



JUDICIAL BRANCH

BRANCH PURPOSE

- To resolve disputes involving civil or personal rights and to resolve criminal cases.
- To maintain secure and safe conditions in courthouses and other Judicial Branch facilities.
- To create and sustain a full range of alternatives to incarceration for both pre- and post-conviction adult and juvenile populations.
- To advocate for victims of crime and arrange for or provide services and financial compensation.

<http://www.jud.ct.gov/>

- To effectively resolve family and interpersonal conflicts through a comprehensive program of negotiation, mediation, evaluation and education.
- To provide safe and secure custody, treatment and rehabilitative services for children and families through the juvenile justice system.
- To enforce, review and adjust child support orders.
- To monitor and supervise persons who have been placed on probation.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC ACCESS TASK FORCE

In May 2006, the Judicial Branch Public Access Task Force was convened. The task force, comprised of media representatives, lawyers, members of the public and judges, was charged with making concrete recommendations for the maximum degree of public access to the courts, consistent with the needs of the courts in discharging their core functions of adjudicating and managing cases.

Three committees were formed – Access to Court Records, Access to Judicial Proceedings and Access to Administrative Records and Judicial Branch Meetings.

The task force's recommendations are designed to increase the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary by making the Judicial Branch more transparent and open. Some of the highlights include:

- Posting the daily criminal docket and conviction information on the Judicial Branch website.
- Adopting a written policy on access to court records, including the use of hand-held scanners.
- Establishing a Judicial-Media Committee.
- Adding the word "open" in the Judicial Branch's mission statement.
- Re-affirming that judicial attendance records are open to the public.
- Expanding electronic access to the Supreme and Appellate Courts, as well as to Superior Court civil proceedings and trials.
- Establishing a pilot program of electronic access to criminal proceedings in the Superior Court.
- Opening up meetings of the Rules Committee of the Superior Court, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the Annual Meeting of the Judges.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SESSIONS AND REGIONAL FAMILY TRIAL DOCKETS

Two additional child protection sessions were established in Danbury and Willimantic, to assist the state's juvenile courts with managing their termination of parental rights and child protection dockets. In addition, a second Regional Family Trial Docket was established in Waterbury, to handle custody and visitation matters. These innovations will allow highly contested child protection and family cases to be resolved in a more timely manner.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOCKETS

Specialized domestic violence dockets were established in the Geographical Area courts in New Britain, New London and Norwalk. The purpose of these dockets is to enhance victim

safety and provide for continued judicial oversight of defendants.

GUN DOCKETS

In July 2006, the Judicial Branch established three gun dockets, in Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, to address the growth of gun violence in our urban areas. These dockets operate on the principle of vertical prosecution, which means that the same judge and prosecutor hear each gun case from the beginning to the end. The goal is to enhance public safety by increasing offender accountability.

ENHANCED PROBATION SERVICES

Due to increased funding, the Judicial Branch was able to hire additional adult probation officers to expand the Technical Violation Unit and the Probation Transition Program and to reduce caseloads. The total number of probation officers statewide is anticipated to be 474 (including Chief Probation Officers) by January 2007. These higher staffing levels have resulted in increased restitution collections and a rate of successful probation completion above the national average. In addition, recent longitudinal studies have shown positive trends in probation violation and recidivism.

JUDICIAL BRANCH FACILITIES

A major restoration and renovation of the Kendrick Avenue Courthouse in Waterbury was completed in March 2006. It now houses the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters and offices for court employees.

ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Last year, the Judicial Branch contracted with a private, non-profit organization to provide crisis intervention and referral assistance to attorneys who suffer from alcohol abuse, substance abuse, gambling or behavioral health problems. These services, which are provided with the assistance of an advisory committee, will benefit attorneys who are in need.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC ACT 05-232, AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTHFUL OFFENDER PROCEEDINGS

Public Act 05-232 created a presumption that most 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for youthful offender status. This necessitated major changes in the Judicial Branch's criminal court procedures to accommodate its requirement that the majority of arraignments of 16 and 17 year olds be conducted in a closed courtroom and that the case files be made confidential. A new youthful offender docket was created to prevent automatic assignment of certain charges and to allow a transition period when the offender is being removed from youthful offender status to the adult docket.

RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Reductions to Current Services	2007-2008	2008-2009	
• Transfer Equipment to CEPF	-1,957,195	-2,076,104	
• Remove or Limit Inflation	-3,523,745	-6,992,543	
• Remove or Limit Inflation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	-42,525	-85,943	
• Adjust Authorized Position Count	0	0	
<i>Remove 130 unfunded positions remaining from the last Early Retirement Incentive Program.</i>			
• Eliminate Grant to the Justice Education Center	-270,371	-270,371	
Within Current Services			
• Annualize Salary Increases for Judges and Magistrates	1,578,990	1,673,729	
<i>Adjust for salary increases effective January 1, 2007.</i>			
• Families With Service Needs (FWSN) Enhancement	1,687,500	2,250,000	
<i>Funding is provided to develop three 6 bed residential sites in the community.</i>			
• Bridgeport Detention Center Expansion	0	1,181,798	
<i>Provide funding for 46 new positions and additional operating funds for an expected occupancy date of October 1, 2008. These costs will be fully annualized in FY2010.</i>			
• Annualize Salary Increases	3,508,806	5,122,563	
• Net Adjustment to Personal Services	3,031,540	3,213,432	
<i>Adjust funding for an increase of 61 authorized positions: From 4,165 in FY06 to 4,226 in FY07.</i>			
• Adjust Personal Services for Trainees Attaining Target Class	2,888,940	3,062,276	
• Adjust Personal Services for 50 Permanent Part Time Positions	1,500,300	1,590,318	
• Annualize Program Costs Added in the FY2007 Midterm	1,098,567	1,164,481	
<i>Funding is provided to annualize the following included in FY2007: 4 positions and associated funding of \$96,400 for Jail Reinterview and Mental Health Services; 5 positions and associated funding of \$106,667 for Intensive Pretrial Supervision Form of Probation; 10 positions and associated funding of \$225,000 for Specialized Staff for Probation; 28 positions and associated funding of \$670,500 for Specialized Probation Programs statewide.</i>			
• Net Adjustment to Other Personal Services	1,262,422	2,125,609	
<i>Adjust funding for increased longevity eligibility for staff and judges, for retired judges per diems and for working condition stipends for on call time during off hours.</i>			
New or Expanded Services			
• General Fund Pick-up of Expiring Federal Grants	1,577,766	1,610,899	1,610,899
<i>Court Diversion Initiative for Girls - \$501,050 in FY08; \$511,572 in FY09 and Residential Beds for Girls in Juvenile Detention - \$1,076,716 in FY08; \$1,099,327 in FY09.</i>			
• Additional Funding to Implement Families with Service Needs (FWSN) Diversion	1,796,594	1,230,782	1,242,782
<i>This funding adds 4 positions and programming to implement a FWSN Diversion Program that includes development and implementation of Family Support Centers and expansion of respite care. These funds are in addition to \$1,687,500 in FY08 annualized to \$2,250,000 in FY09 included in current services to develop three 6 bed residential sites in the community.</i>			
• Criminal Justice Planning Advisory Committee Recommendations	380,015	613,376	622,376
<i>Funding for 3 Intake Assessment and Referral (IAR) Specialists and service costs to expand the use of the Bail Decision Aid tool to 3 additional courts to increase pretrial release and decrease the pretrial jail population.</i>			
• Enhance Supervision of Sexual Offenders on Probation	592,765	595,755	598,755
<i>Add 1 Adult Probation Officer and funding for Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring for 250 sex offenders to fully fund the Governor's Sex Offender Initiative.</i>			
• Increase Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	900,000	0	0
<i>One-time add to eliminate the delay in payments to victims of crime.</i>			

AGENCY SUMMARY

Personnel Summary	2006-2007 Total Authorized	2007-2008 Change From 2006-2007	2007-2008 Total Recommended	2008-2009 Change From 2007-2008	2008-2009 Total Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
General Fund	4,226	-122	4,104	46	4,150
Federal Contributions	4	0	4	0	4
Private Funds	3	0	3	0	3
<u>Other Positions Equated to Fulltime</u>					
General Fund	108	46	154	0	154
Private Funds	2	-2	0	0	0

Budget Summary

Financial Summary	2006-2007	2007-2008	2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009
	Estimated	Current Services	Total Recommended	Current Services	Total Recommended
Personal Services	279,405,452	299,468,952	299,927,751	313,735,214	314,216,909
Other Expenses	64,956,092	69,086,308	67,096,613	74,569,987	70,676,151
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	2,110,364	4,426,206	2,483,011	4,663,527	2,587,423
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Alternative Incarceration Program	44,205,802	46,052,426	45,880,152	47,019,527	45,662,094
Justice Education Center, Inc.	270,371	276,049	0	281,846	0
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration	24,642,342	27,215,505	29,830,011	28,387,999	29,727,109
Juvenile Justice Centers	3,132,245	3,235,611	3,169,380	3,303,559	3,138,058
Youthful Offender Services	1,405,089	1,434,596	1,405,089	1,464,722	1,391,038
Victim Security Account	25,000	25,525	25,000	26,061	24,750
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	73,680,849	78,239,712	80,309,632	80,483,714	79,943,049
TOTAL - General Fund	420,152,757	451,221,178	449,817,007	473,452,442	467,423,532
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	2,025,000	2,067,525	2,925,000	2,110,943	2,025,000
TOTAL - Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	2,025,000	2,067,525	2,925,000	2,110,943	2,025,000
<u>Additional Funds Available</u>					
Federal and Other Activities	9,438,972	6,183,505	6,183,505	3,393,505	3,393,505
Private Funds	2,443,738	2,468,533	2,468,533	2,493,850	2,493,850
TOTAL - All Funds Net	434,060,467	461,940,741	461,394,045	481,450,740	475,335,887



PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION

AGENCY PURPOSE

<http://www.ocpd.state.ct.us/>

- Ensure the constitutional administration of criminal justice within the state criminal court system, by maintaining a public defender office at all court locations throughout the state.
- Provide legal representation to indigent accused in criminal trials and appeals, extradition proceedings, habeas corpus proceedings arising from a criminal matter, delinquency matters, Psychiatric Security Review Board cases and post-conviction petitions for DNA testing.
- Provide social work services to clients to assist them in addressing and resolving personal and social problems which lead to arrest and prosecution within the criminal justice system.
- Contribute to crime prevention by participation in specialized programs, including Domestic Violence Courts, Community Courts, Diversionary Programs, Drug Intervention, Alternatives to Incarceration and Team Case Management.
- Provide a balanced perspective within the criminal justice community by participation on state policy boards, task forces, and committees involved in addressing criminal and juvenile justice issues.
- Fulfill the State's constitutional obligation to provide counsel for indigent accused in a professional, effective and cost efficient manner.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

CONNECTICUT INNOCENCE PROJECT

The Division established the Connecticut Innocence Project in 2005 for the purpose of assisting individuals who have been wrongfully convicted of crimes that they did not commit. Based upon strict criteria, cases are reviewed and proceedings are initiated if new evidence exists to establish that the person is actually innocent of the crime for which they were sentenced. Representation is provided by attorneys and support staff on a volunteer basis.

In 2006, through the efforts of the Connecticut Innocence Project, Mr. James Tillman was exonerated of a sexual assault that he did not commit. Further DNA testing proved that he was not the perpetrator of the crime for which he had served eighteen years of a forty-five year sentence.

COMPUTERIZED ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE TECHNIQUES

In 2006, the Division undertook a new initiative to expand the use of computerized electronic evidence presentation techniques in the courtroom. Training and necessary equipment was provided to four pilot locations, and will eventually be expanded

to all trial offices after sufficient training and equipment are obtained to use the technology most effectively.

DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DEFENSE

In 2006, the Public Defender Services Commission created the position of Director of Juvenile Delinquency Defense to coordinate and enhance the representation of children in delinquency matters on a statewide basis. The Director began implementation of an expanded specialized juvenile training track for public defender staff and special public defenders, and serves on multiple juvenile justice interagency and legislative task forces.

COUNSEL TO CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION

Pursuant to Public Act 05-3 of the June Special session, a new state Commission on Child Protection was created to provide counsel to children and parents in child protection proceedings and family matters. The Commission on Child Protection was placed within the Division of Public Defender Services for administrative purposes only.

RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Reductions to Current Services

- Transfer Equipment to CEPF
- Remove or Limit Inflation

New or Expanded Services

- Domestic Violence Dockets

Funding is provided for 2 additional Attorneys to represent persons charged with domestic violence offenses.

- Centralized Electronic Evidence Training Position

Funding is provided for 1 Training Position to provide support.

- IT – Case Tracking System Enhancement

Funding is provided to enhance existing case tracking capabilities.

- Commission on Child Protection – Hourly Contract Rate for Juvenile and Family Contract Attorneys

Funding is provided for a 5% rate increase in each year of the Biennium for both Juvenile Contract Attorneys and Family Contract Attorneys.

- Commission on Child Protection – Training Program

Funding is provided for certification and in-state training programs for all new attorneys.

	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
	-456,040	-360,940	
	-419,160	-890,719	
	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
	102,000	108,120	114,607
	57,500	59,500	63,070
	0	100,000	100,000
	410,750	431,288	431,288
	75,000	45,000	45,000

AGENCY SUMMARY

Personnel Summary	2006-2007	2007-2008	2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009
	Total Authorized	Change From 2006-2007	Total Recommended	Change From 2007-2008	Total Recommended
<u>Permanent Full-Time Positions</u>					
General Fund	381	3	384	0	384
Federal Contributions	8	0	8	0	8
<u>Other Positions Equated to Fulltime</u>					
General Fund	3	0	3	0	3
Financial Summary	2006-2007	2007-2008	2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009
	Estimated	Current Services	Total Recommended	Current Services	Total Recommended
Personal Services	31,565,093	32,569,535	32,729,035	33,476,709	33,644,329
Other Expenses	1,287,026	1,320,951	1,294,623	1,356,137	1,402,683
<u>Capital Outlay</u>					
Equipment	1,000	456,140	100	361,040	100
<u>Other Current Expenses</u>					
Special Public Defenders - Contractual	2,715,867	3,101,500	3,044,467	3,169,733	3,044,467
Special Public Defenders - NonContractual	5,134,229	5,958,111	5,850,292	6,089,189	5,850,292
Expert Witnesses	1,575,904	1,648,740	1,615,646	1,685,012	1,615,646
Training and Education	80,283	100,000	98,314	130,000	126,114
Contract Attorneys for Civil Matters	9,200,000	9,393,200	9,685,750	9,599,850	9,676,288
TOTAL - Other Current Expenses	18,706,283	20,201,551	20,294,469	20,673,784	20,312,807
TOTAL - General Fund	51,559,402	54,548,177	54,318,227	55,867,670	55,359,919
<u>Additional Funds Available</u>					
Federal and Other Activities	811,116	0	0	0	0
Private Funds	188,124	98,000	98,000	98,000	98,000
TOTAL - All Funds Net	52,558,642	54,646,177	54,416,227	55,965,670	55,457,919