

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

MISSION

New York State's three Judicial Commissions play important roles in maintaining the integrity of the court system. The Commission on Judicial Nomination and the Judicial Screening Committees screen potential nominees for high-level judicial appointments by the Governor. The Commission on Judicial Conduct investigates and acts upon allegations of judicial misconduct.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

The State Constitution established the Commission on Judicial Conduct, which is responsible for investigating complaints of misconduct against State judges and local justices. The Commission has disciplinary powers, which include the authority to remove judges and justices from office for serious misconduct, subject to review by the Court of Appeals.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has 11 members, 4 of whom are appointed by the Governor, 3 by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the remaining 4 by the Legislature. Commission members serve without pay and meet periodically to consider complaints, hear testimony and determine the disposition of cases. The Commission will have a staff of 26 in fiscal year 2003-04. Its main office is in New York City, with branches in Albany and Rochester. Its budget of nearly \$2.3 million is supported entirely by State tax dollars from the General Fund.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL NOMINATION

The State Constitution established the Commission on Judicial Nomination to evaluate candidates and make recommendations to the Governor for appointment to the Court of Appeals, the State's highest court.

The Commission on Judicial Nomination has 12 members appointed by the Governor, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Legislature. These members serve without pay and conduct the search for qualified candidates upon formal notification of a vacancy on the Court of Appeals. They are supported by volunteer legal staff also serving without pay.

GOVERNOR'S JUDICIAL SCREENING COMMITTEES

The Governor's Judicial Screening Committees are established by Executive Order to evaluate the qualifications of candidates and make recommendations to the Governor for appointment to judgeships other than those on the Court of Appeals. The Committees are located throughout the State. In fiscal year 2003-04, a total of \$150,000 in State tax dollars will support the Committees.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2002-03	Appropriations Recommended 2003-04	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2003-04
State Operations	2,390,000	2,426,000	36,000	0
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	0
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	2,390,000	2,426,000	36,000	0

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ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2002-03	2003-04	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/03	Estimated FTEs 03/31/04	
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	26	26	0
Total	26	26	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2002-03	2003-04	
General Fund	2,390,000	2,426,000	36,000
Total	2,390,000	2,426,000	36,000

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available	Recommended	Change
	2002-03	2003-04	
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	2,230,000	2,266,000	36,000
Judicial Nomination, Commission on			
General Fund	10,000	10,000	0
Judicial Screening Committees			
General Fund	150,000	150,000	0
Total	2,390,000	2,426,000	36,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2003-04 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	1,798,000	(12,000)	1,778,000	(12,000)
Total	1,798,000	(12,000)	1,778,000	(12,000)

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	20,000	0
Total	20,000	0

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2003-04 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	468,000	48,000	33,000	1,000
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	10,000	0	0	0
Judicial Screening Committees	150,000	0	0	0
Total	<u>628,000</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>33,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	32,000	1,000	388,000	46,000
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	0	0	0	0
Judicial Screening Committees	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>32,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>388,000</u>	<u>46,000</u>

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	15,000	0	0	0
Judicial Nomination, Commission on	0	0	10,000	0
Judicial Screening Committees	0	0	150,000	0
Total	<u>15,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>0</u>