
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 23, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

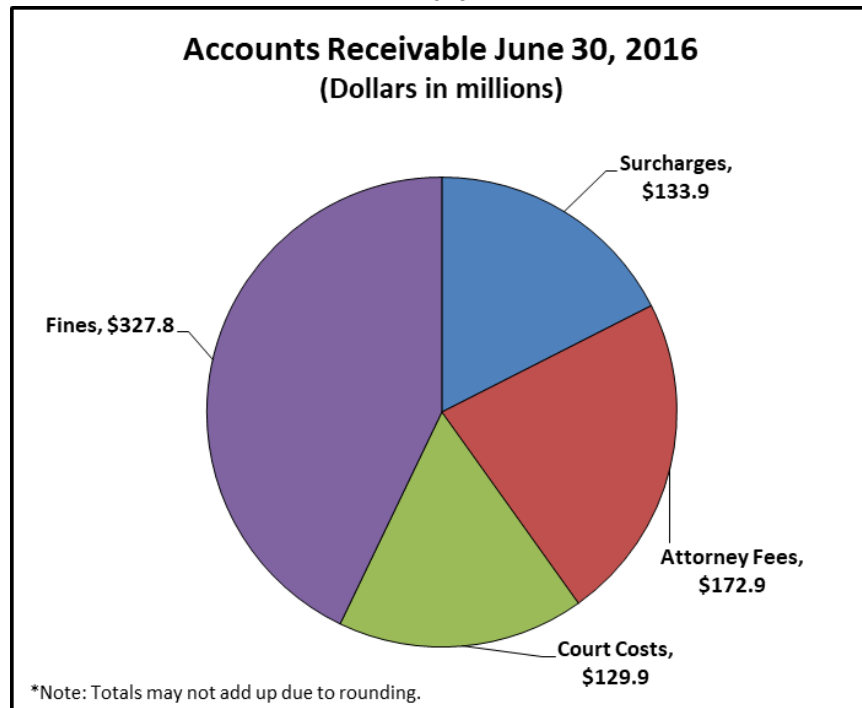
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FY 2018 COURT DEBT COLLECTION REPORT

Court Debt Report. As required by Iowa Code section [602.8107](#), the Judicial Branch has filed a report on the FY 2018 collections of outstanding court debt. For more information regarding the history and structure of the court debt collection system, see [Issue Review: Court Debt Collection](#).

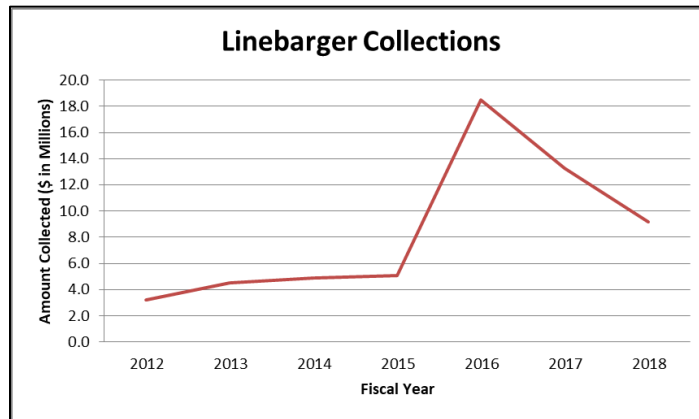
FY 2018 Outstanding Court Debt. The total outstanding court debt owed to the State is \$766.7 million. Criminal debt and traffic debt comprise a large portion of the total outstanding debt at \$546.8 million (71.0%) and \$179.8 million (23.0%), respectively. Debt that is up to one year old accounts for \$88.8 million (12.0%) of the total, and debt 10 years or older accounts for \$276.2 million (36.0%). No debt was written off as uncollectable. **Chart 1** shows the June 30, 2018, court debt owed to the State by category, as reported by the Judicial Branch.

Chart 1



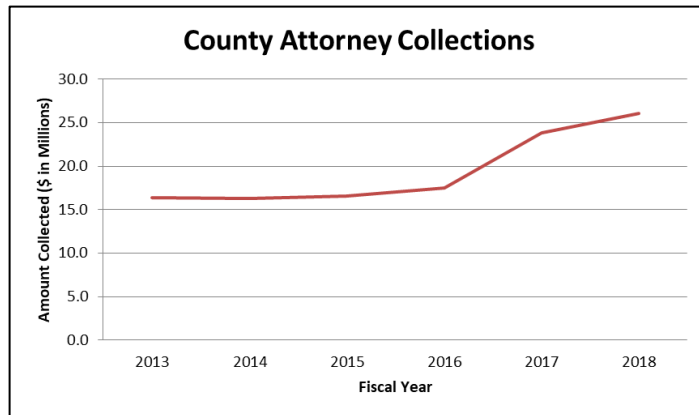
Private Collector. Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, and Sampson, L.L.P. (Linebarger), is the designated private collector for the State. In FY 2018, Linebarger collected \$9.2 million, a decrease of \$4.1 million from FY 2017. **Chart 2** shows the annual amount collected by Linebarger since it began collecting in FY 2012.

Chart 2



County Attorney. In FY 2018, about \$26.1 million was collected and deposited as revenue for the State and participating counties. This number does not reflect the total amount collected because county attorneys do not receive any portion of funds collected for victim restitution, the Victim Compensation Fund, the Criminal Penalty Surcharge, the Drug Abuse Surcharge, the Law Enforcement Surcharge, the County Enforcement Surcharge, the Department of Transportation Civil Penalty, setoff procedures under Iowa Code section [8A.504](#), or sheriff's fees. **Chart 3** shows the annual amount collected by county attorneys since FY 2013.

Chart 3



Of the total revenue collected in FY 2018 by county attorneys, \$17.9 million was deposited with the State and \$8.2 million was deposited with the counties. **Table 1** shows the distribution of county attorney debt collection revenue for the past five years.

Table 1

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2013	\$ 8.5	\$ 7.9	\$ 16.4	-
2014	8.4	7.9	16.3	-0.61%
2015	8.6	8.0	16.6	1.84%
2016	9.1	8.4	17.5	5.42%
2017	16.4	7.5	23.9	36.57%
2018	17.9	8.2	26.1	9.21%

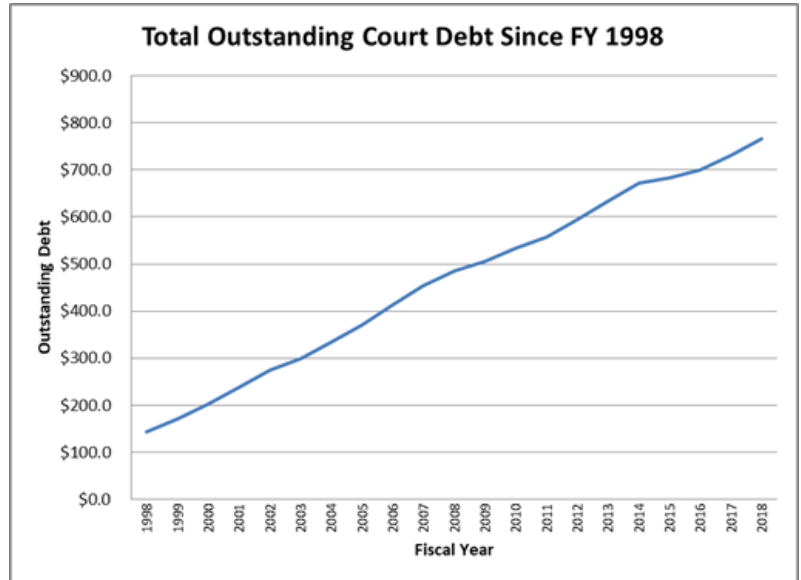
Court Debt Historical Information. Outstanding court debt has grown by 424.0% since FY 1998. **Table 2** shows outstanding court debt by fiscal year and **Chart 4** shows the steady increase in court debt since FY 1998. These numbers reflect what is owed to the State of Iowa and do not include debt such as restitution and money owed to counties, cities, or sheriffs.

Table 2

Outstanding Court Debt By Fiscal Year (Dollars in Millions)			
Fiscal Year	Outstanding Court Debt	Annual Increase	Percent Increase
1998	\$143.4	-----	
1999	\$171.5	\$28.1	19.6%
2000	\$202.9	\$31.4	18.3%
2001	\$237.7	\$34.8	17.2%
2002	\$275.2	\$37.5	15.8%
2003	\$298.5	\$23.3	8.5%
2004	\$334.8	\$36.3	12.2%
2005	\$371.4	\$36.6	10.9%
2006	\$412.5	\$41.1	11.1%
2007	\$453.7	\$41.2	10.0%
2008	\$484.7	\$31.0	6.8%
2009	\$506.5	\$21.8	4.5%
2010	\$532.8	\$26.3	5.2%
2011	\$558.2	\$25.4	4.8%
2012	\$594.9	\$36.7	6.6%
2013	\$633.5	\$38.6	6.5%
2014	\$671.5	\$38.0	6.0%
2015	\$682.7	\$10.7	1.6%
2016	\$699.1	\$16.9	2.4%
2017	\$731.9	\$17.0	2.5%
2018	\$766.7	\$34.8	4.8%

Source: Judicial Branch

Chart 4



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