THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

FY 2014-15 APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Supreme Court: Appropriation - $13,636,000

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: Appropriation - $118,000

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: Appropriation - $141,000

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: Appropriation - $308,000

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. Funded by the legislature through the judiciary but not a part of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System, the Interbranch Commission was established to suggest possible means for implementation of recommendations from the *2003 Report of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System*. Its component committees' stated goals continue to pursue that objective while the commission has broadened its mission beyond that goal.

Rules Committees: Appropriation - $1,491,000

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.

Board of Law Examiners: Appropriation - $2,242,000

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: Appropriation - $27,024,000

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: Appropriation - $183,000

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

Commonwealth Court: Appropriation - $16,404,000

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: Appropriation - $132,000

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

Court Administrator: Appropriation - $9,953,000

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.

Court Improvement Program: Appropriation - $1,130,000

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.

Veterans Court Process Evaluation: Appropriation - $197,000

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: 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.

Judicial Center Operations: Appropriation - $675,000

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: Appropriation - $17,276,000

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: Appropriation - $73,000

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

Unified Judicial System Security: Appropriation - $2,002,000

This appropriation funds grants to counties, staff salaries and benefits, and operating costs 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.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

FY 2014-15 APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

Statewide Judicial Computer System: 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 of 2002 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 operation and continued development of a statewide integrated computerization program to support the UJS and other state and local entities that rely on it for essential 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): Appropriation - $2,372,000

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: Appropriation - $100,636,000

This appropriation funds salaries, benefits and operating costs (legal fees, travel and liability insurance) for the authorized complement of 451 Common Pleas judges.

Common Pleas Senior Judges: Appropriation - $3,715,000

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: Appropriation - $1,138,000

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: Appropriation - $103,000

This appropriation provides funds to assist counties in managing their problem-solving courts in accordance with nationally-recognized standards for best practices. Such assistance can take the form of staff training, monitoring program performance, and costs associated with maintaining the case management system that provides data on program performance.

Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges: Appropriation - $57,000

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.

Magisterial District Judges: Appropriation - $73,522,000

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: Appropriation - $671,000

This appropriation funds staff salaries and benefits, operating costs and fixed assets for the education 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, and senior magisterial district judges; and Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates, hearing officers, and Traffic Division judges and senior judges. Costs paid largely consist of travel expenses of jurists mandated to attend the courses and the costs of presenters.

Philadelphia Municipal Court: Appropriation - $6,857,000

This appropriation funds salaries, benefits and operating costs (including liability insurance) for 27 Philadelphia Municipal Court (PMC) judges, six arraignment court magistrates, five hearing officers, a senior judge program, and the judges and functions of the Traffic Division created by Act 17 of 2013. Funded costs also provide for continuing education conferences for PMC judges.

THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

FY 2014-15 APPROPRIATION DESCRIPTIONS

County Court Reimbursement: Appropriation - $34,407,000

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: Appropriation - $1,375,000

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: Appropriation - $1,118,000

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: Appropriation - $1,577,000

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: Appropriation - $468,000

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.