

LEGISLATURE

	Adjusted Appropriation 2005-06	Executive Request 2006-07	Change	Percent Change
AGENCY SUMMARY				
General Fund	206,672,195	212,912,661	6,240,466	3.0%
Special Revenue-Other	2,100,000	2,100,000	0	0.0%
Total for AGENCY SUMMARY:	208,772,195	215,012,661	6,240,466	3.0%

JUDICIARY

	Adjusted Appropriation 2005-06	Executive Request 2006-07	Change	Percent Change
AGENCY SUMMARY				
General Fund	1,832,241,695	2,032,417,820	200,176,125	10.9%
Special Revenue-Other	211,054,738	236,082,959	25,028,221	11.9%
Special Revenue-Federal	7,500,000	7,500,000	0	0.0%
Capital Projects Fund	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	-
Total for AGENCY SUMMARY:	2,050,796,433	2,279,000,779	228,204,346	11.1%

Agency Mission

(Executive Budget: pp. 497 - 520)

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 (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, under the direction of Chief Judge Kaye continues to implement several initiatives designed to make the courts more responsive to the people of New York:

- problem solving courts that address drugs, alcohol, mental illness, and domestic violence;
- experimental reorganization of the courts of criminal jurisdiction in the Bronx; and
- offices for the Self-Represented that provide legal and procedural information to self-represented litigants.

The Judiciary has requested appropriations totaling nearly \$2.3 billion – an increase of \$228 million, or 11.1 percent over the current year. More than 98 percent of this increase would support Court operations. Included in the increase is \$13.2 million for security equipment, contracts, and personnel to ensure the safety of New York’s courts – a priority of the Chief Judge, with which the Governor concurs.

Another \$136.2 million is attributed to contractual salary increases, higher costs of employee fringe benefits, the annualized costs of 21 new judgeships, Family Court permanency planning initiatives, Court Facilities Incentive Aid, the impact of inflation, and unavoidable fixed cost increases.

In addition, the request advanced by the Chief Judge also includes an increase in judicial salaries. The increase would be retroactive to April 1, 2005, at an estimated cost of \$69.5 million.