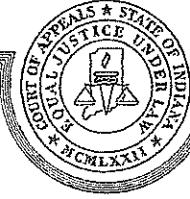


COURT OF APPEALS



OF INDIANA

Nancy H. Vaidik, Chief Judge

August 20, 2018

To: State Budget Agency
Jason Dudich
Director

RE: Court of Appeals Transmittal Letter
2020 – 2021 Biennial Budget Request

Dear Mr. Dudich,

The mission of the Court of Appeals of Indiana is: **To Serve All People By Providing Equal Justice Under Law.** The following objectives are sought to accomplish this mission:

1. To operate an independent, accessible, and responsive appellate judicial system for the just resolution of disputes.
2. To develop a stronger organization to meet the needs of the bench, bar, and public.
3. To enhance the understanding of the law, legal system, and administration of justice through judicial education.
4. To further the establishment of the Court's presence in Indiana communities.
5. To ensure the efficient use of public resources in the administration of the appellate judicial system.

This Biennial Budget request is designed to enable the Court to achieve its objectives and to accomplish its mission. The Court has earned a national reputation for the high quality and the timeliness of its opinions, and intends to keep it. On the latter point, the average age of a pending case before the Court is consistently about one month. The increases requested in this budget will enable the Court to continue to provide the citizens of the State of Indiana an independent, accessible, and responsive appellate court that resolves conflicts fairly, efficiently, and expeditiously.

The Court is submitting three personal-services change packages, two of which are pursuant to Operating Budget instructions.

Change package 1 – additional I.T. personnel:

With the advent of e-filing, there has been a dramatic increase in the Court's use of and reliance upon technology and technology devices. As a result, there is a need for extra desktop/technical support for the Court of Appeals. The Court is an increase in its Personal Services appropriation sufficient to add two I.T. staff positions.

The duties of three of the Court's current four I.T. positions are concentrated primarily on managing software platforms that form the digital infrastructure of the Court's business process under e-filing, i.e., SharePoint and the Odyssey Case Management System. The SharePoint

Administrator handles our Intranet SharePoint site, which handles the day-to-day business of the Court. The Associate Business Analyst handles all our Odyssey and Incite support and training. This leaves only one I.T. person dedicated to providing desktop support. The Court has an urgent need for a person who will provide hardware maintenance and support, security administration for threat mitigation, and end-user support. Additionally, this person will provide support to the Court's Communications Director when she travels across Indiana to record remote oral arguments, and will also provide assistance to judges when they work remotely.

Also, because of the increased use of technology and devices, the Court needs a help-desk specialist who can provide level-1 support for requests from internal users by phone and email to resolve issues where possible, or otherwise route the request to appropriate level-2 support team. Therefore, there is a need for a help-desk specialist to manage and assign the numerous tickets that come in through the Court's internal ticketing system, and also to write procedures, tutorials, and guides in a variety of technology subject areas for our users.

Change package 2 – 3.3% increase in Personal Services appropriation due to mid-2018 and 2019 raises:

Pursuant to the current Operating Budget Instructions, the Court requests an increase in its Personal Services appropriation that increases its Personal Services appropriation by 3.3% above its actual FY 2018 spending, in order to cover pay-for-performance and benefits increases that went into effect in the middle of FY 2018 and for similar increases in FY 2019.

Change package 3 – increase in Personal Services appropriation due to mid-2018 and 2019 raises not covered by the 3.3% increase set out in the current Operating Budget

Instructions:

Our judges received salary increases in FY 18 and FY 19 pursuant to I.C. § 33-38-5-8.1. In addition, our staff received 2.1% pay increases in FY 18 and FY 19. The cost of fringe benefits associated with those pay raises has increased an additional 23.7%. The additional funds sought in this change package are attributable entirely to these increases in salary and fringe benefits that are not covered by the 3.3% increase set out in the current Operating Budget Instructions, as described above in Change Package 2.

In sum, this budget request provides the funds needed by the Court of Appeals to accomplish its mission in a timely and efficient manner. We believe it is reasonable and necessary.

Sincerely,

Chief Judge Nancy Vaidik

Nancy H. Vaidik, Chief Judge
Indiana Court of Appeals