

Iowa Judicial Branch FY 23 Budget Request Overview

Maintaining Current Service Levels \$ 4,775,295

- Fill frozen positions: In order to balance the budget for the current fiscal year, any positions (except court reporters) that were vacant on June 30, 2021, were frozen for all of FY 22. \$2,074,025
- Operational increases: The negotiated contract increases and the equitable extension of same to non-contract employees (1.1%, ATB and 3% step) plus the 5% increase in health insurance. \$2,701,270

Investing in Human Capital – Existing Personnel: \$ 5,751,911

Iowans in all 99 counties benefit from the services provided by the 1,700 judicial officers and employees. These judicial officers and employees are members of your communities. The education, experience and abilities of these individuals are the best assets of the judicial branch. Judicial officers and employees resolve disputes and provide justice to Iowans who need assistance in the over 700,000 cases filed every year.

- 5.9% salary increase for judicial officers. \$2,969,362
- Year 2 of a four year plan using market research to review judicial branch staff salaries so the judicial branch can attract and maintain quality personnel. \$1,047,549
- Match the 3% ATB increase given by the Executive Branch to non-contract employees. \$1,735,000

Investing in Human Capital-New Personnel: \$ 2,301,437

- Year 2 of a five year plan to add 4 district associate judges and 10 staff (e.g. court reporters, judicial specialists, law clerks) to address increasing workload and provide more timely resolution of Iowans' disputes. \$1,371,720
- Family Treatment Court Coordinator: \$50,723
- Staff support in state court administration including Finance Department: \$156,584
- Staff attorneys for the business court, court of appeals and supreme court: \$468,777
 - Business Court Staff Attorney (1): The business court has been a great success and has recently expanded to 5 judges. However, the judges have no staff support in deciding the complex legal issues that arise in these cases. A dedicated staff attorney would be able to provide badly needed expertise in agricultural law, antitrust law, commercial law, corporate law, and the other areas that arise in business litigation.
 - Court of Appeals Staff Attorney (1): The Iowa Court of Appeals currently decides around 1100 cases per year with written opinions. Consideration has been given to expanding the court of appeals by 3 judges in light of this increased workload. In lieu of that, the court has chosen the more economical alternative of relying on recently retired part-time senior judges at a small fraction of the cost. However, a staff attorney is needed to provide support for the group of senior judges - now 9.
 - Supreme Court Staff Attorneys (3): The Iowa Supreme Court employs 1 law clerk per justice and 4 staff attorneys. In recent years, as justice has evolved and we have electronic filing, remote proceedings, and increasing numbers of pro se litigants, the Supreme Court has had to spend an inordinate amount of time on rules and forms, including EDMS rules, forms for self-represented litigants,

revised civil, criminal, family, juvenile, and appellate rules. The 4 existing staff attorneys spend much of their time on rules and forms and are often unable to provide additional legal support on the 100+ published opinions that the Court releases annually.

- Information security analysts: \$147,285
- 2 judicial specialist positions in judicial districts \$106,348.

FY 2022 appropriation \$ 189,640, 252 FY 2023 budget request \$202,468,895 (6.76% increase)

Source: State Court Administration December 6, 2021