

Judicial Branch

Budget Development Process Review

A group of judicial branch leaders met on October 24, 2011, to develop processes by which budget issues would be discussed, resolutions reached, and the results communicated to the state Legislature. The goals were to:

Reach agreement on a tactical approach to budget issues during the 2011 special session and the 2012 regular session, and

Reach agreement on the future budget development, review, and submittal process that will be used for state judicial branch budget requests.

It was agreed that there will be two separate but closely related processes: one for those items that impact the AOC budget and one for those items that impact the judicial branch budget.

The most significant changes made to the existing processes include:

The establishment of groups to discuss and make recommendations regarding judicial branch budget issues during legislative session.

Developing a process by which the BJA can provide recommendations to the Supreme Court Budget Committee regarding budget requests.

Providing a forum that allows for open presentations of all budget requests to the Supreme Court Budget Committee.

In summary:

The group agreed that, during the 2011 special and 2012 regular Legislative Sessions, two tactical groups will be established for the purpose of quickly reviewing and reaching agreement on budget issues. One group will review and respond to budget issues impacting the AOC and the other will review and respond to budget issues that would impact the branch.

The group also agreed that all externally generated (e.g. County Clerks, SCJA, DMCJA, TCOFC) budget requests that would impact the AOC budget will be routed through the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) for review and recommendation to the Supreme Court Budget Committee. All budget requests that impact the AOC budget—whether for new programs, enhancements to existing programs or for restoration of funding—will be submitted to the BJA for consideration.

Budget requests initiated by the Supreme Court, State Law Library, Court of Appeals, Office of Civil Legal Aid and the Office of Public Defense will be routed through the Supreme Court Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to the full court.

All budget requests will be presented to the Supreme Court Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to the full court.