

Of the total state government expenditures for fiscal year 2005-06, administrative costs for the judiciary accounted for approximately one-half of one percent. Table 4.1 on page 95 shows the distribution of expenditures across the three branches of government. (With the county reimbursement grant discussed below, the judiciary accounts for approximately 0.6 percent of total state government expenditures.)

Funding for the Unified Judicial System derives from both state and county appropriations. The state pays the salaries for all judicial officers as well as the personnel and operating costs of the entire appellate court system, including the committees of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. Beginning January 1, 2000, in accordance with Act 12 of 1999, the Commonwealth also funds the salaries and benefits for district court administrators transferred to state service effective that date. Table 4.2 on page 96 provides a breakdown of the state appropriations for fiscal year 2005-06.

County Reimbursement Program

The Commonwealth also provides reimbursement to the counties for costs incurred in support of the Common Pleas Courts. Counties are reimbursed for a percentage of juror costs incurred when a trial or grand jury proceeding lasts longer than three days.

In addition, counties have traditionally been reimbursed for personnel and operating costs associated with the administration of the Courts of Common Pleas. Reimbursement is based on a flat rate established by the General Assembly for each authorized Common Pleas judge position.

For each Common Pleas judge position, the General Assembly also requires that counties spend an amount at least equal to the flat reimbursement rate per judge, which was \$70,000 for FY 2005-06.

Court

Finances -

Fiscal

Year

2005-2006

Counties also receive partial reimbursement for expenses they incur to provide support -- facilities and staff services -- to assigned Common Pleas senior judges in accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration (R.J.A.) 701(F). Act 88 of 2001 served as the enabling legislation for the Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant. This grant has been provided each year since its inception in FY 2001-02.

Table 4.3 on page 99 identifies the amounts of reimbursement provided to each county, by grant program, for fiscal year 2005-06.

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

A grant was also provided to Philadelphia to assist with the costs of a new "gun court" recently instituted within its trial courts. Funding for the grant was first provided in FY 2004-05 and continued in 2005-06.

Local, State Government Revenue

The Unified Judicial System is a source of considerable revenue to local and state government. An example of this revenue can be found in Table 4.4 on page 103, which lists fees collected by the appellate courts, the Minor

Judiciary Education Board and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners. Appropriated by the General Assembly, these fees are used to support state-funded court operations.

Although exact figures are not available, the court system raises millions of dollars in revenue for local municipalities. Depending on the police department (local or state) from which a citation is issued, a portion of fines collected is disbursed to local political subdivisions after adjudication within the Unified Judicial System. Some examples of these fines include traffic violations under the vehicle code, violations of local ordinances and certain violations of summary offenses.

Counties also receive court-collected fines, fees and costs. Fees are generated in connection with the commencement of actions or the filing of liens, appeals and accounts, etc. On an annual basis, the collections amount to tens of millions of dollars. The monies are collected by courts at all levels of the system.

Finally, a portion of the revenues collected by the courts is earmarked for the state. Some of these funds are program specific, e.g., Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Fund and the Crime Victims' Compensation Board. Others are used, through Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990, as amended by Act 122 of 2002, to provide funding for the statewide Judicial Computer System. Still other monies collected, such as motor vehicle fines, revert to state general use.

As part of the reform of the judicial discipline process, the Judicial Conduct Board and the Court of Judicial Discipline were established as independent organizations responsible for their own affairs, including financial matters. Pursuant to Act 56 of 1993, however, their annual budget requests are made as separate line items in the Supreme Court's request to the General Assembly on behalf of the judicial branch.

AOPC

Pennsylvania Government FY 2005-06		
<i>General, Special Federal & Other Funds Expenditures</i>		
Branch	\$ Amount (Millions)	Percent of Total
Executive	53,590,242	98.76
Legislative	347,765	0.64
Judicial	289,013	0.53
Judicial - County Reimbursement for Courts	37,479	0.07
Total	54,264,499	

Totals shown exclude capital budget.

Note: The governor's budget showed FY 2005-06 funds available to the judiciary as \$308,315,000. Actual total available funds, including supplemental funding per Act 2-A of 2006 in the amount of \$7,591,000 for the Courts of Common Pleas appropriation and \$2,227,000 for the magisterial district judges appropriation, plus \$8,177,000 in net transfers from the Judicial Computer System restrict receipt account were \$326,429,000. The state total operating expenditures shown here were adjusted to reflect this difference.

Source: FY 2006-07 Governor's Recommended Budget

Table 4.1

Appropriations	
Appropriation	2005-06 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$13,801
Justices' Expenses*	180
Civil Procedural Rules Committee*	423
Criminal Procedural Rules Committee	430
Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee	203
Judicial Council	406
Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee	198
Appellate Court/Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees	180
Committee on Rules of Evidence	169
Minor Court Rules Committee	178
Superior Court	26,679
Judges' Expenses	237
Commonwealth Court	16,060
Judges' Expenses	143
Court Administrator	9,220
Court Improvement Program (F)	430
District Court Administrators*	16,400
Court Management Education	157
Unified Judicial System Security++	1,058
Statewide Judicial Computer System## (R)	41,727
Integrated Criminal Justice System	2,095
Courts of Common Pleas**	76,027
Common Pleas Senior Judges	4,217
Common Pleas Judicial Education	1,346
Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges	40
Magisterial District Judges+	58,530
Magisterial District Judge Education	605
Philadelphia Traffic Court	924
Philadelphia Municipal Court	5,842
Philadelphia Law Clerks	39
Domestic Violence	204
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Table 4.2

Appropriations, continued

Appropriation	2005-06 (thousands)
County Court Reimbursement	33,036
Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant#	125
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement*	2,000
Juror Cost Reimbursement*	1,369
Court Costs (Court Consolidation)	949
Judicial Conduct Board	1,202
Court of Judicial Discipline	451
State Funds	275,123
Federal Funds (F)	430
Restricted Receipts (R)	41,727
Total	\$317,280

* As authorized by Act 1-A of 2005, funds were transferred from other judiciary appropriations and deposited into the JCS restricted receipt account in the following amounts: Judicial Expenses - \$57,000, Civil Procedural Rules - \$77,000, District Court Administrators - \$754,000, Juror Cost Reimbursement - \$185,000 and Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant - \$583,504, for a total of \$1,656,504. These transfers reduced the funds available to the respective appropriations, but did not reduce the various appropriated amounts.

** Act 2-A of 2006 provided \$7.591 million in supplemental funding for the FY 2005-06 Common Pleas appropriation to correct a deficit. Because funds were needed prior to the passage of Act 2-A, \$7.423 million (net of \$168,000 later returned to JCS restricted receipt account) was advanced in May from the JCS restricted receipt account to meet cash flow needs. Act 2-A provided the supplemental funds in the form of a continuing appropriation as well as language to authorize the transfer in December 2006 of excess funds to the JCS restricted receipt account.

+ Act 2-A of 2006 provided \$2.227 million in supplemental funding for the FY 2005-06 magisterial district judges appropriation to correct a deficit. Because funds were needed prior to the passage of Act 2-A, a total of \$2.023 million was transferred in May from the following sources to meet cash flow needs: \$1.269 million from surplus funds in other UJS appropriations and \$754,000 (net of \$204,000 later returned to JCS restricted receipt account) from the JCS restricted receipt account. Act 2-A provided the supplemental funds in the form of a continuing appropriation, and language to authorize the transfer in December 2006 of excess funds to the JCS restricted receipt account.

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Table 4.2, cont'd.

Appropriations, continued

- ++ The FY 2005-06 UJS Security appropriation was provided in the form of a continuing appropriation.
- # The FY 2005-06 Philadelphia Gun Court Reimbursement Grant is a two-year continuing appropriation, expiring June 30, 2007. Also available during FY 2005-06 was \$525,000 appropriated in FY 2004-05 as a two-year continuing appropriation, expiring June 30, 2006.
- ## The Statewide Judicial Computer System is funded through a restricted account in accordance with Act 64 of 1987 and Act 59 of 1990 as amended by Act 122 of 2002. The funds in the account are supplemented periodically by the transfer of available surplus funds at year end from certain UJS appropriations as authorized by the annual appropriation acts. The full amount of the FY 2005-06 \$41,727,000 appropriation was drawn from the restricted receipt account, consisting of \$36,369,000 of Act 64/Act 59/Act 122 funds and \$5,358,000 in FY 2004-05 funds transferred to the restricted receipt account from other judiciary appropriations in accordance with Act 7-A of 2004. An additional \$96,400 was derived from fees charged to users for information generated by the Magisterial District Judge System; and \$71,600 was derived from augmentations as mandated by Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). The total amount available to the Judicial Computer System in FY 2005-06 was \$41,895,000.

Table 4.2, cont'd.

**County Reimbursements for Courts
FY 2005-06**

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Adams	\$1,228.66	\$210,000.00	\$954.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$212,182.66
Allegheny	94,346.64	2,870,000.00	199,420.00	0.00	949,000.00	4,112,766.64
Armstrong	320.80	140,000.00	330.00	0.00	0.00	140,650.80
Beaver	3,582.44	420,000.00	33,668.00	0.00	0.00	457,250.44
Bedford	0.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140,000.00
Berks	18,869.42	840,000.00	153,700.00	0.00	0.00	1,012,569.42
Blair	7,090.50	280,000.00	6,404.00	0.00	0.00	293,494.50
Bradford	710.96	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140,710.96
Bucks	35,354.70	910,000.00++	31,310.00	0.00	0.00	976,664.70
Butler	4,573.18	350,000.00	34,068.00	0.00	0.00	388,641.18
Cambria	3,813.12	350,000.00	34,124.00	0.00	0.00	387,937.12
Cameron	0.00	10,500.00	880.00	0.00	0.00	11,380.00
Carbon	321.62	140,000.00	60,746.00	0.00	0.00	201,067.62
Centre	1,151.37	210,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	211,151.37
Chester	18,833.37	910,000.00**	23,856.00	0.00	0.00	952,689.37
Clarion	1,258.85	70,000.00	8,978.00	0.00	0.00	80,236.85
Clearfield	4,436.54	140,000.00	2,804.00	0.00	0.00	147,240.54
Clinton	1,203.22	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	141,203.22
Columbia	0.00	109,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109,220.00
Crawford	4,548.84	210,000.00	1,294.00	0.00	0.00	215,842.84
Cumberland	10,447.39	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	360,447.39
Dauphin	41,586.64	560,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	601,586.64
Delaware	20,306.85	1,330,000.00+	28,184.00	0.00	0.00	1,378,490.85
Elk	641.06	59,500.00	6,754.00	0.00	0.00	66,895.06

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County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2005-06

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Erie	\$4,093.55	\$630,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$634,093.55
Fayette	24,111.00	350,000.00	804.00	0.00	0.00	374,915.00
Forest	0.00	14,000.00	152.00	0.00	0.00	14,152.00
Franklin	2,518.52	252,000.00	108.00	0.00	0.00	254,626.52
Fulton	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.00
Greene	8,758.33	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	148,758.33
Huntingdon	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,000.00
Indiana	1,961.67	210,000.00+	384.00	0.00	0.00	212,345.67
Jefferson	2,360.41	70,000.00	3,688.00	0.00	0.00	76,048.41
Juniata	0.00	47,600.00	346.00	0.00	0.00	47,946.00
Lackawanna	16,289.75	490,000.00	100,876.00	0.00	0.00	607,165.75
Lancaster	19,137.43	910,000.00*	5,964.00	0.00	0.00	935,101.43
Lawrence	3,684.90	280,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283,684.90
Lebanon	1,423.36	280,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	281,423.36
Lehigh	29,763.87	700,000.00	17,132.00	0.00	0.00	746,895.87
Luzerne	18,567.39	630,000.00	117,304.00	0.00	0.00	765,871.39
Lycoming	11,142.62	350,000.00	1,716.00	0.00	0.00	362,858.62
McKean	0.00	140,000.00+	2,680.00	0.00	0.00	142,680.00
Mercer	3,364.44	280,000.00+	5,160.00	0.00	0.00	288,524.44
Mifflin	312.91	70,000.00	2,324.00	0.00	0.00	72,636.91
Monroe	6,465.42	420,000.00+	5,160.00	0.00	0.00	431,625.42
Montgomery	49,870.54	1,470,000.00+	40,392.00	0.00	0.00	1,560,262.54
Montour	0.00	30,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,800.00
Northampton	7,959.63	490,000.00	38,020.00	0.00	0.00	535,979.63

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County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2005-06

County	Juror Cost	County Court	Senior Judge	Philadelphia Gun Court	Court Accounts	Total
Northumberland	\$0.00	\$210,000.00	\$9,616.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$219,616.00
Perry	439.30	92,400.00	2,076.00	0.00	0.00	94,915.30
Philadelphia	620,836.52	10,075,327.00	312,992.00	125,000.00	0.00	11,134,155.52
Pike	3,214.33	70,000.00	14,500.00	0.00	0.00	87,714.33
Potter	783.07	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,783.07
Schuylkill	5,092.41	420,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	425,092.41
Snyder	2,310.38	65,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68,110.38
Somerset	3,429.57	210,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	213,429.57
Sullivan	0.00	13,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,300.00
Susquehanna	0.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70,000.00
Tioga	325.15	70,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	71,325.15
Union	7,271.57	74,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	81,471.57
Venango	9,683.20	140,000.00	5,178.00	0.00	0.00	154,861.20
Warren	575.35	126,000.00	3,100.00	0.00	0.00	129,675.35
Washington	6,720.70	350,000.00	55,714.00	0.00	0.00	412,434.70
Wayne	1,193.26	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71,193.26
Westmoreland	15,147.15	770,000.00	5,980.00	0.00	0.00	791,127.15
Wyoming	266.78	56,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,966.78
York	20,299.35	840,000.00	36,656.00	0.00	0.00	896,955.35
Transfer to JCS	185,000.00	0.00	583,504.00	0.00	0.00	768,504.00
Lapse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,369,000.00	33,035,327.00	2,000,000.00	125,000.00	949,000.00	37,478,327.00

* Includes one additional judge as per Act 105 of 2000.

** Includes two additional judges as per Act 105 of 2000.

+ Includes one additional judge as per Act 215 of 2002.

++ Includes two additional judges as per Act 215 of 2002.

County Reimbursements for Courts, continued
FY 2005-06

Funding Methodologies, continued:

County Court - The grant provides reimbursement for costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. For FY 2005-06, the reimbursement was paid at a rate of \$70,000 per authorized Common Pleas position whether filled or vacant. In order for counties to receive the full reimbursement, they must provide a level of support at least equal to the reimbursement rate per authorized position. Nevertheless, no county will receive less than 77.5% of the actual reimbursement for court costs provided to it from state funds appropriated for the fiscal year July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981.

Senior Judge - The grant provides partial reimbursement for expenses counties incur to provide support -- facilities and staff services -- to assigned Common Pleas Court senior judges in accordance with Pa. Rule of Judicial Administration 701. Facilities include the use of judicial chambers, office equipment and supplies; staff services include the services of law clerks and secretaries. The use of facilities is reimbursed at the current statutory rate of \$60 per day, billable in half-day increments. Services of a secretary are reimbursed at \$12 per hour, and the services of a law clerk at \$20 per hour. For FY 2005-06, the grant was paid based on requests for reimbursement submitted by counties for costs incurred during calendar year 2005.

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

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

Fees That Support State Operations	
Appropriation	2005-06 (thousands)
Supreme Court	\$422
Pa. Board of Law Examiners	1,872
Judicial Computer System*	167
Superior Court	228
Commonwealth Court	173
Magisterial District Judge Education	36
Court Management Education	3
Court Administrator	6
Total	\$2,907
<p>*Includes revenues collected under Act 119 of 1996 (Jen and Dave's Law). These collections provided \$71,600 to support the "Jen/Dave" functions during FY 2005-06. The remainder was derived from public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the Magisterial District Judge System.</p>	

Table 4.4