

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 109 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 1999-2000.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 1999-2000, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for slightly more than one-half of one percent.* Table 4.2 on page 111 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 district justice or 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 1999-2000.

Table 4.3 on page 112 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 1999-2000.

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. The grant was reauthorized in 1999-2000 in the amount of \$1.2 million.

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 114, 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. 

APPROPRIATIONS	
APPROPRIATION	1999-2000 (thousands)
Supreme Court*	\$10,341
Justice Expenses*	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	387
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	362
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee	143
Judicial Council*	180
Juvenile Rules Project*	168
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees	135
Evidence Committee*	198
Equity Commission**	400
Minor Court Rules Committee*	229
Superior Court	20,921
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	12,508
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Security	150
Court Administrator*	6,034
Statewide Funding Appropriations:	
Study Unified Judiciary	764
District Court Administrators*	13,136
Court Management Education	150
Statewide Judicial Computer System***	14,306
Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)	3,375
Courts of Common Pleas	55,318
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,527
Common Pleas Judicial Education	727
Ethics Committee*	54
District Justices*	44,555
District Justice Education	533
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	658
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,394
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	200
Pittsburgh Magistrates Court	1,200

Table 4.1

APPROPRIATIONS, continued

APPROPRIATION	1999-2000 (thousands)
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,469
County Court Reimbursement	30,401
Judicial Conduct Board	929
Court of Judicial Discipline	398
TOTAL	\$228,849

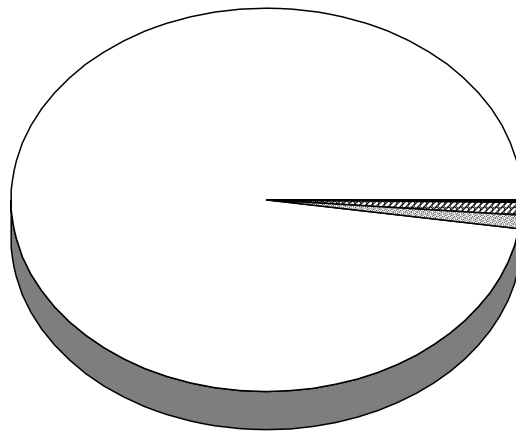
* As authorized by Act 1-A of 1999, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and made available to the Statewide Judicial Computer System as a miscellaneous augmentation for use in FY 2000-01 in the following amounts: Supreme Court - \$200,000; Supreme Court Justice Expenses - \$61,000; Civil Procedural Rules - \$50,000; Judicial Council - \$50,000; Juvenile Rules Project - \$50,000; Ethics Committee - \$140,000; Minor Court Rules - \$183,000; District Court Administrators - \$1,869,000; District Justices - \$1,008,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$51,000; Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$283,000 and Juror Cost - \$110,000, for a total of \$4,415,000. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.

** In accordance with Part XVII, Subpart C, § 1796(e) of Act 21-A of 2000, the appropriation to the Supreme Court for the Equity Commission shall not lapse until June 30, 2001.

*** 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. This appropriation was supplemented by \$1,603,000 in augmentations which represented funds transferred from various FY 1998-99 judiciary appropriations; \$15,981 derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System; and \$73,099 derived from augmentations mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). The total amount available to the Judicial Computer Project in FY 1999-2000 was \$15,997,737.

Table 4.1, cont'd.

Pennsylvania Government FY 1999-2000 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.84%
- ▨ Legislative Branch - .57%
- ▩ Judicial Branch - .51%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .08%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The Governor's budget showed FY 1999-2000 funds available to the judiciary as \$234,005. Actual total budgeted funds are \$221,349. The state total operating expenditures shown here was adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Total shown excludes capital budget.

Source: FY 2000-01 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS FY 1999-2000			
COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Adams*	\$0.00	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00
Allegheny	154,119.10	2,870,000.00	3,024,119.10
Armstrong	4,864.04	140,000.00	144,864.04
Beaver *	13,598.81	420,000.00	433,598.81
Bedford	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Berks	17,557.94	700,000.00	717,557.94
Blair	1,746.05	280,000.00	281,746.05
Bradford	0.00	140,000.00	140,000.00
Bucks	27,698.46	770,000.00	797,698.46
Butler	7,776.25	280,000.00	287,776.25
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	9,800.00	9,800.00
Carbon	4,390.28	140,000.00	144,390.28
Centre*	3,622.68	210,000.00	213,622.68
Chester*	13,207.64	700,000.00	713,207.64
Clarion	538.70	70,000.00	70,538.70
Clearfield	3,406.16	140,000.00	143,406.16
Clinton	3,966.78	140,000.00	143,966.78
Columbia	384.38	109,200.00	109,584.38
Crawford	6,318.37	140,000.00	146,318.37
Cumberland	626.37	350,000.00	350,626.37
Dauphin	43,904.20	490,000.00	533,904.20
Delaware**	39,097.36	1,260,000.00	1,299,097.36
Elk	1,886.42	60,200.00	62,086.42
Erie	10,818.71	560,000.00	570,818.71
Fayette	7,157.32	350,000.00	357,157.32
Forest	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Franklin*	4,226.21	252,000.00	256,226.21
Fulton	0.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
Greene*	5,559.63	140,000.00	145,559.63
Huntingdon	321.62	70,000.00	70,321.62
Indiana	0.00	140,000.00	140,000.00
Jefferson	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Juniata	0.00	46,200.00	46,200.00
Lackawanna	0.00	420,000.00	420,000.00
Lancaster*	13,859.01	700,000.00	713,859.01
Lawrence	5,077.39	210,000.00	215,077.39
Lebanon	2,808.55	210,000.00	212,808.55
Lehigh*	26,931.87	630,000.00	656,931.87

Table 4.3

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued
FY 1999-2000**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Luzerne	42,227.52	560,000.00	602,227.52
Lycoming*	19,418.91	350,000.00	369,418.91
McKean	4,923.38	70,000.00	74,923.38
Mercer	2,421.49	210,000.00	212,421.49
Mifflin	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Monroe	961.58	280,000.00	280,961.58
Montgomery**	60,859.68	1,260,000.00	1,320,859.68
Montour	1,833.00	30,800.00	32,633.00
Northampton*	25,525.55	490,000.00	515,525.55
Northumberland	4,248.38	140,000.00	144,248.38
Perry	0.00	93,800.00	93,800.00
Philadelphia	677,820.00	9,750,316.00	10,428,136.00
Pike	376.98	70,000.00	70,376.98
Potter	365.15	70,000.00	70,365.15
Schuylkill	7,938.26	350,000.00	357,938.26
Snyder	1,543.06	70,000.00	71,543.06
Somerset*	1,056.65	210,000.00	211,056.65
Sullivan	0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00
Susquehanna	1,055.29	70,000.00	71,055.29
Tioga	328.82	70,000.00	70,328.82
Union	645.55	70,000.00	70,645.55
Venango*	4,382.38	140,000.00	144,382.38
Warren	587.06	63,000.00	63,587.06
Washington	7,982.15	350,000.00	357,982.15
Wayne	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Westmoreland*	19,885.59	770,000.00	789,885.59
Wyoming	593.48	57,400.00	57,993.48
York**	29,499.53	770,000.00	799,499.53
Transfer to JCS	110,000.00	0.00	110,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,451,949.74	\$30,400,316.00	\$31,852,265.74

FUNDING METHODOLOGIES:

* Includes one additional judge per Act 2 of 1997.

** Includes two additional judges per Act 2 of 1997.

Juror Cost - The reimbursement grant funds 80 percent of juror costs (compensation and travel) beyond the third day of service if the juror is participating in a trial or grand jury proceeding.

County Court - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. For FY 1999-2000, the reimbursement was paid at a rate of \$70,000 per authorized Common Pleas position whether filled or vacant, (including an additional 19 positions per Act 2 of 1997); however, no county will receive less than 75% of the actual reimbursement for court costs provided to them from state funds appropriated for the fiscal year July 1, 1980, to June 30, 1981.

Table 4.3, cont'd.

FEEES THAT SUPPORT STATE OPERATIONS	
APPROPRIATION (thousands)	1999-2000
Supreme Court	\$317
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,413
Judicial Computer System*	89
Superior Court	236
Commonwealth Court	214
District Justice Education	37
Court Administrator	4
TOTAL	\$2,310

*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$73,099 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 1999-2000.

Table 4.4