

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. Table 4.1 on page 101 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 1998-1999.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 1998-99, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for slightly more than one-half of one percent.* Table 4.2 on page 103 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 both district justice offices and 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 1998-99.

Court

Finances -

Fiscal

Year

1998-1999

No funding was provided for the district justice reimbursement grant in FY 1998-99. The grant was last funded in FY 1991-92 when it received partial funding. It was last fully funded in FY 1990-91.

Table 4.3 on page 104 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 1998-99.

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 1998-99 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 106, 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.



APPROPRIATION	1998-99 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$9,729
Justice Expenses*	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee	337
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	347
Domestic Relations Committee	135
Judicial Council*	180
Juvenile Court Rules Committee	65
Superior Court	20,371
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	12,082
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Security	150
Court Administrator	5,118
Statewide Funding Appropriations:	
Study Unified Judiciary	1,358
Statewide Funding - Court Administrator	2,859
County Court Administrators	11,982
Court Management Education	200
JCS - Statewide Funding	273
Statewide Judicial Computer System**	12,929
Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)	1,950
Courts of Common Pleas	53,894
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,450
Common Pleas Judicial Education	677
Ethics Committee*	54
District Justices*	42,613
Retired DJ Health Care	97
District Justice Education	520
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	668
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,399
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	200
Pittsburgh Magistrates Court	1,200
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,469
County Court Reimbursement	29,071

Table 4.1

APPROPRIATIONS, continued

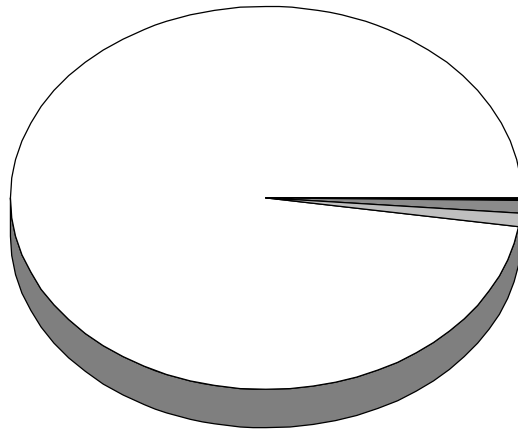
APPROPRIATION	1998-99 (thousands)
Judicial Conduct Board	891
Court of Judicial Discipline	374
TOTAL	\$220,241

* As authorized by Act 6-A of 1998 funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and made available to the Statewide Judicial Computer System as a miscellaneous augmentation for use in FY 1999-2000 in the following amounts: Supreme Court Justice Expenses - \$56,000; Judicial Council - \$38,000; Ethics Committee - \$30,000; District Justices - \$1,009,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$67,000; Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$253,000 and Juror Cost - \$150,000, for a total of \$1,603,000. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.

** 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 \$1,875,000 in augmentations which represented funds transferred from various FY 1997-98 judiciary appropriations: \$175,000 transferred in FY 1998-99 from augmentations of the Board of Law Examiners; \$11,498 derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System; and \$88,941 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 1998-99 was \$15,079,799.

Table 4.1, cont'd.

Pennsylvania Government FY 1998-99 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.82%
- ▒ Legislative Branch - .57%
- Judicial Branch - .52%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .08%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The Governor's budget showed FY 1998-99 funds available to the judiciary as \$221,255. Actual total budgeted funds are \$223,313. The state total operating expenditures shown here was adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 1999-2000 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 1998-99**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Adams	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00
Allegheny	139,017.17	2,870,000.00	3,009,017.17
Armstrong	2,281.22	140,000.00	142,281.22
Beaver	10,240.43	350,000.00	360,240.43
Bedford	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Berks	14,709.81	700,000.00	714,709.81
Blair	7,705.81	280,000.00	287,705.81
Bradford	0.00	140,000.00	140,000.00
Bucks	23,739.43	770,000.00	793,739.43
Butler	9,815.23	280,000.00	289,815.23
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	9,800.00	9,800.00
Carbon	1,791.89	140,000.00	141,791.89
Centre	1,432.02	140,000.00	141,432.02
Chester	14,968.56	630,000.00	644,968.56
Clarion	3,299.72	70,000.00	73,299.72
Clearfield	3,249.03	140,000.00	143,249.03
Clinton	279.17	140,000.00	140,279.17
Columbia	473.86	109,200.00	109,673.86
Crawford	11,850.58	140,000.00	151,850.58
Cumberland	7,179.19	350,000.00	357,179.19
Dauphin	52,267.34	490,000.00	542,267.34
Delaware	26,647.61	1,120,000.00	1,146,647.61
Elk	3,733.69	60,200.00	63,933.69
Erie	13,077.09	560,000.00	573,077.09
Fayette	15,155.72	350,000.00	365,155.72
Forest	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Franklin	3,338.62	189,000.00	192,388.62
Fulton	0.00	21,000.00	21,000.00
Greene	8,706.24	70,000.00	78,706.24
Huntingdon	297.39	70,000.00	70,297.39
Indiana	3,473.29	140,000.00	143,473.29
Jefferson	155.42	70,000.00	70,155.42
Juniata	0.00	46,200.00	46,200.00
Lackawanna	22,936.13	420,000.00	442,836.13
Lancaster	11,053.20	630,000.00	641,053.20
Lawrence	15,187.63	210,000.00	225,187.63
Lebanon	3,202.40	210,000.00	213,202.40
Lehigh	36,194.58	560,000.00	596,194.58
Luzerne	24,492.21	560,000.00	584,492.21
Lycoming	5,544.21	280,000.00	285,544.21
McKean	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Mercer	6,318.33	210,000.00	216,318.33
Mifflin	548.69	70,000.00	70,548.69
Monroe	5,530.14	280,000.00	285,530.14
Montgomery	56,437.99	1,120,000.00	1,176,437.99

Table 4.3

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued
FY 1998-99**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Montour	286.20	30,800.00	31,086.20
Northampton	4,380.05	420,000.00	424,380.05
Northumberland	2,787.84	140,000.00	142,787.84
Perry	96.59	93,800.00	93,896.59
Philadelphia	597,520.00	9,750,316.00	10,347,836.00
Pike	1,050.96	70,000.00	71,050.96
Potter	224.61	70,000.00	70,224.61
Schuylkill	14,147.95	350,000.00	364,147.95
Snyder	4,254.63	70,000.00	74,254.63
Somerset	4,753.97	140,000.00	144,753.97
Sullivan	0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00
Susquehanna	447.31	70,000.00	70,447.31
Tioga	506.43	70,000.00	70,506.63
Union	422.16	70,000.00	70,422.16
Venango	5,089.54	70,000.00	75,089.54
Warren	260.26	63,000.00	63,260.26
Washington	17,724.72	350,000.00	367,724.72
Wayne	2,085.03	70,000.00	72,085.03
Westmoreland	15,351.54	700,000.00	715,351.54
Wyoming	0.00	57,400.00	57,400.00
York	31,345.15	630,000.00	661,345.15
Transfer to JCS	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,419,066.18	\$29,070,316.00	\$30,489,382.18

FUNDING METHODOLOGIES:

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 1998-99, 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 demonstrate a level of support equal to the reimbursement rate per authorized position. This information is obtained from each county's annual audit and financial report, which is submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development. Nevertheless, 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	1998-99 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$352
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,688
Judicial Computer System*	100
Superior Court	271
Commonwealth Court	201
District Justice Education	69
Court Administrator	3
TOTAL	\$2,684

*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave’s Law). These collections provided \$88,941 to support the “Jen/Dave” functions during FY 1998-99.

Table 4. 4