*Essential*URSJJ

Uniform Retirement System for Justices & Judges

The Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges (URSJJ) is a retirement plan administered by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) Board of Trustees for Justices and judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Worker's Compensation Court, Court of Civil Appeals, and District Court. URSJJ is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code to provide you a lifetime retirement benefit when you meet the eligibility requirements described below.

You participate in URSJJ by contributing a portion of your salary each pay period. Your employer also contributes on your behalf. The amount of your contributions does not determine the amount of the benefit URSJJ promises you. Your benefits are determined by a formula which includes your salary and years of credited service. The paid contributions are invested, under the direction of the OPERS Board of Trustees, to provide lifetime retirement benefits to eligible members.

This handout is an overview describing URSJJ plan provisions as of July 1, 2013. It is not a plan document and does not create any type of binding obligation, contract, or promise to pay benefits. URSJJ reserves the right to correct any errors contained herein to comply with federal or state statutes. For more information, refer to the member handbook available online at **www.opers.ok.gov**, or you may request a copy from your agency's Retirement Coordinator or by calling URSJJ at 1-800-733-9008.

Membership and Participation	Membership in URSJJ begins immediately upon appointment or election to the bench.
Contributions	Current contribution rates are 8% for the member and 13.0% for the employer. The employer contribution rate will increase by 1.5% at the beginning of each fiscal year until it reaches 22.0% in FY 2019. For more details on the contribution rates, see your Retirement Coordinator.
Vesting	**Vesting** means you have accumulated enough service credit to entitle you to a lifetime monthly retirement benefit in the future. In URSJJ, you must have eight years of credited service as a Justice or judge to be eligible to vest.
Eligibility for Normal Retirement Benefits	**If you became a member of URSJJ before January 1, 2012:** • **Age 60** – You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 60 with 10 years of service as a Justice or judge; or • **Age 65** – You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 65 with eight years of service as a Justice or judge; or • **80 points** – You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when the sum of your age and years of service equals 80. **If you became a member of URSJJ on or after January 1, 2012:** • **Age 62** – You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 62 with 10 years of service as a Justice or judge; or • **Age 67** – You can begin receiving full, unreduced retirement benefits when you are at least age 67 with eight years of service as a Justice or judge.

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P.O. Box 53007 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3007
1-800-733-9008 • www.opers.ok.gov

Eligibility for Disability Benefits

If you must terminate participation in URSJJ due to significant health problems resulting in permanent disability, you may be entitled to disability benefits if you are age 55 or older and have 15 or more continuous years of judicial service and retirement by reason of physical disability is ordered by the Court on the Judiciary.

Calculating Your Retirement Benefits

Your gross annual retirement benefit is calculated by multiplying your:

- **Final Average Salary**[1] – The average of your compensation during your highest three years.
- **Total Service Credit** – The years and full months you have participated in URSJJ, including any purchased and prior service. Total service is rounded up or down to the nearest full year.
- **Computation Factor of 0.04 (or 4%)**

Post-Retirement Employment

If you are elected or appointed to any judicial or other office covered by URSJJ after retirement, your retirement compensation will be suspended while you hold that office. You will participate in the system while reemployed; however, upon leaving office, your retirement compensation will be reinstated.

Post-retirement employment in any other capacity does not limit or suspend you from receiving your URSJJ retirement benefits.

Termination of Employment and Withdrawal

If you terminate employment with a participating employer and did not accrue enough service for retirement eligibility or vesting, you may choose to:

- **Leave the contributions with URSJJ to retain membership and any service credit previously earned.** Upon re-employment with a URSJJ participating employer, this previously earned service will be added to any new service credit and used in determining your retirement benefits; or,
- **Withdraw the contributions you have paid into URSJJ.** You will lose all service credit, including prior service credit earned before the date of withdrawal, and you will no longer be a member of URSJJ. No accumulated interest or increased value is paid on the withdrawn money.

Member Communications

URSJJ provides a number of member communications, including (among others):

- Publications and notices, including member handbooks, newsletters, and annual statements of account to active and vested members.
- Informational seminars on financial and retirement planning, and
- Web site at **www.opers.ok.gov**.

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1 In the past, certain salary caps applied. Therefore, if any of the highest three years of annual compensation out of the last 10 years of compensation prior to retirement was earned before July 1, 1999, compensation for that year is subject to a cap. Contact OPERS for more information.

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