Information item A

Judicial Council of California

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January 9, 2008

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 3021
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Gregory P. Schmidt
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report to the Legislature on Allocation of FY 2006–2007 New Judgeship Funding as Required by the 2006 Budget Act, Item 0250-101-0932, Provision 10

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is the Judicial Council report on the allocation to the trial courts of the $5.45 million in new judgeship funding in FY 2006–2007, as required by provisional language contained in the 2006 Budget Act (Stats. 2006, ch. 47).

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Stephen Nash, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Finance Division, at 415-865-7584.

Sincerely,

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/VM
Attachment
cc: Members of the Judicial Council
Ronald G. Overholt, AOC Chief Deputy Director
Janus Norman, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Keely Martin-Bosler, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Greg Maw, Senate Republican Caucus
AOC Regional Administrative Directors
Curtis L. Child, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs
Stephen Nash, Director, AOC Finance Division
Eraina Ortega, Manager, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs
Judicial Administration Library (2 copies)

Report on Allocation of Funding for Support of New Judgeships Authorized in FY 2006–2007

Background

The Budget Act of 2006 (Stats. 2006, ch. 47/48) provided $5.45 million in fiscal year (FY) 2006–2007 for the costs to support 50 new trial court judgeships and staff. The funding represented one month of the ongoing funding for the 50 judgeships, accompanying support staff and facilities, and all one-time funding associated with the positions. Expenditure of the funding was contingent upon the passage of legislation authorizing the establishment of the judicial positions. The authorizing legislation, Senate Bill 56 (Stats. 2006, ch. 390), was enacted into law on September 22, 2006. Item 0250-101-0932, Provision 10 of the Budget Act of 2006 required that "the Judicial Council . . . report to the Legislature on January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, until all judgeships are appointed and new staff hired, on the amount of funds allocated to each trial court to fund the new [positions]." This provisional language further required that any funds not used for the purpose of supporting the new judgeships revert to the state General Fund. This report provides information on the funding distributed to the courts for these new judgeships in FY 2006–2007.

Allocations

To enable courts to begin hiring and training staff to support the judgeships and purchase needed equipment, furniture, and supplies, the Judicial Council, at its February 2007 meeting, approved allocation of $4.617 million of the $5.45 million among the 20 courts authorized to receive the 50 new judgeships. This represented all of the one-time funding and the majority of the ongoing operational funding. The courts were informed that any of the distributed funding not directly utilized in support of the new judicial positions during the remainder of the fiscal year would revert to the state General Fund.

The remaining funding that was not allocated at the February meeting – $833,000 – included $628,000 for judicial salaries and benefits (which is not allocated directly to the courts), a small amount of operational funding ($16,000), and $189,000 in ongoing facilities funding. Allocation of the facilities funding is coordinated by the Administrative Office of the Courts' (AOC) Office of Court Construction and Management. Due to the lead time needed to build facilities, lease office space or modular units, or make modifications to existing space, none of the facilities funding was allocated to the courts in FY 2006–2007. The AOC reverted the one-month of ongoing facilities funding to the state General Fund. As the first of the 50 new judgeships was not appointed by the Governor until June 22, 2007, much of the judicial salaries and benefits funding – $618,903 of the total $628,000 – was also reverted to the General Fund as was the operational funding that was not allocated in FY 2006–2007.

The trial courts that received the new judgeship funding were surveyed to verify the amount each court expended on behalf of its new judicial positions in FY 2006–2007. Based on the survey, the amount of funding to be reverted was determined. Of the $4.633 million in operational funding provided in the Budget Act for the fiscal year, $134,850 was reverted to the state General Fund, leaving a net allocation to the courts of $4.498 million. The table on the following page displays the reverted amounts.

Item Funded	Amount Reverted
Judges' Salaries	$ 618,903
Operational Funds	134,850
Facilities	189,000
Total:	**$ 942,753**

The funding expended in FY 2006–2007 was used for many purposes in support of the new judgeships. The area incurring the largest expenditure was staffing. All but two of the 20 courts used some of the funding to address staffing costs. The types of positions for which the funding was used include: courtroom clerks, court reporters, legal process clerks, research attorneys, secretaries, office assistants, supervisors, examiners, mediator/counselors, court attendants, and bailiffs. Two courts used funds to pay for staff training. All 20 courts purchased equipment for the new positions and all but one purchased furniture. Other items for which the funding was used include: legal publications, signage, security equipment, assistive listening devices, office supplies, flags, seals, recruitment costs, painting, carpeting, modular workstations, and moving costs. The net amount of the one month of FY 2006–2007 funding distributed to each court is displayed in the table below.

Court System	Net Funding Distributed in FY 2006-07
Butte	$19,148
Contra Costa	101,023
Fresno	350,366
Kern	187,391
Los Angeles	102,295
Madera	274,645
Merced	177,466
Monterey	67,459
Orange	117,479
Placer	118,986
Riverside	747,009
Sacramento	330,261
San Bernardino	631,590
San Joaquin	296,964
Shasta	110,181
Solano	95,748
Sonoma	289,348
Stanislaus	233,537
Tulare	225,551
Ventura	21,703
Total Allocated Directly to Courts:	**$4,498,150**

The table below summarizes how much of the $5.45 million in funding for support of the new judgeships was utilized and how much reverted to the General Fund.

Budget Act of 2006 Funding	$5,450,000
Less: Amount Expended Judicial Compensation	(9,097)
Less: Amount Expended Court Operations	(4,498,150)
Amount Reverted	(942,753)
Total Remaining:	**$0**