

**Proposed Budget
of the
Unified Judicial System
2025-26**

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Chief Justice Debra Todd
Justice Christine Donohue
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty
Justice David N. Wecht
Justice Sallie Updyke Mundy
Justice P. Kevin Brobson
Justice Daniel D. McCaffery*



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AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM, FY 2025-26

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Judiciary Comparative Financial Statement 1

SUPREME COURT

 Supreme Court 3

 Justices’ Expenses 7

 Judicial Council 9

 Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness 12

 Rules Committees 17

SUPERIOR COURT

 Superior Court 23

 Judges’ Expenses 27

COMMONWEALTH COURT

 Commonwealth Court 29

 Judges’ Expenses 33

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

 Court Administrator 35

 Judicial Center Operations 42

 District Court Administrators 45

 Office of Elder Justice in the Courts 48

 Court Management Education 52

 Judicial Education 55

 Problem-Solving Courts 59

 Unified Judicial System Security 62

STATEWIDE JUDICIAL COMPUTER SYSTEM

 Statewide Judicial Computer System 65

 Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET) 71

 UJS Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery 77

COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

 Courts of Common Pleas 81

 Common Pleas Senior Judges 84

PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM, FY 2025-26

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINOR JUDICIARY	
Magisterial District Judges	87
Magisterial District Judge Education.....	91
Philadelphia Municipal Court.....	95
COUNTY GRANTS	
County Court Reimbursement Grant	99
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant.....	103
Juror Cost Reimbursement Grant.....	108
Court Interpreter County Grant.....	110
JUDICIAL ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD.....	115
JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD.....	119
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE	123
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES	127

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 JUDICIARY BUDGET REQUEST

(\$000)

APPROPRIATION	AVAILABLE	REQUESTED	GOV. REC.
	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26
<i>Supreme Court</i>	21,168	21,634	21,634
(A) Act 49	4,829	4,829	4,829
(A) Miscellaneous	471	455	455
<i>Justices' Expenses</i>	118	118	118
<i>Judicial Council</i>	141	141	141
<i>Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, Ethnic Fairness</i>	358	485	403
(A) Medicare D	1	1	1
<i>Rules Committees</i>	1,595	1,595	1,595
(A) Medicare D	5	5	5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>28,686</u>	<u>29,263</u>	<u>29,181</u>
<i>Superior Court</i>	38,761	40,731	40,731
(A) Act 49	5,616	5,616	5,616
(A) Miscellaneous	288	288	288
<i>Judges' Expenses</i>	183	183	183
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>44,848</u>	<u>46,818</u>	<u>46,818</u>
<i>Commonwealth Court</i>	24,344	26,142	26,142
(A) Act 49	2,643	2,643	2,643
(A) Miscellaneous	178	179	179
<i>Judges' Expenses</i>	132	132	132
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>27,297</u>	<u>29,096</u>	<u>29,096</u>
<i>Court Administrator</i>	15,515	15,515	15,515
(A) Act 49	5,328	4,999	4,999
(A) Miscellaneous	965	865	865
(F) Court Improvement Program	836	1,130	1,130
(F) STOP Violence Against Women Program	267	300	300
<i>Judicial Center Operations</i>	1,228	1,298	1,298
(A) Act 49	1,283	1,283	1,283
(A) Miscellaneous	357	357	357
<i>District Court Administrators</i>	26,136	27,718	27,718
(A) Act 49	7,197	7,197	7,197
(A) Medicare D	143	143	143
<i>Office of Elder Justice in the Courts</i>	531	802	802
(A) Medicare D	1	1	1
(F) Elder Justice Innovation Grant	997	0	0
<i>Court Management Education</i>	78	78	78
<i>Judicial Education</i>	1,532	1,593	1,593
(A) Act 49	748	748	748
<i>Problem-Solving Courts</i>	1,348	1,348	1,348
<i>Unified Judicial System Security</i>	2,129	2,443	2,443
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>66,619</u>	<u>67,818</u>	<u>67,818</u>
(R) <i>Statewide Judicial Computer System</i>	43,417	43,417	43,417
(A) Online Payment Fees	5,400	5,400	5,400
(A) Miscellaneous	1,602	1,602	1,602
<i>Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)</i>	2,522	3,521	3,521
<i>UJS Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery</i>	3,490	4,652	4,652
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>56,431</u>	<u>58,592</u>	<u>58,592</u>

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 JUDICIARY BUDGET REQUEST
(\$000)

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>AVAILABLE</u> <u>2024-25</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u> <u>2025-26</u>	<u>GOV. REC.</u> <u>2025-26</u>
<i>Courts of Common Pleas</i>	146,913	161,378	161,378
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	20,480	20,809	20,809
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	446	446	446
<i>Common Pleas Senior Judges</i>	4,480	4,480	4,480
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>172,319</u>	<u>187,113</u>	<u>187,113</u>
<i>Magisterial District Judges</i>	100,274	106,175	106,047
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	7,572	7,572	7,572
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	557	557	557
<i>Magisterial District Judge Education</i>	878	961	961
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	14	15	15
<i>Philadelphia Municipal Court</i>	10,074	10,921	10,921
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	1,735	1,735	1,735
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	32	32	32
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>121,136</u>	<u>127,968</u>	<u>127,840</u>
<i>County Court Reimbursement Grant</i>	23,136	23,136	23,136
<i>Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant</i>	1,375	1,375	1,375
<i>Juror Cost Reimbursement Grant</i>	1,118	1,118	1,118
<i>Court Interpreter County Grant</i>	2,629	3,000	3,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>28,258</u>	<u>28,629</u>	<u>28,629</u>
<i>Judicial Ethics Advisory Board</i>	259	306	306
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	499	499	499
<i>Judicial Conduct Board</i>	2,555	2,555	2,555
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	10	10	10
<i>Court of Judicial Discipline</i>	618	618	618
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	2	2	2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>3,943</u>	<u>3,990</u>	<u>3,990</u>
STATE FUNDS	435,618	466,152	465,942
(A) AUGMENTATIONS - ACT 49	57,930	57,930	57,930
(A) AUGMENTATIONS - ALL OTHER	10,472	10,358	10,358
(R) RESTRICTED REVENUES	43,417	43,417	43,417
(F) FEDERAL FUNDS	2,100	1,430	1,430
TOTAL, ALL SOURCES	<u>549,537</u>	<u>579,287</u>	<u>579,077</u>

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Supreme Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	19,909	21,168	21,634	21,634
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>3,454</u>	<u>5,300</u>	<u>5,284</u>	<u>5,284</u>
Total	23,363	26,468	26,918	26,918

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	17,258	17,585	18,627	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>3,080</u>	<u>4,895</u>	<u>4,894</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	20,338	22,480	23,521	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds:							
Justices	7	6	7	7	7	7	0
Staff	* 116	94	** 117	104	** 115	103	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	123	100	124	111	122	110	0

* Includes 8 summer interns

** Includes 7 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,651	3,583	3,007	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>374</u>	<u>405</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3,025	3,988	3,397	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$4,829 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$4,829 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in judicial salaries effective January 1, 2026. Assumptions regarding Justices' salaries are as follows:

	<u>July – December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
Chief Justice	\$269,599	\$279,035
Justices (6)	\$261,976	\$271,146

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for seven Justices and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$91,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff positions and vacancies and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$838,000
-Increase in leave payouts -	\$93,000
-Increase in unemployment compensation -	\$20,000
-Decrease in Medicare D subsidy -	(\$1,000)

Operating:

-Decrease in miscellaneous operating expenses -	(\$576,000)
-Decrease in filing fees -	(\$15,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor			
Justices	82.34%	81.43%	80.16%
Staff	80.46%	81.01%	79.00%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25:	none
2025-26:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court is the oldest in the nation, predating the United States Supreme Court by 67 years. In matters of law, the state Supreme Court is Pennsylvania's court of last resort. In matters of administration, the Court's seven Justices are responsible for the effective management of the Commonwealth's Unified Judicial System, including the intermediate appellate courts, the Courts of Common Pleas, the magisterial district judge courts and related minor courts, and all staff who contribute to the system's administration. Justices are elected to 10-year terms, with the Chief Justice being the member having the longest continuous service among the seven.

This appropriation provides funding for the salaries and benefits of the Supreme Court Justices, their staff and the staff of the prothonotary offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in addition to necessary operating expenses and fixed assets. This budget request reflects an estimate

of the expenses required for the Supreme Court to carry out the programs mandated under the laws of the Commonwealth and to give the Court the ability to manage the workload of the entire judicial system.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art.V, Sec. 2, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 501, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Justices' Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	118	118	118	118
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>118</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>118</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	118	118	118	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>118</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation provides funding to cover the actual expenses incurred by the seven justices of the Supreme Court to enable them to fulfill their mandated constitutional responsibilities of the Unified Judicial System. Allowable business expenses are reimbursed under a vouchered system implemented by the Supreme Court.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Council

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	141	141	141	141
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	141	141	141	141

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	141	141	141	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	141	141	141	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are currently paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25	none
2025-26	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Constitution and the provisions of Rule of Judicial Administration 301, the Supreme Court establishes advisory bodies to assist the Court in managing the Commonwealth's Unified Judicial System. The appropriation funds selected program initiatives.

These advisory bodies make recommendations on matters referred by the Court and, from time to time, on their own initiative including the revitalization of the Commission on Judicial Independence.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) Pa Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et.seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	358	358	485	403
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	359	359	486	404

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	343	336	455	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	344	337	456	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2	2	2	2	3	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2	2	2	2	3	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	15	22	30	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	15	22	30	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2025-26</u>	<u>Gov Rec #</u> <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2025-26</u>	<u>Gov Rec #</u> <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and new staff and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$119,000

Operating:

-Increase in miscellaneous operating expenses - \$8,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	61.55%	75.39%	80.28%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none
2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation solely funds the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness (“Interbranch Commission”). The Interbranch Commission was established in January 2005 by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The mission of the Interbranch Commission is to promote the equal application of law for all in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by 1) implementing the recommendations from the 2003 study by the Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System (“Committee”); 2) investigating and implementing new initiatives that may not have been addressed by the Committee; 3) raising both public and professional awareness of its work; and 4) increasing public confidence in Pennsylvania government.

The Interbranch Commission consists of 24 volunteer appointees (“Commissioners”). Appointments are divided between the Supreme Court (8), the Governor (8), the President Pro Tempore of the Senate (2), the Speaker of the House of Representatives (2), Minority Leader of the Senate (2), and Minority Leader of the House (2). Nine new Commissioners have been appointed in 2024. Only two Commissioner vacancies currently exist¹. The Interbranch Commission’s work is principally conducted through six committees that meet on a bimonthly basis. Additional mission-appropriate initiatives may be addressed on an ad hoc basis. The Commissioners, who oversee the committees and any ad hoc initiatives, meet quarterly to provide strategic feedback. The Interbranch Commission currently employs one Executive Director and one Staff Attorney and seeks to (re)add a full-time administrative assistant. The Interbranch Commission also operates a law school externship providing 1-2 law students an opportunity to earn law school credits each academic term.

Criminal Justice Committee: Since submitting its Memorandum on Indigent Defense Reform in 2020, the Interbranch Commission has convened numerous meetings with key legislators and relevant stakeholders to secure funding and bipartisan support for the recommended reforms. In 2023, Pennsylvania established the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee (“IDAC”) within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”). IDAC is tasked with several duties and responsibilities under the law, including the development of standards, training, and related professional development resources for attorneys representing indigent defendants; county- and state-level data collection and analysis; preparation of biennial reports; and the approval and disbursement of grants under the Indigent Defense Grant Program. The Executive Director of the Interbranch Commission serves as an ex officio member of IDAC as well as Co-Chair of IDAC’s Data Collection, Technology, and Research Subcommittee. The Committee also continues to seek reforms in cash bail and legal financial obligation procedures that result in the unwarranted incarceration of indigent individuals. In addition, the Committee advocated for the passage of several bills stemming from the Juvenile Justice Task Force Report of 2021, including SB 170, which was successfully passed into law on October 16, 2024. The Committee submitted a letter to the Supreme Court Criminal Procedural Rules Committee proposing the adoption of court rules responsive to Act 163. The Act gives courts explicit authority to reduce or waive nearly all fines and costs when the court finds that the defendant is unable to pay them. Please note that the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee has released this proposal for a second public comment period which ends in March 2025.

¹ One vacancy each should be filled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Minority Leader of the Senate.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims (“DV/SA”) Committee: In keeping with its advocacy over the past several legislative sessions, the Committee supported legislation (SB 920) to establish a statewide rape kit tracking system in Pennsylvania. SB 920 passed both chambers of the General Assembly unanimously and was signed into law by the Governor as Act 122 of 2024. In partnership with the LGBTQ+ Rights Committee, the Committee advocated on several fronts to modernize legal parentage in Pennsylvania. Specifically, the Committee supported the passage of HB 350 (the “Uniform Parentage Act”), which would, among other things, ensure the equal treatment of children born to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples, modernize Pennsylvania’s surrogacy provisions consistent with best practices, and establish parentage for individuals who have functioned as parents to a child but who are unconnected to that child through either biology or marriage. The Committee also filed an amicus brief in the case of *Glover v. Junior*, currently before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In the brief, amici advocated for the adoption of the doctrine of “parentage by intent,” which promotes equal application of the law by ensuring that families conceived through assistive reproductive technology (“ART”) are on equal footing with families who conceive unassisted. Commission staff also assisted the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”) in reviewing and scoring competitive grant applications under the Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (“STOP”) Formula Grant Program. The funding, totaling \$12 million over three years, will fund counties in their cross-system, collaborative response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

Equal Opportunity and Diversity Committee: In 2018, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (“Court”) adopted the Committee’s suggestion to add a voluntary demographic check-off box to the annual Pennsylvania attorney registration form, thereby establishing a baseline and a resource for diversity efforts throughout the Commonwealth. The Committee continues to publish and distribute its annual summary of these demographics. To put this data into context, the Committee published summaries examining attorney demographic trends over time. The Committee has also previewed and provided feedback to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) Board on a new CLE program, entitled “Professionalism in the 21st Century.” The program focuses on the steps a lawyer or judge witnessing biased or discriminatory behavior by their colleagues can take to address such conduct.

Jury Service Committee: In February, the Committee assisted in organizing an information session before the House Judiciary Committee on jury service issues such as jury compensation and composition, juror mental health, and access to childcare. The hearing highlighted barriers to jury service that individuals face and proposed solutions to reduce those barriers. Although no follow-up legislation was introduced, the Committee has continued to advance its work to improve access to jury service for all Pennsylvanians. The Committee reviewed pamphlets prepared by several judicial districts that outline the potential mental health consequences of serving on a jury and provide a list of resources to mitigate that impact. The Committee then developed its own pamphlet template that will be presented to AOPC for dispersal across the Commonwealth. To learn more about how juror childcare programs function and the extent to which they can be replicated in other districts, the Committee toured the Allegheny County childcare facilities and is in the process of scheduling a visit to the Montgomery County facilities. The Committee also conducted a survey of district court administrators to determine whether they rely on the Statewide Juror List and, if so, their experience with using it. The survey indicated that while many districts use the List, some districts are experiencing issues with its implementation. The Committee has shared the survey results with AOPC and is working collaboratively to resolve these issues.

Language Access Committee: The Committee organized and administered a CLE course with the Pennsylvania Bar Institute (“PBI”) regarding the use of immigration as evidence. The course focused on PA Rule of Evidence 413, which limits the admission of one’s immigration status into evidence in most cases and was approved by the Supreme Court of PA at the Committee’s request. Since playing an active role in the passage of Act 172 (2006), the Committee has continued to monitor and support compliance with same. Based on a recently published infographic from AOPC, there appears to be a serious shortage of certified interpreters. The Committee thus conducted a survey of rostered court interpreters designed to solicit their feedback on the interpreter certification process and to obtain a better sense of the qualification level of the interpreters provided when language access services are requested. In addition, the Committee met on several occasions with AOPC, the National Center for State Courts (“NCSC”), and local interpreter training programs to learn more about and address interpreter testing practices, passage rates, and ways to recruit more individuals to take the test to become certified. The Committee has also engaged directly with the Governor’s Office and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for the improved quality of language access in administrative hearings and for the development of robust, public-facing language access plans in all executive branch agencies.

LGBTQ+ Rights Committee: In coordination with the DV/SA Committee, the Committee advocated for the passage of three bills (HBs 610, 638, and 1817) designed to simplify and improve access to the name change process for all Pennsylvanians. Similarly, the Committee supported and suggested several amendments to a proposal released for public comment by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Civil Procedural Rules Committee to adopt a statewide rule governing name change petitions in the Commonwealth. The public comment period has closed and the Rules Committee is reviewing the same. At present, no such statewide rule exists, leaving judicial districts to determine their own procedures. Additionally, the Committee organized and administered a statewide webinar providing background information on and underscoring the importance of implementing local non-discrimination ordinances for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Rules Committees

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,595	1,595	1,595	1,595
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	1,601	1,600	1,600	1,600

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,237	1,267	1,436	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,243	1,272	1,441	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	6	6	6	6	6	6	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	6	6	6	6	6	6	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	160	328	159	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	160	328	159	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	198	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>198</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Non-expense/Interagency consists of \$198 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$87,000
-Increase in leave payouts -	\$82,000

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses -	(\$169,000)
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	95.61%	93.81%	87.32%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25:	none
2025-26:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the eight Supreme Court standing rules committees: Criminal Procedural Rules, Civil Procedural Rules, Domestic Relations Procedural Rules, Juvenile Court Procedural Rules, Appellate Court Procedural Rules, Orphans' Court Procedural Rules, Committee on Rules of Evidence, and Minor Court Rules.

The rules committees assist the Supreme Court in fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to prescribe general rules governing court proceedings in Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. Acting as advisory bodies, the rules committees study and recommend procedural and evidentiary rules to the Court. In executing this role, the committees coordinate with members of the bench, bar, public, and the legislative and executive branches to receive information, comments, and suggestions regarding the rules and rule proposals. The committees also monitor recent legislation and court opinions to maintain rules that are current with the Commonwealth's developing law.

Another committee function is rules drafting. During this process, the committee may direct staff to investigate and prepare proposed changes, additions, or deletions to the rules. After consideration by the full committee, which may or may not have been preceded by a subcommittee review, a proposed recommendation proceeds in accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 103. Under Rule 103, a proposed recommendation is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Subsequently, the committee reviews the public comments received and, as necessary, the committee may modify the proposal before submitting to the Court a final recommendation for its consideration.

In aggregate, the eight rules committees have approximately 100 members serving without compensation and supported by four attorneys and two administrative staff. The rules committees meet several times a year, generally for one- to two-day meetings. Some committees use standing or ad hoc subcommittees, which meet at other times to work on specific issues. During Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the various rules committees are scheduled to convene approximately 24 times at various locations throughout Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Judicial Center.

The work of the rules committees in 2024 has included:¹

- The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee published proposals on the following topics: 1) delinquency expungement procedures; 2) potential kinship care resources in dependency proceedings; 3) bench warrants in delinquency proceedings; 4) venue, intercounty transfers, courtesy supervision, and closing of delinquency cases; and 5) the timing of juvenile dispositional review hearings.

¹ To avoid repetition, recommendations both published and adopted in calendar year 2024 are listed only once hereafter as adopted.

The Court adopted a committee recommendation for rules implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regulations.

- The Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee's recommendations concerning the following were adopted by the Court: 1) settlement of small estates by petition; 2) disclosure of certain digital assets or a catalog of electronic communications of a decedent; and 3) certification of guardians, appointment of counsel, review hearings, and orders in guardianship proceedings.
- The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee published proposals on the following topics: 1) motions for reconsideration of final orders; 2) rules to implement the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act; 3) forms for the use of non-professional custody supervisors; and 4) the quadrennial child support guideline review.

The Court adopted committee recommendations concerning: 1) the criminal record/abuse history verification in custody proceedings; 2) the use of parenting coordinators in custody proceedings; and 3) the allocation of hypothetical child care expenses in support proceedings.

- The Minor Court Rules Committee published proposals on the following topics: 1) a party's appearance at a hearing; 2) the applicability of the Rules of Evidence in hearings; and 3) ex parte communications and settlements of civil actions.

The Court adopted committee recommendations concerning: 1) notice and intervention in actions for the recovery of possession of real property; and 2) procedures for civil enforcement of traffic violations.

- The Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee published proposals on the following topics: 1) the notice of appeal; and 2) remand procedures for per se ineffectiveness of counsel related to Pa.R.A.P. 1925 statements.

The Court adopted committee recommendations concerning: 1) the designation of parties and the sequence and order of briefs in cross-appeals; and 2) appeals from the Orphans' Court.

- The Criminal Procedural Rules Committee published proposals on the following topics: 1) the reduction or waiver of costs and fines, elimination of the requirement of collateral in certain summary matters, enlargement of the time for responding to a summary citation or summons, and consolidation of summary sentencing procedures; 2) pretrial discovery; and 3) the detention of minor defendants.

The Court adopted committee recommendations concerning: 1) the electronic transmission of the transcript from magisterial district court; and 2) search warrants.

- The Committee on Rules of Evidence's recommendation to amend Pa.R.E. 613 concerning a witness's prior consistent statement to rehabilitate was adopted by the Court.

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- The Civil Procedural Rules Committee published a proposal governing the judicial change of names.

The Court adopted a committee recommendation concerning the amendment of pleadings.

Additionally, the rules committees continue to review proposed local rules pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 103(d).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, sec. 10(c), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S. §§ 1722, *et seq.*

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2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Superior Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	36,455	38,761	40,731	40,731
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>4,613</u>	<u>5,904</u>	<u>5,904</u>	<u>5,904</u>
Total	41,068	44,665	46,635	46,635

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	35,813	38,714	40,288	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>120</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	35,933	38,843	40,417	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds:							
Judges	15	14	15	14	15	14	0
Staff	* 233	191	* 231	195	* 225	189	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	248	205	246	209	240	203	0

* Includes 16 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	642	47	443	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>4,493</u>	<u>5,775</u>	<u>5,775</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5,135	5,822	6,218	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$5,616 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$5,616 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in judicial salaries and per diem compensation effective January 1, 2026. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diems are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
President Judge	\$254,807	\$263,726
Judge (14)	\$247,188	\$255,840
Senior Judge per Diem	\$707	\$732

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 15 judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$349,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff/law clerks and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,229,000
-Increase in senior judge per diem and social security due to increased rates -	\$15,000
-Decrease in annual/sick leave payout -	(\$19,000)

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$396,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor			
Justices	80.56%	80.92%	78.23%
Staff	85.21%	86.91%	85.75%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Superior Court was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1895 to hear appeals from certain decisions of the Commonwealth's Courts of Common Pleas. Since the court's inception, the General Assembly has periodically expanded the Superior Court's jurisdiction, and today it decides appeals touching almost every aspect of life and commerce in the Commonwealth. These appeals include family matters such as child custody, visitation, adoption, divorce, and support; criminal cases; matters concerning wills and estates; property disputes; and cases involving damages for breach of contract or personal injury. Superior Court judges also hear

applications made by the Attorney General and district attorneys under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act. The Superior Court is often the final arbiter of legal disputes in Pennsylvania. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for an appeal from a decision of the Superior Court, in most cases, such petitions are denied.

The Superior Court is comprised of 15 commissioned judges but operated with only 14 commissioned judges throughout calendar year 2024. Currently, three senior judges assist in the work of the court. Except for cases in which the court orders consideration by an en banc panel of nine judges, the court sits in three-judge panels, hearing oral arguments an average of three times per month throughout the Commonwealth. Other judicial duties include voting and writing on other judges' panel decisions; reviewing re-argument petitions and en banc certifications; serving on motions panels and as a monthly motions assignment judge; wiretap assignments; and court committee assignments.

According to the National Center for State Courts, the Pennsylvania Superior Court continues to be one of the busiest intermediate state appellate courts in the country. In calendar year 2024, 6,581 appeals were filed, and the Court concluded 6,280. The Court heard 649 oral arguments. To meet the rigorous workload of the court in 2024, each judge wrote an average of 190 written decisions. Additionally, the Court received 13,184 filed motions and issued 17,011 orders related to its cases.

This appropriation provides funding for the salaries and benefits for judges, their staff, administrative staff, and the staff of the prothonotary offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in addition to necessary operating expenses and fixed assets. Funding of this budget request is essential to continue the efficient and effective operation of the court.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 3, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 541, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Superior Court – Judges’ Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	183	183	183	183
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	183	183	183	183

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2023</u>		<u>December 31, 2024</u>		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	143	183	183	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	143	183	183	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	40	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>40</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Non-expense/Interagency consists of \$40 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the vouchered Court-related business expenses incurred by the 15 commissioned judges of the Superior Court, including expenses incurred when traveling to other locations within Pennsylvania to hear oral arguments, and performing Court work outside of their chambers. Expenses include travel reimbursement, food, and lodging.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Commonwealth Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	22,896	24,344	26,142	26,142
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>190</u>	<u>2,821</u>	<u>2,822</u>	<u>2,822</u>
Total	23,086	27,165	28,964	28,964

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	20,294	24,081	25,513	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>75</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	20,369	24,159	25,592	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds							
Judges	9	8	9	9	9	9	0
Staff	* 136	113	* 139	111	* 138	110	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	145	121	148	120	147	119	0

* Includes 9 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,602	263	629	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>115</u>	<u>2,743</u>	<u>2,743</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,717	3,006	3,372	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$2,643 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$2,643 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1, to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2026. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
President Judge	\$254,807	\$263,726
Judge (8)	\$247,188	\$255,840
Senior Judge per diem	\$707	\$732

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for nine judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$120,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,331,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$1,000
-Decrease in senior judge per diems and social security -	(\$19,000)

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$366,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor			
Judges	75.71%	74.75%	74.14%
Staff	85.93%	83.70%	82.39%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania came into existence January 1, 1970, created by the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968. The court hears appeals from county Courts of Common Pleas and state administrative agencies. From county courts, the Commonwealth Court hears appeals in matters involving zoning, taxation, civil service, negligence cases involving state and local government, and eminent domain, among others. From state administrative agencies, the court hears appeals in matters involving workers' and unemployment compensation, environmental issues, welfare claims, public utility rate disputes, and taxation, among others. In addition, the

court acts as a trial court in certain types of cases where the Commonwealth is a party, including actions in equity, mandamus, and declaratory judgment, as well as hearing cases arising under the Election Code in both its original and appellate jurisdiction. The court also actively supervises insolvent insurance company estates in various stages of rehabilitation or liquidation. These matters, which are akin to bankruptcy proceedings, involve complex, protracted litigation, and present unique case management challenges requiring significant judicial and staff resources.

The court's overall caseload remained relatively stable in 2024, although there was a 12% increase in the number of state administrative agency appeals filed. Overall, 2,868 new actions were filed in the court in calendar year 2024. The court continued to handle considerable original jurisdiction litigation: 608 new original jurisdiction cases were filed in 2024, including 373 actions filed by prisoners. In the court's appellate jurisdiction, it received 789 new appeals from the courts of common pleas. The court received 992 appeals from state administrative agency decisions, including 512 unemployment compensation appeals, among other categories. The Court received 456 new tax appeals from the Board of Finance and Revenue. The Court resolved 67 expedited cases (both original and appellate jurisdiction) arising under the Election Code and affecting the 2024 primary and general election ballots.

In 2024 the Commonwealth Court disposed of 2,472 cases. The court's mediation program continued to be successful in 2024: 107 cases were referred to mediation, and 71 cases were resolved, eliminating the need for further litigation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 4, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 561, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Commonwealth Court – Judges’ Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	132	132	132	132
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	132	132	132	132

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	107	132	132	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	107	132	132	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	25	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Non-expense/Interagency consists of \$25 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation provides funding for vouchered expenses of the Commonwealth Court's authorized complement of nine judges. The requested level of funding is the amount necessary to fund the reimbursement of allowable business expenses of the full complement.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Administrator

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	14,592	15,515	15,515	15,515
Federal Funds:	1,105	1,103	1,430	1,430
CIP	833	836	1,130	1,130
STOP Grant	272	267	300	300
Other Funds	<u>6,165</u>	<u>6,293</u>	<u>5,864</u>	<u>5,864</u>
Total	21,862	22,911	22,809	22,809

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	14,592	15,515	15,515	0
Federal Funds	712	836	836	0
Other Funds	<u>878</u>	<u>2,271</u>	<u>2,975</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16,182	18,622	19,326	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	97	92	104	98	104	101	0
Federal Funds	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Other Funds	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	106	101	113	107	113	110	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	393	267	594	0
Other Funds	<u>5,287</u>	<u>4,022</u>	<u>2,889</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5,680	4,289	3,483	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$5,328 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$4,999 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

The federal funds shown each year in this presentation consist primarily of funds under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families for the Court Improvement Program (CIP) involving the dependency courts. Each year also includes federal funds provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) from the STOP Violence Against Women grant program to provide training and technical assistance to Pennsylvania's judiciary.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Nonrecurring:

-Decrease in Act 49 funds available in FY 2025-26 to supplement state funds -	(\$329,000)
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in available Act 49 funds -	\$329,000

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacancies, new positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,381,000
-Decrease in leave payouts -	(\$258,000)
-Decrease in augmentations (DHS) to support CIP personnel costs -	(\$417,000)

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses -	(\$1,452,000)
-Increase in augmentations (DHS) to support CIP operating costs -	\$417,000
-Decrease in federal funds for SJI-Behavioral Health Grant -	(\$100,000)

Federal Funds:

Operating:

-Increase in federal funds to support CIP operating costs -	\$294,000
-Increase in federal funds to support STOP grant operating costs -	\$33,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	79.76%	79.08%	78.79%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25:	None
2025-26:	None

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania's Constitutional Convention of 1967-68 created a Unified Judicial System (UJS) and formalized the Supreme Court's authority to supervise all the Commonwealth's courts. That Constitution also created the position of Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, with the responsibility of leading the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) in assisting the Supreme Court to carry out its supervisory and administrative roles.

The AOPC provides services for jurists, staff, and the citizens of the Commonwealth. Those duties include providing statewide support in the areas of technology, communications, human resources, payroll, budgeting and accounting, law, intergovernmental relations, court programs, research, and education.

Funding for AOPC operations comes mainly from appropriated state funds, and from fee funding and a small amount of federal funds. Funding for its information technology operations—known as the Judicial Computer System (JCS)—is provided by appropriations of restricted receipts contained within the JCS Augmentation Account. More information can be found under the Statewide Judicial Computer System tab later in this book.

On behalf of the UJS, the AOPC continues to focus on making justice accessible for all court users with a focus on conceptualization, development, and implementation of programs and services that bring new and innovative benefits and offerings to the courts, legal community, media and the public. Over the last year, the courts focused on addressing issues of importance to the effective administration of justice including:

Office of Behavioral Health

Partnering with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the AOPC held the first-ever statewide Judicial Behavioral Health Summit attended by approximately 500 state and local leaders. The Summit highlighted priority issues for the Pennsylvania Judiciary, educated leaders on best practices, and facilitated state and county action planning sessions to further the goals of initiative.

With the creation of the Behavioral Health in the Courts program, the AOPC is committed to improving outcomes for individuals with complex behavioral health needs, through collaborative judicial leadership. Through the development and implementation of an enhanced behavioral health curriculum for judges, the Judiciary is committed to enhancing specialized knowledge and courtroom practices. Moving forward, priorities include increased collaboration at the state level and supporting the work of local leaders to improve outcomes.

Office of Elder Justice in the Courts

The Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) established the Legal Services Organization (LSO) Project to train legal aid attorneys in elder justice matters and to provide legal representation to every alleged incapacitated person over the age of 60 in four pilot counties; Dauphin, Berks, Cumberland and Perry.

In addition, a statewide protocol was released to promote a comprehensive and uniform way to review a guardian's annual report of the incapacitated person's assets and wellbeing. A new training curriculum will be released in early 2025.

To assist the public and elder justice organizations, the OEJC developed a comprehensive Guardian Handbook, available in both English and Spanish, in hard copy and digital formats to instruct guardians on their role and responsibilities in protecting the person with a guardianship.

Autism and the Courts

Work continues on the Autism in the Courts initiative. Planning and execution of the statewide community outreach tour continued in 2024. National autism related organizations have taken notice of the work being done in Pennsylvania and conversations are being held on ways to partner and engage on the national stage. The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission recently approved incorporating the autism initiative into the Commission's work.

Office of Children and Families in the Courts

The Office of Children and Families in the Courts (OCFC) seeks to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing, and permanent family through protecting children, promoting strong families; promoting child well-being; and providing timely permanency. During the past year, OCFC worked on behalf of the courts and Pennsylvania families to:

- Decrease trauma by more children being placed in Kinship Care.
- Decrease trauma by more children in Family Engagement Initiative counties staying in their homes, not entering the child dependency system, and strengthening natural supports.
- Continue to see increases in autism awareness for dependent children and families, allowing for increased special accommodations to be made by dependency courts.
- Provide mental health education to dependency judges and juvenile court hearing officers to bring more awareness and responsiveness to the mental health needs of children and families in dependency.

Treatment Courts

Pennsylvania's treatment courts, or problem-solving courts as they are known, were developed to supervise the treatment and rehabilitation of defendants for their wellbeing and the larger community. Instead of a jail sentence, defendants may be provided counseling, treatment for their addictions or illnesses, educational assistance, and healthcare support. During the previous year, treatment courts have focused on the following:

- Launch of a fully operational regional veterans court serving Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry counties.
- Awarded approximately \$376,000 in discretionary and implementation funding to 41 county programs including:

-
- Drug Treatment Court (DTC): 15 awards
 - Drug/Driving Under the Influence Hybrid Court: 3 awards
 - Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court: 5 awards
 - Mental Health Court (MHC): 8 awards
 - Veterans Treatment Court (VTC): 7 awards (including the RVTC and one for implementation)
 - Family Treatment Court (FTC): 1 award
 - Co-occurring Court: 1 award
 - Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC): 1 award

Research and Statistics

Unlike case types docketed on the statewide Judicial Computer System, civil and family court dockets are housed in county case management systems, which is a barrier to analysis of civil, divorce, custody and Protection from Abuse case data. This year, AOPC established its first collaborative access agreement to extract & view case information, as well as provide analytics back to local court managers on these cases. Poised to establish partnerships with additional vendors statewide, some key advantages are:

- Statewide Collaboration
- Streamlined Data Retrieval
- Efficient Monitoring
- Data-Driven Insight
- Reduced Workload
- Strengthened Support for Stakeholders
- Better Support for Litigants

Supreme Court & AOPC Cybersecurity/IT Initiatives

Following AOPC's large-scale DDoS attack in February 2024 and as part of the ongoing commitment to enhancing cybersecurity awareness and resilience, AOPC implemented a comprehensive new cybersecurity program requiring staff to take annual formal cybersecurity training sessions, perform quarterly phishing campaigns, and a few additional measures to address emerging threats.

AOPC also participated in several cybersecurity events to further educate and test the resiliency of our cybersecurity defenses including presenting at and participating in a mid-Atlantic Cybersecurity Summit hosted by the National Center for State Courts and hosting cybersecurity advisors from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). CISA is a part of the federal Department of Homeland Security and is responsible for national coordination of security and resilience for critical infrastructure functions and play a central role in both preventing and responding to any cybersecurity incidents.

Artificial Intelligence

The Supreme Court created an advisory committee, lead and staffed by AOPC, on the use of artificial intelligence and generative artificial intelligence in the courts, tasked with monitoring the development of artificial intelligence and generative artificial intelligence and its use in the legal

field and by other court systems and propose appropriate guidance to ensure any use of the technology within the UJS is responsible, effective, and safe. The Committee’s membership includes jurists from all levels of court, as well as representatives from court administration, county filing offices, and from the Supreme Court’s rules committees. The Committee is considering preliminary guidance for judges and court personnel regarding the use of artificial intelligence and generative artificial intelligence.

Philadelphia Municipal Court – Traffic Division

The Traffic Division of Philadelphia Municipal Court engaged AOPC and Judicial Computer System (JCS) leadership to replace the aging traffic information case management system with a current system. On January 27, 2025, Municipal Court’s Traffic Division transitioned to an existing statewide case management system, migrating roughly 1.35 million cases and documents from their older system as part of the project.

Completing this project brought the lone jurisdiction in the Commonwealth into JCS’ statewide case management system for traffic case adjudication, bringing about case processing uniformity and allowing the courts to provide an accurate picture of statewide traffic cases for statistical and analysis efforts.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1901, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Center Operations

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,155	1,228	1,298	1,298
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,587</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>1,640</u>
Total	2,742	2,868	2,938	2,938

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,155	1,228	1,298	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>168</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,323	1,307	1,377	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	11	11	11	11	11	11	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	11	11	11	11	11	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,419</u>	<u>1,561</u>	<u>1,561</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,419	1,561	1,561	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor’s Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$1,283 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$1,283 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 11 staff and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$70,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	92.48%	93.90%	100.64%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: None

2025-26: None

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the centralized costs to operate the Judicial Center in the capitol complex. This budget request provides full-year funding for 11 staff positions and related operating costs required to support this facility.

The majority of centralized operating costs consist of janitorial, telephone and data circuits, equipment maintenance, facilities management, and mail room expenses required for central support of building occupants and building operations of the Judicial Center. Augmentations of \$354,000 are expected to be collected from tenants to offset on-going operating costs.

The Judicial Center continues to be an example of intergovernmental cooperation with the move of the grand jury courtroom from Strawberry Square to the sixth floor of the Judicial Center. In addition, meeting rooms within the Judicial Center are routinely offered to and used by executive and legislative branch agencies.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
District Court Administrators

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	24,581	26,136	27,718	27,718
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>7,212</u>	<u>7,340</u>	<u>7,340</u>	<u>7,340</u>
Total	31,793	33,476	35,058	35,058

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	24,545	26,103	27,685	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>7,212</u>	<u>7,340</u>	<u>7,340</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	31,757	33,443	35,025	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	200	198	200	195	203	197	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	200	198	200	195	203	197	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	36	33	33	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	36	33	33	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$7,197 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$7,197 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacant and new positions, and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$1,582,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	86.56%	86.50%	85.21%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the salaries, benefits and related expenses of the district court administrative positions transitioned to state service January 1, 2000 in accordance with Act 12 of 1999 and those created subsequently. Act 12 authorized those transfers as a means of developing a solid management infrastructure between the state and district courts as components of the overall Unified Judicial System. Judicial district (county) administrative positions have been held steady for some years, but requests to increase funding to fulfill long-standing staff needs are under consideration. As a result, this budget request provides funding for three new positions for a total complement of 203, an increase of 28, or 16%, over the 175 transitioned to the Unified Judicial System in 2000.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1905

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC)

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	499	531	802	802
Federal Funds:	984	997	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	1,483	1,529	803	803

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	396	381	640	0
Federal Funds	231	363	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	627	745	641	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	3	3	2	2	6	5	0
Federal Funds	3	2	3	3	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	6	5	5	5	6	5	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	103	150	162	0
Federal Funds	753	634	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	856	784	162	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

The federal funds shown in this presentation for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 consist of funds from the Administration for Community Living, Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program. The grant is aiding Pennsylvania's efforts to assess and implement improvements in the handling of adult guardianship cases. The three-year grant expires on August 31, 2025.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacant and new positions,
and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$259,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses - \$12,000

Federal Funds:

Personnel:

-Decrease in salaries and benefits for federally funded staff - (\$363,000)

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses - (\$634,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	58.49%	77.25%	75.05%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25:	none
2025-26:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) in support of its mission to address access to justice issues affecting older Pennsylvanians. The OEJC was created by the Supreme Court in January 2015 and is one of the recommendations developed by the Elder Law Task Force. The OEJC is responsible for implementing other relevant recommendations identified by the Elder Law Task Force. This appropriation also funds the Advisory Council on Elder Justice.

Among the activities and accomplishments of the OEJC in 2024 were the following:

- Extended the Legal Services Organization (LSO) project to four pilot counties to provide legal representation to alleged incapacitated persons and incapacitated persons age 60+ in Dauphin, Cumberland, Berks and Perry counties. Mid-Penn Legal Services provides monthly detailed data to the OEJC which is reported on quarterly and will be used to build a marketing tool to help counties understand the viability and impact of an LSO project.
- Continued to meet with the regional collaboration groups formed at the summit. The groups continue to work on action items stemming from the regional listening sessions held this year in five key locations.
- Planning for the 2nd Guardianship Justice Summit scheduled for May 7 – 9, 2025 at Hershey Lodge. We anticipate 200+ participants to engage with over 50 presenters at interactive workshops and plenary sessions.
- Partnered with the AOPC Communications Department to complete an overhaul of the OEJC website and collaborated to produce fourteen instructional videos for family/lay guardians which were posted to the website in August 2024 and have been downloaded hundreds of times. The second series of videos for attorneys and judges are currently being scripted.

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- Partnered with IT to design and develop several important enhancements to the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS). These changes will facilitate the collection of data around court appointed representation, professional guardian certification and background checks, and enhance the user experience for guardianship report reviewers. We have also begun gathering requirements for the process to support an ongoing comparison of guardian participant data to our statewide criminal databases.
 - Engaged in further outreach and education efforts in 2024. Presented at over 35 regional, statewide or national meetings including Ask Attorney Day in Allegheny, the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, the Dauphin Bar Association, Register of Wills Clerk of the Orphans Court Conferences, National Guardianship Association Conference, and eCourts. Conducted monthly Family/Lay Guardian Online Training twice each month and began a new online training facilitated through the Social Security Administration, also for family/lay guardians.
 - Designed and facilitated five regional Report Reviewer Roundtables and used the information gathered from these sessions to develop a statewide report review protocol to encourage a uniform review of guardian reports. Established the Report Reviewer ListServ for disseminating materials. We are currently working on the creation of a full day Report Reviewer Training curriculum.
 - Contracted with Pennsylvania State University (PSU) to conduct a series of focus groups to understand the challenges and experience of professional guardians, family/lay guardians, family members of a person with a guardianship, and guardianship advocates. PSU is attempting to encourage engagement with marginalized communities and/or communities where English is not the primary language.
 - Published the Guardianship Handbook and have distributed close to 10,000 hard copies to date to county offices, guardians, and public libraries. A digital version of the handbook is also available on the website in both English and Spanish.
 - Developed and maintained a list of resources to provide responses to the approximately 30 requests from the general public received monthly in the OEJC inbox seeking help with elder justice issues.
 - As of December 31, 2024, there were 20,334 active guardianship cases in the GTS. Currently there are 372 professional guardians overseeing 2,404 cases, and 20,967 non-professional (family/lay) guardians with access to the GTS. The total amount of guardianship assets under court supervision was \$2.278 billion. Over 88% of all guardianship reports received by the courts were electronically filed using GTS.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 7, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1501, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3532

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Management Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	78	78	78	78
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	78	78	78	78

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	78	78	78	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	78	78	78	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The funding provided by this appropriation enables the provision of ongoing education programs for the Judiciary. A variety of educational programs offered throughout the year are designed to further develop and strengthen the professional competence of state and county personnel.

This budget request provides for continued professional education presented in various formats, including regional workshops, webinars, topic specific-seminars, professional conferences, and

other formats as appropriate. An annual course is offered each spring in Harrisburg for all new district court administration staff, and an annual symposium for Magisterial District Court Administration staff is held in the fall.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,532	1,532	1,593	1,593
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>633</u>	<u>748</u>	<u>748</u>	<u>748</u>
Total	2,165	2,280	2,341	2,341

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	869	910	927	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	869	910	927	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	5	5	5	5	5	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5	5	5	5	5	4	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	663	622	666	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>633</u>	<u>748</u>	<u>748</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,296	1,370	1,414	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Operating: Other Funds consist of augmenting revenues of \$748 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Operating: Other Funds consist of augmenting revenues of \$748 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for staff - \$17,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses - \$44,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	75.47%	74.33%	72.14%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted continuing education requirements on December 9, 2016, effective January 1, 2017, for all state trial and appellate court judges. The order required each judge to earn annually three hours of judicial ethics education and nine hours of substantive continuing education in judicial practice and related areas.

On February 7, 2020, the Supreme Court adopted Rules for Continuing Judicial Education (CJE), effective March 7, 2020. The rules replaced the Court's Order of December 9, 2016. While the new rules provided structure to the CJE requirements established in the December 2016 order, they made only minor changes to the infrastructure and mandates established thereunder. Under the CJE Rules, Pennsylvania's trial and appellate court judges must earn a minimum of 12 hours of continuing judicial education annually, three of which must be in judicial ethics. Four of the annual credits must be earned through courses developed by or under the supervision of the AOPC Judicial Education Department. A 12-member, Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges meets quarterly, and oversees the implementation of the rules, including both compliance and course accreditation. The Board is supported by the AOPC Judicial Education Department. It reports to the Supreme Court annually, or whenever directed to do so.

This appropriation provides the funding for a robust program of professional continuing education for judges conducted through conferences and seminars presented in both statewide and in regional settings and through remote, web-based courses under the auspices of AOPC's Judicial Education Department. The department works closely with the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and other providers to develop a state-of-the-art curriculum that includes timely and relevant continuing education courses presented to judges throughout the state.

This appropriation funds conferences, seminars, and educational programs as well as two professional educators and an education specialist to plan, implement and support the vital continuing education program for jurists.

It also funds orientation programs offered biennially for newly elected common pleas judges, informational mailings, and records maintenance. These programs are supplemented by specialized symposia designed for specific judicial audiences, such as annual meetings for president judges and district court administrators to discuss issues pertinent to their responsibilities.

Funding requested in this appropriation will allow increased course offerings and judicial participation, and costs associated with tracking and reporting compliance with the education requirements. It also funds the Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges noted above,

who are charged with, inter alia, making accreditation decisions, granting waivers and deferrals, and hearing non-compliance appeals.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Problem-Solving Courts

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,268	1,348	1,348	1,348
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,268</u>	<u>1,348</u>	<u>1,348</u>	<u>1,348</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	314	347	354	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>314</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	604	601	594	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>604</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	350	400	400	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>350</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for one filled staff position - \$7,000

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses - (\$7,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	73.04%	70.11%	71.82%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Problem-solving courts continue to be seen as an effective means of rehabilitating individuals charged with criminal behavior stemming from problems better treated outside the traditional punitive corrections process. We believe these courts are both cost-effective and beneficial in providing meaningful help to people to address behavior that contributes to criminality.

In 2005, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court endorsed the drug court model for judicial districts throughout the Commonwealth and sanctioned the nationally-recognized template which sets forth a protocol for their operation, and applied it to the operation of problem-solving courts in general. The Court's endorsement included the creation of performance standards to guide the operation and measurement of the efficacy of all problem-solving courts, and served as an impetus to their creation.

The increased number of these courts over recent years increases the ability to deliver effective and efficient programs in response to local needs and desires to benefit court management and constituents. As of January 2025, there were 138 problem-solving courts in operation in Pennsylvania, including drug courts, mental health courts, domestic violence courts, and veterans courts which address specific problems that contribute to criminal behavior, and their numbers continue to grow. Although there are differences in structure and operation among the various courts, all follow the foundation provided by the national drug court model in format and content. The AOPC provides education, training and support for these programs and assists in the coordination of related activities.

This appropriation provides the resources used to assist counties in managing these courts in accordance with nationally-recognized standards for best practices. Such assistance takes the form of staff training, monitoring program performance, and costs associated with maintaining the case management system that provides data on program performance. This Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget request includes funding for professional services, training/conference expenses, travel, monthly software maintenance, hosting costs for the Problem-Solving Adult and Juvenile Courts Information System (PAJCIS), grant funding to counties to implement new problem-solving courts, and discretionary grants designed to support program functions of existing problem-solving courts.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Unified Judicial System Security

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,002	2,129	2,443	2,443
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,002	2,129	2,443	2,443

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	631	665	704	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	631	665	704	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	4	4	* 5	5	4	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4	4	5	5	4	4	0

*Includes one temporary intern position.

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	95	246	248	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	95	246	248	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,276	1,218	1,491	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,276</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>1,491</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Note: The Fiscal Year 2023-24 and 2024-25 appropriations were provided in the form of continuing appropriations per Acts 1-A of 2023 and 2024, respectively. Likewise, it is requested that the Fiscal Year 2025-26 funding also be provided in the form of a continuing appropriation.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff - \$39,000

Operating:

-Increase in miscellaneous operating expenses - \$2,000

Grants and Subsidies:

-Increase in reimbursement to counties for security enhancements - \$273,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	76.61%	77.41%	78.58%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The goal of the Unified Judicial System's Security Program is to make every court facility a safe place for the general public, litigants and their families, jurors, witnesses, and victims of crime to conduct their business.

Current year funding builds up the past year's work of enhancing physical security and safety features for common pleas courts to mitigate and respond to the spectrum of risks posed by natural and man-made emergencies (e.g., active shooter/assailants, mass casualty events). In 2024, there were 575 incidents reported at common pleas courts, and 420 at magisterial district courts, for a total of 995.

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 requested funds will provide similar physical security enhancements at magisterial district courts.

The request also provides for the continued funding of four staff to manage the incidents reported to the Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PJIRS), the increased demands for physical security assessments at common pleas and magisterial district courts, the need for development of expanded exportable security training programs, and the necessity for more comprehensive protection services for members of the judiciary while at key conference events.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Statewide Judicial Computer System

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>48,952</u>	<u>50,419</u>	<u>50,419</u>	<u>50,419</u>
Other Funds Itemized				
-JCS Restricted				
Revenues	43,800	43,417	43,417	43,417
-Miscellaneous	1,193	1,602	1,602	1,602
-Online Fees	<u>3,959</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,400</u>	<u>5,400</u>
Total	48,952	50,419	50,419	50,419

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec # 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>27,268</u>	<u>25,285</u>	<u>27,826</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	27,268	25,285	27,826	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	Auth	Filled	Auth	Filled	Funded	Filled	2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	* 179	168	** 173	162	*** 170	155	0
Total	<u>179</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>0</u>

* Includes 15 positions filled through contract staff.

** Includes 13 positions filled through contract staff.

*** Includes 10 positions filled through contract staff.

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec # 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>21,684</u>	<u>25,134</u>	<u>22,593</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	21,684	25,134	22,593	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec # 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec # 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	2023-24	2024-25	Judicial 2025-26	Gov Rec # 2025-26
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Note: JCS restricted revenues shown above consist of revenues from Act 64 – 1987, and Act 59 – 1990 as amended by Act 122 – 2002.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The following presents the various increases and decreases required for the operations of JCS from the amounts appropriated in Fiscal Year 2024-25:

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff, and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$2,541,000

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses funded from restricted revenues - (\$2,541,000)

JCS is funded primarily from a dedicated funding stream consisting of restricted revenues. Act 64 of 1987 instituted this funding mechanism based on future increases in fine collections and court costs resulting from automated court systems. The funding was later supplemented by filing fees created by Act 59 of 1990, as amended by Act 122 of 2002. Revenue collections are deposited into a restricted revenue account within the state Treasury, from which annual appropriations are made to JCS. (42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3734).

The annual diversion of Act 64 restricted revenues was paused in Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26, but this was after \$45 million was diverted pursuant to Act 42 of 2018 and an additional \$30 million diverted under Act 114 of 2020 – a total of \$75 million. To maintain existing case management systems for the courts and continue providing services and data to the many Commonwealth agencies that rely on these systems operated by the AOPC/IT department, sufficient funding must be provided. Budget projections indicate that unless the annual diversion is repealed and additional steps taken to stabilize funding, the account balance will most likely be insufficient to fund JCS operations (i.e., the statewide case management systems) beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and thereafter.

Other revenues, estimated at \$7.002 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26, are designed to offset costs of specific JCS functions and include online payment fees, expungement fees, public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) and Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS). Restricted revenues for the Jen and Dave program derived from fees established by Act 119 of 1996 will be available to support costs of these statutorily-required operations.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	87.58%	85.52%	87.03%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25:	none
2025-26:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania continues to be a national leader in judicial computerization. The IT department within AOPC has been recognized for making court information significantly more accessible, improving collection of fines, fees, costs and restitution, and administrative efficiencies throughout the court system.

Funded by revenues derived from court costs, filing fees and designated fines, rather than tax dollars, AOPC's IT department creates, maintains, and updates statewide case management systems for all three levels of Pennsylvania's courts (Appellate, Common Pleas Criminal/Juvenile and Magisterial District courts). Local court officials can access court case information about parties related to cases anywhere in the state. Most importantly, the systems are linked, allowing millions of cases to be shared as each case moves through the court system.

To gain a better understanding of the financial and program needs of the AOPC/IT department, Act 70 of 2021 created the Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee (JCSFAC) within PCCD. JCSFAC's duties included a review of the policy goals, purpose, and programs of the JCS, as well as the annual financial needs and revenue streams that support the system.

JCSFAC's final report was issued on January 31, 2022, and is available here: [https://www.pa.gov/search.html#q=FINAL%20JCSFAC%20Report%20\(January%2031%202022\).pdf](https://www.pa.gov/search.html#q=FINAL%20JCSFAC%20Report%20(January%2031%202022).pdf). Notably, the report found that the JCS "provides a critical service to the Commonwealth, counties, attorneys, participants in the legal system and citizens," and emphasized the importance of "ensur[ing] predictable funding to support [its] continuous operation."

Access to Data

- 2.39 million cases were docketed in 2024 by utilizing one of the three case management systems – the MDJS, the CPCMS, and Pennsylvania's Appellate Court Management System (PACMS).
- 97.9 million docket sheets were viewed for free on the Unified Judicial System website in 2024.
- 219,000 electronic case transfers from the MDJS to the CPCMS during 2024 saved county court staff countless hours by eliminating the need for redundant data entry.
- 38,000 law enforcement and public safety officials representing more than 20 criminal justice partners and law enforcement agencies depended on the case management systems to perform their daily duties during 2024.

Docket sheets and customized court reports provide valuable information to media, academics, attorneys, legislators, government agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and others.

Value and Savings

The data maintained and shared by the judiciary is valuable and widely-used by courts, government agencies, public safety and law-enforcement officials, members of the public, media and attorneys to name a few.

- AOPC/IT has reduced the cost of manually compiling and mailing boxes of official case records and transcripts through the development of an electronic original record system. A total of 46 counties and agencies are e-filing original records with 4,732 cases e-filed in 2024.
- During 2024, 1,572 individual law enforcement entities/filing types used e-filing for traffic, parking, and non-traffic citations, and criminal complaints. In addition to improving accuracy and saving court staff thousands of hours a year, e-filing also cuts down on the time needed to complete traffic stops, thereby improving the safety of law enforcement officers.

Court Collections

Features within the case management systems help court staff collect and process fines, court costs and restitution – and the very popular PAePay®, an online payment application developed by AOPC/IT, allows people to pay these costs online.

- PAePay saw \$162.4 million collected online in 2024, a 3 percent increase over last year.
- Over the last 10 years, AOPC/IT collected and processed nearly \$4.5 billion in fines, costs, and restitution.
- The case management systems also enhance court collections by allowing court officials to identify unpaid balances and actively collect on old and new cases.

Electronic Filing/Document Storage Initiatives

Pennsylvania's courts continue to move towards a paperless operation. PACFile® saves time by allowing the direct electronic filing of documents with the courts by attorneys and self-represented litigants.

- By the end of 2024, 52 counties were using PACFile to electronically submit filings into CPCMS, and 60 counties were using the electronic records management system (ERMS) for electronic document management.
- By the end of 2024, 57 counties were using the ERMS solution for electronic document management in the MDJS.

Clean Slate

Act 56 of 2018, which became effective June 28, 2019, expanded the criminal case sealing mandate to include additional offenses meeting specific criteria which required significant systems changes to the two case management systems (MDJS and CPCMS). Act 83 of 2020, referred to as Clean Slate II, further expanded the category of eligible cases to include pardoned offenses and reduced the financial eligibility requirements for those with convictions to satisfy only court-ordered restitution and statutorily mandated fee authorized to carry out Clean Slate. Likewise, the financial requirement for non-convictions was also reduced to only satisfying restitution to be eligible. Act 36 of 2023, referred to as Clean Slate III, provided a second expansion to the original 2018 law and extended Clean Slate to low-level, non-violent drug felonies. It also reduces the waiting period for the automated sealing of misdemeanors to seven years and summary convictions to five years. All Clean Slate changes, including those made by the Pennsylvania State Police, were in place by October 1, 2024.

- As of January 2025, 47.7 million cases have been fully or partially sealed across the MDJS and CPCMS under the auspices of the Clean Slate law.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3731, *et seq*

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,372	2,522	3,521	3,521
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,372	2,522	3,521	3,521

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	421	593	621	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	421	593	621	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	Auth	Filled	Auth	Filled	Funded	Filled	2025-26
State Funds	* 5	5	** 5	4	** 5	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5	5	5	4	5	4	0

* Includes 2 positions filled through contract staff.

** Includes 1 position filled through contract staff.

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,951	1,929	2,900	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,951	1,929	2,900	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for staff - \$28,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating costs for the continuing development and maintenance of messages - \$971,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	72.04%	71.16%	70.08%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds portions of UJS activities in support of the Commonwealth's multi-agency Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (JNET). The UJS has been an active participant in JNET since its inception, and the source for important data from its automated systems.

JNET is a statewide effort that allows information from criminal justice and other related resources to be shared among federal, state, county and municipal agencies. Information makes its way to the end user through two sources - a secure Web-based interface and Extensible Markup Language (XML)-based messaging.

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget request seeks continued funding for limited staff and related operating costs in support of JNET functions, and a portion of the telecommunications costs between the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's Information Technology (AOPC/IT) department and magisterial district judge (MDJ) offices to allow JNET traffic to flow to and from MDJ offices and other supporting systems and provide JNET access to the district courts.

This budget request also seeks funding for the continuing development and maintenance of messages published by AOPC/IT and automated use of messages published by other criminal justice and related agencies. Messaging is a method JNET and AOPC/IT use to move information between agency computer systems in order to share case data and to reduce redundant data entry.

A number of messages are in various stages of the product development lifecycle including initial development and maintenance. These messages continue to assist in supporting the statewide Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS), Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS) and other criminal justice agency related systems:

- The Court Case Event (CCE) messages are event-triggered messages published from the CP and MDJ systems. County agencies filing electronic information into the CPCMS will receive updated case information through this JNET messaging structure. The public CCE message is also used by the Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) to support compliance monitoring of member benefits.
- AOPC/IT provides JNET with data to be used for a new JNET Recidivism Dashboard initiative. In 2022, JNET began to use the CCE messages to acquire information, process it through a data analysis tool and deliver secure information for recidivism statistics.
- AOPC/IT provides information to JNET's Federated Warrant Search application and its Federated Address application and continues to report dispositions electronically through the JNET infrastructure updating the Criminal History Repository (CHR). AOPC/IT implemented an enhancement project with JNET and PSP to improve the statewide warrant process that allows the electronic filing of warrants into the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) if all required information is filed on the initiating criminal complaint and entered into the MDJS. This eliminates the need for the manual entry of warrant information by local law enforcement officers.

-
- AOPC/IT implemented a message that allows users of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing's (PCS) Web-based Sentencing Guideline Software (SGS) to query basic case information from the CPCMS and MDJS to assist with data entry and to reduce errors. Per a request by the PCS, functionality was added to support their mandate to implement a recidivism risk assessment tool. AOPC/IT continues to work with the PCS in support of this interface that allows the PCS to make a CCE Request/Reply that will return case information on all cases where an identified offender (as determined by personal demographic information) was the defendant. The Department of Corrections (DOC) is using this functionality as well.

AOPC/IT continues to work with JNET to make additional information available via the JNET interface. Examples include the following:

- A mechanism for electronic matching of victims that allows for relevant case data to be sent back to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) through a message. This information will be used in making restitution claims at the Courts of Common Pleas.
 - Ongoing support of various electronic filing methods for criminal complaints, traffic, and non-traffic citations. AOPC/IT and PSP implemented a statewide project to file traffic citations electronically into the MDJS system, and AOPC/IT continues to work with local police agencies to replicate this same functionality on a municipal level. Electronic filing at both the state and municipal level has been expanded to include parking citations, non-traffic citations and criminal complaints. During 2024, over 1,100 law enforcement agencies (including each filing type) facilitated electronic filings, saving district court staff and law enforcement officers numerous hours by averting the need for manual data entry and reducing the travel time to deliver the physical copy of the citation to the court. AOPC/IT worked with 20 unique agencies and vendors to enable 564 new services.
 - In January 2019, the AOPC, PSP, JNET, and the Chiefs of Police Association were awarded a National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) sub grant under PCCD to support an update to the electronic criminal complaint e-filing and OTN single source generator system which will enhance the quality of records contained in the FBI and National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In addition to enhancing the availability of arrest and disposition records at the state and national level, it will also provide a uniform tool for state and municipal police to file criminal complaints electronically with the courts. Both the JNET electronic compliant application and the OTN single source generator system were deployed in late 2021. AOPC/IT, JNET, and PSP continue to provide support to law enforcement as this is implemented statewide. PSP received grant monies to develop and implement a data exchange between the PSP TraCS system and the LiveScan. AOPC will be providing support for this effort in Fiscal Year 2024-25.
 - Creation of Web interfaces that allow police departments to review court schedules and case and disposition information saving the officers and MDJ offices valuable time.
 - Maintenance of an interface to electronically transfer juvenile delinquency case information from the CPCMS Juvenile Court Module to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission's (JCJC's)
-

Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) through JNET on a statewide basis providing near real-time updates throughout the lifecycle of the delinquency case.

- Providing access to secure Web docket sheets and court calendars for all cases in the CPCMS and MDJS.
- Maintaining search services to support JNET application search modules including warrant search, address search, personal identifier search, and offense search for the Office of Victim Advocates.
- Providing real time messaging to support JNET's notification service providing law enforcement and criminal justice agencies with proactive information on individuals that they are tracking.
- Receiving updated inmate location information from the county jails and information on assigned probation officers for population within the MDJS and CPCMS applications through JNET's Electronic Reporting (ER) II (jail) and ER2P (probation) projects.
- Participation with PCCD, JNET, PSP, Chiefs of Police, and the Attorney General's Office in maintenance of fingerprint compliance reports to ensure that PSP has appropriate identifying information resulting from an arrest.
- Ongoing work with PSP and Attorney General's Office to provide case information needed for Megan's Law/Walsh Act compliance tracking.
- Receiving information from Central Participant Subscription Services related to activations, terminations and address changes for attorneys, officers, constables, and certified bail insurers.
- Providing/receiving case information to/from DA offices.
- Working with JNET and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Information Sharing (MARIS) to provide access to court data in support of their federated person search initiative.
- Providing the State Employees Retirement System (SERS), the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) and the Department of State (DOS) with public CCE messages to assist in the identification of individuals who should have their pensions forfeited and/or their state licenses revoked due to convictions.
- AOPC/IT supports the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) which uses a JNET interface. The interface provides a mechanism for the GTS to receive electronic case initiation data as new petitions are filed in the counties' Orphans' Courts proprietary case management systems. This reduces the necessity for the court staff to manually enter this information into both local systems and the GTS.
- AOPC/IT developed and implemented an essential service required to support the Clean Slate Law (Act 56 of 2019). Utilizing the JNET infrastructure, the AOPC/IT department provides

PSP with candidates for removal of approved cases/charges from public view, and when a common pleas judge issues a Clean Slate order, communication of that order is transmitted to criminal justice agencies via JNET so that records may be marked as “limited access”. AOPC/IT has updated the service process multiple times to support additional legislative requirements.

- AOPC/IT worked with PSP and JNET to coordinate processing of Clean Slate 3.0 (Act 36 of 2023) candidates.
- PSP is continuing to moving forward with extending their non-traffic module to municipal police agencies through PA Tracs To Local (PATTL). The AOPC supported the effort to electronically file non-traffic citations by working with PSP and JNET in 2024 to onboard 412 agencies, greatly expanding the availability of this service to municipalities.
- AOPC/IT will be working with JNET as they modernize their messaging process and protocols. This will require collaborative requirements gathering, process design, development, and testing through this reporting fiscal year.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
UJS Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	3,490	4,652	4,652
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>3,490</u>	<u>4,652</u>	<u>4,652</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	156	1,195	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>1,195</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	1	1	8	1	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	3,334	3,457	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>3,334</u>	<u>3,457</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase for salary and benefits for filled and new positions - \$1,039,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating costs - \$123,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	N/A	N/A	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	N/A	62.26%	76.88%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee (JCSFAC) was established within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) by Act 70 of 2021. The committee issued a final report in January 2022. That report acknowledged the Judicial Computer System (JCS) provides a critical service to the Commonwealth, counties, attorneys, participants in the legal system and citizens and included four findings with recommendations.

Recommendation one of the third finding recognized the need to ensure continuity of JCS and governmental functions for disaster recovery purposes. Further, JSCFAC's fourth finding recognized the downward fluctuation of fee revenues, which provide the only funding for the continued support and maintenance of JCS, and that the long-term viability of these fee funding streams to adequately support the needs of JCS was unclear.

Since the 2022 report, fee revenues continued to precipitously decline and were not sufficient to support current JCS operating needs, specifically for these high priority areas of cyber security and disaster recovery which protect systems and mitigate risks to ensure business continuity for court operations statewide. To partially address this shortfall in funding, a new appropriation was provided in FY 2024-25 to support these Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery needs. This appropriation currently funds one full-time Security Specialist, the cost to maintain a disaster recovery site in Pittsburgh and funding for cyber security products and training. Included in this budget request is an increase of \$1.026 million for the cost of seven positions to further provide enhanced vigilance and capabilities in preventing cyber-attacks.

Cybersecurity

The landscape of court technology has changed rapidly, as digital tools help facilitate the business process of the courts. This proliferation of technology has improved the judiciary's access and transparency, while also significantly increasing data storage and the digital footprint. Consequently, mitigating the risk of data breaches in the judicial branch and cybersecurity is paramount in adequately protecting the courts' information and continuity of operations.

JCS is committed to providing the utmost security for the statewide systems, services and data that it provides for the many levels of the judiciary. The three statewide case management systems serve the daily business of more than 21,000 jurists, court staff, and other users of the MDJS, CPCMS, and PACMS. Numerous other applications and web interfaces providing information and services to statewide court users and the general public are provided over both the public Internet and the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET). The larger ancillary systems reside in the unified judicial system web portal that provides public and secure docket sheets for all the systems; a service that allows prosecutors to file bills of information electronically with the courts; an attorney registration system and an e-filing system (PACFile) and the ability for the public to pay their costs, fines and restitution using PAePay.

Disaster Recovery

JCS maintains two separate data centers within the Commonwealth. A Change Management process is used to ensure that all configurations, and application code are kept in sync between the two data centers. These data centers were built to withstand the loss of power, hardware, and network failures without disruption to the statewide case management systems. There are multiple levels of redundancy for power, hardware, and diverse network paths.

JCS performs recurring disaster recovery exercises in which all the complex and mission-critical supported software solutions are moved from the primary data center to the secondary center and back. Many of the systems and services that JCS provides to the courts run active/active from both data center locations to ensure a better state of readiness, as all configurations and software are naturally in sync if running continuously. When an end user accesses one of our case management systems or goes to our PA Judiciary website, they could be connecting through either data center.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Common Pleas

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	138,172	146,913	161,378	161,378
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>26,398</u>	<u>20,926</u>	<u>21,255</u>	<u>21,255</u>
Total	164,570	167,839	182,633	182,633

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	138,010	146,770	161,224	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>26,398</u>	<u>20,926</u>	<u>21,255</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	164,408	167,696	182,479	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	462	436	462	437	468	439	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	462	436	462	437	468	439	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	162	143	154	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	162	143	154	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor’s Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$20,480 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$20,809 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in judges’ salaries effective January 1, 2026. The resulting salaries are as follows. Salaries of certain president judges and administrative judges are slightly higher:

	<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
Common Pleas Judge	\$227,411	\$235,371

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in Act 49 funds available in Fiscal Year 2025-26 to supplement state funds (nonrecurring) -	\$329,000
-Decrease in state funds needed due to increase in available Act 49 funds (nonrecurring) -	(\$329,000)

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 468 CP Judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$14,783,000
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Operating:	
-Increase in operating costs -	\$11,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	72.72%	71.94%	69.26%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Courts of Common Pleas are courts of general trial jurisdiction, having original jurisdiction over all cases not exclusively assigned to another court. Legislative acts over the last 20 plus years have increased the complement from 408 to 470 with the passage of Act 58 of 2023, which added 11 new judgeships. The current complement is 462 including three new judgeships added effective December 14, 2023. Act 58 also added six new judgeships effective January 5, 2026, and two new judgeships effective January 3, 2028.

This budget request includes funding for 468 positions (the current authorized complement of 462 plus 6 new judges per Act 58 of 2023) during Fiscal Year 2025-26.

In courts with seven or fewer judges, those who have the longest continuous record of service become president judges. When courts have eight or more judges, judges select from their ranks a president judge who serves in that capacity for a single five-year term. Such president judges may not serve consecutive five-year terms.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 5, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 901, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Common Pleas Senior Judges

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	4,213	4,480	4,480	4,480
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4,213	4,480	4,480	4,480

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	4,090	4,375	4,375	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4,090	4,375	4,375	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	123	105	105	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	123	105	105	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland area. This budget request includes an assumed 3.5% increase in per diems effective January 1, 2026. The resulting per diem compensation rates used in this budget are as follows:

<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
\$707	\$732

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	NA	NA	NA

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The senior judge program provides an alternative resource when there is a shortage of active Common Pleas judges. Shortages may occur due to judicial vacancies, recusals, and increases in caseload within the various jurisdictions. These senior jurists are available for service throughout the Commonwealth.

In accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 701 as amended on November 20, 2007, eligibility for senior judge service ends the last day of the calendar year in which the senior judge attains age 78. Senior judge service ends the last day of the calendar year in which age 80 is attained for those senior judges then in service who were exempted by the imposition of age limits by Pa RJA 701. Eligibility for senior judge service was further restricted by a December 17, 2009, amendment to Rule 701, effective January 4, 2010, by adding a minimum age requirement of 65, or a combination of years of judicial service plus age that totals at least 80. As of January 2, 2025, there were 95 authorized Common Pleas senior judges.

The Judicial Needs Assessment tool (a performance-based metric developed by the CP Weighted Caseload Study) must be considered by President Judges requesting senior judge use, and AOPC when approving them. Assignment limit is eight days per month per judge for home county assignments effective November 2023 (previously 10 days per month).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 65 P.S. Sec. 366.2a(h)
Art. V, Sec. 16(c), PA Constitution

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Magisterial District Judge

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	94,308	100,274	106,175	106,047
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>12,427</u>	<u>8,129</u>	<u>8,129</u>	<u>8,129</u>
Total	106,735	108,403	114,304	114,176

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	93,887	99,856	105,612	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>12,427</u>	<u>8,129</u>	<u>8,129</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	106,314	107,985	113,741	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	509	492	502	492	502	494	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	509	492	502	492	502	494	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	295	290	307	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	295	290	307	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	126	128	256	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	126	128	256	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^ Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$7,572 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^ Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$7,572 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in the judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2026. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
Magisterial District Judge (MDJ)	\$113,713	\$117,693
Senior MDJ per diem	\$312	\$322

Per diem compensation rates paid to assigned senior magisterial district judges are based on the annual salary of an active magisterial district judge.

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for MDJs and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$5,740,000
-Increase in senior judge per diems and social security -	\$15,000
-Increase in active judge per diems -	\$1,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$17,000
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Grants:

-Increase in annual grant payment (from \$200 to \$400 per MDJ) -	\$128,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial 2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	98.20%	93.76%	94.30%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Forming the first level of the Unified Judicial System are Pennsylvania's limited jurisdiction courts. Magisterial district judges preside over these courts in all counties except Philadelphia.

With jurisdiction over summary cases, landlord-tenant matters, and other civil actions where the amount claimed does not exceed \$12,000, magisterial district judges may also accept guilty pleas to some misdemeanors under certain circumstances, issue warrants, and hold preliminary arraignments and preliminary hearings in criminal cases. Although magisterial district judges need not be lawyers, those who are not must complete an educational course and pass a qualifying examination before taking office. Every magisterial district judge and authorized senior magisterial district judge must participate in one week of continuing education each year. These

education programs are administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board and are funded from the Magisterial District Judge Education appropriation.

This appropriation funds the salaries, benefits (including for qualified annuitants), travel costs, and liability insurance costs for all magisterial district judges. A senior magisterial district judge program, a statutory per diem program for magisterial district judges traveling outside their districts, printing costs for the Magisterial District Judge Journal, and a grant payment for the annual registration fee per judge to the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania (SCJAP) are also funded from this appropriation. This budget request includes an increase in the amount of the grant payment from \$200 to \$400 per judge to provide adequate resources to cover travel and associated costs of SCJAP meetings and conferences. The current \$200 amount was set by statute in 1998.

The Supreme Court is charged with realigning magisterial districts following the decennial census. Following the 2020 census, the decennial reestablishment process began in fall of 2021 and each judicial district, except for Philadelphia, assessed whether they had the right number of magisterial districts and where the boundaries should be for those districts. As a result, a net total of nine districts were eliminated, seven in 2024, one in 2025, and one in 2028.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 7, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1501, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3532

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Magisterial District Judge Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	878	878	961	961
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	892	892	976	976

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	377	355	410	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	380	359	415	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2	2	2	2	2	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	501	523	551	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	512	533	561	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for staff and annuitant benefits -	\$55,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$1,000

Operating:

-Increase in training and conference costs -	\$28,000
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This budget request is predicated upon the receipt of \$10,000 in revenue from \$225 tuition fees for continuing education from potential magisterial district judge candidates and from \$10 per credit CLE fees.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	122.04%	123.40%	132.47%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Article V, Section 12, of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires magisterial district judges to be members of the bar of the Supreme Court *or* to have completed a course of training and instruction in the duties of their office and to have passed an examination prior to assuming office. Courses and examinations shall be as provided by law.

Pursuant to statute, 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 31, these courses are overseen by the Minor Judiciary Education Board and administered by the AOPC Judicial Education Department. The seven-member Minor Judiciary Education Board is responsible for superintending the instruction and certification of individuals intending to become magisterial district judges and Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates who are not members of the bar. Certifying classes for magisterial district judges are four weeks in duration and one week for Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. The board establishes the curriculum, appoints and evaluates instructors, approves course content, reviews certification tests, and issues certificates to successful program participants. The AOPC Judicial Education Department administers the course and certification exam.

Continuing education for the Commonwealth's magisterial district judges and Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates is mandated by the Judicial Code (42 Pa.C.S. Section 3118). In addition, the Minor Judiciary Education Board implements Rules 601 to 604 of the Rules of Judicial Administration promulgated by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The rules require annual continuing education for magisterial district judges, senior magisterial district judges, and Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. Accordingly, the Judicial Education Department administers week-long continuing education classes for these officials under the auspices of the Minor Judiciary Education Board. The Board also establishes a one week supplemental practicum training for newly-elected and appointed magisterial district judges to be completed within their first year of taking office.

This appropriation provides for programs of certification courses for aspirants to the above referenced offices, and continuing education for the authorized complement of magisterial district judges and Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. Additionally, continuing education is provided for the current 86 senior magisterial district judges.

Providing training to active and senior magisterial district judges – indeed to all judges and senior judges – is a tangible expression of the Supreme Court's commitment to professional education for both the bench and the bar.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3112, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3118, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 2131, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Philadelphia Municipal Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	9,475	10,074	10,921	10,921
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,925</u>	<u>1,767</u>	<u>1,767</u>	<u>1,767</u>
Total	11,400	11,841	12,688	12,688

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>^^2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	9,433	10,005	10,849	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,925</u>	<u>1,767</u>	<u>1,767</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11,358	11,772	12,616	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds:							
Judges	27	25	27	25	27	26	0
Arraignment Ct. Mag.	6	6	6	5	6	6	0
Hearing Officers	4	4	4	4	4	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	37	35	37	34	37	36	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	42	69	72	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	42	69	72	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$1,735 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$1,735 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.5% increase in the judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2026. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2025</u>	<u>January - June, 2026</u>
President Judge	\$225,581	\$233,477
Judge (26)	\$222,149	\$229,925
Senior Judge per diem	\$707	\$732

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 27 judge positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$710,000
-Increase in per diems and social security for senior judges -	\$39,000
-Increase in salary and benefits for six arraignment court magistrates, four hearing officers, and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$95,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses - \$3,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor			
Judges	73.40%	72.36%	71.97%
Staff	74.68%	75.22%	78.22%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the personnel and functions of Philadelphia Municipal Court. Accordingly, it funds the salaries and benefits of the 27 Municipal Court judges, six arraignment court magistrates, four hearing officers (authorized by Act 17 of 2013), and a senior judge program. Salaries of arraignment court magistrates are tied by law (42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1123(5)) to the salary of an associate judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court (had the office not been abolished), as set by section 2.1(f) of the Public Official Compensation Law, 65 P.S. § 366.2a(f), and adjusted annually based on the annual COLA.

The Philadelphia Municipal Court is Pennsylvania's only special court that is a court of record. Its 27 judges, who must be lawyers, have jurisdiction over all criminal offenses which are punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years. The Municipal Court has the power to enter judgments without limitation in matters arising under the Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951 and has jurisdiction in civil actions where the amount claimed does not exceed \$12,000. The president judge of Municipal Court is elected for a five-year term by the other active Municipal Court judges.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 6, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1121, et seq.
Act 17 of 2013

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2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
County Court Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	23,136	23,136	23,136	23,136
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	23,136	23,136	23,136	23,136

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	23,136	23,136	23,136	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	23,136	23,136	23,136	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The budget request is based on the December 31, 2024, authorized complement of Common Pleas judges calculated at the effective reimbursement rate of \$45,105 funded in the current fiscal year (a proportional reduction of 35.56%). Although the statutory rate remains \$70,000 with the requirement that no county shall receive less than 77.5 percent of the actual reimbursement for court costs provided to it from funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 1980-81 (results in a flat \$10,075,327 grant payment to Philadelphia for its 93 judges), Act 37 of 2007 requires the proportional reduction in each county's grant if insufficient funding is provided to reimburse at the statutory rate. The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2024-25. ** Funding this grant at the full statutory rate would require an appropriation of \$35.906 million, an amount \$12.77 million above the amount requested. **

The amount requested was computed as follows:

369	Judges @ \$45,105	\$16,643,853
<u>93</u>	Philadelphia Judges	<u>6,492,147</u>
462	Total complement	\$23,136,000

Proposed grant payments follow.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This budget requests funds to make grant payments to counties to reimburse costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. The grant amount is determined by language contained in statute, and in the annual Appropriation Act that specifies that the grant is reimbursement for the costs incurred in the prior calendar year. Act 37 of 2007 provides that in the event the total county reimbursement qualifying for payment exceeds the amount appropriated, every county's grant is to be proportionally reduced so as not to exceed the amount appropriated. In judicial districts comprising more than one county, county allocations are based on each county's percentage of the district's total population. Such population figures are based on the data from the most-current decennial census available, presently 2020.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 72 P.S. Section 1791-E
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 914, et seq.
Annual Appropriation Act.

FY 2025-26 ESTIMATE
COMMON PLEAS COUNTY COURT REIMBURSEMENT
(Calendar 2024)

County	Comp	Reimbursement	County	Comp	Reimbursement
Adams	4	\$180,421	Jefferson	1	\$45,105
Allegheny	43	\$1,939,527	Juniata/ Perry	2	\$30,672
Armstrong	2	\$90,211	Lackawanna	9	\$59,539
Beaver	7	\$315,737	Lancaster	15	\$405,948
Bedford	2	\$90,211	Lawrence	4	\$676,579
Berks	13	\$586,369	Lebanon	4	\$180,421
Blair	5	\$225,526	Lehigh	10	\$180,421
Bradford	2	\$90,211	Luzerne	10	\$451,053
Bucks	15	\$676,579	Lycoming	5	\$451,053
Butler	6	\$270,632	McKean	2	\$225,526
Cambria	5	\$225,526	Mercer	4	\$90,211
Cameron/ Elk	1	\$5,864	Mifflin	2	\$180,421
Carbon	3	\$39,242	Monroe	7	\$90,211
Centre	4	\$135,316	Montgomery	24	\$315,737
Chester**	15	\$180,421	Northampton	9	\$1,082,527
Clarion	1	\$676,579	Northumberland	3	\$405,948
Clearfield	2	\$45,105	Philadelphia*	93	\$135,316
Clinton	2	\$90,211	Pike	2	6,492,147
Columbia/**	3	\$90,211	Potter	1	\$90,211
Montour		\$105,546	Schuylkill	6	\$45,105
Crawford	3	\$29,769	Snyder	2	\$270,632
Cumberland	7	\$135,316	Union		\$43,301
Dauphin	10	\$315,737	Somerset	3	\$46,909
Delaware	21	\$451,053	Sullivan/ Wyoming	1	\$135,316
Erie	9	\$947,211	Susquehanna	1	\$8,119
Fayette	5	\$405,948	Tioga	1	\$36,986
Forest/ Warren	2	\$225,526	Venango	2	\$45,105
Franklin/ Fulton	5	\$13,532	Washington	7	\$90,211
Greene	2	\$76,679	Wayne	2	\$315,737
Huntingdon**	2	\$205,229	Westmoreland	11	\$90,211
Indiana	3	\$20,297	York	15	\$496,158
		\$90,211			\$676,579
		\$135,316			
369 @ \$45,105 each		\$16,643,853	COMPLEMENT		462
93 - \$6,492,145 total		6,492,147	COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT		\$23,136,000
TOTAL REQUIREMENT ¹		\$23,136,000			

¹ Total requirement calculated at \$45,105 per authorized Common Pleas judge and not the \$70,000 statutory rate due to insufficient funding.

* Denotes exception to \$70,000 rule.

** Three new judgeships effective 12/14/2023 for Chester, Huntingdon, and Columbia/Montour counties.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2023</u>		<u>December 31, 2024</u>		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,338	1,375	1,375	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,338</u>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	37	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>37</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Fiscal Year 2023-24 - Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$37 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The budget request will provide partial reimbursement for county expenses based upon statutory reimbursement rates and actual support provided to common pleas senior judges while on assignment. The Judiciary requests funding at the same level provided in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This request is to help defray county expenses in support of assigned Common Pleas Court senior judges pursuant to Acts 40 and 49 of 2017, and Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 701. Such expenses are incurred to provide suitable facilities and adequate staff to senior judges formerly of the judicial district who are regularly or periodically assigned in that district and for visiting senior judges. Suitable facilities and staff consist of the use of judicial chambers, including office equipment and supplies, and the services of a law clerk and a secretary necessary to conduct judicial business. Rule 701 seeks the provision of this reasonable minimal administrative support to senior judges while on assignment.

The county payment provided by 42 Pa.C.S. Section 1906.1 and the Administrative Code Section 2801-E consists of two components: staff support and facilities (appropriate workspace, equipment and supplies) actually provided to senior judges of the judicial district who are regularly or periodically assigned in that district and for visiting senior judges. Staff support consists of the services of a secretary and a law clerk. The services of a secretary are reimbursed at the statutory rate of \$12 per hour, while the services of a law clerk are reimbursed at the rate of \$20 per hour. Facilities, including supplies and office equipment appropriate for the function, are reimbursed at the statutory rate of \$60 per day, billable in half-day increments.

As mandated by statute, no county shall receive in any year reimbursement under this grant in an amount that exceeds 20 percent of the amount appropriated. Also, in the event that the total amount counties are eligible to receive as evidenced by claims submitted is greater than the amount appropriated, Act 49, as did Act 37 before it, provides that each county's grant be proportionately reduced to bring the total within the amount appropriated.

Claims must be submitted annually by the counties to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). All claims for calendar year 2024 are to be submitted by April 1, 2025, with payment by June 30. Reimbursement paid in any year is for costs incurred in the immediate prior calendar year.

Senior judges are a resource available to the respective courts at the request of the president judge to assist on a temporary basis the prompt and proper disposition of the business of the court. Caseload, recusals, vacancies, and the absence from the bench of a judge in active service may warrant the temporary assignment of a senior judge. Per diem compensation earned by senior jurists and related expenses are funded by a separate state appropriation; the facilities and staff are funded by the counties.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Section 10(c), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S. Section 1722, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S. Section 1906.1
71 P.S. Section 720.101
Annual Appropriation Act.

FY 2023-24 ACTUAL
 RULE 701 - SENIOR JUDGE SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT
 (Calendar 2023)

County	<u>Secretary</u>		<u>Law Clerk</u>		<u>Facilities</u>		Total Reimbursement
	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Days	Amount	
Adams	0	\$0	0	\$0	1.5	\$90	\$90
Allegheny	3,744	44,928	6,864	137,280	492.5	29,550	\$211,758
Armstrong	57	684	52	1,040	35.5	2,130	3,854
Beaver	258	3,096	0	0	26.0	1,560	4,656
Bedford	98	1,176	0	0	6.5	390	1,566
Berks	2,080	24,960	2,080	41,600	226.5	13,590	80,150
Blair	0	0	0	0	153.5	9,210	9,210
Bradford	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Bucks	1,732	20,784	898	17,960	390.0	23,400	62,144
Butler	1,000	12,000	1,400	28,000	175.0	10,500	50,500
Cambria	1,031	12,372	1,023	20,460	146.0	8,760	41,592
Cameron	2	24	0	0	2.0	120	144
Carbon	52	624	0	0	8.5	510	1,134
Centre	1,056	12,672	0	0	85.0	5,100	17,772
Chester	1,817	21,804	1,817	36,340	260.0	15,600	73,744
Clarion	161	1,932	70	1,400	111.0	6,660	9,992
Clinton	9	108	13	260	4.5	270	638
Columbia	276	3,312	0	0	130.0	7,800	11,112
Crawford	68	816	79	1,580	9.5	570	2,966
Cumberland	837	10,044	0	0	8.0	480	10,524
Dauphin	429	5,148	320	6,400	123.5	7,410	18,958
Delaware	2,076	24,912	2,088	41,760	337.0	20,220	86,892
Elk	66	792	17	340	42.0	2,520	3,652
Erie	1,290	15,480	1,252	25,040	172.0	10,320	50,840
Fayette	667	8,004	803	16,060	111.0	6,660	30,724
Franklin	24	288	24	480	3.0	180	948
Greene	0	0	10	200	8.0	480	680
Huntingdon	136	1,632	142	2,840	58.0	3,480	7,952
Indiana	6	72	10	200	8.5	510	782
Jefferson	49	588	49	980	7.0	420	1,988
Lackawanna	2,842	34,104	2,261	45,220	408.0	24,480	103,804
Lancaster	182	2,184	11	220	48.5	2,910	5,314
Lawrence	194	2,328	194	3,880	28.0	1,680	7,888
Lebanon	1,761	21,132	210	4,200	94.5	5,670	31,002
Lehigh	575	6,900	7	140	102.0	6,120	13,160
Luzerne	0	0	71	1,420	30.0	1,800	3,220
Lycoming	744	8,928	930	18,600	59.5	3,570	31,098
McKean	0	0	0	0	24.0	1,440	1,440
Mercer	12	144	0	0	6.0	360	504
Mifflin	0	0	33	660	11.0	660	1,320
Montgomery	2,252	27,024	2,252	45,040	321.5	19,290	91,354
Northampton	997	11,964	845	16,900	162.5	9,750	38,614

FY 2023-24 ACTUAL
 RULE 701 - SENIOR JUDGE SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT
 (Calendar 2023)

County	<u>Secretary</u>		<u>Law Clerk</u>		<u>Facilities</u>		Total Reimbursement
	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Days	Amount	
Northumberland	585	7,020	585	11,700	191.0	11,460	30,180
Philadelphia	1,617	19,404	1,617	32,340	464.0	27,840	79,584
Potter	0	0	0	0	22.0	1,320	1,320
Schuykill	803	9,636	0	0	114.5	6,870	16,506
Snyder	111	1,332	10	200	37.0	2,220	3,752
Somerset	30	360	238	4,760	25.0	1,500	6,620
Susquehanna	0	0	42	840	0.0	0	840
Tioga	137	1,644	62	1,240	54.5	3,270	6,154
Union	120	1,440	31	620	40.0	2,400	4,460
Venango	170	2,040	93	1,860	229.0	13,740	17,640
Washington	140	1,680	140	2,800	20.0	1,200	5,680
Westmoreland	650	7,800	650	13,000	100.0	6,000	26,800
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
York	324	3,888	324	6,480	40.5	2,430	12,798
TOTAL	33,270.0	\$399,240	29,618.0	\$592,360	5,777.5	\$346,650	\$1,338,250

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Juror Cost Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	1,118	1,118	1,118	1,118
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,118</u>	<u>1,118</u>	<u>1,118</u>	<u>1,118</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	563	1,118	1,118	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	1,118	1,118	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	555	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$555 transferred to other Unified Judicial System appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds grants to counties for partial reimbursement of eligible juror costs incurred. Specifically, the grant reimburses counties for 80 percent of the amounts they expend for compensation (\$25 per day) and travel allowances (\$0.17 per mile) to jurors participating in a trial or grand jury proceeding beyond the first three days of service.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 4561(b), et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Interpreter County Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,473	2,629	3,000	3,000
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,473	2,629	3,000	3,000

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,473	2,629	3,000	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>2,473</u>	<u>2,629</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

-Increase in reimbursement for court interpreter costs - \$371,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This budget request continues a grant to partially reimburse counties for the costs of providing language access services, including foreign and sign language interpreters, telephone and video remote interpreting for court users who need assistance, and other language access services, including the creation of multilingual signage and translation services, in accordance with federal and state law. Providing qualified court interpreters is an essential element of providing access to justice and the cost of doing so has steadily increased each year since the grant's inception.

In 2017, the Supreme Court adopted the Unified Judicial System’s Language Access Plan (LAP). The LAP is a strategic plan for enhancing the ability of limited English proficient and deaf or hard of hearing court users to actively participate in the court proceeding, programs, and services. Examples of LAP deliverables include: a language access judicial bench card, I-Speak cards, and notice of language rights posters that have been created and disseminated to the judicial districts. Additionally, a translation manual has been produced, along with translated court forms; a bi-lingual employee policy and testing protocol has been implemented; as well as continual trainings, communication, and outreach to various constituencies.

Counties often face significant, unexpected expenses related to language access services. In 2023, counties spent over \$6.9 million in language access-related expenses with the grant only providing each county 36% of its requested reimbursement.

Reimbursements requested by the counties are subject to reduction to ensure that a) no county is reimbursed an amount in excess of 30% of the total grant amount, and b) the total amount requested for reimbursement by all counties does not exceed the appropriated amount. When the total amount judicial districts are eligible to receive, as evidenced by claims submitted, is greater than the appropriated amount, each judicial district’s grant is proportionately reduced to bring the total within the amount appropriated.

The judiciary is requesting, on behalf of the counties, an increase of an additional \$371,000, to further increase the reimbursement rate, and bring the grant total to \$3 million. These funds go directly to the county for reimbursement of expenses already incurred related to providing language access in the courts, including the installation of video remote interpreting equipment when an in-person interpreter is not available, in addition to the other services described above.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.
42 Pa.C.S. § 4417

FY 2023-24
COURT INTERPRETER COUNTY GRANT
Qualifying Reimbursements and Applied Reductions
 (Calendar 2023)

County	Courtroom Interpreters Amount	Telephone Interpreting Services Amount	Other Language Access Services Amount	Total Qualified Reimbursement Amount	Reduced Reimbursement Amount
Adams	\$47,142.95	\$5,484.83	\$3,940.30	\$56,568.00	20,215.00
Allegheny	345,503.86	27,637.06	2,132.92	\$375,274.00	134,109.00
Armstrong	1,522.94	0.00	0.00	\$1,523.00	544.00
Beaver	28,518.15	2,137.50	1,625.00	\$32,281.00	11,536.00
Bedford	5,762.64	477.94	0.00	\$6,241.00	2,230.00
Berks	504,152.54	23,452.35	1,845.25	\$529,450.00	189,205.00
Blair	9,101.34	182.78	108.50	\$9,393.00	3,357.00
Bradford	9,216.65	493.65	0.00	\$9,710.00	3,470.00
Bucks	528,333.41	6,541.50	9,514.03	\$544,389.00	194,544.00
Butler	12,798.22	601.70	373.89	\$13,774.00	4,922.00
Cambria	11,438.00	82.00	0.00	\$11,520.00	4,117.00
Cameron	90.00	0.00	0.00	\$90.00	32.00
Carbon	11,553.17	2,320.85	0.00	\$13,874.00	4,958.00
Centre	48,622.52	2,901.90	0.00	\$51,524.00	18,413.00
Chester	258,212.00	3,356.38	785.00	\$262,353.00	93,755.00
Clarion	2,961.10	743.94	21.28	\$3,726.00	1,332.00
Clearfield	8,066.07	0.00	0.00	\$8,066.00	2,882.00
Clinton	6,783.17	0.00	260.00	\$7,043.00	2,517.00
Columbia	6,692.93	1,975.00	0.00	\$8,668.00	3,098.00
Crawford	3,067.76	247.50	0.00	\$3,315.00	1,185.00
Cumberland	223,974.07	5,206.68	0.00	\$229,181.00	81,901.00
Dauphin	328,724.00	12,993.28	435.00	\$342,152.00	122,272.00
Delaware	300,390.91	19,784.57	1,392.50	\$321,568.00	114,916.00
Elk	3,216.15	0.00	0.00	\$3,216.00	1,149.00
Erie	23,157.62	1,711.48	2,806.61	\$27,676.00	9,890.00
Fayette	2,753.68	104.97	0.00	\$2,859.00	1,022.00
Franklin	184,505.09	2,390.65	6,993.85	\$193,890.00	69,289.00
Fulton	8,964.24	0.00	0.00	\$8,964.00	3,203.00
Huntingdon	2,115.68	148.20	0.00	\$2,264.00	809.00
Indiana	7,831.27	49.50	0.00	\$7,881.00	2,816.00
Jefferson	1,669.88	0.00	0.00	\$1,670.00	597.00
Juniata	7,789.87	0.00	0.00	\$7,790.00	2,784.00
Lackawanna	179,123.32	1,407.29	5,452.30	\$185,983.00	66,463.00
Lancaster	370,351.58	5,716.03	672.18	\$376,740.00	134,632.00
Lawrence	20,694.14	302.56	1,700.14	\$22,697.00	8,111.00
Lebanon	80,837.91	1,437.65	0.00	\$82,276.00	29,402.00
Lehigh	232,904.28	8,209.63	0.00	\$241,114.00	86,165.00
Luzerne	450,100.00	7,260.00	1,035.00	\$458,395.00	163,813.00
Lycoming	13,791.48	111.30	1,385.00	\$15,288.00	5,463.00
McKean	3,817.53	264.65		\$4,082.00	1,459.00

FY 2023-24
COURT INTERPRETER COUNTY GRANT
Qualifying Reimbursements and Applied Reductions
 (Calendar 2023)

County	Courtroom Interpreters Amount	Telephone Interpreting Services Amount	Other Language Access Services Amount	Total Qualified Reimbursement Amount	Reduced Reimbursement Amount
Mercer	5,056.32	1,144.80	0.00	\$6,201.00	2,216.00
Mifflin	3,236.33	524.95	1,394.66	\$5,156.00	1,843.00
Monroe	104,219.55	5,709.61	70.00	\$109,999.00	39,309.00
Montgomery	458,371.78	16,948.28	4,129.02	\$479,449.00	171,337.00
Northampton	237,869.28	16,852.21	1,608.69	\$256,330.00	91,603.00
Northumberland	30,928.20	26.75	2,328.00	\$33,283.00	11,894.00
Perry	4,475.52	0.00	0.00	\$4,476.00	1,600.00
Philadelphia	919,352.87	74,940.81	334,523.00	\$741,900.00	265,126.00
Schuylkill	67,226.00	2,736.00	63.00	\$70,025.00	25,024.00
Snyder	1,081.72	76.62	0.00	\$1,158.00	414.00
Somerset	2,263.09	1,408.05	80.00	\$3,751.00	1,340.00
Susquehanna	5,757.83	0.00	0.00	\$5,758.00	2,058.00
Tioga	16,878.05	0.00	0.00	\$16,878.00	6,032.00
Union	9,508.72	0.00	0.00	\$9,509.00	3,398.00
Venango	1,136.69	362.83	0.00	\$1,500.00	536.00
Warren	2,452.99	671.18	0.00	\$3,124.00	1,116.00
Washington	31,194.00	5,313.00	0.00	\$36,507.00	13,046.00
Wayne	6,677.49	239.06	0.00	\$6,917.00	2,472.00
Westmoreland	29,189.39	663.23	0.00	\$29,853.00	10,668.00
Wyoming	2,162.30	0.00	0.00	\$2,162.00	773.00
York	609,988.21	1,765.40	0.00	\$611,754.00	218,618.00
TOTAL	\$6,845,278.45	\$275,118.10	\$386,675.12	\$6,920,158.00	2,473,000.00

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Ethics Advisory Board

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	244	259	306	306
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>281</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>499</u>
Total	525	758	805	805

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>^2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	201	215	261	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>281</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	482	714	760	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2	2	4	4	4	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2	2	4	4	4	4	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	43	44	45	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	43	44	45	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$499 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

^Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$499 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues. This budget is predicated on the expectation that the Act 49 sunset date will be extended.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff - \$46,000

Operating

-Increase in operating expenses - \$1,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	70.32%	72.52%	71.44%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Supreme Court has designated the Pennsylvania Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (JEAB) as the approved body to render advisory opinions and general guidance concerning proper conduct under the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges. Judicial Officers who seek an Advisory Opinion of the JEAB and act in accordance with the opinion(s) rendered, are afforded the “rule of reliance” and consideration as set forth in Rules 103 and 206 of the Rules of the Pennsylvania Judicial Ethics Advisory Board in determining whether discipline should be recommended or imposed.

Since it began issuing Advisory Opinions in July of 2022, the JEAB has received over 670 inquiries and issued nearly 600 official Advisory Opinions, providing prompt, reliable, and consistent advice to Pennsylvania’s approximate 1,200 Judicial Officers.

Because of the frequency and volume of requests received, the Supreme Court not only increased the Board’s volunteer complement from nine to 13 members during 2023, but in 2024 it also authorized the hiring of additional staff, namely an Assistant Legal Counsel and Administrative Support. The increase in both membership and staff has not only reduced the response time in rendering Advisory Opinions, but it also has allowed the Board to more thoroughly research issues and expand upon its duty to issue general guidance.

In keeping with the JEAB’s task of developing and participating in judicial ethics education, including making recommendations to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board, the Board, through the combined efforts of individual Members and staff, have provided hundreds of hours of judicial ethics education since the Board’s inception – a trend which is anticipated to only increase.

As a means of further outreach, the Board initially printed 2,000 copies of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges for distribution. The response to these publications has been overwhelming, with the initial stock being depleted. In addition to printing additional copies of these publications, the Board intends to create additional publications, such as general guidance on topics such as judicial elections and retentions, recusal and disqualifications, reference letter writing, etc., as a means of reinforcing judicial ethics and providing a tangible resource for judges.

Lastly, as the Board continues to establish itself as a resource for Pennsylvania’s Judiciary, the volume and complexity of questions raised by Judicial Officers will only increase. To ensure the ability of the Board to respond to this demand, the dedication of appropriate resources is essential.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et seq.
Annual Appropriation Act.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Conduct Board

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,555	2,555	2,555	2,555
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	2,565	2,565	2,565	2,565

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	2,300	2,257	2,503	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,310	2,267	2,513	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	15	15	15	14	15	14	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	15	15	15	14	15	14	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	255	298	52	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	255	298	52	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$246,000

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses - (\$246,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	81.18%	82.17%	85.88%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania was created as an independent board within the Judicial Branch by an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution adopted on May 18, 1993 and declared in effect by the Governor on August 11, 1993. It is the Judicial Conduct Board's responsibility within the Judicial Branch to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, disability, or impairment and to prosecute deserving cases in the Court of Judicial Discipline.

The board has jurisdiction over Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, Philadelphia Municipal Court Judges and Magisterial District Judges.

Under the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the board is the constitutionally identified agency of state government with the authority to investigate judges for misconduct or physical or mental disability. Its role is unique. The board's system has served Pennsylvania well since its inception in 1993. Some judges have been publicly disciplined for judicial misconduct, others have been confidentially cautioned, and a number have resigned while under inquiry. It is undoubtedly fair to state that the Pennsylvania judiciary is aware of its ethical obligations and the potential consequences for ethical breaches.

As mandated by the Constitution, the board is comprised of twelve members serving staggered four-year terms, as follows: six citizen electors who are neither attorneys nor judges; three judges, including one appellate court judge, one common pleas court judge, and one magisterial district judge; and three attorneys who are not judges. The Governor appoints six members, and the Supreme Court appoints six members. No more than half of the members may be of the same political party.

Members meet regularly to conduct board business. They receive no compensation for their service. Members may not serve more than four consecutive years; however, a member may be reappointed for an additional term after the lapse of one year from the end of the member's previous term. Except for judicial members, no member of the board, during the member's term, may hold a compensated public office or public appointment.

The Constitution requires that the board appoint a Chief Counsel and other necessary staff. Currently, the board has an authorized complement of 15. Six of the approved positions are for licensed attorneys, including the Chief Counsel. The remaining approved positions are for four investigators and five administrative staff.

The Chief Counsel provides legal advice to the board and, along with the other staff attorneys, serves as trial counsel in proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. The board's legal staff is responsible for overseeing the investigation of cases, advising the board as to courses of action concerning cases, and preparing and prosecuting cases before the Court of Judicial Discipline.

In the event of appeals from orders of the Court of Judicial Discipline, board counsel represent the board before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (or the constitutionally provided Special Tribunal if the appeal from the Court of Judicial Discipline involves a member of the Supreme Court).

Board counsel is also tasked with acting as the board's open records officer and open records appeals officer as required by the Commonwealth's Right-to-Know Law. In addition to responding to right-to-know requests, board counsel also represent the board in appeals to Commonwealth Court from right-to-know determinations.

The board is required to administer its own budget, publish and distribute an annual report, exercise supervisory and administrative authority over all board staff, and implement its own rules of procedure. Board headquarters are maintained in the Pennsylvania Judicial Center in Harrisburg.

During calendar year 2024, the board opened 843 confidential requests for investigation. A total of 1008 pending matters were resolved during that same period. Investigative requests are not necessarily resolved in the year in which they are received and may remain active for several years. Of the resolved matters, 27 were dismissed with Letters of Caution, and 10 were dismissed with Letters of Counsel. Formal charges were filed in the Court of Judicial Discipline against two judges. The board also filed one Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay in the Court of Judicial Discipline against one judge.

This appropriation provides funding for the board's operating expenses, annuitant benefits, and the salaries and benefits of the board's staff. Funding of the board's budget request is important so that the board may continue to carry out its core governmental function pursuant to its constitutional mandate.

The prompt and effective operation of Pennsylvania's judicial disciplinary system plays a critical role in promoting and maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice. The sufficient allocation of resources to the Judicial Conduct Board helps demonstrate to all Pennsylvanians that their representatives stand committed to the pursuit of justice.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 18(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 2101 et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court of Judicial Discipline

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	618	618	618	618
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	620	620	620	620

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	413	441	474	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	415	443	476	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2024		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	3	2	3	2	2	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3	2	3	2	2	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	205	177	144	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	205	177	144	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2025-26</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and all benefits for filled staff and annuitant medical benefits - \$33,000

Operating:

-Decrease in miscellaneous operating expenses - (\$33,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	Judicial <u>2025-26</u>
Employee Factor	86.60%	86.46%	87.97%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2024-25: none

2025-26: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Budget Request Funding Needs

The Court of Judicial Discipline seeks the same amount as last year, \$618,000. This amount should be adequate to continue the mission of the Court.

The Court is leanly staffed with only two employees, a counsel and a court administrator. There are five active cases before the Court with more likely to be filed soon. Several of the cases will result in multi-day hearings. There are also two cases with judges serving probationary sanctions which are being supervised by the Court's counsel.

Last year, the Court decided six cases. The cases before the court have become more complex in recent years as they now tend to involve repeated episodes of poor demeanor or multiple counts of unrelated conduct rather than the single instances of misconduct pursued in the past.

The Court

The Court of Judicial Discipline is a court of record established in 1993 under Article V, §18 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The court serves as a trial court for complaints filed by the Judicial Conduct Board alleging judicial misconduct by a judicial officer. To perform its task, it is required by the Constitution to appoint staff and prepare and administer its own budget as provided by law and undertake actions needed to ensure its efficient operation.

The Court hears and decides cases involving allegations of judicial misconduct prosecuted by the Judicial Conduct Board. The court enters findings of fact and conclusions of law and, if misconduct is found to have occurred, imposes an appropriate sanction. Formal charges filed with the court are a matter of public record and all hearings conducted by the court are public proceedings. Proceedings are conducted pursuant to the rules adopted by the court and in accordance with the principles of due process and the Rules of Evidence. Official court records and dockets are maintained and preserved by the Clerk of the Court of Judicial Discipline.

The Court is composed of eight members, four of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court and four appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution, the Supreme Court appointees include two judges, one magisterial district judge, and one non-lawyer elector. The Governor's appointees include one judge, two non-judge members of the bar, and a non-lawyer elector. The members serve without compensation.

Since the court's inception, 120 formal complaints and 49 petitions for interim relief have been submitted for review. For calendar year 2023, the court handled trials or proceedings in eight separate cases. Members of the court supervised pre-trial discovery with the litigants and held pre-trial conferences to ensure the fair and prompt disposition of cases. When the record could not be resolved by way of factual stipulations, trials were promptly scheduled by the court and timely decisions were filed.

Educational Court Functions

In addition to performing the above-noted constitutional functions, the Court of Judicial Discipline has taken an active role by providing educational opportunities for a variety of audiences. The staff of the court has presented programs that educate judicial officers, members of the Pennsylvania Bar, and the general public regarding judicial ethics in general, and the Commonwealth's judicial discipline system.

Additionally, court staff have prepared and presented continuing legal education programs, including presentations throughout Pennsylvania, pertaining to the Commonwealth's system of judicial discipline.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 18(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1601, et seq.

2025-26 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

In response to the Appropriations Committees' request, the following additional information is provided:

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 OBLIGATIONS ROLLED FORWARD TO FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Office of Elder Justice in the Courts	\$497
Judicial Education	\$117,588