



Colorado General Assembly
Joint Budget Committee

Joint Budget Committee Staff

FY 2014-15 Budget Briefing Summary

Judicial Department

The Judicial Department consists of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, district courts, the Denver probate and juvenile courts, and county courts (except the Denver county court). The Judicial Department also supervises juvenile and adult offenders who are sentenced to probation, and it includes four independent agencies. The Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) and the Office of Alternate Defense Counsel (OADC) provide legal representation for indigent criminal defendants. Such cases are first assigned to the OSPD, and cases are referred to the OADC if there is a conflict of interest. The Office of the Child's Representative oversees the provision of legal services to children entitled to legal representation at state expense, and is responsible for ensuring quality representation. Finally, the Independent Ethics Commission provides advice and guidance on ethics-related matters concerning public officers, members of the General Assembly, local government officials, or government employees.

The Department's FY 2013-14 appropriation represents 2.5 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 4.7 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

FY 2013-14 Appropriation and FY 2014-15 Request

Judicial Department						
	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
FY 2013-14 Appropriation						
SB 13-230 (Long Bill)	\$546,480,115	\$378,170,241	\$138,070,313	\$25,814,561	\$4,425,000	\$4,302
Other legislation	<u>5,973,845</u>	<u>4,909,209</u>	<u>1,064,636</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56.6</u>
TOTAL	\$552,453,960	\$383,079,450	\$139,134,949	\$25,814,561	\$4,425,000	4,358.7
FY 2014-15 Requested Appropriation						
FY 2013-14 Appropriation	\$552,453,960	383,079,450	\$139,134,949	\$25,814,561	\$4,425,000	4,358.7
Employee benefits/ common changes	23,384,478	23,225,955	27,612	130,911	0	0.0
Annualize prior year legislation	10,801,803	7,509,152	(207,349)	3,500,000	0	56.0
OADC R2 and OCR R3 Contractor rate increases	5,406,488	5,406,488	0	0	0	0.0
OADC R1 and OCR R1 Caseload/workload increases	3,886,185	3,886,185	0	0	0	0.0
JUD R14 Courthouse capital and infrastructure maintenance	2,462,500	2,462,500	0	0	0	0.0
JUD R11 Restitution enforcement	1,289,885	0	1,289,885	0	0	21.0
OSPD R1 Appellate staffing	995,045	995,045	0	0	0	14.7
JUD R8 IT staff	991,284	991,284	0	0	0	13.0
JUD R7 Family court facilitators	730,250	730,250	0	0	0	9.0

Judicial Department						
	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds	FTE
JUD R6 Self-represented litigant coordinators	674,132	674,132	0	0	0	11.0
JUD R1 Regional technicians for IT support	306,875	306,875	0	0	0	4.0
JUD R10 Leadership education	249,000	0	249,000	0	0	0.0
JUD R4 Language access	221,822	221,822	0	0	0	7.0
OCR R2 Salary alignment	190,392	190,392	0	0	0	0.0
DA mandated costs	152,436	152,436	0	0	0	0.0
JUD R5 Judicial performance	0	350,000	(350,000)	0	0	0.0
Annualize prior year budget actions	(3,926,764)	279,152	(4,205,916)	0	0	3.1
Other changes	<u>152,203</u>	<u>132,203</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.5</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$601,470,484	\$430,593,321	\$137,006,691	\$29,445,472	\$4,425,000	4,499.0
Increase/(Decrease)	\$49,016,524	\$47,513,871	(\$2,128,258)	\$3,630,911	\$0	140.3
Percentage Change	8.9%	12.4%	(1.5%)	14.1%	0.0%	3.2%
<i>Informational items:</i>						
JUD R2 District judges	747,134	747,134	0	0	0	8.0
JUD R9 Underfunded facilities	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
TOTAL	\$603,717,618	\$432,840,455	\$137,006,691	\$29,445,472	\$4,425,000	4,507.0
Increase/(Decrease)	\$51,263,658	\$49,761,005	(\$2,128,258)	\$3,630,911	\$0	148.3
Percentage Change	9.3%	13.0%	(1.5%)	14.1%	0.0%	3.4%

Summary of Issues Presented to the Joint Budget Committee

Hourly Rates for Court Appointed Counsel: The Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel and the Office of the Child's Representative submitted decision items to increase the hourly rates paid to independent contractors providing legal representation.

Backlog of Criminal Appeal Cases: In response to a legislative request for information, the Office of the State Public Defender has requested \$995,045 General Fund for FY 2014-15 to add sixteen attorneys, paralegals, and administrative support staff to address its growing backlog of criminal appeal cases.

Discovery Task Force: This issue brief discusses the preliminary report submitted by the Discovery Task Force, established by S.B. 13-246.

Treatment Funding for Offenders: The Correctional Treatment Board has submitted its second annual offender substance abuse treatment funding plan as required by H.B. 12-1310. The plan includes the minimum statutorily required level of General Fund support for such services for FY 2014-15 (\$15.2 million), and proposes an allocation of the required \$3.5 million increase in General Fund support for FY 2014-15 among four state agencies.

State Funding for Attorney Registration Fees: This briefing issue concerns the appropriation of state funds to pay the annual registration fee for certain attorneys employed by the State.

Juvenile Defense Attorney Interim Committee: This informational issue brief summarizes the recommendations of the Juvenile Defense Attorney Interim Committee.

For More Information

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To read the entire briefing: http://www.tornado.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/jbc/2013-14/judbrf.pdf