

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

2011-2013 biennium

Name: The Indiana Judicial Center  
Unit of Program Name: The Indiana Judicial Center  
Fund/Center: 1000/100210

### A. Purpose of Program

This account provides funding for the core functions of the Indiana Judicial Center. The mission of the Indiana Judicial Center is to improve the quality of justice in Indiana through education and training, research and reform.

The Indiana Judicial Center provides continuing judicial education that fits the particular needs of Indiana's judicial officers. Education begins shortly after a judge is elected through an orientation program designed to help transform the attorney into a judge. The Indiana Code requires an annual meeting of the Judicial Conference, and the Center organizes and staffs this annual September conference of all Indiana judicial officers for education, business, and team-building. The Conference has developed a comprehensive educational plan designed to meet the needs of the entire judiciary, as well similar education programs for all other court staff.

Since very few Indiana judges have law clerks, the Center provides the only legal research and technical assistance available to most judges.

The Judicial Center is the state agency that oversees the Indiana probation system, by testing and certifying probation officers and setting statewide standards for operating probation departments. The Center performs a similar for function for the State's Court Alcohol and Drug Programs, Drug Courts, Re-entry Courts, and other problem-solving courts.

The committees of the Judicial Conference are important vehicles for reforming what the courts do in judicial administration, juvenile justice, probation, criminal sentencing, child support and parenting time, to name a few topics, and the Center staffs all of these efforts.

### B. Numbers and Profile of Populations Served

The Judicial Center primarily serves the 315 full-time trial judges in courts of record, 87 magistrates, 21 appellate jurists, about 98 senior judges, 47 city court judges, 28 town court judges, 39 full-time commissioners and referees, 16 part-time commissioners and referees, 1,230 probation officers, the directors and staff of the 55 local court alcohol and drug programs, the 28 drug courts, the 6 re-entry courts, and some 6,000 additional local court personnel. The entire state population is ultimately served by improving the quality and administration of justice.

### C. Accomplishments for 2009-2010

**Education:** In fiscal year 2009-2010, the Judicial Center presented 13 days and 133.8 hours of continuing judicial education instruction, with a total attendance at these programs of 1,309. 52 days of instruction were presented to 1,733 probation officers, including the initial training for the implementation of the Indiana Youth Risk Assessment System. 29 days of instruction took place for court alcohol and drug program staff and problem-solving court staff, serving over 700 persons. Finally, the general court staff and clerks' education program was greatly expanded this year serving well over 1,000 court employees.

This education program is essential to improving the quality of justice within this State. The Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference, through its Strategic Planning Committee has recognized the importance of the education and training that judges and court staff receive. The Strategic Planning Committee has stated: "Increasing educational expectations for judicial officers is a priority. By adopting self-imposed, more stringent educational requirements, judicial officers will enhance their ability to administer justice for all litigants. Such educational requirements will assist in enhancing the quality and accuracy of judicial decisions, resulting in increased public confidence and perception of the judicial branch in Indiana. Formalized training and orientation for court staff as well as minimum standards and qualifications will aid the judicial branch in providing the best services possible." To this end, the Indiana Supreme Court ordered enhanced continuing education for judicial officers. This enhancement will ensure judges improve their skills and knowledge of the law, improving the quality of justice in our State.

**Risk and Needs Assessment Project:** The Indiana Judicial Center and the Department of Correction have continued to work with researchers to evaluate and implement newly created public domain risk and needs assessment instruments for both adults and juveniles. The Center has been busy coordinating trainings throughout the State to make sure those criminal justice professionals, primarily probation officers, community corrections officers, and DOC staff learn how to administer these assessment tools. The use of this system-wide assessment tool will allow criminal justice professionals to make informed sentencing and treatment decisions and reduce recidivism in the State's criminal population.

**Juvenile Services:** Judges, probation officers and Judicial Center staff continued collaborative efforts with the Indiana Department of Child Services to address policy issues, refine court orders and collect data to implement the provisions of HEA 1001-2008 and maximize the State's leverage of federal Title IV-E dollars.

**Problem-solving Courts:** The Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference approved seeking legislation to promote the continued expansion of Indiana problem-solving courts and to streamline the certification process administered by the Judicial Center staff. New legislation was enacted that authorizes trial courts to establish certified "problem-solving courts" such as drug courts, re-entry courts, mental health courts, family dependency drug courts, community courts, domestic violence courts, veterans' courts and other problem-solving court models approved by the Judicial Conference. These court models have proven effective in the rehabilitation of the defendants admitted into these courts, and allow these defendants to stay in the community and become productive and contributing members in those communities.

#### D. Goals for the 2011-2013 Biennium

Clearly the Judicial Center wants to maintain the momentum on all of the above-mentioned initiatives, while understanding the fiscal constraints the state faces. During fiscal year 2009-2010, the Judicial Center was able to return to the state's general fund \$158,000. However, that reversion occurred in a year that did not include the week-long general jurisdiction orientation for new judges—a mandatory and extremely critical training for Indiana's newly-elected judges. Other conferences were put on hold for one year, but given the recent Supreme Court order requiring enhanced continuing judicial education for judicial officers, those programs need to be included in this program year as well as the next biennium. Additionally, the Judicial Center is under a contractual obligation with French Lick Springs to hold the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana there, and the costs and mileage reimbursement required by statute will be a significant increase over the amount spent this year. In summary, the Judicial Center is not requesting more than originally appropriated in the 2009-2011 biennium, but will need to receive that original appropriation to carry out its purposes and programs in fiscal year 2010-2011 and the next biennium.

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

2011-2013 biennium

Name: The Indiana Judicial Center  
Unit of Program Name: Interstate Compact  
Fund/Center: 1000/101860

### A. Purpose of Program

This account provides funding for the interstate transfer of supervision of probationers and parolees pursuant to Indiana's membership in the national Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS).

### B. Numbers and Profile of Populations Served

This program serves not only the citizens of Indiana, but actually the citizens of our nation. Providing for the seamless supervision of probationers and parolees as they move from state to state is a critical public safety function.

### C. Accomplishments for 2009-2010

The Judicial Center staff continued to refine the processing of information and the collection of statistics through the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS), the national database. There were 2,614 active in-state compact cases under supervision and 2,223 active out-of-state compact cases under supervision. Specialized training on interstate transfer issues was provided to compact specialists throughout the state. Indiana, through the Judicial Center, remained current in the payment of dues to ICAOS and participated in the national rule-making process and national trainings.

### D. Goals for 2011-2013 Biennium

The Indiana Judicial Center has received notice that there will be a dues increase as part of our contractual and statutory membership in ICAOS. Failure to pay our dues will result in a finding of non-compliance, and further result in the imposition of fines and penalties. In order to meet our obligations in ICAOS, the Judicial Center projects that it will be necessary to increase the funding in the Interstate Compact Fund by \$15,000 in each year of the biennium to cover the dues increases, training obligations and equipment upgrades to maintain ICOTS.

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

2011-2013 biennium

Name: The Indiana Judicial Center  
Unit of Program Name: Drug and Alcohol Programs Fund  
Fund/Center: 1000/218710

### A. Purpose of Program

This fund supports the statewide administration of the Court Alcohol and Drug Program. The Indiana Judicial Center is responsible for administering, supporting, regulating, and certifying local court alcohol and drug programs.

### B. Numbers and Profile of Population Served

The program primarily serves the 55 county Court Alcohol and Drug Programs. Ultimately, the defendants involved in those programs and the residents of their communities are served by the opportunity for these individuals to receive an assessment, appropriate education and referrals to treatment, allowing them to become productive members of their respective communities.

### C. Accomplishments for 2009-2010

The Judicial Center staff assigned to the Court Alcohol and Drug program activity recertified 12 court alcohol and drug programs and provided a provisional certification to one new program. A focus group was convened to discuss the establishment of a certification process for juvenile programs. The Court Substance Abuse Management Specialist credential was awarded by the Judicial Center to 38 candidates who successfully completed the required education and supervised training requirements, as well as passed a written examination. The Judicial Center also provided education and training opportunities for all of those involved in this very important court program.

### D. Goals for 2011-2013 Biennium

The Judicial Center would like to see the current 55 programs expand to include additional counties as well as provide services to juveniles in need of substance abuse education and treatment.