

Funding for the Unified Judicial System derives from both state and county appropriations. The state pays the salaries for all judicial officers as well as the personnel and operating costs of the entire appellate court system, including the committees and boards of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Beginning January 1, 2000, in accordance with Act 12 of 1999, the Commonwealth also funds the salaries and benefits for district court administrators transferred to state service effective that date. Table 4.1 on page 105 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 2001-02.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2001-02, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for one-half of one percent*. Table 4.2 on page 107 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government.

### **County Reimbursement Program**

The Commonwealth also provides reimbursement to the counties for costs incurred in support of the Common Pleas Courts. Counties are reimbursed for a percentage of juror costs incurred when a trial or grand jury proceeding lasts longer than three days.

In addition, counties have traditionally been reimbursed for personnel and operating costs associated with the administration of the Courts of Common Pleas. Reimbursement is based on a flat rate established by the General Assembly for each authorized Common Pleas judge position.

For each Common Pleas judge position, the General Assembly also requires that counties spend an amount at least equal to the flat rate per judge, which was \$70,000 for FY 2001-02.

A new grant was created and funded in fiscal year 2001-02 to partially reimburse counties for expenses they incur to provide support - facilities and staff services - to assigned Common Pleas senior judges in accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration (RJA) 701(a). Act 88 of 2001 served as the enabling legislation for the Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant.

Table 4.3 on page 108 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2001-02.

One exception to the current funding pattern is the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, where all costs are borne by the City of Pittsburgh. In fiscal year 1995-96, however, the Commonwealth for the first time reimbursed the city for costs related to the Magistrates Court by the payment of a \$1.2 million grant. Grant money was provided to Pittsburgh for this purpose each year until FY 2000-01, when the grant was not funded. Funding was restored in FY 2001-02 at the \$1.2 million level.

## Local, State Government Revenue

The Unified Judicial System is a source of considerable revenue to local and state government. An example of this revenue can be found in Table 4.4 on page 110, which lists fees collected by the appellate courts, the Minor Judiciary Education Board and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners. Appropriated by the General Assembly, these fees are used to support state-funded court operations.

Although exact figures are not available, the court system raises millions of dollars in revenue for local municipalities. Depending on the police department (local or state) from which a citation is issued, a portion of fines collected is disbursed to local political subdivisions after adjudication within the Unified Judicial System. Some examples of these fines include traffic violations under the vehicle code, violations of local ordinances and certain violations of summary offenses.

Counties also receive court-collected fines, fees and costs. Fees are generated in connection with the commencement of actions or the filing of liens, appeals and accounts, etc. On an annual basis, the collections amount to tens of millions of dollars. The monies are collected by courts at all levels of the system.

Finally, a portion of the revenues collected by the courts is earmarked for the state. Some of these funds are program specific, e.g., Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Fund and the Crime Victims' Compensation Board. Others are used, through Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990, to provide funding for the statewide Judicial Computer System. Still other monies collected, such as motor vehicle fines, revert to the state general fund.

As part of the reform of the judicial discipline process, the Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline were established as independent organizations responsible for their own affairs, including financial matters. Pursuant to Act 56 of 1993, however, their annual budget requests are made as separate line items in the Supreme Court's request to the General Assembly on behalf of the judicial branch.

**AOPC**

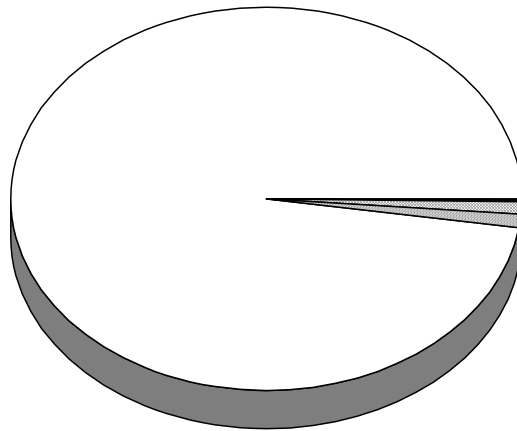
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>2001-02</b> (thousands)
Supreme Court*	\$11,742
Justices' Expenses*	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	395
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee*	390
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee*	162
Judicial Council	178
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	158
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees	169
Committee on Rules of Evidence*	181
Committee on Racial/Gender Bias	100
Equity Commission	400
Minor Court Rules Committee*	182
Superior Court	23,697
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	14,683
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Security	150
Court Administrator	7,102
District Court Administrators*	12,699
Court Management Education	150
Statewide Judicial Computer System**	26,328
Integrated Criminal Justice System	3,026
Courts of Common Pleas	58,550
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,759
Common Pleas Judicial Education	727
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	40
District Justices*	47,582
District Justice Education	546
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	679
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,511
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	204
Pittsburgh Magistrates Court	1,200

Table 4.1

<b>APPROPRIATIONS, continued</b>	
<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>2001-02</b> (thousands)
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,469
County Court Reimbursement	31,356
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement	3,000
Judicial Conduct Board	999
Court of Judicial Discipline	426
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$257,539</b>
<p>* As authorized by Act 6-A of 2001, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and deposited into the Judicial Computer System restricted receipt account in the following amounts: Supreme Court - \$150,000; Supreme Court Justices' Expenses - \$40,000; Civil Procedural Rules - \$90,000; Criminal Procedural Rules - \$25,000; Domestic Relations Procedural Rules - \$15,000; Rules of Evidence - \$85,000; Minor Court Rules - \$55,000; District Court Administrators - \$450,000; District Justices - \$1,907,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$53,000; Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$250,000; and Juror Cost Reimbursement - \$360,000, for a total of \$3,480,000. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.</p>	
<p>** The Statewide Judicial Computer System is funded through a restricted account in accordance with Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990 and not with state general fund money. The full amount of the FY 2001-02 \$26,328,000 appropriation was drawn from the restricted receipt account, consisting of \$21,710,000 of Act 64/Act 59 funds and \$4,618,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 funds transferred to the restricted receipt account from other Judiciary appropriations in accordance with Act 21-A of 2000. An additional \$28,279 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System, and \$84,300 was derived from augmentations as mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). The total amount available to the Judicial Computer System in FY 2001-02 was \$26,440,579.</p>	

Table 4.1, cont'd.

## Pennsylvania Government FY 2001-02 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.87%
- ▒ Legislative Branch - .55%
- ▓ Judicial Branch - .50%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .08%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2001-02 funds available to the judiciary as \$258,382,000. Actual total available funds available were \$258,483,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2002-03 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS  
FY 2001-02**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>JUROR COST</b>	<b>COUNTY COURT</b>	<b>SENIOR JUDGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Adams	\$4,178.31	\$210,000.00	\$324.00	\$214,502.31
Allegheny	155,727.85	2,870,000.00	430,788.00	3,456,515.85
Armstrong	1,837.46	140,000.00	238.00	142,075.46
Beaver	4,621.19	420,000.00	19,098.00	443,719.19
Bedford	972.74	140,000.00	0.00	140,972.74
Berks	11,324.38	770,000.00	87,880.00	869,204.38
Blair	2,237.18	280,000.00	660.00	282,897.18
Bradford	341.47	140,000.00	0.00	140,341.47
Bucks	34,240.52	770,000.00	85,296.00	889,536.52
Butler	4,639.05	350,000.00	67,230.00	421,869.05
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	0.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	9,800.00	0.00	9,800.00
Carbon	321.62	140,000.00	21,962.00	162,283.62
Centre	5,329.85	210,000.00	0.00	215,329.85
Chester	14,731.65	770,000.00	39,822.00	824,553.65
Clarion	142.85	70,000.00	3,516.00	73,658.85
Clearfield	1,916.93	140,000.00	2,100.00	144,016.93
Clinton	912.77	140,000.00	0.00	140,912.77
Columbia	0.00	109,200.00	0.00	109,200.00
Crawford	4,800.57	140,000.00	8,560.00	153,360.57
Cumberland	10,537.45	350,000.00	0.00	360,537.45
Dauphin	47,495.92	560,000.00	17,838.00	625,333.92
Delaware	22,200.86	1,260,000.00	39,700.00	1,321,900.86
Elk	1,034.20	60,200.00	0.00	61,234.20
Erie	9,699.62	560,000.00	0.00	569,699.62
Fayette	13,669.16	350,000.00	108.00	363,777.16
Forest	0.00	7,000.00	204.00	7,204.00
Franklin	2,519.79	252,000.00	0.00	254,519.79
Fulton	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00
Greene	2,628.63	140,000.00	0.00	142,628.63
Huntingdon	348.27	70,000.00	0.00	70,348.27
Indiana	3,326.36	140,000.00	570.00	143,896.36
Jefferson	0.00	70,000.00	12,190.00	82,190.00
Juniata	0.00	46,200.00	0.00	46,200.00
Lackawanna	36,710.86	420,000.00	113,726.00	570,436.86
Lancaster	22,558.27	770,000.00	13,012.00	805,570.27
Lawrence	8,735.64	210,000.00	0.00	218,735.64
Lebanon	1,141.43	280,000.00	0.00	281,141.43
Lehigh	20,992.52	630,000.00	9,060.00	660,052.52

**Table 4.3**

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued  
FY 2001-02

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	SENIOR JUDGE	TOTAL
Luzerne	23,997.28	630,000.00	47,888.00	701,885.28
Lycoming	10,355.60	350,000.00	0.00	360,355.60
McKean	713.28	70,000.00	3,150.00	73,863.28
Mercer	6,337.74	210,000.00	0.00	216,337.74
Mifflin	875.47	70,000.00	960.00	71,835.47
Monroe	5,731.59	350,000.00	1,436.00	357,167.59
Montgomery	11,757.51	1,260,000.00	80,436.00	1,352,193.51
Montour	884.24	30,800.00	0.00	31,684.24
Northampton	16,833.90	490,000.00	37,840.00	544,673.90
Northumberland	3,092.25	140,000.00	18,468.00	161,560.25
Perry	0.00	93,800.00	0.00	93,800.00
Philadelphia	487,925.89	10,075,327.00	249,118.00	10,812,370.89
Pike	688.12	70,000.00	326.00	71,014.12
Potter	893.07	70,000.00	0.00	70,893.07
Schuylkill	8,077.03	350,000.00	14,154.00	372,231.03
Snyder	6,469.00	70,000.00	0.00	76,469.00
Somerset	2,471.28	210,000.00	0.00	212,471.28
Sullivan	0.00	12,600.00	0.00	12,600.00
Susquehanna	265.15	70,000.00	0.00	70,265.15
Tioga	355.89	70,000.00	600.00	70,955.89
Union	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00
Venango	4,811.90	140,000.00	9,476.00	154,387.90
Warren	0.00	63,000.00	5,044.00	68,044.00
Washington	10,770.29	350,000.00	0.00	360,770.29
Wayne	1,740.04	70,000.00	0.00	71,740.04
Westmoreland	18,926.75	770,000.00	4,102.00	793,028.75
Wyoming	2,483.55	57,400.00	0.00	59,883.55
York	30,667.81	770,000.00	60,268.00	860,935.81
Transfer to JCS	360,000.00	0.00	0.00	360,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,469,000.00</b>	<b>\$31,355,327.00</b>	<b>\$1,507,148.00</b>	<b>\$34,331,475.00</b>

**FUNDING METHODOLOGIES:**

**Juror Cost** - The grant reimburses counties for 80% of the amounts they expend for compensation and travel allowances to jurors participating in a trial or grand jury proceedings after the first three days of service.

**County Court** - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. For FY 2001-02, the reimbursement was paid at a rate of \$70,000 per authorized Common Pleas position whether filled or vacant. In order for counties to receive the full reimbursement, they must provide a level of support at least equal to the reimbursement rate per authorized position. Nevertheless, no county will receive less than 77.5% of the actual reimbursement for court costs provided to it from state funds appropriated for the fiscal year July 1, 1980, to June 30, 1981.

Table 4.3, cont'd.

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued  
FY 2001-02**

**FUNDING METHODOLOGIES, continued:**

**Senior Judge** - The grant provides partial reimbursement for expenses counties incur to provide support - facilities and staff services - to assigned Common Pleas Court senior judges in accordance with Rule of Judicial Administration 701(a). Facilities include the use of judicial chambers, office equipment and supplies. Staff services include the services of law clerks and secretaries. The use of facilities is reimbursed at the current statutory rate of \$60 per day, billable in half-day increments. Services of a secretary are reimbursed at \$12 per hour and the services of a law clerk at \$20 per hour. For FY 2001-02, the initial year for the grant, the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2001.

**Table 4.3, cont'd.**

**FEES THAT SUPPORT STATE OPERATIONS**

<b>APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>2001-02 (thousands)</b>
Supreme Court	\$351
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,524
Judicial Computer System*	113
Superior Court	248
Commonwealth Court	203
District Justice Education	25
Court Administrator	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,468</b>

\*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$84,300 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2001-02. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the District Justice System.

**Table 4.4**