THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Supreme Court: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $13,239,000

This appropriation funds the salaries and benefits of the seven commissioned Justices and staff, annuitant benefits, operating expenses and fixed assets necessary for judicial and administrative operations.

Justices' Expenses: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $115,000

This appropriation funds the vouchered business expenses of the Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court to enable them to fulfill their constitutionally-mandated responsibilities to administer the Unified Judicial System.

Judicial Council: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $137,000

This appropriation funds the personnel and operating requirements of the Judicial Council of PA and its staff, who perform related administrative work for the Supreme Court.

Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $299,000

This appropriation funds the staff personnel costs, operating costs (including committee meetings) and fixed assets for the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness which was established in January 2005 in a collaborative effort among the three branches of state government. The main purpose of the Commission is to review and select recommendations for implementation from the Final Report of the Pennsylvania Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System. The 24-member commission is composed of a broad-based membership from all three branches of state government and individual appointments from both the majority and minority parties of the House and Senate, gubernatorial and Supreme Court appointments.

Rules Committees: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,448,000

This appropriation funds the staff personnel costs, operating costs (including committee meetings) and fixed assets for eight standing Supreme Court rules committees comprised of Criminal Procedural Rules, Civil Procedural Rules, Domestic Relations Procedural Rules, Juvenile Court Procedural Rules, Appellate Court Rules, Orphans Court 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. Committee members serve pro bono.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Board of Law Examiners: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $2,153,000

Funding for this appropriation is provided from restricted revenues through fees collected from individuals sitting for the Pennsylvania bar exam.

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs (including the cost of exams and grading, and board member expenses), and fixed assets necessary for the operation of the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

Superior Court: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $26,237,000

This appropriation funds the salaries and benefits of 15 commissioned Superior Court judges and staff, a senior judge program, annuitant benefits, operating expenses and fixed assets necessary for judicial and administrative operations.

Judges' Expenses: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $178,000

This appropriation funds the vouchered business expenses of 15 commissioned Superior Court judges.

Commonwealth Court: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $15,926,000

This appropriation funds the salaries and benefits of nine commissioned Commonwealth Court judges and staff, a senior judge program, annuitant benefits, operating costs and fixed assets necessary for judicial and administrative operations.

Judges' Expenses: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $128,000

This appropriation funds the vouchered business expenses of nine commissioned Commonwealth Court judges.

Court Administrator: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $9,663,000

This appropriation funds the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), including salaries, benefits, operating costs and fixed assets. Headed by the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, the AOPC is charged with implementing the Supreme Court's programs and initiatives, as well as conducting the UJS' day-to-day operations, including the functions of accounting, payroll, budgeting, research and statistics, human resources, legal services, judicial security, judicial education, judicial programs, communications and judicial automation.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Court Improvement Program: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,420,000

Funding for this appropriation is provided by federal grants under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act from the Department of Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and fixed assets for the program conducted by the Office for Children and Families in the Court, a unit within the AOPC's Judicial Programs Department, dedicated to improving outcomes for dependent children in the justice system. The program develops and implements measures to expedite the placement of children in foster care into permanent family settings.

ARRA - Specialty Courts IT Project: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $450,000

Federal funding for this appropriation is provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 from the U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance through a subgrant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

This appropriation funds the implementation of a statewide management information system to allow counties to better manage their problem-solving courts cases and allow for the uniform collection of data supporting these programs at the county and state level to facilitate the evaluation of these programs.

Veterans Court Process Evaluation: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $200,000

Federal funding for this appropriation is provided from the U.S. Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This appropriation funds a process evaluation of Pennsylvania's veterans' courts to develop statewide performance measures for adequate evaluation of the impact and outcomes of existing veterans' courts and to support planning and development of future veterans' courts.

PA Weighted Caseload Project – Common Pleas Judges: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $80,000

Funding for this appropriation is provided from the State Justice Institute, a federally-funded, non-profit, non-governmental entity.

This appropriation funds 50% of the cost of a weighted caseload study by the National Center for State Courts to determine the appropriate statewide common pleas jurist complement.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Judicial Center Operations: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $655,000

This appropriation funds salaries, benefits, operating costs and fixed assets for the centralized operation of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center in the capitol complex.

District Court Administrators: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $16,773,000

This appropriation funds the salaries, benefits and related limited expenses of the district court administrative positions within Pennsylvania's 60 judicial districts (67 counties).

Court Management Education: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $71,000

This appropriation funds the continuing education and training program provided to district court administrators and other judicial branch staff.

Unified Judicial System Security: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,944,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and grants to counties for the UJS' ongoing efforts 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. These efforts work to enhance physical security for magisterial and common pleas courts and enable them to respond to and recover from emergencies that threaten the performance of essential functions.

Statewide Judicial Computer System: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $57,048,000

Funding for this appropriation is provided primarily from restricted revenues, not state tax dollars. The restricted revenues are generated by Act 64 of 1987, Act 59 of 1990 as amended by Act 122 and Act 49 of 2009, and the transfer of available surplus funds at year end from certain UJS appropriations as authorized by 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

This appropriation funds the staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and fixed assets necessary for the continued development, implementation and operation of a statewide integrated computerization program to support the UJS and other state and local entities that rely on it for information. It funds the statewide automated case management systems serving the Magisterial District courts, Common Pleas Criminal courts and the appellate courts (Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts).

Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET): FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $2,303,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, and operating costs for portions of the UJS' activities in support of the Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (JNET). This technology system, an initiative of the executive branch, provides for the timely sharing of accurate justice information among state and local agencies while avoiding the duplication

of effort in providing such information. In addition to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, JNET members include the Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania State Police, Office of Attorney General, Governor's Office of Administration, Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Courts of Common Pleas: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $97,705,000

This appropriation funds salaries, benefits and operating costs (legal fees, travel and liability insurance) for the authorized complement of 450 Common Pleas judges.

Common Pleas Senior Judges: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $3,607,000

This appropriation funds the compensation paid to senior judges in the form of statutorily-provided per diems, benefits and operating costs (liability insurance and travel) for Common Pleas senior judges while on assignment. The senior judge program provides an alternative resource when there is a shortage of active Common Pleas judges due to vacancies, recusals and increases in caseloads. The senior jurists are available for service throughout the Commonwealth.

Common Pleas Judicial Education: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,105,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and fixed assets for the program of professional continuing education for trial court judges. This program presents a state-of-the art curriculum through conferences and symposia in both statewide and regional settings. These education forums are supplemented by electronic reference libraries that contain reference materials and handouts from recent conferences, and provide access to up-to-date reference material, resources and information.

Problem Solving Courts: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $100,000

This appropriation provides funds to train county personnel of problem-solving courts in best practices in order to optimize performance.

Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $55,000

This appropriation funds the operating costs of the Ethics Committee of the PA Conference of State Trial Judges. This committee is designated as the official body authorized to advise judges subject to the Canons of Judicial Conduct on ethical matters. Costs arise largely for meetings of committee members and contract legal services.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Magisterial District Judges: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $71,381,000

This appropriation funds the magisterial district judge (MDJ) salaries, benefits and operating costs (including liability insurance); a senior MDJ program; and per diems for traveling active MDJs. It also provides funding to make the statutory annual payment to the PA Association of Special Court Judges for the $200 per judge registration fee and printing costs of the "Magisterial District Judge Journal."

Magisterial District Judge Education: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $651,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and fixed assets for the educational program for the minor judiciary as mandated by law and Supreme Court Rule. The program consists of certifying and continuing education courses for the magisterial district judges, senior magisterial district judges, Philadelphia Traffic Court judges and senior Traffic Court judges, and Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. Costs paid largely consist of travel expenses of jurists mandated to attend the courses and the costs of presenters.

Philadelphia Traffic Court: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $912,000

This appropriation funds the seven Philadelphia Traffic Court judges' salaries, benefits, operating costs (including liability insurance) and a senior judge program.

Philadelphia Municipal Court: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $5,746,000

This appropriation funds salaries, benefits and operating costs (including liability insurance) for 25 Philadelphia Municipal Court (PMC) judges, six arraignment court magistrates and a senior judge program. Funded costs also provide for continuing education conferences for PMC judges.

County Court Reimbursement: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $33,405,000

This appropriation funds a statutorily-mandated grant to reimburse counties for expenses they incur in the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. The grant is based on $70,000 per authorized Common Pleas Court judge, but it may not exceed a county's actual direct costs, excluding capital outlays, for Common Pleas Court operations.

Rule 701 - Senior Judge Support Reimbursement: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,335,000

This appropriation funds a statutorily mandated grant to partially reimburse counties for expenses they 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. Grant payments are made in accordance with statute.

Juror Cost Reimbursement: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,085,000

This appropriation funds a statutory grant to reimburse counties for 80% 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.

Judicial Conduct Board: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,531,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs (including expenses of the appointed board members to attend meetings) and fixed assets for the independent state agency vested with statewide jurisdiction to receive, review, investigate and, where merited, prosecute complaints of judicial misconduct committed by Pennsylvania judges. The Judicial Conduct Board was created by amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution adopted on May 18, 1993. The Conduct Board is the first of two tiers in the judicial disciplinary system; the Court of Judicial Discipline is the second tier. It is comprised of 12 members, half of whom are appointed by the governor and half by the Supreme Court.

Court of Judicial Discipline: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $454,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs (including expenses for eight judges--half of whom are appointed by the governor and half by the Supreme Court) and fixed assets for the independent state agency which serves as the second tier in Pennsylvania's two-tiered judicial disciplinary system. It was created by the 1993 amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution. The Court of Judicial Discipline hears and decides cases involving allegations of judicial misconduct prosecuted by the Judicial Conduct Board.

Court Consolidation Grant: FY 2012-13 Appropriation - $1,100,000

This appropriation funds a grant for Allegheny County to provide additional reimbursement for expenses it incurs in the administration and operation of its Court of Common Pleas.