



Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2004-05, *administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for approximately one-half of one percent.* Table 4.1 on page 95 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government. (With the county reimbursement grant discussed below, the judiciary accounts for approximately 0.59 percent of total state government expenditures.)

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 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 4.2 on page 96 provides a break-down of the state appropriations for fiscal year 2004-05.

### **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 2004-05.

**Court**

**Finances -**

**Fiscal**

**Year**

**2004-2005**

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 (R.J.A.) 701(F). Act 88 of 2001 served as the enabling legislation for the Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant. This grant has been funded each year since its inception.

Table 4.3 on page 98 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2004-05.

One exception to the current funding pattern is the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, whose costs, until it was merged into the existing district justice system within Allegheny County January 1, 2005, as part of the decennial realignment of magisterial districts by the Supreme Court, were 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 funded subsequently.

## 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 100, 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.

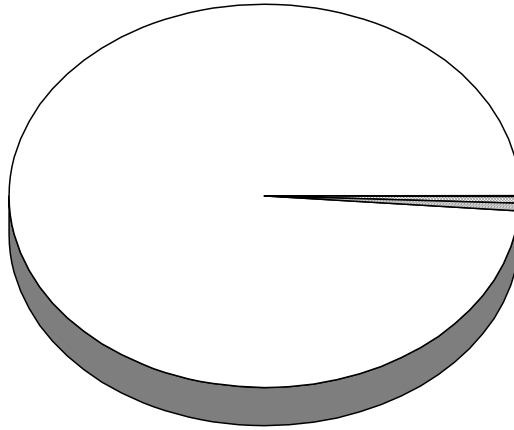
Although exact figures are not available, the court system raises millions of dollars in revenue for local municipalities. Depending on the police department (local or state) from which a citation is issued, a portion of fines collected is disbursed to local political subdivisions after adjudication 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 state general use.

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

## Pennsylvania Government FY 2004-05 General, Special, Federal & Other Funds Expenditures



- Executive Branch - 98.80%
- ▒ Legislative Branch - .61%
- ▓ Judicial Branch - .52%
- County Reimbursement for Courts - .07%

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2004-05 funds available to the judiciary as \$306,975,000. Actual total available funds available net of \$2,438,000 lapsed during June 2005, were \$304,749,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted upward to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2005-06 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.1

<b>Appropriations</b>	
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2004-05</b> (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$13,151
Justices' Expenses	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	423
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee*	430
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee*	203
Judicial Council*	340
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee*	198
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees*	180
Committee on Rules of Evidence	169
Minor Court Rules Committee	178
Superior Court	26,679
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	16,060
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Administrator	8,945
District Court Administrators#	16,000
Court Management Education#	157
Unified Judicial System Security**	5,156
Statewide Judicial Computer System+	42,065
Integrated Criminal Justice System	2,095
Courts of Common Pleas*	68,436
Common Pleas Senior Judges#	3,996
Common Pleas Judicial Education	953
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	40
District Justices*	55,282
District Justice Education	605
Philadelphia Traffic Court*	840
Philadelphia Municipal Court#	5,061
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	204
County Court Reimbursement#	32,126
Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant++	525
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement#	2,000

continued...

**Table 4.2**

**Appropriations, continued**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2004-05</b> (thousands)
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,369
Judicial Conduct Board	1,202
Court of Judicial Discipline	451
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$306,118</b>

\* As authorized by Act 7-A of 2004, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and deposited into the JCS restricted receipt account in the following amounts: Criminal Procedural Rules - \$15,000, Civil Procedural Rules - \$120,000, Domestic Relations Procedural Rules - \$14,000, Judicial Council - \$60,000, Juvenile Court Procedural Rules - \$5,000, Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules - \$6,000, Courts of Common Pleas - \$1,974,000, District Justices - \$2,894,000, Philadelphia Traffic Court - \$144,000, and Juror Cost Reimbursement - \$126,000, for a total of \$5,358,000. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.

\*\* The unspent funds (\$4.666 million) remaining in the FY 2004-05 UJS Security appropriation as of June 30, 2005, were made into a continuing appropriation by Act 1-A of 2005.

+ The statewide Judicial Computer System (JCS) is funded through a restricted account in accordance with Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990 as amended by Act 122 of 2002. The funds in the account are supplemented periodically by the transfer of available surplus funds at year end from certain UJS appropriations as authorized by the annual appropriation acts. The full amount of the FY 2004-05 \$42,065,000 appropriation was drawn from the restricted receipt account, consisting of \$35,638,000 of Act 64/Act 59/Act 122 funds and \$6,427,000 in FY 2003-04 funds transferred to the restricted receipt account from other judiciary appropriations in accordance with Act 9-A of 2003. An additional \$84,000 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the District Justice System, and \$112,500 was derived from augmentations as mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). The total amount available to the JCS in FY 2004-05 was \$42,261,500.

++ The appropriation for the Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant is a two-year continuing appropriation extending through June 30, 2006.

# Funds were lapsed during the fiscal year for the following appropriations: District Court Administrators - \$965,000, Court Management Education - \$88,000, Common Pleas Senior Judges - \$404,000, Philadelphia Municipal Court - \$301,000, County Court Reimbursement - \$673, Senior Judge Support Reimbursement - \$679,180. The lapses reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.

**Table 4.2, cont'd.**

**County Reimbursements for Courts  
FY 2004-05**

<b>County</b>	<b>Juror Cost</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Senior Judge</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adams	\$593.99	\$210,000.00	\$228.00	\$210,821.99
Allegheny	118,646.03	2,870,000.00	201,952.00	3,190,598.03
Armstrong	4,393.15	140,000.00	0.00	144,393.15
Beaver	3,218.12	420,000.00	38,154.00	461,372.12
Bedford	2,479.04	140,000.00	0.00	142,479.04
Berks	16,825.54	840,000.00	159,820.00	1,016,645.54
Blair	3,045.06	280,000.00	5,928.00	288,973.06
Bradford	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	140,000.00
Bucks	27,735.29	770,000.00	58,436.00	856,171.29
Butler	10,959.74	350,000.00	32,932.00	393,891.74
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	0.00	350,000.00
Cameron	0.00	10,500.00	174.00	10,674.00
Carbon	1,534.75	140,000.00	318.00	141,852.75
Centre	2,339.35	210,000.00	0.00	212,339.35
Chester	13,852.51	770,000.00	23,004.00	806,856.51
Clarion	2,466.32	70,000.00	8,160.00	80,626.32
Clearfield	340.48	140,000.00	5,664.00	146,004.48
Clinton	5,816.53	140,000.00	0.00	145,816.53
Columbia	0.00	109,200.00	0.00	109,200.00
Crawford	4,124.63	210,000.00	2,146.00	216,270.63
Cumberland	17,220.70	350,000.00	0.00	367,220.70
Dauphin	47,275.99	560,000.00	0.00	607,275.99
Delaware	29,287.49	1,260,000.00	30,144.00	1,319,431.49
Elk	291.96	59,500.00	2,188.00	61,979.96
Erie	11,558.91	630,000.00	0.00	641,558.91
Fayette	11,836.86	350,000.00*	10,704.00	372,540.86
Forest	0.00	14,000.00	204.00	14,204.00
Franklin	1,769.03	252,000.00	0.00	253,769.03
Fulton	706.62	28,000.00	0.00	28,706.62
Greene	3,284.95	140,000.00	0.00	143,284.95
Huntingdon	358.06	70,000.00	0.00	70,358.06
Indiana	2,558.09	140,000.00	162.00	142,720.09
Jefferson	6,238.90	70,000.00	4,220.00	80,458.90
Juniata	0.00	47,600.00	936.00	48,536.00
Lackawanna	10,551.37	490,000.00	97,018.00	597,569.37
Lancaster	18,012.50	840,000.00	7,416.00	865,428.50
Lawrence	2,138.30	280,000.00	0.00	282,138.30
Lebanon	1,222.16	280,000.00	0.00	281,222.16
Lehigh	33,370.87	630,000.00	21,000.00	684,370.87

continued...

**Table 4.3**

**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued  
FY 2004-05**

<b>County</b>	<b>Juror Cost</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Senior Judge</b>	<b>Total</b>
Luzerne	22,529.91	630,000.00	99,500.00	752,029.91
Lycoming	8,494.32	350,000.00	1,864.00	360,358.32
McKean	0.00	70,000.00	1,690.00	71,690.00
Mercer	7,332.22	210,000.00	1,174.00	218,506.22
Mifflin	0.00	70,000.00	1,448.00	71,448.00
Monroe	16,860.05	350,000.00	1,824.00	368,684.05
Montgomery	5,617.38	1,400,000.00	54,856.00	1,460,473.38
Montour	0.00	30,800.00	0.00	30,800.00
Northampton	17,540.36	490,000.00	41,900.00	549,440.36
Northumberland	1,169.04	210,000.00	9,904.00	221,073.04
Perry	0.00	92,400.00	1,824.00	94,224.00
Philadelphia	671,681.74	10,075,327.00	277,924.00	11,024,932.74
Pike	654.66	70,000.00	10,074.00	80,728.66
Potter	2,316.29	70,000.00	0.00	72,316.29
Schuylkill	3,060.54	420,000.00	0.00	423,060.54
Snyder	9,980.08	65,800.00	0.00	75,780.08
Somerset	4,970.54	210,000.00	0.00	214,970.54
Sullivan	0.00	13,300.00	0.00	13,300.00
Susquehanna	2,619.11	70,000.00	0.00	72,619.11
Tioga	0.00	70,000.00	920.00	70,920.00
Union	1,673.00	74,200.00	0.00	75,873.00
Venango	4,315.20	140,000.00	3,344.00	147,659.20
Warren	6,709.75	126,000.00	4,446.00	137,155.75
Washington	6,540.56	350,000.00	61,268.00	417,808.56
Wayne	172.91	70,000.00	0.00	70,172.91
Westmoreland	15,241.74	770,000.00	12,380.00	797,621.74
Wyoming	0.00	56,700.00	0.00	56,700.00
York	17,467.31	770,000.00	23,5872.00	811,039.31
Transfer to JCS	126,000.00	0.00	0.00	126,000.00
Lapse	0.00	673.00	679,180.00	679,853.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,369,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,126,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$35,495,000.00</b>

**Funding Methodologies:**

\*Reduced by one temporary judge serving for FY 2003-04 only, as per Act 28 of 2001.

**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.

continued...

**Table 4.3, cont'd.**

**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued  
FY 2004-05**

**Funding Methodologies, continued:**

**County Court** - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. For FY 2004-05, 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.

**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 2004-05 the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2004.

**Table 4.3, cont'd.**

**Fees That Support State Operations**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2004-05</b> (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$405
PA Board of Law Examiners	1,797
Judicial Computer System*	197
Superior Court	222
Commonwealth Court	192
District Justice Education	37
Court Management Education	9
Court Administrator	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,866</b>

\*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$112,500 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2004-05. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the District Justice System.

**Table 4.4**