

Senate Judiciary Committee
2012 Annual Report

Judiciary Budget for State Fiscal Year 2012-2013

The Legislature adopted a Unified Court System Budget of \$2.55 billion, which reflected an increase of \$3.6 million or .14%.

IV. NEW YORK STATE'S JUDICIARY BUDGET

On January 30, 2012, at a joint legislative hearing in the matter of the 2012-2013 Executive Budget on Public Protection before the New York State Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees, the Office of Court Administration's (OCA) discussed the 2012-13 Judiciary Budget request.

At the hearing, Honorable A. Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge of the Office of Court Administration, emphasized the need to balance austerity measures in the face of the State's fiscal crisis, and the continuing need for resources necessary to address the immense and increasing workload of the New York courts. Judge Prudenti also outlined the negative-growth Judiciary budget and a broad range of cost-cutting measures and efficiency improvements, and answered questions relating to the proposed Judiciary budget. Additionally, in her testimony Judge Prudenti emphasized the need for free legal representation in certain civil legal matters to ensure fair and equal access to justice to the most vulnerable New Yorkers and highlighted the cost savings and efficiencies resulting from increased legal representation in civil matters.

The enacted Judiciary budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-13 included a \$25 million appropriation to support the recommendations of the Chief Judge's Task Force on Civil Legal Services, and continued a \$15 million sub-allocation to the Interest on Lawyers Account (IOLA) fund in support of civil legal service programs.