Supreme Court of Texas Summary of Recommendations- Senate

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The Honorable Wallace Jefferson, Chief Justice

FTEs

Mary Kay Spellman, LBB Analyst

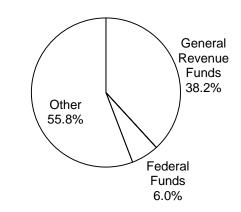
0.0

0.0%

Method of Financing	2012-13 Base	2014-15 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change
General Revenue Funds	\$27,524,996	\$22,926,270	(\$4,598,726)	(16.7%)
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Total GR-Related Funds	\$27,524,996	\$22,926,270	(\$4,598,726)	(16.7%)
Federal Funds	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$42,715,831	\$33,511,780	(\$9,204,051)	(21.5%)
All Funds	\$73,840,827	\$60,038,050	(\$13,802,777)	(18.7%)
	FY 2013 Budgeted	FY 2015 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change

76.0

RECOMMENDED FUNDING BY METHOD OF FINANCING

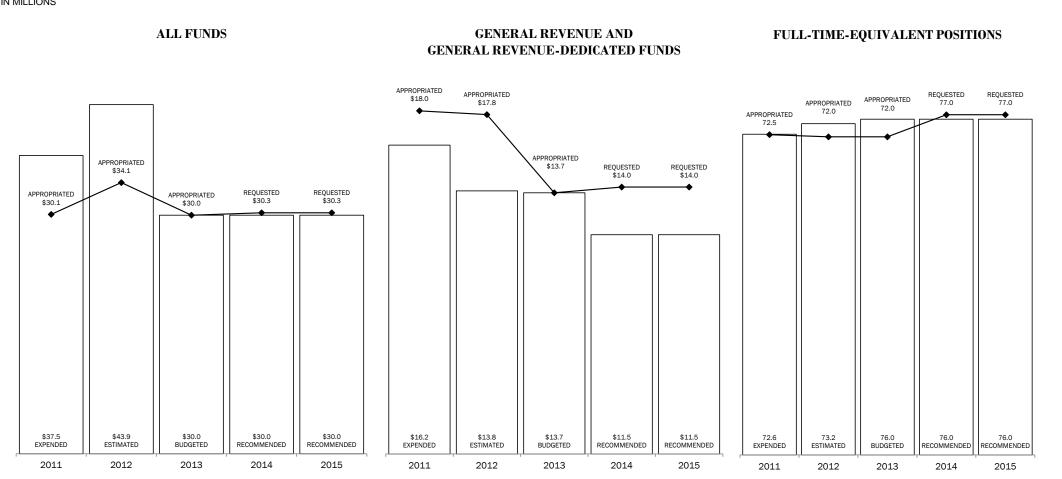


The bill pattern for this agency (2014-15 Recommended) represents an estimated 67.4% of the agency's estimated total available	
funds for the 2014-15 biennium.	

76.0

Supreme Court of Texas

2014-2015 BIENNIUM IN MILLIONS



Note: 1) Expended and estimated amounts exceed appropriated amounts due to unexpended balances brought forward from 2011 into 2012, plus onetime Civil Penalties revenue for Basic Civil Legal Services. 2) Appropriation amounts for 2011 and 2012 include a contingency appropriation, General Revenue-Dedicated Account No. 5010, Sexual Assualt Program, which was never received due to litigation regarding the sexually oriented business fee, and revenues that did not exceed the Biennial Revenue Estimate. 3) Like all appellate courts, the Supreme Court is exempted from Art. IX, Sec. 6.10, which limits FTE Counts to cap in GAA.

Supreme Court of Texas Summary of Recommendations - Senate, By Method of Finance -- ALL FUNDS

Strategy/Goal	2012-13 Base	2014-15 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS A.1.1	\$10,892,910	\$10,892,910	\$0	0.0%	Recommendations provide \$10.9 million in All Funds for the Supreme Court's Appellate Court Operations strategy and equal 2012-13 funding levels.
Total, Goal A, APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$10,892,910	\$10,892,910	\$0	0.0%	
BASIC CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES B.1.1	\$59,117,296	\$45,314,519	(\$13,802,777)	(23.3%)	 Recommendations include a decrease of \$13.8 million, comprised of the following changes by Method-of-Finance. (a) In Judicial Fund No. 573: a one-time windfall in civil penalties of \$10 million (a decrease); \$3.8 million unexpended balance brought forward into fiscal year 2012 from the 2010-11 biennium (a decrease); and a \$4.6 million increase to reflect a higher level of anticipated BCLS receipts in the 2014-15 biennium. In FY 2012, BCLS receipts exceeded anticipated levels by \$2.3 million. All BCLS collections are appropriated upon receipt, including unexpended balances collected in prior biennia (see Rider 2). (b) In General Revenue: recommendations replace \$4.6 million in General Revenue with an offsetting increase from Judicial Fund No. 573 (Other Funds) to reflect higher than expected collections of dedicated BCLS receipts.
COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS B.1.2	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$0	0.0%	Recommendations for the Court Improvement Projects total \$3.6 million in Federal Funds and match 2012-13 funding levels. The funding is expected to continue through the 2014-15 biennium.
MULTI-DISTRICT LITIGATION B.1.3	\$230,621	\$230,621	\$0	0.0%	Recommendations fund the Multi-District Litigation strategy at 100 percent of the 2012-13 levels in All Funds. Funding provides court staff (court coordinator and court reporter; judge's salary paid from CPA Judiciary budget) and technology to handle multi-district litigation cases, such as asbestosis and silicosis related cases. Only one such case is currently being funded.
Total, Goal B, COURT PROGRAMS	\$62,947,917	\$49,145,140	(\$13,802,777)	(21.9%)	
Grand Total, All Strategies	\$73,840,827	\$60,038,050	(\$13,802,777)	(18.7%)	

Supreme Court of Texas Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues

- 1. **Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS).** In fiscal year 2012, the Court received a one-time windfall in civil penalties from the \$428 million awarded to the State of Texas due to the settlement between 49 states and the country's five biggest mortgage lenders related to deceptive trade practices. Pursuant to the Government Code 402.007, an amount not to exceed \$10 million per biennium in civil penalties may be awarded to the Court. Additionally, in 2012, an unexpended balance of \$3.8 million was brought forward from the 2010-11 biennium. Recommendations for 2014-15 do not continue the one-time civil penalty windfall of \$10 million with state appropriations. Revenues to Judicial Fund No. 573 are expected to increase in the 2014-15 biennium. In fiscal year 2012, the actual BCLS receipts were \$2.3 million higher than the appropriated level of \$11.3 million. Using this figure, LBB staff estimates \$4.6 million in revenue may be generated above the 2012-13 funding levels in 2014-15, and recommendations include a method of finance swap which replaces General Revenue with the anticipated additional Judicial Fund No. 573 receipts.
- 2. Supreme Court Support Fee Unexpended Balance Authority Between Biennia and Within the Biennium. Recommendations appropriate all unexpended balances in the Supreme Court Support Account in the Judicial Fund No. 573 at the end of fiscal year 2013 (estimated to be \$0) to Strategy A.1.1., Appellate Court Operations in 2014-15. Currently, only actual receipts are appropriated to the courts. The Supreme Court Support Fee Account was established by Senate Bill 1182, Eightieth Legislature, 2007, and its sole revenue source is a \$50 fee on civil cases filed in the Supreme Court, or the 14 Courts of Appeals. The court may use the fund for any expenses related to court operations. The account and Judicial Fund No. 573, do not impact certification of the GAA.

Supreme Court of Texas FTE Highlights

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended	Estimated	Budgeted	Recommended	Recommended
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cap	72.5	72.0	72.0	76.0	76.0
Actual/Budgeted	72.6	73.2	76.0	NA	NA
Schedule of Exempt Positions (Cap)					
Chief Justice	\$152,500	\$152,500	\$152,500	. ,	\$152,500
Justice (8)	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$150,000

Note: Appellate Courts are exempt from the FTE Cap restrictions due to Section 4, Article IV, Special Provisions. Increase in FTE cap in Court Improvement Strategy. All positions are federally funded.

Supreme Court of Texas Performance Measure Highlights

		Expended 2011	Estimated 2012	Budgeted 2013	Recommended 2014	Recommended 2015
•	Disposition Rate	102%	99%	102%	102%	102%
	Measure Explanation: The disposition rate reflects the r or reinstated by the granting of a motion for rehearing d	,		orting period in rela	tionship to the total nu	mber of cases filed

Funds Within the GAA - Basic Civil Legal Services (Fiscal Year)

												С	hange from	Change from
							2014		2015		2014-15	201	12-13 to 2014-	2012-13 to 2014-
	2011	2012	2013	2	012-13 Base	Re	ecommended	Re	ecommended	Re	commended		15 (\$)	15 (%)
General Revenue	\$ 11,212,500	\$ 8,783,784	\$ 8,783,783	\$	17,567,567	\$	6,484,421	\$	6,484,420	\$	12,968,841	\$	(4,598,726)	-26.2%
Judicial Fund No. 573	\$ 15,616,097	\$ 25,176,253	\$ 11,373,476	\$	36,549,729	\$	13,672,839	\$	13,672,839	\$	27,345,678	\$	(9,204,051)	-25.2%
IAC with Attorney General														
(Crime Victims														
Compensation Fund No.														
469)	\$ 2,494,586	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$	5,000,000	\$	2,500,000	\$	2,500,000	\$	5,000,000	\$	-	0.0%
Total State BCLS														
Contribution	\$ 29,323,183	\$ 36,460,037	\$ 22,657,259	\$	59,117,296	\$	22,657,260	\$	22,657,259	\$	45,314,519	\$	(13,802,777)	-23.3%

Funds Outside the GAA - Basic Civil Legal Services (Calendar Year)

	2011	2012	2013	20	012-13 Base	Es	stimated 2014	Es	timated 2015	2014- 15 Projections	Change from 12-13 to 2014- 15 (\$)	Change from 2012-13 to 2014- 15 (%)
Interest on Lawyers Trust Accouts (IOLTA)	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,400,000	\$	8,900,000	\$	4,300,000		4,300,000	8,600,000	\$ (300,000)	
Legal Services Corporation and Other Federal Funding	39,639,138	\$ 38,870,000	\$ 38,870,000	\$	77,740,000	\$	34,982,100	\$	34,982,100	\$ 69,964,200	\$ (7,775,800)	-10.0%
Other (Donations and Grants from Foundations)	\$ 17,347,000	\$ 20,493,000	\$ 18,783,000	\$	39,276,000	\$	18,785,000	\$	18,785,000	\$ 37,570,000	\$ (1,706,000)	-4.3%
		, ,	 							, ,	\$ -	
Total BCLS Funding Outside GAA	\$ 60,986,138	\$ 63,863,000	\$ 62,053,000	\$	125,916,000	\$	58,067,100	\$	58,067,100	\$ 116,134,200	\$ (9,781,800)	-7.8%

Estimate of Total BCLS

Funding from All

Revenue Sources \$ 90,309,321 \$ 100,323,037 \$ 84,710,259 \$ 185,033,296 \$ 80,724,360 \$ 80,724,359 \$ 161,448,719 \$ (23,584,577) -12.7%

Source: Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Supreme Court

Supreme Court of Texas Performance Review and Policy Report Highlights

	Report	Savings/	Gain/	Fund	Included	
Reports & Recommendations	Page	(Cost)	(Loss)	Туре	in Introduced Bill	Action Required During Session

NO RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

Supreme Court of Texas Rider Highlights

- 5. **Court Improvement Projects.** Rider updated to reflect amount allocated to administer this federal grant program from \$481,500 to \$600,000 per fiscal year. The allocation increase is due to a shift in program focus from pass-through to one managed by in-house staff since program inception. The Court Improvement project is federally funded initiative designed to improve state court processes for children and families involved in abuse, neglect and dependency proceedings.
- 6. **Texas Young Lawyers License Plate Receipts.** Rider updated to reflect revenue collection on or after September 1, 2013. All 2014-15 receipts from license plate sales are appropriated to the Supreme Court.
- 8. Appropriation: Supreme Court Support Fee. Rider updated to reflect addition of unexpended balance authority between biennia.

Supreme Court of Texas Items not Included in Recommendations- Senate

Renis not included in Recommendations- Senate	2014-15 Bie	ennial	Total
	GR & GR- Dedicated		All Funds
In Agency Priority Order: 1. Staff Attorney Pay Increases	\$ 198,000	\$	198,000
Across the board salary increases for staff attorneys for Attorney Vs (13 FTEs), the annual salary would increase from \$93,232 to \$100,232; for the General Counsel IV and Clerk of the Court the annual salaries would increase from \$107,000 to approximately \$111,000.			
2. Non-legal Staff Pay Increases	\$ 91,000	\$	91,000
Non-legal staff salary increases likely to be across the board to raise deputy court clerk salaries to levels comparable with other appellate court clerks.			
3. Support for the Supreme Court Rules Function	\$ 120,000	\$	120,000
1 FTE (a Legal Assistant) to assist Rules Attorney with Court's rule-making authority (\$60,000 per fiscal year).			
4. General Revenue for Basic Civil Legal Services	\$ 4,598,726	\$	4,598,726
Reverse recommended General Revenue reductions related to additional Judicial Fund No. 573 receipts.			
5. Funding for Supreme Court Committee Travel	\$ 80,000	\$	80,000
6. Court Reporter for the Supreme Court Advisory Committee	\$ 50,000	\$	50,000
Contract to transcribe 6-8 Supreme Court Advisory Committee Meetings per year (\$25,000 per fiscal year).			
Total, Items Not Included in the Recommendations	\$ 5,137,726	\$	5,137,726