

LEGISLATURE

	Adjusted Appropriation 2006-07	Executive Request 2007-08	Change	Percent Change
AGENCY SUMMARY				
General Fund	212,912,661	219,308,183	6,395,522	3.0%
Special Revenue-Other	2,100,000	2,100,000	0	0.0%
Total for AGENCY SUMMARY:	215,012,661	221,408,183	6,395,522	3.0%

JUDICIARY

	Adjusted Appropriation 2006-07	Executive Request 2007-08	Change	Percent Change
AGENCY SUMMARY				
General Fund	2,073,017,820	2,111,401,351	38,383,531	1.9%
Special Revenue-Other	236,082,959	244,557,729	8,474,770	3.6%
Special Revenue-Federal	7,500,000	8,800,000	1,300,000	17.3%
Capital Projects Fund	3,000,000	77,900,000	74,900,000	2,496.7%
Total for AGENCY SUMMARY:	2,319,600,779	2,442,659,080	123,058,301	5.3%

Agency Mission

(Executive Budget: pp. 531-554)

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 eleven different trial courts (courts of original jurisdiction), its intermediate appellate courts, and its highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary is included in the Legislature and Judiciary appropriation bill.

Budget Detail

Governor's Commentary

The Judiciary has requested appropriations totaling nearly \$2.4 billion – an increase of \$47 million, or 2.0 percent over the current year. The increase includes amounts necessary to provide salary increases to judges, retroactive to April 1, 2005.

Judicial salaries have remained unchanged since 1999, and achieving agreement on new compensation levels for judges is a high priority of the Chief Judge. In recognition of the importance of this issue, and in support of the Chief Judge, the Executive Budget advances Article VII legislation to provide for a judicial salary increase to the level recommended by the Chief Judge.

In addition, the Governor commends the Chief Judge for her Action Plan for Town and Village Courts, which will provide training, technology, and security for these courts. A total of \$10 million is requested, as a first installment in what will be a multi-year plan to strengthen this part of our justice system.

The Governor supports the Chief Judge's recommendation to increase support for civil legal services for low income New Yorkers. A modest increase of eight dollars in the criminal history fee allows this initiative to be accommodated within the Legal Services Assistance Fund, without impairing current support for criminal defense and prosecution services. The Governor joins with the Chief Judge in recommending that the State assume a greater role in ensuring the adequacy of these services statewide.

Article VII

The Executive recommends Article VII legislation that would:

- authorize an increase in the criminal history service fee to increase resources, primarily to the Legal Services Assistance Fund, to fund civil legal services; and
- provide, retroactive to SFY 2005-06, increased salaries to judges of the Unified Court System.