

# Judicial

The budget, as introduced, for the Judicial Department for the 2008-10 biennium results in an increase of \$30.6 million GF or 3.9 percent above the adjusted base budget. Major increases include an additional \$10.0 million each year to cover projected increases in the Criminal Fund; \$7.9 million and 46 new positions to strengthen the Magistrate System; \$2.0 million for additional waivers for fees for court-appointed counsel in serious juvenile cases; and, \$800,000 and five positions for foreign language interpreters.

- **Supreme Court of Virginia**
  - ***Court-Appointed Attorney Fees.*** Provides \$1.0 million each year from the general fund to expand the waiver program approved by the 2007 General Assembly to include additional compensation for court-appointed attorneys who represent juvenile clients in cases where the charge would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult.
  - ***Foreign Language Interpreters.*** Includes \$400,000 and five positions each year from the general fund for interpreters to ensure that non-English speaking parties and criminal defendants have equal access to the courts.
  - ***Drug Court Evaluation.*** Provides \$225,000 the first year from nongeneral funds from the Drug Offender Assessment Fund for a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of the effectiveness of each local drug treatment court.
  - ***Court Technology Fund.*** Adds \$821,800 from nongeneral funds each year to reflect the actual revenues expected from court fees for this fund.
  - ***Information Technology Positions.*** Includes \$329,781 and four positions each year from nongeneral funds, from the Court Technology Fund.
  - ***Evidence Recovery Kits.*** Includes language providing for the transfer of up to \$40,000 each year from the Criminal Fund to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, administered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, for the physical evidence recovery kit (PERK) program.
- **Circuit Courts**
  - ***Criminal Fund.*** Provides an additional \$10.0 million GF each year to address projected expenditure increases in all of the courts for the Criminal Fund, including all of the Circuit and District Courts.
- **Virginia State Bar**
  - ***Mileage Increase.*** Provides \$60,000 each year from nongeneral funds to reflect increased mileage reimbursement rate.

- **Magistrate System**

- *Improved Staffing, Oversight and Technology.* Provides \$3.6 million and 35 positions the first year and \$4.3 million and a total of 46 positions the second year, from the general fund, for organizational and technology enhancements in the magistrate system, including the addition of new supervisory and training positions and expanded use of videoconferencing technology.

- **Board of Bar Examiners**

- *Member Compensation.* Provides \$13,082 NGF each year to increase the compensation of the Board and its Character and Fitness Committee.
- *Preservation of Pledge Cards.* Includes \$13,435 NGF each year to preserve, scan and archive the pledge card catalog which has been maintained since 1910. Since that time, every applicant who took the Virginia bar examination signed a pledge card which contained, along with other information, all scores achieved on the examination as well as the date of licensure.
- *Web-Based Application Submission System.* Provides \$19,970 the first year and \$3,880 the second year from nongeneral funds to implement a secure, web-based application system, so that each applicant for the bar examination will be able to submit electronically his or her application and character and fitness questionnaire directly into a proprietary database.
- *Essay Test Expert Services.* Adds \$5,000 NGF each year to increase the compensation for the staff position that prepares, conducts and grades the essay component of the bar examination.
- *Data Protection and Recovery.* Adds \$5,295 the first year and \$3,600 the second year from nongeneral funds to preserve all documentation in a secure off-site location in the event of a disaster, theft or other business interruption.

- **Indigent Defense Commission**

- *New Grant Funds.* Includes \$150,710 each year from nongeneral funds to reflect an anticipated grant for a new summer intern program.
- *Increase in Current Grant Support.* Adds \$5,424 each year from nongeneral funds to reflect an anticipated increase in the current intern grant for the Alexandria Public Defender Office.