

**O**f the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2006-07, administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for approximately one-half of one percent. Table 4.1 on page 93 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government. (With the county reimbursement grant discussed below, the judiciary accounts for approximately 0.6 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 94 provides a breakdown of the state appropriations for fiscal year 2006-07.

## **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.

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 2006-07.

**Court**  
**Finances -**  
**Fiscal**  
**Year**  
**2006-2007**

Counties also receive partial reimbursement 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 provided each year since its inception in FY 2001–02.

Table 4.3 on page 96 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2006–07.

One exception to the current funding pattern has been the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court, which was merged into the magisterial district judge system within Allegheny County on January 1, 2005, as part of the decennial realignment of magisterial districts by the Supreme Court. Traditionally, costs for this court were borne by the city. In fiscal year 1995–96, however, the Commonwealth reimbursed Pittsburgh for costs related to the court by the payment of a \$1.2 million grant. Grant money continued to be provided to Pittsburgh each fiscal year until 2000–01, when the grant was not funded. Funding was restored in 2001–02, but was not granted subsequently. A grant was, however, provided to Allegheny County in FY 2005–06 to assist with consolidation costs and provided again in FY 2006–07.

A grant was also provided to Philadelphia to assist with the costs of a new “gun court” instituted within its trial courts. Funding for the grant was first provided in FY 2004–05 and continued each year thereafter.

## 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**

<b>Pennsylvania Government FY 2006-07</b>		
<i>General, Special Federal &amp; Other Funds Expenditures</i>		
<b>Branch</b>	<b>\$ Amount (Millions)</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Executive	55,187,900	98.80
Legislative	342,655	0.61
Judicial	291,358	0.52
Judicial - County Reimbursement for Courts	39,105	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,861,018</b>	

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2006-07 funds available to the judiciary as \$326,422,000. Actual total available funds, including a transfer from the JCS Augmentation Account of \$3,725,000 and \$200,000 of federal funds for a drug court training grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, were \$330,463,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted to reflect this difference.

*Source: FY 2007-08 Governor's Recommended Budget*

**Table 4.1**

<b>Appropriations</b>	
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2006-07</b> (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$14,801
Justices' Expenses	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee	423
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	463
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee	203
Judicial Council	406
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	215
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees	204
Committee on Rules of Evidence	191
Minor Court Rules Committee	198
Superior Court	27,379
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	16,638
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Administrator	10,000
Court Improvement Program* (F)	863
Drug Court Training** (F)	200
District Court Administrators	17,670
Court Management Education	157
Unified Judicial System Security+	2,058
Statewide Judicial Computer System++ (R)	41,727
Integrated Criminal Justice System	2,467
Courts of Common Pleas#	78,161
Common Pleas Senior Judges	4,217
Common Pleas Judicial Education	1,346
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	58
Magisterial District Judges	60,303
Magisterial District Judge Education	707
Philadelphia Traffic Court	924
Philadelphia Municipal Court	5,842
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	230

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Table 4.2

**Appropriations, continued**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2006-07</b> (thousands)
County Court Reimbursement	33,036
Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant##	700
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement	2,000
Juror Cost Reimbursement	1,369
Court Costs (Court Consolidation)	2,000
Judicial Conduct Board	1,202
Court of Judicial Discipline	476
State Funds	286,643
(F) Federal Funds	1,063
(R) Restricted Receipts	41,727
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$329,433</b>

\* These federal funds are available under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a Court Improvement Project involving the dependency courts.

\*\* The federal drug court training funds are available over a period spanning two fiscal years. Because they were not spent during FY 2006-07, they will be available for spending during FY 2007-08.

+ The FY 2006-07 UJS Security appropriation was provided in the form of a continuing appropriation.

++ The statewide Judicial Computer System is funded through a restricted receipt 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 as part of the annual appropriations process. An additional \$75,500 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the Magisterial District Judge System, and \$94,500 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 2006-07 was \$41,897,000.

# The Common Pleas appropriation shown includes \$3.725 million provided as a supplemental, continuing appropriation after the close of the fiscal year as a result of a deficit in the appropriation.

## The FY 2006-07 Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant is a two-year continuing appropriation, expiring June 30, 2008.

Table 4.2, cont'd.

**County Reimbursements for Courts  
FY 2006-07**

<b>County</b>	<b>Juror Cost</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Senior Judge</b>	<b>Philadelphia Gun Court</b>	<b>Court Accounts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adams	\$69.25	\$210,000.00	\$1,134.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$211,203.25
Allegheny	100,087.24	2,870,000.00	196,204.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	5,166,291.24
Armstrong	956.67	140,000.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	141,106.67
Beaver	7,336.89	420,000.00	31,932.00	0.00	0.00	459,268.89
Bedford	663.36	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140,663.36
Berks	20,256.40	840,000.00	135,760.00	0.00	0.00	996,016.40
Blair	10,135.33	280,000.00	5,604.00	0.00	0.00	295,739.33
Bradford	7,084.90	140,000.00	5,172.00	0.00	0.00	152,256.90
Bucks	45,422.27	910,000.00	32,904.00	0.00	0.00	988,326.27
Butler	5,151.24	350,000.00	284.00	0.00	0.00	355,435.24
Cambria	0.00	350,000.00	18,968.00	0.00	0.00	368,968.00
Cameron	480.00	10,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,980.00
Carbon	299.71	140,000.00	6,490.00	0.00	0.00	146,789.71
Centre	1,945.76	210,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	211,945.76
Chester	27,167.69	910,000.00	21,300.00	0.00	0.00	958,467.69
Clarion	3,253.88	70,000.00	7,902.00	0.00	0.00	81,155.88
Clearfield	2,913.59	140,000.00	2,200.00	0.00	0.00	145,113.59
Clinton	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140,000.00
Columbia	0.00	109,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109,200.00
Crawford	2,761.99	210,000.00	4,208.00	0.00	0.00	216,969.99
Cumberland	9,145.96	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	359,145.96
Dauphin	38,392.64	560,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	598,392.64
Delaware	23,000.69	1,330,000.00	104,844.00	0.00	0.00	1,457,844.69
Elk	0.00	59,500.00	238.00	0.00	0.00	59,738.00

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**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued**  
**FY 2006-07**

<b>County</b>	<b>Juror Cost</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Senior Judge</b>	<b>Philadelphia Gun Court</b>	<b>Court Accounts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Erie	\$6,785.35	\$630,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$636,785.35
Fayette	3,708.91	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	353,708.91
Forest	0.00	14,000.00	1,660.00	0.00	0.00	15,660.00
Franklin	6,230.13	252,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	258,230.13
Fulton	322.16	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,322.16
Greene	7,833.60	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	147,833.60
Huntingdon	1,019.11	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,019.11
Indiana	740.10	210,000.00	312.00	0.00	0.00	211,052.10
Jefferson	2,875.99	70,000.00	5,950.00	0.00	0.00	78,825.99
Juniata	0.00	47,600.00	512.00	0.00	0.00	48,112.00
Lackawanna	18,614.18	490,000.00	30,792.00	0.00	0.00	539,406.18
Lancaster	21,359.53	910,000.00	4,824.00	0.00	0.00	936,183.53
Lawrence	9,509.31	280,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	289,509.31
Lebanon	8,275.48	280,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	288,275.48
Lehigh	25,592.74	700,000.00	19,224.00	0.00	0.00	744,816.74
Luzerne	22,836.54	630,000.00	92,692.00	0.00	0.00	745,528.54
Lycoming	9,587.94	350,000.00	596.00	0.00	0.00	360,183.94
McKean	2,085.70	140,000.00	4,482.00	0.00	0.00	146,567.70
Mercer	5,729.33	280,000.00	3,898.00	0.00	0.00	289,627.33
Mifflin	0.00	70,000.00	1,448.00	0.00	0.00	71,448.00
Monroe	4,204.23	420,000.00	2,740.00	0.00	0.00	426,944.23
Montgomery	30,244.73	1,470,000.00	31,584.00	0.00	0.00	1,531,828.73
Montour	0.00	30,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,800.00
Northampton	8,119.22	490,000.00	37,940.00	0.00	0.00	536,059.22

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**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued**  
**FY 2006-07**

<b>County</b>	<b>Juror Cost</b>	<b>County Court</b>	<b>Senior Judge</b>	<b>Philadelphia Gun Court</b>	<b>Court Accounts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Northumberland	\$0.00	\$210,000.00	\$6,192.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$216,192.00
Perry	43.94	92,400.00	1,524.00	0.00	0.00	93,967.94
Philadelphia	523,492.91	10,075,327.00	348,536.00	700,000.00	0.00	11,647,355.91
Pike	2,617.26	70,000.00	13,042.00	0.00	0.00	85,659.26
Potter	1,079.38	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,079.38
Schuylkill	1,515.89	420,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	421,515.89
Snyder	2,449.37	65,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68,249.37
Somerset	3,370.79	210,000.00	2,540.00	0.00	0.00	215,910.79
Sullivan	0.00	13,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,300.00
Susquehanna	666.89	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,666.89
Tioga	1,157.16	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,157.16
Union	2,538.53	74,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76,738.53
Venango	3,929.60	140,000.00	4,320.00	0.00	0.00	148,249.60
Warren	1,349.34	126,000.00	8,018.00	0.00	0.00	135,367.34
Washington	15,507.27	350,000.00	2,580.00	0.00	0.00	368,087.27
Wayne	374.86	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,374.86
Westmoreland	12,807.13	770,000.00	7,128.00	0.00	0.00	789,935.13
Wyoming	569.29	56,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,269.29
York	21,558.91	840,000.00	13,364.00	0.00	0.00	874,922.91
Transfer to JCS	270,000.00	0.00	778,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,048,000.00
Lapse	0.00	673.00	808.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,367,228.26</b>	<b>33,036,000.00</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>700,000.00</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>39,103,228.26</b>

**Funding Methodologies:**

**Juror Cost** - The grant reimburses counties for 80 percent 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.

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**County Reimbursements for Courts, continued**  
**FY 2006-07**

**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 2006-07, 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, in accordance with statute, 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 Pa. 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 2006-07, the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2006.

**Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant** - The grant provides reimbursement to the City of Philadelphia for personnel costs associated with the operation of the Philadelphia gun court.

**Court Accounts (Court Consolidation Grant)** - The grant provides reimbursement to Allegheny County for costs related to the transition of the former Pittsburgh Magistrates Court staff to county employment as a result of the merger of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court into the magisterial district judge system effective January 1, 2005.

<b>Fees That Support State Operations</b>	
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>2006-07</b> (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$416
Pa. Board of Law Examiners	2,118
Judicial Computer System*	170
Superior Court	222
Commonwealth Court	162
Magisterial District Judge Education	24
Court Management Education	1
Court Administrator	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,148</b>
<p>*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$94,500 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2006-07. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the Magisterial District Judge System.</p>	

Table 4.4