FEDERAL PENSIONS

Judicial Survivors’ Annuities System Costs

What GAO Found

For the 2005 to 2007 time frame covered by this review, the participating judges funded approximately 54 percent of JSAS costs, and the federal government funded 46 percent. The increase in the government’s contribution rate over the 3-year period was a result of increases in costs. The increase in costs reflected the combined effects of changes in actuarial assumptions; lower-than-expected rates of return on plan assets; demographic changes such as retirement, death, disability, new members, and pay increases; as well as an increase in plan benefit obligations.

What GAO Recommends

GAO is not making any recommendations in this report. The Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC) believes that GAO should be recommending a reduction in the judges’ rate. GAO disagrees with AOUSC’s interpretation of the act’s requirements.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on GAO-08-1104. For more information, contact Steven J. Sebastian, (202) 512-3406 sebastians@gao.gov, Joseph A. Applebaum, (202) 512-6336, applebaumj@gao.gov.