



U.S. federal judges unhappy with pay

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WASHINGTON -- U.S. federal judges serving lifelong appointments are resigning at the highest rate in the country's history, USA Today reported Monday.

The key reason appears to be their salaries, said U.S. District Judge Brock Hornby of Maine, who chairs a judges' panel on salaries.

Federal judges earn \$165,200 a year but when adjusted for inflation, real pay declined 25 percent from 1969 to 2006, while real pay for the average worker rose 19 percent, the newspaper said.

In 2005, there were 875 federal judges, but 22 of them resigned and three retired, which is the highest number of departures ever in a single year. Fourteen of those who resigned went into private practice and five others opted for jobs in government or education, the report said.

Roy Schotland, a Georgetown University law professor who studies judicial pay, told the newspaper between 1995 and 2005, salaries for first-year lawyers rose 79 percent while pay for federal judges rose just 21 percent.