



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 95 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 1997-1998.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 1997-98, *administrative costs for the Judiciary accounted for less than one-half of one percent.* Table 4.2 on page 96 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 1997-98.

Court

Finances -

Fiscal

Year

1997-1998

No funding was provided for the district justice reimbursement grant in FY 1997-98. 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 97 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 1997-98.

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 1997-98 in the amount of \$5.475 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 99, 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 Project. 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

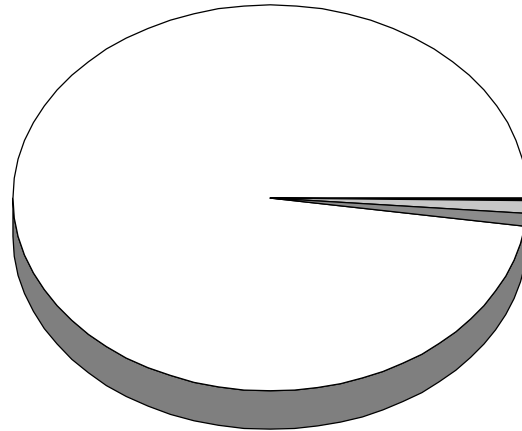
APPROPRIATION	1997-98 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$9,101
Justice Expenses*	180
Office of Legal Systems	192
Civil Procedural Rules Committee	326
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	332
Domestic Relations Committee*	133
Superior Court	18,821
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	11,403
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Security	200
Court Administrator	5,077
Study Unified Judiciary	1,357
Statewide Judicial Computer System**	7,000
Integrated Criminal Justice System	342
Court of Common Pleas	51,608
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,325
Common Pleas Judicial Education	498
District Justices*	41,739
District Justice Education	499
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	653
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,134
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	200
Pittsburgh Magistrates Court	5,475
Juror Cost Reimbursement	1,469
County Court Reimbursement	29,071
Judicial Conduct Board	866
Court of Judicial Discipline	360
TOTAL	\$194,780

* As authorized by Act 4A of 1997 funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and made available to the Statewide Judicial Computer System as a miscellaneous augmentation for use in FY 1998-99 in the following amounts: Supreme Court Justice Expenses - \$60,000; District Justices - \$1,332,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$117,000; and Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$366,000, for a total of \$1,875,000. 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 \$3,014,000 in augmentations which represented funds transferred from various FY 1996-97 judiciary appropriations: \$14,397 derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System; and \$100,146 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 1997-98 was \$10,128,543.

Table 4.1

Pennsylvania Government FY 1997-98 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.84%
- Legislative Branch - .59%
- Judicial Branch - .48%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .09%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

NOTE: The Governor's budget showed FY 1997-98 funds available to the judiciary as \$198,589,000. Actual total available funds were \$198,833,000. The state total operating expenditure shown here was adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 1998-1999 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 1997-98**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	DISTRICT JUSTICE	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Adams	\$3,527.96	0.00	140,000.00	\$143,527.96
Allegheny	177,319.15	0.00	2,870,000.00	3,047,319.15
Armstrong	3,519.66	0.00	140,000.00	143,519.66
Beaver	12,980.95	0.00	350,000.00	362,980.95
Bedford	4,030.53	0.00	70,000.00	74,030.53
Berks	11,293.50	0.00	700,000.00	711,293.50
Blair	10,561.17	0.00	280,000.00	290,561.17
Bradford	0.00	0.00	140,000.00	140,000.00
Bucks	33,267.97	0.00	770,000.00	803,267.97
Butler	14,408.52	0.00	280,000.00	294,408.52
Cambria	365.41	0.00	350,000.00	350,365.41
Cameron	0.00	0.00	9,800.00	9,800.00
Carbon	312.64	0.00	140,000.00	140,312.64
Centre	1,796.85	0.00	140,000.00	141,796.85
Chester	9,837.06	0.00	630,000.00	639,837.06
Clarion	2,536.49	0.00	70,000.00	72,536.49
Clearfield	1,771.37	0.00	140,000.00	141,771.37
Clinton	733.18	0.00	140,000.00	140,733.18
Columbia	96.32	0.00	109,200.00	109,296.32
Crawford	4,220.18	0.00	140,000.00	144,220.18
Cumberland	11,567.06	0.00	350,000.00	361,567.06
Dauphin	63,356.61	0.00	490,000.00	553,356.61
Delaware	39,248.13	0.00	1,120,000.00	1,159,248.13
Elk	1,339.52	0.00	60,200.00	61,539.52
Erie	9,289.38	0.00	560,000.00	569,289.38
Fayette	14,946.62	0.00	350,000.00	364,946.62
Forest	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Franklin	3,100.42	0.00	189,000.00	192,100.42
Fulton	322.98	0.00	21,000.00	21,322.98
Greene	9,558.53	0.00	70,000.00	79,558.53
Huntingdon	197.54	0.00	70,000.00	70,197.54
Indiana	815.49	0.00	140,000.00	140,815.49
Jefferson	1,331.46	0.00	70,000.00	71,331.46
Juniata	0.00	0.00	46,200.00	46,200.00
Lackawanna	17,522.24	0.00	420,000.00	437,522.24
Lancaster	15,434.72	0.00	630,000.00	645,434.72
Lawrence	13,930.56	0.00	210,000.00	223,930.56
Lebanon	2,593.36	0.00	210,000.00	212,593.36
Lehigh	19,059.66	0.00	560,000.00	579,059.66
Luzerne	29,161.52	0.00	560,000.00	589,161.52
Lycoming	11,418.88	0.00	280,000.00	291,418.88
McKean	340.11	0.00	70,000.00	70,340.11
Mercer	9,189.63	0.00	210,000.00	219,189.63
Mifflin	321.89	0.00	70,000.00	70,321.89
Monroe	6,017.57	0.00	280,000.00	286,017.57
Montgomery	52,503.54	0.00	1,120,000.00	1,172,503.54

Table 4.3

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 1997-98**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	DISTRICT JUSTICE	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Montour	0.00	0.00	30,800.00	30,800.00
Northampton	13,207.36	0.00	420,000.00	433,207.36
Northumberland	788.00	0.00	140,000.00	140,788.00
Perry	528.82	0.00	93,800.00	94,328.82
Philadelphia	562,600.00	0.00	9,750,316.00	10,312,916.00
Pike	303.38	0.00	70,000.00	70,303.38
Potter	1,643.09	0.00	70,000.00	71,643.09
Schuylkill	6,762.76	0.00	350,000.00	356,762.76
Snyder	462.68	0.00	70,000.00	70,462.68
Somerset	2,511.25	0.00	140,000.00	142,511.25
Sullivan	0.00	0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00
Susquehanna	9,415.27	0.00	70,000.00	79,415.27
Tioga	0.00	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Union	222.85	0.00	70,000.00	70,222.85
Venango	3,994.89	0.00	70,000.00	73,994.89
Warren	1,124.99	0.00	63,000.00	64,124.99
Washington	17,754.75	0.00	350,000.00	367,754.75
Wayne	186.80	0.00	70,000.00	70,186.80
Westmoreland	16,828.00	0.00	700,000.00	716,828.00
Wyoming	263.94	0.00	57,400.00	57,663.94
York	35,624.72	0.00	630,000.00	665,624.72
TOTAL	\$1,299,369.88	\$0.00	\$29,070,316.00	\$30,369,685.88

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.

District Justice - The grant provides reimbursement for costs incurred in the administration and operation of the offices of district justices and Philadelphia Traffic and Municipal Court judges at a rate established per authorized position or calculated based on available appropriations. No funding was appropriated for this grant in FY 1997-98. The last year in which funding was provided was in FY 1991-92.

County Court - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Court of Common Pleas. For FY 1997-98, 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	1997-98 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$332
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,268
Judicial Computer System*	115
Superior Court	282
Commonwealth Court	246
District Justice Education	57
Court Administrator	3
TOTAL	\$2,308

*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$100,146 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 1997-98.

Table 4.4