THE JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

The recommendation of \$355.3 million presented in this budget includes continuation funding of the courts and its operations. Pursuant to P.L. 1993, c. 275, the State became responsible for certain county court costs on January 1, 1995. The State assumed responsibility for over 7,700 county employees, who were transferred on January 1, 1995 within the trial courts, probation services and field operations.

P.L. 1993, c. 275 provides for a phase—in of State funding of court unification through a schedule of county reimbursements in 1995, 1996 and 1997. In addition, certain fees, fines, and assessments collected by the counties became State revenues beginning January 1, 1995. It is anticipated that \$181.4 million of county reimbursements and \$31.5 million of additional fees, fines and assessments will be forwarded to the State in fiscal year 1996. The net cost impact, including fringe benefit costs, of the assumption of the county courts on the State in fiscal year 1996 will be \$117.8 million, which is the difference between the anticipated revenue and expenditures associated with the State unification of the court system.

The Judiciary is the fourth largest State agency in terms of resources and the second largest employer of State employees in New Jersey. The State funds all judges salaries other than Municipal Court judges. All expenses of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Division, and the Tax Court in addition to court reporters, judicial education programs, and the Administrative Office of the Courts are funded at the State level as well as trial court expenses such as arbitration, public defender eligibility and child placement review. The State operations budget includes funding for 421 judgeships and 978 non–judge salary positions.

The trial court budget includes the costs associated with operating the courts and probation services, except for facilities and security. Within the trial courts, the fiscal year 1996 recommendation supports 6,506 State and 1,224 federally funded employees for a total operational cost of \$254.9 million.

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS BY PROGRAM (thousands of dollars)

	——Year En	ding June 30	, 1994——				Year E	nding), 1996——
Orig. & (S)Supple- mental	Reapp. & (R)Recpts.	Transfers & (E)Emer- gencies		Expended		1995 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recom- mended
					Judicial Services			
3,456	148	-180	3,424	3,312	Supreme Court	3,457	3,825	3,457
10,592	112	697	11,401	11,317	Superior Court-Appellate Division	11,771	12,850	11,771
25,802	4,662	-1,610	28,854	27,171	Civil Courts	48,520	74,018	71,767
15,549	139	-384	15,304	14,932	Criminal Courts	39,178	65,234	63,350
11,064	109	602	11,775	11,480	Family Courts	35,571	64,571	61,843
841	82	-106	817	756	Municipal Courts	854	990	854
8,847	835	-804	8,878	8,355	Probation Services	50,801	96,614	89,124
9,171	119	-468	8,822	8,659	Court Reporting	8,819	11,252	5,586
1,316	95	-356	1,055	993	Legal and Professional Services	1,156	1,258	1,156
9,846	312	2,287	12,445	12,414	Information Services	10,905	25,310	10,905
2,366	42	168	2,576	2,419	Field Operations	18,012	40,732	30,393
5,812	305	545	6,662	6,314	Management and Administration	6,525	6,695	5,047
104,662	6,960	391	112,013	108,122	Total Appropriation	235,569	403,349	355,253

10. PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE 15. JUDICIAL SERVICES

OBJECTIVES

- To determine in a fair and expeditious manner the cases of all kinds which are brought to court.
- To assist the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in carrying out the constitutional responsibility vested in that office as the administrative head of the entire New Jersey court system.
- To provide the services and direct support necessary for the effective operation of the Judicial system throughout the State.

PROGRAM CLASSIFICATIONS

- 01. Supreme Court. The State Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and is the State court of final appeal. Pursuant to Article VI, Section V of the New Jersey Constitution, appeals may be taken to the Supreme Court in causes determined by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court involving a question arising under the Constitution of the United States or of this State; in causes in which there is a dissent in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court; in capital causes; on certification by the Supreme Court itself to the Superior Court and, where provided by rules of the Supreme Court, to the inferior courts; and in such other causes as may be provided by law.
 - Pursuant to Article VI, Section II of the Constitution, the Supreme Court makes rules governing the administration of the courts in the State. The Supreme Court also administers programs that are wholly or partially reimbursable by special fees, such as the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, Attorney Discipline, Trial Attorney Certification and the Bar Admissions Financial Committee.
- 02. Superior Court, Appellate Division. The Superior Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section III of the Constitution, includes an Appellate Division. The Appellate Division hears appeals from the Law and Chancery Divisions of the Superior Court, the Tax Court, and State administrative agencies.
- 03. **Civil Courts.** The Civil Courts include the Civil Part of the Law Division of Superior Court, the General Equity Part of the Chancery Division, and the Tax Court.
 - The Tax Court is a special category within Civil Courts. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A, it has jurisdiction to hear tax appeals of taxpayers and taxing districts with regard to assessment, railroad assessments levied by the State, sales taxes, franchise taxes, gross receipts and all other taxes levied by the State. The Court also hears appeals on homestead rebate denials issued by the Director of the Division of Taxation and appeals by taxing districts from both the

- equalization tables promulgated by the Director of the Division of Taxation for the distribution of school aid and the equalization tables promulgated by the various counties for the purpose of distributing costs of county government.
- 04. **Criminal Courts.** The Criminal Part of the Law Division of the Superior Court hears and determines all serious criminal cases following grand jury indictment. It also hears appeals from Municipal Courts.
- 05. **Family Courts.** The Family Courts hear and determine all causes involving the family including those causes previously heard by the Matrimonial Part of the Superior Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts.
- 06. Municipal Courts. The municipal courts are funded directly by the municipalities, but the State supports a unit within the Administrative Office of the Courts to train municipal court judges and clerks, promulgate manuals of procedures, collect data on municipal court operations, conduct studies for the improvement of municipal courts, works with other State agencies on matters involving the municipal courts, and also administers the Automated Traffic System, a program which is wholly reimbursable by special fees.
- 07. Probation Services. Probation Services supervises probation operations statewide, establishes and monitors standards, conducts research and field review of probation programs, coordinates community services programs and operates the Intensive Supervision Program. Additionally, it oversees both the collections of all court imposed financial obligations and the Child Support Enforcement operations statewide.
- 08. Court Reporting. Court proceedings are recorded verbatim either by court reporters or by sound recordings, as provided by Supreme Court rules.
- 09. Legal and Professional Services. The Supreme Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section II of the Constitution, is responsible for practice and procedure in the courts of New Jersey. The support to fulfill this function includes judicial conduct, continuing education of judges and staff, rules development, and legal research.
- 10. Information Services. The Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on court operations, including statistical analysis and reporting, records management, and management information systems.
- 11. Field Operations. The State provides direct services to trial courts around the State. These services include trial court administrative offices and technical services in systems analysis, jury management, libraries, and others.
- 12. **Management and Administration.** Provides overhead services in such areas as budgeting and accounting, purchasing, property maintenance, and personnel.

EVALUATION DATA						
	Actual FY 1993	Actual FY 1994	Revised FY 1995	Budget Estimate FY 1996		
PROGRAM DATA						
Supreme Court						
Court Year—July 1 to June 30						
Appeals						
Added	218	219	230	240		
Disposed	218	223	230	240		
Pending June 30	133	129	129	129		
Certifications added	1,256	1,296	1,400	1,475		
Motions added	1,519	1,651	1,700	1,750		
Disciplinary proceedings added	171	191	180	100		
Disciplinary proceedings added	1/1	171	100	100		
Superior Court-Appellate Division Appeals						
Added	6,605	7,129	7,414	7,636		
Disposed	6,439	7,043	7,324	7,324		
Pending June 30	6,227	6,313	6,403	6,715		
Motions added	7,344	7,439	7,587	7,738		
	·	•		,		
Civil Courts						
Civil Cases						
Added	139,809	136,044	134,684	133,337		
Disposed	159,248	142,236	141,545	141,545		
Pending June 30	181,526	176,604	169,743	161,535		
Average time to disposition (months)	13.7	14.9	14.0	14.0		
Special Civil Component	104.041	44 4 000	44.600			
Added	426,061	416,820	416,820	416,820		
Disposed	428,304	416 878	416,878	416,878		
Pending June 30	40,351	40,349	40,291	40,233		
Average time to disposition (months)	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0		
General Equity Added	6 022	6 626	6.427	(244		
Disposed	6,833	6,636	6,437	6,244		
Pending June 30	7,342 3,747	6,851	6,818	6,818		
Average time to disposition (months)	6.1	3,536 6.2	3,155	2,581		
Judgment and Search Section	0.1	0.2	6.0	5.0		
Judgments Indexed and Docketed	145,000	174,000	225,000	250,000		
Warrants of satisfactions, assignments, releases, etc	51,000	52,500	60,000	68,000		
Automobile Arbitration	01,000	32,300	00,000	00,000		
Cases scheduled	52,281	56,006	56,000	56,000		
Cases removed	4,528	4,066	4,000	4,000		
Cases settled prior to hearing	6,535	5,789	6,000	6,000		
Cases arbitrated	19,504	20,921	20,000	20,000		
Trial de novo requests	11,863	13,847	14,000	14,000		
Trials de novo completed	114	175	200	200		
Personal Injury Arbitration				200		
Cases scheduled	18,995	19,575	20,000	20,000		
Cases removed	1,690	1,451	1,500	15,000		
Cases settled prior to hearing	1,864	1,850	1,800	1,800		
Cases arbitrated	667	6,880	7,000	7,000		
Trial de novo requests	4,745	4,697	5,000	5,000		
Trials de novo completed	55	120	150	150		
Tax Court						
Local & State Appeals						
Added	14,967	15,223	15,984	16,000		
Closed	16,560	11,697	17,000	18,000		
Pending June 30	17,885	21,411	19,000	18,000		

	Actual FY 1993	Actual FY 1994	Revised FY 1995	Budget Estimate FY 1996
Criminal Courts				
Criminal Cases				
Added	47,958	47,228	47,228	47,228
Disposed	49,227	48,522	46,748	46,748
Pending June 30	16,469	16,025	16,265	16,505
Average time to disposition (months)	4.0	4.0	4.0	•
Public Defender Eligibility Review	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	(2, 920	(4715	(0.14)	(5.050
Applications	62,830	64,715	62,146	65,253
Applications approved for representation	57,175	58,890	55,931	58,728
Family Courts				
Dissolution				
Added	54,064	54,137	54,137	54,137
Disposed	54,819	53,192	54,137	54,137
Pending June 30		-	-	
Average time to disposition (months)	20,145	21,405	21,405	21,405
Juvenile Delinquency	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.0
Added	92,048	91,275	92,188	93,110
Disposed	93,453	90,619	91,525	92,441
Pending June 30	13,439	14,258	14,921	•
Average time to disposition (months)	1.7	1.9	•	15,590
Non-Dissolution	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0
Added	120,652	125,356	122 617	142,422
	•		133,617	,
Disposed	121,389	126,971	135,338	144,257
Pending June 30	10,819	9,318	7,597	5,762
Average time to disposition (months)	1.1	.9	1.0	1.0
Added	53,321	55,639	61,203	67,323
Disposed	52,886	55,180	60,698	66,768
Pending June 30	2,253	2,671	3,176	3,731
Average time to disposition (months)	.5	.6	1.0	1.0
Other Family – Abuse/Negligence Complaints				
Added	2,435	3,322	3,588	3,875
Disposed	2,432	2,937	3,172	3,426
Pending June 30	578	964	1,380	1,829
Average time to disposition (months)	2.9	3.9	5.0	6.0
Other Family – Adoption Complaints				
Added	2,274	2,158	2,072	1,989
Disposed	2,329	2,161	2,075	1,992
Pending June 30	537	532	529	526
Average time to disposition (months)	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
Other Family – Child Placement Review				0.0
Added	3,691	4,089	3,966	3,847
Disposed	4,277	4,096	3,973	3,854
Pending June 30	8,177	8,171	8,164	•
Average time to disposition (months)	22.9	•		8,158
	22.9	23.9	25.0	25.0
Other Family – Juvenile/Family Crisis Petition	1 000	0.010	0.104	2.242
Added	1,923	2,013	2,134	2,262
Disposed	1,949	1,922	2,038	2,160
Pending June 30	139	227	323	426
Average time to disposition (months)	.9	1.4	2.0	2.0
Other Family – Termination of Parental				
Rights Complaints				
Added	382	409	413	417
	202	362	366	369
Disposed	393	302	300	509
Disposed Pending June 30	393 244	298	345	393

	*******			Budget
	Actual FY 1993	Actual FY 1994	Revised FY 1995	Estimate FY 1996
Other Family – Other				
Added	9,196	9,869	10,856	11,942
Disposed	9,104	9,677	10,645	11,710
Pending June 30	1,434	1,600	1,811	2,044
Average time to disposition (months)	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.1
Volunteer Services	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Number of Volunteers	3,493	2 942	4 410	E 001
Number of Volunteers Number of Volunteer Hours Served		3,842	4,418	5,081
Number of volunteer riours served	231,209	254,329	292,478	336,350
Municipal Courts				
Non-Traffic Violations				
Indictables	197,655	193,430	190,084	186,796
Disorderly Person	332,671	315,729	302,784	290,370
Other Non-Traffic	143,723	160,156	162,718	165,321
Traffic Violations				
Drunk Driving	42,629	37,833	35,185	32,722
Moving Violations	2,086,599	1,971,330	1,920,075	1,870,153
Parking	3,170,242	2,822,945	2,579,109	2,389,340
Publish a Conden				
Probation Services	02.454	9E (00	97.207	00.000
Adults Under Supervision	83,454	85,690	87,396	89,082
Juveniles Under Supervision	13,075	13,369	13,637	13,912
Intensive Supervision Program	0.050	2.005	2.010	2566
Applications	2,253	2,905	3,219	3,566
Assessment Reports	680	865	1,071	1,071
Resentencing Panel Hearings	1,847	1,986	2,550	2,550
Participants	646	678	850	850
Revocations	180	207	243	243
Child Support & Paternity – Title IV–D				
Child Support Hearings	99,147	100,526	102,000	112,000
Collections	\$454,561,361	\$493,000,000	\$540,000,000	\$585,000,000
Automated Child Support Enforcement System Checks Distributed	2,961,467	3,600,000	3,700,000	3,900,000
Checks Distributed	2,701,107	5,000,000	3,7 00,000	3,700,000
PERSONNEL DATA				
Affirmative Action Data				
Male Minority	63	75	75	80
Male Minority %	5.0	5.9	5.9	6.2
Female Minority	213	224	224	230
Female Minority %	17.0	18.0	17.9	17.9
Total Minority	276	299	224	310
Total Minority %	22.0	23.5	23.5	24.1
Position Data				
Position Data Filled Positions by Funding Source				
	1 454	1 400	1 507	7.005
State Supported	1,456	1,480	1,507	7,905
Federal	68	64	61	1,288
All Other	101	103	115	152
County Court Employees (a)			7,745	
Total Positions	1,625	1,647	9,428	9,345
Filled Positions by Program Class				
Supreme Court	131	132	133	159
Superior Court-Appellate Division	205	209	213	208
Civil Courts	349	366	373	1,970
Criminal Courts	169	160	157	1,692
Family Courts	180	164	166	1,733
Municipal Courts	42	39	49	50
Probation Services	86	131	140	2,767
Court Reporting	185	157	153	86
Legal and Professional Services	24	20	20	20
Information Services	132	132	131	130

	Actual FY 1993	Actual FY 1994	Revised FY 1995	Budget Estimate FY 1996
Field Operations	36	36	40	436
Management and Administration	86	101	108	94
County Court Employees (a)			7,745	
Total Positions	1,625	1,647	9,428	9,345

Notes: Actual fiscal year 1993 and 1994 and Revised fiscal year 1995 position data reflect actual payroll counts. The Budget Estimate for fiscal year 1996 reflects the number of positions funded.

Affirmative Action Data reflects only the State operations of the Judiciary and does not include the county trial courts.

APPROPRIATIONS DATA (thousands of dollars)

	—Year End	ling June 30,	1994———		usunus of uonars,			Year En	
Orig. & ^(S) Supple– mental	Reapp. & (R)Recpts.	Transfers & (E)Emer-gencies	Total	Expended		Prog. Class.	1995 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recom- mended
	•	Ü		-	Distribution by Program				
3,456	148	-180	3,424	3,312	Supreme Court	01	3,457	3,825	3,457
10,592	112	697	11,401	11,317	Superior Court–Appellate				
			,		Division	02	11,771	12,850	11,771
25,802	4,662	-1,610	28,854	27,171	Civil Courts	03	48,520	74,018	71,767
15,549	139	-384	15,304	14,932	Criminal Courts	04	39,178	65,234	63,350
11,064	109	602	11,775	11,480	Family Courts	05	35,571	64,571	61,843
841	82	-106	817	756	Municipal Courts	06	854	990	854
8,847	835	-804	8,878	8,355	Probation Services	07	50,801	96,614	89,124
9,171	119	-468	8,822	8,659	Court Reporting	08	8,819	11,252	5,586
1,316	95	-356	1,055	993	Legal and Professional Services	09	1,156	1,258	1,156
9,846	312	2,287	12,445	12,414	Information Services	10	10,905	25,310	10,905
2,366	42	168	2,576	2,419	Field Operations	11	18,012	40,732	30,393
5,812	305	545	6,662	6,314	Management and Administration	12	6,525	<u>6,695</u>	5,047
104,662	6,960	391	112,013	108,122	Total Appropriation		235,569 ^(a)	403,349	355,253
					Distribution by Object				
					Personal Services:				
	_			120	Chief Justice		120	120	120
			_	690	Associate Justices		690	690	690
			_	41,061	Judges		42,360	42,576	42,360
82,377	<u> 742</u>	<u>-1,513</u>	<u>81,606</u>	<u>39,069</u>	Salaries and Wages		<u> 140,997</u>	<u>258,894</u>	<u>228,762</u>
82,377	742	-1,513	81,606	80,940	Total Personal Services		184,167	302,280	271,932
1,954	380	500	1,834	1,570	Materials and Supplies		5,964	11,488	11,241
5,398	914	-322	5,990	5,333	Services Other Than Personal		21,552	35,702	35,448
423	112	7	542	443	Maintenance and Fixed Charges		1,365	2,424	2,402
					Special Purpose:				
155	 825	45	200	166	Rules Development	01	155	155	155
_	2,359 ^R 10	-498	2,686	1,709	Automobile Arbitration	03	_		_
80	165 ^R	_	255	114	Alternative Dispute Resolution	03	80	80	80
	166								
	796R	-46	916	573	Personal Injury Arbitration	03			
1,237			1,237	1,211	General Equity	03	(b)		
50	44	919	1,013	946	Speedy Trial Program, Case Processing Improvement	04	50	50	50
75	_		75	49	Child Placement Review Advisory Council	05	75	75	75
		290	290	268	Juvenile Delinquency Commission	05			_
1,124		_	1,124	1,124	Child Support and Paternity Program (Title IV–D)	05	1,124	3,601	3,447
310	7	-33	284	241	Municipal Court Assistance	06		_	

⁽a) Anticipated filled position level for county employees transferred to the State payroll as of January 1, 1995 is 6,625 State Supported employees and 1,120 employees supported by Federal funds.

	——Year End	ling June 30,	1994					Year En	
Orig. & (S)Supple- mental	Reapp. & (R)Recpts.	Transfers & (E)Emer- gencies	Total Available	Expended		Prog. Class.	1995 Adjusted Approp.	Requested	Recom- mended
	57							= 0.1=	
5,847	131 R	-145	5,890	5,557	Intensive Supervision Program	07	5,847	5,847	5,847
2,067	_	-120	1,947	1,927	Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program	07	2,067	2,067	2,067
	_	_	_		Child Support and Paternity Program Title IV-D	07	9,798	18,508	17,833
179		11	190	181	Affirmative Action	12	183	183	183
_	_	8	8	2	Justice Complex Daycare Center	12			
1,100		36	1,136	1,136	Court Unification Support	12			
12,224	4,560	467	17,251	15,204	Total Special Purpose		19,379	30,566	29,737
2,286	252	2,252	4,790	4,632	Additions, Improvements and Equipment		3,142	20,889	4,493
					OTHER RELATED APPROPRIATE	IONS			
<u>3,021</u>	333		2,322	2,007	Total Grants-in-Aid				
107,683	7,293	-641	114,335	110,129	Total General Fund		235,569	403,349	355,253
					Federal Funds				
15 S	15		30	15	Civil Courts	03	210		_
 45,807	41		41	38	Criminal Courts	04		440	_
₁₈ s		145	45,970	31,550	Family Courts	05	_	6,990	6,990
		254	254	91	Municipal Courts	06		56	_
			_		Probation Services	07	45,784	43,014	43,014
		900	900	477	Information Services	10		349	_
28	14		42	23	Field Operations	11	390		_
<u>45</u> s			<u>45</u>	35	Management and Administration	12			
45,913	70	1,299	47,282	32,229	Total Federal Funds		46,384	50,849	50,004
					All Other Funds				
_	5,427R		5,427	4,951	Supreme Court	01	5,510	7,654	7,654
	486R		486	374	Civil Courts	03	403	422	422
	401								
	4,549 R 73		4,950	4,037	Municipal Courts	06	5,701	6,800	6,800
	23R	70	166	166	Probation Services	07	75	105	105
		_	_		Information Services	10	_	581	581
	4	10	14	4	Management and Administration	12			
	<u>10,963</u>	80	<u>11,043</u>	<u>9,532</u>	Total All Other Funds		<u>11,689</u>	<u> 15,562</u>	<u>15,562</u>
153,596	18,326	738	172,660	151,890	GRAND TOTAL		293,642	469,760	420,819

Notes: (a) The fiscal year 1995 appropriation has been adjusted for the allocation of the salary program and has been reduced to reflect the transfer of funds to the salary and other benefits accounts. In addition, the fiscal year 1995 Adjusted Appropriation includes the transfer of \$129,844,000 from State Aid to Direct State Services for the State assumption of the county court costs.

(b) Appropriation of \$737,000 distributed to applicable operating accounts.

LANGUAGE PROVISIONS

It is recommended that the unexpended balance as of June 30, 1995 in Special Purpose accounts be appropriated subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

It is further recommended that receipts from charges to certain Special Purpose accounts listed hereinabove be appropriated for services to these funds.

It is further recommended that the unexpended balances as of June 30, 1995 in non–Special Purpose accounts not to exceed \$8.1 million be appropriated for the purpose of establishing video courtrooms or other one–time cost saving initiatives subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

JUDICIARY

It is further recommended that in addition to the sums hereinabove for Salaries and Wages within the Field Operations and Management and Administration program classifications, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting, may transfer to these Salary and Wages accounts, a sum up to \$7,239,000 from other appropriations in the Judiciary to reflect the savings throughout the Judiciary for management efficiencies due to consolidation of administrative functions.

It is further recommended that receipts from charges to the Superior Court Trust Fund, Clients' Security Fund, Ethics Financial Committee, Board of Trial Attorney Certification, Bar Admission Financial Committee, Automated Traffic System Fund, and Courts Computerized Information Systems Fund for services provided to these funds be appropriated.

It is further recommended that notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1974, c.57 (C.2A:1A-6), the salaries of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court shall be fixed and established at \$115,000 per year.

104,662	6,960	391	112,013	108,122	Total Appropriation, The Judiciary	235,569	403,349	355,253
4,506,334	224,244	42,236	4,772,814	4,537,891	Grand Total, Direct State Services	4,970,579	5,295,437	5,097,492