

Court Fees and Fines and State Appropriations by State*
Last update 3/14/06

State	Court Fees and Fines	State Appropriation
AL	None	None
AK	None	None
AZ	None	\$1,000,000 in TANF funds and \$200,000 in general appropriations for 03-04 to provide legal services to women with children who are victim of domestic violence. \$100,000 to fund elder law hotline.
AR	Estimated revenue \$340,000. \$20 to "reopening" fee for civil cases, initiated 2005.	None
CA	\$5,000,000; initiated 2005	\$10,000,000; initiated in 99-00.
CO	None	\$500,000 for 2005-06; initiated 1999, eliminated 2004, then restored 2005.
CT	None	\$450,000 for 05-06; increases to \$1,000,000 in 06-07; initiated 2005
DE	None	\$319,000 from Grant-in-Aid program for general legal services; \$50,000 in general appropriation for elder law.
DC	None	None
FL	As of 2004, local filing fees are no longer used for legal services, but state law requires counties to fund. Approximately \$8,000,000.	None (Governor vetoed appropriation for 05-06)
GA	For pro bono in 3 counties only; total is \$532,000	\$2,011,000 to provide legal services for victims of domestic violence (no divorces). Initiated in 1998. Also, \$140,000 for senior hotline.
HI	\$169,000; initiated in 1996	\$849,000; initiated in 1975
ID	None	None

IL	DuPage County only, for family and children's issues, \$244,000, initiated in 1995	\$2,000,000 to fund legal information centers, regional legal services hotlines, dispute resolution centers, self-help assistance desks, and civil legal services providers, initiated 2000, increased 2005
IN	None	\$1,000,000; initiated in 1997
IA	None	\$900,000 in 2005; initiated 1996.
KS	\$950,000, initiated in 1996	None
KY	\$2,922,000; initiated in 1994, increased (doubled) in 2003	\$1,500,000, initiated in 1996, increased in 1998
LA	\$439,500; 1997 legislature authorized local jurisdictions to assess fees; implemented in several jurisdictions.	\$350,000, initiated 2003, increased 2005
ME	\$1,200,000, initiated in 1997, increased in 2005	\$129,000 to Pine Tree Legal Services; \$140,000 to Legal Services for the Elderly
MD	\$6,902,000; initiated in 1998 and increased substantially in 2004	\$500,000 from state abandoned property fund (initiated 1985)
MA	None; was filing fee surcharge from 1983-94; converted to general appropriation in 1994	\$8,564,000 total; \$4,338,734 for general legal services, plus \$4,225,508 special project appropriations (medicare advocacy, SSI and domestic cases, esp. violence)
MI	\$7,524,000, initiated in 1993	None
MN	Dedicated surcharges on civil filing fees and certain real estate filings existed until late 1980s; now are a revenue source for appropriation	\$12,300,000 (including \$877,000 earmarked for family law) for 05-06, initiated in 1983, most recently increased 2005
MS	None	None
MO	\$2,898,000; initiated 2003	None since FY02-03 (filing fee surcharge initiated).
MT	\$110,000, to serve domestic violence victims; initiated 1999, increased 2005	None
NE	\$1,712,000, initiated in 1997; increased in 2002	None
NV	\$1,192,000, initiated in 1976, amended in 1993. In 2001, additional legislation authorized local jurisdictions to assess certain additional fees; implemented in 2 counties. Increased 2005.	None

NH	None	\$970,000, initiated in 1997, increased in 2005
NJ	Yes (see State Appropriation)	\$16,400,000 (\$2,500,000 initiated in 1966-67, additional appropriation of \$8,000,000 in 1996 with increase in filing fees, \$1,500,000 added in 2000; \$4,400,000 added in 2004)
NM	Approximately \$1,278,000 annually; from legislation passed in 2001.	\$200,000, initiated 2006
NY	None	\$4,600,000 for general legal services (includes \$359,000 for legal services to domestic violence victims). Initiated in 1993.
NC	Approximately \$1,660,000 for general legal services; converted from appropriation in 2001; approximately \$321,000 for domestic violence added in 2004	Initiated in 1989, converted to dedicated filing fee in 2001
ND	Approximately \$204,000; initiated in 1989; increased in 1997	None
OH	\$14,300,000; initiated in 1985, increased 2005	None
OK	None	\$915,000 for family law cases, initiated in 1996; has varied from year to year
OR	\$3,607,000; initiated in 1977, legislature approved approximately \$1,000,000 increase in 2003 to be phased in over 3 years.	None
PA	\$7,343,000; initiated in 2002.	\$2,470,000; initiated in FY74-75
RI	\$74,000; initiated in 1996	None
SC	\$1,627,000; initiated in 1997	None
SD	None	None
TN	\$1,877,900 from filing fee (initiated in 1995) and parking/speeding ticket surcharge (initiated in 1999). \$1,392,000 from tax on bail bonds (initiated 2001)	None

TX	\$4,726,000; initiated in 1997	\$2,500,000 per year, since 2002, from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund to provide civil legal services to crime victims. \$1,500,000, started in 05-06, in general revenue funds.
UT	None	\$100,000, initiated 2003, to provide assistance in family law and domestic violence cases.
VT	None	\$663,000
VA	Estimate \$3,400,000; increased from \$2,550,000 in 2003 and \$1,700,000 in 2002 (with 2 separate \$1 increases in surcharge); initiated in 1992	\$1,625,000; initiated in late 70's, increased periodically
WA	Yes (see State Appropriation)	\$8,288,500 total (\$2,883,000 from state general fund, \$1,493,500 from the Violence Reduction and Drug Enforcement account, \$3,852,000 from Public Safety & Education account). Increase of \$1,500,000 over 04-05.
WV	\$296,000 to serve domestic violence victims; from civil filing fees and jury fees; initiated 2003	\$150,000 to serve domestic violence victims
WI	None	None
WY	None	None

* This information was compiled by the Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), a project of the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants of the American Bar Association. This chart is updated as new information is received. For more information, or to submit updated information or corrections, please contact Meredith McBurney, Project Director, PERLS, 303-329-8091, or mm8091@aol.com.

Interim Report
State Legislative Funding Changes, 2006 Session
(as reported to Meredith by 8/4/06)

Here's what has been reported to me so far. (I've also included three states that have increases this year totaling \$3,507,000 because they were built into legislation from prior years):

State Appropriations and Court Fees and Fines:

- CA** A cost-of-living adjustment of 4.97% will be applied to both the appropriation and filing fee surcharge, bringing the totals for the next year to \$10,497,000 and \$5,248,500 respectively. This is the first year of this cost-of-living adjustment (and I think the only one in the country), which in the future will be determined and applied annually.
- The legislature has allocated at least \$5,000,000 in additional funding for self-help centers. (Not included in totals.)
- CT** Appropriation increasing to \$1,000,000 from \$450,000, the result of legislation passed in 2005 session.
- FL** The state appropriation was reinstated and increased. There was a state appropriation of approximately \$1,000,000 from 2002 to 2004. In 2005, the legislature increased the appropriation to \$5,000,000, but the governor vetoed the entire amount. This year, the legislature passed and the governor has signed an appropriation for \$2,500,000.
- IA** State appropriation increased to \$1,350,000 from \$900,000.
- IL** Appropriation increased to \$3,500,000 from \$2,000,000. Much of the credit for the increase goes to the attorney general. Last year, the funding was moved to the AG's budget, and she was instrumental in getting the amount increased this year.
- LA** State appropriation increased to \$500,000 from \$350,000.
- MA** Legislature increased appropriation by \$900,000, bringing the total appropriation to \$9,464,000. (The governor had vetoed \$500,000 of the increase, but the legislature overrode the veto.)
- ME** Revenue from fines increasing to approximately \$1,200,000 from \$900,000, the result of legislation passed in 2005 session.
- MS** A filing fee surcharge of \$5 on all civil case filings has been approved by legislature and signed by Governor. This is the first state funding ever in MS. It

is expected to generate between \$500,000 and \$800,000 annually. The proceeds will go to a Civil Justice Fund administered by the Supreme Court for civil legal services for the indigent.

- NM** Legislature passed a new appropriation of \$200,000. Funds go to the Civil Legal Services Commission, which also handles the revenue from the filing fee surcharge, for distribution to civil legal services providers.
- NV** There is an increase in court fees but I do not yet have the details.
- OK** Appropriation increased to \$1,164,845 from \$914,845.
- PA** PA's filing fee surcharge, which was initiated in 2002 and generated \$7,343,000 in 2005-06FY, was scheduled to sunset in November, 2007. Legal services advocates have succeeded in getting the sunset extended until 2012. The percentage of the surcharge allocated to legal services has been gradually increasing, and is expected to generate \$10,000,000 in FY2006-07. Appropriation increased to \$2,569,000 from \$2,519,000.
- WA** Received \$600,000 supplemental appropriation for domestic violence survivor services, bringing total state funding to \$8,888,500

Other Legislative Successes:

- TN** Legislature established a fund in the office of the state treasurer to receive donations, class action residuals, grants, and other funds for civil legal services, in effect creating a mechanism for a statewide endowment for legal services. If the corpus reaches \$1,000,000, the interest will be distributed to legal aid programs, based on a poverty ratio provided for by statute, and overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- TX** Legislation passed allowing law firms to deduct up to \$500 of expenses in pro bono cases.