

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2013

Volume IV – Public Safety, Natural Resources
and Transportation

Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor

Agency

Judicial Department - Constitution

Agency Mission

In our mission to administer justice while maintaining our independence, we are duty bound to act with unfailing honor to serve and protect the ideals of democracy for the citizens of this state.

Agency Description

Rhode Island has a unified court system composed of six statewide courts. The Supreme Court is the court of review, the Superior Court is the general trial court, and the Family, District, Traffic Tribunal, and Workers' Compensation Courts are trial courts of special jurisdiction.

The entire system in Rhode Island is state-funded with the exception of probate courts, which are the responsibility of cities and towns, and the municipal courts, which are local courts of limited jurisdiction. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the executive head of the state court system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints the State Court Administrator and an administrative staff to handle budgetary and general administrative functions. Under the direction of the Chief Justice, the Court Administrator has control of judicial appropriations for all state courts, except those as provided otherwise by law. Each court has responsibility over its own operations and has a chief judge who appoints an administrator to handle internal court management.

The state budget officer's duties and powers relating to budgetary controls and personnel requests of the judicial department are purely ministerial, concerned only with the availability of the funds. Itemized estimates of the financial needs of the Judiciary are submitted, without revision, by the budget officer to the Governor on or before October 1 for inclusion in the budget. In turn the Governor includes in the budget recommendation to the General Assembly the financial needs of the Judiciary without revision.

Statutory History

The Judicial is one of the three branches of government defined in the Rhode Island Constitution. The powers and jurisdictions of the six courts are identified in the Rhode Island General Laws as follows: Title 8 Chapter 1, Supreme Court; Title 8 Chapter 2, Superior Court; Title 8 Chapter 8, District Court; Title 8 Chapter 10, Family Court; Title 8 Chapter 8.2, Traffic Tribunal; and Title 28 Chapter 30, Workers' Compensation Court.

The budgetary and finance controls of the Judiciary are identified in the Rhode Island General Laws as follows: Title 8 Section 8-15-4, Appointment of Court Administrator and Assistants; Title 35 Section 35-3-1, Budget Officer – General Powers and Duties; Title 36 Section 36-4-2.1, Exemption from Merit System; Title 36 Section 36-4-16.4, Salaries of Directors, Judges, and Workers' Compensation Judges; Title 36 Section 36-6-1, Controller – Duties in General; and Title 37 Section 37-8-1, State House – State Office Building – Courthouses.

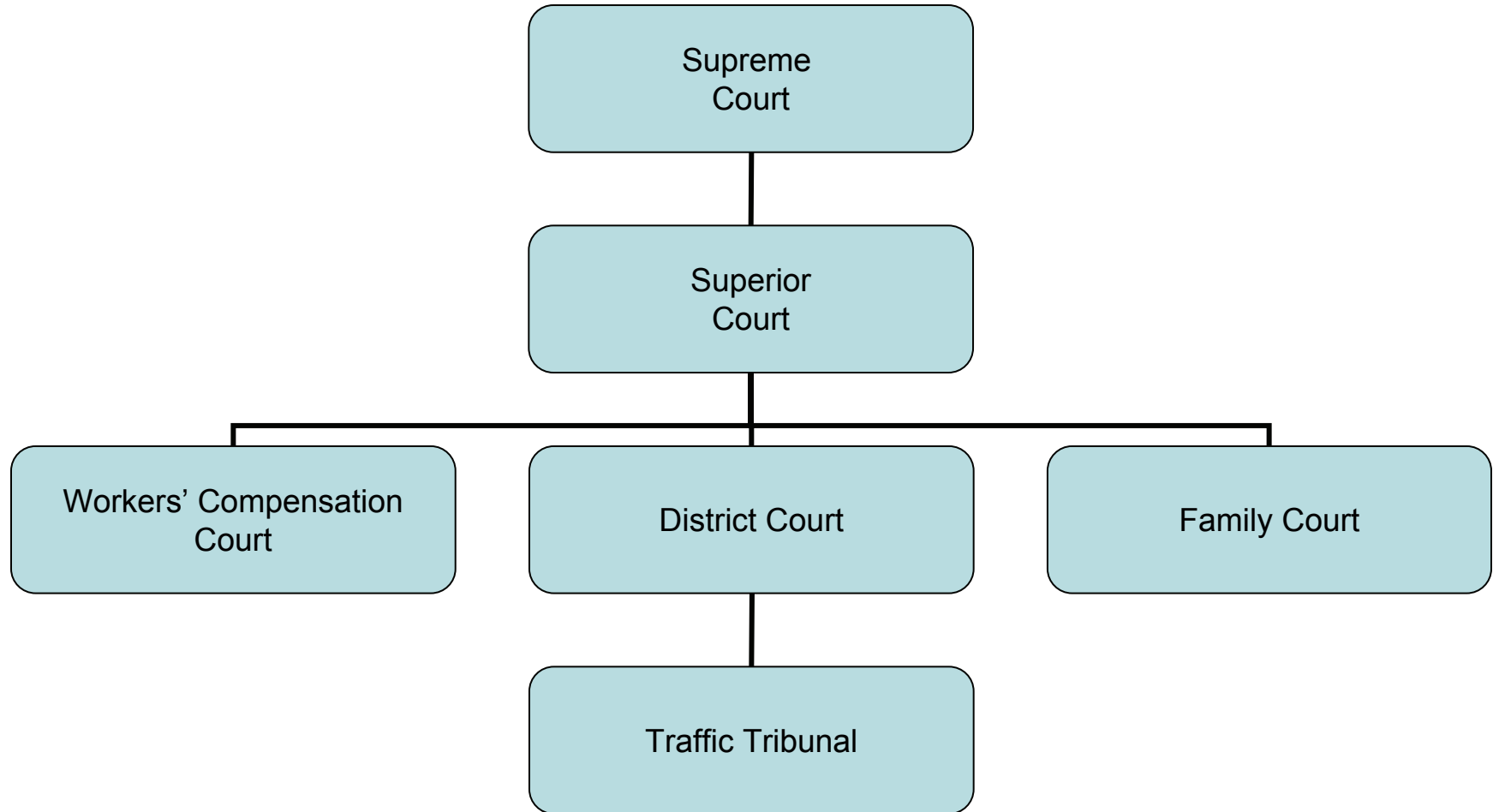
Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution

	FY 2010 Audited	FY 2011 Audited	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2012 Revised	FY 2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Program					
Supreme Court	29,971,231	31,263,806	32,689,351	33,093,591	33,077,587
Superior Court	19,625,856	20,851,178	21,437,191	22,243,520	22,538,980
Family Court	17,881,700	19,136,922	20,817,192	20,581,320	21,205,406
District Court	10,134,816	10,961,933	11,386,765	11,729,519	11,924,611
Traffic Tribunal	7,368,034	7,572,756	7,752,175	8,093,404	8,239,888
Worker's Compensation Court	6,837,669	7,273,592	7,754,978	7,713,469	8,215,324
Judicial Tenure & Discipline	106,404	106,076	111,282	113,369	113,609
Total Expenditures	\$91,925,710	\$97,166,263	\$101,948,934	\$103,568,192	\$105,315,405
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	70,462,692	74,100,105	77,860,399	80,634,832	81,626,075
Operating Supplies and Expenses	9,906,734	10,142,041	11,006,531	10,339,414	10,677,591
Assistance and Grants	9,831,630	10,391,610	11,146,198	10,558,386	10,536,502
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	90,201,056	94,633,756	100,013,128	101,532,632	102,840,168
Capital Purchases and Equipment	1,724,654	2,532,507	1,935,806	2,035,560	2,475,237
Total Expenditures	\$91,925,710	\$97,166,263	\$101,948,934	\$103,568,192	\$105,315,405
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	78,865,431	84,300,614	87,073,983	88,709,899	89,554,264
Federal Funds	2,830,983	2,555,921	3,576,588	3,079,400	2,746,273
Restricted Receipts	8,843,617	9,480,024	10,198,363	10,657,810	11,339,868
Operating Transfers from Other Funds	1,385,679	829,704	1,100,000	1,121,083	1,675,000
Total Expenditures	\$91,925,710	\$97,166,263	\$101,948,934	\$103,568,192	\$105,315,405
FTE Authorization	699.7	723.3	723.3	723.3	723.3
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	9.7%	9.9%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	67.0%	66.0%	67.0%	67.0%	67.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	0.7%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%

The Agency

Judicial Department



Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Agency Summary

	FY 2012		FY 2013	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Distribution by Category				
Unclassified	723.3	52,049,932	723.3	52,071,995
Overtime	-	420,062	-	420,062
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days	-	29,158	-	-
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days	-	38,003	-	-
Turnover	-	(2,240,743)	-	(1,818,057)
Total Salaries	723.3	\$50,296,412	723.3	\$50,674,000
Benefits				
Defined Contribution Plan	-	-	-	408,179
FICA	-	3,472,981	-	3,500,964
Medical	-	7,472,696	-	8,427,552
Payroll Accrual	-	-	-	201,015
Retiree Health	-	3,465,229	-	3,498,131
Retirement	-	10,996,580	-	10,475,841
Total Salaries and Benefits	723.3	\$75,703,898	723.3	\$77,185,682
Cost Per FTE Position		\$104,665		\$106,713
Statewide Benefit Assessment	-	1,867,842	-	1,884,518
Payroll Costs	723.3	\$77,571,740	723.3	\$79,070,200
Purchased Services				
Building and Grounds Maintenance	-	3,312	-	3,312
Clerical and Temporary Services	-	1,068,437	-	965,069
Information Technology	-	891,945	-	609,945
Legal Services	-	435,417	-	435,417
Management and Consultant Services	-	189,950	-	140,203
Medical Services	-	12,000	-	12,000
Other Contract Services	-	412,031	-	379,929
Training and Educational Services	-	50,000	-	10,000
Total Personnel	723.3	\$80,634,832	723.3	\$81,626,075
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	631.1	69,128,935	631.1	70,202,420
Federal Funds	17.6	2,489,041	17.6	2,309,349
Restricted Receipts	74.6	9,016,856	74.6	9,114,306

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Agency Summary

	FY 2012		FY 2013	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Total All Funds	723.3	\$80,634,832	723.3	\$81,626,075

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Supreme Court

Program Mission

Provide timely review of all decisions appealed from the state courts.

Provide overall administrative direction to the state courts.

Regulate the admission of attorneys to the Rhode Island Bar.

Program Description

The Supreme Court Program includes the budget for the Supreme Court itself, the Administrative Office of State Courts, and the Law Library.

The Court portion of the budget covers the justices, their secretarial and legal staff, the law clerk program, and the Supreme Court Clerk's Office. Through this portion of the budget the Supreme Court fulfills its role as the final court of review for the state courts. The Court also renders advisory opinions to the legislative and executive branches of government; issues writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari and certain other prerogative writs; and regulates the admission and discipline of members of the Rhode Island Bar.

Administrative services include all budget, personnel and purchasing functions; computer services; facility management, which includes the maintenance of courthouse facilities; programming for judicial education; the collection of court-ordered restitution, fines, fees and costs; and research and statistical analysis.

The Law Library is the only complete, public legal reference service in Rhode Island, and it operates under the Supreme Court. The Library has over 110,000 volumes and also provides access to computer aided legal research.

Other major activities of the Supreme Court include domestic violence prevention, mandatory continuing legal education, victim rights information, alternative dispute resolution, disciplinary counsel, the interpreter program.

Statutory History

The Supreme Court is the only constitutionally established court and is identified in Article X of the Rhode Island State Constitution. The organization, jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court are described in Title 8 Chapter 1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, and the administrative authority of the court is established by Title 8 Chapter 15. Other statutes relating to the Supreme Court include Title 8 Chapters 3 through 7 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Supreme Court

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Supreme Court Operations	26,421,495	27,815,702	29,127,111	29,531,351	29,515,347
Defense of Indigents	3,549,736	3,448,104	3,562,240	3,562,240	3,562,240
Total Expenditures	\$29,971,231	\$31,263,806	\$32,689,351	\$33,093,591	\$33,077,587
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	17,187,878	17,658,290	18,320,468	19,230,775	19,126,317
Operating Supplies and Expenses	6,841,696	7,422,115	8,102,209	7,551,436	7,218,380
Assistance and Grants	4,523,891	4,472,223	4,572,005	4,517,131	4,500,261
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	28,553,465	29,552,628	30,994,682	31,299,342	30,844,958
Capital Purchases and Equipment	1,417,766	1,711,178	1,694,669	1,794,249	2,232,629
Total Expenditures	\$29,971,231	\$31,263,806	\$32,689,351	\$33,093,591	\$33,077,587
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	26,930,564	28,800,456	29,887,681	30,002,810	29,650,517
Federal Funds	285,525	269,004	341,723	503,750	220,021
Restricted Receipts	1,369,463	1,364,642	1,359,947	1,465,948	1,532,049
Operating Transfers from Other Funds	1,385,679	829,704	1,100,000	1,121,083	1,675,000
Total Expenditures	\$29,971,231	\$31,263,806	\$32,689,351	\$33,093,591	\$33,077,587
Program Measures					
Disposition Rate of Appeal Cases	93.0%	80.0%	88.0%	88.0%	88.0%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Supreme Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Chief Justice	09F	1.0	218,760	1.0	218,760
Associate Justice	08F	4.0	745,766	4.0	745,767
State Court Administrator	48	1.0	165,125	1.0	165,125
Chief Disciplinary Counsel	44	1.0	143,555	1.0	143,555
Director of Finance/Asst. Admin.	44	1.0	138,415	1.0	138,415
Deputy State Court Administrator	45	1.0	136,531	1.0	136,530
Chief Supervisory Clerk	42	3.0	382,979	3.0	382,979
Deputy Exec. Asst./Communications	41	2.0	254,095	2.0	254,095
Executive Assistant for Policy & Program Review	43	1.0	126,478	1.0	126,032
Clerk Pro Tempore	41	1.0	111,453	1.0	111,453
Deputy Disciplinary Counsel	37	1.0	105,552	1.0	105,552
Asst. Admin. Policy & Programs	37	2.0	208,582	2.0	210,013
Assistant Director/Policy Office	39	7.0	700,654	7.0	700,655
Dir of Consumer Protection/Educ. Program	35	1.0	98,986	1.0	98,986
Public Information Officer	35	1.0	98,882	1.0	98,803
Principal Court Functional Specialist	36	1.0	98,256	1.0	98,178
Staff Attorney IV	34	1.0	94,729	1.0	94,729
Chief, Staff Attorney	35	2.0	184,121	2.0	184,121
Software Support Specialist	33	6.0	545,641	6.0	545,166
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel	31	2.0	170,055	2.0	170,054
Staff Attorney II	30	1.8	147,963	1.8	147,963
Executive Director/Exec Administrator	31	1.0	81,473	1.0	81,473
Administrative Clerk	29	1.0	81,176	1.0	81,176
Confidential Investigator	31	2.0	159,878	2.0	159,877
Project Manager	30	5.0	393,290	5.0	399,792
Principal Supervisory Clerk	30	2.0	155,744	2.0	155,744
Administrative Assistant	29	3.0	231,903	3.0	231,664
Staff Attorney	29	4.7	341,413	4.7	341,413
Special Assistant	29	3.0	217,788	3.0	217,485
Administrative Clerk Office Services	27	2.0	144,073	2.0	143,912
Deputy Law Librarian	26	1.0	70,640	1.0	70,560
Project Manager	30	1.0	68,777	1.0	65,502
Coordinator, Special Projects	27	6.0	399,058	6.0	399,023
Principal Deputy Clerk Systems	25	1.0	61,892	1.0	61,892
Principal Administrative Clerk	25	2.0	123,176	2.0	125,374
Principal Assistant Administrator	25	3.0	184,267	3.0	184,268
Office Manager	24	3.0	180,512	3.0	180,297
Sr. Monitoring & Evaluation Spec.	25	3.0	178,471	3.0	178,471
Assistant Building & Grounds Officer	24	4.0	233,390	4.0	233,389
Bar Administrator	29	1.0	58,189	1.0	58,189
Senior Management Analyst	23	6.0	325,310	6.0	325,893
Assistant Supervising Clerk	22	2.0	107,506	2.0	107,357
Executive Secretary	23	1.0	53,576	1.0	55,471
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	23	3.0	159,012	3.0	159,012

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Supreme Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Law Clerks	23	27.0	1,405,569	27.0	1,405,569
Administrative Assistant	22	5.0	254,198	5.0	254,160
Operations Technician	21	0.6	29,451	0.6	29,409
Senior Administrative Aide	21	0.6	29,451	0.6	29,409
Administrative Aide	16	1.0	48,716	1.0	48,637
Deputy Clerk Interpreter	20	5.0	241,733	5.0	241,888
Records Custodian-Documents Distribution	18	4.0	184,318	4.0	186,301
Confidential Secretary	17	1.0	45,962	1.0	45,962
Administrative Assistant II	20	1.0	43,433	1.0	43,401
Administrative Assistant II	15	3.6	156,028	3.6	155,271
Secretary Assistant	11	0.8	32,270	0.8	32,207
Building Maintenance Supervisor	18G	1.0	39,419	1.0	39,436
Principal Clerk Typist	10	1.0	35,252	1.0	35,181
Administrative Aide	10	0.6	20,966	0.6	20,966
Janitor	09	2.0	68,200	2.0	69,000
Senior Janitor	12	1.0	32,335	1.0	33,305
Seasonal; Editor III (judicial)	10	-	24,205	-	24,205
Subtotal		157.7	\$11,578,598	157.7	\$11,588,472
Overtime		-	236,064	-	236,064
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	15,306	-	-
Turnover		-	(104,019)	-	(180,550)
Subtotal		-	\$147,351	-	\$55,514
Total Salaries		157.7	\$11,725,949	157.7	\$11,643,986
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	106,421
FICA		-	833,805	-	828,732
Medical		-	1,768,359	-	1,937,746
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	45,631
Retiree Health		-	795,877	-	791,880
Retirement		-	2,625,512	-	2,428,763
Subtotal		-	\$6,023,553	-	\$6,139,173
Total Salaries and Benefits		157.7	\$17,749,502	157.7	\$17,783,159
Cost Per FTE Position			\$112,552		\$112,766
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	430,296	-	427,794
Subtotal		-	\$430,296	-	\$427,794
Payroll Costs		157.7	\$18,179,798	157.7	\$18,210,953

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Supreme Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Purchased Services					
Building and Grounds Maintenance		-	3,312	-	3,312
Clerical and Temporary Services		-	184,906	-	97,408
Information Technology		-	543,000	-	543,000
Legal Services		-	87,185	-	87,185
Other Contract Services		-	222,574	-	174,458
Training and Educational Services		-	10,000	-	10,000
Subtotal		-	\$1,050,977	-	\$915,363
Total Personnel		157.7	\$19,230,775	157.7	\$19,126,316
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		147.1	17,771,063	147.1	17,785,583
Federal Funds		-	127,490	-	39,992
Restricted Receipts		10.6	1,332,222	10.6	1,300,742
Total All Funds		157.7	\$19,230,775	157.7	\$19,126,317

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Superior Court

Program Mission

Provide timely and fair adjudication of all cases within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

Maintain a complete and accurate record for all cases that are filed with the Superior Court.

Provide a written transcript of any proceeding or appeal.

Program Description

The program budget for Superior Court includes the operation of the Court itself, administrative services, and the operation of the clerks' offices.

Superior Court has four locations: Providence/Bristol, Kent, Washington, and Newport Counties. It has jurisdiction over all felony cases and misdemeanor cases which have been appealed or waived from the District Court. The Court also hears all civil cases where the amount at issue exceeds \$10,000, equity cases wherein injunctive relief is sought, civil cases that are appealed from the District Court, and all probate and zoning appeals. The Superior Court has concurrent original jurisdiction with the District Court in all other actions at law in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000 yet does not exceed \$10,000. The administrative office of the Court handles all case scheduling, supervises the court secretaries and stenographers, and provides other administrative services.

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Each Court location has a clerk's office which is responsible for maintaining the records of the court. This includes creating files for each case, filing all papers that are received, updating the record in each case to reflect court proceedings and the papers that have been filed, and maintaining and marking all exhibits of evidence.

Other major programs include jury selection, court-annexed arbitration, court ordered restitution, and administration of jurors' fees and expenses. In FY 1995, a Gun Court was established to adjudicate offenses where guns are involved and the planning process began for the Adult Drug Court. In FY 2002, the Adult Drug Court was established preceded by the FY 2001 establishment of the Business Calendar.

Statutory History

The Superior Court is a statutorily authorized court. The jurisdiction and sessions of the court, and the role and responsibilities of the clerks, secretaries and stenographers of the court are outlined in Title 8 Chapters 2 through 7 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Superior Court

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Superior Court Operations	18,308,454	19,315,932	19,977,748	20,629,433	20,910,929
Jury Operations	1,317,402	1,535,246	1,459,443	1,614,087	1,628,051
Total Expenditures	\$19,625,856	\$20,851,178	\$21,437,191	\$22,243,520	\$22,538,980
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	15,939,690	17,149,435	17,718,325	18,687,815	19,059,820
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,363,084	1,172,478	1,207,181	1,172,608	1,147,613
Assistance and Grants	2,252,220	2,372,356	2,448,795	2,320,207	2,268,657
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	19,554,994	20,694,269	21,374,301	22,180,630	22,476,090
Capital Purchases and Equipment	70,862	156,909	62,890	62,890	62,890
Total Expenditures	\$19,625,856	\$20,851,178	\$21,437,191	\$22,243,520	\$22,538,980
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	19,251,241	20,303,527	20,865,210	21,634,785	21,911,328
Federal Funds	96,774	87,692	72,985	100,022	100,025
Restricted Receipts	277,841	459,959	498,996	508,713	527,627
Total Expenditures	\$19,625,856	\$20,851,178	\$21,437,191	\$22,243,520	\$22,538,980
Program Measures					
Percentage of felony Cases Annually Disposed of Within 180 Days	69.0%	65.0%	65.0%	65.0%	65.0%
Objective	75.0%	75.0%		75.0%	75.0%
Disposition Rate of Civil Cases	102.0%	109.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Superior Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Presiding Justice	07F	1.0	196,954	1.0	196,954
Associate Justice	05F	21.0	3,498,903	21.0	3,506,365
Special Magistrate	03F	1.0	164,379	1.0	164,379
Magistrate	03F	3.0	489,640	3.0	489,640
Administrative Clerk	46	1.0	154,340	1.0	154,340
General Magistrate	03F	1.0	153,887	1.0	153,887
Clerk (Providence County)	39	1.0	120,434	1.0	120,434
Jury Commissioner	37	1.0	106,120	1.0	106,120
Administrator Arbitration Program	39	1.0	96,104	1.0	96,102
General Chief Clerk	35	1.0	90,643	1.0	90,643
Clerk (Newport County)	32	1.0	88,760	1.0	88,759
Deputy Administrator/Clerk	34	1.0	87,519	1.0	87,519
Clerk (Washington County)	32	1.0	85,062	1.0	85,061
Confidential Investigator	31	1.0	83,671	1.0	83,671
Assistant Administrator/Mgmt & Finance	34	1.0	79,563	1.0	79,563
Clerk (Kent County)	34	1.0	77,161	1.0	77,161
Associate Jury Commissioner	33	1.0	76,082	1.0	76,081
Project Manager	30	2.0	151,933	2.0	151,933
Special Assistant	29	1.0	75,769	1.0	75,769
Administrative Clerk	29	1.0	72,464	1.0	72,387
Supervisory Clerk	26	4.0	277,953	4.0	277,937
Project Coordinator	26	1.0	69,221	1.0	69,140
Court Reporter	27	28.0	1,917,980	28.0	1,923,698
Deputy Clerk I	24	3.0	194,259	3.0	194,017
Manager Calendar Services (Prov. County)	24	1.0	63,767	1.0	63,685
Manager Calendar Services (Out County)	24	1.0	63,628	1.0	63,546
Supervising Deputy Clerk	26	1.0	61,485	1.0	61,485
Asst. Mgr. Calendar Services (Out County)	23	1.0	60,398	1.0	61,092
Asst. Mgr. Calendar Services (Prov. County)	23	1.0	59,332	1.0	59,253
Assistant Supervisory Clerk	22	2.0	116,504	2.0	116,344
Coordinator Special Projects	27	1.0	58,121	1.0	58,047
Court Secretary Superior	23	1.0	57,053	1.0	57,053
Senior Administrative Aide	21	1.0	56,308	1.0	56,230
Production Systems Specialist	20	1.0	53,717	1.0	54,346
Assistant Administrative Officer	21	1.0	52,450	1.0	52,273
Deputy Clerk	20	26.0	1,338,461	26.0	1,339,204
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	23	2.0	100,465	2.0	100,465
Assistant Court Secretary	21	3.0	145,812	3.0	145,812
Principal Assistant Administrator	25	1.0	48,576	1.0	48,576
Policy Aide	18	4.0	187,312	4.0	187,012
Confidential Secretary	17	1.0	45,962	1.0	45,962
Administrative Aide	16	1.0	45,772	1.0	45,695
Electronic Court Reporter	19	2.7	118,982	2.7	118,913
Assistant Clerk (Superior Court)	18	9.0	379,845	9.0	378,094

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Superior Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Administrative Assistant II	15	1.0	41,270	1.0	41,270
Sr. Administrative Aide	17	1.0	41,140	1.0	42,363
Administrative Aide	15	1.0	37,935	1.0	37,867
General Operations Assistant	14	9.0	330,559	9.0	330,184
Administrative Assistant	14	1.0	35,121	1.0	35,121
General Registry Clerk	14	1.0	33,750	1.0	33,640
Data Entry Aide	10	1.0	31,963	1.0	31,895
Records Clerk Data Entry Aide	10	10.0	318,618	10.0	317,852
Subtotal		165.7	\$12,393,107	165.7	\$12,404,839
Overtime		-	43,707	-	43,707
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	13,852	-	-
Turnover		-	(382,326)	-	(267,437)
Subtotal		-	(\$324,767)	-	(\$223,730)
Total Salaries		165.7	\$12,068,340	165.7	\$12,181,109
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	90,107
FICA		-	816,554	-	823,805
Medical		-	1,592,116	-	1,785,127
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	48,549
Retiree Health		-	840,647	-	850,077
Retirement		-	2,568,192	-	2,474,332
Subtotal		-	\$5,817,509	-	\$6,071,997
Total Salaries and Benefits		165.7	\$17,885,849	165.7	\$18,253,106
Cost Per FTE Position			\$107,941		\$110,158
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	450,404	-	455,152
Subtotal		-	\$450,404	-	\$455,152
Payroll Costs		165.7	\$18,336,253	165.7	\$18,708,258
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services		-	27,931	-	27,931
Legal Services		-	311,631	-	311,631
Medical Services		-	12,000	-	12,000
Subtotal		-	\$351,562	-	\$351,562
Total Personnel		165.7	\$18,687,815	165.7	\$19,059,820

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Superior Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		163.7	18,186,027	163.7	18,558,369
Restricted Receipts		2.0	501,788	2.0	501,451
Total All Funds		165.7	\$18,687,815	165.7	\$19,059,820

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Family Court

Program Mission

Adjudicate the cases within the jurisdiction of the Family Court in a timely and fair manner.

Provide counseling and other assistance to families involved in litigation before the court.

Program Description

The program budget for Family Court includes the operation of the Court itself, the administrative office of the Court, the clerks' offices, and the operation of several ancillary programs, including juvenile intake services, the Family Counseling Unit, the Collections Unit and the Court Appointed Special Advocate Unit.

The Family Court handles all criminal cases involving juveniles; juvenile status offenses, such as truancy and disobedience; all cases where parents have been charged with neglect, abandonment or abuse of their children; and other miscellaneous cases involving children, such as child marriages and paternity issues. The Court also hears all divorces and issues stemming from a divorce, such as orders for child support and temporary allowances.

The Court has offices in Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. There are clerks' offices in each of these locations, and the office staff is responsible for preparing all court calendars and maintaining records of the Court. All papers are filed with the clerk's office, and this office sets up a file for each case and maintains an up-to-date record of court proceedings and the papers that have been filed.

Because of the special nature of the Family Court, it provides a variety of services to families. For example, the Family Counseling Unit provides alcohol and drug screens and supervises visitation, in addition to providing investigative and mediation services to the court. The Child Support Collections Unit handles the collection and disbursement of child support payments. Specialty courts include the Juvenile Drug Court, the Family Treatment Drug Court, the Domestic Violence Court, the Truancy Court, the Mental Health Court Clinic, and the Juvenile Re-entry Court.

Statutory History

The Family Court is authorized by statute. The composition and jurisdiction of the Family Court is identified in Title 8 Chapter 10 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Family Court

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	17,881,700	19,136,922	20,817,192	20,581,320	21,205,406
Total Expenditures	\$17,881,700	\$19,136,922	\$20,817,192	\$20,581,320	\$21,205,406
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	16,511,673	17,319,361	18,777,500	18,995,988	19,383,741
Operating Supplies and Expenses	490,139	440,496	479,734	373,613	565,214
Assistance and Grants	775,214	1,030,781	1,488,811	1,140,572	1,185,304
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	17,777,026	18,790,638	20,746,045	20,510,173	21,134,259
Capital Purchases and Equipment	104,674	346,284	71,147	71,147	71,147
Total Expenditures	\$17,881,700	\$19,136,922	\$20,817,192	\$20,581,320	\$21,205,406
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	15,433,016	16,875,534	17,533,090	17,550,647	18,144,955
Federal Funds	2,448,684	2,187,175	3,031,752	2,345,500	2,296,099
Restricted Receipts	-	74,213	252,350	685,173	764,352
Total Expenditures	\$17,881,700	\$19,136,922	\$20,817,192	\$20,581,320	\$21,205,406
Program Measures					
Percentage of Wayward/Delinquent Cases Suitable for Non-Judicial Processing Diverted or Referred to Court Within 45 Days	88.0%	79.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Objective	80.0%	80.0%		80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of Wayward/Delinquent Cases Requiring Court Involvement Adjudicated Within 180 Days	68.0%	67.0%	67.0%	67.0%	67.0%
Objective	75.0%	75.0%		75.0%	75.0%
Percentage of Dependency/Neglect/Abuse Cases Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	45.0%	46.0%	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Objective	65.0%	65.0%		65.0%	65.0%
Percentage of Juvenile Termination of Parental Rights Cases Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	67.0%	76.0%	70.0%	70.0%	75.0%
Objective	75.0%	75.0%		75.0%	75.0%
Percentage of Divorce Cases	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Family Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Chief Judge	07F	1.0	196,954	1.0	196,954
General Magistrate	03F	1.0	168,376	1.0	168,376
Associate Justice	05F	11.0	1,834,462	11.0	1,830,117
Administrative Clerk	46	1.0	153,809	1.0	153,809
Magistrate	03F	6.0	919,824	6.0	919,823
Administrative Director CASA	43	1.0	135,287	1.0	135,287
Administrator Clerk	43	1.0	133,638	1.0	133,638
Deputy Exec Asst Communications	41	1.0	127,945	1.0	125,280
Senior Policy Associate	38	1.0	111,961	1.0	111,959
Deputy Administrator Clerk	34	3.0	292,668	3.0	292,667
Deputy Dir., Community Affairs	34	2.0	185,183	2.0	185,183
Staff Attorney V	36	4.0	363,754	4.0	363,119
Director of Intergovernmental Relations	40	1.0	88,177	1.0	88,177
Fiscal Management Officer	32	1.0	86,021	1.0	86,020
Deputy Director	32	1.0	85,261	1.0	85,260
Staff Attorney III	32	8.0	647,350	8.0	647,343
Exec. Dir/Exec. Administrator	31	1.0	77,646	1.0	77,279
Executive Director	36	1.0	75,153	1.0	75,153
Project Manager	30	1.0	74,866	1.0	74,848
Executive Director/Executive Assistant	31	2.0	149,538	2.0	149,539
Principal Planning & Program Specialist	28	2.0	147,935	2.0	149,222
Principal Deputy Clerk Systems	25	1.0	71,855	1.0	69,871
Court Reporter	27	16.0	1,090,675	16.0	1,091,137
Assistant Intake Supervisor	28	6.0	395,637	6.0	394,006
Social Caseworker II (CASA)	24	8.0	497,517	8.0	483,294
CASA Coordinator	22	1.0	61,733	1.0	61,733
Associate Executive Assistant	26	1.0	61,485	1.0	61,485
Principal Supervisory Clerk	30	2.0	120,950	2.0	120,951
Supervising Deputy Clerk	22	6.0	338,102	6.0	336,836
Coordinator Special Project	27	2.0	110,854	2.0	116,242
Volunteer Coordinator	22	1.0	54,753	1.0	54,752
Administrative Coordinator	20	1.0	53,167	1.0	53,166
Asst Administrative Officer	20	1.0	53,167	1.0	53,166
Mediation Counselor	20	5.0	263,016	5.0	265,325
Deputy Clerk	20	22.0	1,136,505	22.0	1,141,152
Executive Secretary	23	2.0	100,149	2.0	100,149
Sr. Administrative Aide	17	3.0	147,038	3.0	147,038
Electronic Court Reporter	19	8.6	391,417	8.6	391,394
Social Caseworker	22	2.0	88,384	2.0	88,384
Administrative Assistant II	15	1.0	43,236	1.0	43,236
Clerk Secretary	14	1.0	42,105	1.0	42,105
Sr. Data Entry Operator	12	14.5	597,544	14.5	599,152
Administrative Assistant	15	2.0	82,062	2.0	82,061
Domestic Violence Liaison	18	1.0	39,327	1.0	39,327

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Family Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Administrative Assistant	14	1.0	37,455	1.0	37,427
Clerk-Typist	05	1.0	35,344	1.0	36,584
Fiscal Clerk	05	1.0	35,304	1.0	36,691
Data Entry Aide	10	14.6	494,880	14.6	496,075
Subtotal		176.7	\$12,499,469	176.7	\$12,491,792
Overtime		-	46,841	-	46,841
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	19,099	-	-
Turnover		-	(866,898)	-	(640,630)
Subtotal		-	(\$800,958)	-	(\$593,789)
Total Salaries		176.7	\$11,698,511	176.7	\$11,898,003
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	103,791
FICA		-	823,658	-	836,872
Medical		-	1,850,306	-	2,132,630
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	47,405
Retiree Health		-	804,516	-	820,235
Retirement		-	2,453,187	-	2,334,833
Subtotal		-	\$5,931,667	-	\$6,275,766
Total Salaries and Benefits		176.7	\$17,630,178	176.7	\$18,173,769
Cost Per FTE Position			\$99,775		\$102,851
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	436,221	-	444,418
Subtotal		-	\$436,221	-	\$444,418
Payroll Costs		176.7	\$18,066,399	176.7	\$18,618,187
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services		-	534,923	-	519,053
Information Technology		-	78,300	-	15,800
Legal Services		-	14,000	-	14,000
Management and Consultant Services		-	189,950	-	140,203
Other Contract Services		-	72,416	-	76,498
Training and Educational Services		-	40,000	-	-
Subtotal		-	\$929,589	-	\$765,554
Total Personnel		176.7	\$18,995,988	176.7	\$19,383,741

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Family Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		151.1	16,079,447	151.1	16,536,758
Federal Funds		17.6	2,234,648	17.6	2,142,454
Restricted Receipts		8.0	681,893	8.0	704,529
Total All Funds		176.7	\$18,995,988	176.7	\$19,383,741

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution District Court

Program Mission

Adjudicate the cases within the jurisdiction of the District Court in a timely and fair manner.

Maintain a complete and accurate record for every case.

Program Description

The District Court consists of a chief judge, an administrative judge and associate judges. The court is also served by two magistrates. The program budget for the District Court includes the cost of operation for the Court itself and the operation of the clerk's offices. The District Court handles all misdemeanor cases, all civil cases where the amount in dispute is under \$5,000, trespass and ejection cases between landlords and tenants, and all small claims, which includes certain civil cases where the amount in dispute is under \$2,500. The District Court handles most felony bail hearings in capital and other serious cases. The District Court also holds hearings on commitments under the mental health and drug abuse laws and handles certain agency appeals. The Court has four locations, in Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties, with a clerk's office at each location. The clerks' offices maintain all the records for the Court. As with the other courts, all papers are filed in the clerk's office. The office creates a file for every case and maintains an up-to-date record on what has happened in the case. In addition, the Pretrial Services Unit was established in FY 2002 to provide pre-arraignment and post-arraignment services to defendants.

Statutory History

The District Court is a statutorily authorized court. The powers and jurisdiction of the Court are defined in Title 8 Chapter 8 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution District Court

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	10,134,816	10,961,933	11,386,765	11,729,519	11,924,611
Total Expenditures	\$10,134,816	\$10,961,933	\$11,386,765	\$11,729,519	\$11,924,611
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	8,599,604	9,275,666	9,713,076	10,061,897	10,201,094
Operating Supplies and Expenses	425,542	352,481	347,895	344,239	366,785
Assistance and Grants	1,056,164	1,202,756	1,281,048	1,278,463	1,311,812
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	10,081,310	10,830,903	11,342,019	11,684,599	11,879,691
Capital Purchases and Equipment	53,506	131,030	44,746	44,920	44,920
Total Expenditures	\$10,134,816	\$10,961,933	\$11,386,765	\$11,729,519	\$11,924,611
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	9,776,172	10,642,265	10,924,545	11,314,884	11,493,967
Federal Funds	-	12,050	130,128	130,128	130,128
Restricted Receipts	358,644	307,618	332,092	284,507	300,516
Total Expenditures	\$10,134,816	\$10,961,933	\$11,386,765	\$11,729,519	\$11,924,611
Program Measures					
Percentage of Misdemeanor Cases Disposed of Within 60 Days	81.0%	77.0%	77.0%	77.0%	80.0%
Objective	90.0%	90.0%		90.0%	90.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution District Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Chief Judge	07F	1.0	180,541	1.0	180,541
Administrative Judge	05F	1.0	175,318	1.0	175,318
Magistrate	03F	1.0	167,876	1.0	167,876
Clerk/Magistrate	03F	1.0	164,379	1.0	164,379
Associate Judge	10F	11.0	1,731,316	11.0	1,731,319
Administrative Clerk (District Court)	46	1.0	154,354	1.0	153,699
Deputy Exec Asst Communications	41	1.0	121,087	1.0	121,087
Assistant Admin. Policy & Programs	37	2.0	183,686	2.0	183,606
Chief Clerk/District Court	40	1.0	88,177	1.0	85,609
Clerk (Washington County)	32	1.0	88,057	1.0	87,977
Clerk (Newport County)	32	1.0	87,115	1.0	87,034
Administrative Clerk (District Court)	33	1.0	83,361	1.0	83,282
Special Assistant	29	1.0	83,005	1.0	83,005
Administrative Clerk	29	2.0	147,113	2.0	147,254
Deputy Chief Investigator	26	2.0	124,380	2.0	124,234
Deputy Clerk I	24	3.0	184,987	3.0	188,979
Supervisory Clerk	26	2.0	119,118	2.0	119,038
Office Manager	24	2.0	118,523	2.0	120,722
Administrative Clerk Office Services	27	2.0	118,032	2.0	117,958
Supervising Dpty Clk/Training Officer	23	16.0	911,124	16.0	911,355
Administrative Asst/Confidential Secretary	24	1.0	51,935	1.0	51,935
Assistant Clerk Research	18	1.0	49,292	1.0	50,005
Administrative Assistant	16	1.0	41,724	1.0	41,599
Senior Operations Clerk	16	2.0	82,634	2.0	81,524
Gen. Operations Assistant	14	2.0	77,116	2.0	77,979
Data Entry Operator	12	11.0	412,792	11.0	415,591
Rec. Clk/Data Entry Aide	10	21.0	718,414	21.0	718,590
Data Entry Aide	10	2.0	66,278	2.0	66,100
	Subtotal	94.0	\$6,531,734	94.0	\$6,537,595
Overtime		-	24,713	-	24,713
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	8,700	-	-
Turnover		-	(357,491)	-	(351,937)
	Subtotal	-	(\$324,078)	-	(\$327,224)
	Total Salaries	94.0	\$6,207,656	94.0	\$6,210,371
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	40,984
FICA		-	417,815	-	418,728
Medical		-	1,005,620	-	1,124,415
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	24,743
Retiree Health		-	432,197	-	433,120
Retirement		-	1,425,647	-	1,375,344
	Subtotal	-	\$3,281,279	-	\$3,417,334
	Total Salaries and Benefits	94.0	\$9,488,935	94.0	\$9,627,705

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution District Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Cost Per FTE Position			\$100,946		\$102,422
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	231,534	-	231,962
Subtotal		-	\$231,534	-	\$231,962
Payroll Costs		94.0	\$9,720,469	94.0	\$9,859,667
Purchased Services					
Building and Grounds Maintenance		-	-	-	-
Clerical and Temporary Services		-	309,646	-	309,646
Information Technology		-	1,145	-	1,145
Legal Services		-	4,601	-	4,601
Other Contract Services		-	26,036	-	26,036
Subtotal		-	\$341,428	-	\$341,428
Total Personnel		94.0	\$10,061,897	94.0	\$10,201,095
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		90.0	9,748,901	90.0	9,885,486
Federal Funds		-	126,903	-	126,903
Restricted Receipts		4.0	186,093	4.0	188,705
Total All Funds		94.0	\$10,061,897	94.0	\$10,201,094

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Traffic Tribunal

Program Mission

Adjudicate the cases within the jurisdiction of the Traffic Tribunal in a timely and fair manner.

□

Maintain a complete and accurate record for every case.

Program Description

The Traffic Tribunal was created effective July 1, 1999. It is the successor to the Administrative Adjudication Court. It consists of associate judges and magistrates. It is under the supervision of the chief magistrate, who is the administrative head of the Traffic Tribunal with the power to make rules for regulating practice, procedure and business within the Traffic Tribunal.

The Traffic Tribunal hears and determines civil traffic violations. It has exclusive jurisdiction over certain offenses and concurrent jurisdiction with the municipal courts over others. The Traffic Tribunal hears certain administrative appeals for the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The appeals panel of the Traffic Tribunal hears appeals from the Traffic Tribunal and the municipal courts. The Traffic Tribunal does not hear those offenses committed in places within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, or criminal motor vehicle offenses such as driving so as to endanger resulting in death, and driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, which, which state law specifies will be heard under the jurisdiction of other courts. The Traffic Tribunal currently sits at its main courthouse in the John O. Pastore Center, 670 New London Avenue in Cranston; Traffic Tribunal also sits in Wakefield.

Statutory History

The powers and jurisdiction of the Traffic Tribunal are defined in Title 8 Chapter 8.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The 1999 session of the General Assembly passed Senate Bill S932 entitled the Rhode Island Traffic Safety and Accountability Act of 1999. This act abolished the Administrative Adjudication Court effective July 1, 1999 and created the Traffic Tribunal.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Traffic Tribunal

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	7,368,034	7,572,756	7,752,175	8,093,404	8,239,888
Total Expenditures	\$7,368,034	\$7,572,756	\$7,752,175	\$8,093,404	\$8,239,888
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	6,616,468	6,719,209	6,876,871	7,232,691	7,325,230
Operating Supplies and Expenses	237,026	304,605	338,298	341,479	347,065
Assistance and Grants	455,826	469,500	501,358	483,586	531,945
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	7,309,320	7,493,314	7,716,527	8,057,756	8,204,240
Capital Purchases and Equipment	58,714	79,442	35,648	35,648	35,648
Total Expenditures	\$7,368,034	\$7,572,756	\$7,752,175	\$8,093,404	\$8,239,888
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	7,368,034	7,572,756	7,752,175	8,093,404	8,239,888
Total Expenditures	\$7,368,034	\$7,572,756	\$7,752,175	\$8,093,404	\$8,239,888
Program Measures					
Percentage of Summons Disposed Within 60 Days	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%	96.0%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%
Objective					

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Traffic Tribunal

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Chief Magistrate	10F	1.0	168,739	1.0	168,739
Judge, Traffic Tribunal	03F	3.0	498,719	3.0	498,719
Magistrate, Traffic Tribunal	03F	4.0	640,030	4.0	640,029
Executive Director	44	1.0	134,955	1.0	137,579
Administrator	38	1.0	108,486	1.0	109,477
Business Management Officer	35	1.0	99,364	1.0	99,870
Asst Administrator Policy & Programs	37	1.0	90,631	1.0	90,520
Principal Supervisory Clerk	30	1.0	80,439	1.0	80,439
Coordinator of Special Projects	27	1.0	71,602	1.0	71,602
Administrative Clerk/Office Services	27	2.0	142,921	2.0	143,677
Project Coordinator	26	1.0	65,764	1.0	65,687
Deputy Clerk I	24	2.0	122,476	2.0	123,222
Assistant Legal Counsel	22	0.6	35,962	0.6	35,961
Principal Assistant Administrator	25	3.0	172,088	3.0	171,937
Administrative Clerk I	29	1.0	56,819	1.0	56,819
Administrative Clerk	44	0.6	34,091	0.6	34,091
Supervising Deputy Clerk-Training Officer	23	1.0	54,540	1.0	54,470
Deputy Clerk	20	5.0	257,006	5.0	257,947
Security Officer	19	9.0	418,837	9.0	418,613
Senior Operations Clerk	16	2.0	91,191	2.0	91,035
General Operations Assistant	14	6.0	254,254	6.0	253,673
Administrative Assistant	13	5.0	203,776	5.0	202,988
Assistant Administrative Secretary	12	1.0	38,653	1.0	38,578
Data Entry Operator	12	11.0	409,781	11.0	408,892
Rec. Clerk/Data Entry Aide	10	14.0	485,534	14.0	487,947
Court Interpreter - Seasonal	10	-	43,569	-	43,569
Subtotal		78.2	\$4,780,227	78.2	\$4,786,080
Overtime		-	48,737	-	48,737
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	5,000	-	-
Turnover		-	(309,122)	-	(308,788)
Subtotal		-	(\$255,385)	-	(\$260,051)
Total Salaries		78.2	\$4,524,842	78.2	\$4,526,029
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	41,465
FICA		-	312,202	-	312,513
Medical		-	771,394	-	856,665
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	17,909
Retiree Health		-	308,986	-	309,620
Retirement		-	1,056,596	-	990,194
Subtotal		-	\$2,449,178	-	\$2,528,366
Total Salaries and Benefits		78.2	\$6,974,020	78.2	\$7,054,395
Cost Per FTE Position			\$89,182		\$90,210

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Traffic Tribunal

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	167,666	-	167,898
Subtotal		-	\$167,666	-	\$167,898
Payroll Costs		78.2	\$7,141,686	78.2	\$7,222,293
Purchased Services					
Other Contract Services		-	91,005	-	102,937
Subtotal		-	\$91,005	-	\$102,937
Total Personnel		78.2	\$7,232,691	78.2	\$7,325,230
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		78.2	7,232,691	78.2	7,325,230
Total All Funds		78.2	\$7,232,691	78.2	\$7,325,230

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Worker's Compensation Court

Program Mission

Hear all disputes regarding workers' compensation claims.

Decide all controversies efficiently, effectively, and economically.

Program Description

The Workers' Compensation Court is a member of the unified judicial system and has the same authority and power to subpoena and to cite and punish for civil contempt as exists in the Superior Court. It hears and decides all controversies as they pertain to Workers' Compensation in an efficient, effective, and economical manner. Presently, it has nine judges and one chief judge as well as support staff which includes administrators, hearing reporters, and clerical staff. It is supported from the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund.

Upon the filing of a petition for benefits arising out of a work-related injury case, a case file is set up and notices are sent to all parties. Before proceeding to a full evidentiary hearing, a judge conducts a pretrial conference, with a view of expediting the case and reducing the issues in dispute to a minimum. If the matter can not be resolved informally the judge must enter a pretrial order as to the right of the employee to receive benefits (approximately 70 percent of all litigation is concluded at this point).

Those cases not resolved at pretrial are heard by the same judge for trial. At the trial, a judge will hear all questions. The judge will then decide the merits of the controversy pursuant to the law and a fair preponderance of the evidence. From this decision a decree is entered. At this stage either party may appeal to the Appellate Division. The Appellate Division consists of three judges assigned by the Chief Judge, none of whom is the Trial Judge.

The Appellate Division judges review the transcript and the record of the case along with the appellant's reasons for appeal and memoranda of law. The Appellate Division then decides the matter and a final decree of the Appellate Division is entered. If either party is aggrieved by the decision of the Appellate Division, they may petition the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari. Upon petition, the Supreme Court may review any decree of the Workers' Compensation Court.

Statutory History

Title 28, Chapters 29 through 38 of the Rhode Island General Laws includes provisions relating to the Workers' Compensation Court.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Worker's Compensation Court

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	6,837,669	7,273,592	7,754,978	7,713,469	8,215,324
Total Expenditures	\$6,837,669	\$7,273,592	\$7,754,978	\$7,713,469	\$8,215,324
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	5,509,857	5,881,697	6,345,432	6,314,860	6,418,879
Operating Supplies and Expenses	540,365	440,237	528,659	553,476	1,029,919
Assistance and Grants	768,315	843,994	854,181	818,427	738,523
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	6,818,537	7,165,928	7,728,272	7,686,763	8,187,321
Capital Purchases and Equipment	19,132	107,664	26,706	26,706	28,003
Total Expenditures	\$6,837,669	\$7,273,592	\$7,754,978	\$7,713,469	\$8,215,324
Expenditures By Funds					
Restricted Receipts	6,837,669	7,273,592	7,754,978	7,713,469	8,215,324
Total Expenditures	\$6,837,669	\$7,273,592	\$7,754,978	\$7,713,469	\$8,215,324
Program Measures					
Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Pretrial Within 60 Days Objective	90.0%	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Trial Within 360 Days Objective	90.0%	90.0%		90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Trial Within 360 Days Objective	89.0%	87.0%	88.0%	88.0%	89.0%
Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Trial Within 360 Days Objective	90.0%	90.0%		90.0%	90.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Worker's Compensation Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Chief Judge	07F	1.0	192,850	1.0	192,850
Associate Judge	10F	9.0	1,460,571	9.0	1,460,570
Administrative Clerk	46	1.0	157,735	1.0	157,735
Administrator	41	1.0	124,722	1.0	124,722
Deputy Administrator	37	1.0	105,812	1.0	105,812
Medical Advisory Board Administrator	40	1.0	105,296	1.0	105,226
Asst Adm/Policy & Programs	37	1.0	104,168	1.0	104,087
Executive Assistant	36	1.0	97,782	1.0	97,782
Court Reporter	29	8.0	535,592	8.0	534,034
Sr. Management Analyst	23	1.0	64,378	1.0	64,378
Executive Secretary to Chief Judge	25	1.0	61,892	1.0	59,078
Adm Asst/Confidential Secretary	24	3.0	177,913	3.0	178,621
Senior Assistant Administrator	23	3.0	168,489	2.0	102,690
Deputy Clerk	20	10.0	517,674	10.0	521,406
Law Clerks	23	2.0	102,690	3.0	167,186
Medical Advisory Board Coordinator	18	2.0	80,592	2.0	79,378
Data Entry Operator	12	4.0	139,461	4.0	138,482
Subtotal		50.0	\$4,197,617	50.0	\$4,194,037
Overtime		-	20,000	-	20,000
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	5,000	-	-
Turnover		-	(220,887)	-	(68,715)
Subtotal		-	(\$195,887)	-	(\$48,715)
Total Salaries		50.0	\$4,001,730	50.0	\$4,145,322
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	24,719
FICA		-	263,655	-	275,022
Medical		-	479,509	-	584,908
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	16,501
Retiree Health		-	278,260	-	288,453
Retirement		-	851,548	-	857,723
Subtotal		-	\$1,872,972	-	\$2,047,326
Total Salaries and Benefits		50.0	\$5,874,702	50.0	\$6,192,648
Cost Per FTE Position			\$117,494		\$123,853
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	149,127	-	154,700
Subtotal		-	\$149,127	-	\$154,700
Payroll Costs		50.0	\$6,023,829	50.0	\$6,347,348

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Worker's Compensation Court

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services		-	11,031	-	11,031
Information Technology		-	269,500	-	50,000
Legal Services		-	10,500	-	10,500
Subtotal		-	\$291,031	-	\$71,531
Total Personnel		50.0	\$6,314,860	50.0	\$6,418,879
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
Restricted Receipts		50.0	6,314,860	50.0	6,418,879
Total All Funds		50.0	\$6,314,860	50.0	\$6,418,879

The Program

Judicial Department - Constitution Judicial Tenure & Discipline

Program Mission

Ensure the integrity of the Rhode Island Court System.

Investigate reasonable allegations of wrongdoing by Rhode Island judges.

Recommend, when appropriate, sanctions to be imposed against Rhode Island judges.

Program Description

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline, a program of the Rhode Island Judiciary, is responsible for conducting investigations of judges suspected of or charged with misconduct. The commission, upon receiving from any person a verified statement, not unfounded or frivolous, alleging facts indicating that a Justice of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Family Court, the District Court, the Workers' Compensation Court, the Traffic Tribunal and the Probate Court judges or magistrates and judicial officers appointed pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws is guilty of a serious violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Ethics, or of a willful and persistent failure to perform his/her duties, or disabling substance abuse, or conduct that brings the judicial office into serious disrepute, or that such a judge has a physical or mental disability that seriously interferes and will continue to interfere with the performance of his/her duties, shall make a preliminary investigation to determine whether formal proceedings shall be instituted and a hearing held. The Commission may, on its own initiative, make such a preliminary investigation, without receiving a verified statement, to determine whether formal proceedings shall be instituted and a hearing held.

When formal proceedings are ordered, the justice is given formal notice of the charges and of the time fixed for a public hearing. The justice is required to appear at the hearing, may be represented by counsel, offer evidence and otherwise participate in said hearing. Recommendation concerning the disciplining of any justice shall be made in a report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is required to grant a review if requested by said justice. After the hearing, the Supreme Court may affirm, modify or reject the Commission's recommendation(s).

Statutory History

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline was established in 1974 under Rhode Island Public Law 1972, Ch. 136, Section 1 for the purpose of conducting investigations upon the filing of a verified complaint or upon its own initiative of the conduct of judges of the Supreme, Superior, Family and District Courts. Subsequent enactments in P.L.1983, Ch. 26 and P.L. 1990, Ch. 332, Article 1, sec. 13 and P.L. 1991, Ch. 132, sec. 2 as well as P.L. 1991, Ch. 205, sec. 2 and P.L. 1996, Ch. 312 enlarged the jurisdiction to include the Workers' Compensation Court, the Traffic Tribunal as well as all judges of Probate Courts in any city or town in the State of Rhode Island. P.L. 2007, Ch. 178 altered the composition of the Commission.

The Budget

Judicial Department - Constitution Judicial Tenure & Discipline

	2010 Audited	2011 Audited	2012 Enacted	2012 Revised	2013 Recommend
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Operations	106,404	106,076	111,282	113,369	113,609
Total Expenditures	\$106,404	\$106,076	\$111,282	\$113,369	\$113,609
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	97,522	96,447	108,727	110,806	110,994
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,882	9,629	2,555	2,563	2,615
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	106,404	106,076	111,282	113,369	113,609
Total Expenditures	\$106,404	\$106,076	\$111,282	\$113,369	\$113,609
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	106,404	106,076	111,282	113,369	113,609
Total Expenditures	\$106,404	\$106,076	\$111,282	\$113,369	\$113,609
Program Measures					
Percentage of Verified Complaints Disposed of Within 90 Days of Docketing	70.0%	74.0%	75.0%	75.0%	80.0%
Objective	100.0%	100.0%		100.0%	100.0%

Personnel

Judicial Department - Constitution Judicial Tenure & Discipline

	Grade	FY 2012		FY 2013	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
Executive Assistant to the Chairperson	29	1.0	69,180	1.0	69,180
Subtotal		1.0	\$69,180	1.0	\$69,180
Payment for Deferred Furlough Days		-	204	-	-
Subtotal		-	\$204	-	-
Total Salaries		1.0	\$69,384	1.0	\$69,180
Benefits					
Defined Contribution Plan		-	-	-	692
FICA		-	5,292	-	5,292
Medical		-	5,392	-	6,061
Payroll Accrual		-	-	-	277
Retiree Health		-	4,746	-	4,746
Retirement		-	15,898	-	14,652
Subtotal		-	\$31,328	-	\$31,720
Total Salaries and Benefits		1.0	\$100,712	1.0	\$100,900
Cost Per FTE Position			\$100,712		\$100,900
Statewide Benefit Assessment		-	2,594	-	2,594
Subtotal		-	\$2,594	-	\$2,594
Payroll Costs		1.0	\$103,306	1.0	\$103,494
Purchased Services					
Legal Services		-	7,500	-	7,500
Subtotal		-	\$7,500	-	\$7,500
Total Personnel		1.0	\$110,806	1.0	\$110,994
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		1.0	110,806	1.0	110,994
Total All Funds		1.0	\$110,806	1.0	\$110,994

Judicial Department - Constitution Performance Measure Narratives

Supreme Court

Disposition Rate of Appeal Cases

This indicator measures the disposition rate of appeal cases annually. Total dispositions should equal or exceed new appeals each year in order for the court to stay current with the caseload. This measure is related to the Supreme Court's objective to dispose more appeal cases than docketed. Performance data is obtained from the Supreme Court statistical report. The data is reported on a calendar year basis.

The objective is to have a disposition rate of one hundred percent.

Superior Court

Percentage of felony Cases Annually Disposed of Within 180 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of felony cases disposed within 180 days of arraignment. This measure is related to the Superior Court's stated objective to provide timely adjudication of all cases within its jurisdiction. Performance data is obtained from the Superior Court statistical report. The data is reported on a calendar year basis.

The objective is to increase the percentage of cases disposed within the stated 180 day, giving priority to cases involving a gun charge. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Disposition Rate of Civil Cases

This indicator measures the disposition rate of civil cases assigned to the trial calendar. Total dispositions should equal or exceed new cases each year in order for the court to stay current with the caseload. This measure is related to the Superior Court's objective to dispose more assigned civil cases than added. Performance data is obtained from the Superior Court statistical report. The data is reported on a calendar year basis.

The objective is to have a disposition rate of one hundred percent.

Judicial Department - Constitution Performance Measure Narratives

Family Court

Percentage of Wayward/Delinquent Cases Suitable for Non-Judicial Processing Diverted or Referred to Court Within 45 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of cases suitable for non-judicial processing diverted within 45 days of filing. The Family Court has a Juvenile Services Unit wherein the cases of juvenile, first-time offenders who have committed less serious offenses are handled outside of court with no arraignment. Performance data is obtained from the Family Court statistical report. This measure is related to the Family Court's stated objective to handle cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of suitable wayward/delinquent cases diverted within the stated 45 day guideline. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Percentage of Wayward/Delinquent Cases Requiring Court Involvement Adjudicated Within 180 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of cases requiring court involvement adjudicated within 180 days of filing. This measure is related to the Family Court's stated objective to adjudicate the cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. Performance data is obtained from the Family Court statistical report. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of cases, requiring court involvement, adjudicated within the 180 day guideline. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Percentage of Dependency/Neglect/Abuse Cases Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing

This indicator measures the percentage of dependency/neglect/abuse cases requiring court involvement that are adjudicated within 180 days of filing. This measure is related to the Family Court's stated objective to adjudicate the cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. Performance data is obtained from the Family Court statistical report. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is increase the percentage of dependency/neglect/abuse petitions adjudicated within the stated 180 day guideline. In FY 2006, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Percentage of Juvenile Termination of Parental Rights Cases Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing

This indicator measures the percentage of termination of parental rights petitions adjudicated within 180 days of filing. This measure is related to the Family Court's stated objective to adjudicate the cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. Performance data is obtained from the Family Court statistical report. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of termination of parental rights petitions adjudicated within the stated 180 day guideline. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Percentage of Divorce Cases

This indicator measures the percentage of divorce cases disposed within 365 days. Performance data is obtained from the Family Court statistical report. This measure is related to the Family Court's stated objective to adjudicate the cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of divorce cases disposed within the stated 365 day guideline.

Judicial Department - Constitution Performance Measure Narratives

District Court

Percentage of Misdemeanor Cases Disposed of Within 60 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of misdemeanor cases disposed within 60 days of filing. This measure is related to the District Court's stated objective to adjudicate cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. Performance data is obtained from the District Court statistics. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of misdemeanor cases disposed within 60 days. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Traffic Tribunal

Percentage of Summons Disposed Within 60 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of traffic summonses disposed within 60 days. Performance data is obtained from the Traffic Tribunal statistical report. This measure is related to the Traffic Tribunal's stated objective to adjudicate cases within its jurisdiction in a timely manner. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of traffic summonses disposed within the stated 60 day guideline.

Worker's Compensation Court

Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Pretrial Within 90 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of workers' compensation claims disposed at pretrial within 90 days of filing. Performance data is obtained from the Workers' Compensation Court statistical report. This measure is related to the Workers' Compensation Court's stated objective to handle all controversies efficiently. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of cases disposed at pretrial within the stated 90 day guideline. In FY 2005, the courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Percentage of Workers' Compensation Cases that are Disposed of at Trial Within 360 Days

This indicator measures the percentage of workers' compensation cases disposed at trial within 360 days of filing. This measure is related to the Workers' Compensation Court's stated objective to decide all controversies efficiently. Performance data is obtained from the Workers' Compensation Court statistical report. The data reported is calendar year data.

The objective is to increase the percentage of cases disposed at trial within 360 days of filing. The courts refined and modified this measure to include an adjustment to the standard to more accurately reflect a reasonable, achievable goal.

Judicial Department - Constitution Performance Measure Narratives

Judicial Tenure & Discipline

Percentage of Verified Complaints Disposed of Within 90 Days of Docketing

This indicator is a measure of the percentage of cases closed during a fiscal year that were disposed within 90 days of docketing. Performance data is obtained from the commission's statistical reports of cases filed through June 30, 2011 and includes cases that were pending at the beginning of the fiscal year. The severity of the complaint adversely affects the amount of time needed to close a file. This measure is related to the commission's stated function of conducting investigations and/or formal proceedings in a timely manner.

Commission records for the past five fiscal years indicate that the average verified complaint is closed within 63 days of docketing. The median for these years is 57 days. It is reasonable to assume that a verified complaint should be closed within 90 days. The objective is to dispose one hundred percent of the verified complaints within 90 days.
