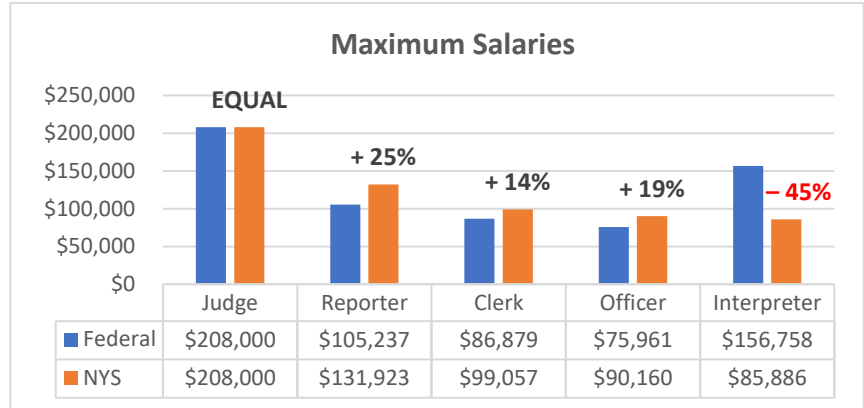
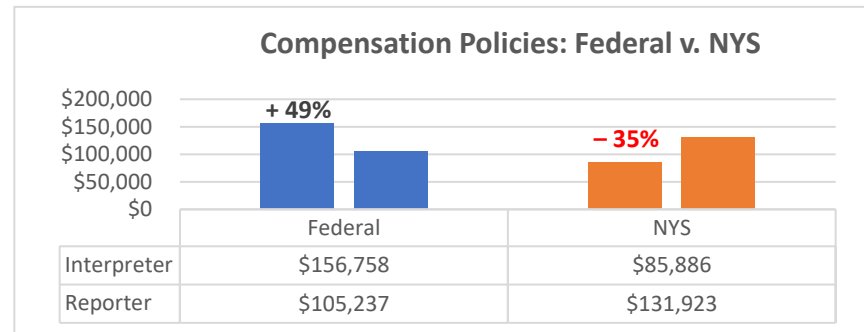


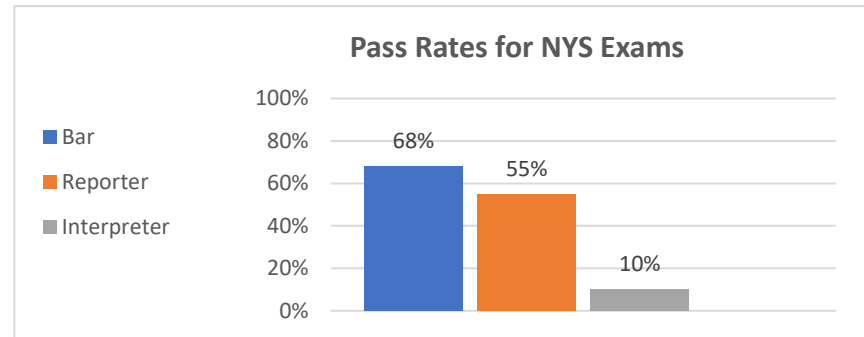
The New York State Unified Court System’s compensation policy for court interpreters is incongruent with those for other court employees.



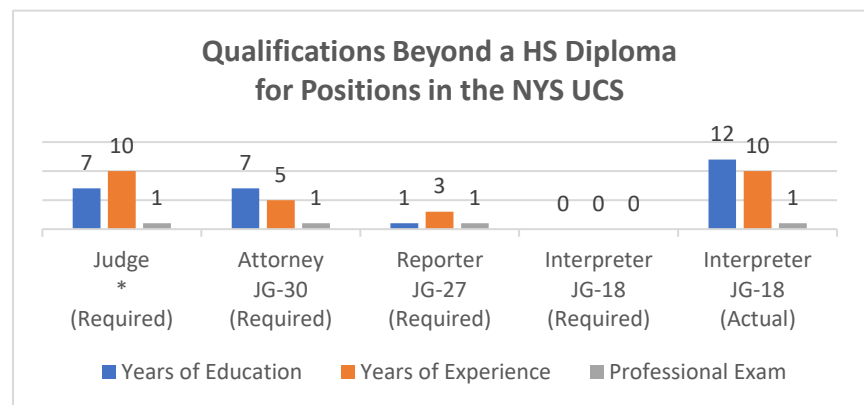
Despite the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s job classification of interpreters as “professionals,” the New York State Unified Court System pays them less than court reporters, which the EEOC classifies as “administrative support workers.”



The New York State Unified Court System’s exam for court interpreters has a significantly lower pass rate than other employees who deal with on-the-record colloquy and testimony.



The required job qualifications for court interpreters in the New York State Unified Court System are much lower than interpreters’ actual qualifications.



The New York State Unified Court System does not officially recognize the qualifications that interpreters actually possess in order to perform their work. The only qualifications listed in the job title are a “high school diploma or the equivalent, or an equivalent combination of education and experience,” yet interpreters must pass a rigorous exam to be hired. In addition to an average of 8 years of second language immersion to achieve native-like fluency, surveys of NYS staff court interpreters reveal that it takes 4 years of education or more at the university level and an average of 10 years of work experience to develop the skills, knowledge and abilities to be hired as a NYS staff court interpreter. See [Compensation of Court Interpreters in the State of New York](#).