

Judicial Conduct, Commission on

Mission

The State Constitution established the Commission on Judicial Conduct to evaluate and investigate complaints of misconduct against State judges and local justices. The Commission has disciplinary powers and may render determinations to admonish, censure or remove judges and justices from office for misconduct, or to retire judges for disability, subject to review by the Court of Appeals pursuant to Article 6, Section 22, of the Constitution.

Organization and Staffing

There are 11 members of the Commission, who serve part-time and without compensation. Each serves a renewable four-year term and is appointed by the Governor, the Chief Judge and the Legislature.

The Commission elects a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members for renewable two-year terms. The Commission appoints an Administrator, who in turn appoints and directs Agency staff. The Commission also designates a Clerk to assist the Commission in its consideration of formal disciplinary charges, adjudication of such charges and preparation of determinations and related matters.

The Commission's principal office is in New York City with satellite offices in Albany and Rochester. Each office is responsible for investigating complaints that concern judges in their respective regions of the state.

Budget Highlights

The FY 2023 Executive Budget recommends a \$7.2 million All Funds appropriation with a total workforce of 44 FTEs. This is an \$833,000 increase from the previous fiscal year attributed to general salary increases, a staffing increase of two FTEs, a new case management system and increased lease costs.

Program Highlights

The Commission's core constitutional mission is to enforce ethics standards for approximately 3,350 judges and justices of the New York State Unified Court System, and to impose discipline on those judges or justices who materially violate those standards. The Commission does so by evaluating and taking appropriate action on the roughly 1,900 complaints it receives every year. All agency staff – lawyers, investigators and administrative personnel – are deployed to fulfill the Agency's core mission: examine, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate complaints that judges have engaged in misconduct. Ancillary activities, such as participating in judicial or legal education and training seminars, are also in furtherance of the agency's efforts to enforce judicial ethics.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available FY 2022	Appropriations Recommended FY 2023	Change From FY 2022	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2023
State Operations	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000	0
Total	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000	0

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

Program	FY 2022 Estimated FTEs 03/31/22	FY 2023 Estimated FTEs 03/31/23	FTE Change
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	42	44	2
Total	42	44	2

NYS DOB | FY 2023 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations
STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2022	Recommended FY 2023	Change
General Fund	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000
Total	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000

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

Program	Available FY 2022	Recommended FY 2023	Change
Judicial Conduct			
General Fund	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000
Total	6,356,000	7,189,000	833,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2023 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	5,432,000	635,000	5,432,000	672,000
Total	5,432,000	635,000	5,432,000	672,000

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	0	(37,000)	0	0
Total	0	(37,000)	0	0

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2023 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	1,757,000	198,000	24,000	5,000
Total	1,757,000	198,000	24,000	5,000

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Judicial Conduct	11,000	(14,000)	1,669,000	169,000

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Total	11,000	(14,000)	1,669,000	169,000
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Program	Amount	Equipment	Change
Judicial Conduct		53,000	38,000
Total		53,000	38,000

Note: Most recent estimates as of 05/11/2020