

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

* * * *
Budget Hearing
Judiciary
* * * *

House Appropriations Committee

Main Capitol Building
Majority Caucus Room 140
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Thursday, February 23, 2012 - 10:50 a.m.

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BEFORE:

Honorable William Adolph, Jr., Majority Chairman
Honorable Scott Petri
Honorable Maureen Gingrich
Gordon Denlinger, Majority Subcommittee Chair
on Fiscal Policy
Honorable Brian Ellis, Majority Subcommittee
Chair on Criminal Justice
Honorable Thomas Killion, Majority
Subcommittee Chair on Health and Welfare
Honorable David Millard, Majority Subcommittee
Chair on Health and Welfare
Honorable John Bear
Honorable Martin Causer
Honorable Jim Christiana
Honorable Gary Day
Honorable Glen Grell
Honorable T. Mark Mustio
Honorable Bernie O'Neill
Honorable Michael Peifer
Honorable Scott Perry
Honorable Tina Pickett
Honorable Jeffrey Pyle
Honorable Thomas Quigley
Honorable Curtis Sonney
Honorable Joseph Markosek, Minority Chairman
Honorable Michael O'Brien
Honorable Paul Costa

1 BEFORE: (CONT'D)

2 Honorable Steve Samuelson, Minority
Subcommittee Chair on Education

3 Honorable Ronald Waters, Minority Subcommittee
Chair on Criminal Justice

4 Honorable Michelle Brownlee
Honorable H. Scott Conklin

5 Honorable Deberah Kula
Honorable Tim Mahoney

6 Honorable John Sabatina, Jr.

7

IN ATTENDANCE:

8

Honorable John Evans

9 Honorable Mark Gillen

Honorable Curt Schroder

10 Honorable Robert Godshall

Honorable Ron Marsico

11 Honorable Carl Metzgar

Honorable RoseMarie Swanger

12 Honorable Nick Kotik

Honorable Vanessa Lowery Brown

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14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 Dr. Edward Nolan, Majority Executive Director

Miriam Fox, Minority Executive Director

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21
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23
24
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C O N T E N T S

SPEAKERS	PAGE
Judiciary	
Ronald Castille, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of PA.....	4
Dan Pellegrini, President Judge of the Commonwealth Court of PA.....	5
AOPC	
Zygmunt Pines, Esquire Court Administrator.....	4
Deborah McDivitt, Director of Finance	4
IOLTA	
Alfred Azen, Executive Director.....	49

SUPPORT INDEX

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Page	Line	Page	Line	Page	Line
51	1-7	53	15-19		

1 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Hello, everyone.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Good
3 morning.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: I would like to
5 call to order the House Appropriations
6 Committee with the Judiciary budget.

7 Joining us today is the Chairman of
8 the House Judiciary Committee, Representative
9 Ron Marsico of Dauphin County. Welcome,
10 Representative.

11 And testifying before us today is
12 Ronald Castille, Chief Justice of the Supreme
13 Court; Justice Thomas Saylor; Zygmunt Pines
14 the Court Administrator; and Deborah McDivitt,
15 Director of Finance. Welcome.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Good
17 morning, Mr. Chairman. Both chairmen, good
18 morning.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Good morning.
20 Chief Justice, I will recognize you for some
21 opening comments.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We do have
23 with me today, to my right is Zygmunt Pines,
24 who is the Court Administrator of PA. And to
25 his right is Deb McDivitt, who is our Finance

1 Director for the AOPC. To my left, sitting
2 here, is Chief Judge Dan Pellegrini of the
3 Commonwealth Court, newly elected by his
4 members as the President Judge of the
5 Commonwealth Court.

6 And we have Sallie Mundy sitting in
7 the audience, and she is representing the
8 Superior Court of Judge Correale Stevens.

9 You mentioned Justice Saylor. He
10 wanted to be here, but he was called away last
11 night because his 90-year-old mother had a
12 serious stroke. So he is absent, with no
13 disrespect, but he did want to be here.

14 We have previously supplied the
15 committee with our budget request. We have a
16 statement that we have given to the committee.
17 And I won't read it, but it basically spells
18 out our needs for the coming fiscal year.

19 We also have supplied for the
20 committee something that's pretty short and
21 sweet, and this is the four-page,
22 double-sided, four-color brochure that says
23 basically where we stand. And I would just
24 like to go through some of it, if I might,
25 just to let the committee know what the Court

1 is doing.

2 If you see at the top, you see a
3 number of cases that we have handled.
4 Three-and-a-half-million cases in the last
5 year. We have had 1,126 days of senior judge,
6 non-compensation judicial work. And criminal
7 collections last year were \$470 million, which
8 is a \$30 million increase over the year of two
9 years before. Last year was 480 million.

10 But we continue to look at our
11 collections there. And that 470 million goes
12 to the state; it doesn't -- It's to be
13 redistributed to the counties and the
14 Judiciary and the General budget.

15 If you look at the pie chart on
16 that first page, you'll see that 85 percent of
17 our budget is basically the cost of personnel
18 and jurists, both salary and benefits. Twelve
19 percent of our budget goes to the counties;
20 it's a direct pass-through to the counties to
21 support court-related activities.

22 Our operating budget is just 3
23 percent of our entire total budget. We have
24 kept our staff flat through non hire. They
25 are only hiring individuals who are sorely

1 needed or are really important.

2 If you look at some of the
3 cost-cutting measures that we have done over
4 the years, you see that we have cut various
5 activities to the tune of \$26 million over
6 four years. And that comes from things like
7 right-sizing the magistrates. And that means
8 lowering the number of magistrates in the
9 State of PA, which each magistrate in salary
10 and benefits is about a hundred thousand
11 dollars.

12 We have asked the Governor and the
13 Senate not to fill court vacancies for the
14 two-year period when a judge or a district
15 justice retires; that has saved \$3.29 million.
16 And for the first time, we have had jurists
17 and all employees of the court system pay
18 1 percent for health benefits. And that,
19 given our small number of personnel, that's
20 about \$1.7 million. And we have done other
21 things like negotiating fees and contracts.

22 Some of the things we have done in
23 the past year to directly benefit other
24 agencies of the government: Over the last
25 five years, our costs -- or our budgetary

1 costs were \$1.5 billion. But if you see that
2 during that same period of time, just from
3 criminal collections, we brought in
4 \$2.3 million. So we actually bring in more
5 money than it costs to fund the state court --
6 the state court funding.

7 One important thing is, if you see
8 there, about -- there is 7,000 fewer kids who
9 are in foster care.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Your Honor, if
11 you don't mind? It seemed like only half the
12 committee received the handouts. And
13 everybody is looking around, looking to see
14 where you are referring to.

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I am sorry
16 about that.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: That's okay. I
18 think it -- They are handing them out now.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I'm sorry.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: And I didn't want
21 someone walking around in the middle of your
22 testimony.

23 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I'm sorry.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: This is what
25 happens when you have live TV.

1 Okay, Your Honor, I believe you can
2 proceed.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Okay. On
4 average, there was about 22,400 kids in foster
5 care over the years until we started this,
6 under Justice Max Baer, focusing on getting
7 these kids out of the foster care system.

8 Last year when we spoke to you, we
9 had 5,200 less kids in foster care. This
10 year, we have 7,000 less kids in foster care
11 over the usual 22,000 kids that are in foster
12 care, and that that is a direct savings to the
13 DHS budget of \$117 million.

14 It costs about \$50,000 a year to
15 have one of these kids in foster care. So not
16 only do we -- have we saved the DHS
17 \$117 million, that's direct savings, we have
18 also put 7,000 kids in families, loving
19 families where they are going to have a lot
20 better chance to thrive.

21 Videoconferencing, we have all of
22 the state magistrates are all on
23 videoconference. It's estimated for that to
24 save \$21 million per year, just in
25 videoconferencing, without taking prisoners

1 back and forth and doing various non-trial
2 activities through the use of
3 videoconferencing.

4 We continue our problem solving
5 courts, and it is estimated that for every
6 dollar spent on problem solving, we save about
7 \$3.36 in costs that would otherwise be
8 absorbed by the local criminal justice system
9 or the state justice system.

10 We have electronic filing of
11 traffic tickets by the State Police. And what
12 they do is they just -- they run your driver's
13 license through this electronic thing, and
14 they give you your traffic ticket and the
15 troopers go on their way. It's estimated that
16 that saves 60,000 hours a year in trooper
17 time, just by using the electronic citations,
18 and it also saves the court system 77,000
19 hours per year. And you see the agencies that
20 are listed on here that we are specifically
21 involved with, both with our computer system
22 and then in our personnel, judges, et cetera.

23 The other page shows the judicial
24 computer system, which unfortunately we have
25 had to rely upon the revenues over the past

1 few years to absorb some of the deficiencies
2 that we have in our budget, and the chart
3 shows basically where we'll be flat funded at
4 some period of time in the future.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Your Honor, as we
6 mention to all of the testifiers, this is a
7 very old building. And in this room, it is
8 very bad for acoustics. And the Attorney
9 General is a very soft-spoken lady and they
10 have a hard time hearing her. So you have to
11 use a louder than conversation voice in order
12 to be heard in here. So I do apologize, but
13 we would appreciate if you would use a louder
14 voice. Thank you.

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Okay.
16 Thank you.

17 As you see the funding, we are not
18 going to be able to rely upon the Judicial
19 computer system. It will be basically flat
20 funded, or in deficit, at about 50 -- in the
21 year 2015, and that's with an outside group
22 that came in and looked at our spending and
23 our budget flow. So we have a serious problem
24 there of continuing to fund the Judiciary by
25 using a joint -- the computer system funds

1 which are statutorily supposed to be applied
2 to computerization.

3 There are a few other things that I
4 have to mention to you, to the committee, is
5 the Legal Aid Network. The Governor's budget
6 has cut legal aid pretty drastically. They
7 are having to layoff lawyers in the legal aid
8 system because of a 10-percent budget cut last
9 year and another 10 percent this year.
10 Thirty-two attorneys have been laid off. Two
11 offices have been closed for legal services,
12 and we are doing what we can do to get the
13 lawyers to try and pull together and to
14 provide legal services pro bono.

15 But that's a serious crisis.
16 Because in this economic situation, we get
17 people who are in dire straights and in need
18 of legal services who cannot afford them.

19 Another part of the budget, as I am
20 speaking of it, is for the Judicial Conduct
21 Board. The President Judge of the Court of
22 Judicial Discipline John Morris is here in the
23 audience behind me.

24 The Judicial Conduct Board, they
25 will run out of money March 1st, and they

1 won't be able to carry on their function of
2 and basically investigating judges who are
3 alleged to have completed misconduct. We have
4 been trying to assist them with Act 49 funds,
5 to make sure that they can carry through to
6 the fiscal year. But they are in difficult
7 times there.

8 Some of the things that we are also
9 doing, as I mentioned, were the problem
10 solving courts. We now have 12 veterans
11 courts, which are the latest, to go along with
12 DUI courts and mental health courts and some
13 of those other courts.

14 And they are -- We are leading the
15 nation in assisting veterans, who have fallen
16 upon hard times, through the use of the
17 veterans courts, where we get other veterans
18 who are mentoring them. And the VA, the
19 Veterans Administration, is really
20 tremendously helping by supplying
21 services--mental health services, drug
22 services--all kinds of services to our
23 veterans who have been through some pretty
24 hard times and are falling on hard times.

25 And we think we are repaying our

1 debt as a society to those veterans, and they
2 are pretty successful.

3 If you look at the next to the last
4 paragraph there, we are pretty fully
5 computerized in our computer system. Our
6 docket sheets are accessible to the public,
7 lawyers, whoever. And last year, we had 41
8 million hits on docket sheets that were
9 accessed from the Internet.

10 Our financial information is
11 completely open and available to the press, to
12 the public, to anyone who wishes to see our
13 contracts. The site last year, on financial,
14 financial hits last year had 60,000 hits just
15 on our financial web site.

16 We, this year, started our
17 proceedings -- videotaping our proceedings on
18 the PA Cable Network, which if you have about
19 four hours and several strong cups of coffee,
20 you might be able to watch them. They are
21 videotaped from start to finish as is the
22 Commonwealth Court and the Superior Court.

23 And finally, because of the
24 continuing financial situation that we are
25 facing, I will once again be asking the

1 Governor to not appoint interim magistrates
2 and interim Common Pleas Court judges as the
3 vacancies appear, and we will ask to let those
4 be filled by the voters in the election
5 process. And that saves us; each Common Pleas
6 Court judge salaries and benefits is about
7 \$200,000 and I said each magistrate is about
8 \$100,000.

9 We are -- ended up last -- before
10 this election cycle --

11 The past election cycle, we have 49
12 vacancies, which saved us, over two years,
13 about \$7 million. And we use senior judges to
14 fill those spots. And of the other judges,
15 the elected judges are pulling deeper with
16 their oars to make sure that the courts are
17 open to the public, that these cases are not
18 delayed.

19 We have seen throughout the United
20 States, states where the funding has caused
21 courts, such as in New Hampshire, to be closed
22 for civil cases for a year, only hearing
23 family and criminal. But we have been able to
24 keep our courts open by the cost-saving
25 programs that we are running and through

1 helping the other agencies who can take
2 advantage of our expertise and really our
3 computerization.

4 So our needs have been spelled out
5 to the committee, and you have it in detail.
6 But those are just some of the highlights that
7 I wish to point out to the committee about
8 what we are doing, not only to save in our
9 budget but also to save the other agencies who
10 are connected to the criminal and the justice
11 system. Even though foster care is not part
12 of the justice system, but the State Police
13 and other individuals like that.

14 So that is our presentation, Mr.
15 Chairman. And we would be glad to answer any
16 questions that the committee may have.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you.

18 The first questions will be by
19 Representative Glen Grell.

20 REPRESENTATIVE GRELL: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman. Thank you for being here, Chief
22 Justice, and everyone else accompanying you.

23 Chief Justice, in the past, we have
24 discussed either as part of this committee or
25 the Judiciary Committee the proposal to

1 address population shifts in PA by reducing
2 certain Common Pleas judgeships. Based on
3 what you just said, that each one of those
4 judgeships cost about \$200,000 a year, it
5 would seem to be a good way to address your
6 budget situation and reduce costs.

7 We have been talking about this for
8 a while, and I think we had hoped to receive
9 some recommendations because any eliminations
10 would require legislation.

11 As you know, we just finished a
12 census. And it would seem that this might be
13 an appropriate time to address where those
14 population shifts have occurred and which
15 judgeships we might be able to suggest for
16 elimination, preferably through attrition, but
17 as a way to not only address population shifts
18 but also to help you satisfy your budget
19 needs.

20 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We already
21 require, every ten years, to look at the
22 magistrates. And the president judges have
23 been handed the material to review their
24 particular counties for the potential
25 elimination of perhaps about 50 magisterial

1 district judges as the population shifts and
2 as the crime statistics or the caseload comes
3 down in the various counties.

4 There are about 540 MDJs, and we
5 are going to -- we would hope to be able to
6 consolidate districts to get us down to about
7 500 or 490. We are looking at the CP also.
8 Because we were asked by, I think, the Senate
9 last year, a similar question to that.

10 So we have -- And through the AOPC,
11 we are looking at weighted caseloads of the
12 Common Pleas Court. The Common Pleas Court,
13 the judgeships will have to be eliminated by
14 legislative action.

15 But we can eliminate the MDJs by
16 combining districts. And we hope to do that,
17 and we hope to have the information in the --
18 It would basically be the legislature. A
19 weighted caseload for Common Pleas, to see if
20 there are, in fact, Common Pleas Court judges
21 that should be eliminated or can be
22 eliminated, given the present caseload and
23 the -- So we are looking at the Common Pleas
24 Court judges.

25 And, Mr. Pines, is that -- at least

1 is correct? Do we have any time limit on
2 that?

3 MR. PINES: We have some
4 preliminary figures as to a caseload equity
5 based on population. But there are special
6 differences when you are dealing with the
7 Common Pleas courts. They are much more
8 complex. The variety of cases, the variety of
9 matters that come before the Common Pleas
10 Court requires a more sophisticated study.

11 We met about two weeks ago, and
12 what we decided to do is probably hire a
13 consultant who can come in and look at our
14 caseload, population, caseload and population,
15 and come up with some figures, recommended
16 figures as to the distribution of the Common
17 Pleas judgeships across the state. I suspect
18 that that study alone will probably take about
19 six months.

20 REPRESENTATIVE GRELL: Well -- I am
21 sorry, Justice Castille.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: The
23 magisterial district judges are supposed to
24 get back to us. So the president judges of
25 the county are supposed to get back to us at

1 the end of this month as to the magisterial
2 districts that they think can be eliminated.

3 We have already eliminated 11 of
4 them, through attrition, in the various
5 counties. So the president judges have been
6 given their -- our requests or our -- I guess
7 our orders to see where they can eliminate
8 judges and MDJs.

9 We want to do it by attrition. We
10 don't want to hurt anybody. We don't want to,
11 like, take anybody out or have them run
12 against each other, if that's possible.

13 But that is one of the few ways
14 that we can actually save money is because we
15 are 87-percent human cost, budgets and the
16 salaries. So we are looking at Common Pleas.

17 REPRESENTATIVE GRELL: Well, I
18 appreciate that answer. And, you know, we
19 have been talking about this for probably a
20 year. And I am just telling you that as the
21 Chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, we are
22 anxiously awaiting your recommendations on
23 that, and we would proceed promptly to
24 consider any recommendations that you would
25 bring to us. Thank you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you.

4 Chairman Markosek.

5 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Thank you, Mr.

6 Chairman.

7 And Chief Justice Castille and
8 Judge Pellegrini and your staff, welcome here
9 today. Thank you for the presentation.

10 Just to pick up a little bit on
11 Representative Grell's question, you have got
12 this study, ongoing, currently, that you just
13 mentioned. Will you be providing us with
14 specific legislation or legislative ideas
15 relative to accomplishing your goals?

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Mr.
17 Chairman, what we hope to do is be able to
18 have a handle on how many judges are really
19 needed, basically.

20 The difficulty is that one judge
21 may be doing the five-person homicide, with
22 five bodies, so that's the difficulty. But we
23 will make it available to the committee, and
24 it will be up to the Senate and the House and
25 later the Governor to determine if they want

1 to, if they would like to, or should,
2 eliminate these CP judgeships.

3 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Okay. Just a
4 change of question here, and I really hadn't
5 come in here with this question in mind. But
6 just in reading your -- It's a very well-done
7 presentation, by the way. It's very -- kind
8 of a quick glance at our situation here, and
9 it's very graphically good.

10 Right at the top, right after you
11 talked about the 3.5 million cases, you talked
12 about the senior judges working over 1100 days
13 of -- without compensation. Maybe I'm naive,
14 but I'm -- And I don't know quite how the
15 system works and the judicial system works,
16 but I was a little surprised to see, really,
17 anybody that works not for compensation in
18 this day and age. And can you explain exactly
19 how that works and really exactly what that
20 means?

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yes.
22 Those are all senior judges: The ones who
23 have turned 70; or they are basically 71 years
24 old; or they meet the rule of 80, which is,
25 you can be a senior judge if your age and your

1 service on the bench adds up to 80. So you
2 don't have to be 70, you can be 65. It just
3 depends.

4 As they are needed in the various
5 counties, a president judge will send a
6 request to the AOPC for us to appoint the
7 senior judges. And I think there are about
8 200 senior judges.

9 MR. PINES: (Nods affirmatively.)

10 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And they
11 are on an as-needed basis. So there is a line
12 item in our budget which really limits the
13 days that they can be paid. They are paid a
14 per diem; the magistrates also, the
15 magistrates and the judges.

16 And they are -- They get their
17 retirement benefits. And we pay them a per
18 diem, but not more than a sitting Common Pleas
19 or magisterial district judge. So they will
20 come in.

21 And I don't know. You say they
22 don't -- that you don't understand why anybody
23 would do it without compensation. They might
24 not want to be home.

25 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Well, they

1 might not. We'll just say that's an editorial
2 comment.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: But they
4 do. I mean, a lot of these judges, when I was
5 an assistant D.A. in Philadelphia, they would
6 come in and they would work a month and only
7 be paid for, at that time, about 15 days or 18
8 days. And now it is down to about 13 days or
9 ten?

10 MR. PINES: Ten days.

11 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Or ten
12 days now. So that's dedication, and they are
13 really providing free services because they
14 want to.

15 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: I am sure none
16 of our House or Senate colleagues would not
17 want to be home.

18 But nevertheless, okay, I was just
19 very interested. So they do get an expense,
20 so to speak, but not an official paycheck or
21 compensation?

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It's a per
23 diem compensation for days worked.

24 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Per diem.

25 Okay. I wasn't aware of that and so it's a

1 very interesting fact.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Those 200

4 judges, do they volunteer once they retire?

5 Is that pretty much how this works? They kind

6 of volunteer to get on the list or --

7 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yes, they
8 do. They apply to the AOPC, and they have to
9 fill out a form. And we know who they are, so
10 it's not very difficult to become a senior
11 judge if you meet the qualifications.

12 MR. PINES: Exactly. Correct.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So we
14 are -- Because of the gap where we did not --
15 or the Governor and the Senate didn't fill in
16 these interim positions, these judges are
17 stepping up to the plate and doing that
18 themselves. If you are a senior judge on the
19 Commonwealth Court or the Superior Court, they
20 carry a full load, and they are paid at the
21 same level as the -- as a sitting Commonwealth
22 Court judge or a Superior Court judge. So I
23 think we have five of them on the Superior
24 Court.

25 How many do we have, Dan?

1 HONORABLE PELLEGRINI: Two.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Two on the
3 Commonwealth Court that carry a full load.

4 CHAIRMAN MARKOSEK: Okay. Well,
5 I'm impressed by that. And kudos to all of
6 them. And, you know, keep up the good work.

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Okay.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Just for the
11 record, Your Honor, what is that daily per
12 diem that the senior judges receive?

13 MR. PINES: \$522 for the Common
14 Pleas.

15 MS. McDIVITT: Today.

16 MR. PINES: Today?

17 MS. McDIVITT: Yeah, in the
18 current, the current fiscal year.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So much
20 for magistrates?

21 MS. McDIVITT: Two forty-seven?

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It's less
23 for magistrates, but --

24 MR. PINES: Two forty-seven for.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: The Common Pleas

1 is \$522?

2 MR. PINES: Right. And the
3 magisterial district judges are two
4 forty-seven.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: District judges
6 are two forty-seven. Thank you.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And they
8 are capped at that same salary as a -- They
9 can't earn more than a sitting commissioned
10 judge, either court.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Okay. The next
12 question will be by Representative Jeff Pyle.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Thank you,
14 Chairmen. Thank you, Judges. I appreciate
15 you being here today.

16 I would like to, if I could, follow
17 up with a question that was posed earlier by
18 Representative Grell. You mentioned your cost
19 savings in using more teleconferencing and
20 whatnot and all of that. I followed, very
21 loosely, what's admitted as evidence and
22 whatnot. Particularly in juveniles, letting
23 them testify by videotape and so forth, which
24 I think is a very humanitarian thing and a
25 good decision to make.

1 Do you see any juxtaposition there,
2 against being able to confront your accusers,
3 by allowing these videoconferencing?

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: What is
5 the question?

6 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: My question,
7 sir, is: Does the use of videoconferencing in
8 a courtroom run afoul of a person's
9 constitutional right to face their accuser?

10 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It's not
11 used for trials. It is usually generally used
12 for arraignments or things that aren't --
13 where a person is not going to be found guilty
14 or they're -- It's not used for a suppression
15 of evidence. It's not that we protect the
16 constitutional rights of the individuals by
17 not allowing it to happen in trial. Except
18 some witnesses are videotaped in child
19 molestation cases; we can protect that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Right.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: But we
22 want to assure that there is no constitutional
23 violation, though. We have not had any
24 successful challenges to the
25 videoconferencing.

1 And a lot of these prisoners, they
2 don't want to -- You know, they may want to go
3 for a ride, but it's easier to have a
4 teleconferencing from a state prison somewhere
5 if you're in western PA and your case is in
6 Montgomery County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Okay.
8 Obviously, a tough budget year. And you
9 addressed a little bit about shifting,
10 downsizing, whatever you want to call it, DJs,
11 all of that. Is it accurate for me to think
12 that's going to mirror the shifting
13 populations in the state?

14 Like Armstrong, my county, stayed
15 static. We haven't grown or diminished. But
16 now our president judge is--I saw the memo,
17 you know--recommending that we cut back on one
18 DJ. And without population loss, and a
19 serious drug problem going on, I am just
20 curious to how that process functions.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, on
22 those, we are looking at the caseload
23 basically for the magistrates because we want
24 to have -- We equalize caseloads. So it's not
25 based on population; it's based on the number

1 of crimes in the county or the number of civil
2 cases that go before the magistrates. So we
3 try to -- It's a weighted number, like a
4 traffic -- You know, running a stop sign is
5 different than a preliminary hearing for a
6 murder.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: A stop sign
8 crime.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So it's
10 basically case driven.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: All right. I
12 appreciate that.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It also
14 saves the counties money. When I say it's a
15 hundred thousand dollars for a magistrate, if
16 one of them is eliminated, one slot is
17 eliminated, you get rid of that little
18 courtroom, probably three staff members and
19 the security, so there is a direct savings to
20 the counties themselves.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Okay. I
22 noticed in your handout, you also cited pretty
23 large savings in district offices. I am
24 assuming that's magisterial, not Common Pleas?
25 Is that from shutting down the magisterial

1 offices or --

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, one
3 of -- I think there are 11 magisterial offices
4 that we have shut down, that have been
5 eliminated, because I asked the president
6 judges to start this process two years ago.
7 We are looking to do about 40 more to close
8 those down.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Justice, may
10 I interrupt? When you say 40 more, are you
11 talking eliminating those?

12 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Right.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Or are you
14 talking moving them?

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Just
16 eliminating those and have the caseload then
17 absorbed by other district judges.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: It sounds
19 like you guys are -- Well, I'd insult you by
20 saying due diligence. You are the guys who
21 know due diligence. But you are doing what
22 you can to save money.

23 I have one last question. I know
24 transparency and openness is paramount to this
25 House, you know. I know that from anyone,

1 anything I accept, I have to put on the
2 Internet, accessible for all to see. And I am
3 wondering when I can look forward to that from
4 our jurists.

5 (Off-the-discussion occurred among
6 Chief Justice Castille, Ms. McDivitt and Mr.
7 Pines.)

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Our
9 financial disclosures, this is it right here.
10 And we have had 40,000 -- This is our web
11 site.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Sure.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And we
14 have had 40,000 individuals come in and look
15 at the different contracts that we have. It's --
16 We have had this available for years and
17 years.

18 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Well, sure.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So it's
20 available to us.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: I just didn't
22 know if you guys were moving way over to the
23 Hill's House and posting individual expenses
24 on the Internet so people could access those
25 from anywhere in the Commonwealth.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yeah, we
2 have -- All of our financial expenditures are
3 available either on the web site or requests,
4 whoever needs it, whoever wants it. We had
5 somebody from, I think -- What do you call
6 those groups? The skinheads wanted
7 information, things like that.

8 We have to be careful with the
9 information we have, because judges are
10 vulnerable, so we limit some information.

11 But all of the numbers are here,
12 and they are available to anyone that wishes
13 to see them. We'll get a lot of hits from
14 somebody that's a competitor with IBM, to see
15 what IBM is paying for the services they
16 provide, so that they can undercut IBM. And
17 then people just come onto the net just to
18 look at the expenditures, just out of
19 curiosity.

20 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Yeah, I get a
21 lot of those, too.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
24 Representative. The next question is from
25 Representative Deb Kula.

1 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 Good morning, Mr. Chief Justice.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Good
5 morning.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Court
7 Administrator Pines, good to see you.

8 MR. PINES: Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: And I am sure
10 both of you kind of know where my questioning
11 is going to go as far as the district courts
12 are concerned.

13 Now, you have indicated you have
14 already eliminated 11, and your overall plan
15 was to eliminate 50. Now we are down to 39
16 more? Is that where we are?

17 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: There's 11
18 now, so probably 39. And that's flexible,
19 too. It's not cut in stone. It's just a
20 target that we are looking at. And if that's
21 too many, we won't hit that target. If we
22 need more, then we will do more of it. That's
23 where we can save money.

24 And we don't want to have this
25 situation, like that you're familiar with,

1 where magistrates run against each other or
2 they are eliminated while they are still
3 willing and able to serve. That's really not
4 fair. So we want to do that, eliminate these
5 slots by attrition.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: So maybe I
7 had a case, right?

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Excuse me?

9 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: So maybe I
10 had a case, right?

11 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I know
12 what happened to you. Many -- That was 10
13 years ago. That was a -- We did have that
14 situation, and as Chief Justice, I don't want
15 to see that situation happen.

16 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Right, and I
17 am glad to hear that. And I am glad to hear
18 you say that because it was a very unfair
19 situation to have happened.

20 And I hope that's what you are
21 looking at now. That as these occur and
22 offices need to be closed and combined, that
23 you look at how the least amount of harm can
24 be to someone that has dedicated their time
25 and effort to a position but also looking at

1 the caseload of it all. And I think until you
2 have sat in a position, it's very difficult to
3 understand what's involved until you have done
4 that.

5 I can't say what it's like to be a
6 chief justice. But I think when you are
7 looking at just an overall, well, this one
8 only has a hundred preliminary hearings but
9 somebody else has 300, but this person may
10 have 5,000 traffic citations. Which I can
11 tell you, in a district court, traffic
12 citations never go away. They are there
13 forever. Because it takes forever to collect
14 the fines and costs, so you have hearing after
15 hearing.

16 So just lumping numbers, it is a
17 very difficult way to determine what is
18 necessary to run that court in the most
19 advantageous way, to the litigants that are
20 coming in, to allow enough time for someone
21 that comes in that their problem is very
22 important to them. Whether it's the next-door
23 neighbor, which to someone may not seem
24 important, but to that person that is dealing
25 with that problem that's a very important

1 situation, and to be able to afford them that
2 time is something that needs to be taken into
3 account when you are looking at caseloads.

4 Also, I'm hoping that the Supreme
5 Court will take a very overall look at that,
6 at what is coming back from those counties and
7 from those president judges, to see if there
8 is some --

9 And I know the president judge has
10 the majority of the say-so in all of that.
11 But you also have the statistics available to
12 you, to say: This could happen right now, but
13 if we wait a year, you are going to have
14 someone that's retiring. Do we really want to
15 do this now or can we wait for that
16 retirement? And not make it so that these
17 things have to happen overnight. That there
18 are ways of doing that.

19 And I guess I am not really giving
20 -- or asking many questions, but it's just
21 something that I truly am passionate about.
22 And I know the dedication that is there from
23 the district courts and the district judges,
24 and I hope all of this will be taken into
25 account.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yeah, we
3 do. I do realize the human costs or the human
4 side of these situations and that's why we'll
5 do it by attrition. If somebody dies,
6 unfortunately, or if they would wish to
7 retire, we are going to do it that way.

8 Your courts are the -- Those courts
9 are the first line of justice. And most
10 people in the state will see they really won't
11 be in the Commonwealth Court that much; it
12 will be the magistrates. And they do solve a
13 lot of problems that come before them and
14 that's -- Individuals who appear there deserve
15 justice also, so it's really the people's
16 court.

17 One of the things you mentioned is
18 we make it easier for the individuals to pay.
19 We now take credit cards, debit cards, and
20 e-Pay. And it's easier for a person to, I
21 guess, not pay their credit card rather than
22 not pay the court and get a bench warrant and
23 maybe spend a few days in jail. Several
24 times, too, as you point out.

25 So we make it easier for the

1 individuals to pay their fines, hence the
2 \$470 million that we collected last year in
3 just criminal costs.

4 And that doesn't even mention the
5 civil side yet because we are not all
6 computerized in civil cases. So we don't know
7 the exact numbers that are coming in from
8 civil cases, although we know the exact
9 numbers that are coming in from criminal cases
10 and that's \$470 million in the last year.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Okay. And
12 just one more thing. I do want to compliment
13 you on the PCN shows that you program with the
14 Supreme Court and the Commonwealth Court. I
15 think it gives the opportunity for the public
16 to actually see what it's like to be in a
17 court rather than some of those shows that we
18 see on the daytime court programs, so.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We think
20 that's an educational process for the
21 citizens. That they can see the -- They have
22 been seeing the other two courts for years,
23 decades. Twelve years, I think, in Superior
24 Court.

25 This is the first year that we have

1 been televising the Supreme Court. And we --
2 You know, not everybody can get down to hear,
3 to see us in action. So it's an educational
4 process for the citizens, and we think it's
5 important.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: And it
7 certainly has. Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
10 Representative. The next question is from
11 Representative Jim Christiana.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA: Thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Mr. Chief Justice, I just want to
15 follow up on Representative Pyle's questions
16 about transparency and accountability. It's
17 pretty clear that the public has demanded they
18 want to see where all three branches of
19 government are spending their dollars.

20 Last June, Governor Corbitt signed
21 House Bill 15 into law, which would make, by
22 December, all three branches of government
23 have to disclose their specific expenses.
24 That would include the Supreme Court.

25 Just to follow up, I am thankful

1 that you have put -- voluntarily put some
2 expenses online. But to save the taxpayers
3 from going to every branch and every
4 department of government to find the
5 information, this bill would create one
6 centralized location. Isn't it your
7 intentions to comply with that bill and to
8 give your specific expenses, as it is in the
9 law, to the Office of Budget for them to post
10 online?

11 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We are
12 still reviewing that particular legislation.
13 We already have all of our expenses online,
14 and we report them to the -- What is the other
15 office, Zygmunt? The office of?

16 MR. PINES: The office of -- Well,
17 we provide the information, obviously, to the
18 legislative committees, the appropriation,
19 also to the Executive Branch.

20 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Who in the
21 Executive Branch? I know we give it to the
22 Auditor General.

23 MR. PINES: The Governor's Budget
24 Office.

25 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: The

1 Governor's Budget Office, the Treasurer. So
2 we are starting to -- So we are looking at the
3 new legislation to see if it's basically going
4 to cost us a lot more money, which will be
5 difficult in these budgetary times.

6 But we are open and available. And
7 it will be a question of whether we can join
8 that network or not, so that's still under
9 review.

10 MS. McDIVITT: Right.

11 MR. PINES: The other thing that I
12 wanted to add is that we are in consultation
13 currently with the Office of Administration as
14 to how they handled the public access to that
15 information. So we have been in regular
16 contact with the office.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA: So it's
18 safe to say that as of today, you intend on
19 complying with that legislation, if you're
20 already providing the information. And if
21 it's just a matter of sending the information,
22 and the law is pretty specific on what format
23 to give it to them --

24 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Right.

25 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA: -- and

1 so the public does not have to fish through 40
2 or 50 different web sites.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, we
4 have a single web site. They can find it for
5 us, for our whole branch, so.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA: And
7 legislators, each have their own web site --

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Right.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA: -- that
10 they can voluntarily disclose their
11 information or not. This is saying that, one
12 centralized location so that they don't have
13 to go to each department and branch. I think
14 was the intent of the law. The Democrats and
15 Republicans, in both chambers, passed that
16 bill unanimously.

17 And it would be my hope that you
18 would provide the same information that you
19 are already voluntarily providing so that
20 folks don't have to go to many different web
21 sites, and I hope that is your intention.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I
24 understand.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,

1 Representative. The next question is from
2 Representative Steve Samuelson.

3 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: Thank
4 you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Chief
5 Justice.

6 Two questions. I think you said or
7 I read something about the Court of Judicial
8 Discipline running out of funding by March?

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: The
10 Judicial Conduct Board was created by the
11 constitution. They are the investigative
12 agency that looks at judge complaints, or
13 complaints about judges. If they bring
14 charges, then it goes to the Court of Judicial
15 Discipline. It looks at it. And President
16 Judge Morris is here.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: What
18 happens to an investigation that is going on
19 right now, or it may be filed two weeks from
20 now, if that situation happens? Is the
21 investigation put on hold or does it get
22 transferred to someone else?

23 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: If someone
24 reports a judge to the Conduct Board, they go
25 through a -- They have investigators; they

1 talk to the individuals. And they may issue
2 letters of reprimand, or just talk to the
3 judge, or bring charges.

4 The difficulty will be if they run
5 out of money on March 1st, which we have
6 reviewed their budget also, but we are
7 supplying money from the Act 49 computer fees
8 to carry them through this fiscal year.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: Okay.

10 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And that's
11 why the -- their request of just under a half
12 a million dollars for full funding so that
13 they can complete all of the investigations.
14 I think they get about six or seven hundred
15 complaints a year. Most of them are from
16 disgruntled litigants.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: You
18 would have to transfer money to make sure that
19 the investigations continue and there's no
20 lapse in the board.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLO: That's
22 what we have had to do, that's correct.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: Okay.
24 The second question is about the legal
25 services. And I know you have presented a

1 whole fact sheet on legal services and what's
2 been happening.

3 And I know this line item is
4 actually under the Department of Public
5 Welfare. And we are going to have our
6 Department of Public Welfare hearing in about
7 two weeks.

8 And sometimes you hear folks talk
9 about welfare and cutting welfare and welfare
10 fraud. And you look at the Department of
11 Public Welfare budget and you see items like
12 nursing home care, autism services, child
13 care, MHMR, and legal services -- and the
14 legal services line item.

15 Now this line item is proposed for
16 a 10-percent cut on top of almost a 10-percent
17 cut last year. Your fact sheet has a lot of
18 information. Some of the clients here are
19 facing mortgage foreclosures. Some of the
20 folks who use legal services are involved in
21 domestic violence situations, trying to defend
22 themselves in court.

23 And I come -- I just want to ask
24 you to expand upon the need for a line item
25 like legal services in the state budget. I

1 see you are asking for us to go back to two
2 years ago, to go back to before the two
3 10-percent cuts, which would be about
4 \$3 million total.

5 If we enact a 10-percent cut, what
6 would be the impact across our state? And how
7 does our funding level compare with what other
8 states are provided for legal services?

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It's not
10 only state cut in funding; the federal funding
11 has been cut by 15 percent in Washington, D.C.

12 It has a direct effect on all of
13 the offices. As I mentioned, it closed down
14 two offices already. They are down 32
15 attorneys. And it will be just more layoffs
16 and therefore less availability of legal
17 services.

18 The lawyers of the state have
19 stepped up. In that last year, they had
20 116,000 hours of pro bono services through
21 some of these organizations or just
22 individuals. And that's just what we know,
23 what's been reported. And some attorneys will
24 just do that on their own.

25 One of the things that we have had

1 to do, because of the reduction in the
2 interest rate on Interest on Lawyers' Trust
3 Accounts, is we have asked attorneys also to
4 add \$25 to their registration fee for every
5 attorney who is registered in PA. That's
6 about 65,000 to their fee. And that goes to
7 IOLTA funded organizations, which are the
8 legal services.

9 IOLTA is Interest on Lawyers' Trust
10 Accounts. That at one time was about 6 or 7
11 percent, with the interest rate. And it has
12 dropped down, like everything else, to about
13 half a percent. So there has been a dramatic
14 decrease just in IOLTA funds, where it will be
15 direct layoffs of individuals in the legal
16 services community.

17 We imposed what we called a pro hoc
18 vice filing fee. Pro hoc vice is when another
19 lawyer comes from another state to try a case
20 in our state. We make them pay the same
21 registration fee as a PA attorney.

22 That registration fee goes to a
23 loan fund where the individuals who want to
24 work in community legal services can get a
25 pay-off of their school loans. The first

1 year, I think, is \$4,000.

2 What's the first year?

3 MR. AZEN: Twenty-five hundred.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE:

5 Twenty-five hundred dollars, for a year, if
6 they work in legal services; thirty-five or
7 four thousand the second year.

8 MR. AZEN: Four thousand the third.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And then
10 it goes up to \$6,000. So basically, if an
11 individual attorney doesn't want to go to work
12 for a big firm and wants to work in CLS, we
13 help them pay off their student loans. And
14 that's not taxpayers' dollars; that's from
15 other attorneys coming in to sue. You know,
16 Bayer and those individuals in Pennsylvania.

17 So we are looking long and hard at
18 some of the ways that we can increase funding.
19 We have forced -- or negotiated with banks
20 that the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts
21 gets the same interest rate as their best
22 customer or else the lawyers will not put
23 their money in those -- in the accounts.

24 So we have done things over the
25 years to help assist legal services because

1 it's sorely needed. And there's a lot of
2 individuals, a lot of kids coming out of
3 school that want to do that instead of, you
4 know, going to some big law firm. So we are
5 doing everything we can to increase legal
6 services despite these budget cuts.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: Okay.

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: But
9 basically, it's layoffs.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: I
11 appreciate your efforts to do everything you
12 can, and also to bring this issue to our
13 attention.

14 One of the things that you have
15 said in this document, is that, if this cut
16 goes through that the Governor has proposed,
17 state funding for legal aid today would be
18 very close to the amount appropriated in 1976.
19 Now, a lot has changed since 1976: Mike
20 Schmidt was playing for the Phillies, and I
21 think Bill Gates was still working out of his
22 garage.

23 I think we should take a very close
24 look at this line item. One thing that might
25 be helpful is a comparison, if you have any

1 statistics on what other states are committing
2 in state funding to help with legal services,
3 legal aid.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: I think we
5 can get that information through our IOLTA
6 Board. And it's in the AOPC, so we could get
7 you that information.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELSON: Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
11 Representative. The next question will be by
12 Representative Tom Quigley.

13 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Mr. Chief Justice, with looking at
16 cutting expenses, looking at being able to,
17 you know, operate in these tough financial
18 times, I just had a question about--and this
19 was brought up from some members who were here
20 before I got here--with respect to district
21 offices, or for lack of a better word, an
22 office that you have outside of the state
23 capital. Can you give me an idea of what
24 those offices -- If even, in fact, you do have
25 an office outside the capital?

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Are you
2 talking about me personally?

3 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Yes,
4 right.

5 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yes, I
6 have commercial offices. All of the appellate
7 judges, 38 of us, generally have commercial
8 space; although, some of them are in state
9 capital -- in the county seat. I think Judge
10 McEwen works out of the county seat in
11 Delaware County, the county courthouse. So
12 that is the office I have had.

13 I have an office over here in the
14 Judicial Center, which is more of a ceremonial
15 office. I have a ceremonial office in City
16 Hall in Philadelphia, and then one in the city
17 and county building in Allegheny County.
18 Because I have to go to all of these different
19 areas, you know, like to have these hearings
20 or meetings with individuals, so I am on the
21 road a lot.

22 I am not real happy that U.S. Air
23 bumped up their fare to \$600 from Philadelphia
24 to Pittsburgh when it was like \$129. But yes,
25 I am on the road all the time at these

1 different offices.

2 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Now, is
3 that just you because you are the Chief
4 Justice?

5 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Right.

6 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Or would
7 all of the other justices have these?

8 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: That's
9 correct, just because I'm Chief Justice.

10 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Okay. So
11 your colleagues don't have these offices too?
12 Or they do?

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Correct.

14 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Okay. Now
15 what -- Do you have a ballpark figure of what
16 those costs would be? What the rent is?
17 Or what --

18 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We could
19 get you that figure. I think we had a --
20 There was some talk in Allegheny County that
21 the appellate judges are in these downtown
22 buildings. And I said, if you want to save
23 money, we'll move them all out of Pittsburgh
24 and move them into Mars or Monroeville.

25 But I think Pittsburgh would like

1 to have appellate judges in downtown, so would
2 Philadelphia. But it depends on where you are
3 elected from. Judge Mundy is from Tioga
4 County, so her offices are in Tioga County,
5 which is her home also. My home is
6 Philadelphia. Other appellate judges can have
7 an office where they choose to sit.

8 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Okay. So
9 for the committee, you could give us numbers
10 of what specifically Supreme Court justices
11 pay in rent for what accommodations they would
12 have?

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We can do
14 that. And a lot of that is in this booklet
15 here, but we'll just have to point it out for
16 you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Okay. And
18 again the purposes of these offices, you said,
19 is mostly ceremonial. I mean, do you have --
20 Well, anecdotally, I believe you described
21 what it was like.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yeah, the
23 one in Philadelphia is purely ceremonial.
24 Because my -- The office I have had for 20
25 years as a -- as originally when I came on the

1 Court is where I do most of my work. The one
2 in Harrisburg is -- I do work there, too, but
3 that's the seat of government.

4 The one in Pittsburgh is a -- we
5 have a senior justice who is working out of
6 that chamber and another justice who is --
7 another judge who is involved in looking at
8 the history of the court system, so. But
9 those are ceremonial.

10 My main office is 18th and Market,
11 if you want to come downtown and check it out.

12 REPRESENTATIVE QUIGLEY: Okay. All
13 right. Thank you.

14 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: You are
15 welcome.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
17 Representative. The next question is from
18 Representative Sabatina.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SABATINA: Thank
20 you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your
21 testimony today, Chief Justice.

22 My question is if the -- if you're
23 request for your budget were fulfilled fully,
24 how much and in what areas could you save more
25 money for taxpayer money?

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, it's
2 spelled out in our budget. But we are
3 basically 87 percent. That's salaries and
4 benefits, so. That's the one place. And
5 that's why we are looking at eliminating the
6 number of CP judges possibly and the number of
7 MDJs possibly; in York County, municipal court
8 judges; our CP judges in Philadelphia.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SABATINA: Thank
10 you. My second question has to do with, I
11 guess, compensation for jury duty. Is that
12 something that's under the Supreme Court's --

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: There's a
14 line item in our budget where the state is
15 helping pay for juror costs, but most of those
16 are born by the counties themselves. That's a
17 major expense, especially in Philadelphia.

18 REPRESENTATIVE SABATINA: That's
19 actually where I am going. My wife was
20 recently a juror and she received her \$9 check
21 two weeks ago. So I am wondering, basically,
22 how much money it costs to print the check, to
23 mail the check, to put it in the envelope, to
24 do all of that.

25 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, if

1 -- I'm familiar with it because I got one of
2 those \$9 checks a couple of years ago. I was
3 actually subpoenaed for jury duty. And I went
4 down to my jury duty and they gave me a check
5 because I wasn't chosen. I think there's a --
6 I don't know why anybody would choose me, but.

7 But there's a -- I think there's a
8 pay scale that they get a certain amount for
9 the first three days and then it goes up after
10 that if the case goes over that, so that it's
11 controlled, really, by the counties.

12 And this one line item -- How much
13 is the line item, Deb?

14 MS. McDIVITT: It is probably about
15 a million.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: What?

17 MS. McDIVITT: A million dollars.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It's about
19 a million dollars of the line item that's
20 distributed to the different counties to help
21 defray the cost of juror expenses.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SABATINA: Okay.
23 Thank you very much.

24 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: You are
25 welcome.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you.

2 As is the custom, this
3 Appropriations Committee always invites the
4 Chairman of the House Standing Committee, and
5 we are certainly honored to have Chairman Ron
6 Marsico with us today, the Republican Chair of
7 the Judiciary Committee.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Well,
9 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 I have got to tell you: I was
11 going to ask a number of questions, but you
12 have a well-informed and educated committee,
13 members of the committee that asked the
14 questions that I was going to ask. And I want
15 to compliment the committee and the Chairs for
16 educating the members of the committee.

17 I have just a follow-up, though, on
18 the one question that Representative Quigley
19 asked, and that is the office space that the
20 courts are paying for. Are there --

21 Well, first of all, let's go this
22 way: The Judicial Center here in Harrisburg
23 cost \$115 million, and I think it accommodates
24 500 or so staff and judges. Are there any
25 plans to move any of the Judiciary to the

1 Judicial Center?

2 I mean, I think the -- Back a
3 number of years ago when it was planned to
4 construct a judicial center that there would
5 be cost-savings measures there to accommodate
6 other judicial members of the Judiciary, the
7 Supreme Court, et cetera, and I know that that
8 was the intent.

9 Now there is some space being
10 occupied by -- private space being occupied by
11 a number of the judges throughout the
12 Commonwealth and also locally. Are there any
13 plans to move those judges and their staff to
14 the Judicial Center?

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We have
16 been doing that slowly but surely. That all
17 takes money, also. But we have --

18 And we have two of your judges in
19 the Judicial Center, Judge Pellegrini?

20 HONORABLE PELLEGRINI: (Nods
21 affirmatively.)

22 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So we have
23 two Commonwealth Court judges there now with
24 their staffs. And the Commonwealth Court
25 basically hears governmental cases which might

1 go to Dauphin County. But we have staff for
2 the Commonwealth Court over there. The --

3 It's really up to a justice.
4 Justice Saylor is talking about moving into
5 that center, when he becomes chief justice,
6 because he's from Cumberland County right now.

7 But, yeah, we've -- We realize the
8 space over there. We didn't think it was
9 going to be built, actually, with Justice
10 Cappy -- Chief Justice Cappy, when he was
11 negotiating for it with Governor Ridge. And
12 we said, like this is never going to happen.
13 But it was seen as a good thing to do and the
14 legislature passed that capital budget.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Um-hum.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And it's
17 now a functioning building, so.

18 We do have some agencies that are
19 in there. The judicial -- The Juvenile Court
20 Judges Commission just moved over there into
21 some space than what they were occupying
22 before. And we charge the discipline board
23 rent basically. I think some of the other --
24 What are the other agencies that --

25 MR. PINES: Client Security.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: The Client
2 Security Fund, they basically pay rent also.
3 And they are funded through fees from
4 attorneys, not taxpayer dollars.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Okay.
6 Well, it certainly would seem to be a good way
7 to save the taxpayers the expenses, by moving
8 those offices over into the Judicial Center.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We are
10 looking at it. One of the things that we
11 talked about, which haven't implemented yet,
12 is making all of the Commonwealth Court judges
13 work out of Harrisburg.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Just a
15 follow-up --

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: My
17 colleague from Pittsburgh is not going to like
18 that very much, but.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Just a
20 follow-up to the senior judges per diem of
21 \$522 per day, that that includes their
22 transportation, their -- to cover their
23 transportation and their food, subsistence, et
24 cetera; is that correct?

25 MS. McDIVITT: No, that's extra.

1 We would pay for actual expenses.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: So you are
3 paying 522 per diem plus actual expenses?

4 MS. McDIVITT: Plus actual
5 expenses, which are minimal.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Which are
7 minimal. How does that compare to other
8 states? Do you have any idea?

9 MS. McDIVITT: We haven't looked at
10 other states, but we do know that it's a lot
11 less expensive to use senior judges than it is
12 to use active judges.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Right.

14 MS. McDIVITT: And seniors will go
15 across the state wherever we employ them.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Okay.

17 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Most of
18 the seniors work in their own counties.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Right.

20 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: They can
21 go to any county where we put them. For
22 instance, we put Judge Cleland up in Centre
23 County to handle the Sandusky case, so his
24 expenses are covered there also out of our
25 line items.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Okay.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: But
3 mostly, they work in their own counties.
4 Although in Luzerne County, we had to put
5 about five or six senior judges in there
6 because of the difficulties they had in
7 Luzerne County with the child -- the two
8 judges there. That would help get them
9 through because two of them got indicted --
10 three of them got indicted, several retired,
11 so.

12 By the way, the Luzerne County
13 situation is over as far as we are concerned.
14 The -- after the -- Judge Grim had looked at
15 every one of the kids who appeared in front of
16 Ciavarella and has asked us and we have agreed
17 to expunge the record of every kid who
18 appeared in front of Ciavarella. The
19 legislature provided a fund to compensate the
20 victims of the juvenile's crime, and Judge
21 Grim has completed that task.

22 So the number of children who have
23 records that have been expunged, it's 2,251;
24 every child who appeared in Luzerne County in
25 front of Ciavarella.

1 There are ongoing federal civil
2 trials which don't have much to do with us,
3 but because of that, we are out of Luzerne
4 County. It really would relieve Judge Grim of
5 all of his work there.

6 And we are still addressing the
7 Interbranch Juvenile Justice Commission in
8 which the legislature and the Executive Branch
9 and us were tripartite efforts. We probably
10 changed -- or added or modified about 13
11 different juvenile rules at this time.

12 It really is a blight on the State
13 of PA and a real blight on the Judiciary of
14 PA. PA has generally been recognized
15 nationally as having a good juvenile justice
16 system, and then we get something like this
17 which causes us to take the action that we
18 did.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MARSICO: Okay.
20 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
23 Chairman. The next question is from
24 Representative Ron Waters of Philadelphia.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Thank you.

1 Thank you, Chairmen. And thank you, Chief
2 Justice, for being here today.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: You are
4 welcome.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: And I heard
6 your statements that you made about Luzerne
7 County, what happened out there and the
8 expungement. And I just wanted to say
9 publically that I appreciate your quick
10 response in how you were working on trying to
11 correct what that county took away. And now
12 you are telling us that the expungement took
13 place to protect the rights of those juveniles
14 that would have records, and pay the fines
15 that took place.

16 When we get into the cost savings
17 of what has -- this conversation has come up
18 with about cost savings, and I can't help but
19 to think about the effect that the war on
20 drugs has had on the judicial system.

21 And then on the other hand, for
22 instance in Philadelphia, the D.A. there, Seth
23 Williams, has publicly said that he does not
24 want to pursue low-level drug cases,
25 especially when it comes down to nonviolent

1 offenses; and to decrease the caseload there,
2 which in effect will free up the courts to be
3 able to handle more public safety, criminal
4 behavior, that would probably concentrate on
5 more people who incarceration is definitely
6 needed.

7 Have you had the chance over your
8 career, your distinguished career, to look at
9 some of the legislation that has been
10 introduced here in the General Assembly, by
11 the General Assembly, to see if there are some
12 changes with the mandatory sentences? That
13 maybe we could approach bad behavior in a way
14 where we would not necessarily punish the
15 people who did a crime that makes us -- that
16 upsets us more. The people that we are mad
17 at, let's say it like that, and just
18 concentrate on people who are just -- who are
19 truly criminals. Have you had a chance to
20 look at the legislation?

21 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Yeah, I
22 think every time I have come here. In
23 Philadelphia, they have a diversion program
24 for small amounts of marijuana. I am not sure
25 exactly how it works, but it's -- In

1 Philadelphia, it's like a couple thousand
2 cases a year that they take out of the system
3 and put them in a diversion court; a small
4 fine, whatever. It's almost like a traffic
5 ticket. That's for small amounts of
6 marijuana.

7 I have always said that these
8 mandatory minimums for nonviolent crimes are
9 probably -- the legislature has gone overboard
10 in doing that. And I was originally one who
11 pushed mandatory minimums for certain crimes,
12 or especially for violent crimes, when I was
13 District Attorney in Philadelphia. But I have
14 really come to look at it in a different light
15 for nonviolent crimes.

16 You are loading up the prisons on
17 these mandatories. You are loading them up
18 with individuals who might be able to receive
19 treatment, or who are not going to go in --
20 they are not going to be in prison. And
21 prison generally is not very helpful to the
22 individuals who go there because of the
23 situation that they are in, so there ought to
24 be diversion programs for those kinds of
25 cases.

1 The system has what I think is
2 appropriate for judges. There is a level --
3 There are sentencing guidelines that they have
4 that apply to every case, every judge. The
5 judge has to sentence an individual within
6 these guidelines. And if he doesn't, the
7 D.A. appeals. If he sets something below the
8 guidelines, the criminal's attorney can
9 appeal. So that there ought to be more
10 discretion upon these nonviolent crimes, given
11 to judges in the State of PA, so that they can
12 mete-out the correct punishment.

13 And you know, frankly, I say there
14 are certain individuals that get the mandatory
15 minimums that shouldn't have them, so we will
16 be looking at challenges to the mandatory
17 minimums. But basically, it's the legislature
18 writes the punishment, so the ball is kind of
19 in your court - unless we get appropriate case
20 level for us.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Yeah. So I
22 thank you for that response.

23 In the other chamber, Senator
24 Greenleaf, who has taken an action, has taken
25 some legislative action to try to address some

1 of the concerns that you have, too, about how
2 to handle -- how to better handle and provide
3 a service to these low-level drug offenders or
4 nonviolent people, with treatment, so that
5 they can turn their life around, and perhaps
6 continue working, be able to be productive
7 citizens.

8 And in some cases, you are breaking
9 up families when you do this.

10 And it hasn't -- Actually the
11 tougher crimes, it hasn't taken place; it
12 hasn't reduced. Let's say we've got seven
13 times more people incarcerated now than we did
14 back in 1980, put on the streets, on a second
15 try of saving them. So how do we produce
16 better citizens, is what I'm -- I guess I am
17 trying to say, so that we capture them at the
18 right time and they can turn their life around
19 and put them back on track?

20 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well, on
21 the drug situation, I was appointed, by the
22 first President Bush, to a Presidential
23 National Commission that reviewed the drug
24 situation. And it included district
25 attorneys, police, treatment people, elected

1 officials. And we went around the United
2 States and looked at different programs. And
3 at the end, everybody--the police officers,
4 the D.A.s--everybody agreed on these
5 nonviolent type drug cases, that treatment is
6 the way to go.

7 That was everybody. That was
8 unanimous, unanimous opinion of our
9 Presidential Commission. So I still hold that
10 opinion for nonviolent drug dealers and,
11 really, nonviolent criminals.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Well, my
13 last question to you on the first round -- I
14 don't know if the Chairman is going to allow
15 second round questions.

16 Some of us here, as legislators,
17 don't want to appear to be soft on crime, so
18 some of this stuff that has taken place is
19 based on not appearing to be soft on crime.

20 And in many cases, it would be
21 helpful if we had someone of your credentials,
22 and others, who would share in making sure
23 that the public understands that this is -- we
24 do stuff to try to better handle the unwanted,
25 bad behavior. That's not necessarily being

1 solved at the moment. This is more, you know,
2 trying to fix the problem rather than to back
3 it, the bill and problem up, and send
4 low-level drug offenders to jail. If they
5 come in and they are not violent - by the time
6 they come out, they will probably become then,
7 in many cases, socially.

8 So with your help in areas like
9 that, and others, it will be helpful with
10 sending the right message out.

11 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE:

12 Representative, just by coincidence, the
13 Governor has appointed the Executive Director
14 of our Presidential Commission, Gary Tennis,
15 who did all of the legwork for us when we were
16 the Presidential Commission. And the Governor
17 has appointed him to actually look into the
18 treatment side of the equation, so.

19 His name is Gary Tennis. He'll be
20 very active. And he's very passionate, so I
21 think your concerns, you might want to bring
22 to Mr. Tennis.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Mr. Tennis.

24 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: And you
25 have my testimony. I will give you the book,

1 too, from -- I think it was 1994 when we came
2 to that conclusion.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Thank you.
4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: I thank you,
6 Representative. There are no further
7 questions from the first round.

8 Representative Waters, if you would like to
9 continue your questioning, you certainly may.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Oh, good.
11 That's good. Or not. I don't know.

12 Chief Justice Castille, in
13 following in that line of questioning --

14 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: If you could
15 speak up just a little louder, Representative?
16 I think the Chief Justice would appreciate it.

17 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: Thank you.
19 Let me say -- Well, let me just -- I had
20 another one, but I had a moment of breakdown.

21 I want to talk about something else
22 dealing with the criminal justice system. We
23 have had some counties that they have enacted
24 their own laws. That many have said that this
25 should -- Counties don't have the authority to

1 enact certain laws, and they have done it
2 anyway, from county legislation (phonetic) to
3 the use of -- and motor vehicle legislation,
4 for two. I don't know how many more they
5 might have enacted. That they said this
6 should be statewide.

7 The counties have enacted and then
8 decided that they wanted to do what they
9 thought was necessary for -- necessary and in
10 their best interests. And I want to ask you,
11 how have the courts handled this in terms of
12 the difference between what should be enacted
13 by the state or what the counties get to
14 decide what they do?

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Well,
16 basically, we don't do anything unless it's
17 brought to us, so it has to come to us in the
18 form of a case.

19 We don't issue, what they call,
20 declaratory judgments or, really, opinions, so
21 it has to be an issue. And then it will come
22 to us and we will see if the counties have
23 overstepped their legislative bounds. And we
24 will review it on the given law and the
25 history of the law.

1 But basically, the state controls
2 the counties, legislatively speaking, so.
3 They overstep their bounds, and somebody
4 brings it to us in the form of a case, then we
5 will take the appropriate action.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: So if that
7 wasn't happening, if someone had the ability,
8 both, and actually as well as they thought
9 about constitutionally the right to appeal,
10 and it does, reaches your level of the
11 judiciary system, would an opinion come back
12 to that county or throughout the state, the
13 counties, that if this should -- about how
14 that is handled?

15 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Any
16 opinion that we issue, it could be a specific
17 county or a specific case, but it applies
18 across the entire state, so. It just depends
19 on what the issue is. And it may come, arise
20 from a county. But when we ruled on it, we
21 offer our opinion, and it applies to that
22 situation, the same situation in every county.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WATERS: All right.
24 Those were my questions. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. Thank you.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Thank you,
3 Representative. Representative Deb Kula.

4 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 These plans for the state takeover
7 of the clerk of courts and prothonotaries,
8 where is that at this time?

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: That's in
10 our budget proposal. It's like, I think,
11 \$8 million for this fiscal year. Eight
12 million.

13 We would like to bring them into
14 the system, to unify the system, that just as
15 we already brought the court administrators
16 into our system. But we realize it's
17 difficult financial times, so we are still
18 looking at ways that it would be possible to
19 absorb the prothonotaries and the clerks of
20 courts into our system. So it's still under
21 review. But, you know, \$8 million is a pretty
22 good chunk of money.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: And that
24 would only entail the actual clerk of courts
25 and prothonotary, not the entire office; is

1 that correct?

2 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: So it was
3 -- would be some of their deputies also.

4 If we were to take the -- We
5 actually had a study of what it would cost to
6 absorb the clerks of courts, prothonotaries,
7 and all of their staffs. The clerks of
8 courts, the prothonotaries and some of their
9 deputies, the first go-round was about
10 \$8 million. If we were going to absorb all of
11 them, we'd have some huge number.

12 MR. PINES: 495, everybody.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: Four
14 hundred ninety-five million dollars if we took
15 everybody into the system, so. If you would
16 put \$495 million in that line item, we would
17 be able to, perhaps, carry that out.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Okay. And
19 has there been any movement in looking into
20 any of the employees in the other court
21 offices, such as the district courts, or the
22 judges' employees, Common Pleas judges'
23 employees?

24 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We have
25 looked at that. There is a case that is still

1 outstanding by the county commissioners. If
2 we were to unify the entire court system,
3 similar to New Jersey, it would be upwards of
4 \$1.5 billion, so. If you put that in our line
5 item also, we'll look into that.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Well, I'm
7 just looking at a -- I know you have done the
8 court administrators. But, you know, when you
9 are looking at a actual judicial office, such
10 as the district courts, and those employees
11 being county employees and the district judge
12 being a state employee, I mean, it seems a
13 little more rational transition than maybe
14 taking on another office. I mean, is that
15 more of a burden?

16 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: You make a
17 point. Your point is well taken. It's all
18 about how we are going to pay for that, who's
19 going to pay for it. The \$470 million, we
20 collect from the criminal costs. And fees is
21 not going to pay for it. And it's close to
22 1.6 or 1.7 billion, if we take everybody;
23 judges, staff, the administrators, if we take
24 all of them into the system.

25 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: But you may

1 be moving closer as you eliminate some of the
2 courts. I mean, as you are combining courts
3 and, you know, cutting, reducing the numbers,
4 does it look like maybe that could be a
5 possibility?

6 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: It could
7 be a possibility.

8 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: Okay.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE:
10 Probability is the question, though.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KULA: I guess those
12 are two different adjectives. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOLF: Thank you,
14 Representative. I believe that's the last
15 question that the committee members have. I
16 want to thank the members for their
17 participation and their cooperation.

18 I would like to thank the
19 Judiciary, and especially the Chief Justice
20 for his testimony today.

21 I have received your budget
22 request. I don't have to tell you the state
23 of the economy here in PA and its struggling
24 revenues. We will look into your request and
25 do everything we can to honor your request.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: If you
2 would permit me to say one thing? Last year,
3 when we presented to the legislature, we did
4 receive an increase in our budget which was
5 certainly appreciated. And we believe that
6 members of the Senate and the House, and then
7 later on the Governor, saw the particular
8 needs. And that was the first increase we
9 have had in our budget since Governor Rendell
10 was the --

11 MS. McDIVITT: It's been seven
12 years.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: About
14 seven years, so. I did want to especially
15 mention that to the committee.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOLPH: Yeah, I believe
17 that was about \$22 million, an 8-percent
18 increase. And we realized that, over the
19 previous years, you know, you have this
20 computer rev. account that had been paying for
21 some expenses. That, you know, the computer
22 account had built up an excess over the years
23 and so forth, and we understand how that was
24 working.

25 On a note--because I know there are

1 reporters in the room and I don't want this
2 \$522 to become the headline of the day--I
3 think you were trying to say how much the
4 senior judge saves the court system. And you
5 would probably be better off putting that
6 dollar amount of how much a senior judge saves
7 the court system rather than a sitting judge.
8 Rather than saying they work for 1100 hours --
9 or 1100 days without compensation; the average
10 person in PA would not think that is no
11 compensation. Just an editorial to the
12 highest Judiciary in the land. Thank you.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE CASTILLE: We
14 appreciate that, and thank the members for
15 your time.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOLF: Thank you.
17 (At 12:15 p.m., the hearing
18 concluded.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Roxy C. Cressler, Reporter, Notary
3 Public, duly commissioned and qualified in and
4 for the County of York, Commonwealth of
5 Pennsylvania, hereby certify that the
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Roxy C. Cressler - Reporter
Notary Public

My commission
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