

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Budget includes total funding of \$3.6 billion (\$1.4 billion General Fund and \$2.2 billion other funds) in 2014-15 for the Judicial Branch, of which \$2.6 billion is provided to support trial court operations. The Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, trial courts and the Judicial Council. The trial courts are funded with a combination of resources from the General Fund, county maintenance-of-effort requirements, fees, and other charges. All other portions of the Judicial Branch primarily receive funding from the General Fund.

The Budget includes the following significant adjustments:

- Trial Court Funding—A two-year strategy to stabilize trial court funding that provides \$86.3 million to support trial court operations in 2014-15 and an additional 5-percent increase in the 2015-16 Governor’s Budget.
- Trial Court Employee Costs—An increase of \$42.8 million for health benefit and retirement rate cost adjustments for trial court employees. The future increases for health benefits and retirement costs for trial court employees and retirees will be provided annually, one year in arrears.
- Trial Court Trust Fund Revenues—An increase of \$30.9 million to the Trial Court Trust Fund to backfill the potential fee revenue loss estimated in 2014-15. These funds will be allocated as needed after the 2015 May Revision following an assessment of estimated fee revenue to be received in 2014-15.

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- Immediate and Critical Needs Account Transfer—A one-time \$40 million General Fund augmentation to reduce the transfer from the Immediate and Critical Needs Account to the Trial Court Trust Fund to support the Judicial Branch’s capital outlay and infrastructure program.

The Budget also includes an additional \$5 million for the state judiciary and \$2.2 million for increased rent costs for the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.