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January 2016

New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee

YELLOW BOOK

Review and Analysis of the 2016-17 Executive Budget

STATE OF NEW YORK

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chairman

Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



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New York State Assembly

EX 29-d

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of the
2016-17 Executive Budget**

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BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS: JUDICIARY



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

The Judiciary's proposed budget request recommends appropriations of \$2.9 billion, which is an increase of \$81.94 million or 2.9 percent from the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 level.

Table 54

Appropriations				
Agency	2015-16 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2016-17 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,795.55	2,877.49	81.94	2.93

Table 55

Disbursements				
Agency	2015-16 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2016-17 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,753.37	2,865.60	112.23	4.08

Civil Legal Services: The proposed budget includes a total of \$85 million to support the recommendations of Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman's task force to expand civil legal services, an increase of \$15 million from the SFY 2015-16 level.

Personal Service Costs: The Judiciary's budget includes a \$20.3 million increase in personal service over the SFY 2015-16 level. This includes the first year of full support for all 25 new Family Court judgeships created in 2014 and mandatory and negotiated salary increases for non-judicial employees.



Judicial Compensation: In December 2015, the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation released its final recommendations on judicial salaries. The Commission recommended that State Supreme Court justices salaries be increased so that they are comparable to Federal District Court judges. Specifically, the Commission recommended that justices of the State Supreme Court salaries be fixed at 95 percent of the salary of a Federal District Court judge, effective April 1, 2016, and at 100 percent, effective April 1, 2018, with the salaries of all other state judges adjusted accordingly. The cost of the first year of salary increases is approximately \$27 million.

