



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 1996-1997.

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 1996-97, *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 1996-97.
COURT FINANCES

**Court
Finances -
Fiscal
Year
1996-1997**

No funding was provided for the district justice reimbursement grant in FY 1996-97. 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 1996-97.

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 1996-97 at the \$1.2 million level.

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

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. (For more information on JCP funding see page 27.) 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 | 1996-97 (thousands) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Supreme Court* | \$8,808 |
| Justice Expenses* | 180 |
| Office of Legal Systems | 250 |
| Civil Procedural Rules Committee | 317 |
| Criminal Procedural Rules Committee | 324 |
| Domestic Relations Committee* | 145 |
| PA Board of Law Examiners | 0 |
| Superior Court* | 17,661 |
| Judges' Expenses* | 237 |
| Commonwealth Court | 10,965 |
| Judges' Expenses | 143 |
| Court Administrator | 4,554 |
| Statewide Judicial Computer System** | 10,000 |
| Judicial Computer System* + | 95 |
| Court of Common Pleas* | 48,042 |
| Common Pleas Senior Judges | 3,216 |
| Common Pleas Judicial Education | 458 |
| District Justices* | 41,127 |
| District Justice Education | 482 |
| Philadelphia Traffic Court* | 544 |
| Philadelphia Municipal Court* | 3,678 |
| Philadelphia Law Clerks | 39 |
| Domestic Violence | 200 |
| Pittsburgh Magistrates Court | 1,200 |
| Juror Cost Reimbursement | 1,469 |
| County Court Reimbursement | 29,071 |
| District Justice Reimbursement | 0 |
| Judicial Conduct Board | 838 |
| Court of Judicial Discipline | 341 |
| TOTAL | \$184,384 |

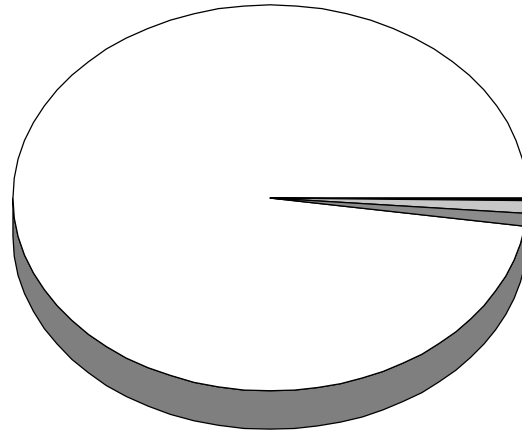
* As authorized by Act 1-A of 1996, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and made available to the Statewide Judicial Computer System as a miscellaneous augmentation for use in FY 1997-98 in the following amounts: Supreme Court - \$400,000; Supreme Court Justice Expenses - \$82,000; Domestic Relations Committee - \$15,000; Superior Court - \$162,000; Superior Court Judges' Expenses - \$40,000; Judicial Computer system - \$59,000; Common Pleas - \$218,000; District Justices - \$1,840,000; Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$67,000; and Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$131,000, for a total of \$3,014,000. 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 \$2,807,300 in augmentations which represented funds transferred from various FY 1995-96 Judiciary appropriations and \$12,685 derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System. The total amount available to the Judicial Computer system in FY 1996-97 was \$12,819,985.

+ Reflects a special FY 1996-97 supplemental appropriation of state funds for the Judicial Computer System for start-up costs associated with functions mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law).

Table 4.1

Pennsylvania Government FY 1996-97 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.89%
- Legislative Branch - .54%
- Judicial Branch - .48%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .09%

Totals shown exclude capital expenditures.

NOTE: The Governor's budget showed FY 1996-97 funds available to the Judiciary as \$155,813,000. Actual total available funds were \$157,544,000. The state total operating expenditure shown here was adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 1997-1998 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.2

COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 1996-97

| COUNTY | JUROR COST | DISTRICT JUSTICE | COUNTY COURT | TOTAL |
|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Adams | \$5,055.25 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | \$145,055.25 |
| Allegheny | 161,592.62 | 0.00 | 2,870,000.00 | 3,031,592.62 |
| Armstrong | 7,823.62 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 147,823.62 |
| Beaver | 5,903.73 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 355,903.73 |
| Bedford | 595.07 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,595.07 |
| Berks | 14,560.85 | 0.00 | 700,000.00 | 714,560.85 |
| Blair | 10,241.04 | 0.00 | 280,000.00 | 290,241.04 |
| Bradford | 723.47 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 140,723.47 |
| Bucks | 40,442.44 | 0.00 | 770,000.00 | 810,442.44 |
| Butler | 11,634.01 | 0.00 | 280,000.00 | 291,634.01 |
| Cambria | 14,383.81 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 364,383.81 |
| Cameron | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9,800.00 | 9,800.00 |
| Carbon | 696.16 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 140,696.16 |
| Centre | 3,071.20 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 143,071.20 |
| Chester | 18,203.08 | 0.00 | 630,000.00 | 648,203.08 |
| Clarion | 2,886.34 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 72,886.34 |
| Clearfield | 3,312.91 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 143,312.91 |
| Clinton | 1,120.39 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 141,120.39 |
| Columbia | 1,513.97 | 0.00 | 109,200.00 | 110,713.97 |
| Crawford | 10,182.92 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 150,182.92 |
| Cumberland | 14,238.84 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 364,238.84 |
| Dauphin | 49,620.63 | 0.00 | 490,000.00 | 539,620.63 |
| Delaware | 23,468.55 | 0.00 | 1,120,000.00 | 1,143,468.55 |
| Elk | 329.10 | 0.00 | 60,200.00 | 60,529.10 |
| Erie | 21,346.29 | 0.00 | 560,000.00 | 581,346.29 |
| Fayette | 7,364.78 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 357,364.78 |
| Forest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 |
| Franklin | 4,438.45 | 0.00 | 189,000.00 | 193,438.45 |
| Fulton | 1,004.01 | 0.00 | 21,000.00 | 22,004.01 |
| Greene | 343.52 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,343.52 |
| Huntingdon | 1,362.20 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 71,362.20 |
| Indiana | 273.73 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 140,273.73 |
| Jefferson | 307.33 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,307.33 |
| Juniata | 0.00 | 0.00 | 46,200.00 | 46,200.00 |
| Lackawanna | 32,163.38 | 0.00 | 420,000.00 | 452,163.38 |
| Lancaster | 21,202.17 | 0.00 | 630,000.00 | 651,202.17 |
| Lawrence | 15,705.98 | 0.00 | 210,000.00 | 225,705.98 |
| Lebanon | 4,261.12 | 0.00 | 210,000.00 | 214,261.12 |
| Lehigh | 21,912.30 | 0.00 | 560,000.00 | 581,912.30 |
| Luzerne | 46,307.69 | 0.00 | 560,000.00 | 606,307.69 |
| Lycoming | 15,290.34 | 0.00 | 280,000.00 | 295,290.34 |
| McKean | 4,183.19 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 74,183.19 |
| Mercer | 7,856.27 | 0.00 | 210,000.00 | 217,856.27 |
| Mifflin | 820.92 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,820.92 |
| Monroe | 16,630.45 | 0.00 | 280,000.00 | 296,630.45 |
| Montgomery | 60,035.78 | 0.00 | 1,120,000.00 | 1,180,035.78 |

**COUNTY REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COURTS
FY 1996-97**

| COUNTY | JUROR COST | DISTRICT JUSTICE | COUNTY COURT | TOTAL |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Montour | 0.00 | 0.00 | 30,800.00 | 30,800.00 |
| Northampton | 12,298.19 | 0.00 | 420,000.00 | 432,298.19 |
| Northumberland | 853.34 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 140,853.34 |
| Perry | 1,297.07 | 0.00 | 93,800.00 | 95,097.07 |
| Philadelphia | 540,620.00 | 0.00 | 9,750,316.00 | 10,290,936.00 |
| Pike | 813.26 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,813.26 |
| Potter | 2,058.11 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 72,058.11 |
| Schuylkill | 8,423.50 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 358,423.50 |
| Snyder | 203.12 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,203.12 |
| Somerset | 5,505.25 | 0.00 | 140,000.00 | 145,505.25 |
| Sullivan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,600.00 | 12,600.00 |
| Susquehanna | 1,706.55 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 71,706.55 |
| Tioga | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| Union | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| Venango | 3,273.17 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 73,273.17 |
| Warren | 2,701.96 | 0.00 | 63,000.00 | 65,701.96 |
| Washington | 18,323.33 | 0.00 | 350,000.00 | 368,323.33 |
| Wayne | 0.00 | 0.00 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| Westmoreland | 26,096.21 | 0.00 | 700,000.00 | 726,096.21 |
| Wyoming | 631.81 | 0.00 | 57,400.00 | 58,031.81 |
| York | 33,766.48 | 0.00 | 630,000.00 | 663,766.48 |
| TOTAL | \$1,342,981.25 | \$0.00 | \$29,070,316.00 | \$30,413,297.25 |

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 1996-97. 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 1996-97, 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.

FEEES THAT SUPPORT STATE OPERATIONS

| APPROPRIATION | 1996-97 (thousands) |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Supreme Court | \$332 |
| PA Board of Law Examiners | 1,133 |
| Judicial Computer System | 13 |
| Superior Court | 281 |
| Commonwealth Court | 224 |
| District Justice Education | 40 |
| Court Administrator | 3 |
| TOTAL | \$2,026 |

Note: Not included above are revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). Collections under this law were minimal in FY 1996-97; the law took effect February 4, 1997. None of the funds were spent as of June 30, 1997

Table 4.4