

Senate Judiciary Committee #
2014 Annual Report

Judiciary Budget for State Fiscal Year 2013-2014

The Legislature adopted a Unified Court System Budget of \$2.55 billion. This reflects a cash increase of 44.2 million, as well as an additional \$5 million allocation to create 20 new Family Court judgeships in 2015. The overall Judiciary budget increase was 3.6%.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

The Committees on Judiciary and Codes conducted a Public Hearing on December 9, 2014, to examine the current methods of civil forfeiture and the use of deferred prosecution agreements (DPAs) in New York, and how forfeited monies and property are distributed. The Committees also heard testimony concerning current accounting practices, and whether appropriate information about these seizures and monetary payments is made available to putative owners, third-party lienholders and the public-at-large.

IV. NEW YORK STATE'S JUDICIARY FUNDING

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The 2014-2015 State budget adopted without change the Judiciary's budget request for appropriations in the amount of \$2.72 billion. The court's budget absorbs the final phase of judicial salary increases, statutorily-mandated salary increments for represented non-judicial employees, statutorily-mandated increases for indigent legal defense, supplemental funds for IOLA, and a much needed increase in funding for civil legal services to address the crisis in legal services funding. The Judiciary budget includes an additional \$5 million in appropriations for twenty-five new family court judgeships to help address the crushing case loads.