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Your PERA Benefits

Judicial Division Provisions

February 2009

As a member of the Judicial Division, your benefits are the same as explained in *Your PERA Benefits*, except for the following:

PERA Membership and Contributions

- As a PERA member, you contribute 8 percent of your salary to the Fund. Your employer contributes a total of 16.46 percent of its total payroll to PERA. Of this amount, 1.02 percent is deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund, 1.80 percent is designated as the Amortization Equalization Disbursement (AED), and 1.00 percent is designated as the Supplemental Amortization Equalization Disbursement (SAED).
- For members of the Judicial Division retiring on or after July 1, 1997, Highest Average Salary (HAS) refers to one-twelfth of the highest annual salary upon which contributions were paid for 12 consecutive months.

Disability Retirement

As a member of the Judicial Division, you are immediately eligible to apply for disability retirement benefits. If you are, due to a medical condition, totally and permanently disabled from engaging in any regular and substantial gainful employment or you are ordered by the Supreme Court to retire pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, you will earn service credit for the remainder of your term. Disability retirement benefits will be effective the first of the month following the later of your last day on the job, your last day of sick leave used, or the date of receipt of the Supreme Court order. In

addition, you will receive projected service credit to age 65 or 20 years, whichever is first.

You may apply for disability benefits even if you are eligible for service retirement.

Purchasing Service Credit

The cost to purchase service credit is the actuarial cost of providing the future benefit and is based on your age at the time of purchase. See the *Purchasing Service Credit* booklet or the PERA Web site at www.copera.org for the cost to purchase.

Special Schedule

A special schedule of benefits applies if you were a member of the Judicial Division on or before July 1, 1973, and are eligible for service retirement.

Working After Retirement

Judges have different “Working After Retirement” provisions when returning to a position on the bench under the Senior Judge Program. Upon written agreement with the chief justice, you may perform assigned judicial duties without pay for not less than 60 nor more than 90 days per calendar year. Once an agreement is signed and PERA is notified, you will receive a benefit increase equal to 20 percent (for 60 days work) or 30 percent (for 90 days work) of the current monthly salary of judges serving in the same position from which you retired.

You must make the agreement with the chief justice within five years of retirement; the agreement cannot be for a period of more than three years. Subsequent agreements can be made; however the sum of all agreements cannot exceed 12 years, except at the discretion of the Colorado Supreme Court.

If you work for another PERA-affiliated employer outside of the Senior Judge Program, you will be subject to limitations, see the *Working After Retirement* booklet for more information.

This insert provides information about benefits specific to Judicial Division members. Your rights, benefits, and obligations as a PERA member are governed by Title 24, Article 51 of the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Rules of the Colorado Public Employees’ Retirement Association, which take precedence over any interpretations in this insert.

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