

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 107 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 2002-03.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2002-03, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for approximately one-half of one percent.* Table 4.2 on page 109 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government. (With the county reimbursement grant discussed below, the judiciary accounts for approximately 0.61% of total state government expenditures.)

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 reimbursement rate per judge, which was \$70,000 for FY 2002-03.

Court
Finances -
Fiscal
Year
2002-2003

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(F). Act 88 of 2001 served as the enabling legislation for the Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant. This grant was also funded in FY 2002-03.

Table 4.3 on page 110 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2002-03.

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, but was not granted in FY 2002-03.

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 112, 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 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

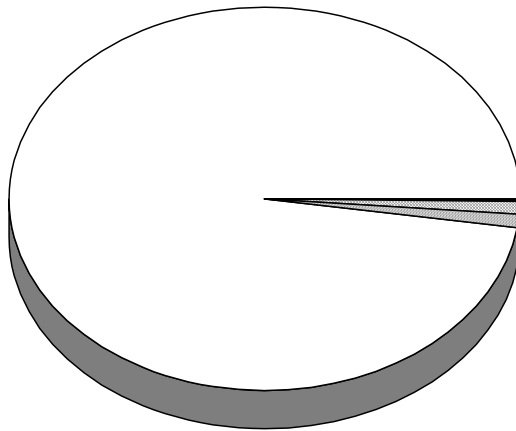
APPROPRIATIONS	
APPROPRIATION	2002-03 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$12,226
Justices' Expenses	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	403
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee*	409
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee	167
Judicial Council*	179
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	167
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees*	175
Committee on Rules of Evidence*	163
Committee on Racial/Gender Bias	199
Minor Court Rules Committee*	171
Superior Court	24,493
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	15,219
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Administrator*	7,482
District Court Administrators*	13,621
Court Management Education	150
Statewide Judicial Computer System**	44,649
Integrated Criminal Justice System	3,140
Courts of Common Pleas	61,042
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,798
Common Pleas Judicial Education	727
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	40
District Justices*	49,131
District Justice Education	576
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	679
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,655
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	204
Juror Cost Reimbursement	1,369
County Court Reimbursement	31,356
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement*	2,500

Table 4.1

APPROPRIATIONS, continued	
APPROPRIATION	2002-03 (thousands)
Judicial Conduct Board	1,046
Court of Judicial Discipline	426
TOTAL	\$281,161
<p>* As authorized by Act 7-A of 2002, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and deposited into the Judicial Computer System restricted receipt account in the following amounts: Civil Procedural Rules - \$70,000; Criminal Procedural Rules - \$10,000; Judicial Council - \$65,000; Appellate/Orphans' Court Rules - \$40,000; Rules of Evidence - \$20,000; Minor Court Rules - \$23,000; Court Administrator - \$400,000; District Court Administrators - \$915,000; District Justices - \$1,797,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$49,000; Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$196,000; and Senior Judge Support Reimbursement - \$917,000, for a total of \$4,495,000. 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 2002-03 \$44,649,000 appropriation was drawn from the restricted receipt account, consisting of \$41,169,000 of Act 64/Act 59 funds and \$3,480,000 in fiscal year 2001-02 funds transferred to the restricted receipt account from other judiciary appropriations in accordance with Act 6-A of 2001. An additional \$46,480 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System, and \$103,000 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 2002-03 was \$44,798,480.</p>	

Table 4.1, cont'd.

Pennsylvania Government FY 2002-03 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.83%
- ▨ Legislative Branch - .56%
- ▩ Judicial Branch - .53%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .08%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2002-03 funds available to the judiciary as \$282,004,000. Actual total available funds available were \$282,176,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2003-04 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 2002-03**

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	SENIOR JUDGE	TOTAL
Adams	\$0.00	\$210,000.00	\$1,392.00	\$211,392.00
Allegheny	124,341.76	2,870,000.00	437,152.00	3,431,493.76
Armstrong	1,243.49	140,000.00	350.00	141,593.49
Beaver	10,108.45	420,000.00	27,760.00	457,868.45
Bedford	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	140,000.00
Berks	12,096.77	770,000.00	78,876.00	860,972.77
Blair	3,221.52	280,000.00	8,568.00	291,789.52
Bradford	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	140,000.00
Bucks	18,125.10	770,000.00	39,708.00	827,833.10
Butler	12,926.53	350,000.00	62,664.00	425,590.53
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	0.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	10,500.00	320.00	10,820.00
Carbon	1,178.18	140,000.00	634.00	141,812.18
Centre	2,455.37	210,000.00	0.00	212,455.37
Chester	14,991.08	770,000.00	44,942.00	829,933.08
Clarion	4,219.40	70,000.00	8,776.00	82,995.40
Clearfield	587.53	140,000.00	0.00	140,587.53
Clinton	1,018.59	140,000.00	0.00	141,018.59
Columbia	305.84	109,200.00	602.00	110,107.84
Crawford	8,739.47	140,000.00	5,608.00	154,347.47
Cumberland	16,431.55	350,000.00	0.00	367,431.55
Dauphin	54,091.84	560,000.00	17,424.00	631,515.84
Delaware	28,724.67	1,260,000.00	39,896.00	1,328,620.67
Elk	303.38	59,500.00	5,050.00	64,853.38
Erie	17,054.88	560,000.00	0.00	577,054.88
Fayette	11,956.38	350,000.00	450.00	362,406.38
Forest	0.00	7,000.00	242.00	7,242.00
Franklin	1,083.19	252,000.00	0.00	253,083.19
Fulton	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00
Greene	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	140,000.00
Huntingdon	2,801.29	70,000.00	0.00	72,801.29
Indiana	3,469.49	140,000.00	0.00	143,469.49
Jefferson	1,429.22	70,000.00	5,978.00	77,407.22
Juniata	0.00	47,600.00	0.00	47,600.00
Lackawanna	16,120.38	420,000.00	108,860.00	544,980.38
Lancaster	23,431.19	770,000.00	4,720.00	798,151.19
Lawrence	8,187.45	210,000.00	0.00	218,187.45
Lebanon	2,274.22	280,000.00	0.00	282,274.22
Lehigh	28,871.68	630,000.00	19,576.00	678,447.68

Table 4.3

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued
FY 2002-03

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	SENIOR JUDGE	TOTAL
Luzerne	26,230.09	630,000.00	64,664.00	720,894.09
Lycoming	0.00	350,000.00	0.00	350,000.00
McKean	340.66	70,000.00	4,470.00	74,810.66
Mercer	10,708.91	210,000.00	912.00	221,620.91
Mifflin	839.16	70,000.00	1,508.00	72,347.16
Monroe	6,222.05	350,000.00	2,996.00	359,218.05
Montgomery	30,220.81	1,260,000.00	87,488.00	1,377,708.81
Montour	0.00	30,800.00	0.00	30,800.00
Northampton	11,636.19	490,000.00	45,980.00	547,616.90
Northumberland	5,559.39	140,000.00	10,864.00	156,423.39
Perry	549.08	92,400.00	0.00	92,949.08
Philadelphia	748,000.00	10,075,327.00	267,320.00	11,090,647.00
Pike	333.31	70,000.00	4,780.00	75,113.31
Potter	631.38	70,000.00	0.00	70,631.38
Schuylkill	5,025.21	350,000.00	6,120.00	361,145.21
Snyder	9,593.50	65,800.00	0.00	75,393.50
Somerset	4,953.20	210,000.00	0.00	214,953.20
Sullivan	0.00	13,300.00	0.00	13,300.00
Susquehanna	954.90	70,000.00	0.00	70,954.90
Tioga	308.14	70,000.00	444.00	70,752.14
Union	8,652.83	74,200.00	0.00	82,852.83
Venango	6,123.11	140,000.00	12,628.00	158,751.11
Warren	5,178.54	63,000.00	3,022.00	71,200.54
Washington	15,188.76	350,000.00	56,678.00	421,866.76
Wayne	66.53	70,000.00	0.00	70,066.53
Westmoreland	9,583.38	770,000.00	29,608.00	809,191.38
Wyoming	1,161.86	56,700.00	0.00	57,861.86
York	29,149.12	770,000.00	63,936.00	863,085.12
Transfer to JCS	0.00	0.00	917,000.00	917,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,369,000.00	\$31,355,327.00	\$2,499,996.00	\$35,224,293.00

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 2002-03, 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 2002-03**

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. 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 2002-03 the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2002.

Table 4.3, cont'd.

FEES THAT SUPPORT STATE OPERATIONS

APPROPRIATION	2002-03 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$357
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,513
Judicial Computer System*	149
Superior Court	245
Commonwealth Court	218
District Justice Education	32
Court Management Education	9
Court Administrator	5
TOTAL	\$2,468

*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$103,000 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2002-03. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the District Justice System.

Table 4.4