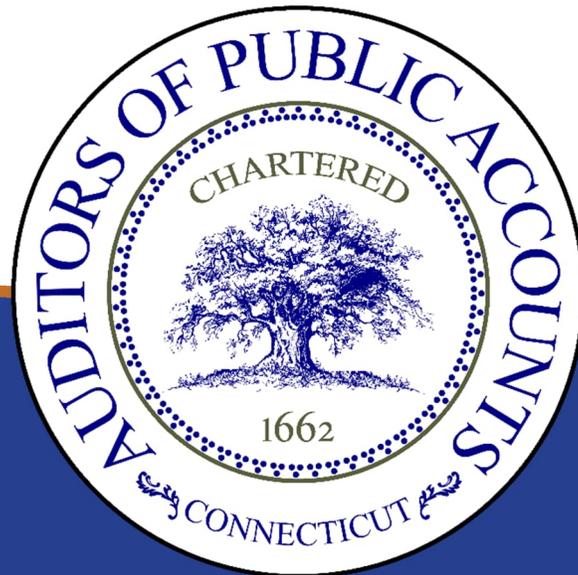


AUDITORS' REPORT

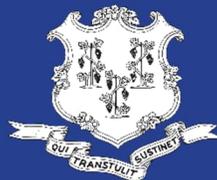
Judicial Branch

FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2024



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Auditors of Public Accounts

JOHN C. GERAGOSIAN
State Auditor



CRAIG A. MINER
State Auditor

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
STATE AUDITORS' FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
Lack of Controls over Asset Management	4
Miscoding of Grant Expenditures	5
Untimely Filing of Statutorily Required Reports.....	6
Insufficient Disaster Recovery Plan	8
System Access Not Deactivated Promptly for Separated Employees.....	9
Internal Audit Lacks Organizational Independence.....	11
Lack of Attendance Certification Approvals	12
STATUS OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS	14
OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY	15
ABOUT THE AGENCY	17

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

JOHN C. GERAGOSIAN

STATE CAPITOL
210 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1559

CRAIG A. MINER

March 24, 2026

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to submit this audit of the Judicial Branch for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Our audit identified internal control deficiencies; instances of noncompliance with laws, regulations, or policies; and a need for improvement in practices and procedures that warrant management's attention.

The Auditors of Public Accounts wish to express our appreciation for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our representatives by the personnel of the Judicial Branch during the course of our examination.

The Auditors of Public Accounts also would like to acknowledge the auditors who contributed to this report:

Matthew Boulem
Todd Clark
Mitchell Molleur
Nikolaos Perdikakis
Erica Reed

Handwritten signature of Nikolaos Perdikakis in black ink.

Nikolaos Perdikakis
Principal Auditor

Approved:

Handwritten signature of John C. Geragosian in black ink.

John C. Geragosian
State Auditor

Handwritten signature of Craig A. Miner in black ink.

Craig A. Miner
State Auditor

STATE AUDITORS' FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our examination of the records of the Judicial Branch disclosed the following seven recommendations, of which two were repeated from the previous audit.

Finding 1

Lack of Controls over Asset Management

Background

Section 53-341b of the General Statutes restricts the sale or delivery of body armor to in-person transfers to those who possess a local gun dealer permit, pistol or revolver (i.e., handgun) permit, eligibility certificate for a handgun or long gun, or ammunition certificate in accordance with the provisions of Sections 29-28, 29-36f, 29-37p, or 29-38n. This provision does not apply to judicial marshals, probation officers, or authorized officials of the Judicial Branch who purchase body armor on behalf of a probation officer or judicial marshal.

Criteria

Section 4-36 of the General Statutes requires each state agency to establish and maintain inventory records in the form prescribed by the State Comptroller. The State Property Control Manual requires state agencies to implement appropriate safeguards to prevent potential loss of state property.

The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Policy and Procedures Manual establishes standards for maintaining personal safety equipment, such as ballistic vests. These requirements include keeping all personal safety equipment in locked storage when not in use and maintaining a current inventory.

Condition

The Judicial Branch did not have adequate internal controls over ballistic vests. Our review of loss reports submitted during the audited period disclosed that the Judicial Branch reported 30 ballistic vests as missing or unrecoverable. The branch subsequently discovered three vests and 27 remained missing. The Judicial Branch did not perform a thorough review into the missing vests.

Context

The Judicial Branch inventory records as of April 2025 included 1,427 ballistic vests valued at \$690,377. The historical cost of the 27 missing ballistic vests is \$12,419.

Effect	The lack of prudent maintenance of ballistic vests could lead to possession of restricted items by unauthorized individuals, which could pose a threat to public safety.
Cause	It appears a lack of managerial oversight contributed to this condition.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has not been previously reported.
Recommendation	The Judicial Branch should strengthen internal controls over asset accountability to safeguard restricted items and ensure compliance with the requirements of the State Property Control Manual and Court Support Services Division Policy and Procedures Manual.
Agency Response	<p>"We agree with this finding and acknowledge the importance of maintaining accountability over state assets, particularly ballistic vests, given the risks associated with unauthorized use.</p> <p>While controls were in place for managing ballistic vests, we recognize the need to strengthen their implementation and oversight. Gaps in how the controls were applied may have affected the accuracy and completeness of tracking.</p> <p>To strengthen compliance, we will reinforce expectations and leverage technological tools to improve and automate the application of inventory procedures going forward. These efforts are intended to strengthen control, improve accuracy, and reduce the risk of similar issues going forward."</p>

Finding 2

Miscoding of Grant Expenditures

Criteria	The Office of the State Comptroller established an account coding system designed to identify and track funds received and expended by state agencies. The accurate classification of transactions is essential for managing and reporting an agency's financial activities.
Condition	Our review of 40 grant expenditures disclosed that the Judicial Branch miscoded three expenditure transactions totaling \$243,535. Further review disclosed the branch miscoded an additional \$2,684,573 in expenditures.

Context	During fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the Judicial Branch paid \$287,539,759 to pass through entities. We haphazardly selected 40 pass through grant non-state transactions totaling \$15,097,392.
Effect	The Judicial Branch has less assurance that it properly reports its financial activities.
Cause	Expenditures were miscoded due to lack of management oversight.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has not been previously reported.
Recommendation	The Judicial Branch should strengthen internal controls to ensure that it charges expenditures to the appropriate account codes to maintain accurate financial records.
Agency Response	"We agree with this finding. Staff has been notified to code future interagency transfer payments to account 55120 - Transfer Grant Expenditures-State Agency. As part of our corrective action, we reviewed interagency transfer payments that occurred after the audit period and identified similar errors. However, the period during which corrections could be made has passed."

Finding 3

Untimely Filing of Statutorily Required Reports

Criteria	<p>The Judicial Branch must comply with numerous reporting requirements set forth by the General Statutes.</p> <p>Section 54-56n of the General Statutes provides that not later than January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Branch shall submit a report detailing the data compiled for the Pretrial and Diversionary program for the previous calendar year.</p> <p>Section 46b-133k(d) of the General Statutes provides that the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department shall report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee not later than January 15th regarding persons detained in juvenile detention centers and correction facilities that detain persons ages 17 and under.</p> <p>Section 4-68y of the General Statutes provides that not later than September 30, 2011, and biennially thereafter, the Chief Court Administrator shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on the plans to address disproportionate</p>
----------	---

minority contact in the juvenile justice system and the steps taken to implement those plans during the previous two fiscal years.

Condition	<p>Our review of the Judicial Branch statutorily required reports, disclosed three instances in which the Judicial Branch did not promptly submit reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Judicial Branch submitted the 2024 Pretrial and Diversionary program report 22 days late.• The Judicial Branch did not submit the 2024 report regarding persons detained in juvenile detention centers and correction facilities.• The Judicial Branch did not submit its biennial report on its plans to address disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system and the steps taken to implement those plans to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.
Context	<p>The Judicial Branch had 23 statutory reporting requirements during fiscal years 2023 and 2024. We reviewed all 23 reports.</p>
Effect	<p>There is diminished executive and legislative oversight when the Judicial Branch does not promptly submit required reports.</p>
Cause	<p>The condition appears to be due to a lack of administrative oversight.</p>
Prior Audit Finding	<p>This finding has not been previously reported.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Judicial Branch should strengthen internal controls to ensure that it promptly submits all statutorily required reports or pursue legislation to repeal reporting requirements that are no longer necessary.</p>
Agency Response	<p>“We agree with the three noted instances. There was initial confusion as to which unit in the Judicial Branch would be responsible for completing the pretrial diversionary program reports. Once ownership was identified, the Branch promptly produced and submitted the reports. Future reports will be submitted timely. As it relates to the report prepared in compliance of Section 46b-133k(d), we are scheduled to present fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee in October 2025. Moving forward, we are automating the report to ensure it is delivered annually by January 15th. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) juvenile justice specialist position tasked with reviewing this report was unfilled between 2017 until the fall of 2025. Once the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) was made aware</p>

that this position was filled the report was produced and submitted to OPM in December 2025.”

Finding 4

Insufficient Disaster Recovery Plan

Criteria	<p>An information technology disaster recovery plan ensures the continuation of vital business processes in the event of a disaster or other system interruption. A disaster recovery plan defines recovery objectives and the necessary steps to promptly resume normal operations. The written plan identifies relevant assets, documents backup processes, and provides a detailed description that prioritizes the process, timing, and personnel to restore the information technology systems.</p> <p>An agency should regularly test its disaster recovery plan to better ensure it will operate as expected.</p>
Condition	<p>The Judicial Branch developed a high-level disaster recovery plan. The plan lacks sufficient detail to enable information technology professionals to restart and restore critical applications. In addition, the Judicial Branch did not update or annually test its disaster recovery plan during the audited period. The Judicial Branch has not updated its disaster recovery plan since October of 2020.</p>
Context	<p>The Judicial Branch’s information technology infrastructure provides essential support for branch operations.</p>
Effect	<p>The lack of a comprehensive and tested disaster recovery plan may hamper the Judicial Branch’s efforts to promptly restore information technology functionality when a disaster occurs.</p>
Cause	<p>The condition appears to be due to a lack of administrative oversight.</p>
Prior Audit Finding	<p>This finding has been previously reported in the last three audit reports covering fiscal years 2017 through 2022.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Judicial Branch should develop a more comprehensive disaster recovery plan. The Judicial Branch should update and annually test its disaster recovery plan.</p>
Agency Response	<p>“We agree with this finding. In fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, the Judicial Branch continued to assess and enhance IT capabilities</p>

in support of its continuity of operations plan. In fiscal year 2023, the Judicial Branch began to assess its ability to respond to and recover from a disaster involving any component of its enterprise data network that covers more than 70 sites by following pertinent state and federal guidelines. The assessment resulted in the production of hundreds of sensitive artifacts and configuration diagrams that enhance Judicial Branch’s ability to both avoid and recover from local, regional, and statewide disruptions to the data network. The Judicial Branch continues to assess the testing, restoration and recovery capabilities for critical applications in fiscal year 2024. The Judicial Branch will then use the test results, recovery objectives, and recent role changes for IT personnel to make the plan more current and more comprehensive.”

Finding 5

System Access Not Deactivated Promptly for Separated Employees

Criteria	Policy No. 1009 regarding security and access in the Judicial Branch’s Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual states that the Human Resource Management Unit of Administrative Services must notify the Information Technology Division of the termination dates of all employees. Once notified, the Information Technology Division will disable all computer and network access for those employees.
Condition	Our review of 25 Judicial Administrative Services Management Information Network (JASMIN) terminated employee user accounts disclosed six instances in which the Judicial Branch could not provide support that it disabled the employees’ accounts.
Context	The Judicial Branch deactivated 537 JASMIN employee user accounts during fiscal years 2023 and 2024, of which we randomly selected 25 employees to review.
Effect	There is an increased risk of unauthorized access and data tampering to the Judicial Branch’s systems.
Cause	Weak internal controls and inadequate management oversight contributed to this condition.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has not been previously reported.

Recommendation

The Judicial Branch should strengthen internal controls to ensure that it deactivates system access immediately upon a user's separation.

Agency Response

"We agree with this finding in part and acknowledge the importance of promptly terminating system access for separated employees.

The six accounts identified in this finding were associated with our OpenVMS systems, which are older legacy platforms that are not adaptable to modern automated functions. This limitation may have contributed to delays in deactivating certain accounts, despite existing controls for newer systems.

To address these challenges, the Branch has undertaken the following corrective measures:

- Enhanced record-keeping: Established a direct mapping between OpenVMS user account names and employee numbers to accurately track user identities across systems.
- Automated processing: Run a terminated employee listing to automatically remove separated employee accounts.
- Expanded monitoring: Leverage daily feeds to capture user status changes in real time, further reducing the risk of delayed account termination.
- Additional safeguards: Implemented an automatic control that disables accounts inactive for more than one year.

These steps demonstrate our commitment to strengthening system access controls, particularly within legacy environments that present unique technical challenges. While modernization of the underlying platform remains a longer-term objective, these interim improvements reduce the risk of unauthorized access and align our practices more closely with security and access management best practices."

Finding 6

Internal Audit Lacks Organizational Independence

Background	Under Section 51-1b of the General Statutes, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the head of the branch and is responsible for its administration. The chief justice appoints a chief court administrator to act as the Judicial Branch's administrative director.
Criteria	Under International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors, an internal audit unit must be organizationally independent to effectively perform its responsibilities in an unbiased manner. The internal audit unit should report to the organization's governing body.
Condition	The Judicial Branch's internal audit unit reports to the branch's Administrative Services Division. The division is one of five administrative divisions that reports to the chief court administrator. The internal audit unit does not have adequate organizational independence under this reporting structure.
Context	A strong internal audit function helps an organization efficiently and effectively complete its mission. It provides assurance that the organization is addressing risks, complying with requirements, and taking advantage of opportunities. Internal auditors can detect emerging problems early, enabling management to address them before they create serious issues.
Effect	There's an increased risk that the internal audit unit will be unable to independently perform its responsibilities.
Cause	Judicial Branch administrators seem to view the internal audit unit as part of the Administrative Services Division.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has been previously reported in the last three audit reports covering fiscal years 2017 through 2022.
Recommendation	The Judicial Branch's internal audit unit should report directly to the chief court administrator.
Agency Response	"We agree with this finding in part and acknowledge the importance of maintaining Internal Audit's independence and objectivity. Although Internal Audit currently reports to the Branch's Administrative Services Division, and changes to this structure are

not currently planned, we remain open to exploring enhancements that strengthen independence.

In support of continued alignment with internal audit principles, we are considering safeguards to reinforce independence, objectivity, and organizational support that enable Internal Audit to fulfill its responsibilities effectively. These may include increased engagement with the Chief Court Administrator, reinforcement of charter provisions, and enhanced transparency surrounding audit planning and results.

While we are not pursuing a change in reporting structure at this time, we hope the actions under consideration reflect a thoughtful effort to reinforce independence within the current structure and respond meaningfully to the underlying concern.”

Finding 7

Lack of Attendance Certification Approvals

Criteria

Judicial Branch Administrative Policy 502 provides that eligible employees report approved overtime or compensatory time on their timesheet using the branch’s attendance system. At the end of the pay period, the supervisor prints the attendance sheet, which the employee initials and supervisor signs.

Judicial Branch Administrative Policy 516 requires employees excluded from collective bargaining to receive time-and-a-half compensatory time or time-and-a-half regular pay for all time worked over 40 hours in a week.

Condition

Our review of 602 hours of overtime, totaling \$27,454, revealed 11 instances involving eight employees, which lacked employee initials or supervisory approvals on the attendance sheet. The overtime totaled 183 hours, and \$8,781 for the eight employees.

Our review of 337 hours of compensatory time earned by 25 employees disclosed the following:

- In one instance, an employee earned nine hours of compensatory time that they were not entitled to since they did not work over 40 hours.
- In two instances, the attendance sheet was not available.

- In ten instances, the attendance sheet lacked employee initials and/or supervisory approvals.

Context	Judicial Branch overtime expenditures totaled \$2,213,115 and \$2,298,952 during fiscal years 2023 and 2024, respectively. We judgmentally selected 43 overtime payments made to the 25 highest earners from four pay periods. In addition, during the audited period, 1,696 employees earned 108,985 hours of compensatory time and charged 105,627 hours of compensatory time. We haphazardly selected 25 employees who earned compensatory time and reviewed all compensatory time earned from four pay periods that had holidays during the audited period.
Effect	The Judicial Branch did not enforce its attendance requirements, increasing the risk of errors or abuse.
Cause	The lack of supervisory oversight contributed to this condition.
Prior Audit Finding	This finding has not been previously reported.
Recommendation	The Judicial Branch should ensure compliance with its internal control policies and procedures for awarding overtime and compensatory time.
Agency Response	<p>“We agree with this finding. This is part of our attendance training available to all employees, including Attendance Coordinators and Supervisors. We will continue to work with the field, these units in particular, to make sure the ND04 attendance sheet is initialed by all employees, signed by the supervisor, and retained going forward.</p> <p>The employee should not have received comp time. However, the employee did not receive any additional accruals as they should have used less vacation time in lieu of receiving comp time. The amount of comp time earned was fully offset by vacation time taken, resulting in no change to the overall accrual balance. As such, there is no time owed by the employee. The policy for use of accruals while earning compensatory time will be clarified to minimize the chance of further issues.”</p>

STATUS OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Our [prior audit report](#) on the Judicial Branch contained six recommendations. Four have been implemented or otherwise resolved and two have been repeated or restated with modifications during the current audit.

Prior Recommendation	Current Status
The Judicial Branch should strengthen internal controls to ensure it accurately reports account receivable amounts to the Office of the State Comptroller.	RESOLVED
The Judicial Branch should monitor compliance with its overtime policies.	RESOLVED
The Judicial Branch should ensure compliance with existing controls for awarding adult probation employee compensatory time.	RESOLVED
The Judicial Branch should require grievance counsel to submit time and attendance records. The branch should pay grievance counsel for their actual hours worked.	RESOLVED
The Judicial Branch should develop a more comprehensive disaster recovery plan. The Judicial Branch should update and annually test its disaster recovery plan.	REPEATED Recommendation 4
The Judicial Branch's internal audit unit should report directly to the chief court administrator. The internal audit unit should assess the risks of all aspects of branch operations, including the Administrative Services and Information Technology divisions.	REPEATED Modified Form Recommendation 6

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

We have audited certain operations of the Judicial Branch in fulfillment of our duties under Section 2-90 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The scope of our audit included, but was not necessarily limited to, the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2024. The objectives of our audit were to evaluate the:

1. Branch's internal controls over significant management and financial functions;
2. Branch's compliance with policies and procedures internal to the branch or promulgated by other state agencies, as well as certain legal provisions; and
3. Effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of certain management practices and operations, including certain financial transactions.

In planning and conducting our audit, we focused on areas of operations based on assessments of risk and significance. We considered the significant internal controls, compliance requirements, or management practices that in our professional judgment would be important to report users. The areas addressed by the audit included payroll and personnel, purchasing and expenditures, revenue and receipts, accounts receivable, asset management, reporting systems, information technology, and internal audit. We also determined the status of the findings and recommendations in our prior audit report.

Our audit did not include the operations of the Office of the Probate Court Administrator or the Division of Public Defender Services. These agencies operate within the Judicial Branch with administrative and fiscal autonomy and our office issues separate audit reports.

Our methodology included reviewing written policies and procedures, financial records, meeting minutes, and other pertinent documents. We interviewed various personnel of the branch and certain external parties. We also tested selected transactions. This testing was not designed to project to a population unless specifically stated. We obtained an understanding of internal controls that we deemed significant within the context of the audit objectives and assessed whether such controls have been properly designed and placed in operation. We tested certain of those controls to obtain evidence regarding the effectiveness of their design and operation. We also obtained an understanding of legal provisions that are significant within the context of the audit objectives, and we assessed the risk that illegal acts, including fraud, and violations of contracts, grant agreements, or other legal provisions could occur. Based on that risk assessment, we designed and performed procedures to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance significant to those provisions.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The accompanying financial information is presented for informational purposes. We obtained this information from various available sources including the branch's management and state information systems. It was not subject to our audit procedures. For the areas audited, we identified

1. Deficiencies in internal controls;

2. Apparent noncompliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, policies, or procedures; and
3. A need for improvement in management practices and procedures that we deemed to be reportable.

The State Auditors' Findings and Recommendations section of this report presents findings arising from our audit of the Judicial Branch.

ABOUT THE AGENCY

Overview

The [Judicial Branch](#) operates under the provisions of Article Fifth of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut and Titles 6 and 51, Chapters 78 and 870, respectively, of the General Statutes. The Office of Victim Services, established within the Judicial Branch, operates under the provisions of Title 54, Chapter 968 of the General Statutes. The branch's mission is to serve the interests of justice and the public by resolving matters brought before it in a fair, timely, efficient, and open manner.

Organizational Structure

The Judicial Branch interprets and upholds laws. It is comprised of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, and Superior Court. The Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It consists of the chief justice, six associate justices, and one senior justice. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court heads the Judicial Branch and is responsible for its administration. Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson served during the audited period until his retirement on September 6, 2024. The Honorable Raheem L. Mullins was appointed Chief Justice effective September 30, 2024, and continues to serve in that capacity.

The Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. It reviews decisions made in the Superior Court to determine errors of law. It also reviews selected decisions of the Appellate Court.

The chief justice appoints the chief court administrator, who oversees the administration of the Judicial Branch. Section 51-5a of the General Statutes outlines the duties and powers of the chief court administrator. The chief court administrator is responsible for the efficient operation of the branch. The deputy chief court administrator assists the chief court administrator in fulfilling these responsibilities. In addition, the deputy chief court administrator represents the Judicial Branch on commissions and committees.

The Appellate Court is the intermediate court of appeals. It reviews Superior Court decisions to determine whether errors of law have occurred. There are nine appellate court judges, and one chief judge who is designated by the chief justice.

The Superior Court is the state trial court of general jurisdiction. It hears all matters (except those under the Probate Court's original jurisdiction) and Probate Court appeals. The Superior Court has 13 judicial districts, each having at least one courthouse and one geographical area court. There are 20 geographical area courts in total. There are also 12 juvenile court districts across the state.

The Superior Court has four principal trial divisions: civil, criminal, family, and housing. In general, judicial district court locations hear major criminal cases, civil matters, and non-juvenile family cases. Geographical area courts hear other civil and criminal matters and juvenile courts hear cases involving juvenile matters.

The Office of the Probate Court Administrator is an agency within the Judicial Branch, which our office [reports](#) on separately. However, the local probate courts are subject to audit by the Office of the Probate Court Administrator. Similarly, the Division of Public Defender Services is an autonomous agency within the Judicial Branch for fiscal and budgetary purposes only, and our office [reports](#) on it separately.

The Judicial Branch has five administrative divisions – administrative services, court support services, external affairs, superior court operations, and information technology. These divisions report directly to the chief court administrator.

The Administrative Services Division provides centralized services to assist judges and branch employees. It has seven units – financial services, facilities, human resources management, materials management, employee education and development, internal audit, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Court Support Services Division oversees pretrial and family services, probation supervision of adults and juveniles, and juvenile pretrial detention services. It also provides post-adjudicatory juvenile justice services and administers a network of statewide contracted community providers that deliver services to court ordered clients.

The External Affairs Division promotes public trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch by fostering relationships with the legislative and executive branches, media, and community at large. The division, through its Judicial Branch Experiential Learning Programs, also offers a variety of meaningful placement opportunities for high school through law school students to gain valuable experience and develop appropriate career path skills.

The Superior Court Operations Division assists the Judicial Branch in the administration of justice by providing quality services and information to the court, its users, and the community. It also provides judges and support staff with the resources to process cases in a timely and efficient manner.

The Information Technology Division provides data processing and publication services to the Judicial Branch, its customers in the legal community, outside agencies, and the public. The network, computing, and printing infrastructure it maintains supports the branch's operations and administrative divisions.

Commission on Official Legal Publications

Section 51-216a of the General Statutes governs the activities of the Commission on Official Legal Publications, which is an agency of the Judicial Branch and is composed of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (ex-officio); the chief court administrator (ex-officio); a judge or former judge of the Supreme Court and a state referee, both of whom are appointed by the chief justice. The commission also includes the Reporter of Judicial Decisions and another branch employee appointed by the chief justice.

Section 51-216a(b) of the General Statutes requires the commission to acquire, publish, distribute, and maintain a sufficient supply of official legal publications for the benefit of the state. Section 51-216b of the General Statutes provides for the sale and distribution of publications at prices determined by the commission.

Significant Legislative Changes

Notable legislative changes that took effect during the audited period are presented below:

- **Public Act 22-115 (Section 12)**, effective May 27, 2022, provided that not later than December 31, 2022, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch shall report on (1) staffing levels of juvenile probation officers, (2) name, number, and location of juvenile pretrial and diversionary programs, the content of such programs and their efficacy at reducing recidivism, (3) availability and efficiency of juvenile job training programs and juvenile drug treatment programs, and (4) any resulting recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary.

- **Public Act 23-106**, effective July 1, 2023, expanded the Judicial Branch’s electronic monitoring pilot program for family violence offenders by requiring the Judicial Branch to establish the program in each judicial district by October 1, 2025.
- **Public 23-204**, Section 33, effective June 12, 2023, suspended the transfer of funds from the Probate Court Administration Fund to the General Fund. Section 56, effective July 1, 2023, transferred the Project Longevity Initiative program, a community-based initiative to reduce gun violence in state municipalities, from the Office of Policy and Management to the Judicial Branch.
- **Public Act 23-205**, Section 105, effective July 1, 2023, increased the amount of agency administered projects that the Judicial Branch can supervise to remodel, alter, repair, construct, or enlarge a real asset from \$2 million to \$3 million without the Department of Administrative Services approval.

Financial Information

General Fund Receipts

A summary of General Fund receipts during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Court Fees	\$ 30,361,580	\$ 35,636,736	\$ 37,010,228
Refunds of Expenditures - Prior Years	5,119,085	8,580,117	9,678,337
Investment Interest	106,723	2,571,025	4,852,178
All Others	1,055,433	1,195,501	1,323,400
Total	\$ 36,642,821	\$ 47,983,379	\$ 52,864,143

The increase in court fees was primarily due to additional court activity and more cases heard after the pandemic. Refunds of expenditures - prior years consisted primarily of grant refunds. When a grant recipient does not spend all funds received, the recipient must return excess funds to the state. The increase was primarily due to recipients not being fully operational during the pandemic. The increase in investment interest was primarily due to the rise in interest rates.

General Fund Expenditures

A summary of General Fund expenditures during the audited period as compared to the preceding fiscal year follows:

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Personal Services	\$ 342,906,842	\$ 361,878,000	\$ 373,122,455
Other Expenses	60,467,533	67,530,947	66,992,983
Alternative Incarceration Program	49,609,727	53,632,668	57,429,082
Juvenile Alternative Incarceration	25,985,791	29,417,071	31,137,932
Juvenile Justice Outreach Service	21,506,067	24,183,891	26,223,432
Probate Court	13,544,771	13,359,024	81,024
Workers' Compensation Claims	6,490,445	5,901,740	5,666,048
Board and Care for Children	7,641,745	8,287,605	8,107,103
All Others	11,740,805	15,876,446	21,642,497
Total	\$ 539,893,726	\$ 580,067,392	\$ 590,402,556

The increase in personal services was primarily due to employee cost of living and merit increases. The increase in other expenses in fiscal year 2023 was primarily due to utility and software subscription costs and additional payments for nonprofit services. The increase in Alternative Incarceration program, Juvenile Alternative Incarceration program, and juvenile justice outreach services expenditures was primarily due to inflation which caused contract costs to increase. The decrease in Probate Court expenditures in fiscal year 2024 was due to the passage of Public Act 23-204, Section 33. This act suspended the transfer of funds from the Probate Court Administration Fund to the General Fund.

Special Revenue Fund Receipts

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Transportation Fund	\$ 10,095,551	\$ 9,776,067	\$ 11,592,680
Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	1,985,586	2,052,408	2,150,891
Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund			
Federal Aid, Restricted	36,840,444	21,437,150	17,131,621
Non-Federal Aid, Restricted	3,962,511	3,056,260	3,212,203
Aid not Grant Transfer, Restricted	1,893,162	2,102,649	2,160,557
Federal Grant Restricted, Grant Transfer	1,335,228	1,348,920	3,712,444
Non-Federal Restricted, Grant Transfer	-	640,000	640,000
Investment Interest	21,210	446,449	681,650
Salary/Workers Compensation - Prior Year	-	5,421	-
Refunds of Expenditures - Prior Years	-	-	102,484
Total Federal & Other Restricted Accounts Fund	44,052,555	29,036,849	27,640,959
Total	\$ 56,133,692	\$ 40,865,324	\$ 41,384,530

The increase in Transportation Fund expenditures in fiscal year 2024 was primarily due to more people working in the office, which resulted in more traffic violations being issued. Federal aid, restricted, decreased in 2023 due to a reduction in American Rescue Plan Act funding that the Judicial Branch received.

Special Revenue Funds Expenditures

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund	\$ 51,494,296	\$ 50,064,562	\$ 55,316,036
Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund	2,523,595	2,025,222	1,793,846
Banking Fund	1,987,852	2,137,371	2,040,196
Capital Equipment Purchase Fund	247,926	540,100	440,533
Total	\$ 56,253,669	\$ 54,767,255	\$ 59,590,611

Federal and Other Restricted Accounts Fund expenditures increased in fiscal year 2024 due to additional American Rescue Plan Act funding received in prior years that was subsequently spent. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund decreased primarily due to fewer requests from victims seeking aid. Banking Fund expenditures increased in fiscal year 2023 due to an additional pay period and the Capital Equipment Purchase Fund expenditures fluctuated due to the increased number of computers that the Judicial Branch purchased in fiscal year 2023.

Capital Improvements and Other Purpose Funds Expenditures

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Alterations, Renovations, and Improvements	\$ 3,869,690	\$ 2,742,703	\$ 5,708,847
Technology Strategic Plan	1,982,786	1,472,841	5,117,824
Security Improvements	533,593	743,836	408,508
Total	\$ 6,386,069	\$ 4,959,380	\$ 11,235,179

The increase in alterations, renovations, and improvements expenditures in fiscal year 2024 was primarily due to the hiring of two additional staff for the facilities unit and changes to Section 4b-51(a), which increased the Judicial Branch's agency administered projects threshold from \$2 million to \$3 million. Additionally, the State Bond Commission approved more of the branch's bond requests. The increase in technology strategic plan expenditures in fiscal year 2024 was primarily due to cybersecurity upgrades and Microsoft 365 software and license purchases.

Various Treasurer Trust Funds

Total receipts from various treasurer trust funds were \$401, \$5,349, and \$7,830 during fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively. These amounts were from interest earned on the John H. King Trust Fund. The Judicial Branch uses these funds for the maintenance and enlargement of the Willimantic and Putnam law libraries.