

Agency 045

Supreme Court

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	60.9	13,841		13,841
Total Maintenance Level	60.9	14,654		14,654
Difference		813		813
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.9%		5.9%
Total Proposed Budget	60.9	14,654		14,654
Difference		813		813
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.9%		5.9%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Adjudication for State Courts	60.9	14,654		14,654
Total Proposed Budget	60.9	14,654		14,654

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Adjudication for State Courts

The Supreme Court is the final rule-making body for all other state courts. It administers the state court system and supervises certain activities of the Washington State Bar Association, including attorney discipline. The Court hears and rules upon cases argued on the appeal calendar, and reviews all cases in which the death penalty has been imposed.

Agency 046

Law Library

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	13.8	2,941		2,941
Total Maintenance Level	13.8	3,101		3,101
Difference		160		160
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.4%		5.4%
Total Proposed Budget	13.8	3,101		3,101
Difference		160		160
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.4%		5.4%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Legal Research and Research Services	13.8	3,101		3,101
Total Proposed Budget	13.8	3,101		3,101

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Legal Research and Research Services

The State Law Library, located in the Temple of Justice in Olympia, maintains a legal research library and provides legal reference services to state government and the public. In addition, three branch libraries are maintained at the Court of Appeals in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. The primary function of the State Law Library is to provide a legal research library for use by the public, state officials, staff and employees of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government, including all commissions, agencies and boards, local governments, and members of the bar. The State Law Library also advises administrative bodies of county law libraries on developing and improving county law library services. State law (RCW 27.20) establishes the State Law Library as part of the judicial branch of government under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Agency 048

Court of Appeals

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	140.6	31,676		31,676
Total Maintenance Level	140.6	33,758		33,758
Difference		2,082		2,082
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.6%		6.6%
Total Proposed Budget	140.6	33,758		33,758
Difference		2,082		2,082
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	6.6%		6.6%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Adjudication and Appeals from Lower Courts	140.6	33,758		33,758
Total Proposed Budget	140.6	33,758		33,758

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Adjudication and Appeals from Lower Courts

The primary purpose of the Court of Appeals is to serve as the intermediary appellate court for the state of Washington in the adjudication of laws. Statutes give the Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction in almost all appeals from a lower court decision. Court rules require the Court to accept review of a final judgment entered in any action in Superior Court. The Court operates in three divisions in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane.

Agency 050

Commission on Judicial Conduct

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	9.5	2,068		2,068
Total Maintenance Level	9.5	2,150		2,150
Difference		82		82
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.0%		4.0%
Total Proposed Budget	9.5	2,150		2,150
Difference		82		82
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.0%		4.0%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Judicial Conduct Review	9.5	2,150		2,150
Total Proposed Budget	9.5	2,150		2,150

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Judicial Conduct Review

The Commission on Judicial Conduct was created by constitutional amendment as an independent agency of the judicial branch of government to review complaints concerning the ethical conduct of judges, state officers, and state employees of the judicial branch. The Commission, an 11-member body composed of judges, attorneys and representatives of the public, may impose sanctions, recommend disciplinary action, and issue decisions in the interest of both judicial independence and public accountability. Commission activities commence with a complaint from which follows a mandatory process involving four distinct constitutionally-required phases: preliminary investigation (96.1 percent of the complaints are resolved at this stage), initial proceedings (2.9 percent); public fact-finding hearing (.5 percent); and Supreme Court review (.5 percent). The outcome at the end of each stage dictates whether further proceedings are necessary.

Agency 055

Administrative Office of the Courts

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	411.0	102,390	62,988	165,378
Total Maintenance Level	390.0	109,848	39,349	149,197
Difference	(21.0)	7,458	(23,639)	(16,181)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(5.1)%	7.3%	(37.5)%	(9.8)%
Performance Changes				
Trial Court Language Access	.5	5,070		5,070
Family and Juvenile Court Program Expansion		428		428
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Staff	2.0	302		302
Superior Courts Case Management System	24.5		12,598	12,598
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System	11.0		4,429	4,429
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction System Preparation			1,297	1,297
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Information Network Hub			1,440	1,440
External Equipment Replacement			1,849	1,849
Internal Equipment Replacement			516	516
Appellate Courts Content Management System			313	313
Subtotal	38.0	5,800	22,442	28,242
Total Proposed Budget	428.0	115,648	61,791	177,439
Difference	17.0	13,258	(1,197)	12,061
Percent Change from Current Biennium	4.1%	12.9%	(1.9)%	7.3%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration and Support for State Courts	428.0	115,648	61,791	177,439
Total Proposed Budget	428.0	115,648	61,791	177,439

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Trial Court Language Access

Funding is requested to extend a grant program to improve the quality and availability of interpreting services and to reduce interpreter costs at the local level. In addition, funding is requested to offset costs associated with on-demand telephonic interpretation to ensure that limited English proficiency is not a barrier to full participation in court services. The total increase reflects state resources to fund interpreter services in all criminal and civil cases at all levels of trial courts. This funding increase would achieve 100% funding over three biennia.

JUDICIAL

Family and Juvenile Court Program Expansion

Funding is requested for expansion of the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP). This program, developed as a strategic approach to improving court operations consistent with Unified Family Court principles, is supported by a legislator who has requested an expansion plan for the FJCIP. The budget package includes funds to expand FJCIP into additional superior courts to promote best practices in family and juvenile court operations as requested by the legislator.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Staff

Funding is requested for intervention programs and detention alternative initiative services to maximize juvenile court services and operations. Probation and detention programs require policy level coordination and quality assurance. The requested positions are 1 FTE for a data analyst and quality assurance specialist and 1 FTE for JDAI statewide coordinator.

The request is made on behalf of the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Statewide Steering Committee, and the Washington State Center for Court Research.

Superior Courts Case Management System

Funding is requested to continue implementation of the new commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) case management system for the superior courts. This funding will be used to complete Phase 2 (Solution Design & Development), Phase 3 (Pilot Court Deployment), Phase 4 (Early Adopter Deployment), and to begin Phase 5 (Statewide Rollout) of the project.

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System

Funding is requested for development and implementation of the new case management system for courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ). This project will replace the outdated AOC system (DISCIS) currently in use by the courts.

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction System Preparation

Funding is requested to prepare relevant systems for launch of the case management system for courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ-CMS). This request is similar to the request for funding to prepare for the superior court case management system (SC-CMS) when the funding for that project was initially requested.

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Information Network Hub

Funding is requested for the expansion, development and implementation of the information networking hub (INH) to support the proposed case management system for the courts of limited jurisdiction (CLJ-CMS). INH provide a comprehensive set of data exchanges that are bi-directional and in real time to meet the data sharing needs of the courts.

External Equipment Replacement

Funding is requested to replace aged computer equipment at the Washington courts, as well as to provide information technology for judicial officers and court and clerks' office staff, thus ensuring equitable access to the Judicial Information System (JIS).

Internal Equipment Replacement

Funding is requested to replace end-of-life equipment and to improve performance of heavily used JIS services.

Appellate Courts Content Management System

Funding is requested to continue implementation of the new commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) case management system for the Appellate Courts Content Management System. Because of timing of implementation and payments, AOC has requested \$313,000 be reduced from the 13-15 budget and moved to 15-17.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Administration and Support for State Courts

The Office of the Administrator for the Courts, operating under the direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is responsible for the execution of administrative policies and rules applicable to Washington State's judicial system. This court system includes the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, superior courts, and courts of limited jurisdiction. The office is responsible for the orderly collection and compilation of court statistics; operation of the judicial information system; training and education of judicial staff; and research, development, and administrative support for judicial staff.

Agency 056

Office of Public Defense

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	16.2	66,387	3,952	70,339
Total Maintenance Level	16.2	76,570	3,648	80,218
Difference		10,183	(304)	9,879
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	15.3%	(7.7)%	14.0%
Performance Changes				
Parents Representation Expansion	1.0	4,980		4,980
Subtotal	1.0	4,980		4,980
Total Proposed Budget	17.2	81,550	3,648	85,198
Difference	1.0	15,163	(304)	14,859
Percent Change from Current Biennium	6.2%	22.8%	(7.7)%	21.1%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Public Defense	17.2	81,550	3,648	85,198
Total Proposed Budget	17.2	81,550	3,648	85,198

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Parents Representation Expansion

Funds are requested to expand the Parents Representation Program, which provides adequate legal representation for indigent parents involved in dependency and termination cases, to all juvenile courts statewide. The Office of Public Defense (OPD) Advisory Committee at its June meeting strongly encouraged OPD to pursue a final expansion to the eight counties not currently served by the Program.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Public Defense

The Office of Public Defense's duties are to implement the constitutional guarantee of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent appellate services.

Agency 057

Office of Civil Legal Aid

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Expenditure Authority	1.5	23,015	1,453	24,468
Total Maintenance Level	2.5	25,563	1,463	27,026
Difference	1.0	2,548	10	2,558
Percent Change from Current Biennium	66.7%	11.1%	0.7%	10.5%
Performance Changes				
Civil Legal Aid Enhancement	.5	2,958		2,958
Private/Local Authority			300	300
Subtotal	0.5	2,958	300	3,258
Total Proposed Budget	3.0	28,521	1,763	30,284
Difference	1.5	5,506	310	5,816
Percent Change from Current Biennium	100.0%	23.9%	21.3%	23.8%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Civil Legal Aid	3.0	28,521	1,763	30,284
Total Proposed Budget	3.0	28,521	1,763	30,284

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Civil Legal Aid Enhancement

Stabilize client service capacity at statewide Northwest Justice Project at minimum sustainable levels consistent with increased poverty population, client demand levels and complexity of civil legal problems; enhance capacity of state-funded volunteer and specialty legal aid providers to provide needed legal aid services; address critical agency administrative needs.

Private/Local Authority

OCLA requests the Expenditure Authority for funding received from Private/Local Grants designated for specific purposes by the terms of the grants.

JUDICIAL

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Civil Legal Aid

The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is an independent agency of the judicial branch of government. OCLA is responsible for ensuring indigent persons have access to the civil justice system. OCLA contracts for civil legal services for indigent persons and does not provide direct representation of clients. OCLA reports quarterly to the civil legal aid oversight committee and the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Board on the use of state funds for legal aid. It also reports biennially on the status of access to the civil justice system for low-income people eligible for state-funded legal aid.