

**Proposed Budget
of the
Unified Judicial System
2024-25**

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

*Chief Justice Debra Todd
Justice Christine Donohue
Justice Kevin M. Dougherty
Justice David N. Wecht
Justice Sallie Updyke Mundy
Justice P. Kevin Brobson
Justice Daniel D. McCaffery*



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AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM, FY 2024-25

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FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 JUDICIARY BUDGET REQUEST
(\$000)

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	AVAILABLE	REQUESTED	GOV. REC.
	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
<i>Supreme Court</i>	19,392	21,670	21,073
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	517	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	2,597	3,114	3,711
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	453	415	415
<i>Justices' Expenses</i>	118	118	118
<i>Judicial Council</i>	141	141	141
<i>Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, Ethnic Fairness</i>	358	387	358
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	1	1	1
<i>Rules Committees</i>	1,595	1,595	1,595
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	7	7	7
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>25,179</u>	<u>27,448</u>	<u>27,419</u>
<i>Superior Court</i>	35,308	38,644	37,443
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	1,147	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	5,759	6,906	8,107
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	271	280	280
<i>Judges' Expenses</i>	183	183	183
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>42,668</u>	<u>46,013</u>	<u>46,013</u>
<i>Commonwealth Court</i>	22,774	27,274	26,604
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	122	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	609	731	1,401
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	191	192	192
<i>Judges' Expenses</i>	132	132	132
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>23,828</u>	<u>28,329</u>	<u>28,329</u>
<i>Court Administrator</i>	13,096	17,627	17,216
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	1,496	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	7,514	6,010	6,421
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	866	1,026	1,026
<i>(F) Court Improvement Program</i>	833	1,130	1,130
<i>(F) STOP Violence Against Women Program</i>	273	300	300
<i>(F) Veterans Treatment Court Strategic Planning</i>	0	0	0
<i>Judicial Center Operations</i>	1,034	2,818	2,791
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	121	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	615	736	763
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	367	356	356
<i>District Court Administrators</i>	23,185	25,260	25,013
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	1,396	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	7,036	8,432	8,679
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	137	137	137
<i>Office of Elder Justice in the Courts</i>	499	518	518
<i>(F) Elder Justice Innovation Grant</i>	984	1,100	1,100
<i>Court Management Education</i>	78	78	78
<i>Judicial Education</i>	1,407	1,454	1,532
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	125	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	623	748	670
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	1	1	1
<i>Problem-Solving Courts</i>	1,268	1,403	1,347
<i>Unified Judicial System Security</i>	2,002	2,556	2,556
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>64,956</u>	<u>71,690</u>	<u>71,634</u>

FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 JUDICIARY BUDGET REQUEST

(\$000)

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>AVAILABLE</u> <u>2023-24</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u> <u>2024-25</u>	<u>GOV. REC.</u> <u>2024-25</u>
<i>(R) Statewide Judicial Computer System</i>	43,800	46,668	43,417
<i>(A) Online Payment Fees</i>	3,678	4,753	4,753
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	856	1,523	1,523
<i>Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)</i>	2,372	3,671	3,671
<i>UJS Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery</i>	0	3,490	3,490
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>50,706</u>	<u>60,105</u>	<u>56,854</u>
<i>Courts of Common Pleas</i>	132,564	157,278	157,278
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	5,608	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	28,181	14,555	14,555
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	433	439	439
<i>Common Pleas Senior Judges</i>	4,213	4,339	4,339
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>170,999</u>	<u>176,611</u>	<u>176,611</u>
<i>Magisterial District Judges</i>	92,014	103,911	103,911
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	2,294	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	11,527	6,238	6,238
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	527	527	527
<i>Magisterial District Judge Education</i>	878	919	878
<i>(A) Miscellaneous</i>	14	14	14
<i>Philadelphia Municipal Court</i>	9,055	9,797	9,797
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	420	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	2,110	2,530	2,530
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	32	32	32
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>118,871</u>	<u>123,968</u>	<u>123,927</u>
<i>County Court Reimbursement Grant</i>	23,136	23,136	23,136
<i>Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant</i>	1,375	1,375	1,375
<i>Juror Cost Reimbursement Grant</i>	1,118	1,118	1,118
<i>Court Interpreter County Grant</i>	2,473	3,000	2,473
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>28,102</u>	<u>28,629</u>	<u>28,102</u>
<i>Judicial Ethics Advisory Board</i>	165	762	656
<i>(S) Supplemental Funding</i>	79	0	0
<i>(A) Act 49</i>	391	0	106
<i>Judicial Conduct Board</i>	2,555	2,555	2,555
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	11	10	10
<i>Court of Judicial Discipline</i>	618	618	618
<i>(A) Medicare D</i>	2	2	2
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>3,947</u>	<u>3,947</u>
STATE FUNDS	395,106	457,827	453,993
(S) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS	13,325	0	0
(A) AUGMENTATIONS - ACT 49	66,962	50,000	53,181
(A) AUGMENTATIONS - ALL OTHER	7,847	9,715	9,715
(R) RESTRICTED REVENUES	43,800	46,668	43,417
(F) FEDERAL FUNDS	2,090	2,530	2,530
TOTAL, ALL SOURCES	<u>529,130</u>	<u>566,740</u>	<u>562,836</u>

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Supreme Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	17,493	19,392	21,670	21,073
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>5,806</u>	<u>3,567</u>	<u>3,529</u>	<u>4,126</u>
Total	23,299	22,959	25,199	25,199

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	13,968	16,955	18,771	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>5,427</u>	<u>3,177</u>	<u>3,179</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	19,395	20,132	21,950	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds:							
Justices	7	6	7	6	7	6	0
Staff	* 121	95	** 116	94	*** 113	93	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	128	101	123	100	120	99	0

* Includes 9 summer interns

** Includes 8 summer interns

*** Includes 7 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2,430	2,437	2,899	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>379</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,809	2,827	3,249	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,095	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,095	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$3,114 in required funding consisting of \$2,597 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$517 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$3,114 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3% increase in judicial salaries effective January 1, 2025. Assumptions regarding Justices' salaries are as follows:

	<u>July – December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
Chief Justice	\$260,734	\$268,557
Justices (6)	\$253,361	\$260,962

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for seven Justices and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$316,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff positions and vacancies and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,458,000
-Increase in leave payouts -	\$22,000
-Increase in unemployment compensation -	\$20,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$2,000

Operating:

-Increase in miscellaneous operating expenses -	\$422,000
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in filing fees -	\$40,000
-Decrease in filing fees -	(\$40,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor			
Justices	82.25%	82.06%	81.93%
Staff	80.06%	81.10%	81.39%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court is the oldest in the nation, predating the United States Supreme Court by 67 years. In matters of law, the state Supreme Court is Pennsylvania's court of last resort. In matters of administration, the Court's seven Justices are responsible for the effective management of the Commonwealth's Unified Judicial System, including the intermediate appellate courts, the Courts of Common Pleas, the magisterial district judge courts and related minor courts, and all staff who contribute to the system's administration. Justices are elected to 10-year terms, with the Chief Justice being the member having the longest continuous service among the seven.

This appropriation provides funding for the salaries and benefits of the Supreme Court Justices, their staff and the staff of the prothonotary offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in addition to necessary operating expenses and fixed assets. This budget request reflects an estimate of the expenses required for the Supreme Court to carry out the programs mandated under the laws of the Commonwealth and to give the Court the ability to manage the workload of the entire judicial system.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art.V, Sec. 2, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 501, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Justices' Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	118	118	118	118
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	118	118	118	118

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	74	118	118	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	74	118	118	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	44	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 - Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$44 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation provides funding to cover the actual expenses incurred by the seven justices of the Supreme Court to enable them to fulfill their mandated constitutional responsibilities of the Unified Judicial System. Allowable business expenses are reimbursed under a vouchered system implemented by the Supreme Court.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Council

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	141	141	141	141
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	141	141	141	141

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	141	141	141	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	141	141	141	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are currently paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2022-23: none

2023-24: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Constitution and the provisions of Rule of Judicial Administration 301, the Supreme Court establishes advisory bodies to assist the Court in managing the Commonwealth's Unified Judicial System. The appropriation funds selected program initiatives.

These advisory bodies make recommendations on matters referred by the Court and, from time to time, on their own initiative. Notable accomplishments include the publication of a continuing education curriculum for state trial judges, the initiation of an ongoing security program improving the safety of court facilities across the Commonwealth, the creation of task force to evaluate and recommend improvements to the investigating grand jury system, the development of best practices for conducting jury trials during a pandemic, and the institution of a judicial ethics advisory board to assist Pennsylvania judges in complying with the relevant codes of conduct.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) Pa Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et.seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	350	358	387	358
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	350	359	388	359

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	314	349	334	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	314	350	335	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	3	2	2	2	2	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3	2	2	2	2	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	36	9	53	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	36	9	53	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$40,000
-Decrease in leave payouts -	(\$55,000)

Operating:

-Increase in miscellaneous operating expenses -	\$44,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	73.99%	60.27%	75.58%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness (“Interbranch Commission”) was established in January 2005 by all three branches of Pennsylvania government. The mission of the Interbranch Commission is to promote the equal application of the law for all in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by 1) implementing the recommendations from the 2003 study by the Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System (“Committee”); 2) investigating and implementing new initiatives that may not have been addressed by the Committee; 3) raising both public and professional awareness of its work; and 4) increasing public confidence in Pennsylvania government.

The Interbranch Commission consists of 24 volunteer appointees (“Commissioners”). Appointments are divided between the Supreme Court (8), the Governor (8), the President Pro Tempore of the Senate (2), the Speaker of the House of Representatives (2), Minority Leader of the Senate (2), and Minority Leader of the House (2). As of early 2024, there are ten Commissioner vacancies. . The Interbranch Commission’s work is currently and principally conducted through six committees that meet on a bimonthly basis. Additional mission-appropriate initiatives may be addressed on an ad hoc basis. The Commissioners, who oversee the committees and any ad hoc initiatives, meet quarterly. The Interbranch Commission currently employs one Executive Director and one Staff Attorney and seeks to add an administrative assistant (independent contractor) and one to two unpaid interns in the coming year.

Criminal Justice Committee: The Committee continues to educate the public on the recommendations from the 2017 death penalty study conducted by the Penn State Criminal Justice Research Center. The Committee welcomed researchers from Penn State to speak at an open session on December 6, 2023. This program detailed the second, broader phase of the study on disparities in the prosecution of all Pennsylvania homicide cases from 2012-2016. Since submitting its Memorandum on Indigent Defense Reform, the Committee has convened numerous meetings with key legislators and relevant stakeholders to secure funding and bipartisan support for the recommended reforms. The 2023-24 budget provides \$7.5 million for indigent defense services through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”). The Committee also continues to seek reforms in cash bail and legal financial obligation procedures that result in the unwarranted incarceration of indigent individuals. The Commission submitted a letter to the Supreme Court Criminal Procedural Rules Committee proposing the adoption of court rules responsive to Act 163. It gives courts explicit authority to reduce or waive nearly all fines and costs when the court finds that the defendant is unable to pay them.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims Committee: The Committee is working with the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission to arrange for judicial training in the future on the rule clarification previously obtained by the Committee from the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. The rule permits juvenile human trafficking victims not under supervision in their home states to remain in the state in which they were found, rather than be involuntarily returned to their home state.

¹ One vacancy each must be filled by the Supreme Court, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Minority Leader of the Senate. Seven vacancies must be filled by the Governor.

The Committee is monitoring the results of a study detailing resources needed to establish a statewide rape kit tracking system to assist survivors of rape and prosecution of the crime.

Equal Opportunity and Diversity Committee: The Committee continues to publish and distribute its annual one-page summary of attorney demographics. The Committee is reviewing and expanding this work to examine these trends and action items stemming from these statistics. The Committee also contributed to and signed onto an amicus brief submitted by bar associations across the Commonwealth to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, in support of amended Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(g), which prohibits attorneys from knowingly engaging in discriminatory conduct in the practice of law. The Committee published and broadly distributed a guidebook detailing the curricular programming Pennsylvania's nine law schools have implemented to educate students and faculty on implicit bias and racial inequities in the justice system. This work will be published on the Interbranch Commission website.

Jury Service Committee: The Committee is working with the AOPC and district court administrators to assess the impact of the judicial districts' increased use of the Statewide Juror List and to learn whether the districts collect juror demographic data. While judicial districts making use of the statewide lists have provided positive feedback, some discrepancies in voter information have been identified. The Committee is working with AOPC to determine the best way to address those discrepancies. The Committee continues to urge rules explicitly permitting the collection of juror demographic information. On March 25, 2023, the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee published its proposed amendments to Pa.R.Crim.P. 632 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The proposed amendments capture many rule modifications advanced by the Commission. The Committee continues to support multiple measures (individual and omnibus bills) designed to provide improved juror compensation and support. The Committee has submitted letters in support of several bills that would make jury service less onerous by, respectively, providing free parking to jurors for the duration of their service, increasing the per diem pay for jurors from \$9 to \$40. The Committee is performing background research for a memorandum to the AOPC and the County Commissioners' Association, regarding the availability of Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) for jurors in Pennsylvania. In addition, the Committee is exploring ways to expand the childcare models currently in place in Allegheny and Montgomery counties.

Language Access Committee: Since playing a role in the passage of Act 172, the Committee has continued to monitor and support compliance with same. The Committee is working with AOPC and other interested stakeholders to address ongoing and emerging needs in the AOPC Language Access and Interpreter Program. Based on recently published infographic from AOPC, increasing the availability of certified translators continues to be a priority. The Committee is working to make the interpreter program known and develop more opportunities to train for this examination and incentivize full participation in the certification program. The Committee has also connected directly to the PA Office of Administration's Chief Accessibility Officer to improve the quality of language access in administrative hearings.

LGBTQ+ Rights Committee: In June 2022, the Committee submitted to the PA Department of Human Services extensive proposed amendments to the PA Code to provide non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ youth in out-of-home placements. The Committee also submitted letters supporting bills to ban the so-called LGBTQ “panic” defense and to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to extend non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ individuals. The Committee has also been working with local committees and governments to secure such protections via the amendment of county ordinances. Finally, the Committee has sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urging rescission of its non-enforcement policy on the non-discrimination protections implemented in 2016 to provide safeguards for LGBTQ individuals.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Rules Committees

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,595	1,595	1,595	1,595
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	1,603	1,602	1,602	1,602

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,269	1,220	1,278	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,277	1,227	1,285	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	11	7	6	6	6	6	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	7	6	6	6	6	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	74	375	317	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	74	375	317	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	252	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>252</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 – Non-expense/Interagency consists of \$252 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacancies, and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$80,000
-Decrease in leave payouts -	(\$22,000)

Operating:

-Decrease in miscellaneous operating expenses -	(\$58,000)
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	89.58%	93.50%	99.21%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the eight Supreme Court standing rules committees: Criminal Procedural Rules, Civil Procedural Rules, Domestic Relations Procedural Rules, Juvenile Court Procedural Rules, Appellate Court Procedural Rules, Orphans' Court Procedural Rules, 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 in Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. Acting as advisory bodies, the rules committees study and recommend procedural and evidentiary rules to the Court. In executing this role, the committees coordinate with members of the bench, bar, public, and the legislative and executive branches to receive information, comments, and suggestions regarding the rules and rule proposals. The committees also monitor recent legislation and court opinions to maintain rules that are current with the Commonwealth's developing law.

Another committee function is rules drafting. During this process, the committee may direct staff to investigate and prepare proposed changes, additions, or deletions to the rules. After consideration by the full committee, which may or may not have been preceded by a subcommittee review, a proposed recommendation proceeds in accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 103. Under Rule 103, a proposed recommendation is generally published for public comment in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Subsequently, the committee reviews the comments received and, as necessary, the committee may modify the proposal before submitting to the Court a final recommendation for its consideration.

In aggregate, the eight rules committees have approximately 100 members serving without compensation and supported by four attorneys and two administrative staff. The rules committees meet several times a year, generally for one- to two-day meetings. Some committees use standing or ad hoc subcommittees, which meet at other times to work on specific issues. During Fiscal Year 2023-24, the various rules committees are scheduled to convene approximately 24 times at various locations throughout Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Judicial Center. This fiscal year is notable for the collaborative rulemaking efforts among multiple rules committees for the adoption of Rules of Judicial Administration governing the custody of exhibits and the rules of construction for statewide procedural and evidentiary rules.

The work of the rules committees in 2023 has included:¹

¹ To avoid repetition, recommendations both published and adopted in calendar year 2023 are listed only once hereafter as adopted.

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- The **Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) a juvenile court hearing officer not being prohibited from recommending an order for protective custody; 2) access to juvenile records and the entry of dependency court custody orders on the custody docket; 3) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.; and 4) service of court orders and notices by social media.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) adding a rule to govern the admission of a certified forensic lab report in lieu of the expert appearing and testifying in court; 2) updating family finding requirements in dependency proceedings; and 3) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

- The **Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) procedures relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act and Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations concerning the identification of Indian children in termination of parental rights proceedings and adoption proceedings; 2) the rescission and replacement of Register of Wills Forms RW-02 (Petition for Grant of Letters) and RW-07 (Notice of Estate Administration); and 3) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) relating to delinquent annual or final reports and available compliance measures under Pa.R.O.C.P. 14.8(f); and 2) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Orphans' Court Procedure.

- The **Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) criminal record or abuse history verifications and reports of child abuse and protective services requested by the court in custody proceedings; 2) the use of physician verification forms in support proceedings; 3) parenting coordination in custody proceedings; and 4) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) governing the appointment of guardians ad litem in custody proceedings; and 2) incorporating statutory language regarding beneficiary status in divorce decrees.

- The **Minor Court Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) denial of petitions for emergency protective relief; 2) service of a reissued order for possession and notice, in certain instances, ten days prior to the striking of an appeal or writ of certiorari, the termination of a supersedeas; 3) mediation in residential landlord-tenant actions; 4) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.; and 5) amendments to 75 Pa.C.S. § 3345.1, pertaining to civil violations for passing a stopped school bus with flashing red signal lights and an activated side stop signal arm.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) adding procedural rules for actions initiated pursuant to 75 Pa.C.S. § 3345.1(i.1), relating to civil violations for failing to stop for a school bus; and 2) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Actions and Proceedings Before Magisterial District Judges.

- The **Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) the designation of parties and the sequence and order of briefs in cross-appeals; 2) appeals from the Orphans' Court; 3) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.; and 4) expansion of the definition of “Children's Fast Track” to include appeals from juvenile delinquency orders.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) addressing the requirements that a separate notice of appeal be filed on each docket on which an appealable order is entered to appeal; 2) updating and referencing the forms used by the United States Postal Service and commonly accepted by the prothonotaries of the appellate courts as proof of mailing to satisfy Pa.R.A.P. 121; 3) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate Procedure; and 4) codifying the 45-day period to seek appellate review of certain denials under the Criminal History Record Information Act.

- The **Criminal Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) the juror information questionnaire; 2) waiver of fees and costs, i.e., in forma pauperis; 3) bail proceedings and Gagnon I proceedings; 4) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.; and 5) suppression motions when a summary conviction is appealed to the court of common pleas.

The Court adopted committee recommendation: 1) providing procedures for expungement of complete acquittals; 2) updating the Comment to Pa.R.Crim.P. 574 (Forensic Laboratory Report; Certification In Lieu of Expert Testimony.); 3) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure; and 4) updating commentary requiring law enforcement to provide the name and contact information of the victim to the court.

- The **Committee on Rules of Evidence** published proposed rule changes for Pennsylvania Rule of Evidence 601 concerning the competency of witnesses.

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) concerning judicial notice and the citation of non-precedential intermediate appellate court opinions and single-judge opinions of the Commonwealth Court in election law matters; and 2) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence.

- The **Civil Procedural Rules Committee** published proposals on the following topics: 1) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq. and Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Code, 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 et seq.; 2) voir dire procedures for jurors; and 3) sanctions for violating Pa.R.Civ.P. 1023.1(c) (Representations to the Court).

The Court adopted committee recommendations: 1) requiring a status conference for inactive court cases intending to proceed; 2) changing “master” to “hearing officer”; and 3) establishing rules for the construction of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure.

The volume of the rules committees’ activities reflects the quickening pace of change in the practice of law and society in general. Additionally, the rules committees continue to review proposed local rules pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 103(d).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, sec. 10(c), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S. §§ 1722, *et seq.*

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Superior Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	33,025	35,308	38,644	37,443
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>7,576</u>	<u>7,177</u>	<u>7,186</u>	<u>8,387</u>
Total	40,601	42,485	45,830	45,830

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	33,025	35,308	38,644	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,962</u>	<u>1,523</u>	<u>1,532</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	34,987	36,831	40,176	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds:							
Judges	15	14	15	14	15	13	0
Staff	* 257	191	** 233	191	** 226	185	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	272	205	248	205	241	198	0

* Includes 21 summer interns

** Includes 16 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>5,614</u>	<u>5,654</u>	<u>5,654</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5,614	5,654	5,654	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include \$6,906 in required funding consisting of \$5,759 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$1,147 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$6,906 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3% increase in judicial salaries and per diem compensation effective January 1, 2025. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diems are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
President Judge	\$246,428	\$253,821
Judge (14)	\$239,059	\$246,231
Senior Judge per Diem	\$683	\$704

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 15 judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$453,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff/law clerks and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$2,851,000
-Increase in senior judge per diem and social security due to increased rates -	\$12,000
-Increase in annual/sick leave payout -	\$20,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$9,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor			
Justices	79.15%	80.30%	80.93%
Staff	87.32%	85.08%	84.92%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Superior Court was established by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1895 to hear appeals from certain decisions of the Commonwealth's Courts of Common Pleas. Since the court's inception, the General Assembly has periodically expanded the Superior Court's jurisdiction, and today it decides appeals touching almost every aspect of life and commerce in the Commonwealth. These appeals include family matters such as child custody, visitation, adoption, divorce, and support; criminal cases; matters concerning wills and estates; property disputes; and cases involving damages for breach of contract or personal injury. Superior Court judges also hear applications made by the Attorney General and district attorneys under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act. The Superior Court is often the final arbiter of legal disputes in

Pennsylvania. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for an appeal from a decision of the Superior Court, in most cases, such petitions are denied.

The Superior Court is comprised of 15 commissioned judges. Currently, three senior judges assist in the work of the court. Except for cases in which the court orders consideration by an en banc panel of nine judges, the court sits in three-judge panels, hearing oral arguments an average of three times per month throughout the Commonwealth. Other judicial duties include voting and writing on other judges' panel decisions; reviewing re-argument petitions and en banc certifications; serving on motions panels and as a monthly motions assignment judge; wiretap assignments; and court committee assignments. According to the National Center for State Courts, the Pennsylvania Superior Court continues to be one of the busiest intermediate state appellate courts in the country.

In calendar year 2023, 6,509 appeals were filed, and the Court concluded 6,415. To meet the rigorous workload of the court in 2023, each judge wrote an average of 201 written decisions. The Court received 14,564 filed motions.

This appropriation provides funding for the salaries and benefits for judges, their staff, administrative staff, and the staff of the prothonotary offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in addition to necessary operating expenses and fixed assets. Funding of this budget request is essential to continue the efficient and effective operation of the court.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 3, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 541, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Superior Court – Judges’ Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	183	183	183	183
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	183	183	183	183

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	103	183	183	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	103	183	183	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	80	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>80</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Fiscal Year 2022-23 – Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$80 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the vouchered Court-related business expenses incurred by the 15 commissioned judges of the Superior Court, including expenses incurred when traveling to other locations within Pennsylvania to hear oral arguments, and performing Court work outside of their chambers. Expenses include travel reimbursement, food, and lodging.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Commonwealth Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	21,616	22,774	27,274	26,604
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>209</u>	<u>922</u>	<u>923</u>	<u>1,593</u>
Total	21,825	23,696	28,197	28,197

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	19,815	20,534	25,042	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>102</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	19,917	20,610	25,119	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds							
Judges	9	8	9	8	9	8	0
Staff	* 144	110	** 136	113	** 136	108	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	153	118	145	121	145	116	0

* Includes 10 summer interns

** Includes 9 summer interns

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,801	2,240	2,232	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>107</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,908	3,086	3,078	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Operating: Other Funds include \$731 in required funding consisting of \$609 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$122 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$731 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1, to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3% increase in judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2025. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
President Judge	\$246,428	\$253,821
Judge (8)	\$239,059	\$246,231
Senior Judge per diem	\$683	\$704

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for nine judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$363,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$4,141,000
-Increase in senior judge per diems and social security -	\$4,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$1,000

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses -	(\$8,000)
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor			
Judges	75.82%	75.06%	77.35%
Staff	95.65%	87.32%	83.82%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania came into existence January 1, 1970, created by the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968. The court hears appeals from county Courts of Common Pleas and state administrative agencies. From county courts, the Commonwealth Court hears appeals in matters involving zoning, taxation, civil service, negligence cases involving state and local government, and eminent domain, among others. From state administrative agencies, the court hears appeals in matters involving workers' and unemployment compensation, environmental issues, welfare claims, public utility rate disputes, and taxation, among others. In addition, the court acts as a trial court in certain types of cases where the Commonwealth is a party, including

actions in equity, mandamus, and declaratory judgment, as well as hearing cases arising under the Election Code in both its original and appellate jurisdiction. The court also actively supervises insolvent insurance company estates in various stages of rehabilitation or liquidation. These matters, which are akin to bankruptcy proceedings, involve complex, protracted litigation, and present unique case management challenges requiring significant judicial and staff resources.

While the Court's overall caseload remained relatively stable in 2023, there was an 11% increase in the number of appeals from the courts of common pleas, suggesting a return to pre-pandemic activity levels in the trial courts. In addition, the court continued to handle considerable original jurisdiction litigation, including matters related to ongoing election-related disputes. Overall, 2,837 new actions were filed in the court in calendar year 2023. Of these, 599 were new original jurisdiction cases, 426 of which were filed by prisoners. In the court's appellate jurisdiction, it received 749 new appeals from the courts of common pleas. In other major appellate categories, 887 new agency appeals were filed in 2023, including 391 unemployment compensation appeals and 138 workers' compensation appeals, among other categories. The Court received 582 new tax appeals from the Board of Finance and Revenue. The Court resolved 69 expedited cases (both original and appellate jurisdiction) arising under the Election Code and affecting the 2023 primary and general election ballots.

In 2023 the Commonwealth Court disposed of 2,677 cases. The court's mediation program continued to be successful in 2023: 126 cases were referred to mediation, and 88 cases were resolved, eliminating the need for further litigation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 4, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 561, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Commonwealth Court – Judges’ Expenses

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	132	132	132	132
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	132	132	132	132

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	132	132	132	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	132	132	132	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are paid from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation provides funding for vouchered expenses of the Commonwealth Court's authorized complement of nine judges. The requested level of funding is the amount necessary to fund the reimbursement of allowable business expenses of the full complement.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Administrator

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	11,809	13,096	17,627	17,216
Federal Funds:	1,064	1,106	1,430	1,430
CIP	827	833	1,130	1,130
STOP Grant	237	273	300	300
Other Funds	<u>5,129</u>	<u>9,876</u>	<u>7,036</u>	<u>7,447</u>
Total	18,002	24,078	26,093	26,093

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	11,809	13,096	14,686	0
Federal Funds	694	833	833	0
Other Funds	<u>3,322</u>	<u>2,283</u>	<u>2,353</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	15,825	16,212	17,872	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	93.67	87.67	97	92	96	87	0
Federal Funds	9	8	5	5	5	5	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	102.67	95.67	106	101	105	96	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	2,941	0
Federal Funds	370	273	597	0
Other Funds	<u>1,807</u>	<u>7,593</u>	<u>4,683</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,177	7,866	8,221	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include \$9,010 in required funding consisting of \$7,514 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$1,496 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$6,010 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

The federal funds shown each year in this presentation consist primarily of funds under Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families for the Court Improvement Program (CIP) involving the dependency courts. Each year also includes federal funds provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) from the STOP Violence Against Women grant program to provide training and technical assistance to Pennsylvania's judiciary.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacancies, new positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,522,000
-Increase in leave payouts -	\$68,000
-Increase in augmentations (DHS) to support CIP personnel costs -	\$70,000

Operating:

-Decrease in Act 49 funds available in FY 2024-25 to supplement state funds (nonrecurring) -	(\$3,000,000)
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in available Act 49 funds (nonrecurring) -	\$3,000,000
-Decrease in operating expenses -	(\$59,000)
-Increase in augmentations (DHS) to support CIP operating costs -	\$90,000

Federal Funds:

Operating:

-Increase in federal funds for STOP grant -	\$27,000
-Increase in federal funds to support CIP operating costs -	\$297,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	83.48%	80.80%	81.10%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	None
2024-25:	None

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania's Constitutional Convention of 1967-68 created a Unified Judicial System (UJS) and formalized the Supreme Court's authority to supervise all of the Commonwealth's courts. That Constitution also created the position of Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, with the responsibility of leading the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) in assisting the Supreme Court to carry out its supervisory and administrative roles.

The AOPC provides services for jurists, staff and the citizens of the Commonwealth. Those duties include providing statewide support in the areas of technology, communications, human resources, payroll, budgeting and accounting, law, intergovernmental relations, court programs, research and education.

Funding for AOPC operations comes mainly from appropriated state funds, and also from fee funding and a small amount of federal funds. Funding for its information technology operations—known as the Judicial Computer System (JCS)—is provided by appropriations of restricted receipts contained within the JCS Augmentation Account. More information can be found under the Statewide Judicial Computer System tab later in this book.

Highlights of UJS initiatives in which the AOPC has been involved over the past year include the following:

- The Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) hosted the first Pennsylvania Guardianship Justice Summit on September 20-22, 2023 using federal grant funding from the Administration for Community Living. An interdisciplinary group of stakeholders from 34 counties participated in the Summit. The attendees included orphans' court judges and clerks, professional guardians, staff from state elder justice agencies, elder law and legal aid attorneys, legislators, disability advocates, medical providers and evaluators, long-term care providers, and adult protective services agencies. The Summit supported the following goals: assuring due process for alleged incapacitated persons; improving guardianship monitoring capabilities to prevent abuse and exploitation; and promoting alternatives to guardianship.
- Work continues on the Autism in the Courts initiative, focusing on a series of regional summits to provide education and training for court personnel and justice partners about autism, diagnosis and community support. National autism related organizations have taken notice of the work being done in Pennsylvania and conversations are being held on ways to partner and engage on the national stage. Pennsylvania remains the only state in the nation focused on justice reform for those with autism and intellectual disabilities.
- A Mental Health and Dependency Court Workgroup was established and held its first meeting in December. This group is tasked with examining the intersection between mental health issues and the dependency court system. The Workgroup includes approximately 30 members from the legal, child welfare, and mental health community.
- Continued progress is being made on the Behavioral Health Initiative. AOPC has led several trips to attend workshops on the decriminalization of mental illness. Attendees included members from the executive and legislative branches of government, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), and county action teams. The focus in 2024 will be on education and training for judges and planning for a statewide summit for improved court and community responses to those with behavioral health issues.
- Development of a regional veterans treatment court, serving eight central Pennsylvania counties, began to extend crucial support to previously underserved areas. This regional court will expand the veterans treatment court network to cover 32 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1901, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Center Operations

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	830	1,034	2,818	2,791
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>1,190</u>	<u>1,103</u>	<u>1,092</u>	<u>1,119</u>
Total	2,020	2,137	3,910	3,910

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	830	1,034	1,043	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>456</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>315</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,286	1,349	1,358	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	11	11	11	11	11	10	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	11	11	11	11	10	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	1,775	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>734</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	734	788	2,552	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include \$736 in required funding consisting of \$615 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$121 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel and Operating: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$736 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 11 staff and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$9,000
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Operating:

-Increase for replacement of network equipment -	\$1,550,000
-Increase for bulding renovations -	\$225,000
-Decrease in augmentations for PJC chargebacks -	(\$11,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	97.01%	92.83%	99.43%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: Network Equipment - \$1,550,000; Building Renovations - \$225,000

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the centralized costs to operate the Judicial Center in the capitol complex. This budget request provides full-year funding for 11 staff positions and related operating costs required to support this facility.

The majority of centralized operating costs consist of janitorial, telephone and data circuits, equipment maintenance, facilities management, and mail room expenses required for central support of building occupants and building operations of the Judicial Center. Augmentations of \$354,000 are expected to be collected from tenants to offset on-going operating costs.

The Judicial Center continues to be an example of intergovernmental cooperation with the move of the grand jury courtroom from Strawberry Square to the sixth floor of the Judicial Center. In addition, meeting rooms within the Judicial Center are routinely offered to and used by executive and legislative branch agencies.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
District Court Administrators

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	20,050	23,185	25,260	25,013
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>10,941</u>	<u>8,569</u>	<u>8,569</u>	<u>8,816</u>
Total	30,991	31,754	33,829	33,829

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	20,032	23,159	25,233	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>10,941</u>	<u>8,569</u>	<u>8,569</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	30,973	31,728	33,802	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	197	193	200	198	203	197	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	197	193	200	198	203	197	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	18	26	27	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	18	26	27	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor’s Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$8,432 in required funding consisting of \$7,036 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$1,396 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$8,432 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff, vacant and new positions, and annuitant health insurance benefits - \$2,074,000

Operating

-Increase in operating expenses - \$1,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	88.82%	86.52%	88.10%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the salaries, benefits and related expenses of the district court administrative positions transitioned to state service January 1, 2000 in accordance with Act 12 of 1999 and those created subsequently. Act 12 authorized those transfers as a means of developing a solid management infrastructure between the state and district courts as components of the overall Unified Judicial System. Judicial district (county) administrative positions have been held steady for some years, but requests to increase funding to fulfill long-standing staff needs are under consideration. As a result, this budget request provides funding for three new positions for a total complement of 203, an increase of 28, or 16%, over the 175 transitioned to the Unified Judicial System in 2000.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1905

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC)

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	496	499	518	518
Federal Funds:	844	984	1,100	1,100
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,340	1,483	1,618	1,618

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	442	388	407	0
Federal Funds	240	348	366	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	682	736	773	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2.33	2.33	3	3	2	2	0
Federal Funds	3	2	3	2	3	3	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5.33	4.33	6	5	5	5	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	54	111	111	0
Federal Funds	604	636	734	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	658	747	845	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

The federal funds shown in this presentation consist of funds from the Administration for Community Living, Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program. The grant will aid Pennsylvania's efforts to assess and implement improvements in the handling of adult guardianship cases.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff - \$19,000

Federal Funds:

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for grant-funded staff - \$18,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses for federal grant-funded operations - \$98,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	72.21%	69.53%	69.86%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts (OEJC) in support of its mission to address access to justice issues affecting older Pennsylvanians. The OEJC was created by the Supreme Court in January 2015 and is one of the recommendations developed by the Elder Law Task Force. The OEJC is responsible for implementing other relevant recommendations identified by the Elder Law Task Force. This appropriation also funds the Advisory Council on Elder Justice.

Among the activities and accomplishments of the OEJC in 2023 were the following:

- Hired an OEJC trainer, completing the hiring of three grant-funded positions (including a grant program compliance coordinator and OEJC analyst) to work on the implementation of the multi-project ACL grant.
- Planned and hosted the successful grant-funded first Pennsylvania Guardianship Justice Summit (Summit) on September 20-22. An interdisciplinary group of stakeholders from 34 counties participated in the Summit. The 165+ attendees included orphans' court judges and clerks, professional guardians, staff from state elder justice agencies, elder law and legal aid attorneys, legislators, disability advocates, medical providers and evaluators, long-term care providers, and adult protective services agencies.
- Established regional collaboration groups (RCGs) across the Commonwealth to further the work begun at the Summit (ensuring due process, improving guardianship monitoring, educating on guardianship and least restrictive alternatives, and identifying regional challenges facing older Pennsylvanians). Input from the public and other stakeholders will be gathered through regional listening sessions.
- Implemented a grant-funded pilot project (in Dauphin County) for a Pennsylvania legal services organization(s) to represent alleged incapacitated persons age 60+ in guardianship proceedings and increase their access to due process. The project will be expanded to Cumberland, Berks, and Perry counties.

-
- Engaged and collaborated with the grant-funded TCC Group to design an evaluation tool and processes to measure the impact and outcomes of the ACL grant projects and disseminate successful practices and lessons learned.
 - Began grant-funded modifications and enhancements to the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) to expand its efficacy and increase its functionality. One completed enhancement is building towards an automated process to run a daily check against the Common Pleas Criminal Case Management System for new criminal charges filed against a guardian, thereby furthering protections for persons with a guardianship.
 - Provided advice and technical assistance regarding the passage of Act 61 of 2023 by providing feedback and testimony on the legislation when requested. The Act addresses three guardianship reforms: universal appointment of counsel for the alleged incapacitated person at guardianship hearings, a requirement of certification for professional guardians, and statutory language regarding less restrictive alternatives that should be considered by the petitioner and the court.
 - Participated in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership on Aging’s public regional listening session to collaborate on issues including access to justice, due process, identification of resources for older adults, and education for the public and key stakeholders on alternatives to guardianship.
 - Published the Advisory Council’s 2022 Annual Report.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 7, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1501, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3532

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Mangement Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	73	78	78	78
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>73</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	73	78	78	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>73</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The Judiciary requests that the same level of funding be provided as in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The funding provided by this appropriation enables the provision of ongoing education programs for Judiciary staff. A variety of educational programs offered throughout the year are designed to further develop and strengthen the professional competence of both management and staff.

This budget request provides for continued professional education presented in various formats, including regional workshops, webinars, topic specific-seminars, professional conferences, and other formats as appropriate. These education programs are designed to advance the contemporary professional and managerial skills of state and county level district court administration staff. An annual course is offered each spring in Harrisburg for all new district court administration staff, and an annual symposium for Magisterial District Court Administration staff is held in the fall.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,272	1,407	1,454	1,532
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>441</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>671</u>
Total	1,713	2,156	2,203	2,203

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	748	859	906	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	748	859	906	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	5	4	5	5	5	5	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5	4	5	5	5	5	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	524	548	548	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>441</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	965	1,297	1,297	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Operating: Other Funds include \$748 in required funding consisting of \$623 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$125 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Operating: Other Funds consist of augmenting revenues of \$748 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and related benefits for filled staff - \$47,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	76.78%	74.14%	75.17%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania adopted continuing education requirements on December 9, 2016, effective January 1, 2017, for all state trial and appellate court judges. The order required each judge to earn annually three hours of judicial ethics education and nine hours of substantive continuing education in judicial practice and related areas.

On February 7, 2020, the Supreme Court adopted Rules for Continuing Judicial Education (CJE), effective March 7, 2020. The rules replaced the Court's Order of December 9, 2016. While the new rules provided structure to the CJE requirements established in the December 2016 order, they made only minor changes to the infrastructure and mandates established thereunder. Under the CJE Rules, Pennsylvania's trial and appellate court judges must earn a minimum of 12 hours of continuing judicial education annually, three of which must be in judicial ethics. Four of the annual credits must be earned through courses developed by or under the supervision of the AOPC Judicial Education Department. A 12-member, Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges meets quarterly, and oversees the implementation of the rules, including both compliance and course accreditation. The Board is supported by the AOPC Judicial Education Department. It reports to the Supreme Court annually, or whenever directed to do so.

CJE opportunities provided by accredited and non-accredited providers alike were delivered nearly exclusively by remote technology from 2020 through 2022, and remain limited with on-going public health concerns. To facilitate credit accumulation, the Board suspended the four-credit hour limitation on approved distance education for the 2020-2023 compliance periods. Under this accommodation, judges are able to satisfy their CJE obligations by earning an unrestricted number of credit hours by participating in accredited distance education programs that meet the Board's interactive and technical requirements. Judges may carry forward into 2024 CJE credits earned during 2023, irrespective of whether the program was delivered live or by remote technology.

This appropriation provides the funding for the program of professional continuing education for judges conducted through conferences and seminars presented in both statewide and in regional settings and through remote, web-based courses under the auspices of AOPC's Judicial Education Department. The department works closely with the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and other providers to develop a state-of-the-art curriculum that includes timely and relevant continuing education courses presented to judges throughout the state.

This appropriation funds conferences, seminars, and educational programs as well as two professional educators and an education specialist to plan, implement and support the vital continuing education program for jurists.

It also funds orientation programs offered biennially for newly elected common pleas judges, informational mailings, and records maintenance. These programs are supplemented by specialized symposia designed for specific judicial audiences, such as annual meetings for president judges and district court administrators to discuss issues pertinent to their responsibilities.

Funding requested in this appropriation will allow increased course offerings and judicial participation, and costs associated with tracking and reporting compliance with the education requirements. It also funds the Continuing Judicial Education Board of Judges noted above, who are charged with, inter alia, making accreditation decisions, granting waivers and deferrals, and hearing non-compliance appeals.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Problem-Solving Courts

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,103	1,268	1,403	1,347
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,103	1,268	1,403	1,347

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	298	314	338	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	298	314	338	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	464	604	715	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	464	604	715	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	341	350	350	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>341</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for one filled staff position -	\$6,000
-Increase in senior judge per diems and social security -	\$17,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$112,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	87.08%	70.20%	71.25%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Problem-solving courts continue to be seen as an effective means of rehabilitating individuals charged with criminal behavior stemming from problems better treated outside the traditional punitive corrections process. We believe these courts are both cost-effective and beneficial in providing meaningful help to people to address behavior that contributes to criminality.

In 2005, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court endorsed the drug court model for judicial districts throughout the Commonwealth and sanctioned the nationally-recognized template which sets forth a protocol for their operation, and applied it to the operation of problem-solving courts in general. The Court's endorsement included the creation of performance standards to guide the operation and measurement of the efficacy of all problem-solving courts, and served as an impetus to their creation.

The increased number of these courts over recent years increases the ability to deliver effective and efficient programs in response to local needs and desires to benefit court management and constituents. As of January 2024, there were 133 problem-solving courts in operation in Pennsylvania, including drug courts, mental health courts, domestic violence courts, and veterans courts which address specific problems that contribute to criminal behavior, and their numbers continue to grow. Although there are differences in structure and operation among the various courts, all follow the foundation provided by the national drug court model in format and content. The AOPC provides education, training and support for these programs and assists in the coordination of related activities.

This appropriation provides the resources used to assist counties in managing these courts in accordance with nationally-recognized standards for best practices. Such assistance takes the form of staff training, monitoring program performance, and costs associated with maintaining the case management system that provides data on program performance. This Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget request includes funding for professional services, training/conference expenses, travel, monthly software maintenance, hosting costs for the Problem-Solving Adult and Juvenile Courts Information System (PAJCIS), grant funding to counties to implement new problem-solving courts, and discretionary grants designed to support program functions of existing problem-solving courts.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Unified Judicial System Security

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2,002	2,002	2,556	2,556
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,002	2,002	2,556	2,556

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	631	631	662	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	631	631	662	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	5	5	4	4	4	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	5	5	4	4	4	4	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	73	95	284	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	73	95	284	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,298	1,276	1,610	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,298	1,276	1,610	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Note: The Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 appropriations were provided in the form of continuing appropriations per Acts 1-A of 2022 and 2023, respectively. Likewise, it is requested that the Fiscal Year 2024-25 funding also be provided in the form of a continuing appropriation.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff - \$31,000

Operating:

-Increase in miscellaneous operating expenses - \$189,000

Grants and Subsidies:

-Increase in reimbursement to counties for security enhancements - \$334,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	75.57%	76.61%	78.46%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The goal of the Unified Judicial System's Security Program is 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.

Current year funding builds up the past year's work of enhancing physical security and safety features for common pleas courts to mitigate and respond to the spectrum of risks posed by natural and man-made emergencies (e.g., active shooter/assailants, mass casualty events). In 2023, there were 548 incidents reported at common pleas courts, and 365 at magisterial district courts, for a total of 913.

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 requested funds will provide similar physical security enhancements at magisterial district courts.

The request also provides for the continued funding of four staff to manage the incidents reported to the Pennsylvania Judicial Incident Reporting System (PJIRS), the increased demands for physical security assessments at common pleas and magisterial district courts, the need for development of expanded exportable security training programs, and the necessity for more comprehensive protection services for members of the judiciary while at key conference events.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

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2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Statewide Judicial Computer System

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>48,282</u>	<u>48,334</u>	<u>52,944</u>	<u>49,693</u>
Other Funds Itemized				
-JCS Resitricted				
Revenues	43,728	43,800	46,668	43,417
-Miscellaneous	1,201	1,181	1,523	1,523
-Online Fees	<u>3,353</u>	<u>3,353</u>	<u>4,753</u>	<u>4,753</u>
Total	48,282	48,334	52,944	49,693

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>26,477</u>	<u>25,752</u>	<u>27,193</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	26,477	25,752	27,193	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #	
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Funds	<u>179</u>	<u>158</u>	*	<u>179</u>	*	<u>172</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	179	158		179		172	153	0

*Includes 15 positions currently filled through contract staff.

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>21,473</u>	<u>22,582</u>	<u>25,751</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	21,473	22,582	25,751	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>332</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Note: JCS restricted revenues shown above consist of revenues from Act 64 – 1987, and Act 59 – 1990 as amended by Act 122 – 2002.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

The following presents the various increases and decreases required for the operations of JCS from the amounts appropriated in Fiscal Year 2023-24:

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled and vacant staff, and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$1,439,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$2,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses funded from restricted revenues -	\$1,429,000
-Increase in operating expenses funded from augmenations -	\$1,740,000

JCS is funded primarily from a dedicated funding stream consisting of restricted revenues. Act 64 of 1987 instituted this funding mechanism based on future increases in fine collections and court costs resulting from automated court systems. The funding was later supplemented by filing fees created by Act 59 of 1990, as amended by Act 122 of 2002. Revenue collections are deposited into a restricted revenue account within the state Treasury, from which annual appropriations are made to JCS. (42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3734)

The annual diversion of Act 64 restricted revenues was paused in Fiscal Years 2021-22 (Act 24 of 2021), 2022-23 (Act 54 of 2022), and 2023-24 (Act 22 of 2023). However, to maintain existing systems and continue providing services to the many agencies that rely on the AOPC/IT department, sufficient funding must be provided. Budget projections indicate that unless the annual diversion is repealed, the account balance risks being insufficient to fund Fiscal Year 2024-25 and thereafter.

Other revenues, estimated at \$6.276 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25, are designed to offset costs of specific JCS functions and include online payment fees, expungement fees, public access fees levied on nongovernmental users of information captured by the Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) and Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS), and Medicare D subsidies. Restricted revenues for the Jen and Dave program derived from fees established by Act 119 of 1996 will be available to support costs of these statutorily-required operations.

Available prior-year funds, which had been used to offset specific contract costs in the past, are not available for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	85.25%	83.82%	85.58%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Pennsylvania continues to be a national leader in judicial computerization. The IT department within AOPC has been recognized for making court information significantly more accessible, improving collection of fines, fees, costs and restitution, and administrative efficiencies throughout the court system.

Funded by revenues derived from court costs, filing fees and designated fines, rather than tax dollars, AOPC's IT department creates, maintains and updates statewide case management systems for all three levels of Pennsylvania's courts (Appellate, Common Pleas Criminal/Juvenile and Magisterial District courts). Local court officials are able to access court case information about parties related to cases anywhere in the state. Most importantly, the systems are linked, allowing millions of cases to be shared as each case moves through the court system.

To gain a better understanding of the financial and program needs of the AOPC/IT department, Act 70 of 2021 created the Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee (JCSFAC) within PCCD. JCSFAC's duties included a review of the policy goals, purpose, and programs of the JCS, as well as the annual financial needs and revenue streams that support the system.

JCSFAC's final report was issued on January 31, 2022, and is available here: [FINAL JCSFAC Report \(January 31 2022\) \(pa.gov\)](#). Notably, the report found that the JCS "provides a critical service to the Commonwealth, counties, attorneys, participants in the legal system and citizens," and emphasized the importance of "ensur[ing] predictable funding to support [its] continuous operation."

Access to Data

- **2.36 million cases were docketed in 2023 by utilizing** one of the three case management systems – the MDJS, the CPCMS, and Pennsylvania's Appellate Court Management System (PACMS).
- **108 million docket sheets** were viewed for free on the Unified Judicial System website in 2023.
- **181,000 electronic case transfers** from the MDJS to the CPCMS during 2023 **saved county court staff countless hours** by eliminating the need for redundant data entry.
- **38,000 law enforcement and public safety officials representing more than 20 criminal justice partners and law enforcement agencies** depended on the case management systems to perform their daily duties during 2023.

Docket sheets and customized court reports provide valuable information to media, academics, attorneys, legislators, government agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and others.

Value and Savings

The data maintained and shared by the judiciary is valuable and widely-used by courts, government agencies, public safety and law-enforcement officials, members of the public, media and attorneys to name a few.

- **AOPC/IT has reduced the cost of manually compiling and mailing boxes of official case records and transcripts** through the development of an electronic original record system. A total of 43 counties and agencies are e-filing original records with 4,634 cases e-filed in 2023.
- **During 2023, 1,193 individual law enforcement entities/filing types** used e-filing for traffic, parking, and non-traffic citations, and criminal complaints. In addition to improving accuracy and saving court staff thousands of hours a year, e-filing also cuts down on the time needed to complete traffic stops, thereby improving the safety of law enforcement officers.

Court Collections

Features within the case management systems help court staff collect and process fines, court costs and restitution – and the very popular PAePay®, an online payment application developed by AOPC/IT, allows people to pay these costs online.

- **PAe Pay saw \$157.8 million collected online in 2023**, a 6 percent increase over last year.
- Over the last 10 years, AOPC/IT collected and processed nearly **\$4.5 billion** in fines, costs, and restitution.
- The case management systems also enhance court collections by allowing court officials to **identify unpaid balances and actively collect on old and new cases.**

Electronic Filing/Document Storage Initiatives

Pennsylvania's courts continue to move towards a paperless operation. PACFile® saves time by allowing the direct electronic filing of documents with the courts by attorneys and self-represented litigants.

- By the end of 2023, **50 counties** were using PACFile to electronically submit filings into CPCMS, and **60 counties** were using the electronic records management system (ERMS) for electronic document management.
- By the end of 2023, **54 counties** were using the ERMS solution for electronic document management in the MDJS.

Clean Slate

Act 56 of 2018, which became effective June 28, 2019, expanded the criminal case sealing mandate to include additional offenses meeting specific criteria which required significant systems changes to the two case management systems (MDJS and CPCMS). Act 83 of 2020, referred to as Clean Slate II, further expanded the category of eligible cases to include pardoned offenses and reduced the financial eligibility requirements for those with convictions to satisfy only court-ordered restitution and statutorily mandated fee authorized to carry out Clean Slate. Likewise, the financial requirement for non-convictions was also reduced to only satisfying restitution to be eligible. AOPC/IT is in the process of implementing the latest Clean Slate amendments in Act 36 of 2023 (Clean Slate III). Act 36 provides a second expansion to the original 2018 law and extends Clean Slate to low-level, non-violent drug felonies. It also reduces the waiting period for the automated sealing of misdemeanors to seven years and summary convictions to five years.

- As of January 2024, **45.7 million** cases have been fully or partially sealed across the MDJS and CPCMS under the auspices of the Clean Slate law.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3731, *et seq*

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Integrated Criminal Justice System (JNET)

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2,372	2,372	3,671	3,671
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,372	2,372	3,671	3,671

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	629	456	588	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	629	456	588	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	4	3	* 5	3	* 5	3	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4	3	5	3	5	3	0

*Includes two positions funded through contract staff.

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,743	1,916	3,083	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,743	1,916	3,083	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for staff - \$132,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating costs for the continuing development and maintenance of messages - \$1,167,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	66.82%	69.20%	71.54%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

JNET is a statewide effort that allows information from criminal justice and other related resources to be shared among federal, state, county and municipal agencies. Information makes its way to the end user through two sources - a secure Web-based interface and Extensible Markup Language (XML)-based messaging.

The Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget request seeks continued funding for limited staff and related operating costs in support of JNET functions, and a portion of the telecommunications costs between the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's Information Technology (AOPC/IT) department and magisterial district judge (MDJ) offices to allow JNET traffic to flow to and from MDJ offices and other supporting systems and provide JNET access to the district courts.

This budget request also seeks funding for the continuing development and maintenance of messages published by AOPC/IT and automated use of messages published by other criminal justice and related agencies. Messaging is a method JNET and AOPC/IT use to move information between agency computer systems in order to share case data and to reduce redundant data entry.

A number of messages are in various stages of the product development lifecycle including initial development and maintenance. These messages continue to assist in supporting the statewide Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS), Common Pleas Criminal Court Case Management System (CPCMS) and other criminal justice agency related systems:

- The Court Case Event (CCE) messages are event-triggered messages published from the CP and MDJ systems. County agencies filing electronic information into the CPCMS will receive updated case information through this JNET messaging structure. The public CCE message is also used by the Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) to support compliance monitoring of member benefits.
- AOPC/IT provides JNET with data to be used for a new JNET Recidivism Dashboard initiative. In 2022, JNET began to use the CCE messages to acquire information, process it through a data analysis tool and deliver secure information for recidivism statistics.
- AOPC/IT provides information to JNET's Federated Warrant Search application and its Federated Address application and continues to report dispositions electronically through the JNET infrastructure updating the Criminal History Repository (CHR). AOPC/IT implemented an enhancement project with JNET and PSP to improve the statewide warrant process that allows the electronic filing of warrants into the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) if all required information is filed on the initiating criminal complaint and entered into the MDJS. This eliminates the need for the manual entry of warrant information by local law enforcement officers.

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- AOPC/IT implemented a message that allows users of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing's (PCS) Web-based Sentencing Guideline Software (SGS) to query basic case information from the CPCMS and MDJS to assist with data entry and to reduce errors. Per a request by the PCS, functionality was added to support their mandate to implement a recidivism risk assessment tool. AOPC/IT continues to work with the PCS in support of this interface that allows the PCS to make a CCE Request/Reply that will return case information on all cases where an identified offender (as determined by personal demographic information) was the defendant. The Department of Corrections (DOC) is using this functionality as well.
 - A mechanism for electronic matching of victims that allows for relevant case data to be sent back to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) through a message. This information will be used in making restitution claims at the Courts of Common Pleas.
 - Ongoing support of various electronic filing methods for criminal complaints, traffic, and non-traffic citations. AOPC/IT and PSP implemented a statewide project to file traffic citations electronically into the MDJS system, and AOPC/IT continues to work with local police agencies to replicate this same functionality on a municipal level. Electronic filing at both the state and municipal level has been expanded to include parking citations, non-traffic citations and criminal complaints. During 2023, over 1,100 law enforcement agencies (including each filing type) facilitated electronic filings, saving district court staff and law enforcement officers numerous hours by averting the need for manual data entry and reducing the travel time to deliver the physical copy of the citation to the court. PSP is moving forward with extending the non-traffic module to municipal police agencies. The AOPC will be supporting this effort as the agencies begin to electronically file non-traffic citations in 2024.
 - In January 2019, the AOPC, PSP, JNET, and the Chiefs of Police Association were awarded a National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) sub grant under PCCD to support an update to the electronic criminal complaint e-filing and OTN single source generator system which will enhance the quality of records contained in the FBI and National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In addition to enhancing the availability of arrest and disposition records at the state and national level, it will also provide a uniform tool for state and municipal police to file criminal complaints electronically with the courts. Both the JNET electronic compliant application and the OTN single source generator system were deployed in late 2021. AOPC/IT, JNET, and PSP continue to provide support to law enforcement as this is implemented statewide. PSP received grant monies to develop and implement a data exchange between the PSP TraCS system and the LiveScan. AOPC will be providing support for this effort in Fiscal Year 2024-25.
 - Creation of Web interfaces that allow police departments to review court schedules and case and disposition information saving the officers and MDJ offices valuable time.
 - Maintenance of an interface to electronically transfer juvenile delinquency case information from the CPCMS Juvenile Court Module to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission's (JCJC's) Juvenile Tracking System (JTS) through JNET on a statewide basis providing near real-time updates throughout the lifecycle of the delinquency case.
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- Providing access to secure Web docket sheets and court calendars for all cases in the CPCMS and MDJS.
 - Maintaining search services to support JNET application search modules including warrant search, address search, personal identifier search, and offense search for the Office of Victim Advocates.
 - Providing real time messaging to support JNET's notification service providing law enforcement and criminal justice agencies with proactive information on individuals that they are tracking.
 - Receiving updated inmate location information from the county jails and information on assigned probation officers for population within the MDJS and CPCMS applications through JNET's Electronic Reporting (ER) II (jail) and ER2P (probation) projects.
 - Participation with PCCD, JNET, PSP, Chiefs of Police, and the Attorney General's Office in maintenance of fingerprint compliance reports to ensure that PSP has appropriate identifying information resulting from an arrest.
 - Ongoing work with PSP and Attorney General's Office to provide case information needed for Megan's Law/Walsh Act compliance tracking.
 - Receiving information from Central Participant Subscription Services related to activations, terminations and address changes for attorneys, officers, constables, and certified bail insurers.
 - Providing/receiving case information to/from DA offices.
 - Working with JNET and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Information Sharing (MARIS) to provide access to court data in support of their federated person search initiative.
 - Providing the State Employees Retirement System (SERS), the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) and the Department of State (DOS) with public CCE messages to assist in the identification of individuals who should have their pensions forfeited and/or their state licenses revoked due to convictions.
 - AOPC/IT supports the Guardianship Tracking System (GTS) which uses a JNET interface. The interface provides a mechanism for the GTS to receive electronic case initiation data as new petitions are filed in the counties' Orphans' Courts proprietary case management systems. This reduces the necessity for the court staff to manually enter this information into both local systems and the GTS.
 - AOPC/IT developed and implemented an essential service required to support the Clean Slate Law (Act 56 of 2019). Utilizing the JNET infrastructure, the AOPC/IT department provides PSP with candidates for removal of approved cases/charges from public view, and when a common pleas judge issues a Clean Slate order, communication of that order is transmitted to criminal justice agencies via JNET so that records may be marked as "limited access". AOPC/IT has updated the service process multiple times to support additional legislative requirements.
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- AOPC/IT will be working with JNET as they modernize their messaging process and protocols. This will require collaborative requirements gathering, process design, development, and testing through this reporting fiscal year.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
UJS Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	3,490	3,490
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	3,490	3,490

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	160	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	160	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	3,330	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	3,330	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Request for salary and benefits for one position - \$160,000

Operating:

-Request for operating costs for cyber security hardware and software maintenance - \$899,000

-Request for operating costs to maintain Disaster Recover (DR) site in Pittsburgh consisting of:

-Ongoing equipment replacement/upgrades - \$1,000,000

-Software maintenance/licenses - \$488,000

-Facility lease and utilities - \$365,000

-Network circuits to connect primary and DR sites - \$299,000

-Hardware support for equipment at DR site - \$279,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	N/A	N/A	67.86%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	N/A
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee (JCSFAC) was established within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) by Act 70 of 2021. The committee issued a final report in January 2022. That report acknowledged the Judicial Computer System (JCS) provides a critical service to the Commonwealth, counties, attorneys, participants in the legal system and citizens and included four findings with recommendations.

Recommendation one of the third finding recognized the need to ensure continuity of JCS and governmental functions for disaster recovery purposes. Further, JCSFAC's fourth finding recognized the downward fluctuation of fee revenues, which provide the only funding for the continued support and maintenance of JCS, and that the long-term viability of these fee funding streams to adequately support the needs of JCS was unclear.

Since the 2022 report, fee revenues have continued to precipitously decline and are not sufficient to support current JCS operating needs, specifically for these high priority areas of cyber security and disaster recovery which protect systems and mitigate risks to ensure business continuity for court operations statewide. To address this shortfall in funding, the Judiciary is requesting a new appropriation to support these Cyber Security and Disaster Recovery needs. This appropriation will fund one full-time Security Specialist, the cost to maintain a disaster recovery site in Pittsburgh and funding for cyber security products and training, all of which will provide enhanced vigilance and capabilities to ensure that the JCS satisfies the needs and functions identified in the JCSFAC final report findings.

Cyber Security

The landscape of court technology has changed rapidly, as digital tools help facilitate the business process of the courts. This proliferation of technology has improved the judiciary's access and transparency, while also significantly increasing data storage and the digital footprint. Consequently, there are multiple entry points for data breaches in the judicial branch and cybersecurity is paramount in protecting all this information.

JCS is committed to providing the utmost security for the statewide systems, services and data that it provides for the many levels of the judiciary. The three statewide case management systems serve the daily business of more than 21,000 justices, judges and court staff members. Numerous other applications and web interfaces providing information and services to statewide court users and the general public are provided over both the public Internet and the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET). The larger ancillary systems reside in the unified judicial system web portal that provides public and secure docket sheets for all the systems; a service that allows prosecutors to file

bills of information electronically with the courts; an attorney registration system and an e-filing system (PACFile) and the ability for the public to pay their costs, fines and restitution using PAePay.

Disaster Recovery

JCS maintains two separate data centers within the Commonwealth. The primary data center is located at our IT facility in Mechanicsburg and the secondary site is leased space near Pittsburgh. A Change Management process is used to ensure that all configurations, and code are kept in sync between the two data centers. These data centers were built to withstand the loss of power, hardware, and network failures without disruption to the statewide case management systems. There are multiple levels of redundancy for power, hardware, and diverse network paths.

JCS performs recurring disaster recovery exercises in which all the complex and mission-critical supported software solutions are moved from the primary data center to the secondary center and back. Many of the systems and services that JCS provides to the courts run active/active from both data center locations to ensure a better state of readiness, as all configurations and software are naturally in sync if running continuously. When an end user accesses one of our case management systems or goes to our PA Judiciary website, they could be connecting through either data center.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Common Pleas

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	120,094	132,564	157,278	157,278
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>37,040</u>	<u>34,222</u>	<u>14,994</u>	<u>14,994</u>
Total	157,134	166,786	172,272	172,272

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2023-24</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	120,044	132,420	157,134	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>37,040</u>	<u>34,222</u>	<u>14,994</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	157,084	166,642	172,128	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	459	445	462	436	448	428	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	459	445	462	436	448	428	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	50	144	144	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	50	144	144	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$33,789 in required funding consisting of \$28,181 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$5,608 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$14,555 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3% increase in judges' salaries effective January 1, 2025. The resulting salaries are as follows. Salaries of certain president judges and administrative judges are slightly higher:

	<u>July - December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
Common Pleas Judge	\$219,933	\$226,531

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Decrease in Act 49 funds available in Fiscal Year 2024-25 to supplement state funds (nonrecurring) -	(\$19,234,000)
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in available Act 49 funds (nonrecurring) -	\$19,234,000

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 448 CP Judges and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$5,480,000
-Increase in Medicare D subsidy -	\$6,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	74.54%	72.37%	72.80%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Courts of Common Pleas are courts of general trial jurisdiction, having original jurisdiction over all cases not exclusively assigned to another court. Legislative acts over the last 20 plus years have increased the complement from 408 to 470 with the passage of Act 58 of 2023, which added 11 new judgeships. The current complement is 462 including three new judgeships added effective December 14, 2023. Act 58 also added six new judgeships effective January 5, 2026, and two new judgeships effective January 3, 2028.

This budget request includes funding for only 448 positions as a budgetary allowance for vacancies during Fiscal Year 2024-25.

In courts with seven or fewer judges, those who have the longest continuous record of service become president judges. When courts have eight or more judges, judges select from their ranks a president judge who serves in that capacity for a single five-year term. Such president judges may not serve consecutive five-year terms.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 5, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 901, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Common Pleas Senior Judges

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	4,084	4,213	4,339	4,339
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	4,084	4,213	4,339	4,339

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	3,900	4,109	4,235	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3,900	4,109	4,235	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	94	104	104	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	94	104	104	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	90	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 - Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$90 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland area. This budget request includes an assumed 3% increase in per diems effective January 1, 2025. The resulting per diem compensation rates used in this budget are as follows:

July - December, 2024
\$683

January - June, 2025
\$704

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in senior judge per diems and social security - \$126,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	NA	NA	NA

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The senior judge program provides an alternative resource when there is a shortage of active Common Pleas judges. Shortages may occur due to judicial vacancies, recusals, and increases in caseload within the various jurisdictions. These senior jurists are available for service throughout the Commonwealth.

In accordance with Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 701 as amended on November 20, 2007, eligibility for senior judge service ends the last day of the calendar year in which the senior judge attains age 78. Senior judge service ends the last day of the calendar year in which age 80 is attained for those senior judges then in service who were exempted by the imposition of age limits by Pa RJA 701. Eligibility for senior judge service was further restricted by a December 17, 2009, amendment to Rule 701, effective January 4, 2010, by adding a minimum age requirement of 65, or a combination of years of judicial service plus age that totals at least 80. As of January 2, 2024, there were 93 authorized Common Pleas senior judges.

The Judicial Needs Assessment tool (a performance-based metric developed by the CP Weighted Caseload Study) must be considered by President Judges requesting senior judge use, and AOPC when approving them.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 65 P.S. Sec. 366.2a(h)
Art. V, Sec. 16(c), PA Constitution

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Magisterial District Judge

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	84,458	92,014	103,911	103,911
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>17,482</u>	<u>14,348</u>	<u>6,765</u>	<u>6,765</u>
Total	101,940	106,362	110,676	110,676

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	84,219	91,641	103,537	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>17,482</u>	<u>14,348</u>	<u>6,765</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	101,701	105,989	110,302	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	509	489	509	492	493	481	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	509	489	509	492	493	481	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	111	247	248	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	111	247	248	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	128	126	126	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	128	126	126	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^ Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$13,821 in required funding consisting of \$11,527 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$2,294 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^ Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$6,238 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3.0% increase in the judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2025. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
Magisterial District Judge (MDJ)	\$109,973	\$113,273
Senior MDJ per diem	\$302	\$311

Per diem compensation rates paid to assigned senior magisterial district judges are based on the annual salary of an active magisterial district judge.

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Decrease in Act 49 funds available in FY 2024-25 to supplement state funds (nonrecurring) -	(\$7,583,000)
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in available Act 49 funds (nonrecurring) -	\$7,583,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for 493 MDJs and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$4,286,000
-Increase in senior judge per diems and social security -	\$27,000

Operating:

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$1,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	101.34%	96.71%	99.58%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Forming the first level of the Unified Judicial System are Pennsylvania's limited jurisdiction courts. Magisterial district judges preside over these courts in all counties except Philadelphia.

With jurisdiction over summary criminal cases, landlord-tenant matters, and other civil actions where the amount claimed does not exceed \$12,000, magisterial district judges may also accept guilty pleas to misdemeanors of the third degree under certain circumstances, issue warrants, and hold preliminary arraignments and preliminary hearings in criminal cases. Although magisterial district judges need not be lawyers, those who are not attorneys must complete an educational course and pass a qualifying examination before taking office. Every magisterial district judge and authorized senior magisterial district judge must participate in one week of continuing education each year. These education programs are administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board and are funded from the Magisterial District Judge Education appropriation.

This appropriation funds the salaries, benefits, travel costs, legal fees, and liability insurance costs for all magisterial district judges. A senior magisterial district judge program, a per diem program for magisterial district judges traveling outside their districts, printing costs for the Magisterial District Judge Journal, and a grant payment for the \$200 annual registration fee per judge to the Special Court Judges of Pennsylvania Association are also funded from this appropriation. Health benefits are provided to all retired magisterial district judges who qualify. Liability insurance is provided for those who are assigned.

The Supreme Court is charged with realigning magisterial districts following the decennial census. Following the 2020 census, the decennial reestablishment process began in fall of 2021 and each judicial district, except for Philadelphia, assessed whether they had the right number of magisterial districts and where the boundaries should be for those districts. As a result, a net total of nine districts were eliminated, six in 2024 and three in 2028. The current complement, as of January 2024, is 503.

This budget request includes funding for only 493 positions as a budgetary allowance for vacancies during Fiscal Year 2024-25.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 7, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1501, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3532

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Magisterial District Judge Education

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	759	878	919	878
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	15	14	14	14
Total	<u>774</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>933</u>	<u>892</u>

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	337	330	356	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	5	4	4	0
Total	<u>342</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>0</u>

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	422	548	563	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	10	10	10	0
Total	<u>432</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>0</u>

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for staff and annuitant benefits - \$26,000

Operating:

-Increase in training and conference costs - \$15,000

This budget request is predicated upon the receipt of \$10,000 in revenue from \$225 tuition fees for continuing education from potential magisterial district judge candidates and from \$10 per credit CLE fees.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	134.96%	119.94%	125.90%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Article V, Section 12, of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires magisterial district judges to be members of the bar of the Supreme Court *or* to have completed a course of training and instruction in the duties of their office and to have passed an examination prior to assuming office. Courses and examinations shall be as provided by law.

Pursuant to statute, 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 31, these courses are overseen by the Minor Judiciary Education Board and administered by the AOPC Judicial Education Department. The seven-member Minor Judiciary Education Board is responsible for superintending the instruction and certification of individuals intending to become magisterial district judges and Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates who are not members of the bar. Certifying classes for magisterial district judges are four weeks in duration and one week for Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. The board establishes the curriculum, appoints and evaluates instructors, approves course content, reviews certification tests, and issues certificates to successful program participants. The AOPC Judicial Education Department administers the course and certification exam.

Continuing education for the Commonwealth's magisterial district judges and Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates is mandated by the Judicial Code (42 Pa.C.S. Section 3118). In addition, the Minor Judiciary Education Board implements Rules 601 to 604 of the Rules of Judicial Administration promulgated by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The rules require annual continuing education for magisterial district judges, senior magisterial district judges, and Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. Accordingly, the Judicial Education Department administers week-long continuing education classes for these officials under the auspices of the Minor Judiciary Education Board. The Board also establishes a one week supplemental practicum training for newly-elected and appointed magisterial district judges to be completed within their first year of taking office.

This appropriation provides for programs of certification courses for aspirants to the above referenced offices, and continuing education for the authorized complement of 503 magisterial district judges and six Philadelphia Municipal Court arraignment court magistrates. Additionally, continuing education is provided for the current 106 senior magisterial district judges.

Providing training to active and senior magisterial district judges – indeed to all judges and senior judges – is a tangible expression of the Supreme Court's commitment to professional education for both the bench and the bar.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3112, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 3118, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 2131, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Philadelphia Municipal Court

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	7,950	9,055	9,797	9,797
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2,889</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>2,562</u>
Total	10,839	11,617	12,359	12,359

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>^2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>^^2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	7,907	8,986	9,729	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2,889</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>2,562</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	10,796	11,548	12,291	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds:							
Judges	27	25	27	25	27	25	0
Arrestment Ct. Mag.	6	6	6	6	6	6	0
Hearing Officers	4	4	4	4	4	4	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	37	35	37	35	37	35	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	43	69	68	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	43	69	68	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^ Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$2,530 in required funding consisting of \$2,110 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$420 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

^^Fiscal Year 2024-25 – Personnel: Other Funds include augmenting revenues of \$2,530 in anticipated Act 49 of 2009 revenues.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

Act 30 of 2007 provides for annual increases in judges' salaries, including per diem compensation paid to senior judges, effective each January 1 to reflect the latest 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland area. This budget request includes a 3% increase in the judicial salaries and per diems effective January 1, 2025. Assumptions regarding judges' salaries and senior judge per diem compensation are as follows:

	<u>July - December, 2024</u>	<u>January - June, 2025</u>
President Judge	\$218,163	\$224,708
Judge (26)	\$214,844	\$221,290
Senior Judge per diem	\$683	\$704

Proposed personnel expenditures follow:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for 27 judges positions and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$662,000
-Increase in senior judge per diem compensation and social security -	\$6,000
-Increase in salary and benefits for six arraignment court magistrates, four hearing officers, and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$75,000

Operating

-Decrease in operating expenses - (\$1,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial 2024-25</u>
Employee Factor			
Judges	74.88%	72.65%	72.81%
Staff	77.89%	74.38%	76.63%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds the personnel and functions of Philadelphia Municipal Court. Accordingly, it funds the salaries and benefits of the 27 Municipal Court judges, six arraignment court magistrates, four hearing officers (authorized by Act 17 of 2013), and a senior judge program. Salaries of arraignment court magistrates are tied by law (42 Pa.C.S.A. § 1123(5)) to the salary of an associate judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court (had the office not been abolished), as set by section 2.1(f) of the Public Official Compensation Law, 65 P.S. § 366.2a(f), and adjusted annually based on the annual COLA.

The Philadelphia Municipal Court is Pennsylvania's only special court that is a court of record. Its 27 judges, who must be lawyers, have jurisdiction over all criminal offenses which are punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years. The Municipal Court has the power to enter judgments without limitation in matters arising under the Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951 and has jurisdiction in civil actions where the amount claimed does not exceed \$12,000. The president judge of Municipal Court is elected for a five-year term by the other active Municipal Court judges.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 6, PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1121, et seq.
Act 17 of 2013

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2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
County Court Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	23,136	23,136	23,136	23,136
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	23,136	23,136	23,136	23,136

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	23,136	23,136	23,136	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>23,136</u>	<u>23,136</u>	<u>23,136</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The budget request is based on the December 31, 2023, authorized complement of Common Pleas judges calculated at the effective reimbursement rate of \$45,105 funded in the current fiscal year (a proportional reduction of 35.56%). Although the statutory rate remains \$70,000 with the requirement that no county shall receive less than 77.5 percent of the actual reimbursement for court costs provided to it from funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 1980-81 (results in a flat \$10,075,327 grant payment to Philadelphia for its 93 judges), Act 37 of 2007 requires the proportional reduction in each county's grant if insufficient funding is provided to reimburse at the statutory rate. The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24. ** Funding this grant at the full statutory rate would require an appropriation of \$35.906 million, an amount \$12.77 million above the amount requested. **

The amount requested was computed as follows:

369	Judges @ \$45,105	\$16,643,855
<u>93</u>	Philadelphia Judges	<u>6,492,145</u>
462	Total complement	<u>\$23,136,000</u>

Proposed grant payments follow.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This budget requests funds to make grant payments to counties to reimburse costs associated with the administration and operation of the Courts of Common Pleas. The grant amount is determined by language contained in statute, and in the annual Appropriation Act that specifies that the grant is reimbursement for the costs incurred in the prior calendar year. Act 37 of 2007 provides that in the event the total county reimbursement qualifying for payment exceeds the amount appropriated, every county's grant is to be proportionally reduced so as not to exceed the amount appropriated. In judicial districts comprising more than one county, county allocations are based on each county's percentage of the district's total population. Such population figures are based on the data from the most-current decennial census available, presently 2020.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 72 P.S. Section 1791-E
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 914, et seq.
Annual Appropriation Act.

FY 2024-25 ESTIMATE
COMMON PLEAS COUNTY COURT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
(Calendar 2023)

County	Comp	Reimbursement	County	Comp	Reimbursement
Adams	4	\$180,421	Jefferson	1	\$45,105
Allegheny	43	\$1,939,527	Juniata/ Perry	2	\$30,672
Armstrong	2	\$90,211	Lackawanna	9	\$405,948
Beaver	7	\$315,737	Lancaster	15	\$676,579
Bedford	2	\$90,211	Lawrence	4	\$180,421
Berks	13	\$586,369	Lebanon	4	\$180,421
Blair	5	\$225,526	Lehigh	10	\$451,053
Bradford	2	\$90,211	Luzerne	10	\$451,053
Bucks	15	\$676,579	Lycoming	5	\$225,526
Butler	6	\$270,632	McKean	2	\$90,211
Cambria	5	\$225,526	Mercer	4	\$180,421
Cameron/ Elk	1	\$5,864	Mifflin	2	\$90,211
Carbon	3	\$135,316	Monroe	7	\$315,737
Centre	4	\$180,421	Montgomery	24	\$1,082,527
Chester ²	15	\$676,579	Northampton	9	\$405,948
Clarion	1	\$45,105	Northumberland	3	\$135,316
Clearfield	2	\$90,211	Philadelphia*	93	6,492,145
Clinton	2	\$90,211	Pike	2	\$90,211
Columbia/ Montour ²	3	\$105,547	Potter	1	\$45,105
Crawford	3	\$135,316	Schuylkill	6	\$270,632
Cumberland	7	\$315,737	Snyder/ Union	2	\$43,301
Dauphin	10	\$451,053	Somerset	3	\$135,316
Delaware	21	\$947,211	Sullivan/ Wyoming	1	\$8,119
Erie	9	\$405,948	Susquehanna	1	\$45,105
Fayette	5	\$225,526	Tioga	1	\$45,105
Forest/ Warren	2	\$13,532	Venango	2	\$90,211
Franklin/ Fulton	5	\$205,229	Washington	7	\$315,737
Greene	2	\$90,211	Wayne	2	\$90,211
Huntingdon ²	2	\$90,211	Westmoreland	11	\$496,158
Indiana	3	\$135,316	York	15	\$676,579
369 @ \$45,105 each		\$16,643,855	COMPLEMENT		462
93 - \$6,492,145 total		6,492,145	COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT		\$23,136,000
TOTAL REQUIREMENT ¹		\$23,136,000			

¹ Total requirement calculated at \$45,105 per authorized Common Pleas judge. (The statutory rate \$70,000 but sufficient funding has not been provided since FY 2015-16 to meet the statutory requirement.)

² Act 58 of 2023 increased the number of Common Pleas judges from 459 to 462 effective 12/14/2023. Chester, Columbia, and Huntingdon counties were each increased by one judge.

* Denotes exception to \$70,000 rule.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Senior Judge Support Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,375	1,375	1,375	1,375

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,254	1,375	1,375	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,254</u>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	121	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>121</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Fiscal Year 2022-23 - Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$121 transferred to other UJS appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The budget request will provide partial reimbursement for county expenses based upon statutory reimbursement rates and actual support provided to common pleas senior judges while on assignment. The Judiciary requests funding at the same level provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This request is to help defray county expenses in support of assigned Common Pleas Court senior judges pursuant to Acts 40 and 49 of 2017, and Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 701. Such expenses are incurred to provide suitable facilities and adequate staff to senior judges formerly

of the judicial district who are regularly or periodically assigned in that district and for visiting senior judges. Suitable facilities and staff consist of the use of judicial chambers, including office equipment and supplies, and the services of a law clerk and a secretary necessary to conduct judicial business. Rule 701 seeks the provision of this reasonable minimal administrative support to senior judges while on assignment.

The county payment provided by 42 Pa.C.S. Section 1906.1 and the Administrative Code Section 2801-E consists of two components: staff support and facilities (appropriate workspace, equipment and supplies) actually provided to senior judges of the judicial district who are regularly or periodically assigned in that district and for visiting senior judges. Staff support consists of the services of a secretary and a law clerk. The services of a secretary are reimbursed at the statutory rate of \$12 per hour, while the services of a law clerk are reimbursed at the rate of \$20 per hour. Facilities, including supplies and office equipment appropriate for the function, are reimbursed at the statutory rate of \$60 per day, billable in half-day increments.

As mandated by statute, no county shall receive in any year reimbursement under this grant in an amount that exceeds 20 percent of the amount appropriated. Also, in the event that the total amount counties are eligible to receive as evidenced by claims submitted is greater than the amount appropriated, Act 49, as did Act 37 before it, provides that each county's grant be proportionately reduced to bring the total within the amount appropriated.

Claims must be submitted annually by the counties to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). All claims for calendar year 2023 are to be submitted by April 1, 2024, with payment by June 30. Reimbursement paid in any year is for costs incurred in the immediate prior calendar year.

Senior judges are a resource available to the respective courts at the request of the president judge to assist on a temporary basis the prompt and proper disposition of the business of the court. Caseload, recusals, vacancies, and the absence from the bench of a judge in active service may warrant the temporary assignment of a senior judge. Per diem compensation earned by senior jurists and related expenses are funded by a separate state appropriation; the facilities and staff are funded by the counties.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Section 10(c), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S. Section 1722, et seq.
42 Pa.C.S. Section 1906.1
71 P.S. Section 720.101
Annual Appropriation Act.

FY 2022-23 ACTUAL
SENIOR JUDGE SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
(Calendar 2022)

County	Secretary		Law Clerk		Facilities		Total Reimbursement
	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Days	Amount	
Adams	1	\$12	5	\$100	5.5	\$330	\$442
Allegheny	6,237	73,438	8,318	163,236	651.0	38,326	275,000
Armstrong	45	540	58	1,160	31.5	1,890	3,590
Beaver	442	5,304	6	120	42.0	2,520	7,944
Bedford	65	780	0	0	7.0	420	1,200
Berks	2,080	24,960	2,080	41,600	212.0	12,720	79,280
Blair	57	684	29	580	140.5	8,430	9,694
Bradford	33	396	3	60	4.5	270	726
Bucks	1,758	21,096	1,324	26,480	391.5	23,490	71,066
Butler	1,000	12,000	1,232	24,640	172.0	10,320	46,960
Cambria	351	4,212	351	7,020	50.0	3,000	14,232
Cameron	2	24	0	0	1.0	60	84
Carbon	1	12	0	0	0.5	30	42
Centre	16	192	0	0	8.5	510	702
Chester	2,015	24,180	1,454	29,080	288.0	17,280	70,540
Clarion	169	2,028	85	1,700	110.5	6,630	10,358
Clearfield	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Clinton	18	216	53	1,060	14.0	840	2,116
Columbia	204	2,448	0	0	60.0	3,600	6,048
Crawford	20	240	22	440	3.0	180	860
Cumberland	326	3,912	0	0	0.0	0	3,912
Dauphin	378	4,536	316	6,320	113.0	6,780	17,636
Delaware	1,992	23,904	80	1,600	240.0	14,400	39,904
Elk	70	840	28	560	61.5	3,690	5,090
Erie	1,779	21,348	1,779	35,580	237.0	14,220	71,148
Fayette	0	0	20	400	3.0	180	580
Forest	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Franklin	40	480	40	800	5.0	300	1,580
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Greene	0	0	34	680	23.5	1,410	2,090
Huntingdon	465	5,580	736	14,720	129.0	7,740	28,040
Indiana	16	192	8	160	8.5	510	862
Jefferson	63	756	63	1,260	9.0	540	2,556
Juniata	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Lackawanna	1,771	21,252	1,123	22,460	292.0	17,520	61,232
Lancaster	19	228	9	180	0.5	30	438
Lawrence	182	2,184	182	3,640	26.0	1,560	7,384
Lebanon	478	5,736	740	14,800	90.5	5,430	25,966
Lehigh	529	6,348	0	0	102.0	6,120	12,468

FY 2022-23 ACTUAL
 SENIOR JUDGE SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT
 (Calendar 2022)

County	<u>Secretary</u>		<u>Law Clerk</u>		<u>Facilities</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Days	Amount	Reimbursement
Luzerne	637	\$7,644	19	\$380	118.0	\$7,080	\$15,104
Lycoming	1,214	14,568	640	12,800	50.5	3,030	30,398
McKean	0	0	0	0	6.0	360	360
Mercer	27	324	14	280	14.0	840	1,444
Mifflin	1	12	18	360	2.5	150	522
Monroe	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Montgomery	2,331	27,972	2,331	46,620	333.5	20,010	94,602
Montour	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Northampton	76	912	10	200	34.5	2,070	3,182
Northumberland	275	3,300	275	5,500	90.5	5,430	14,230
Perry	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Philadelphia	1,927	23,124	2,233	44,660	523.5	31,410	99,194
Pike	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Potter	0	0	0	0	36.0	2,160	2,160
Schuylkill	683	8,196	0	0	97.5	5,850	14,046
Snyder	60	720	60	1,200	19.0	1,140	3,060
Somerset	59	708	64	1,280	17.0	1,020	3,008
Susquehanna	0	0	33	660	0.0	0	660
Tioga	129	1,548	5	100	56.0	3,360	5,008
Union	55	660	57	1,140	16.0	960	2,760
Venango	253	3,036	44	880	229.0	13,740	17,656
Warren	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Washington	0	0	1,489	29,780	40.5	2,430	32,210
Wayne	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Westmoreland	502	6,024	502	10,040	77.0	4,620	20,684
Wyoming	11	132	2	40	10.0	600	772
York	280	3,360	280	5,600	35.0	2,100	11,060
TOTAL	31,142	\$372,298	28,254.0	\$561,956	5,339.5	\$319,636	\$1,253,890

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Juror Cost Reimbursement Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,118	1,118	1,118	1,118
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,118	1,118	1,118	1,118

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	615	1,118	1,118	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	1,118	1,118	0

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	503	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

Fiscal Year 2022-23 – Non-expense/Interagency, consists of \$503 transferred to other Unified Judicial System appropriations in accordance with 72 P.S. Section 1793-E.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

The Judiciary requests the same level of funding as provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This appropriation funds grants to counties for partial reimbursement of eligible juror costs incurred. Specifically, the grant reimburses counties for 80 percent 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.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 4561(b), et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court Interpreter County Grant

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,500	2,473	3,000	2,473
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,500	2,473	3,000	2,473

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	
State Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	1,500	2,473	3,000	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,473</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Grants and Subsidies:

-Increase in reimbursement for court interpreter costs - \$527,000

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

No salaries are funded from this appropriation.

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

No purchases are made from this appropriation.

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

This budget request continues a grant to partially reimburse counties for the costs of providing language access services, including foreign and sign language interpreters, telephone and video remote interpreting for court users who need assistance, and other language access services, including the creation of multilingual signage and translation services, in accordance with federal and state law. Providing qualified court interpreters is an essential element of providing access to justice and the cost of doing so has steadily increased each year since the grant's inception

In 2017, the Supreme Court adopted the Unified Judicial System’s Language Access Plan (LAP). The LAP is a strategic plan for enhancing the ability of limited English proficient and deaf or hard of hearing court users to actively participate in the court proceeding, programs, and services. Examples of LAP deliverables include: a language access judicial bench card, I-Speak cards, and notice of language rights posters that have been created and disseminated to the judicial districts. Additionally, a translation manual has been produced, along with translated court forms; a bi-lingual employee policy and testing protocol has been implemented; as well as continual trainings, communication, and outreach to various constituencies.

Counties often face significant, unexpected expenses related to language access services. In 2022, counties spent over \$5.3 million in language access-related expenses with the grant only providing each county 28% of its requested reimbursement.

Reimbursements requested by the counties are subject to reduction to ensure that a) no county is reimbursed an amount in excess of 30% of the total grant amount, and b) the total amount requested for reimbursement by all counties does not exceed the appropriated amount. When the total amount judicial districts are eligible to receive, as evidenced by claims submitted, is greater than the appropriated amount, each judicial district’s grant is proportionately reduced to bring the total within the amount appropriated.

The judiciary is requesting, on behalf of the counties, an increase of an additional \$527,000, to further increase the reimbursement rate, and bring the grant total to \$3 million. These funds go directly to the county for reimbursement of expenses already incurred related to providing language access in the courts, including the installation of video remote interpreting equipment when an in-person interpreter is not available, in addition to the other services described above.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Annual Appropriation Act.
42 Pa.C.S. § 4417

FY 2022-23
 COURT INTERPRETER COUNTY GRANT
Qualifying Reimbursements and Applied Reductions
 (Calendar 2022)

County	Courtroom	Telephone	Other Language	Total Qualified	Reduced
	<u>Interpreters</u>	<u>Interpreting Services</u>	<u>Access Services</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Adams	\$34,022	\$4,375	\$303	\$38,700	\$10,825
Allegheny	284,032	3,623	3,797	291,452	81,522
Armstrong	374	0	0	374	105
Beaver	26,880	2,591	671	30,142	8,431
Bedford	5,476	375	0	5,851	1,637
Berks	486,408	16,493	150	450,000	125,869
Blair	2,675	1,394	0	4,069	1,138
Bradford	6,438	1,032	700	8,170	2,285
Bucks	361,442	7,154	13,307	381,904	106,822
Butler	15,016	280	0	15,296	4,278
Cambria	2,967	198	0	3,165	885
Cameron	1,436	0	0	1,436	402
Carbon	9,625	1,775	0	11,399	3,188
Centre	39,997	824	0	40,821	11,418
Chester	244,759	3,169	5,704	253,632	70,943
Clarion	4,958	249	766	5,974	1,671
Clinton	3,810	0	0	3,810	1,066
Columbia	3,492	2,210	0	5,702	1,595
Crawford	1,919	244	0	2,163	605
Cumberland	131,422	1,827	0	133,249	37,271
Dauphin	242,353	13,042	0	255,395	71,436
Delaware	191,792	8,406	0	200,198	55,997
Elk	1,841	0	0	1,841	515
Erie	9,074	1,189	3,880	14,143	3,956
Fayette	1,595	33	167	1,794	502
Franklin	172,777	1,873	5,607	180,257	50,419
Fulton	4,750	0	0	4,750	1,329
Huntingdon	2,142	1,581	600	4,324	1,209
Indiana	2,258	0	0	2,258	632
Jefferson	4,130	158	0	4,288	1,199
Juniata	7,513	0	0	7,513	2,101
Lackawanna	89,391	565	1,333	91,288	25,534

FY 2022-23
 COURT INTERPRETER COUNTY GRANT
Qualifying Reimbursements and Applied Reductions
 (Calendar 2022)

County	<u>Courtroom Interpreters</u> Amount	<u>Telephone Interpreting Services</u> Amount	<u>Other Language Access Services</u> Amount	<u>Total Qualified Reimbursement</u> Amount	<u>Reduced Reimbursement</u> Amount
Lancaster	\$366,867	\$5,932	\$2,603	\$375,402	\$105,003
Lawrence	10,879	31	0	10,910	3,052
Lebanon	92,459	1,499	55	94,013	26,296
Lehigh	229,986	8,345	0	238,331	66,663
Luzerne	382,705	5,627	896	389,228	108,870
Lycoming	10,678	571	1,250	12,499	3,496
McKean	1,625	59	0	1,684	471
Mercer	5,806	1,049	0	6,855	1,917
Mifflin	3,832	350	4,078	8,260	2,310
Monroe	81,884	3,078	0	84,962	23,765
Montgomery	376,339	13,039	475	389,854	109,045
Montour	461	0	0	461	129
Northampton	197,161	10,372	2,250	209,783	58,678
Northumberland	28,521	0	499	29,020	8,117
Perry	5,730	0	0	5,730	1,603
Philadelphia*	756,872	46,243	315,540	450,000	125,869
Schuylkill	55,519	2,045	1,542	59,106	16,532
Snyder	2,765	107	0	2,872	803
Somerset	1,871	1,784	825	4,479	1,253
Susquehanna	5,521	0	0	5,521	1,544
Tioga	9,744	0	0	9,744	2,725
Union	8,640	41	0	8,681	2,428
Venango	936	0	0	936	262
Warren	1,122	0	0	1,122	314
Washington	29,885	1,401	1,536	32,822	9,181
Wayne	3,203	221	0	3,424	958
Westmoreland	19,305	44	0	19,349	5,412
Wyoming	1,854	471	0	2,325	650
York	485,261	865	0	450,000	125,869
TOTAL	\$5,574,190	\$177,835	\$368,535	\$5,362,731	\$1,500,000

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Ethics Advisory Board

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	62	165	762	656
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>379</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>106</u>
Total	441	635	762	762

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	45	142	728	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>379</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	424	612	728	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	
State Funds	2	2	2	2	4	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2	2	2	2	4	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	17	23	34	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	17	23	34	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

^Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Personnel: Other Funds include \$470 in required funding consisting of \$391 in Act 49 of 2009 revenues and \$79 in supplemental funds included in the Budget Request.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Decrease in Act 49 funds available in Fiscal Year 2024-25 to supplement state funds (nonrecurring) -	(\$470,000)
-Increase in state funds needed due to decrease in available Act 49 funds (nonrecurring) -	\$470,000
-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff and new positions -	\$116,000

Operating

-Increase in operating expenses -	\$11,000
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	70.97%	69.41%	69.34%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

In 2022, the Supreme Court established the Judicial Ethics Advisory Board (Board) as the first full-time, professionally staffed entity to provide guidance and render advisory opinions concerning proper conduct under the Code of Judicial Conduct (Code) and the Rules Governing Standards of Conduct of Magisterial District Judges (Rules). And since July 1, 2022, the Board has served as the only approved body to render such opinions, superseding the prior designations of committees of the Conference of State Trial Judges and the Special Court Judges Association.

During its relatively short operational history, the Board has processed more than 360 requests and issued over 330 judicial ethics advisory opinions to Pennsylvania's approximate 1,222 judicial officers. In other words, nearly 25% (one in four) of Pennsylvania's judicial officers have sought and received guidance from the Board regarding their ethical obligations. Because of the frequency and volume of request received, the Supreme Court increased the Board's volunteer complement from nine to thirteen members during 2023. The increase in membership has been beneficial in reducing the number of individual assignments each Board member receives but has not alleviated the volume of requests or workload for Board staff. It is therefore anticipated that two additional staff positions will be needed in the immediate future.

In addition to rendering advisory opinions, the Board is also tasked with developing and participating in judicial ethics education, including making recommendations to the Continuing Judicial Education Board and the Minor Judiciary Education Board. Since 2022, the Board, through combined efforts of individual members and the Executive Director, have provided over 100 hours of judicial ethics education, including educational sessions before the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court; Philadelphia Municipal Court; various County Court of Common Pleas; President Judges/Pennsylvania Association of Court Management; and the Minor Judiciary Education Board.

As part of its educational component, the Board undertook the printing of 2,000 copies of the Code and Rules for distribution. In an ever-increasing digital society, there is a marked demand for paper publications, as the Board has nearly exhausted its initial printing. The Board intends to create additional publications as a means of reinforcing judicial ethics and providing a tangible resource for judges. For example, with 2023 representing a municipal election year, the Board received a voluminous number of requests for guidance from judicial candidates. Prior to the next municipal election cycle, the Board plans to issue General Guidance/publications representing Frequently Asked Questions or Guidelines for judicial elections addressing areas such as: judicial responsibilities concerning campaign finances; winding down law practices; attendance of campaign events; etc.

Lastly, to aid in managing the business of the Board, resources such as software and Board-issued devices are being explored, which have proved successful when implemented by Boards and Commissions in the Executive Branch.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 10(c) PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1722, et seq.
Annual Appropriation Act.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Judicial Conduct Board

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2,555	2,555	2,555	2,555
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	2,568	2,566	2,565	2,565

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	2,184	2,300	2,441	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,197	2,311	2,451	0

(b) "Complement"

	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2023		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	16	14	15	15	15	15	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16	14	15	15	15	15	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	371	255	114	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	371	255	114	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2024-25</u>	<u>Gov Rec #</u> <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2024-25</u>	<u>Gov Rec #</u> <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and benefits for filled staff and annuitant health insurance benefits -	\$141,000
-Decrease in Medicare D Subsidy -	(\$1,000)

Operating:

-Decrease in operating expenses -	(\$141,000)
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8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Judicial</u> <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	86.91%	84.80%	87.01%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24:	none
2024-25:	none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania was created as an independent board within the Judicial Branch by an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution adopted on May 18, 1993 and declared in effect by the Governor on August 11, 1993. It is the Judicial Conduct Board's responsibility within the Judicial Branch to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, disability, or impairment and to prosecute deserving cases in the Court of Judicial Discipline.

The board has jurisdiction over Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, Superior and Commonwealth Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, Philadelphia Municipal Court Judges and Magisterial District Judges.

Under the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the board is the constitutionally identified agency of state government with the authority to investigate judges for misconduct or physical or mental disability. Its role is unique. The board's system has served Pennsylvania well since its inception in 1993. Some judges have been publicly disciplined for judicial misconduct, others have been confidentially cautioned, and a number have resigned while under inquiry. It is undoubtedly fair to state that the Pennsylvania judiciary is aware of its ethical obligations and the potential consequences for ethical breaches.

As mandated by the Constitution, the board is comprised of twelve members serving staggered four-year terms, as follows: six citizen electors who are neither attorneys nor judges; three judges, including one appellate court judge, one common pleas court judge, and one magisterial district judge; and three attorneys who are not judges. The Governor appoints six members, and the Supreme Court appoints six members. No more than half of the members may be of the same political party.

Members meet regularly to conduct board business. They receive no compensation for their service. Members may not serve more than four consecutive years; however, a member may be reappointed for an additional term after the lapse of one year from the end of the member's previous term. Except for judicial members, no member of the board, during the member's term, may hold a compensated public office or public appointment.

The Constitution requires that the board appoint a Chief Counsel and other necessary staff. Currently, the board has an authorized complement of 15. Six of the approved positions are for licensed attorneys, including the Chief Counsel. The remaining approved positions are for four investigators and five administrative staff.

The Chief Counsel provides legal advice to the board and, along with the other staff attorneys, serves as trial counsel in proceedings before the Court of Judicial Discipline. The board's legal staff is responsible for overseeing the investigation of cases, advising the board as to courses of action concerning cases, and preparing and prosecuting cases before the Court of Judicial Discipline.

In the event of appeals from orders of the Court of Judicial Discipline, board counsel represent the board before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (or the constitutionally provided Special Tribunal if the appeal from the Court of Judicial Discipline involves a member of the Supreme Court).

Board counsel is also tasked with acting as the board's open records officer and open records appeals officer as required by the Commonwealth's Right-to-Know Law. In addition to responding to right-to-know requests, board counsel also represent the board in appeals to Commonwealth Court from right-to-know determinations.

The board is required to administer its own budget, publish and distribute an annual report, exercise supervisory and administrative authority over all board staff, and implement its own rules of procedure. Board headquarters are maintained in the Pennsylvania Judicial Center in Harrisburg.

During calendar year 2023, the board received or initiated 821 confidential requests for investigation. A total of 821 pending matters were resolved during that same period. Investigative requests are not necessarily resolved in the year in which they are received and may remain active for several years. Of the resolved matters, 43 were dismissed with Letters of Caution, and 19 were dismissed with Letters of Counsel. Formal charges were filed in the Court of Judicial Discipline against two judges. The board also filed one Petition for Interim Suspension Without Pay in the Court of Judicial Discipline concerning a judge against whom it had filed formal charges in the Court of Judicial Discipline.

This appropriation provides funding for the board's operating expenses, annuitant benefits, and the salaries and benefits of the board's staff. Funding of the board's budget request is important so that the board may continue to carry out its core governmental function pursuant to its constitutional mandate.

The prompt and effective operation of Pennsylvania's judicial disciplinary system plays a critical role in promoting and maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice. The sufficient allocation of resources to the Judicial Conduct Board helps demonstrate to all Pennsylvanians that their representatives stand committed to the pursuit of justice.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 18(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 2101 et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL
Court of Judicial Discipline

1. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	618	618	618	618
Federal Funds:	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	620	620	620	620

2. PERSONNEL

(a) "Costs" (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	405	413	437	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	407	415	439	0

(b) "Complement"

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>		<u>December 31, 2023</u>		Budget		Gov Rec #
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	3	2	3	2	2	2	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3	2	3	2	2	2	0

3. OPERATING (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	213	205	181	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	213	205	181	0

4. FIXED ASSETS (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	0	0	0

5. GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

6. NON-EXPENSE/INTERAGENCY (\$000)

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>	Gov Rec # <u>2024-25</u>
State Funds	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

#Detail not provided by Governor's Office of the Budget.

7. ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel:

-Increase in salaries and all benefits for filled staff and annuitant medical benefits - \$24,000

Operating:

-Decrease in miscellaneous operating expenses - (\$24,000)

8. HISTORY OF LAPSES

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
State Funds	0	0	0

9. FRINGE BENEFITS

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	Judicial <u>2024-25</u>
Employee Factor	90.71%	86.04%	88.08%

10. NONRECURRING PURCHASES

2023-24: none

2024-25: none

11. PROGRAM STATEMENT

Budget Request Funding Needs

The Court of Judicial Discipline seeks the same amount as last year, \$618,000. This amount should be adequate to continue the mission of the Court.

The Court is leanly staffed with only two employees, a counsel and a court administrator. There are five active cases before the Court with more likely to be filed soon. Several of the cases will result in multi-day hearings. There are also two cases with judges serving probationary sanctions which are being supervised by the Court's counsel.

Last year, the Court decided six cases. The cases before the court have become more complex in recent years as they now tend to involve repeated episodes of poor demeanor or multiple counts of unrelated conduct rather than the single instances of misconduct pursued in the past.

The Court

The Court of Judicial Discipline is a court of record established in 1993 under Article V, §18 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The court serves as a trial court for complaints filed by the Judicial Conduct Board alleging judicial misconduct by a judicial officer. To perform its task, it is required by the Constitution to appoint staff and prepare and administer its own budget as provided by law and undertake actions needed to ensure its efficient operation.

The Court hears and decides cases involving allegations of judicial misconduct prosecuted by the Judicial Conduct Board. The court enters findings of fact and conclusions of law and, if misconduct is found to have occurred, imposes an appropriate sanction. Formal charges filed with the court are a matter of public record and all hearings conducted by the court are public proceedings. Proceedings are conducted pursuant to the rules adopted by the court and in accordance with the principles of due process and the Rules of Evidence. Official court records and dockets are maintained and preserved by the Clerk of the Court of Judicial Discipline.

The Court is composed of eight members, four of whom are appointed by the Supreme Court and four appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution, the Supreme Court appointees include two judges, one magisterial district judge, and one non-lawyer elector. The Governor's appointees include one judge, two non-judge members of the bar, and a non-lawyer elector. The members serve without compensation.

Since the court's inception, 120 formal complaints and 49 petitions for interim relief have been submitted for review. For calendar year 2023, the court handled trials or proceedings in eight separate cases. Members of the court supervised pre-trial discovery with the litigants and held pre-trial conferences to ensure the fair and prompt disposition of cases. When the record could not be resolved by way of factual stipulations, trials were promptly scheduled by the court and timely decisions were filed.

Educational Court Functions

In addition to performing the above-noted constitutional functions, the Court of Judicial Discipline has taken an active role by providing educational opportunities for a variety of audiences. The staff of the court has presented programs that educate judicial officers, members of the Pennsylvania Bar, and the general public regarding judicial ethics in general, and the Commonwealth's judicial discipline system.

Additionally, court staff have prepared and presented continuing legal education programs, including presentations throughout Pennsylvania, pertaining to the Commonwealth's system of judicial discipline.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Art. V, Sec. 18(b), PA Constitution
42 Pa.C.S.A. Sec. 1601, et seq.

2024-25 JUDICIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

In response to the Appropriations Committees' request, the following additional information is provided:

FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 OBLIGATIONS ROLLED FORWARD TO FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Common Pleas	\$1,767
Common Pleas Senior Judges	\$141,638
Magisterial District Judges	\$28,176
Magisterial District Judge Education	\$6,267