

**Judiciary Budget for 2011**

The Legislature concurs with the Unified Court System (UCS) Budget request of \$2.55 billion, which reflects a voluntary reduction of \$170 million or 6.3 percent.

UCS saw reductions in the following areas: Civil Legal Services, \$12.5 million, this amount reflects a 50 percent reduction in the additional requested appropriation authority of \$25 million to implement the recommendations of the Chief Judge's Task Force to expand access to civil legal services in New York; Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP), \$2.5 million, this amount reflects a 50 percent reduction in grants and support to town and village courts;

General State Charges, \$10 million to reflect savings on employee benefits that may arise due to downsizing; Judiciary-Wide Maintenance Undistributed reduction of \$54 million, this would allow UCS greater flexibility in the implementation of its containment program.

#### IV. NEW YORK STATE'S JUDICIARY BUDGET

The Office of Court Administration's proposed budget for SFY 2011-12 for the Judiciary General Fund Court and Agency Operations and Aid to Localities totaled \$1.8 billion, a decrease of .02% from SFY 2010-11 Enacted Budget. The all funds proposed budget totaled \$2.1 billion, which was a decrease of .03% from the previous year's appropriation.

The proposed budget included increased funding in the following amounts:

- \$20.2 million for salary increments required by law for non-judicial personnel.
- \$5.71 million related to contractual and workload increases in payments for attorneys representing children in the Attorney for the Child Program.
- \$11.8 million for continued implementation of caseload standards for attorneys assigned to represent criminal defendants in NYC.
- \$4.07 million to meet contractually obligated increases for security services, real estate rentals, computer assisted legal research and contracts for community courts, and court improvement projects.
- \$25 million for civil legal services to address the crisis of the unrepresented identified by the 2010 report from the Chief Judge's Task Force on Civil Legal Services <http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/access-civil-legal-services/PDF/CLS-TaskForceREPORT.pdf>
- \$15 million for the Interest on Lawyer Accounts fund used to support civil legal services.

The proposed budget included decreased spending in the following amounts:

- \$11.52 million in savings related to salary adjustments and lump sum payouts for separation from service.
- \$11.09 million attributable to cost saving measures including reductions in travel, elimination of targeted training programs, legal reference print materials, and temporary service and overtime not directly related to court operations. Additional savings are being realized from the transition to IP telephones, the reduced expansion of redundant wiring for Court-net and stringent control of the purchase of equipment.
- \$46.59 million related to the Vacancy Control Program instituted in 2008-09 and the Early Retirement Incentive Program authorized in 2010.

In addition to the decreases identified above, due to the economy, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011-2012 Enacted Budget included an additional All Funds reduction of \$170 million dollars to the Office of Court Administration's proposed budget as negotiated between the Legislature, Executive, and Office of Court Administration (OCA). This includes a General Fund reduction of \$153.6 million, including a \$12.5 million reduction for civil legal services.