

CHAPTER 32

JUDGES

[Taking office on or After January 1, 2011]

(La. R.S. 11:441(A)(2)(b) and (11:444 (A)(1)(a)(ii))

This chapter pertains to Judges whose first employment making them eligible for membership in one of the state systems occurred on or after January 1, 2011. The following positions are covered by the Judicial Plan:

- Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court
- Judges of the Courts of Appeal
- Judges of the District Courts
- Judges of the Civil District Court for Orleans Parish
- Judges of the Criminal District Court for Orleans Parish
- Judges of the Juvenile Courts for East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Jefferson, and Caddo Parish
- Judges of the Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish
- Judges of the First and Second Parish Courts for Jefferson Parish
- Judges of the First and Second City Courts of New Orleans, Municipal Court of New Orleans, and Traffic Courts of New Orleans
- Judges of the various City Courts
- Judges of any Parish Court

Please refer to the chapters on Regular Members Hired on or After January 1, 2011, if a topic is not covered in this chapter.

Contribution Rate

(La. R.S. 11:62(5)(a))

Judges pay a contribution rate of 13 percent.

Retirement Eligibility

As a Judge first taking office on or after January 1, 2011, but on or before June 30, 2015, you will become eligible for retirement upon reaching one of the criteria below:

- 5 years of service at age 60
- 20 years of service at any age, with an actuarially reduced benefit (Deferred Retirement Option Plan [DROP] participation and retirement with an Initial Benefit Option [IBO] are not available to members who choose this option). The actuarial reduction is based on the number of months you are away **from eligibility for an unreduced retirement.**

As a Judge first taking office on or after July 1, 2015, you will become eligible for retirement upon reaching one of the criteria below:

NOTE: Your LASERS Annual Account Statement will identify you as “Judicial Employee 3,” and you will have these retirement eligibilities.

- 5 years of service at age 62
- 20 years of service at any age, with an actuarially reduced benefit (Deferred Retirement Option Plan [DROP] participation and retirement with an Initial Benefit Option [IBO] are not available to members who choose this option). The actuarial reduction is based on the number of months you are away **from Regular retirement eligibility**.

Benefit Accrual

As a Judge, you accrue benefits at 2.5 percent of your average compensation, plus an additional one percent for years of service as a Judge. Your average compensation will be based on your highest successive 60 months of earnings.

Limits on Final Average Compensation

When calculating your retirement benefit, the earnings used for your average compensation may be capped in order to avoid excessive spikes in compensation.

The earnings to be considered for the 13th through the 24th month shall not exceed 115 percent of the earnings of the 1st through the 12th month. The earnings to be considered for the 25th through the 36th month shall not exceed 115 percent of the earnings of the 13th through the 24th month. The earnings to be considered for the 37th through the 48th month shall not exceed 115 percent of the earnings of the 25th through the 36th month. The earnings for the final 12 months shall not exceed 115 percent of the earnings of the 37th through the 48th month. ■