



Supreme Court of Iowa

MARK S. CADY
CHIEF JUSTICE

IOWA JUDICIAL BUILDING
1111 E. COURT AVENUE
DES MOINES, IA 50319

(515) 281-3952

June 1, 2016

I am very proud of the accomplishments you have allowed the Iowa Judicial Branch to achieve over the last five years. Your hard work and shared vision have brought us closer to our goal of being the best court system in the nation. In return, my hope each year has been for you to feel appreciated and rewarded, and for more lowans to receive the justice they deserve.

For the coming fiscal year, the legislature has made these goals difficult to attain by failing to appropriate enough funds for us to even maintain our current level of services. Additionally, they again failed to give our judges and magistrates a salary increase.

Fortunately, we have been able to construct a plan for the next fiscal year that should allow us to avoid layoffs and court closure days, and allow us to implement a 3.5% salary increase for all nonjudicial officer employees. Unfortunately, we will need to take other action that will likely reduce the ability of the Judicial Branch to provide needed services to some lowans, including children who need our services, and may result in delays and increased workloads. Other adverse consequences will result. David Boyd, the State Court Administrator, will explain the details of these budgetary matters in a separate e-mail.

Despite our past efforts to display the value of our justice system through the work we do and to build support for the Judicial Branch, this year we fell short of our funding needs. I know this is disappointing and frustrating. It cannot continue. As we move into a new fiscal year, please join me in a message to all lowans--support court funding. Inadequate funding is inconsistent with justice and unfair to all lowans. This is an important message for all, and must be heard by all. Together, our voice can be strong and effective.

In closing, I want you to know the supreme court supports you in your work and will continue to do everything possible to obtain sufficient funding to operate our system of justice so it can meet the needs of all lowans. You have my deepest appreciation and respect for your service, dedication and devotion to justice. Thank you for all you do.

Mark S. Cady
Chief Justice