

**THE JUDICIARY
OVERVIEW**

The Judiciary is a separate branch of New Jersey State government and is organized into 15 vicinages encompassing the 21 counties in New Jersey and the Administrative Office of the Courts, which provides the necessary administrative support services to the courts. The Budget includes court operations, which currently is comprised of the Supreme Court, Superior Court–Appellate Division, Civil, Criminal and Family Courts, and Court Reporting Services. The Judiciary is also responsible for oversight, supervision and technical support of the 537 locally funded Municipal Courts located throughout New Jersey. Probation Services is responsible for the statewide supervision of all probationers and services provided in the 15 vicinages. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides legal, administrative, and data processing support services through the central office and 15 trial court offices throughout the State.

The Judiciary has the third largest operating budget within State government and is the third largest employer of State employees in New Jersey. Pursuant to P.L. 1993, c. 275, the State became responsible for certain county court and probation costs on January 1, 1995, and provided for a phase-in of State funding of court unification.

The fiscal 2001 recommendation of \$419.1 million provides an increase of \$8.9 million to support additional State match for the child support enforcement program; \$3.9 million for the Information Services Division which includes \$2.2 million to modernize the Family Division’s case tracking system and \$1.7 million to allow for electronic filing of pleadings in the Civil–Law and Family Dissolution sections; \$530,000 funding increase for the Judiciary’s Line of Credit needs; and \$386,000 to continue drug courts in Camden and Essex counties.

The State and trial court operations budget includes funding for 432 judgeships and 8,971 support and administrative personnel from all fund sources, including 10 judgeships and 30 staff supported through the Legal Services Trust Fund pursuant to P.L. 1996, c. 52.

The Budget also includes \$50 million in federal funds and the State match of \$22.6 million for the continuation of the Title IV–D Child Support and Paternity Program.

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS BY FUND
(thousands of dollars)

Year Ending June 30, 1999						Year Ending June 30, 2001		
Orig. & (S) Supplemental	Reapp. & (R) Recpts.	Transfers & (E) Emergencies	Total Available	Expended		2000 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recommended
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	Direct State Services	410,472	419,362	419,362
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	Total General Fund	410,472	419,362	419,362
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	GRAND TOTAL	410,472	419,362	419,362

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SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS BY PROGRAM (thousands of dollars)

Year Ending June 30, 1999					Year Ending June 30, 2001			
Orig. & (S) Supplemental	Reapp. & (R) Recpts.	Transfers & (E) Emergencies	Total Available	Expended		2000 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recommended
					DIRECT STATE SERVICES - GENERAL FUND			
					Judicial Services			
3,886	264	330	4,480	4,449	Supreme Court	4,289	4,244	4,244
13,557	194	828	14,579	14,570	Superior Court-Appellate Division	14,663	14,685	14,685
77,706	8,287	-496	85,497	82,730	Civil Courts	82,470	81,798	81,798
59,759	1,318	1,294	62,371	62,141	Criminal Courts	66,106	65,892	65,892
65,635	3,677	-4,674	64,638	64,495	Family Courts	73,865	75,303	75,303
794	120	-167	747	745	Municipal Courts	822	807	807
87,690	4,685	-2,023	90,352	89,389	Probation Services	96,153	98,596	98,596
2,350	257	5,677	8,284	8,257	Court Reporting	7,242	7,238	7,238
1,409	249	1,233	2,891	2,750	Public Affairs and Education	1,866	1,866	1,866
10,910	283	11,840	23,033	22,089	Information Services	15,179	19,230	19,230
33,915	1,848	5,117	40,880	40,700	Trial Court Services	38,505	39,374	39,374
7,638	634	2,944	11,216	10,205	Management and Administration	9,312	10,329	10,329
<u>365,249</u>	<u>21,816</u>	<u>21,903</u>	<u>408,968</u>	<u>402,520</u>	<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>410,472</u>	<u>419,362</u>	<u>419,362</u>
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	<i>Subtotal Direct State Services - General Fund</i>	410,472	419,362	419,362
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	TOTAL DIRECT STATE SERVICES	410,472	419,362	419,362
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	410,472	419,362	419,362

10. PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
15. JUDICIAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine in a fair and expeditious manner the cases of all kinds which are brought to court.
2. To assist the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in carrying out the constitutional responsibility vested in that office as the administrative head of the entire New Jersey court system.
3. To provide the services and direct support necessary for the effective operation of the Judicial system throughout the State.

PROGRAM CLASSIFICATIONS

01. **Supreme Court.** The State Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and is the State court of final appeal. Pursuant to Article VI, Section V of the New Jersey Constitution, appeals may be taken to the Supreme Court in causes determined by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court involving a question arising under the Constitution of the United States or of this State; in causes in which there is a dissent in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court; in capital causes; on certification by the Supreme Court itself to the Superior Court and where provided by rules of the Supreme Court, to the inferior courts; and in such other causes as may be provided by law.

Pursuant to Article VI, Section II of the Constitution, the Supreme Court makes rules governing the administration of the courts in the State. The Supreme Court also administers programs that are wholly or partially reimbursable by special fees, such as the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, Attorney Discipline, Trial Attorney Certification and the Bar Admissions Financial Committee.

02. **Superior Court, Appellate Division.** The Superior Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section III of the Constitution, includes an Appellate Division. The Appellate Division hears appeals from the Law and Chancery Divisions of the Superior Court, the Tax Court, and State administrative agencies.
03. **Civil Courts.** The Civil Courts include the Civil Part of the Law Division of Superior Court, the General Equity Part of the Chancery Division, and the Tax Court.

The Tax Court is a special category within Civil Courts. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A, it has jurisdiction to hear tax appeals of taxpayers and taxing districts with regard to assessment, railroad assessments levied by the State, sales taxes, franchise taxes, gross receipts and all other taxes levied by the State. The Court also hears appeals on homestead rebate denials issued by the Director of the Division of Taxation and appeals by taxing districts from both the equalization tables promulgated by the Director of the Division of Taxation for the distribution of school aid and the equalization tables promulgated by the various counties for the purpose of distributing costs of county government.

04. **Criminal Courts.** The Criminal Part of the Law Division of the Superior Court hears and determines all serious criminal cases following grand jury indictment. It also hears appeals from Municipal Courts.
05. **Family Courts.** The Family Courts hear and determine all causes involving the family including those causes previously heard by the Matrimonial Part of the Superior Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts.
06. **Municipal Courts.** The municipal courts are funded directly by the municipalities, but the State supports a unit within the Administrative Office of the Courts to train municipal court judges and clerks, promulgate manuals of procedures, collect data on municipal court operations, conduct studies for the improvement of municipal courts, works with other State agencies on matters involving the municipal courts, and also administers the Automated Traffic System, a program which is wholly reimbursable by special fees.
07. **Probation Services.** Probation Services supervises probation operations statewide, establishes and monitors standards, conducts research and field review of probation programs, coordinates community services programs and operates the Intensive Supervision Program. Additionally, it oversees both the collections of all court imposed financial obligations and the Child Support Enforcement operations statewide.
08. **Court Reporting.** Court proceedings are recorded verbatim either by court reporters or by sound recordings, as provided by Supreme Court rules.
09. **Public Affairs and Education.** Responsibilities of the units within this program, formerly known as Legal and Professional Services, include coordination and/or provision of legislative liaison services, research and analysis, and coordination of the Judicial Performance Program, Media/Public Information.
10. **Information Services.** The Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on court operations, including statistical analysis and reporting, records management, and management information systems.
11. **Trial Court Services.** This program classification, formerly known as Field Operations, includes the Division of Trial Court Support Operations, which provides technical assistance to the statewide trial level courts in areas such as case management, management structure, Interpreter and Translation Services, and coordination of Volunteer Services.

In the Trial Courts, this program classification includes Trial Court Administrators who serve as the administrative arm for the Assignment Judge, as well as the vicinage finance, accounting, purchasing and human resources functions.
12. **Management and Administration.** Provides overhead services in such areas as budgeting and accounting, purchasing, property maintenance, and personnel.

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EVALUATION DATA

	Actual FY 1998	Actual FY 1999	Revised FY 2000	Budget Estimate FY 2001
PROGRAM DATA				
Supreme Court				
Court Year--July 1 to June 30				
Appeals				
Added	192	164	190	200
Disposed	209	181	185	200
Pending June 30	130	113	118	118
Certifications added				
Motions added	1,506	1,415	1,550	1,575
Disciplinary proceedings added	1,742	1,515	1,600	1,650
Disciplinary proceedings added	258	358	340	350
Superior Court-Appellate Division				
Appeals				
Added	7,653	7,516	7,666	7,742
Disposed	7,728	7,300	7,500	7,500
Pending June 30	6,099	6,315	6,481	6,723
Motions added	8,380	8,360	8,400	8,500
Civil Courts				
Civil Cases				
Added	123,904	117,689	114,158	110,733
Disposed	131,513	127,484	123,659	119,949
Pending June 30	145,919	137,259	127,758	118,542
Average time to disposition (months)	13.3	12.9	12.4	12.0
Special Civil Component				
Added	435,010	424,184	433,476	437,811
Disposed	438,445	434,445	438,813	443,201
Pending June 30	33,692	37,239	31,902	26,512
Average time to disposition (months)9	1.0	.9	.7
General Equity				
Added	4,958	5,231	5,231	5,231
Disposed	5,431	5,502	5,502	5,502
Pending June 30	3,078	2,880	2,609	2,338
Average time to disposition (months)	6.8	6.3	5.7	5.1
Automobile Arbitration				
Cases scheduled	42,044	48,431	50,000	50,000
Cases removed	2,034	2,093	2,000	2,000
Cases settled prior to hearing	4,638	4,865	5,000	5,000
Cases arbitrated	18,089	16,353	18,000	18,000
Trial de novo requests	11,639	12,515	12,500	12,500
Trials de novo completed	196	614	700	700
Personal Injury Arbitration				
Cases scheduled	20,949	21,640	22,000	22,000
Cases removed	1,060	966	1,000	500
Cases settled prior to hearing	1,985	1,390	1,400	1,400
Cases arbitrated	8,086	7,034	7,600	7,000
Trial de novo requests	5,389	5,130	5,500	5,500
Trials de novo completed	115	239	250	250
Other Civil Arbitration				
Cases Scheduled (a)	---	---	---	33,000
Tax Court				
Local & State Appeals				
Added	7,124	9,356	6,000	6,000
Closed	9,390	7,005	6,600	6,600
Pending June 30	9,367	8,718	8,118	7,518

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	Actual FY 1998	Actual FY 1999	Revised FY 2000	Budget Estimate FY 2001
Criminal Courts				
Criminal Cases				
Added	49,807	49,075	49,566	50,062
Disposed	49,787	51,694	52,211	52,733
Pending June 30	16,143	14,341	13,019	11,683
Average time to disposition (months)	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.7
Public Defender Eligibility Review				
Applications	66,298	62,423	63,047	63,677
Applications approved for representation	59,668	59,302	59,894	60,494
Family Courts				
Dissolution				
Added	57,190	57,438	58,012	58,592
Disposed	57,291	57,560	58,135	58,716
Pending June 30	21,981	21,882	21,759	21,635
Average time to disposition (months)	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4
Juvenile Delinquency				
Added	96,400	88,761	88,761	88,761
Disposed	97,769	91,289	91,289	91,289
Pending June 30	12,884	10,481	7,953	5,425
Average time to disposition (months)	1.6	1.4	1.0	.7
Non-Dissolution				
Added	149,372	155,724	163,510	171,686
Disposed	148,274	158,409	166,329	174,646
Pending June 30	14,795	12,048	9,229	6,269
Average time to disposition (months)	1.2	.9	.7	.4
Domestic Violence				
Added	60,970	60,897	60,288	59,685
Disposed	60,640	61,334	60,721	60,114
Pending June 30	3,256	2,821	2,388	1,959
Average time to disposition (months)6	.6	.5	.4
Other Family - Abuse/Negligence Complaints				
Added	2,576	2,970	3,713	4,381
Disposed	2,217	2,674	3,343	3,944
Pending June 30	2,597	2,992	3,362	3,799
Average time to disposition (months)	14.1	13.4	12.1	11.6
Other Family - Adoption Complaints				
Added	2,265	2,306	2,329	2,352
Disposed	2,190	2,338	2,361	2,384
Pending June 30	648	615	583	551
Average time to disposition (months)	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.8
Other Family - Child Placement Review				
Added	4,331	4,393	4,481	4,571
Disposed	4,029	4,305	4,391	4,479
Pending June 30	9,612	9,648	9,738	9,830
Average time to disposition (months)	28.6	26.9	26.6	26.3
Other Family - Juvenile/Family Crisis Petition				
Added	1,527	1,512	1,436	1,364
Disposed	1,497	1,633	1,465	1,392
Pending June 30	305	186	157	129
Average time to disposition (months)	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.1
Other Family - Termination of Parental Rights Complaints				
Added	674	842	1,263	1,478
Disposed	663	624	936	1,095
Pending June 30	449	668	995	1,378
Average time to disposition (months)	8.1	12.8	12.8	15.1

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	Actual FY 1998	Actual FY 1999	Revised FY 2000	Budget Estimate FY 2001
Other Family - Other				
Added	11,526	11,630	11,514	11,399
Disposed	11,948	11,992	11,872	11,753
Pending June 30	1,680	1,331	973	619
Average time to disposition (months)	1.7	1.3	1.1	.6
Volunteer Services				
Number of Volunteers	5,231	5,492	5,630	5,771
Number of Volunteer Hours Served	299,038	313,989	321,838	329,883
Municipal Courts				
Non-Traffic Violations				
Indictables	163,782	158,927	154,216	149,645
Disorderly Person	383,670	372,199	361,071	350,276
Other Non-Traffic	152,843	156,958	161,184	165,524
Traffic Violations				
Drunk Driving	37,825	37,717	37,609	37,501
Moving Violations	2,403,288	2,440,396	2,478,077	2,516,340
Parking	2,777,637	2,714,004	2,651,829	2,591,078
Probation Services				
Adults Under Supervision	88,414	91,043	91,616	92,193
Juveniles Under Supervision	16,425	16,756	16,917	17,201
Intensive Supervision Program				
Applications	3,449	3,193	3,400	3,400
Assessment Reports	1,295	1,078	1,360	1,360
Resentencing Panel Hearings	2,664	3,360	3,554	3,554
Participants	987	1,150	1,217	1,217
Revocations	274	396	384	384
Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program				
Applications	287	273	300	300
Assessment Reports	250	237	261	261
Participants	186	190	200	200
Revocations	47	80	80	80
Child Support & Paternity - Title IV-D				
Child Support Hearings	114,194	116,477	118,806	120,790
Collections	\$635,696,832	\$682,738,397	\$735,991,992	\$780,151,511
Checks Distributed	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,800,000
Information Services				
System Installation Sites	4	6	7	---
PERSONNEL DATA				
Affirmative Action Data				
Male Minority	430	491	491	491
Male Minority %	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.0
Female Minority	1,987	2,188	2,188	2,188
Female Minority %	23.0	25.0	25.0	23.0
Total Minority	2,417	2,679	2,679	2,679
Total Minority %	28.0	30.0	30.0	29.0
Position Data				
Filled Positions by Funding Source				
State Supported	7,391	7,542	7,506	7,841
Federal	1,162	1,188	1,294	1,363
All Other	170	178	173	199
Total Positions	8,723	8,908	8,973	9,403
Filled Positions by Program Class				
Supreme Court	161	169	167	176
Superior Court-Appellate Division	219	223	237	222
Civil Courts	1,854	1,810	1,746	1,877
Criminal Courts	1,398	1,403	1,393	1,410

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	Actual FY 1998	Actual FY 1999	Revised FY 2000	Budget Estimate FY 2001
Family Courts	1,595	1,736	1,755	1,908
Municipal Courts	55	53	51	65
Probation Services	2,477	2,508	2,499	2,648
Court Reporting	126	118	112	103
Public Affairs and Education	19	27	25	24
Information Services	128	133	134	165
Trial Court Services	556	593	711	673
Management and Administration	135	135	143	132
Total Positions	8,723	8,908	8,973	9,403

Notes:

Actual payroll counts are reported for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 as of December and revised fiscal year 2000 as of September. The Budget Estimate for fiscal year 2001 reflects the number of positions funded. Actual fiscal year 1998 program data does not account for adjustments made in fiscal year 1999.

(a) New data category.

APPROPRIATIONS DATA (thousands of dollars)

Year Ending June 30, 1999					Year Ending June 30, 2001				
Orig. & (S)Supple- mental	Reapp. & (R)Recpts.	Transfers & (E)Emer- gencies	Total Available	Expended	Prog. Class.	2000 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recom- mended	
<u>DIRECT STATE SERVICES</u>									
Distribution by Fund and Program									
3,886	264	330	4,480	4,449	01	4,289	4,244	4,244	
13,557	194	828	14,579	14,570	02	14,663	14,685	14,685	
77,706	8,287	-496	85,497	82,730	03	82,470	81,798	81,798	
59,759	1,318	1,294	62,371	62,141	04	66,106	65,892	65,892	
65,635	3,677	-4,674	64,638	64,495	05	73,865	75,303	75,303	
794	120	-167	747	745	06	822	807	807	
87,690	4,685	-2,023	90,352	89,389	07	96,153	98,596	98,596	
2,350	257	5,677	8,284	8,257	08	7,242	7,238	7,238	
1,409	249	1,233	2,891	2,750	09	1,866	1,866	1,866	
10,910	283	11,840	23,033	22,089	10	15,179	19,230	19,230	
33,915	1,848	5,117	40,880	40,700	11	38,505	39,374	39,374	
7,638	634	2,944	11,216	10,205	12	9,312	10,329	10,329	
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	Total Direct State Services		410,472^(a)	419,362	419,362
Distribution by Fund and Object									
Personal Services:									
---	---	---	---	138		138	138	138	
---	---	---	---	807		794	794	794	
---	---	---	---	46,938		49,906	49,906	49,906	
287,093	9,056	5,735	301,884	253,709		279,691	280,053	280,053	
<i>287,093</i>	<i>9,056</i>	<i>5,735</i>	<i>301,884</i>	<i>301,592</i>	Total Personal Services		330,529	330,891	330,891
8,705	806	-1,406	8,105	7,854		8,293	8,398	8,398	
27,334	2,146	3,928	33,408	32,238		27,329	27,289	27,289	
2,118	338	-543	1,913	1,871		2,098	2,155	2,155	
Special Purpose:									
200	63	-20	243	236	01	200	200	200	
	1,928								
---	3,857 ^R	-1,928	3,857	1,934	03	---	---	---	
3,000	154	---	3,154	2,400	03	--- ^(b)	---	---	
---	11	-11	---	---					
---	81	254	335	182	04	---	---	---	
75	26	-22	79	78	04	---	---	---	
---	---	---	---	---	05	75	75	75	
---	---	---	---	---	05	1,000	1,000	1,000	
---	---	---	---	---	05	--- ^(c)	---	---	

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Year Ending June 30, 1999					Year Ending June 30, 2001				
Orig. & (S)Supplemental	Reapp. & (R)Recpts.	Transfers & (E)Emergencies	Total Available	Expended	Prog. Class.	2000 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recommended	
DIRECT STATE SERVICES									
---	39	---	39	39					
4,701	188	1,428	6,317	6,317	05	---	---	---	
9,342	1,507	41	11,129	10,336	05	4,846	6,198	6,198	
1,466	239 ^R	-64	1,567	1,538	07	9,519	9,519	9,519	
16,856	615	-1,378	16,093	16,092	07	1,892	1,892	1,892	
---	43	---	43	25	07	17,792	20,499	20,499	
---	---	---	---	---	07	---	---	---	
---	---	---	---	---	10	---	2,214	2,214	
---	---	---	---	---	10	---	1,701	1,701	
288	28	117	433	430	12	458	458	458	
---	5	---	5	---	12	---	---	---	
4,071	521	15,772	20,364	19,358		6,441	6,873	6,873	
365,249	21,816	21,903	408,968	402,520	Grand Total State Appropriation		410,472	419,362	419,362
OTHER RELATED APPROPRIATIONS									
Federal Funds									
223 ^S	862	25	1,110	895	04	100	520	520	
11,407									
398 ^S	514	2,181	14,500	12,838	05	12,041	14,550	14,550	
39,237	-2,296	-1,962	34,979	33,964	07	38,232	44,077	44,077	
---	980	---	980	979	10	---	---	---	
51,265	60	244	51,569	48,676	Total Federal Funds		50,373	59,147	59,147
All Other Funds									
---	28				01	9,172	10,105	10,105	
---	5,472 ^R	8,171	13,671	8,172					
---	1				03	377	442	442	
---	412 ^R	60	473	412					
---	13				05	---	---	---	
---	27 ^R	---	40	---					
---	5,527				06	8,209	8,310	8,310	
---	9,098 ^R	6,569	21,194	9,423					
---	774				07	1,329	1,568	1,568	
---	1,835 ^R	922	3,531	1,700					
---	604				10	565	805	805	
---	915 ^R	329	1,848	424					
---	24	20	44	12	12	---	---	---	
---	24,730	16,071	40,801	20,143	Total All Other Funds		19,652	21,230	21,230
416,514	46,606	38,218	501,338	471,339	GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS		480,497	499,739	499,739

Notes

- The fiscal year 2000 appropriation has been adjusted for the allocation of salary program; and has been adjusted to reflect a fiscal year 1999 supplemental appropriation for Twelve Additional Judges effective fiscal year 2000 pursuant to P.L. 1999, c.104.
- Appropriation of \$3,000,000 has been distributed to applicable operating accounts.
- Appropriation of \$3,300,000 has been distributed to applicable operating accounts.

Language Recommendations -- Direct State Services - General Fund

The unexpended balances as of June 30, 2000 in the Civil Arbitration Program are appropriated subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

The unexpended balances as of June 30, 2000 in the Drug Court Pilot Initiative accounts are appropriated for the same purposes, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

Receipts from charges to certain Special Purpose accounts listed hereinabove are appropriated for services provided to these funds.

Receipts from charges to the Superior Court Trust Fund, NJ Lawyers Fund for Client Protection, Disciplinary Oversight Committee, Board on Attorney Certification, Bar Admission Financial Committee, Parents' Education Fund, Automated Traffic System Fund, Municipal Court Administrator Certification, Comprehensive Enforcement Program, and Courts Computerized Information Systems Fund are appropriated for services provided to these funds.

The unexpended balances as of June 30, 2000 not to exceed \$2,000,000 in these respective accounts are appropriated subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

NOTES