

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 105 provides a break-down of these state-funded expenditures for fiscal year 2000-01.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2000-01, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for slightly less than one-half of one percent.* Table 4.2 on page 107 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 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 2000-01.

Table 4.3 on page 108 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2000-01.

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.

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 110, 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	2000-01 (thousands)
Supreme Court*	\$11,414
Justice Expenses*	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	386
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee*	384
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee*	155
Judicial Council*	183
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	149
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees*	154
Committee on Rules of Evidence*	175
Equity Commission**	0
Minor Court Rules Committee*	190
Superior Court	22,041
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	13,160
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Security+	150
Court Administrator	6,773
District Court Administrators+	12,979
Court Management Education	150
Statewide Judicial Computer System++	14,254
Integrated Criminal Justice System+	3,492
Courts of Common Pleas+	57,698
Common Pleas Senior Judges	3,668
Common Pleas Judicial Education	727
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	54
District Justices*	47,326
District Justice Education	546
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	691
Philadelphia Municipal Court*	4,458
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	204
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,469
County Court Reimbursement	30,401

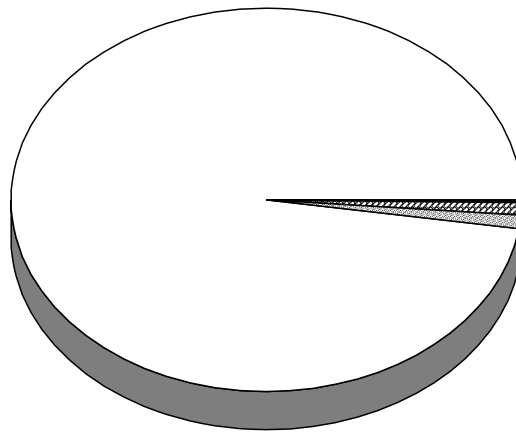
Table 4.1

APPROPRIATIONS, continued

APPROPRIATION	2000-01 (thousands)
Judicial Conduct Board	959
Court of Judicial Discipline	407
TOTAL	\$235,396
<p>* As authorized by Act 21-A of 2000, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and deposited into the Judicial Computer System restricted receipt account in the following amounts: Supreme Court - \$100,000; Supreme Court Justice Expenses - \$58,000; Civil Procedural Rules - \$70,000; Criminal Procedural Rules - \$35,000; Domestic Relations Procedural Rules - \$30,000; Judicial Council - \$82,000; Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules - \$8,000; Evidence - \$96,000; Minor Court Rules - \$106,000; District Justices - \$3,229,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$79,000; Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$515,000; and Juror Cost - \$210,000, for a total of \$4,618,000. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.</p>	
<p>** The Equity Commission (Committee on Racial and Gender Bias) was appropriated \$400,000 in FY 1999-2000 by Act 1-A of 1999. The balance of funds remaining in the appropriation in June 2000 (\$383,249) was made into a continuing appropriation through June 30, 2001, by Act 21-A of 2000 and available for use during FY 2000-01.</p>	
<p>+ Funds were lapsed during the fiscal year for the following appropriations: Commonwealth Court Security - \$90,000; Integrated Criminal Justice System - \$500,000; District Court Administrators - \$1,450,000; Court of Common Pleas - \$4,000,000. The lapses 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. This appropriation was supplemented by \$4,415,000 in augmentations which represented funds transferred from various FY 1999-2000 judiciary appropriations; \$19,248 derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System; and \$79,500 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 2000-01 was \$18,767,748.</p>	

Table 4.1, cont'd.

Pennsylvania Government FY 2000-01 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.85%
- ▨ Legislative Branch - .58%
- ▩ Judicial Branch - .49%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .08%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The Governor's budget showed FY 2000-01 funds available to the judiciary as \$240,659. Actual total available funds, net of \$6,040 lapsed during June 2001, were \$234,701. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted downward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2001-02 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS FY 2000-01			
COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Adams*	\$0.00	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00
Allegheny	99,135.96	2,870,000.00	2,969,135.96
Armstrong	607.73	140,000.00	140,607.73
Beaver *	6,484.78	420,000.00	426,484.78
Bedford	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Berks	11,769.62	700,000.00	711,769.62
Blair	7,960.50	280,000.00	287,960.50
Bradford	378.06	140,000.00	140,378.06
Bucks	26,775.06	770,000.00	796,775.06
Butler	11,828.65	280,000.00	291,828.65
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	9,800.00	9,800.00
Carbon	1,623.34	140,000.00	141,623.34
Centre	4,232.59	210,000.00	214,232.59
Chester	15,548.66	700,000.00	715,548.66
Clarion	1,958.09	70,000.00	71,958.09
Clearfield	1,475.03	140,000.00	141,475.03
Clinton	459.02	140,000.00	140,459.02
Columbia	1,920.07	109,200.00	111,120.07
Crawford	3,001.87	140,000.00	143,001.87
Cumberland	2,406.67	350,000.00	352,406.67
Dauphin	47,755.07	490,000.00	537,755.07
Delaware	24,379.36	1,260,000.00	1,284,379.36
Elk	5,903.88	60,200.00	66,103.88
Erie	8,776.55	560,000.00	568,776.55
Fayette	6,600.08	350,000.00	356,600.08
Forest	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Franklin	3,047.33	252,000.00	255,047.33
Fulton	326.94	28,000.00	28,326.94
Greene	9,430.95	140,000.00	149,430.95
Huntingdon	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Indiana	1,499.65	140,000.00	141,499.65
Jefferson	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Juniata	0.00	46,200.00	46,200.00
Lackawanna	49,830.93	420,000.00	469,830.93
Lancaster	31,809.37	700,000.00	731,809.37
Lawrence	12,801.21	210,000.00	222,801.21
Lebanon	1,374.48	210,000.00	211,374.48
Lehigh	28,125.63	630,000.00	658,125.63

Table 4.3

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS, continued
FY 2000-01

COUNTY	JUROR COST	COUNTY COURT	TOTAL
Luzerne	25,655.50	560,000.00	585,655.50
Lycoming	6,725.15	350,000.00	356,725.15
McKean	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Mercer	420.93	210,000.00	210,420.93
Mifflin	297.82	70,000.00	70,297.82
Monroe	7,385.16	280,000.00	287,385.16
Montgomery	40,577.82	1,260,000.00	1,300,577.82
Montour	111.04	30,800.00	30,911.04
Northampton	32,310.52	490,000.00	522,310.52
Northumberland	691.51	140,000.00	140,691.51
Perry	160.94	93,800.00	93,960.94
Philadelphia	547,020.00	9,750,316.00	10,297,336.00
Pike	314.40	70,000.00	70,314.40
Potter	298.73	70,000.00	70,298.73
Schuylkill	8,315.04	350,000.00	358,315.04
Snyder	3,872.46	70,000.00	73,872.46
Somerset	3,271.49	210,000.00	213,271.49
Sullivan	0.00	12,600.00	12,600.00
Susquehanna	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Tioga	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Union	1,176.28	70,000.00	71,176.28
Venango	5,019.74	140,000.00	145,019.74
Warren	176.86	63,000.00	63,176.86
Washington	19,486.72	350,000.00	369,486.72
Wayne	1,155.57	70,000.00	71,155.57
Westmoreland	18,552.53	770,000.00	788,522.53
Wyoming	1,784.92	57,400.00	59,184.92
York	36,386.40	770,000.00	806,386.40
Transfer to JCS	210,000.00	0.00	210,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,400,364.66	\$30,400,316.00	\$31,800,680.66

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 2000-01, 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 equal to the reimbursement rate per authorized position. 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	2000-01 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$346
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,322
Judicial Computer System*	99
Superior Court	250
Commonwealth Court	204
District Justice Education	28
Court Administrator	4
TOTAL	\$2,253

*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 2000-01.

Table 4.4