouse; domestic partner; natural, foster or step: parent; child; brother or sister. Additionally, such four consecutive State workdays also shall be allowed following the death of an employee's father-in-law or mother-in-law; grandparent or grandchild; any relative residing with the employee; or for an individual for whom the employee has been the primary caregiver. For those employees regularly scheduled to work on a weekend or holiday,

such days shall be considered State workdays for purposes of this section only. Prior notice and authorization is not required for leave under this paragraph. When a death in an employee's immediate family occurs while he/she is on annual leave, such time as is excusable for death in the family shall not be charged to annual leave.

(g) **Extraordinary Circumstances.** An employee who has reported for duty, and because of extraordinary circumstances beyond his/her control, is directed to leave work, shall not be required to charge such directed absence during such day against leave credits. An employee who does not report for duty because of circumstances beyond his/her control shall not be required to charge such absence during such day against leave credits if the court or other facility where the employee is required to report is closed due to such extraordinary circumstances. Any release or excusal of employees due to extraordinary circumstances does not create any right to equivalent time off by employees not adversely affected by the extraordinary circumstances. Only designated management officials may direct employees to leave work. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee shall promulgate a list of personnel who have this authority. Except as

provided in Section 9.9, if the celebration of a holiday in a locality results in the closing of a court or court-related agency and notification by posting or other means to the employee has not been given by a designated management official, employees shall not be required to charge such absence against leave credits.

(h) **Internal Discrimination.** Subject to the reasonable operating needs of the court or court-related agency and with the prior written approval of the Unified Court System's Workforce Diversity Office, an employee shall be allowed leave with pay (i) to consult with the Workforce Diversity Office prior to filing an Internal Discrimination Claim pursuant to the Discrimination Claim Policy and Procedure; or, (ii) to attend meetings or consultations with the Workforce Diversity Office in relation to a filed Internal Discrimination Claim. Such leave shall include reasonable travel time.

(i) **Blood Donations.** Subject to the reasonable operating needs of the court or court-related agency, an employee shall be allowed three and one-half hours leave with pay for blood donations made during normal working hours. Such leave only shall be used on the day such donation is made and shall include all time spent making such donation (including travel time to and from the collection point). In the event that an

employee donates blood during working hours pursuant to a court-sponsored blood drive and is required to return to work following such donation, he/she shall be granted three and one-half hours of compensatory time. This provision shall not apply to an employee who receives a fee for such donation.

(j) **Other Leaves.** The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may grant leaves with pay for reasons not itemized in this section.

#### **9.6 Leaves Without Pay.**

(a) **Leave of Absence; Duration.** A permanent employee may, in the discretion of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, be granted a leave of absence, without pay, for a period not exceeding two years. Such leave may be extended beyond two years, for periods aggregating not in excess of an additional two years. In an exceptional case, a further extension may be permitted by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee for good cause shown and where the interests of the government would be served. For the purposes of this section, time spent in active service in the military forces of the United States

or of the State of New York shall not be considered in computing the period of leave.

This section shall not be construed to require the extension of any employment beyond the time at which it would otherwise terminate by operation of law, rule or regulation.

**(b) Successive Leaves of Absence.** Where a leave of absence without pay has been granted for a period which aggregates two years, or more if extended pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, a further leave of absence without pay shall not be granted unless the employee returns to his/her position and serves continuously therein for six months immediately preceding the subsequent leave of absence.

**(c) Leave for Child Care.** A combined confinement and child care leave of absence without pay shall be granted to an employee (male or female) who becomes the parent of a child up to four years of age, either by birth or by adoption, for a period of up to 12 months. A period beyond 12 months, but not more than another successive 12-month period may be granted at the discretion of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee subject to the staffing needs of the court. The



use of this maximum allowance will be limited to one instance only.

Confinement and child care leave is leave without pay. Prior to the commencement of such leave an employee may, at his/her option, be continued in pay status for a period of time equal to all of the employee's unused accrued annual leave. A pregnant employee shall have the option to be continued in pay status for a period of time equal to all or part of her period of disability using accrued sick leave or annual leave.

(d) **Bar Examination Leave.** The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support or his/her designee may grant up to two weeks leave without pay immediately preceding the scheduled date of the New York State Bar Examination to employees registered to take the Bar Examination, subject to the operating needs of the court or court-related agency.

#### **9.7 Payment of Accruals Upon Separation.**

(a) At the time of separation from Unified Court System service, an employee, his/her estate or beneficiary, as the case may be, shall be compensated in cash for overtime credits not in excess of 30 days

accrued and unused as of the effective date of separation; and further, except where provision is made for the transfer of leave credits, he/she shall be compensated in cash for annual leave credits not in excess of 30 days accrued and unused as of the effective date of separation, except that in the case of resignation, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support or his/her designee may require, as a condition for such payment, that written notice of such resignation be given to him/her at least two weeks prior to the last day of work

(1) Effective April 1, 1997, the employee, his/her estate or beneficiary, shall be compensated in cash for accrued and unused annual leave credits not in excess of 45 days.

(2) Effective April 1, 1998, the employee, his/her estate or beneficiary, shall be compensated in cash for accrued and unused annual leave credits not in excess of 50 days.

(3) Provided, however, that at the time of separation from the Unified Court System due to death, an employee's estate or beneficiary, as the case may be, shall be compensated for a maximum of 60 days

annual leave or compensatory time whichever is appropriate.

(b) An employee on leave from his/her position due to his/her entry into the Armed Forces of the United States for active duty (other than for training as defined by Title 10 of the United States Code) may elect to receive compensation in cash for accrued and unused annual leave and overtime credits not in excess of 30 days in each category accrued and unused as of the last date on which his/her name appeared on the State payroll.

(c) No employee who is placed on the payroll of the State pursuant to Section 39 of the Judiciary Law shall be entitled to compensation under this section for any time or leave credits accrued before April 1, 1977, except in accordance with Section 39 of the Judiciary Law.

**9.8 Written Agreement Required for Transfer of Leave Credits.** For the purposes of applying the provisions of this Article, employment in the Executive or Legislative branches of State service shall be credited as service in the Unified Court System; provided, however, that except as otherwise provided by law, leave credits may not be transferred upon

movement from such positions to positions within the negotiating unit except where such credits are earned and accumulated in accordance with attendance and leave provisions which are substantially equivalent to the time and leave provisions of this Agreement and there is a written agreement between the President of the Civil Service Commission and the Chief Administrative Judge governing the transfer of leave credits upon such movements. Other public employment may be credited as service in the Unified Court System for purposes of determining transferability of leave credits provided such employment was subject to attendance and leave provisions substantially equivalent to the time and leave provisions of this Agreement, and provided there is a written agreement between the Chief Administrative Judge and the public agency wherein such employment occurred governing the crediting of such employment and the transfer of leave credits upon movement of employees to and from such agency and positions included within this negotiating unit.

**9.9 Holidays.** All legal holidays enumerated herein shall be allowed as paid days off, or holiday pay as set forth in Section 9.11 shall be allowed in lieu thereof. The days prescribed by law for the observance of New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday,

Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day shall be observed as holidays.

A Statewide committee will be established with representatives from all unions representing nonjudicial court employees to ascertain whether the day after Thanksgiving Day could be substituted for a presently existing holiday.

**9.10 Retroactive Time Credits.** Nothing in this Article shall be construed to provide for the granting of annual leave, sick leave or other time or leave credits for service rendered prior to the effective date of this Agreement, provided, however, that nothing in this Agreement shall affect time or leave credits lawfully earned prior to the effective date of this Agreement.

**9.11 Holiday Pay.**

(a) An employee who is entitled to time off with pay on days observed as holidays by the State as an employer will receive at his/her option additional compensation for time worked on such days or compensatory time off. Such additional compensation for each such full day worked will be at the rate of 1/10

of his/her bi-weekly rate of compensation. Such additional compensation for less than a full day of such work will be prorated. Such rate of compensation will include geographic, location, inconvenience and shift pay as may be appropriate to the place or hours worked. In no event will an employee be entitled to such additional compensation or compensatory time off unless he/she has been scheduled or directed to work.

(b) Shifts which begin at 11 p.m. or later on the day before a holiday shall be deemed to have been worked entirely on the holiday and shifts which begin at 11 p.m. or later on the holiday shall be deemed not to have been worked on the holiday.

(c) An employee required to work on Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November), Christmas Day (December 25) or New Year's Day (January 1) shall, in lieu of the benefits provided in Section 9.11(a), receive a 100% cash premium for all hours worked on a holiday and shall, in addition, receive compensatory time off at his/her regular rate of pay. Compensatory time earned pursuant to this section may be scheduled by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee either prior to or after the day on which the holiday falls.

**9.12 Holiday Falling on Saturday.** A holiday falling on a Saturday shall be observed on the preceding Friday or following Monday subject to the operational or staffing needs of the court or agency and as determined by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee.

**9.13 Workweek.** The workweek shall be 35 hours, Thursday through Wednesday, coinciding with the State's payroll week. Whenever practicable, the normal work schedule shall consist of five consecutive workdays separated by two consecutive days off. The starting and ending times shall be established by the State to accommodate its operational needs. This section shall not, however, constitute a bar to the consideration of a flexible workweek or a flexible workday where the State and the Union agree. Except in an emergency, prior notice will be given to the employee and the Union of permanent changes in an employee's work schedule.

**9.14 Professional and Educational Conferences.** Four days leave per annum without charge to an employee's leave credits may be allowed to attend conferences or meetings of recognized professional organizations, to attend Continuing Legal Education programs or educational seminars presented

by such organizations or other appropriate organizations or institutions, or to attend educational seminars presented by the Union or the State. Such conferences, Continuing Legal Education programs or educational seminars must be directly related to the employee's profession or professional duties. This leave is subject to the approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee and the staffing needs of the court. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and in considering such applications the State recognizes that attendance at such conferences and programs is of benefit to the court system.

**9.15 Request for Reassignment or Transfer.**

To the extent that an employee's request for reassignment or transfer can be accommodated, the State shall do so. The issue of reassignments and transfers shall be a subject for consideration by the Labor/Management Committee which may suggest and make recommendations regarding procedures to be established.

**9.16 Scheduling.** Subject to the reasonable operating needs of the court or court-related agency, employee service in title in the Unified Court System shall be used to resolve conflicts among employees in



the same title in scheduling hours of annual leave, holiday work or flexible time. If two or more employees in the same title have the same length of service in title and in the Unified Court System, a conflict in scheduling shall be resolved by lot. Prior service which was credited by the Unified Court System on April 1, 1977 will be used in determining length of service.

9.17 **Early Release.** If the THI index reaches 80 or above during the months of July and August, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall authorize dismissal of employees in non-air-conditioned courtrooms and offices without charge to leave credits no later than 4:00 p.m. In the event it is necessary for an employee to remain on duty as part of a skeleton force, he/she shall receive compensatory time.

## ARTICLE 10

### OVERTIME

10.1 Employees shall not be eligible for overtime compensation in the form of either cash compensation or compensatory time.

10.2 The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support may waive the restriction contained in Section 10.1 whenever he/she determines that strict adherence to such restriction would be detrimental to the sound and orderly administration of the Unified Court System.

### 10.3 Meal Allowance.

(a) A meal allowance of \$6.00 will be paid to any employee required to work at least three hours beyond his/her normally scheduled workday unless he/she is receiving cash compensation for such overtime work.

(b) An employee ineligible to receive cash compensation for overtime worked who is required to work at least seven hours on his/her regularly scheduled day off, shall be entitled to receive one overtime meal allowance. An employee required to work at least ten hours on his/her regularly scheduled day off, shall be entitled to receive a second overtime meal allowance.

## ARTICLE 11

### WELFARE FUND

11.1(a) Effective April 1, 1999, the State shall contribute a pro rata annual sum of \$835 per active employee for remittance to the Union's Welfare Fund. A pro rata contribution of \$417.50 to such Fund shall be made by the State for part-time and per diem employees provided they are working on a regular basis at least half the regular hours of full-time employees in the same title.

(b) Effective April 1, 2000, the State shall contribute a pro rata annual sum of \$885 per active employee for remittance to the Union's Welfare Fund. A pro rata contribution of \$442.50 to such Fund shall be made by the State for part-time and per diem employees provided they are working on a regular basis at least half the regular hours of full-time employees in the same title.

(c) Effective April 1, 2001, the State shall contribute a pro rata annual sum of \$935 per active employee for remittance to the Union's Welfare Fund. A pro rata contribution of \$467.50 to such Fund shall be made by the State for part-time and per diem

employees provided they are working on a regular basis at least half the regular hours of full-time employees in the same title.

(d) Effective April 1, 2002, the State shall contribute a pro rata annual sum of \$980 per active employee for remittance to the Union's Welfare Fund. A pro rata contribution of \$490 to such Fund shall be made by the State for part-time and per diem employees provided they are working on a regular basis at least half the regular hours of full-time employees in the same title.

(e) The State shall contribute a pro rata sum of \$785 per employee retired since April 1, 1977 for remittance to the Union's Welfare Fund in each fiscal year of the Agreement.

(f) The State shall contribute an additional sum of \$15 per full-time active employee for educational purposes.

11.2 The State and the Union shall enter into a separate Supplemental Welfare Fund Agreement which shall specify the obligations of both parties regarding implementation, activities and reporting requirements of the Fund; method and calculation of payments to the

Fund; the right and authority of the State Comptroller or the Unified Court System to audit and/or review the financial records of the Fund; and the indemnification of the State for liability regarding Fund activities.

## ARTICLE 12

### TRAVEL EXPENSES

**12.1 Per Diem Meal and Lodging Expenses.** The State agrees to reimburse, on a per diem basis, as established by the employee travel rules of the Chief Administrative Judge, employees who are eligible for travel expenses, for their actual and necessary expenses incurred while in travel status in the performance of their official duties for hotel lodging, meals and incidental expenses related thereto (hotel tips, etc.) for a full day at rates stated in the employee travel rules of the Chief Administrative Judge for managerial or confidential employees.

**12.2** The State shall provide, subject to the employee travel rules of the Chief Administrative Judge, a maximum mileage allowance rate per mile equal to the maximum mileage allowance provided by the Federal Government to its employees for the use of personal vehicles for those persons eligible for such

allowance in connection with official travel. Effective April 1, 1994, the personal vehicle mileage reimbursement rate for employees in this unit shall be consistent with the maximum mileage allowance permitted by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS").

## ARTICLE 13

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

**13.1 Applicability.** An officer or employee described in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) below shall not be removed or otherwise subjected to any disciplinary penalty provided in this section except for incompetency or misconduct shown after a hearing upon stated charges pursuant to this section, unless such officer or employee is granted the option and elects to follow the alternative administrative disciplinary procedure set forth in Section 13.8 of this Article.

(a) An officer or employee holding a position by permanent appointment in the competitive class of the classified service, or,

(b) An officer or employee holding a position by permanent appointment or employment in the classified

service, who is an honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces of the United States having served therein as such member in time of war as defined in the Civil Service Law, or who is an exempt volunteer firefighter as defined in the General Municipal Law, except where the officer or employee described in this paragraph holds a position designated by the Chief Administrative Judge as confidential or requiring the performance of functions influencing policy, or,

(c) An officer or employee holding a position in the non-competitive class other than a position designated by the Chief Administrative Judge as confidential or requiring the performance of functions influencing policy, who since his/her last entry into the service of the Unified Court System has completed at least five years of continuous service in the non-competitive class in a position or positions not so designated as confidential or requiring the performance of functions influencing policy.

**13.2 Procedure.** An officer or employee against whom removal or other disciplinary action is proposed shall have written notice thereof and of the reasons therefor, shall be furnished a copy of the charges preferred against him/her and shall be allowed at least eight days for answering the same in writing.

Service of a copy of the charges shall be made by personal service if possible. If service cannot be effectuated by personal service, it shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Union shall be advised by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the name and work location of the officer or employee against whom charges have been preferred. The charges shall be made by the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and the hearing shall be held by a person designated by him/her for that purpose. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall, upon consultation with the Union as provided in Section 13.9, establish a panel of qualified persons who may be designated to conduct the hearing.

The person or persons designated to conduct the hearing shall, for the purpose of such hearing, be vested with all the powers of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and shall make a record of such hearing which shall, with recommendations, be referred to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) for review and decision. The Hearing Officer shall, upon the request of the officer or employee against whom charges are preferred, permit him/her to be represented by counsel, or by a representative of the Union and



shall allow him/her to summon witnesses in his/her behalf. The burden of proving incompetency or misconduct shall be upon the State. Compliance with technical rules of evidence shall not be required. The officer or employee against whom charges are preferred shall, upon request, be entitled to a copy of the recommendations of the Hearing Officer and shall be allowed three days to comment upon them, in writing, to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts).

**13.3 Suspension Pending Determination of Charges.** Pending the hearing and determination of charges of incompetency or misconduct, the officer or employee against whom such charges have been preferred may be suspended without pay for a period not exceeding 30 days. In the sole discretion of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, such suspension without pay may be charged to an employee's annual leave accruals. Such decision to permit an employee to charge annual leave accruals shall not be grievable or otherwise reviewable in any other forum.

**13.4 Determination of Charges.** If such officer or employee is found guilty of the charges, the penalty or punishment may consist of a reprimand, a fine not to

exceed \$100 to be deducted from the salary or wages of such officer or employee, restitution, suspension without pay for a period not exceeding three months, demotion in salary and title, probation for up to six months, or dismissal from the service; provided, however, that the time during which an officer or employee is suspended without pay pursuant to Section 13.3 may be considered as part of the penalty and the officer or employee shall be entitled to continue health insurance, if the employee pays his/ her own share of the premiums and shall be eligible to receive welfare fund benefits and have welfare fund payments made on his/her behalf during a period of suspension not exceeding three months. If he/she is acquitted, he/she shall be restored to his/her position with full pay for the period of suspension less the amount of compensation which he/she may have earned in any other employment or occupation and any unemployment insurance benefits which he/she may have received during such period. If such officer or employee is found guilty, a copy of the charges, his/her written answer thereto, a transcript of the hearing, and the determination shall be filed with the Office of Court Administration. A copy of the transcript of the hearing shall, upon request of the officer or employee affected, be furnished to him/her without charge.

**13.5 Time for Removal or Disciplinary Proceedings.** Notwithstanding any other provisions, no removal, disciplinary proceeding or alternative disciplinary procedure shall be commenced more than 18 months after the occurrence of the alleged incompetency or misconduct complained of and described in the charges; provided, however, that such limitation shall not apply where the incompetency or misconduct complained of and described in the charges would, if proved in a court of appropriate jurisdiction; constitute a crime.

**13.6 Review of Penalty or Punishment.** Any officer or employee believing himself/herself aggrieved by a penalty or punishment pursuant to the provisions of this Article, may appeal from such determination by petition to the Chief Administrative Judge or by an application to the courts in accordance with the provisions of Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

(1) If such person elects to appeal to the Chief Administrative Judge, he/she shall file a petition in writing within 20 days after receiving notice of the determination to be reviewed.

(2) Where an appeal is taken to the Chief Administrative Judge, he/she shall review the record of the disciplinary proceeding and the transcript of the hearing, and shall determine the appeal on the basis of the record and transcript and such oral and written argument as he/she may determine to be appropriate. He/she may direct that the appeal shall be heard by a person or persons designated by him/her to hear such appeal on his/her behalf, who shall report thereon with recommendations to him/her. Upon such appeal, he/she shall permit the employee to be represented by counsel or a representative of the Union.

(3) **Determination of Appeal.** The determination appealed from may be affirmed, reversed, or modified and the Chief Administrative Judge may, in his/her discretion, direct the reinstatement of the appellant or permit the transfer or reassignment of such appellant to a vacancy in a similar position in another court or court agency or direct that his/her name be placed upon a preferred list pursuant to this section. In the event that a transfer or reassignment is not effected, he/she is empowered to direct the reinstatement of such employee. An officer or employee reinstated pursuant to this subdivision shall receive the salary or compensation which he/she would have been entitled by law to have received in

his/her position for the period of removal, including any prior period of suspension without pay, less the amount of compensation which he/she may have earned in any other employment or occupation and any unemployment insurance benefits he/she may have received during such period. The decision of the Chief Administrative Judge shall be final and conclusive, and not subject to further review in any court.

**13.7 Restoration of Position.** An employee who is removed from his/her position in violation of the provisions of this Article, and who thereafter is restored to such position by order of the Supreme Court, shall be entitled to receive and shall receive from the State, the salary or compensation which he/she would have been entitled by law to have received in such position but for such unlawful removal, from the date of such unlawful removal to the date of such restoration, less the amount of compensation which he/she may have earned in any other employment or occupation and any unemployment insurance benefits he/she may have received during such period. Such employee shall be entitled to a court order to enforce the payment of such salary or compensation. Such salary or compensation shall be subject to the provisions of Section 474 and Section 475 of the Judiciary Law for services rendered,

but otherwise shall be paid only directly to such employee or his/her legal representatives.

### **13.8 Alternative Disciplinary Procedure.**

(a) Within 18 months of when an act of alleged misconduct or incompetency occurs the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall determine whether such acts require the initiation of formal disciplinary charges pursuant to Section 13.2 of this Article or if the officer or employee shall be given the option of electing to follow the alternative disciplinary procedure to ensure that the decision to use the formal or informal proceedings is uniformly determined. For purposes of Section 13.8 only, an eligible officer or employee shall include all officers or employees who are not determined to be personal appointees of a judge by the appropriate appointing authority.

(b) If the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) determines that the alternative disciplinary procedure will be offered as an option, the employee shall be given an Initiation of Discipline form. This form shall specify in writing a description of the conduct alleged to constitute misconduct or incompetency. The employee shall make a written

election whether or not to accept the alternative disciplinary procedure. An employee who otherwise is eligible for a formal hearing pursuant to Section 13.1 of this Article may opt to pursue a formal hearing or to accept the alternative disciplinary procedure. If such an employee fails to make a written election within ten days of receiving an Initiation of Discipline form, the employee may be served with written notice of the charges preferred against him/her and the procedures set forth in Section 13.2 shall be followed.

(c) An officer or employee who elects to follow the alternative disciplinary procedure shall meet with the designee of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) who shall propose a penalty after reviewing the relevant facts which form the basis for discipline, the employment history of the employee listed on the Initiation of Discipline form and any facts or arguments submitted in defense or mitigation. The penalty shall be a written reprimand and/or no more than the forfeiture of up to ten days of annual leave, compensatory time or the loss of ten days pay, if appropriate. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall review such proposed penalty to ensure that penalties are uniformly applied. The employee thereafter shall be informed in writing of the penalty assessed. The Initiation of Discipline form

shall set forth the proposed penalty, the review of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and the penalty assessed. Such penalty assessed shall be implemented immediately. The determination of the designee of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall be final, binding and not reviewable in any forum.

(d) A copy of such Initiation of Discipline form upon completion of the process shall be included in the personnel history folder of the officer or employee, and shall be given to the officer or employee, the supervisor, payroll, the designee of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) and the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts).

13.9 The State and the Union shall meet in a Labor/Management Subcommittee to discuss the establishment by the State of a panel to act as Hearing Officers on charges made against officers or employees pursuant to this Article. The Subcommittee shall discuss and make recommendations concerning the composition of, and selection from, a fixed panel of persons who are qualified to act as Hearing Officers



and from whom the Unified Court System selects one or more persons to hear employee appeals of disciplinary charges. Such recommendations shall be submitted to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) on whose behalf such Hearing Officers are designated to hear such charges.

#### ARTICLE 14

##### PRINTING OF AGREEMENT

The State shall cause this Agreement to be printed and shall furnish the Union with a sufficient number of copies for its use and distribution to current and anticipated employees. The State agrees to provide each employee initially appointed on or after the effective date of this Agreement a copy thereof as soon as practicable following his/her first day of work.

#### ARTICLE 15

##### LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15.1 To facilitate communication between the parties and to promote a climate conducive to constructive employee relations, a joint Labor/Management Committee shall be established to

discuss the implementation of this Agreement and other matters of mutual interest. The size of the Committee shall be limited to the least number of representatives needed to accomplish its objectives. Committee size shall be determined by mutual agreement.

15.2 The Committee will be a standing committee and will meet as necessary but at least twice a year. A written agenda will be submitted a week in advance of regular meetings. Special meetings will be requested by either party. An agenda will be submitted along with the request. Such special meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible after requested.

15.3 Approved time spent in such meetings shall be charged as specified in Section 4.7 of this Agreement.

15.4 Labor/Management Committee meetings shall be conducted in good faith. The Committee shall have no power to contravene any provision of this Agreement.

15.5 A Statewide Labor/Management Committee shall be established as soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement to study and recommend proposals concerning the issues of productivity and the

quality of work life. The Committee shall address means of improving productivity and quality of work life by exploring and, where appropriate, fostering Quality through Participation and/or other such initiatives. The Committee shall make recommendations for the establishment of a Quality through Participation program to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support as soon as practicable. Such recommendations shall not waive any rights of the Union to negotiate terms and conditions of employment concerning Quality through Participation nor shall the UCS waive any statutory or contractual rights to implement Quality through Participation. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support shall review the recommendations and plan to implement the Quality through Participation program as soon as practicable.

The UCS shall prepare, secure introduction and recommend passage by the Legislature of such legislation as may be appropriate and necessary to obtain an annual appropriation in the amount of \$19,737, for fiscal year 1999-2000; \$21,492 for fiscal year 2000-2001; \$23,247 for fiscal year 2001-2002; and \$25,002 for fiscal year 2002-2003 which shall be carried over from one fiscal year to the next but which shall lapse on March 31, 2003, to fund the operation

and implementation of the Quality through Participation program or such other educational initiatives which seek to improve, professionalize or cross-train the workforce and to develop and train employees. All funding provided in this section must be encumbered by January 31, 2003.

15.6 The State and the Union shall establish a Labor/Management Subcommittee which shall discuss modifications to the current performance evaluation system including the performance evaluation forms and appeals process. The Subcommittee shall make recommendations for any changes to the performance evaluation system to the Chief Administrative Judge by October 1, 2000.

15.7 The State and the Union shall establish a Labor/Management Subcommittee to discuss the disciplinary procedures including the creation of an expedited time and attendance discipline procedure.

15.8 The State and the Union shall establish a Labor/Management Subcommittee to discuss issues pertaining to court facilities and occupational, safety and health concerns (OSHA).

## ARTICLE 16

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Labor/Management Committee shall continue, composed of representatives from the State and the Union. The Committee shall meet as necessary but at least quarterly upon demand of the State or the Union. The State shall expend no more than \$15 per active represented employee, per fiscal year, from April 2, 1999 to March 31, 2003 to carry out the program agreed upon by the parties pursuant to this Article provided, however, that any unused funds shall be carried over from one fiscal year to the next but shall lapse on March 31, 2003.

## ARTICLE 17

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

#### 17.1 Definitions.

(a) A contract grievance is a dispute concerning the interpretation, application or claimed violation of a specific term or provision of this Agreement.

(b) A non-contract grievance is a dispute concerning:

(1) conditions of employment affecting the health or safety of employees;

(2) unreasonable work assignments or conditions; and,

(3) discriminatory supervisory practices except insofar as such practices as alleged would constitute violations of law. With respect to claims alleging such practices as would constitute violations of law, they shall, at the election of the employee, be subject to review in accordance with State and Federal procedures established for such purpose as well as such internal review procedures as may exist, but shall not be subject to review under the provisions of this Article. Use of the internal review procedure shall not deny the employee access to State and Federal procedures; provided, however, that an employee electing pursuit of a claim in accordance with State and/or Federal procedures shall not be allowed to utilize the Unified Court System's Internal Discrimination Claim Procedure.

17.2 The contract and non-contract grievance procedures shall be as follows:

(a) **Step 1.** The employee or the Union shall present the grievance in writing to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee, with a copy to the Administrative Judge or Administrative Authority of the court or court-related agency to which the employee is assigned, not later than 45 calendar days after the date on which the act or omission giving rise to the grievance occurred or when the employee could reasonably have been expected to become aware of, or to have knowledge, that he/she had a grievance. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee may require the grievant to meet with the grievant's immediate supervisor in an effort to settle the grievance informally. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee shall take any other steps necessary to insure that a proper disposition of the grievance is made and shall reply to the employee or Union within fifteen workdays following the date of submission. In the event a grievance is not answered within the prescribed time limit, the grievance will be considered to have been passed to the second step of the grievance procedure.

**(b)(1) Step 2. Contract Grievances.** In the event the employee or the Union wishes to appeal an unsatisfactory contract grievance decision at Step 1, the appeal must be presented in writing within 15 days of the receipt of the Step 1 decision, to the Chief of Employee Relations. A copy of such appeal shall also be sent to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee who passed upon the grievance at Step 1. Such appeal shall contain a short, clear statement of the grievance and specific references to the section of this Agreement which the employee or Union claims to have been violated. The Chief of Employee Relations or his/her designated representative shall meet within 20 workdays after receipt of the appeal with the employee or the Union for a review of the grievance and shall issue a written decision by the end of the twenty-fifth workday after such review. In the event a grievance is not answered within the prescribed time limit, the Union may demand in writing to the Chief of Employee Relations to move the grievance to the next step of the procedure.

**(b)(2) Step 2. Non-Contract Grievances.** In the event the employee or Union wishes to appeal an unsatisfactory non-contract grievance decision at Step 1, the appeal must be presented in writing within 15 days of the receipt of the Step 1 decision, to the Chief



of Employee Relations. A copy of such appeal shall also be sent to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) or his/her designee who passed upon the grievance at Step 1. Such appeal shall contain a short, clear statement of the grievance, the basis for the grievance and the relief sought. The Chief of Employee Relations or his/her designee shall meet within 20 workdays after receipt of the appeal with the employee or Union for a review of the grievance and shall issue a written decision by the end of the twenty-fifth workday after such review. Such decision shall not be subject to review by arbitration.

**(c) Step 3. Contract Grievances.**

(1) An appeal to arbitration from an unsatisfactory contract grievance decision at Step 2 may be made by the Union within 20 days of the receipt of the decision by the Chief of Employee Relations. A request for arbitration may be initiated by the Union serving upon the Chief of Employee Relations a notice in writing of an intent to proceed to arbitration. The notice shall identify the Agreement provision in dispute, the issue or issues to be determined, the department and the employee or employees involved. Upon receipt of a notice requesting arbitration, the parties shall select an arbitrator from a central panel. Such panel

shall be agreed upon as soon as practicable following execution of this Agreement. The method of selecting the arbitrator for a particular case shall be by mutual agreement between both parties to the Agreement, and failing such agreement, by mutual strike from the central panel.

(2) The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, subtract from or modify the provisions of this Agreement in arriving at a decision of the issue presented, and shall confine his/her decision solely to the application and interpretation of this Agreement. The decision or award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding, consistent with the provisions of CPLR Article 75. The arbitrator shall confine himself/herself to the precise issue submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted to him/her nor shall he/she submit observations or declarations of opinion which are not essential in reaching the determination.

(3) All fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be divided equally between the parties. Each party shall bear the cost of preparing and presenting its own case.

17.3 The time limits contained in this Article may be extended by mutual agreement. The time for presenting a Step 1 contract grievance shall be extended by the time an employee is absent from the job through illness or disability.

17.4 A settlement or any award upon a contract grievance may or may not be retroactive as the equities of each case may demand.

17.5 The contract grievance and arbitration procedure provided for herein shall be the exclusive grievance procedure for the resolution of disputes concerning the interpretation, application or claimed violation of a specific term or provision of this Agreement.

17.6 An employee may be represented in Step 1 or Step 2 of the contract and non-contract grievance procedures by the Union or a representative of his/her own choosing. No employee organization other than the Union may initiate or represent an employee in the processing of contract or non-contract grievances.

17.7 In the event the Union appeals a Step 2 decision to Step 3 and the parties cannot agree as to whether it constitutes an arbitrable grievance, the issue

of arbitrability shall be preliminarily submitted to arbitration prior to the resolution of the dispute on the merits in accordance with the procedures for arbitration set forth in Step 3.

## ARTICLE 18

### OUT-OF-TITLE WORK

18.1 No employee shall be employed under any title not appropriate to the duties to be performed and, except upon assignment by proper authority during the continuance of a temporary emergency situation, no employee shall be assigned to perform the duties of any position unless he/she has been duly appointed, promoted, transferred or reinstated to such position in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge.

18.2 Grievances hereunder shall be processed on forms to be provided by the State and filed directly with the Chief of Employee Relations and shall not be arbitrable. The grievance must be presented in writing not later than 45 calendar days after the date on which the act or omission giving rise to the grievance occurred or when the employee could reasonably have been expected to become aware of, or have knowledge, that

he/she had a grievance, and shall specify whether or not the assigned duties which are the subject of the grievance are substantially different from those appropriate to the title to which the employee is certified.

18.3 In determinations regarding out-of-title work under this Article, an employee shall be determined to be working out-of-title, unless:

(a) The duties alleged to be out-of-title work are normally performed by employees in the grievant's title and are not described in the class specifications for another title; or,

(b) The duties are reasonably related to the duties described in the class specifications for the grievant's title; or,

(c) The duties are new duties which are a reasonable outgrowth of duties usually performed by employees in the grievant's title; or,

(d) The duties are assigned during a temporary emergency which shall include: an unscheduled situation or circumstance which is expected to be of limited duration and either (i) presents a clear and

imminent danger to person or property or (ii) is likely to interfere with the conduct of the State's statutory mandates or programs; and cataclysmic events such as strikes or black-outs and occasionally unanticipated staffing shortages; provided the affected employee is given reasonable notice by proper authority that such assignment of out-of-title duties is under a temporary emergency.

18.4 (a) If it is the opinion of the Chief of Employee Relations that the assigned duties which are the subject of the grievance are substantially different from those appropriate to the title to which the employee is certified, the Chief of Employee Relations shall direct the discontinuance forthwith of such assigned duties.

(1) If such substantially different duties are found to be appropriate to a lower salary grade or to the same salary grade as that held by the affected employee, no monetary award may be issued.

(2) If, however, such substantially different duties are found to be appropriate to a higher salary grade than that held by the affected employee, the Chief of Employee Relations shall issue an award of monetary relief, provided that the affected employee

has performed such duties for a period of one or more days. The amount of monetary relief shall be the difference between what the affected employee was earning at the time he/she performed such duties and what he/she would have earned at that time in the entry level of the higher salary grade title, but in no event shall such monetary award be retroactive to a date earlier than ten calendar days prior to the date the grievance was filed, in accordance with this Article.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (a), if the substantially different duties were assigned by proper authority during the existence of a temporary emergency situation, the Chief of Employee Relations shall deny the grievance and no payment shall be made.

## ARTICLE 19

### NO DISCRIMINATION

19.1 The Union agrees to continue to admit all employees to membership and to represent all employees without regard to race, color, creed, disability, marital status, Vietnam Era Veteran status, national origin, age or sex or sexual orientation.

19.2(a) The State agrees to continue its established policy against all forms of illegal discrimination with regard to race, creed, color, disability, marital status, Vietnam Era Veteran status, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, age or the proper exercise by an employee of the rights guaranteed by the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act.

(b) An employee who believes that an act of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status, age, political affiliation, national origin, physical/mental/medical disability or Vietnam Era Veteran status has taken place relating to interviewing, hiring, dismissal, discipline, job assignment, training opportunities, policies of the Unified Court System, shift assignment, promotion, transfer, working conditions, harassment or other terms and conditions of employment, shall be allowed access to the Unified Court System's Internal Discrimination Claim Procedure.

19.3 The State and the Union agree that nothing in this Agreement prevents the State from making reasonable accommodations for a disabled



employee when such is required pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act.

## ARTICLE 20

### BENEFITS GUARANTEED

With respect to matters not covered by this Agreement, the State will not seek to diminish or impair during the term of this Agreement any benefit or privilege provided by law, rule or regulation for employees without adequate prior notice to the Union; and, when appropriate, without negotiations with the Union, provided, however, that this Agreement shall be construed consistently with the free exercise of rights reserved to the State by the Management Rights Article of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 21

### CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

**Review of Position Classification and Position Allocation.**

(a) Any employee or the Union may apply to the Chief Administrative Judge for a review and change of

the classification or allocation of the position occupied by such employee or included within negotiating units represented by the Union. The Chief Administrative Judge shall determine any such application and shall have the power to designate a person or persons to review the application and, if necessary, to conduct a hearing with relation to it and to report to the Chief Administrative Judge thereon.

(b) The effective date of a position classification or position allocation reviewed under this Article shall be such date as is determined by the Chief Administrative Judge. No change in position classification shall impair or diminish any existing right to salary or tenure.

(c) Provided, however, that appeals of classifications, reclassifications, allocations and reallocations pursuant to Section 39 of the Judiciary Law, shall not be subject to this Article.

## ARTICLE 22

### PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES

22.1 There shall be no loss of present jobs by permanent employees as a result of the State's

exercise of its right to contract out for goods and services.

22.2 No permanent employee will suffer reduction in existing salary as a result of reclassification or reallocation of the position he/she holds by permanent appointment.

## ARTICLE 23

### PERSONNEL AND PAY PRACTICES

**23.1 Notification to Beneficiary.** If during the term of this Agreement an employee dies, the State shall notify the beneficiary designated by the employee in the personnel folder as to what benefits may be available for the employee and as to where claims may be initiated for such benefits. The payroll agency shall promptly notify the appropriate Retirement System and communicate with the beneficiary designated in the Retirement System's records.

**23.2 Notification of Change in Title or Compensation.** Any employee who is promoted or who is affected by an individual change in title or rate of compensation of an adverse nature shall be notified in writing no later than two weeks after the effective date

of such promotion, change in title, or rate of compensation.

**23.3 Release of Paychecks.** Consistent with, and subject to security requirements, paychecks shall be released on the day preceding payday as soon as possible after 3 p.m. for all employees who would not normally receive their paychecks during their working hours on the scheduled payday.

**23.4 Withholding Paychecks.** The State shall not withhold entire paychecks when an employee has no leave balance to cover absences without pay, due to illness, up to a maximum of five days, provided the affected employee has five years of service as a member of the New York City or New York State Employees' Retirement System. Appropriate deductions shall be made in a subsequent paycheck. Employees with a negative leave balance at the start of the pay period shall not be covered by this section.

**23.5 Salary Garnishments.** The State shall make reasonable efforts to notify employees of pending salary garnishments.

**23.6 Salary Upon Promotion.** No employee shall receive a lower basic salary rate following

promotion than the basic salary rate received preceding the promotion.

### **23.7 Information on Retirement Benefits.**

The State shall make available material describing pension benefits and provisions under the Coordinated-Escalator Retirement Plan (CO-ES Plan). Such material shall be distributed to all newly-hired employees at the time of appointment.

### **23.8 Evaluations and Personnel Folders.**

(a) An employee shall be given a copy of every statement concerning his/her work performance or conduct prepared during the term of this Agreement, if such statement is to be placed in his/her permanent personnel folder. Prior to being given a copy of such statement, the employee must sign a form which shall indicate only that he/she was given a copy of the statement but that he/she does not necessarily agree with its contents. The employee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to answer any such statement filed and the answer shall be placed in the employee's personnel folder. Only evaluatory statements prepared by a superior with respect to the employee's work performance or conduct, which are given to the employee in accordance with the procedure outlined

above, may be used in any subsequent disciplinary actions against the employee.

(b) An employee shall be permitted to view his/her personnel folder once a year upon request, and when an adverse personnel action is initiated against the employee by the State. The view shall be in the presence of a designee of the State and held at such time as the State may prescribe.

(c) Upon an employee's written request, any material in his/her personnel folder of an adverse nature, with the exception of disciplinary actions, personnel transactions and evaluatory statements concerning work performance, shall, if over five years old, be removed from the personnel folder. Upon an employee's written request, such material may, if over three years old, be removed at the discretion of the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts).

**23.9 Orientation Kits.** When an orientation kit is supplied to a new employee in a title covered by this Agreement, only the Union which represents such new or promoted employee shall be permitted to have Union literature included in this kit. Such Union literature shall

be subject to the reasonable approval of the Chief of Employee Relations.

**23.10 Resumption of Deductions.** To the extent practicable and allowed by the State Comptroller, all of an employee's payroll deductions shall be resumed when an employee returns from a leave.

**23.11 Waiver of Fees For Civil Service Exams.** The State agrees that to the extent the Chief Administrative Judge determines, pursuant to the Rules of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge, to establish examination fees for Civil Service examinations, the State will waive such examination fees for employees.

**23.12** The State shall replace identification cards and shields damaged, broken or lost in the performance of duty.

## ARTICLE 24

### JOB ABANDONMENT

24.1 When an employee to whom the disciplinary procedures of this Agreement apply has been absent from work without notice for 15 consecutive workdays, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned from his/her position if he/she has not provided a satisfactory written explanation for such absence to the court or court-related agency to which he/she is assigned, on or before the 15th consecutive workday following the commencement of such unauthorized absence.

24.2 Prior to the conclusion of the 15 workday period noted in Section 24.1 above, the court or court-related agency shall send the affected employee notice, to the employee's last known address, by certified mail, return receipt requested, with a copy to the Union, that his/her absence is considered unauthorized and that, as a result of such absence, he/she will be deemed to have resigned from service, effective the 15th workday following the commencement of the unauthorized absence.



24.3 An employee who has been deemed to have resigned pursuant to this section, shall have 20 workdays from the date the notice was mailed within which to submit a written explanation concerning his/her absence to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts). Upon receipt of such explanation, the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge (New York City Courts) shall reinstate the employee without examination, to the position from which he/she was deemed to have resigned, if vacant, or to any vacant position to which he/she was eligible for transfer or reassignment, and shall have 20 workdays within which to initiate charges against the employee pursuant to the disciplinary procedures of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 25

### SALARY COMPUTATION

Bi-weekly salaries will be computed on the basis of ten workdays.

## ARTICLE 26

### DAY CARE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A Day Care Development Committee shall be established composed of representatives from the State and the Union. This Committee shall develop guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this Article. The State shall provide funding in the amount of \$12,285 for fiscal year 1999-2000; \$14,040 for fiscal year 2000-2001; \$15,795 for fiscal year 2001-2002 and \$17,550 for fiscal year 2002-2003, which shall be carried over from one fiscal year to the next but which shall lapse on March 31, 2003, to carry out the program agreed upon by the parties pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE 27

### FLEXIBLE BENEFIT SPENDING PROGRAM

27.1 Effective January 1, 1989, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, the State shall establish a program to provide employees with an opportunity to increase the employees' spendable income by paying for all or part of health insurance premiums paid by the employees with pre-tax dollars.

27.2 Effective January 1, 1990, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, the State shall expand such opportunities for employees to increase their spendable income by also paying for all or part of selected benefits such as child care, elder care and dependent care with pre-tax dollars.

27.3 The State shall secure whatever legislation is necessary to implement such program.

## ARTICLE 28

### OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

28.1 No employee shall engage in business or employment outside the Court System which constitutes an actual conflict of interest, or gives the appearance of a conflict of interest, or creates a potential conflict of interest with court operations, or which would interfere with the employee's ability to perform the duties of his/her Court System employment.

28.2 Effective October 1, 1989, any employee, prior to engaging in a business or accepting employment outside the Court System whether as an independent contractor, employee or subcontractor,

must apply for, and obtain, prior written approval from the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support to engage in such activity. The Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support, in his/her discretion, may deny such permission when such business or employment outside the Court System does not meet the requirements of Section 1, above. Provided, however, that any employee who engages in a business or who has accepted employment outside the Court System prior to the effective date of this provision will have 60 days from the effective date of this provision to apply for and obtain prior written approval from the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support to engage in such activity.

28.3 Failure to apply for, and receive, permission to engage in business or to engage in employment outside the Court System, including not fully disclosing the nature of the business or employment outside the Court System, shall result in disciplinary action.

## ARTICLE 29

### DRESS CODE

Employees whose duties are performed in workplaces which are accessible or visible to the

general public shall wear appropriate business attire. For purposes of this Article, the term "appropriate business attire" shall be defined as follows:

(a) for male employees: business suit, dress shirt and tie; or sports coat with coordinated shirt, trousers (jeans not acceptable) and tie;

(b) for female employees: a dress; or skirt with coordinated blouse/sweater/dress shirt; or slacks (jeans not acceptable) with coordinated blouse/sweater/dress shirt; and, at the employee's option, a jacket; and

(c) business shoes.

The application of this provision shall be subject to the grievance procedure.

A Labor/Management Committee shall be established to discuss problems with the interpretation and implementation of the dress code; exemptions from the dress code; and, defining and determining parameters of the code, but in no event will such discussions delay implementation of this Article.

## ARTICLE 30

### REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE

The State agrees to provide for the uniform administration of the procedure for reimbursement to employees for personal property damage or destruction as provided for by subdivisions 12 and 12-c of Section 8 of the State Finance Law and to provide for payments of up to \$75 of local funds at the institution level as provided therein. Allowances shall be based upon the reasonable value of the property involved and payment shall be made against a satisfactory release.

## ARTICLE 31

### SEVERABILITY

In the event that any portion of this Agreement is found to be invalid by a tribunal of competent jurisdiction or superseded by Federal statute (i.e., Fair Labor Standards Act), then such provision shall be of no force and effect but the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. Upon the issuance of such decision, then either party shall have the right immediately to reopen negotiations with

respect to a substitute for such provision which has been held to be invalid.

## ARTICLE 32

### CONCLUSION OF COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS

This Agreement is the entire Agreement between the State and the Union, terminates all prior agreements and understandings and concludes all collective negotiations during its term. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will unilaterally seek to modify its terms through legislation or any other means. The parties agree to support jointly any legislation or administrative action necessary to implement the provisions of this Agreement. The parties acknowledge that, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the Union waives any rights to further negotiations during the term of this Agreement inasmuch as the parties have fully negotiated with respect to the terms and conditions of employment and have settled them for the term of this Agreement in accordance with the provisions thereof.

## ARTICLE 33

### APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATURE

IT IS AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT ANY PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PERMIT ITS IMPLEMENTATION BY AMENDMENT OF LAW OR BY PROVIDING THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS THEREFOR, SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE BODY HAS GIVEN APPROVAL.

## ARTICLE 34

### CONFLICT WITH AGREEMENT

Where the Rules of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge conflict with this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.



## ARTICLE 35

### DURATION OF AGREEMENT

The term of this Agreement shall be from April 2, 1999 to March 31, 2003.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be  
signed by their representatives on 5/17/00

NEW YORK STATE-UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

Lauren P. DeSole  
Lauren P. DeSole, Chief of Employee Relations

Robert L. Herrick

CITYWIDE ASSOCIATION OF LAW ASSISTANTS OF THE CIVIL,  
CRIMINAL AND FAMILY COURTS

Barbara A. Brown

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APPENDIX A

JOB TITLE OR POSITIONS INCLUDED WITHIN THE  
CITYWIDE ASSOCIATION OF LAW ASSISTANTS OF  
THE CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FAMILY COURTS  
NEGOTIATING UNIT

Associate Court Attorney-Trial Part

Associate Court Attorney (Trial Part) to Acting Justice

Associate Law Clerk (New York City Family Court)\*

Court Attorney-Trial Part

Court Attorney (Trial Part) to Acting Justice

Court Attorney (Trial Part) to Acting Justice, Part-time

Principal Court Attorney (Trial Part) to Acting Justice

Principal Law Clerk (New York City Family Court)\*

Senior Court Attorney (Trial Part) to Acting Justice

Senior Court Attorney-Trial Part













NYS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD  
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