

BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS: JUDICIARY



The New York State courts are established and administered as an independent branch of government pursuant to Article VI of the State Constitution. The cost of operating the courts (excluding town and village courts) is borne by the state pursuant to the Unified Court Budget Act. The mission of the Unified Court System is to promote the rule of law and to serve the public by providing just and timely resolutions of all matters before the courts. The New York State Judiciary carries out its mission through 11 different trial courts (courts of original jurisdiction), its intermediate appellate courts and its highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary's proposed budget request recommends All Funds appropriations of \$3.06 billion, which is an increase of \$88.1 million or 2.96 percent from the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017-18 level.

Table 53

Appropriations				
Agency	2017-18 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2018-19 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,976.20	3,064.30	88.10	2.96

Table 54

Disbursements				
Agency	2017-18 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2018-19 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,961.00	3,062.53	101.53	3.43

Civil Legal Services: The proposed budget includes a total of \$100 million to support the recommendations of an Office of Court Administration Taskforce to expand civil legal services, unchanged from the SFY 2017-18 level.

Capital Projects: The Judiciary's budget includes \$18 million to support improvements to court technology infrastructure, including modernization of the Judiciary's secure, high-speed area network and the purchase of an automated case management system, a \$3 million increase. These funds would

also be used to replace bullet proof vests for court officers, and to purchase magnetometers and other security screening devices.

Expanded Court Hours: The Executive includes language that would require every state-paid judge or justice to certify monthly that he or she worked full eight hour day for each workday of the preceding month and that such certifications be reviewed periodically by the State Comptroller. This would also require all courthouses to be open during the day from 9AM to 5PM, and remove half day schedules for all courts in the State.