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COURT SYSTEM BUDGET SUMMARY

The budget Governor Easley just signed and that went into effect on August 1st includes significant increases in funding for North Carolina's courts. The AOC's budget is highlighted by the \$24 million in recurring and nonrecurring adjustments for this fiscal year and an additional \$38 million in expansion funding for FY08-09. The increases mean that beginning next year the AOC's base operating budget will be in excess of \$450 million. Several special provisions that will benefit the court system, including a provision that directs an additional \$1 per court fee collected to established legal services programs and another provision that provides the AOC with the authority to implement a pilot e-filing program, are included in the budget as well.

The Office of Indigent Defense Services received significant funding increases as well. Most of their new funding is dedicated to a \$10 increase in the hourly rate for assigned counsel in non-capital cases and for expanding the number of Public Defender offices in North Carolina.

Combined, the AOC and OIDS budget for FY 08-09 will be in excess of \$568 million. Please follow this link to the [budget](#) and this link to the detailed [money report](#). A summary is provided below:

Special Provisions of Note-Section of S.L. 2007-323:

- Court Fee Adjustments-Section 30.8.(a)-30.11.(e)
 - Additional \$1 per court fee collected directed to legal services programs
 - Provides that fees collected as a result of increases be directed to the AOC
- 5% salary increase for judges-Section 28.4.(a)
- Electronic Filing Pilot Project-Section 14.17.(b)-(d)
- Assignment of additional District Court Judges-Section 14.13.(a)-(f)
- Assignment of 30 additional District Attorneys-Section 14.14.(a) & (b)
- Establishment of additional Public Defender offices-Section 14.4(a)-(d)
- OIDS can compensate for certain appeals-Section 14.19.(a) & (b)
- Expansion of Court-Funded Interpreter for Chapter 50B cases-Section 14.23

Expansion Funding Highlights in Millions:

	<u>FY07-08</u>	<u>FY08-09</u>
• Technology Initiatives	\$7.9	\$7.9
• New Prosecutors/Support Staff	\$3.9	\$10.2
• New Deputy Clerk Positions	\$4.2	\$11.1
• New Magistrates and District Court Judges	\$1.1	\$3.1
• Increase Hourly Rate for Assigned Counsel	\$4.1	\$8.5
• New Public Defender Offices		\$1.6