

**Judiciary - Supreme Court**

Arizona Constitution Article VI  
A.R.S. § 12-101

Chief Justice: The Honorable Charles E. Jones

JLBC Analyst: Kim Hohman

	<b>FY 2001 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2003 Approved</b>
<b>PROGRAM BUDGET</b>			
Justices & Support	3,301,800	3,437,400	3,543,700
Administrative Supervision	7,704,100	7,732,900	7,872,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Regulatory Activities	570,800	991,300	1,011,900
Court Assistance	5,078,000	2,922,200	2,985,100
Case Processing			
<u>Subprograms</u>			
State Aid	5,305,000	8,379,800	4,939,900
Rural State Aid to Courts	0	0	837,000 <sup>2/</sup>
County Reimbursements	284,400	522,600	522,600
Automation	6,007,900	14,440,800	14,484,000
<i>Program Subtotal - Case Processing</i>	<u>11,597,300</u>	<u>23,343,200</u>	<u>20,783,500</u>
Family Services			
<u>Subprograms</u>			
Foster Care Review Board	2,164,900	2,099,800	2,171,000
Court Appointed Special Advocate	2,007,200	2,526,400	2,439,400
Model Court	514,600	514,300	514,300
Domestic Relations	948,700	997,100	1,011,600
<i>Program Subtotal - Family Services</i>	<u>5,635,400</u>	<u>6,137,600</u>	<u>6,136,300</u>
Judicial Nominations & Performance Review	347,800	351,100	356,600
Commission on Judicial Conduct	348,100	339,100	348,300
Lump Sum Reduction	0	0	(435,500)
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>34,583,300</b>	<b>45,254,800</b>	<b>42,601,900</b>
<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
Full Time Equivalent Positions	239.4	247.4	241.1
Personal Services	11,912,100	11,417,700	11,741,100
Employee Related Expenditures	1,989,100	2,073,400	2,266,100
Professional and Outside Services	3,540,000	9,966,100	7,285,900
Travel	336,100	247,900	247,900
Other Operating Expenditures	14,643,300	21,491,800	21,488,900
Equipment	2,162,700	57,900	7,500
Lump Sum Reduction	0	0	(435,500)
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>34,583,300</b>	<b>45,254,800</b>	<b>42,601,900</b> <sup>3/4/</sup>
<b>FUND SOURCES</b>			
General Fund	17,653,300	18,033,100	16,644,400
<u>Other Appropriated Funds</u>			
Confidential Intermediary and Private			
Fiduciary Fund	249,400	395,700	396,500
Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund	2,007,200	2,526,400	2,439,400
Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund	1,788,200	3,011,100	3,013,900 <sup>5/</sup>
Defensive Driving School Fund	2,678,300	5,153,800	5,216,800 <sup>6/</sup>
Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund	8,486,400	12,574,500	12,633,800 <sup>7/</sup>
State Aid to the Courts Fund	1,720,500	3,560,200	2,257,100 <sup>8/</sup>
<i>Subtotal - Other Appropriated Funds</i>	<u>16,930,000</u>	<u>27,221,700</u>	<u>25,957,500</u>
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>34,583,300</b>	<b>45,254,800</b>	<b>42,601,900</b>

**AGENCY DESCRIPTION** — *The Supreme Court consists of 5 Supreme Court Justices, judicial support staff and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The Supreme Court, as the state's highest court, has the responsibility to review appeals and to provide rules of procedure for all the courts in Arizona. Under the direction of the Chief Justice, the AOC provides administrative supervision over the Arizona court system.*

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002-03
	Est./Actual	Est./Actual	Est./Actual	Estimate
• Annual % increase in court revenues	5/6	5/2.7	5/7.1	5.0
• % of courts with automated accounting and case management systems	NA	80/81	81/100	81
• New Supreme Court case filings	1,583/1,319	1,319/1,402	1,402/1,248	1,402
• Supreme Court cases pending at end of year	155/493	493/580	580/454	580
• Average calendar days to issue an opinion	NA	NA	NA	Baseline
• % of agency staff turnover	NA/14.2	NA/17.4	16.4/20.2	15.4
• Administration as a % of total cost	NA	4.0/NA	3.9/NA	3.9
• Customer satisfaction rating for defensive driving schools (Scale 1-8)	NA	NA	NA	6.0

**Unfunded FTE Positions** — The approved amount includes a General Fund decrease of (6.3) FTE Positions below FY 2002 due to the statewide elimination of unfunded FTE Positions. For details on the methodology used to calculate the reduction, please see the *General Provisions* section at the front of the *Appropriations Report*.

**Justices and Support Program** — This program provides funding for salaries and related expenses for the 5 Supreme Court Justices, as well as judicial support staff positions. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Administrative Supervision Program** — This program provides general administrative support to the agency including budget, personnel, computer services, and strategic management. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Regulatory Activities Program** — This program provides funding for the regulation of court reporters, confidential intermediaries, private fiduciaries, and defensive driving schools. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund, the Confidential Intermediary and Private Fiduciary Fund, and the Defensive Driving School Fund, as well as the non-appropriated Court Reporters Fund.

**Court Assistance Program** — This program provides funding through the Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund to improve the collection and management of monies assessed or received by the courts. General Fund monies in this program provide funding for a statewide judicial education system. The approved General Fund appropriation for this program is \$233,900 in FY 2003.

**Case Processing Program**

**State Aid Subprogram** — This subprogram provides state aid to counties for the payment of judges pro tempore

- 1/ Included in the Lump Sum appropriation for the Administrative Supervision Program is \$1,000 for the purchase of mementos and items for visiting officials. (General Appropriation Act footnote)
- 2/ Notwithstanding any other law, the amount appropriated for Rural State Aid to Courts shall be allocated to counties with populations of less than 500,000 persons. (General Appropriation Act footnote)
- 3/ The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report annually, by November 1, to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the total receipts and expenditures in each account of the Adult Probation Services Fund established by A.R.S. § 12-267 and the Juvenile Probation Fund established by A.R.S. § 12-268. The report shall present the information by county and include the amount of Personal Services expended from each revenue source of each account. (General Appropriation Act footnote)
- 4/ General Appropriation Act (Laws 2002, Chapter 327) funds are appropriated as a Lump Sum by Program/Subprogram.
- 5/ All Case Processing Assistance Fund receipts received by the Administrative Office of the Courts in excess of \$3,013,900 in FY 2003 are appropriated to the Supreme Court. Before the expenditure of any Case Processing Assistance Fund receipts in excess of \$3,013,900 in FY 2003, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit the intended use of the monies for review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. (General Appropriation Act footnote, as adjusted for statewide allocations)
- 6/ All Defensive Driving School Fund receipts received by the Administrative Office of the Courts in excess of \$5,216,800 in FY 2003 are appropriated to the Supreme Court. Before the expenditure of any Defensive Driving School Fund receipts in excess of \$5,216,800 in FY 2003, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit the intended use of the monies for review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. (General Appropriation Act footnote, as adjusted for statewide allocations)
- 7/ All Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund receipts received by the Administrative Office of the Courts in excess of \$12,633,800 in FY 2003 are appropriated to the Supreme Court. Before the expenditure of Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund receipts in excess of \$12,633,800 in FY 2003, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall submit the intended use of the monies for review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. (General Appropriation Act footnote, as adjusted for statewide allocations)
- 8/ All monies deposited in the fund are subject to legislative appropriation. As a result, the appropriation includes General Fund monies appropriated to the fund that are then reappropriated out of the fund.

salaries and for projects designed to improve the processing of criminal cases in the Superior Court and Justice Courts. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund, the State Aid to the Courts Fund and an allocation from the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund (CJEF). The State Aid to the Courts Fund receives: 1) General Fund appropriations, 2) 40.97% of a 7% penalty assessment on fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the courts for criminal and civil motor vehicle violations, and 3) a portion of the monies collected by the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

In FY 2002, the appropriation to the State Aid subprogram includes \$1,721,100 in General Fund monies to the State Aid to the Courts Fund, an appropriation of these same monies out of the State Aid to the Courts Fund, and \$1,839,100 from court fines and collections. The Administrative Office of the Courts distributed these monies to the Superior Court and the Justice Courts to all counties based on a composite index formula using Superior Court felony filings and county population. The FY 2002 appropriation to the State Aid subprogram also included \$3,011,100 from the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund for case processing projects and \$87,400 from the General Fund for payment of judges pro tempore salaries.

In FY 2003, the appropriation to the State Aid subprogram includes \$3,013,900 from CJEF, \$1,838,600 from court fines and collections, and \$87,400 from the General Fund for salaries of judges pro tempore. The monies appropriated from court fines and collections continue to be distributed to all counties. The General Fund appropriation to the State Aid to the Courts Fund has moved to the Rural State Aid to Courts subprogram.

**Rural State Aid to Courts Subprogram** — The General Appropriation Act provides a total General Fund appropriation of \$418,500 and Other Fund appropriation of \$418,500 in FY 2003. The General Fund monies are now allocated in counties with populations of less than 500,000 persons, pursuant to a General Appropriation Act footnote. The approved amount reflects the appropriation from the General Fund to the State Aid to the Courts Fund as well as the appropriation of these same monies out of the State Aid to the Courts Fund.

**County Reimbursements Subprogram** — This subprogram provides reimbursement to counties for grand jury expenses and for state-funded representation of indigent defendants in first-time capital post conviction relief proceedings. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Automation Subprogram** — This subprogram provides funding for court automation projects throughout the state. The approved appropriation is funded from a portion of the Defensive Driving School Fund and a portion of the Judicial Collection Enhancement Fund.

## **Family Services Program**

**Foster Care Review Board Subprogram** — This subprogram coordinates local volunteer review boards for foster care children in out-of-home placement. It also coordinates the activities of a state advisory board that oversees the activities of the local review boards and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for improving the state's foster care system. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate Subprogram** — This subprogram administers and monitors a community-based volunteer advocacy program for abused and neglected children in the Juvenile Court System. Local volunteers are trained and then appointed to individual dependency cases by presiding juvenile judges to function as independent advocates for children who are wards of the state. This subprogram is funded from the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund (CASA), which consists of 30% of State Lottery unclaimed prize money.

The approved amount includes a CASA Fund decrease of \$(50,400) below FY 2002 to eliminate one-time equipment funding. The approved appropriation also includes a CASA Fund decrease of \$(75,000) below FY 2002 to eliminate monies for a 3-year impact study that began in FY 2000. The purpose of the study is to compare the outcome of children who have been assigned an advocate to those who have not received this service.

**Model Court Subprogram** — This subprogram is responsible for overseeing and recommending changes to 1998 laws governing reduced dependency case time lines and processing of cases for children in the state's foster care system. All funding is from the General Fund for contract agreements with the local courts.

**Domestic Relations Subprogram** — This subprogram provides coordination and technical support for groups formed to develop and review policies and programs related to domestic relations and child support. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Judicial Nominations and Performance Review Program** — This program provides a mechanism for nominating individuals for appointment to the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Superior Court in Maricopa and Pima Counties, as well as evaluating the performance of all merit retention justices and judges. The results of the performance evaluations are provided to the voters before each retention election. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

**Commission on Judicial Conduct Program** — This program functions as an internal audit body of the Judicial Branch by investigating and resolving all complaints of judicial misconduct. The approved appropriation is funded from the General Fund.

[Click here to return to the Table of Contents](#)