



Dollars in Thousands

ABS024 Recommendation Summary
Admin Office of the Courts
2024 First Supplemental Budget Session
2024AOC - 2024 AOC Supplemental

	Average Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
CB T0PL Current Biennium Base	545.3	242,071	194,765	436,836
2023-25 Current Biennium Total	545.3	242,071	194,765	436,836
Total Carry Forward Level	545.3	242,071	194,765	436,836
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Maintenance – Other Changes				
ML 1M Self-Help Center Technical Fix	0.0	0	0	0
ML 2M Move Supreme Court Back to TOJ	0.0	849	0	849
ML 3M Fund UGA Proviso	0.0	6,000	0	6,000
Maintenance – Other Total	0.0	6,849	0	6,849
Total Maintenance Level	545.3	248,920	194,765	443,685
Percent Change from Current Biennium	.0%	2.8%	.0%	1.6%
Policy – Other Changes				
PL 1S Fund Water Rights Adjudication	0.3	1,479	0	1,479
PL 2S Clark County Superior Court Judge	0.3	218	0	218
PL 3S Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge	0.3	218	0	218
PL 4S Implement Protection Order Support	0.5	440	0	440
PL C1 Implement Small IT Projects	2.3	1,769	0	1,769
PL JA Continue Blake Implementation	5.0	1,812	0	1,812
PL JB Align Juror Pay Pilot Funding	0.5	169	0	169
PL JC Extend Self-Help Centers	0.5	1,249	0	1,249
PL JD Increase MJC Staffing	0.5	155	0	155
Policy – Other Total	10.0	7,509	0	7,509
Subtotal - Policy Level Changes	10.0	7,509	0	7,509
2023-25 Total Policy Level	555.3	256,429	194,765	451,194
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.8%	5.9%	.0%	3.3%

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ML 1M Self-Help Center Technical Fix

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the Legislature first appropriated \$520,000 to launch two self-help center pilot programs that offer assistance to unrepresented litigants with legal information in civil matters. In the 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature funded \$260,000 in each fiscal year to extend the programs. This funding request would make a technical correction to the 2023-25 appropriations, shifting all funding into FY 2024 to continue the two pilot programs at the current, FY 2023 funding level. (General Fund – State)

ML 2M Move Supreme Court Back to TOJ

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests funding to return to the Temple of Justice (TOJ) from its temporary location in Tumwater, WA. The 18-month project is on-track to be complete in July 2024, and current funding is not sufficient to cover the costs of the move or the replacement of deficiencies not realized until the move-out occurred. (General Fund – State)

ML 3M Fund UGA Proviso

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) requests a technical correction to fund the proviso directing \$6 million for distribution to local courts for costs associated with the court-appointed attorney and visitor requirements set forth in the Uniform Guardianship Act, Chapter 11.130 RCW. The funding was removed at carry-forward level, not added back, and then provided by the Legislature in the final budget. This results in a \$6 million reduction to the base, non-provisoed General Fund-State budget. (General Fund – State)

PL 1S Fund Water Rights Adjudication

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 0.3 FTE and \$1.5 million in ongoing funding to support Whatcom County Superior Court activities related to adjudications filed by the Department of Ecology to resolve water rights in the Nooksack Basin Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) I. (General Fund-State)

PL 2S Clark County Superior Court Judge

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) requests \$218,300 ongoing to fund a 12th Superior Court Judge in Clark County, effective July 1, 2024. This request accompanies a 2024 legislative proposal that would amend RCW 2.08.064 and increase the number of judges in Clark County Superior Court from 11 to 12. The need for an additional judge is supported by the 2019 and 2020 Judicial Needs Estimate. (General Fund – State).

PL 3S Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge

PLACEHOLDER: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) requests \$218,300 ongoing to fund a sixth Superior Court Judge in Cowlitz County, effective July 1, 2024. This request accompanies a 2024 legislative proposal that would amend RCW 2.08.06 and increase the number of judges in Cowlitz County Superior Court from five to six. This request is supported by the 2019 and 2020 Judicial Needs Estimate. (General Fund – State)

PL 4S Implement Protection Order Support

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 1.0 FTE and \$440,200 ongoing to provide additional staff tasked with providing outreach and technical assistance to courts to ensure that pro tem judges receive the training, practical tools, and resources required to preside over these civil protection order proceedings. This funding would also pay superior and district court reimbursements for judicial time spent to train the pro tem judges. Overall, this proposal would support courts in their implementation of more accessible, trauma-informed protection order processes. (General Fund-State)

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PL C1 Implement Small IT Projects

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) requests 4.5 FTE and \$882,600 in ongoing funding and \$886,600 in one-time contracts and software licensing funding to complete small information technology projects to: 1) analyze appellate case management and eFiling alternatives; 2) provide specialized, technical expertise to the Appellate Court Enterprise Content Management System; 3) address Washington courts' decentralized person record management; and 4) support cybersecurity investments. These investments are necessary to inform the continued modernization of AOC technology and to secure and support existing information technology investments. (General Fund-State)

PL JA Continue Blake Implementation

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 10.0 FTEs and \$1.8 million ongoing to continue the implementation efforts surrounding the State v. Blake Supreme Court decision of February 2021.

The enacted 2023-25 Biennial Budget provided funding for FY 2024 to continue work on two major tasks: 1) In collaboration with local court staff, prepare comprehensive lists of all cases impacted by the State v. Blake decision going back to 1971; and 2) Establish a centralized process for refunding legal financial obligations. Unfortunately, this funding has only been appropriated yearly while the work required is a multi-year project. AOC is requesting ongoing funding to complete the work. (General Fund-State)

PL JB Align Juror Pay Pilot Funding

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 1.0 FTE and \$169,000 in additional funding to shift the implementation of the Juror Pay Pilot Project to Fiscal Year 2025. The pilot project to increase juror pay was funded by the Legislature in the 2023-25 biennial budget with the goal to increase diversity in juries and increase access to justice for those on trial. However, the budget proviso limits juror pay to \$50 per day per juror and is not enough to incentivize participation or produce useful data. This request would fund staffing for two years, propose new proviso language raising juror pay to \$100 per day per juror, and make a technical correction shifting the pilot project funding for increased juror pay into FY 2025. (General Fund – State)

PL JC Extend Self-Help Centers

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 1.0 FTE and \$1.25 million in funding to extend the existing self-help center pilot through June 30, 2025. Washington has a significant and growing number of unrepresented litigants encountering challenges in using a trial court system that was designed for professional attorneys to navigate. Self-help centers are a common service offered by many other states to assist unrepresented litigants with legal information in civil matters. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Legislature first appropriated \$520,000 to launch two self-help center pilot programs in Washington state. In the 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature funded a total of \$520,000 to extend the programs. This funding request would extend the pilot programs with an additional year to increase the pilots to full funding and provide them with evaluation and performance management support in preparation for expansion of the program in the 2025-27 biennium. (General Fund – State)

PL JD Increase MJC Staffing

The Administrative Office of the Courts requests 1.0 FTE and \$154,700 in ongoing funding to fully staff the Minority and Justice Commission's (MJC) existing work. This proposal will allow the MJC to be responsive to duties assigned during recent legislative sessions and meet existing programmatic needs. (General Fund-State)

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Report Number: ABS024

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