



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
PATRICK L. CARROLL III
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

231 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106

Judge Patrick L. Carroll III
Chief Court Administrator
Appropriations Committee Meeting
February 19, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Patrick L. Carroll III and I serve as Chief Court Administrator. I am pleased to have the opportunity to come before the Committee this afternoon to speak to you about the Judicial Branch's budget for FY15.

I was appointed as Chief Court Administrator by Chief Justice Chase Rogers on October 1, 2013, so this is my first opportunity to come before you in this capacity. I succeeded Judge Barbara Quinn, who elected senior status on that date. Judge Quinn had served as Chief Court Administrator since November of 2007 and I had the pleasure of serving as her deputy during those years. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Judge Elliott Solomon who is serving as Deputy Chief Court Administrator.

Let me begin by assuring you that Judge Quinn and I worked hand in hand over the past 7 years and we shared a commitment to working cooperatively with the Legislative and Executive Branches on issues of mutual importance and concern, i.e. Raise the Age and prison overcrowding reduction. That commitment remains firm as we move forward.

I also want to thank you for the recognition that the Legislature has shown us as a co-equal branch of Government, recognizing that we are not an Executive Branch agency. Although the Judicial Branch is large by the standard of most entities in state government with a budget of well-over \$500 million and about 4000 employees, we are quite small with respect to the overall state general fund budget, barely 3%. We provide services to the public throughout the state, operating in more than 70 locations with 44 courthouses.

The traditional role of the courts has expanded greatly over time. Adjudicating cases, while always our primary responsibility, is only one of the services we provide. We are responsible for juvenile and adult probation, juvenile detention, support enforcement and victim services. It's an astounding statistic, but fully 45% of our budget consists of staff and services that are associated with the Court Support Services Division.

We are most grateful for your support in changing the way our budget is submitted and how rescissions that may be required are implemented; these measures have been extremely helpful to the Judicial Branch. Of course, these changes have in no way absolved the Branch from doing its fair share with respect to budget austerity and required savings. We are committed to living within our means. We have sustained reductions through the appropriations and mitigation processes equal to what we would have previously. However, we now have confidence that our budget requests are viewed by the Legislature as submitted by us and that any required budget rescissions are apportioned by the Branch in ways that best assure we can continue to meet our statutory and constitutional responsibilities and keep intact legislative priorities.

We are more than halfway through the FY14 budget year and heading into the second year of the current biennium. The Branch did not request additional funds for FY15 beyond those already approved last year. Our FY14 and FY15 budgets, as adopted, are not generous, nor did we expect them to be, but they are largely sufficient to permit us to maintain existing operations and address some longstanding deficiencies in critical areas such as courthouse security, courtroom support and the reduction of overtime costs in juvenile detention centers and adult lock-ups.

The increases in the Branch's General Fund budget from FY14 to FY15, as already adopted, are almost entirely the result of the annualizing FY14 collective bargaining salary increases, funding for already negotiated FY15 increases, and the award of similar salary adjustments to other, non-represented employees. Fully three-quarters of the Branch's workforce, some 3,300 employees, are members of one of our four unions.

The FY15 budget also provides continued pass-through funding from the Branch to a number of organizations as directed by the Legislature, including the Probate Courts, the CT Bar Foundation, and the cities of Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven for a Youth Violence Initiative, among others.

If the Branch's FY15 budget remains as adopted, we can fulfill our obligations. Our main concern, however, is that if the recommendations pursuant to two sections of Public Act 13-214 are adopted, we will need additional funding.

Section 19 of the Act required that the Judicial Branch develop a plan to permit temporary financial support to be a component of the relief available to an applicant for a restraining order. We have submitted the plan to the Legislature as directed. We estimate that the new cost to the Branch to implement its components would be approximately \$350,000.

Section 21 of Public Act 13-214 established a task force to identify changes needed to permit victims of certain crimes, including sexual assault and stalking to obtain a civil restraining order against the offender. The task force has made its recommendations, and we estimate the cost to implement this initiative to be \$1.425 million. The two most significant components of our estimate are the need for an additional 10 Victim Advocates at a projected cost of \$690,000 and more than \$500,000 in fees to be paid to State Marshals for service of process and service confirmation.

As the Legislature considers whether to implement these initiatives, we remain available to answer any questions and to assist.

Thank you for this opportunity and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Basic Facts About the Judicial Branch

COURTS: Supreme Court, Appellate Court, Superior Court

METHOD OF APPOINTMENT: Nomination by the Governor from list compiled by Judicial Selection Commission; appointment/reappointment by the General Assembly.

TERM OF OFFICE: Eight years

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
	\$481,961,021	\$474,932,214

NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS: 201 including the justices of the Supreme Court, and the judges of the Appellate and Superior Courts

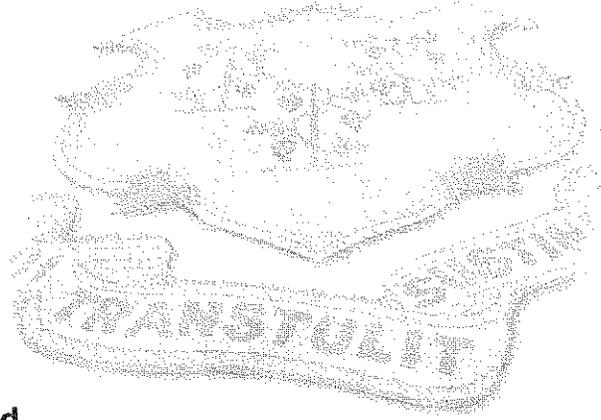
Permanent full-time General Fund employment positions authorized (including judges) for FY 14: 4,316

Summary of Total Cases Filed For the Superior Court Division

		FY 11-12	FY 12-13
Criminal	Judicial Districts	3,266	3,228
	Geographical Areas	105,882	102,196
	Total Criminal	109,148	105,424
Motor Vehicle		184,705	174,715
Civil		65,606	60,529
Small Claims (housing and nonhousing)		50,023	45,375
Family		34,061	32,987
Juvenile	Delinquency	10,386	12,320
	Families With Service Needs	3,149	3,449
	Youth in Crisis	450	0
	Child Protection	8,187	8,224
	Total Juvenile	22,172	23,993
Housing		16,663	17,259
TOTAL CASES ADDED		482,378	460,282

TOTAL CASES FILED DURING FY 2013

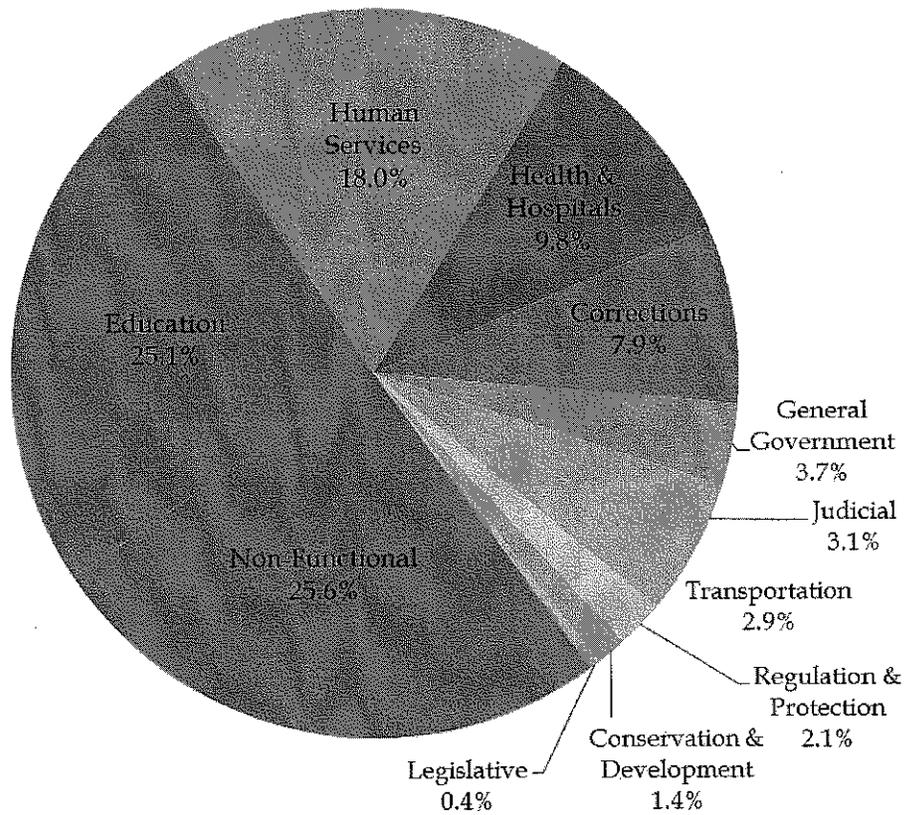
Supreme Court Cases Filed: 152
 Appellate Court Cases Filed: 1,122
 Superior Court Cases Filed: 460,282



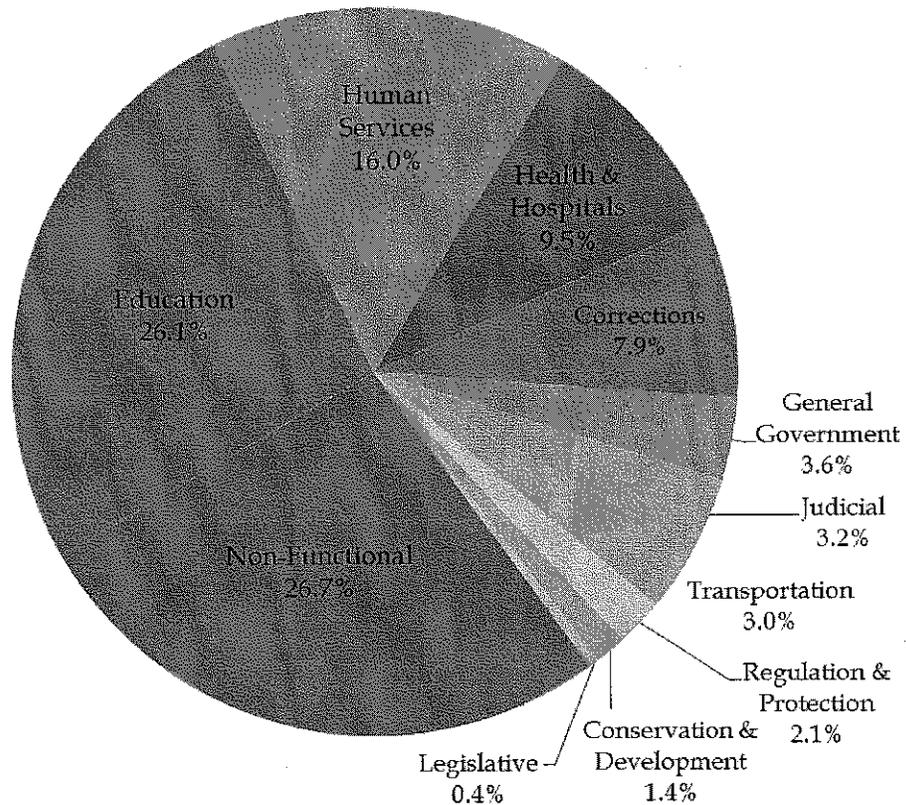
Summary of Total Superior Court Cases Disposed

		FY 11-12	FY 12-13
Criminal	Judicial Districts	3,386	2,994
	Geographical Areas	108,734	N/A
	Total Criminal	112,120	N/A
Motor Vehicle		189,810	N/A
Civil		70,412	67,777
Small Claims (housing and nonhousing)		51,269	48,996
Family		34,303	33,911
Juvenile	Delinquency	10,922	11,825
	Families With Service Needs	3,230	3,379
	Youth in Crisis	481	93
	Child Protection	9,029	8,526
	Total Juvenile	23,662	23,823
Housing		16,778	17,230
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED		498,354	N/A
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED BY PAYMENT			
Through Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB)		178,558	171,477
TOTAL CASES DISPOSED			
Superior Court and CIB		676,912	N/A

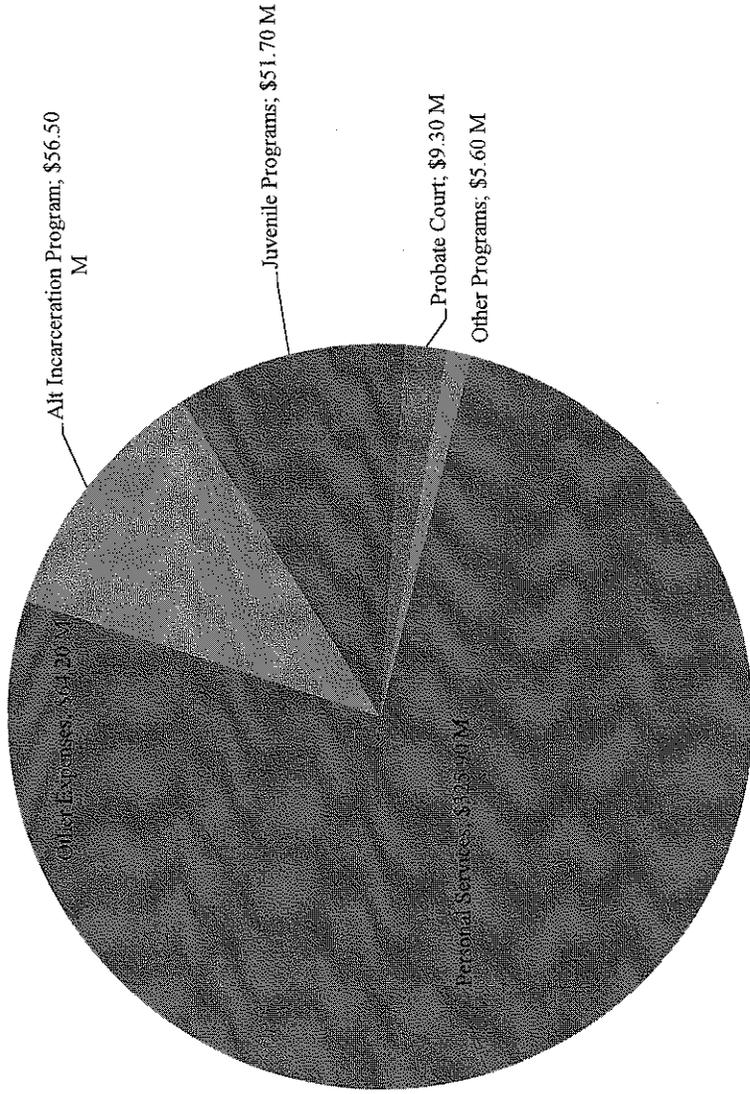
FY 14 All Appropriated Funds
(by function of government)



FY 15 All Appropriated Funds
(by function of government)



FY 14 Judicial Branch Budgeted Expenditures



(Total FY 14 Budgeted Expenditures \$513 M)