

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2007-08, administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for approximately one-half of one percent. Table 4.1 on page 101 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government. (With the county reimbursement grants discussed below, the judiciary accounts for approximately 0.6 percent of total state government expenditures.)

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 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 4.2 on page 102 provides a breakdown of the state appropriations for fiscal year 2007-08.

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, which, in the case of insufficient funding, may be reduced in order to adjust to the appropriated amount.

The General Assembly also requires that counties spend an amount at least equal to the flat reimbursement rate per judge, which was \$69,488 for FY 2007-08.

Counties also receive partial reimbursement for expenses they incur to provide support—facilities and staff services—to assigned

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Common Pleas senior judges in accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration (R.J.A.) 701(F). Act 88 of 2001 served as the initial enabling legislation for the Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant and was succeeded by Act 37 of 2007. This grant has been provided each year since its inception in FY 2001-02.

Table 4.3 on page 105 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2007-08.

One exception to the current funding pattern has been the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, which was merged into the magisterial district judge system within Allegheny County on January 1, 2005, as part of the decennial realignment of magisterial districts by the Supreme Court. Traditionally, costs for this court were borne by the city. In fiscal year 1995-96, however, the Commonwealth reimbursed Pittsburgh for costs related to the court by the payment of a \$1.2 million grant. Grant money continued to be provided to Pittsburgh each fiscal year until 2000-01, when the grant was not funded. Funding was restored in 2001-02, but was not granted subsequently. A grant has been provided annually to Allegheny County, beginning in FY 2005-06, to assist with consolidation costs arising from the merger in January 2005 of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court into the magisterial district judge system within the county.

A grant was also provided to Philadelphia to assist with the costs of a new “gun court” instituted within its trial courts. Funding for the grant was first provided in FY 2004-05 and continued each year thereafter.

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 109, 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, as amended by Act 122 of 2002, to provide funding for the statewide Judicial Computer System. Still other monies collected, such as motor vehicle fines, revert to state general use.

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.

Pennsylvania Government FY 2007-08		
<i>General, Special Federal & Other Funds Expenditures</i>		
Branch	\$ Amount (Millions)	Percent of Total
Executive	58,432,299	98.81
Legislative	334,908	0.57
Judicial	330,285	0.56
Judicial - County Reimbursement for Courts	39,887	0.07
Total	59,137,379	

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2007-08 funds available to the judiciary as \$358,091,000. Actual total available funds, including , including supplemental funding per Act 38-A of 2008 in the amount of \$8,917,000 for the Courts of Common Pleas appropriation and \$2,086,000 for the magisterial district judges appropriation, plus \$11,003,00 in net transfers from the JCS Augmentation Account were \$330,285,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2008-09 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.1

Appropriations	
Appropriation	2007-08 (thousands)
Supreme Court*	\$15,097
Justices' Expenses	184
Civil Procedural Rules Committee	431
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	472
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee	207
Judicial Council	145
Interbranch Commission	347
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	219
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees	208
Committee on Rules of Evidence	195
Minor Court Rules Committee	202
Superior Court*	27,927
Judges' Expenses	242
Commonwealth Court*	16,971
Judges' Expenses	146
Court Administrator*	10,200
Court Improvement Program** (F)	1,370
Drug Court Training+ (F)	200
District Court Administrators	18,023
Court Management Education	160
Unified Judicial System Security++	2,099
Statewide Judicial Computer System# (R)	56,883
Integrated Criminal Justice System	2,516
Courts of Common Pleas##	84,842
Common Pleas Senior Judges	4,301
Common Pleas Judicial Education	1,373
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	59
Magisterial District Judges▲	63,595
Magisterial District Judge Education	721
Philadelphia Traffic Court	942
Philadelphia Municipal Court	5,959
Philadelphia Law Clerks	40
Domestic Violence	235
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Table 4.2

Appropriations, continued

Appropriation	2007-08 (thousands)
County Court Reimbursement	33,697
Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant ▲▲	714
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement	2,040
Juror Cost Reimbursement	1,369
Court Accounts (Court Consolidation)	2,040
Judicial Conduct Board	1,226
Court of Judicial Discipline	486
State Funds	299,657
(F) Federal Funds	1,570
(R) Restricted Receipts	56,883
Total	\$358,110

- * Act 38-A of 2008 (the General Appropriation Act for FY 2008-09) retroactively converted the FY 2007-08 appropriations to the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Commonwealth Court and court administrator into continuing appropriations.
- ** These federal funds are available under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a Court Improvement Project involving the dependency courts.
- + The federal drug court training funds are available over a period spanning two fiscal years. Because they were not spent during FY 2006-07, they will be available for spending during FY 2007-08.
- ++ The FY 2007-08 UJS Security appropriation was provided in the form of a continuing appropriation.
- # The statewide Judicial Computer System is funded through a restricted receipt account in accordance with Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990 as amended by Act 122 of 2002. The funds in the account are supplemented periodically by the transfer of available surplus funds at year end from certain UJS appropriations as authorized as part of the annual appropriations process. An additional \$98,700 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the Magisterial District Judge System, and \$94,100 was derived from augmentations as mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen & Dave's Law). The total amount available to the Judicial Computer System in FY 2007-08 was \$57,075,800.

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Table 4.2, cont'd.

Appropriations, continued

- ## The Common Pleas appropriation shown includes \$8.917 million provided as a supplemental, continuing appropriation after the close of the fiscal year as a result of a deficit in the appropriation.
- ▲ The magisterial district judges appropriation shown includes \$2.086 million provided as a supplemental, continuing appropriation after the close of the fiscal year as a result of a deficit in the appropriation.
- ▲▲ The FY 2007-08 Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant is a two-year continuing appropriation, expiring June 30, 2009.

Table 4.2, cont'd.

**County Reimbursements for Courts
FY 2007-08**

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Adams	\$298.90	\$208,464.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$208,762.90
Allegheny	96,773.32	2,987,980.00	198,352.00	0.00	2,040,000.00	5,323,105.32
Armstrong	585.14	138,976.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	139,591.14
Beaver	5,183.74	486,415.00	32,102.00	0.00	0.00	523,700.74
Bedford	332.50	138,976.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	139,308.50
Berks	15,073.13	903,343.00	132,300.00	0.00	0.00	1,050,716.13
Blair	8,369.67	347,439.00	5,760.00	0.00	0.00	361,568.67
Bradford	0.00	138,976.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	138,976.00
Bucks	39,630.30	903,343.00	10,784.00	0.00	0.00	953,757.30
Butler	3,353.56	416,927.00	360.00	0.00	0.00	420,640.56
Cambria	0.00	347,439.00	17,568.00	0.00	0.00	365,007.00
Cameron	0.00	10,423.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,423.00
Carbon	976.54	138,976.00	4,268.00	0.00	0.00	144,220.54
Centre	5,372.84	277,952.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283,324.84
Chester	26,944.02	903,343.00	5,616.00	0.00	0.00	935,903.02
Clarion	3,492.38	69,488.00	6,926.00	0.00	0.00	79,906.38
Clearfield	2,887.68	138,976.00	3,148.00	0.00	0.00	145,011.68
Clinton	2,045.37	138,976.00	818.00	0.00	0.00	141,839.37
Columbia	0.00	108,401.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108,401.00
Crawford	1,777.98	208,464.00	1,136.00	0.00	0.00	211,377.98
Cumberland	7,224.04	347,439.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	354,663.04
Dauphin	36,028.02	555,903.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	591,931.02
Delaware	19,502.85	1,320,270.00	123,792.00	0.00	0.00	1,463,564.85
Elk	314.27	59,065.00	1,348.00	0.00	0.00	60,727.27

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**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2007-08**

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Erie	\$5,524.46	\$625,391.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$630,915.46
Fayette	5,210.21	347,439.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	352,649.21
Forest	0.00	13,898.00	2,560.00	0.00	0.00	16,458.00
Franklin	3,436.21	250,157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	253,593.21
Fulton	0.00	27,795.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,795.00
Greene	10,175.50	138,976.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149,151.50
Huntingdon	0.00	69,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,488.00
Indiana	0.00	208,464.00	354.00	0.00	0.00	208,818.00
Jefferson	892.19	69,488.00	6,110.00	0.00	0.00	76,490.19
Juniata	0.00	47,452.00	1,146.00	0.00	0.00	48,398.00
Lackawanna	12,886.95	555,903.00	51,560.00	0.00	0.00	620,349.95
Lancaster	10,860.58	903,343.00	36,476.00	0.00	0.00	950,679.58
Lawrence	7,910.60	277,952.00	3,660.00	0.00	0.00	289,522.60
Lebanon	6,796.44	277,952.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	284,748.44
Lehigh	55,287.66	694,879.00	13,680.00	0.00	0.00	763,846.66
Luzerne	20,852.78	625,391.00	86,480.00	0.00	0.00	732,723.78
Lycoming	5,729.79	347,440.00	956.00	0.00	0.00	354,125.79
McKean	1,322.08	138,976.00	4,400.00	0.00	0.00	144,698.08
Mercer	3,785.49	277,952.00	936.00	0.00	0.00	282,673.49
Mifflin	0.00	138,976.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	138,976.00
Monroe	8,472.74	416,927.00	936.00	0.00	0.00	426,335.74
Montgomery	45,171.11	1,459,246.00	1,440.00	0.00	0.00	1,505,857.11
Montour	897.94	30,575.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,472.94
Northampton	15,153.26	555,903.00	24,080.00	0.00	0.00	595,136.26

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County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2007-08

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Northumberland	\$0.00	\$208,464.00	\$4,956.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213,420.00
Perry	0.00	91,724.00	1,832.00	0.00	0.00	93,556.00
Philadelphia	533,120.90	10,001,621.00	319,624.00	714,000.00	0.00	11,568,365.90
Pike	0.00	69,488.00	5,368.00	0.00	0.00	74,856.00
Potter	583.93	69,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,071.93
Schuylkill	3,253.42	416,927.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	420,270.42
Snyder	3,894.25	65,319.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,213.25
Somerset	1,346.65	208,464.00	556.00	0.00	0.00	210,366.65
Sullivan	0.00	13,203.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,203.00
Susquehanna	295.22	69,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,783.22
Tioga	0.00	69,488.00	898.00	0.00	0.00	70,386.00
Union	2,066.60	73,657.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,723.60
Venango	5,111.20	138,976.00	3,304.00	0.00	0.00	147,391.20
Warren	0.00	125,078.00	2,892.00	0.00	0.00	127,970.00
Washington	7,847.23	416,927.00	8,732.00	0.00	0.00	433,506.23
Wayne	941.57	69,488.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,429.57
Westmoreland	12,007.35	764,367.00	5,376.00	0.00	0.00	781,750.35
Wyoming	1,444.17	56,285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,729.17
York	27,555.27	972,831.00	6,864.00	0.00	0.00	1,007,250.27
Transfer	300,000.00	0.00	900,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,200,000.00
Lapse	0.00	0.00	426.00	0.00	0.00	426.00
Total	1,396,000.00	33,697,000.00	2,040,000.00	714,000.00	2,040,000.00	39,887,000.00

Funding Methodologies:

Juror Cost - The grant reimburses counties for 80 percent 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.

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County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2007-08

Funding Methodologies, continued:

County Court - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. For FY 2007-08, the reimbursement was paid at a rate of \$69,488 per authorized Common Pleas position whether filled or vacant. This represents the proportional reduction made to each county's grant as authorized by Act 37 of 2007 in order to adjust to insufficient funding to pay at the traditional \$70,000 reimbursement rate. In order for counties to receive the full reimbursement offered by the grant, they must provide a level of support at least equal to the reimbursement paid. Except when required by Act 37 in the case of insufficient funding, 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.

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 Pa. Rule of Judicial Administration 701. 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 2007-08, the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2007.

Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant - The grant provides reimbursement to the City of Philadelphia primarily for personnel costs associated with the operation of the Philadelphia gun court.

Court Accounts (Court Consolidation Grant) - The grant provides reimbursement to Allegheny County for costs related to the transition of the former Pittsburgh Magistrates Court staff to county employment as a result of the merger of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court into the magisterial district judge system effective January 1, 2005.

Fees That Support State Operations	
Appropriation	2007-08 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$412
Pa. Board of Law Examiners	1,946
Judicial Computer System*	193
Superior Court	220
Commonwealth Court	172
Magisterial District Judge Education	21
Court Management Education	1
Court Administrator	40
Total	\$3,005
<p>*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen & Dave's Law). These collections provided \$94,100 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2007-08. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the Magisterial District Judge System.</p>	

Table 4.4