



Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

Justice System
Appropriations Subcommittee

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www.iowacourts.gov

Judicial Branch Mission

Our courts have a vital constitutional mission:

“The Iowa Judicial Branch dedicates itself to providing independent and accessible forums for the fair and prompt resolution of disputes, administering justice under law equally to all persons.”

To accomplish our mission, we rely on judges, judicial magistrates, and court employees who work in unison to handle hundreds of thousands of court cases and to provide a broad range of court-related services.

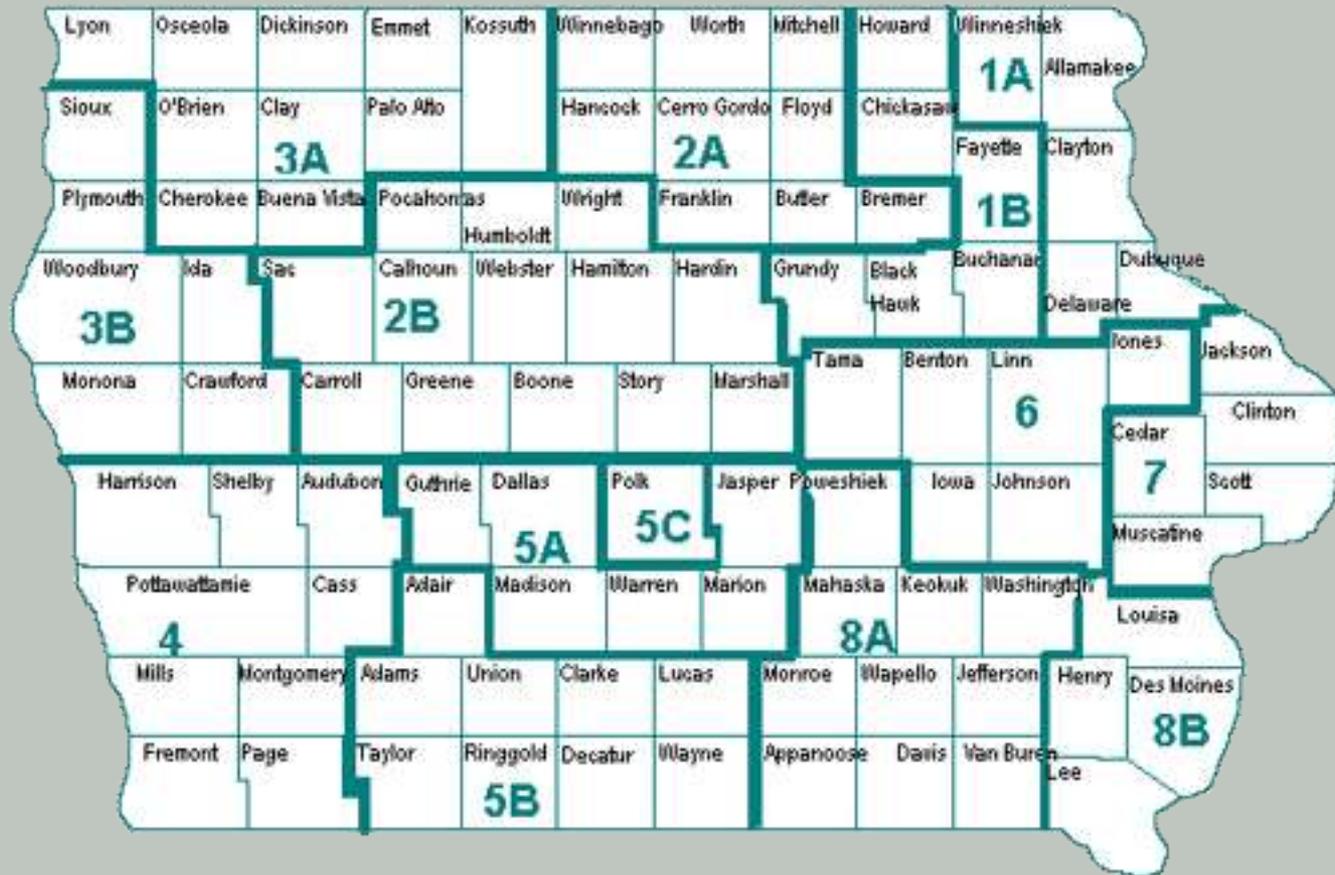
Judicial Branch People

- **Judges and Magistrates** use their legal expertise and knowledge to impartially interpret and apply laws to serve the public.
- **Clerks of Court** and their staffs manage and maintain all court records; collect and process fines, fees, and restitution; transmit court orders and information to litigants and government agencies; process child support payments; and manage the process of calling lowans to jury duty.
- **Juvenile Court Officers** and their staff work directly with troubled youths. Among other things, they monitor a young person's compliance with restitution and community service and arrange for services young people need.
- **Court Reporters** keep a record of trials and hearings and provide clerical support to judges.

Judicial Branch People

- **Court Attendants** assist with jury management, provide clerical support for judges, facilitate courtroom proceedings, and assist clerk of court offices.
- **Information Technology** staff manage and maintain all judicial branch technology including computer equipment, ICIS, and EDMS; manage data center servers, network equipment, and software; develop custom computer programs; and provide training.
- **Law Clerks** assist judges by conducting legal research and analysis, drafting routine court orders, and performing other important law-related duties.
- Many other judicial branch employees also work to serve the public and to fulfill the mission of the courts.

Judicial Branch Districts



Judicial Branch

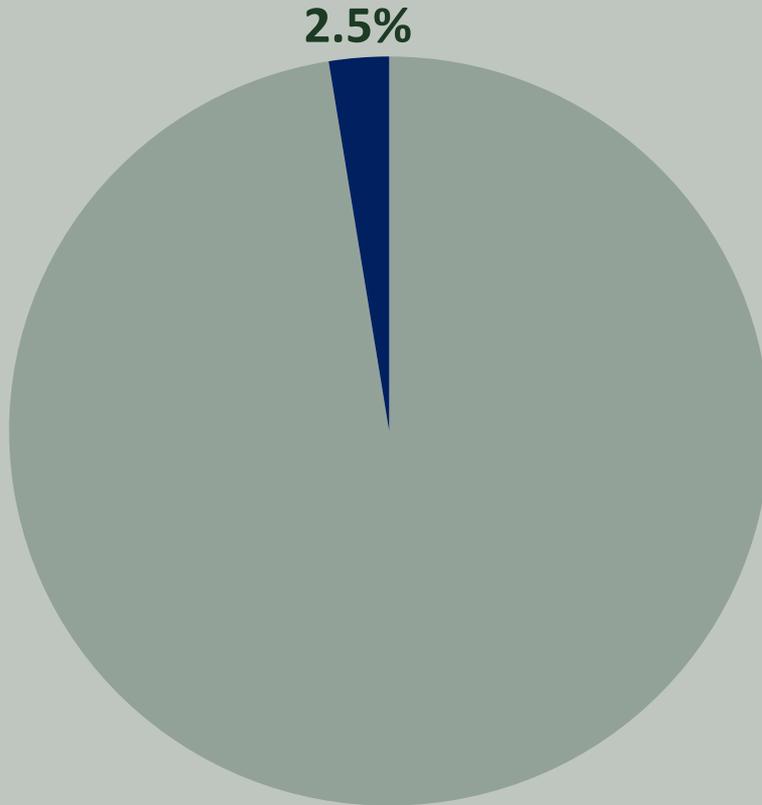
Constitutional Responsibilities

Iowa Const. art. V, § 1: The Judicial power shall be vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, and such other Courts, inferior to the Supreme Court, as the General Assembly may, from time to time, establish.

Iowa Const. art. XII, § 1: This constitution shall be the supreme law of the state, and any law inconsistent therewith, shall be void.

Court Resources in Perspective

Iowa General Fund Appropriations (FY 2015)



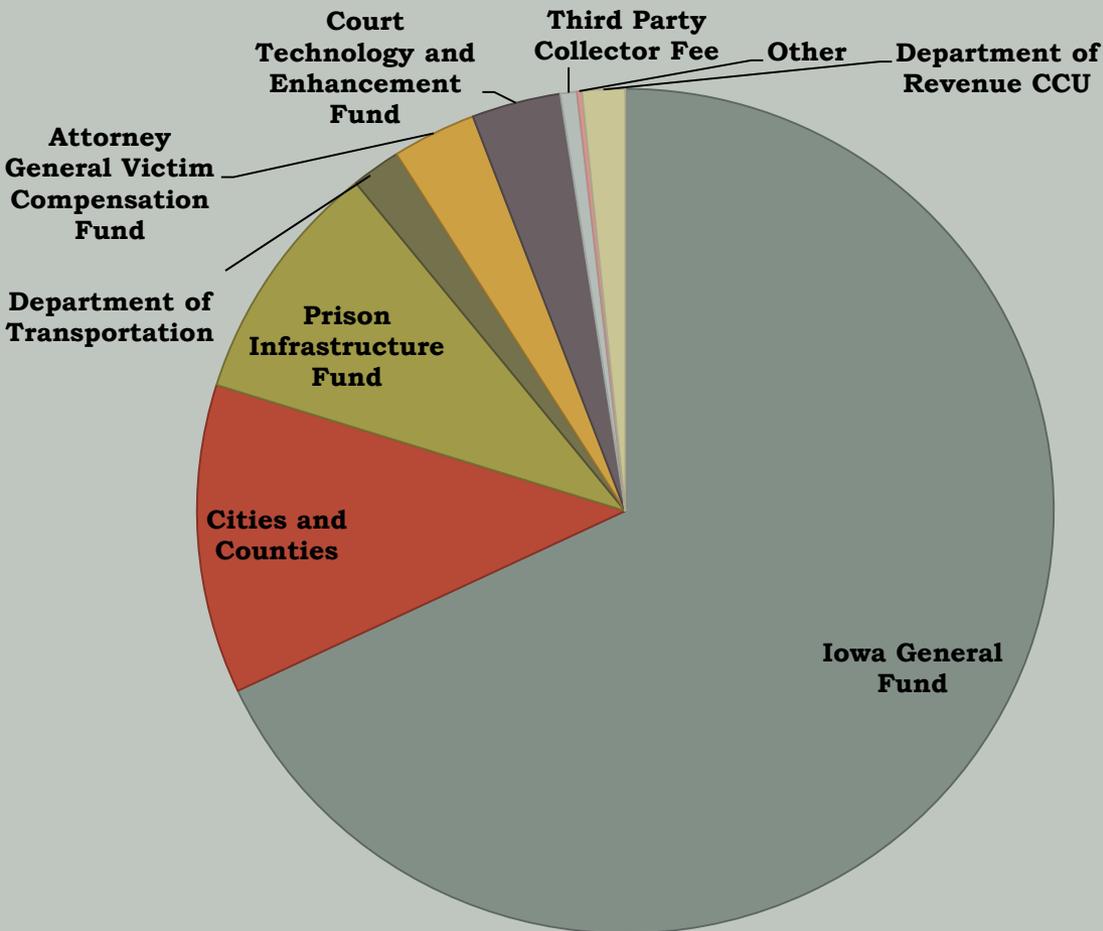
FY 15 Iowa Judicial Branch Appropriations = \$174.6 million* or 2.5% of all General Fund Appropriations.

***\$171.4 million for operations and \$3.1 million for the Jury and Witness Revolving Fund**

FY 15 All State General Fund Appropriations = \$6.979 billion

In 2014 Iowa Courts Generated

\$160 Million in Revenue



Each year, with the aid of several state and local government entities, Iowa courts collect millions of dollars in fines and fees that directly benefit state and local government. In FY 2014, the \$160 million generated by Iowa's courts was distributed as follows:

- \$109.2 million**—Iowa General Fund
- \$19.0 million** —Cities and Counties
- \$15.0 million** —Prison Infrastructure Fund
- \$5.1 million** —Attorney General Victim Compensation Fund
- \$5.4 million** —Court Technology and Enhancement Fund
- \$3.0 million** —Department of Transportation
- \$3.6 million** —CCU Collection/Third Party Collector Fee

2015 State of the Judiciary

“The judicial branch is accountable to do its work so that lowans can see the value of its fair and impartial courts. It is accountable every day for the resources it is given and the important responsibilities with which it has been entrusted. We best meet these obligations by becoming the best court system we can be.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Six Priorities of the Iowa Judicial Branch

- **Protecting Iowa's children**
- **Providing full-time access to justice**
- **Operating an efficient, full-service court system**
- **Providing faster and less costly resolution of legal disputes**
- **Being open and transparent**
- **Providing fair and impartial justice for all**

Protecting Iowa's Children

“Now, our juvenile court officers have the time to give troubled children the specialized services they need while holding them responsible for their actions. Now, our communities are safer. Now, more children avoid a criminal record that too often impedes their future education, employment, or other opportunities for success as young adults. Now, more children have a better opportunity for a better future.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Protecting Iowa's Children

Iowa courts play a life-altering role in the lives of abused and neglected children. They decide whether to:

- Remove a child from a parent
- Place a child in foster care
- Reunite a child and parent or terminate parental rights
- Allow adoption of a child

In 2014, Iowa's courts presided over:

- 4,441 Child in need of assistance cases
- 1,993 Termination of parental rights cases

Protecting Iowa's Children

FY 15—With your support

Since 2012, the number of juveniles charged with felony crimes and juveniles with criminal complaints filed against them has decreased.

Juveniles Felony Charges	2012	2013	2014	% Decrease
Juveniles	1,634	1,475	1,303	20%
Felony Charges	2,596	2,214	2,125	18%

Juveniles / Complaints	2012	2013	2014	% Decrease
Juveniles	14,450	12,735	11,554	20%
Complaints	19,874	17,595	15,994	20%

Protecting Iowa's Children

FY 15—With your support

Prison admissions of young adults less than 20 years of age has decreased.

FY 2012	431
FY 2013	427
FY 2014	388

Protecting Iowa's Children

FY 15—With your support

There are now 12 operating Family Treatment Courts in Iowa counties:

- Buena Vista
- Cerro Gordo
- Cherokee/Ida
- Johnson/Linn
- Polk
- Scott
- Wapello
- Warren
- Washington/Keokuk
- Webster
- Woodbury

Two additional Family Treatment Courts—in **Black Hawk and Cass/Audubon** counties—are in development.

Protecting Iowa's Children

FY 15—With your support

Since 2007, the six original Family Treatment Courts have served:

- 575 Families
- 675 Parents or Caregivers
- 1,099 Children

Results:

- Estimates show that the six original Family Treatment Courts have generated nearly **\$5.5 million in cost avoidance** for the state during seven years of operation ending September, 2014.

Protecting Iowa's Children

FY 15—With your support

Family Treatment Court results for the 675 parents or caregivers

- **98%** of the parents were admitted to substance abuse treatment.
- Average length of stay in substance abuse treatment for participants is **4 times longer** than other parents in the child welfare system (233 days compared to 66 days for others).

Family Treatment Court results for the 1,099 children

- 76% of the children were able to **remain in the custody of their parent** or caregiver.
- 78% were returned home within 12 months of removal.
- 95% of the children did **not suffer a recurrence of maltreatment.**

Providing Full-Time Access to Justice

“Building Iowa's court system consistent with its goals may not reveal progress at the end of every day as easily as the work of a carpenter. It is a long careful process that requires the hands of many, working every day.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Providing Full-Time Access to Justice

FY 14—With your support

- Law clerks, case schedulers, and court attendants provide assistance to judges to increase the efficient and timely resolution of nearly 750,000 cases a year in the Iowa District Court.
- Additionally, the positions are critical to the implementation of business courts, expedited civil litigation, and limitation of delays in all litigation.

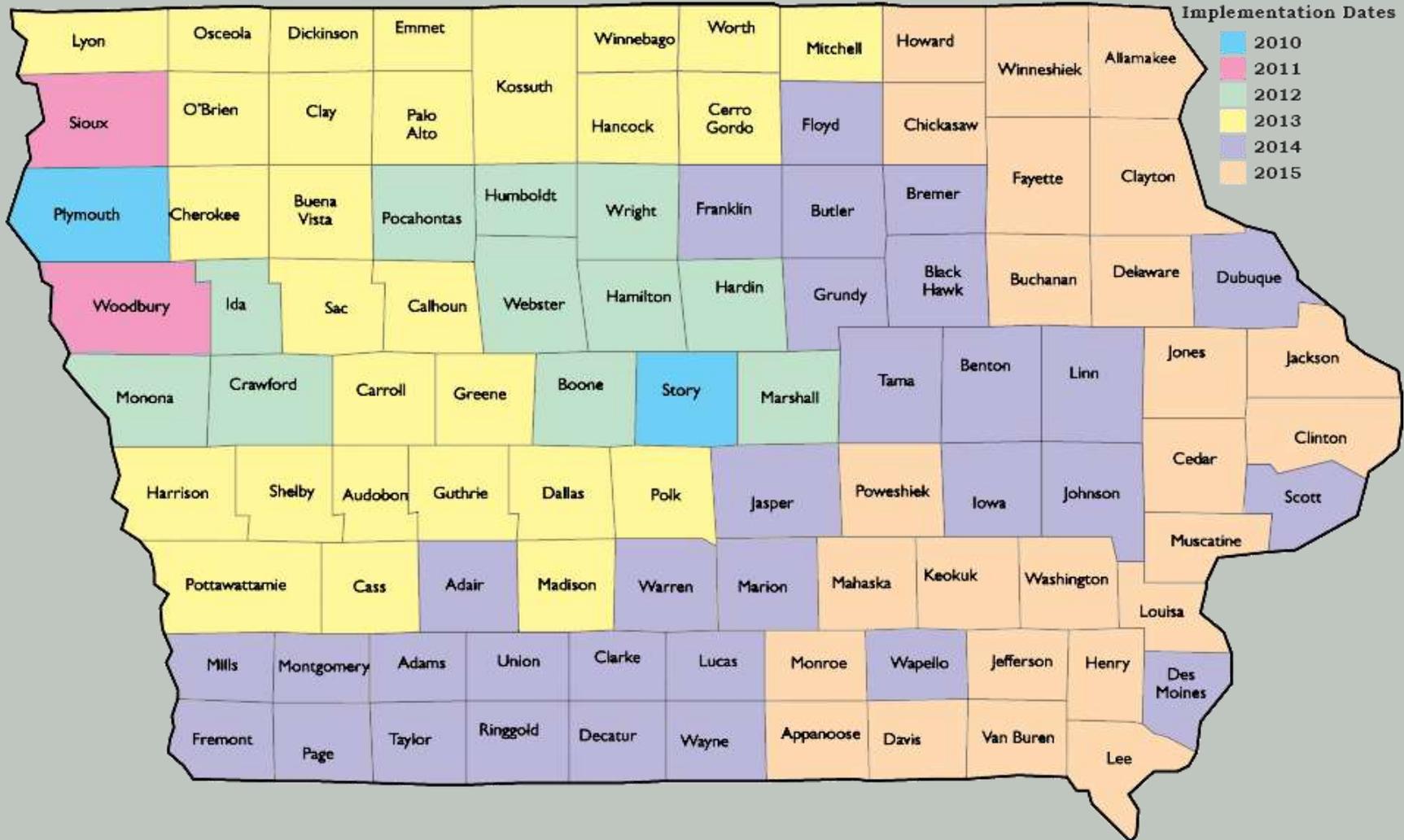
Operating an Efficient, Full-Service Court System

“We know we must be willing to listen, measure twice, and try new approaches to provide the best services possible for all Iowans. Together, these projects make today a day when the judicial branch can assure all Iowans that we have been listening and will continue to listen as we build the best court system in the nation.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Operating an Efficient, Full-Service Court System

2014—With your support **EDMS Implementation**



Providing Faster and Less Costly Resolution of Legal Disputes

“We are also committed to transforming our broader civil litigation system to better meet the needs of litigants and attorneys.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Providing Faster and Less Costly Resolution of Legal Disputes

FY 15—With your support

Business Courts

- Fourteen cases have been assigned to the business court pilot program since May 2013.
- As business court cases are brought to a successful conclusion, it is anticipated that the program will be promoted by attorneys who have experienced its benefits.
- The annual evaluation is available to the public on the judicial branch website.

Expedited Civil Actions

- As business court cases are brought to a successful conclusion, it is anticipated that the program will be promoted by attorneys who have experienced its benefits. Between January 1 and January 27, 2015, 26 cases were filed using the new court rules to process civil claims in less time and at less expense to all parties.

Providing Faster and Less Costly Resolution of Legal Disputes

Guardianships and Conservatorships

We are convening a task force of experts to review existing guardianship and conservatorship laws and procedures to develop improvements and new safeguards for the services provided to vulnerable adults and children who need help making decisions regarding their personal care, safety, or finances.

At the end of 2014, there were 22,204 pending guardianships, conservatorships, or combined guardianship and conservatorship cases.

- 13,580 guardianships
- 2,938 conservatorships
- 5,686 combined guardianship and conservatorship cases

Providing Faster and Less Costly Resolution of Legal Disputes

Iowa family law case processing reform

We are convening a task force of experts to review existing Iowa family law court processes and make recommendations for greater consistency, efficiency, and transparency in the resolution of family law cases to ensure that Iowa's court system provides the best possible practices and outcomes for families who need our courts during difficult times.

2014 family law cases

- 9,716 dissolution cases involving children
- 6,164 dissolution cases not involving children
- 5,657 administrative support cases involving child support recovery
- 5,911 paternity cases

Being Open and Transparent

Special Sessions of the Iowa Supreme Court

- Last year, the Iowa Supreme Court heard oral arguments in four communities outside of Des Moines. We visited Clarinda, Toledo, Iowa City, and Storm Lake.
- On February 24, the Iowa Supreme Court will hear oral arguments during a special evening session in the Judicial Branch Building.
- Since 2011, Iowa Supreme Court Justices have visited 93 high schools, community colleges, and colleges, and universities while hearing oral arguments outside Des Moines.

Providing Fair and Impartial Justice for All

“Fair and impartial justice for all is our mission. Everyone deserves to see the court process as fair and just, even if some will not see the justice in the results in the same way at the same time. While each day may not reveal our progress to all, each day is our opportunity to bring justice to lowans through the work of judges and court staff.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Providing Fair and Impartial Justice for All

Last year, Iowa Judicial Branch personnel processed nearly 750,000 cases filed by Iowans

Courthouse Security

“Every courthouse employee and visitor in this state deserves to feel safe and be safe. While courthouse security is a problem involving state and local governments, the judicial branch has joined hands with the Iowa State Association of Counties to take the steps necessary to make every courthouse in Iowa safer and more secure.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Courthouse Security

- The judicial Branch has completed surveys to determine the current levels of security in each courthouse and has started to provide training to those who work in our courthouses and other state and county buildings.
- The judicial branch will broaden its efforts and look forward to working with all segments of state and local government to make all public buildings safe.

Racial Disparities

“This is a difficult problem, but its complexity must not deter us from finding a solution. This past year the judicial branch began to take steps to better understand and address the persistence of racial disparities”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2015 State of the Judiciary

Racial Disparities

- The training the judicial branch provides to all staff, including new judges and magistrates, now includes education on recognizing implicit biases that may often contribute to the disparities.
- The judicial branch will continue this training and will continue to work with others to do all it can to eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Maintaining Current Level of Service

FY 15 Appropriation

\$174,586,612

Decision Package #1

Maintain Current Level of Service

\$3,151,137

- This does not include any new FTEs or funding for new programs.

FY 16 Budget Request

Decision Package #2

\$2,036,240

Judicial Salary Increase

- **4.5% for all judges and magistrates**

The judicial branch appreciates the recent increase. However, there is still concern about attracting the best and brightest attorneys to serve as judges. The best attorneys, from all backgrounds, from both the private and public sectors, must be attracted to serve on the bench.

FY 16 Budget Request

Decision Package #3

\$3,000,000

Information Technology Base Operations

- Network for clerks' offices, juvenile court offices, jail clerk offices, and wireless access
- Hardware purchases, maintenance, upgrades, and licensing
- Software licensing, maintenance, and updates
- ITE services such as ePay and Iowa Courts Online
- Judicial branch website development and support
- Public access and costs associated with online payments

FY 16 Budget Request

Decision Package Total

Operating Budget **\$8,187,377**

Total Request **\$179,673,989**

Jury and Witness Fund **\$3,100,000**

Percent Increase over FY 15 **4.7%**

With Your Support

With your support of this budget request, the Iowa Judicial Branch can continue to help more and more Iowans and achieve its six priorities:

- **Protecting Iowa's children**
- **Providing full-time access to justice**
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