

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

MISSION

New York State's three Judicial Commissions play important roles in maintaining the integrity of the court system. The Commission on Judicial Nomination and the Judicial Screening Committees screen potential nominees for high-level judicial appointments by the Governor. The Commission on Judicial Conduct investigates and acts upon allegations of judicial misconduct.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The State Constitution established the Commission on Judicial Conduct, which is responsible for investigating complaints of misconduct against State judges and local justices. The Commission has disciplinary powers, which include the authority to remove judges and justices from office for serious misconduct, subject to review by the Court of Appeals.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has 11 members, 4 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 3 by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the remaining 4 by the Legislature. Commission members serve without pay and meet periodically to consider complaints, hear testimony and determine the disposition of cases. The Commission will have a staff of 28 in fiscal year 2005-06. Its main office is in New York City, with branches in Albany and Rochester. Its budget of nearly \$2.6 million is supported entirely by State tax dollars. The Commission continues to work with the Temporary State Commission of Investigation to identify opportunities for sharing resources and reducing costs.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL NOMINATION

The State Constitution established the Commission on Judicial Nomination to evaluate candidates and make recommendations to the Governor for appointment to the Court of Appeals, the State's highest court.

The Commission on Judicial Nomination has 12 members appointed by the Governor, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Legislature. These members serve without pay and conduct the search for qualified candidates upon formal notification of a vacancy on the Court of Appeals. They are supported by volunteer legal staff also serving without pay.

GOVERNOR'S JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEES

The Governor's Judicial Screening Committees are established by Executive Order to evaluate the qualifications of candidates and make recommendations to the Governor for appointment to judgeships other than those on the Court of Appeals. The Committees are located throughout the State. In fiscal year 2005-06, a total of \$150,000 in State tax dollars will support the Committees.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2004-05	Appropriations Recommended 2005-06	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2005-06
State Operations	2,619,000	2,769,000	150,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	2,619,000	2,769,000	150,000	0

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ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2004-05	2005-06	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/05	Estimated FTEs 03/31/06	
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	28	28	0
Total	28	28	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2004-05	2005-06	
General Fund	2,619,000	2,769,000	150,000
Total	2,619,000	2,769,000	150,000

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From Special Pay Bill General Fund	(62,000)
Appropriated 2004-05	2,557,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available	Recommended	Change
	2004-05	2005-06	
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	2,459,000	2,609,000	150,000
Judicial Nomination, Commission on General Fund	10,000	10,000	0
Judicial Screening Committees General Fund	150,000	150,000	0
Total	2,619,000	2,769,000	150,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2005-06 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	1,991,000	101,000	1,971,000	101,000
Total	1,991,000	101,000	1,971,000	101,000

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	20,000	0
Total	20,000	0

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2005-06 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	618,000	49,000	34,000	0
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	10,000	0	0	0
Judicial Screening Committees	150,000	0	0	0
Total	<u>778,000</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>34,000</u>	<u>0</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	33,000	0	536,000	49,000
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	0	0	0	0
Judicial Screening Committees	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>33,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>536,000</u>	<u>49,000</u>

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	15,000	0	0	0
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	0	0	10,000	0
Judicial Screening Committees	0	0	150,000	0
Total	<u>15,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>0</u>