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AT A GLANCE

- The seven members of the Supreme Court review petitions in approximately 760 cases a year and accept review in about 1 in 8 cases.
- In 2015, 143 direct appeals and 615 petitions for further review were filed with the Supreme Court.
- The Chief Justice is the administrative head of the Judicial Branch, which includes 316 justices and judges and 2,500 employees.
- The Supreme Court serves all Minnesota citizens.

PURPOSE

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Minnesota, serving as the final guardian of the Minnesota Constitution and interpreting/applying the United States Constitution.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in remedial cases as prescribed by law, appellate jurisdiction over all cases, and supervisory jurisdiction over all courts in the state. These cases can come from the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, Tax Court, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, and Board of Judicial Standards. Election contests and appeals for first-degree murder cases are automatically appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is solely responsible for the regulation of the practice of law and for judicial and lawyer discipline. The Court also promulgates rules of practice and procedure for the legal system in the state.

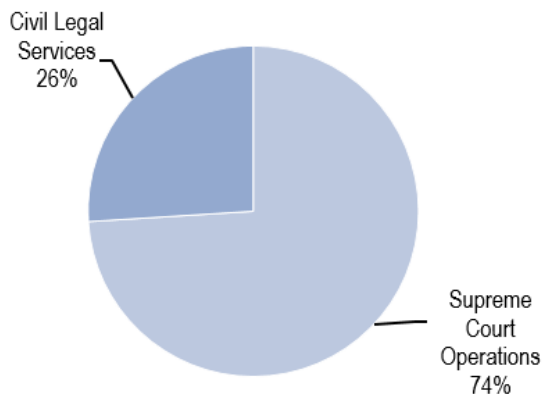
The Chief Justice serves as the chair of the Judicial Council, the policy making body for the Judicial Branch. The Chief Justice is responsible for supervising administrative operations of the state court system.

The Chief Justice is assisted by the State Court Administrator's Office, which provides the administrative infrastructure for the Judicial Branch. The State Court Administrator's Office is responsible for providing Judicial Branch finance, human resources, technology, education, communications, research/evaluation, caseload management and cross-district judicial assignments.

Supreme Court responsibilities contribute to **strong and stable families and communities**, and the administration of the state's court system ensures the **people in Minnesota are safe** and provides **efficient and accountable government services**.

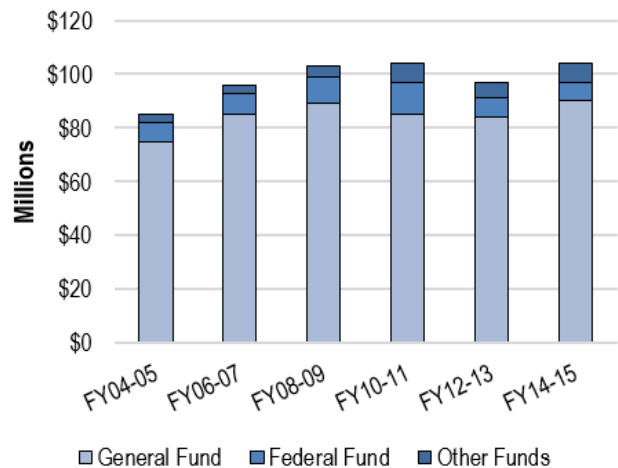
BUDGET

**Spending by Program
FY 15 Actual**



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Supreme Court expended \$54 million in FY2015. Of this amount, \$47 million (87%) was from state general fund appropriations, with the remaining \$7 million (13%) being funded through various sources such as federal and local government grants, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts, and fees.

STRATEGIES

As the state's highest court, the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the State Capitol Courtroom and the Minnesota Judicial Center. The Supreme Court reviews matters on certiorari, meaning it reviews cases to set precedent, to clarify legal issues, to resolve statutory conflicts, and to answer constitutional questions.

In addition to hearing appeals, the Supreme Court is responsible for overseeing the machinery of justice in the state, for regulating the practice of law, and making recommendations for improvement of the judicial system.

The mission of the Judicial Branch is "To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies." The Supreme Court conducts its administrative functions in support of three strategic goals to deliver its mission and to support the statewide outcome of strong families and communities:

1. Access to Justice – Ensuring the justice system is open, affordable, effective and accountable to the people it serves.
2. Administration of Justice for Effective Results – Working across branches of government and with other justice system stakeholders to improve outcomes for and the delivery of services for children, families, and alcohol and other addicted offenders who come to its courts.
3. Public Trust, Accountability, and Impartiality – Through education, outreach to diverse communities and a commitment to effective and efficient customer service and accountability, improving citizens' understanding of and confidence in the Third Branch of government.

The Judicial Council – chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court – conducts a rigorous strategic planning process that guides the work of the State Court Administrator's Office in support of the Judicial Branch's three strategic goals. The strategic plan is reviewed and updated biennially.

In recent years, as part of the Judicial Council's strategic planning, the Judicial Branch has begun implementing an ambitious reform agenda involving the use of technology and the re-engineering of business practices in a system-wide effort to expand services and ensure equal access to justice. The centerpiece of this effort – the eCourtMN Initiative – is transforming Minnesota's courts from a paper-based environment to an electronic information environment that will ensure convenient, timely, and appropriate access to case information for all stakeholders, and result in more timely and efficient processing of cases. Electronic filing of cases, at both the trial and appellate levels, became mandatory on July 1, 2016. Efforts continue to ensure convenient, timely, and appropriate access to case information for all stakeholders

The Minnesota Constitution, Article VI, provides the legal authority for the Supreme Court:
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article_6.

Expenditures By Fund

	Actual FY14	Actual FY15	Actual FY16	Estimate FY17	Forecasted Base		Governor's Recommendation	
					FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1000 - General	43,207	46,528	45,429	50,378	48,011	48,011	53,230	55,015
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	3,072	3,998	4,492	5,263	4,424	3,674	4,424	3,674
2403 - Gift	0	2	131	2,181	1,415	1,313	1,415	1,313
3000 - Federal	4,075	3,202	3,555	5,183	4,719	4,719	4,719	4,719
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency	0	0	0	90	13	13	13	13
Total	50,353	53,731	53,608	63,094	58,582	57,730	63,801	64,734
<i>Biennial Change</i>				12,618		(389)		11,834
<i>Biennial % Change</i>				12		0		10
<i>Governor's Change from Base</i>								12,223
<i>Governor's % Change from Base</i>								11

Expenditures by Program

Program: Supreme Court Operations	36,196	39,562	38,436	47,736	43,237	42,385	46,484	47,417
Program: Civil Legal Services	14,157	14,169	15,172	15,359	15,345	15,345	17,317	17,317
Total	50,353	53,731	53,608	63,094	58,582	57,730	63,801	64,734

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	23,153	24,700	27,394	29,701	29,532	29,532	32,250	34,035
Operating Expenses	11,740	11,661	8,685	11,335	9,669	9,667	10,198	10,196
Other Financial Transactions	748	1,730	807	1,586	1,416	1,416	1,416	1,416
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	14,686	15,544	16,663	20,473	17,965	17,115	19,937	19,087
Capital Outlay-Real Property	26	95	59					
Total	50,353	53,731	53,608	63,094	58,582	57,730	63,801	64,734

Full-Time Equivalents

	238.7	234.7	251.7	263.6	246.1	238.0	267.4	267.4
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1000 - General

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	0	1,826	0	1,367	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriation	44,548	45,191	46,796	49,011	48,011	48,011	53,230	55,015
Net Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancellations	0	488	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	43,207	46,528	45,429	50,378	48,011	48,011	53,230	55,015
Balance Forward Out	1,341	0	1,367	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				6,072		215		12,438
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				7		0		13
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								12,223
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								13
Full-Time Equivalents	218.3	214.1	221.6	231.1	217.0	210.9	238.3	240.3

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	1,207	2,130	2,208	2,038	740	370	740	370
Receipts	3,083	3,196	3,502	3,216	3,305	3,305	3,305	3,305
Net Transfers	855	834	820	750	750	0	750	0
Expenditures	3,072	3,998	4,492	5,263	4,424	3,674	4,424	3,674
Balance Forward Out	2,074	2,162	2,038	740	370	0	370	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				2,685		(1,657)		(1,657)
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				38		(17)		(17)
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	6.9	7.0	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4

2403 - Gift

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	35	36	478	4,899	2,722	1,310	2,722	1,310
Receipts	0	445	4,552	3	3	3	3	3
Expenditures	0	2	131	2,181	1,415	1,313	1,415	1,313
Balance Forward Out	36	478	4,899	2,722	1,310	0	1,310	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				2,310		416		416

2403 - Gift

<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>		94,992		18		18
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>						0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>						0

3000 - Federal

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	1,055	1,384	980	1,140	400	200	400	200
Receipts	4,264	2,741	3,715	4,444	4,519	4,519	4,519	4,519
Expenditures	4,075	3,202	3,555	5,183	4,719	4,719	4,719	4,719
Balance Forward Out	1,244	924	1,140	400	200	0	200	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				1,461		700		700
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				20		8		8
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	13.5	13.6	23.6	25.8	22.7	20.7	22.7	20.7

6000 - Miscellaneous Agency

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	27	39	55	74	0	0	0	0
Receipts	13	16	18	16	13	13	13	13
Expenditures	0	0	0	90	13	13	13	13
Balance Forward Out	39	55	74	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				90		(64)		(64)
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>						(71)		(71)
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0

Supreme Court

FY18-19 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Maintain Core Justice Operations

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Fund				
Expenditures	2,263	4,048	4,048	4,048
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	2,263	4,048	4,048	4,048
FTEs	17.3	25.4	25.4	25.4

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends funding for this request from the Supreme Court.

The Judicial Branch seeks \$6,311,000 in the FY2018-19 biennium to increase the compensation of Supreme Court justices by 3.5% each year of the biennium, provide a 3.5% each year compensation pool for employees, and fund unavoidable health insurance premium increases and statutorily mandated employer pension contribution increases. The request represents a 9.0% increase in the Supreme Court biennial base budget.

Rationale/Background:

In order for the Judicial Branch to continue driving innovation in our court system and improve services to Minnesotans, the Judicial Branch needs to retain and attract skilled and knowledgeable employees and judges who can maintain and operate a modern, efficient, and technology-based court system. However, the Judicial Branch faces two significant challenges:

- Following a six year salary freeze, which made it possible to preserve essential court functions while managing difficult budget cuts and freezes between FY2008 and FY2013, the Judicial Branch has made concerted efforts to improve the competitiveness of the Judicial Branch salary structure. To ensure the salary structure supports a competent workforce, and to not fall below market in the future, the Branch must continue to keep pace with public-sector market competitors. Retaining a skilled and knowledgeable workforce is important to maintain a technology-based court. Minnesota judges rank in the bottom half nationally in judicial pay. Judges in some counties make significantly less than the county attorneys who appear before them, and, in some cases even less than the assistant county attorneys.
- The second workforce challenge is a significant retirement wave among both employees and judges. Nearly one-third of current Judicial Branch staff will be 65 years old or older in the next 10 years. In the last two years, 36 new judges have been appointed/elected to the Bench—11% of all judges in the state. By 2020, at least 37% of all judges that were on the Bench in 2015 will have either retired, or will have turned 65 years old.

This incredible loss of experience and talent is especially concerning when paired with a salary structure that must remain competitive for the Judicial Branch to compete for workers with the necessary skills.

The Supreme Court also request funding for unavoidable health insurance increases and statutorily mandated employer pension contribution increases. Health insurance premiums are estimated to increase by 8.9% in 2018 and 4.19% in 2019. The Judicial Branch does not negotiate its own insurance agreements – it participates in the general plan negotiated by Minnesota Management and Budget. The Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) will be seeking increases in the employer and employee contributions to the General Employees Retirement Plan which would result in a 1.5% increase in the Judicial Branch employer contribution. The Judicial Branch cannot absorb the increased insurance and pension contribution costs and would need to divert funding from court functions to pay for these increases without additional funding.

Proposal:

This change level request is not a new initiative. The Judicial Branch's FY2018-19 biennial budget request seeks funding to increase employee and judge salaries, which will help ensure that the Judicial Branch will be ready to respond to this retirement wave, while maintaining the caliber of workforce needed to continue driving innovation within the court system.

In addition, the request for funding unavoidable health insurance increases and the employer pension contribution increase will hold court services harmless from rising insurance costs for Judicial Branch judges and employees.

Equity and Inclusion:

- The change level request does not directly impact any Racial and Ethnic groups.
- The change level request is not aimed at reducing or eliminating any disparities for Racial and Ethnic groups.
- There are no potential positive or negative impacts on the identified groups.
- The change level request will enable the Judicial Branch to continue efforts to attract and retain skilled and knowledgeable employees and judges who can maintain and operate a modern, efficient, and technology-based court system. In FY17, the Branch implemented a formal pay-for-performance structure for unrepresented staff, which recognizes exemplary performance and serves as a performance accountability mechanism.

IT Related Proposals:

This request contains no information technology recommendation.

Results:

This request is sought to support the core mission and services of the Supreme Court and to allow the Court to continue to undertake initiatives designed to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve public services.

Minnesotans bring their most important and complex matters to the courts for resolution. Judges and staff work every day to help the people resolve these disputes. At the same time staff and judges are driving major innovation within the court system. Their innovations are improving service to the public and creating new efficiencies throughout the justice system. It is critically important that the Judicial Branch continue to retain and attract a workforce that builds on this innovation.

Statutory Change(s):

The request will not require statutory changes.

Supreme Court

FY18-19 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Information Security and Risk Management Program

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Fund				
Expenditures	984	984	984	984
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	984	984	984	984
FTEs	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends funding for this request from the Supreme Court.

The Judicial Branch seeks \$1,968,000 in the FY2018-19 biennium to fund the Information Security and Risk Management Program. The request represents a 2.8% increase in the Supreme Court biennial base budget.

Rationale/Background:

The Judicial Branch seeks to develop and maintain an information security effort that will mitigate the Branch's risk of major data breaches, data corruption, system outages, document/data loss, and cyber-attacks. The Judicial Branch recently transitioned to statewide electronic filing of court cases, electronic case records and online sharing of court records. This has resulted in increased dependence on the Branch's technology infrastructure. The Branch recognizes that as an organization's dependence on technology increases, there are ever increasing risks – major outages and cybersecurity incidents become more common and more costly. The strength and security of the Judicial Branch technology infrastructure is one of the Branch's highest priorities. The request addresses necessary staff, training, hardware, and software needs for this effort.

Proposal:

The Information Security and Risk Management Program is a new initiative. The request includes four staff people, hardware, software, training, and on-going security assessments and monitoring activities. The efforts of this initiative will focus on ensuring the security of the Judicial Branch network, ensuring that court applications remain available to judges and staff, and ensuring that non-public data remains secure. The Judicial Branch does not currently have the resources or equipment needed to accomplish this initiative.

1. Staff:
 - a. Information (IT) Security Officer/Security Architect, Manager.
 - b. 2 Security Analysts
 - c. Security Engineer
2. Training:
 - a. Technical – Training for software development, infrastructure, and security staff.
 - b. User – Security awareness training for all Branch staff and judicial officers.
3. Security Assessments and System Monitoring – Ongoing assessment of computing infrastructure to recognize improvements and identify new vulnerabilities; ongoing services to protect the Branch from cyber-attacks.

Equity and Inclusion:

- All Minnesotans are impacted by the proposed change item. Data breaches, data corruption, system outages, document/data loss, and cyber-attacks have a direct impact on the ability of Minnesotans to access the judicial system. Protection of Judicial Branch data and technology infrastructures is critical to the public trust and confidence placed in the Judicial Branch.
- The change item is a permanent addition to the Supreme Court and on-going funding will be included in the Branch base budget.

IT Related Proposals:

This initiative an information technology proposal.

Results:

The Judicial Branch will develop specific program performance measures as part of the Program implementation. The following measures will be considered:

- **Quantity:** Have adequate policies and procedures been developed and are court staff and judicial officers sufficiently trained?
- **Quality:** Are all technology systems adequately secure?
- **Result:** The risk of data breaches, data corruption, system outages, document/data loss, and cyber-attacks is minimal.

Statutory Change(s):

The request will not require statutory changes.

Supreme Court

FY18-19 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Civil Legal Services

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Fund				
Expenditures	1,972	1,972	1,972	1,972
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	1,972	1,972	1,972	1,972
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends funding this request from Civil Legal Services submitted through the Supreme Court.

Civil Legal Services (CLS), a core function of the justice system, requests an increase of \$1,972,000 in each year of the 2018-2019 biennium. This increase will continue the improvement of legal outcomes and enhance services to Minnesotans who have low incomes or disabilities, or are elderly, and who need civil legal help to meet their basic human needs. Some of the increase will be used for compensation enhancement for CLS attorneys, whose salaries are significantly less than their other public sector counterparts, and to defray the network's increases in health insurance costs. The request is a 15% increase to CLS base funding. CLS programs total budget, including the appropriation is \$37,790,859. The requested increase would be 5.2% of all CLS funding.

Rationale/Background:

CLS opens the doors of the justice system to the most vulnerable in our community. It helps victims of domestic violence achieve safety, prevents homelessness due to improper eviction and foreclosure, and maximizes the ability of people who are elderly or have disabilities to live safely and independently in their community. CLS also increases efficiency in the justice system by redirecting cases that are without merit or can be resolved in another manner, and by ensuring efficient use of the courts when CLS clients come before a judge. CLS increases public access to easily understood legal resources by developing, and continuously expanding, the website www.LawHelpMN.org. In addition, the return on investment (ROI) in CLS is high. The new Economic Impact Study conducted by the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition demonstrates a \$3.30 ROI in CLS, with CLS generating \$112 million for Minnesota in 2014.

However, Minnesota faces a wide and persistent justice gap – the difference between the necessary civil legal help to meet critical human needs and the CLS resources available. In 2009, CLS met the legal need for only one of every two eligible clients seeking services. This justice gap grew during the recession, and in 2016, CLS still only meets the need for 2 of every 5. Increased general fund support will help continue to narrow the justice gap by enabling CLS to enhance its service capacity, helping more vulnerable Minnesotans to meet their basic human needs.

Proposal:

The funding requested will support the existing CLS program which provides legal help to vulnerable Minnesotans in all 87 counties. From 2013 to 2015, CLS doubled the number of its clients who are victims of domestic violence who achieved safety; increased by almost 1/3 the number of clients faced with foreclosure or eviction who remained housed, and also increased by 1/3 the number of people obtaining education and self-help resources about legal rights and responsibilities through technological innovation. The intended result of the requested increase is additional improved outcomes for Minnesotans with low incomes needing legal representation or advice to meet their need for safety, shelter, food, health care and basic income. CLS partners with the courts, the public libraries, domestic violence shelters, social service systems, and volunteers to achieve these results. Because the CLS infrastructure already exists throughout the state, continued enhancement of services will be possible as the additional funds are distributed by the Supreme Court to CLS. Increased access to justice to meet basic needs

will take place for Minnesotans who have low incomes or disabilities, or are elderly, without the need to create new systems or steps.

- \$825,102 of the request will go to salary improvement. This request will enable a 4 percent increase in salaries. It would bring the average starting CLS attorney's salary of \$46,000 up to approximately 87% of the current public defender starting salary.
- \$465,442 of the request will go to offset an average anticipated increase in health insurance and other benefits costs of 8%.
- \$681,206 will be used to mitigate losses in funding due to realigned priorities by foundations, the United Ways, and federal government grantors; and to make service delivery more efficient and effective with improved technology, use of interpreters, and expanded outreach into underserved communities.

Equity and Inclusion:

CLS provides improves access to justice and access to the justice system for people of color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, and veterans. These groups are disproportionately people with low incomes and therefore qualify for CLS services. While most CLS providers serve all of these populations and do outreach targeted to these populations, CLS has specific programs to address the unique legal needs of people with disabilities and LGBT people.

In 2015, 51% of clients served by CLS were non-white (28% Black, 12% Hispanic, 4% Native American, 4% Asian, and 3% other).

Equity and Inclusion efforts are sustainable because equity is a core value of CLS and central to our mission.

IT Related Proposals:

This request contains no information technology recommendation.

Results:

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Percentage of families and individuals served who successfully resolved critical legal problems.	89% of 48,043	89% of 46,881	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of children and women who are victims of domestic violence who achieved safety.	1,965	3,910	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of families and individuals faced with foreclosure or eviction who remained housed.	3,252	4,211	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of seniors and people with disabilities who continue to live safely and independently in the community.	3,587	3,500	2013 and 2015
Quantity	Number of people obtaining education and self-help resources about legal rights and responsibilities through technological innovation.	350,381	448,842	2013 and 2015

Statutory Change(s):

The request will not require statutory changes.

Program: Supreme Court Operations

www.mncourts.gov/

AT A GLANCE

- In 2015, 143 direct appeals and 615 petitions for further review were filed with the Supreme Court.
- The Chief Justice is the administrative head of the Judicial Branch, which includes 316 justices and judges and 2,500 employees.
- The Supreme Court publicly disciplined 65 Minnesota lawyers in 2015.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Minnesota, serving as the final guardian of the Minnesota Constitution and interpreting/applying the United States Constitution.

The Supreme Court is solely responsible for the regulation of the practice of law and for judicial and lawyer discipline.

The mission of the Judicial Branch is *“To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.”* The Supreme Court conducts its adjudicative and administrative functions in support of three strategic goals to deliver its mission and to support the statewide outcome of strong families and communities:

1. Access to Justice – Ensuring the justice system is open, affordable, effective and accountable to the people it serves.
2. Administration of Justice for Effective Results – Working across branches of government and with other justice system stakeholders to improve outcomes for and the delivery of services for children, families, and alcohol and other addicted offenders who come to its courts.
3. Public Trust, Accountability, and Impartiality – Through education, outreach to diverse communities and a commitment to effective and efficient customer service and accountability, improving citizens’ understanding of and confidence in the Third Branch of government.

The Supreme Court serves all Minnesota citizens. The administrative and adjudicative functions of the Supreme Court support the following statewide outcomes:

- Strong and stable families and communities;
- People in Minnesota are safe; and
- Efficient and accountable government services.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Minnesota Supreme Court considers appeals from judgments from the Court of Appeals, the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals, and the Tax Court. It hears special term matters, motions, and petitions for extraordinary relief. The Supreme Court also hears mandatory cases, including first degree murder convictions and election contests. The Court promulgates rules of practice and procedure for the legal system in the state.

The Chief Justice is responsible for supervising administrative operations of the state court system. The Chief Justice serves as the chair of the Judicial Council, the policy making body for the Judicial Branch.

The Chief Justice is assisted by the State Court Administrator’s Office, which provides the administrative infrastructure for the Judicial Branch. The State Court Administrator’s Office is responsible for providing Judicial Branch finance, human resources, technology, education, communications, research/evaluation, caseload management and cross-district judicial assignments.

RESULTS

It is the policy of the Minnesota Judicial Branch to establish core performance goals and to monitor key results that measure progress toward meeting these goals in order to ensure accountability of the Branch, improve overall operations of the court and

enhance the public’s trust and confidence in the Judiciary. Throughout the year the Supreme Court reviews performance measure results. This review is shared with the Judicial Council (the Branch’s governing body) twice a year.

The Supreme Court adopted revised timing objectives in January, 2015 that were effective April 1, 2015. The new timing objectives identify the Court’s performance based on case type: Mandatory/Original Cases (e.g. First Degree Murder cases and Election Contests); Discretionary Cases (e.g. appeals from judgments from the Court of Appeals, the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals, and the Tax Court); and Expedited Cases (Appeals in termination of parental rights and adoption cases).

There is no historic information available to compare the Supreme Court’s performance to past years because of the new timing objectives.

Type of Measure	Name of Measure	Total Cases	Current	Dates
Results	<i>Mandatory/Original Cases</i> Ninety five percent of the cases will be disposed of within 180 days of submission to the Supreme Court.	30	88%	2015
Results	<i>Discretionary Cases</i> Ninety five percent of petitions for further review should be disposed of within sixty days of the filing of the request for review.	479	96%	2015
Results	<i>Expedited Cases</i> Ninety five percent of expedited appeals (termination of parental rights, adoptions) should be disposed of within 25 days of filing the appeal.	25	100%	2015

Data are from the *Judicial Branch 2015 Performance Measures – Key Results and Measures Annual Report*. The report can be found at www.mncourts.gov/.

The Minnesota State Constitution, Article VI, provides the legal authority for the Supreme Court. M.S. 2.724 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=2.724> provides the legal authority for the chief justice’s administrative responsibilities. M.S. 480.05 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.05> provides legal authority for the Supreme Court’s rule making authority. M.S. 480.13-.17 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480> provides legal authority for the position and duties of the state court administrator.

Expenditures By Fund

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1000 - General	30,941	34,254	32,284	37,233	34,866	34,866	38,113	39,898
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	1,180	2,104	2,465	3,049	2,224	1,474	2,224	1,474
2403 - Gift	0	2	131	2,181	1,415	1,313	1,415	1,313
3000 - Federal	4,075	3,202	3,555	5,183	4,719	4,719	4,719	4,719
6000 - Miscellaneous Agency	0	0	0	90	13	13	13	13
Total	36,196	39,562	38,436	47,736	43,237	42,385	46,484	47,417
<i>Biennial Change</i>				10,413		(549)		7,730
<i>Biennial % Change</i>				14		(1)		9
<i>Governor's Change from Base</i>								8,279
<i>Governor's % Change from Base</i>								10

Expenditures by Budget Activity

Budget Activity: Supreme Court Operations	6,820	6,752	6,506	9,474	8,446	8,344	10,709	12,392
Budget Activity: State Court Administration	27,256	30,225	29,730	35,927	32,494	31,744	33,478	32,728
Budget Activity: Law Library Operations	2,121	2,586	2,200	2,335	2,298	2,298	2,298	2,298
Total	36,196	39,562	38,436	47,736	43,237	42,385	46,484	47,417

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	23,055	24,594	27,285	29,586	29,417	29,417	32,135	33,920
Operating Expenses	11,708	11,633	8,659	11,300	9,634	9,632	10,163	10,161
Other Financial Transactions	748	1,730	807	1,586	1,416	1,416	1,416	1,416
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	660	1,510	1,625	5,264	2,770	1,920	2,770	1,920
Capital Outlay-Real Property	26	95	59	0	0	0	0	0
Total	36,196	39,562	38,436	47,736	43,237	42,385	46,484	47,417

<u>Full-Time Equivalent</u>	237.7	233.7	250.7	262.6	245.1	237.0	266.4	266.4
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1000 - General

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	0	1,817	0	1,367	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriation	32,282	32,925	33,651	35,866	34,866	34,866	38,113	39,898
Net Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancellations	0	488	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	30,941	34,254	32,284	37,233	34,866	34,866	38,113	39,898
Balance Forward Out	1,341	0	1,367	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				4,323		215		8,494
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				7		0		12
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								8,279
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								12
Full-Time Equivalents	218.3	214.1	221.6	231.1	217.0	210.9	238.3	240.3

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	770	1,601	1,589	1,424	340	170	340	170
Receipts	1,115	1,226	1,480	1,216	1,305	1,305	1,305	1,305
Net Transfers	855	834	820	750	750	0	750	0
Expenditures	1,180	2,104	2,465	3,049	2,224	1,474	2,224	1,474
Balance Forward Out	1,559	1,558	1,424	340	170	0	170	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				2,230		(1,816)		(1,816)
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				68		(33)		(33)
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	5.9	6.0	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4

2403 - Gift

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	35	36	478	4,899	2,722	1,310	2,722	1,310
Receipts	0	445	4,552	3	3	3	3	3
Expenditures	0	2	131	2,181	1,415	1,313	1,415	1,313
Balance Forward Out	36	478	4,899	2,722	1,310	0	1,310	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				2,310		416		416
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				94,992		18		18

2403 - Gift

Gov's Exp Change from Base				0
Gov's Exp % Change from Base				0

3000 - Federal

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	1,055	1,384	980	1,140	400	200	400	200
Receipts	4,264	2,741	3,715	4,444	4,519	4,519	4,519	4,519
Expenditures	4,075	3,202	3,555	5,183	4,719	4,719	4,719	4,719
Balance Forward Out	1,244	924	1,140	400	200	0	200	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				1,461		700		700
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				20		8		8
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	13.5	13.6	23.6	25.8	22.7	20.7	22.7	20.7

6000 - Miscellaneous Agency

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	27	39	55	74	0	0	0	0
Receipts	13	16	18	16	13	13	13	13
Expenditures	0	0	0	90	13	13	13	13
Balance Forward Out	39	55	74	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				90		(64)		(64)
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>						(71)		(71)
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0

Program: Civil and Family Legal Services

www.mncourts.gov/

AT A GLANCE

- In 2015, Civil Legal Services served 46,881 households consisting of more than 115,000 people throughout all 87 Minnesota counties.
- There is one Civil Legal Services attorney for every 3,437 eligible clients, compared with one practicing attorney for every 363 Minnesotans.
- Eighteen percent (18%) of clients represented are seniors, 24% are people with disabilities, and 65% are women.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The statewide civil legal services network (CLS) is a core function of the justice system. It ensures access to justice for vulnerable Minnesotans and increases efficiency in the justice system. CLS focuses on resolving civil legal matters that directly affect the basic human needs for safety, shelter and household sustenance. All CLS clients have low incomes, disabilities, or are elderly. Network innovations to increase efficiency include expanded public access to services through technology, controlled cost through shared service coordination, and leveraging of volunteer resources.

The Supreme Court administers CLS funding. There are three sources of Court-administered funding: general fund, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts and attorney registration fees. The Court administers these funds through its Legal Services Advisory Committee. By statute, 85% of the general fund support is distributed on a poverty population basis to the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, six regional CLS organizations that provide a full range of civil legal help in all 87 counties. The remaining 15% of general fund support is awarded on a competitive basis to CLS organizations. CLS also receives funding from federal and local government grants, foundations, the United Way, law firms, corporations, and individual private donors.

SERVICES PROVIDED

CLS opens the doors of the justice system to the most vulnerable in our community. It creates strong and stable families and communities by helping people find solutions to civil legal disputes. In 2015, CLS provided legal representation and advice to 46,881 families and individuals. Additionally, CLS provided education and self-help services to nearly 449,000 Minnesotans. CLS attorneys and advocates work from offices throughout the state, giving direct service to people in all 87 Minnesota counties. CLS also developed, and is continuously expanding, a public internet resource, www.LawHelpMN.org. This website has dozens of self-help resources including easy-to-use legal forms, and is used by the court system, public libraries, and social service agencies as well as the general public.

CLS priorities are: helping victims of domestic violence achieve safety; preventing homelessness due to improper eviction or foreclosure; protecting vulnerable Minnesotans from financial exploitation; and maximizing the ability of people who are elderly or have disabilities to live safely and independently in their community. An essential part of the state's domestic violence intervention system, CLS gives legal help to women and children served by the state's network of domestic violence shelters and support programs. CLS has a similar relationship with social service systems that address homelessness or independent living for seniors or people with disabilities. The CLS partnership with the justice system is also critical. CLS creates efficiencies in the justice system by redirecting cases that are without merit or can be resolved in another manner, and by ensuring efficient use of the courts when CLS clients come before a judge. CLS also creates efficiency by providing essential infrastructure to leverage and support volunteer attorneys through training, mentoring, www.ProJusticeMN.org, and a new volunteer program Minnesota Legal Advice Online (MLAO).

In 2009, CLS met the legal need for one of every two eligible clients seeking services. By 2012, the gap had grown, and CLS met the need for only one of every three eligible clients seeking help. This gap persisted through 2014. In 2015, CLS narrowed this gap slightly by meeting the legal need for almost two of every five eligible clients seeking services. CLS still lags behind the 2009 level of service. CLS seeks to narrow the gap by increasing service capacity. CLS will also continue to create efficiencies through technological innovations, coordination, and leveraging volunteers.

RESULTS

Type of Measure	Name of Measure	Previous	Current	Dates
Results	Percentage of families and individuals served who successfully resolved critical legal problems.	89% of 48,043	89% of 46,881	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of children and women who are victims of domestic violence who achieved safety.	1,965	3,910	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of families and individuals faced with foreclosure or eviction who remained housed.	3,252	4,211	2013 and 2015
Results	Number of seniors and people with disabilities who continue to live safely and independently in the community.	3,587	3,500	2013 and 2015
Quantity	Number of people obtaining education and self-help resources about legal rights and responsibilities through technological innovation.	350,381	448,842	2013 and 2015

M.S. 480.24 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.24> to 480.244 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.244> provides the legal authority for Civil and Family Legal Services.

Expenditures By Fund

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1000 - General	12,266	12,275	13,145	13,145	13,145	13,145	15,117	15,117
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	1,891	1,895	2,027	2,214	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Total	14,157	14,169	15,172	15,359	15,345	15,345	17,317	17,317
<i>Biennial Change</i>				2,204		159		4,103
<i>Biennial % Change</i>				8		1		13
<i>Governor's Change from Base</i>								3,944
<i>Governor's % Change from Base</i>								13

Expenditures by Budget Activity

Budget Activity: Legal Services	14,157	14,169	15,172	15,359	15,345	15,345	17,317	17,317
Total	14,157	14,169	15,172	15,359	15,345	15,345	17,317	17,317

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	98	107	108	115	115	115	115	115
Operating Expenses	33	28	26	35	35	35	35	35
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	14,026	14,035	15,038	15,209	15,195	15,195	17,167	17,167
Total	14,157	14,169	15,172	15,359	15,345	15,345	17,317	17,317

Full-Time Equivalents

	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
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1000 - General

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriation	12,266	12,266	13,145	13,145	13,145	13,145	15,117	15,117
Cancellations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	12,266	12,275	13,145	13,145	13,145	13,145	15,117	15,117
Balance Forward Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				1,749		0		3,944
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				7		0		15
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								3,944
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								15

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	438	529	619	614	400	200	400	200
Receipts	1,968	1,970	2,022	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Expenditures	1,891	1,895	2,027	2,214	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Balance Forward Out	514	605	614	400	200	0	200	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				455		159		159
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				12		4		4
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

FY 2018-19 Federal Funds Summary

Federal Agency and CFDA #	Federal Award Name and Brief Purpose	New Grant	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Budget	FY2018 Base	FY2019 Base	Required State Match or MOE?	FTEs
Dept. of Justice 16.588 (Funds pass through the Dept. of Public Safety)	Point of Contact Position Federal funds to support a position advising the SCAO on topics of domestic and sexual violence. Funds pass through the Dept. of Public Safety for distribution.	No	263	235	235	235	Yes	1.50
	Budget Activity Total: Supreme Court Operations		263	235	235	235		1.50
Dept. of Health & Human Services 93.586	Court Improvement Program Expenditures for the Children Justice Initiative Grant. These grants are awarded to the state from the Federal Department of Human Services Administration for Children and Families.	No	358	550	550	550	No	1.72
Dept. of Justice N/A	State Justice Institute – Technology Enhanced Learning Expenditures for SJI grants which are awarded to improve the quality of State Courts. These are either project grants or technical assistance grants. Project grants are intended to support innovative education and training projects that will improve the administration of justice in the courts. Technical assistance grants provide State and local courts with funding to diagnose problems and implement needed change.	No	30	0	0	0	N/A	0
	Budget Activity: State Court Administration		3,452	4,209	4,284	4,284		22.35
	Program Total: Supreme Court Operations		3,715	4,444	4,519	4,519		23.85
	Federal Fund – Agency Total		3,715	4,444	4,519	4,519		23.85

Narrative:

Please provide a brief narrative overview of all the agency's federal funds to give a general overview of the role of the federal funds within the agency. The narrative should be written in plain language, and should be approximately a half page in length. Please also include the following information, where applicable:

- Maintenance of effort levels (MOE)
- Changing funding levels or trends that may impact future awards
- Major state funding related to federal awards
- Basis for award estimates.

In FY18 and FY19 the Supreme Court will continue to receive federal funding for Child Support and the Court Improvement Program. The Order for Protection database grant ended in FY14 and was replaced by the Stop Violence Against Women Act for a Point of Contact position grant. This grant has a state match of approximately 30%. The Expedited Child Support Program funds magistrates, personnel, and operating costs. The Expedited Child Support Program receives federal reimbursement at a rate of 66% for eligible expenditures, so less spending with state appropriated dollars would result in a proportionate decrease in federal reimbursement. The Court Improvement Program improves the processing of child protection cases and the outcomes for abused and neglected children. Estimates were based on past funding. Grants that will be ending did not include revenue projected past the end date.