

FY 2004-05 Revision 7 Budget

The Florida Legislature has demonstrated a commitment to adequate funding for the state courts

Issue	State Courts Request		Final Conference Committee Report	
	FTEs	Amount	FTEs	Amount
Court Administration	241.5	\$20,462,526	241.5	\$18,569,847
Court Reporting	260.5	\$27,571,473	260.5	\$25,637,381
Court Interpreting	102.0	\$8,185,446	102.0	\$7,692,872
Expert Witnesses	14.0	\$5,943,599	14.0	\$5,874,380
Case Management	212.5	\$12,468,890	212.5	\$11,254,402
Masters and Hearing Officers	237.5	\$22,233,683	231.5	\$20,865,320
Mediation and Arbitration	146.5	\$13,442,209	117.0	\$9,860,981
Law Clerks	353.0	\$28,355,716	0.0	\$0
Judges & Judicial Assistants (operating costs)	0.0	\$12,069,210	0.0	\$9,553,784
Technology	17.0	\$7,175,382	0.0	\$1,500,000
Resource Management	0.0	\$1,500,000	0.0	\$0
Contingency Funds	0.0	\$11,970,422	50.0	\$3,412,200
OSCA Implementation Requirements	18.5	\$1,588,848	18.5	\$1,570,943
Legal Materials/Web Access	1.0	\$137,660	0.0	\$0
TOTAL Trial Courts Rev 7	1,604.0	\$173,105,064	1,247.5	\$115,713,087

Comparison of the Court System's Original Request and Legislative Funding

- ✓ The Legislature did not fund \$28 million for new law clerk positions that would improve the judge-to-law clerk ratio (law clerks are provided by the state and are not currently a county obligation, as are most other Revision 7 budget issues).
- ✓ The Legislature provided contingency funding for due process costs and is allowing access to the Working Capital Fund for other unforeseen costs resulting from the shift to state funding.
- ✓ The Legislature provided less for the courts' operating budgets than requested. The courts will monitor these budgets closely.
- ✓ The Legislature provided state funding for a critical technology request from the courts and provided dedicated funding for technology at the local level.