

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (0023)  
2009-11 BIENNIUM**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES:**

**Mission**

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the administrative office for the non-judicial business of the state courts. The office provides services to the court system, state and local government and the public.

**Total Biennial Budget**

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests a total budget for the 2009-2011 biennium of \$19 million the first year and \$16.9 million the second year.

**Funding Source**

The Administrative Office of the Courts receives funding from State Central Services, Federal Funding, Special Revenues, Administration of Justice Funding, and some cash funds.

**II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:**

State Operations appropriation is funded through State Central Services for \$3.6 million the first year and \$3.7 million the second year which is an increase over base level of \$233,101 and \$283,468 for two new positions, increases in operating expenses, court interpreter fees, capital outlay and judicial education.

The Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation is responsible for the representation of children in dependency-neglect, custody and guardianship cases. The total amount is \$8 million each year which is an increase over base level of \$1 million for increases in operating expenses, professional fees, grants and aid, refunds/reimbursements and attorney ad litem fees.

Judicial Fine Collection appropriation for costs associated with the development and implementation of the state court automation system is funded through special revenues (derived from a percentage of installment fees from court fines) and is for \$4.3 million each year which is \$2 million over base due to the passage of Act 328 which provided structure for the perpetual staffing and operation of the automated court management system.

The Court Improvement Program appropriation is for \$951,099 the first year and \$954,338 the second year which is an increase over base level of \$327,679 each year for increases in operating expenses, professional fees, and grants and aid.

County Juror Reimbursement is \$850,000 year one and \$900,000 year two in response to Act 1033 of 2007 which required AOC to reimburse counties for the cost of jurors.

The Court Security Grants appropriation is requested for \$361,043 year one and \$362,791 year two in response to Act 576 of 2007 that required AOC to provide training for certification of court security officers.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

Total Positions for FY 2009-11 Biennium: 116

Total Positions for FY 2007-09 Biennium: 92

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

Fund Transfer. Federal funds transferred to State Central Services, received from the State Police from the federal "State and Community Highway Safety Program" are to be used to reimburse the Municipal Judges Continuing Education Appropriation.

Contracting with Public Defenders. The AOC may contract with State

Employees to provide Dependency Neglect Services and it will not count against those employees rate of pay.

Dependency Neglect Representation Appropriation Transfer Authority. Allows the AOC to transfer funds and appropriations in regular salaries, matching for salaries, professional fees, Operating Expenses and the Attorney Ad Litem Fees/Reimbursements line items as needed.

Transfer Authority. Provides language that the appropriation for Dependency - Neglect may be funded by funds transferred from the State Administration of Justice Fund to the State Central Services Fund.

Funding. Federal funds received from the State Police from the federal "Safety Incentives to Prevent Operation of Motor Vehicles by Intoxicated Persons" may be used for operating expenses of the District Court State Automation System.

Monthly Installments. Provides that a lump sum monthly installment of the annual appropriation for the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation shall be provided from the Administration of Justice Fund.

Carry Forward. All unexpended funds for the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation may be carry forward from the first fiscal year to the second fiscal year.

Ad Litem Attorney New Hire Requirement. Any new hire for the this position for the Division of Dependency Neglect-Representation must have prior approval of the personnel subcommittee.

Indigent Parent Counsel Representation. Allows the AOC to enter into professional service contracts with attorneys to provide counsel for indigent parents in cases involving termination of parental rights.