

**DEPARTMENT OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION  
2009 BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

**Assigned Target: \$2,786,231**

<b>Permanent Ongoing Reductions/Revenue</b>		
<b>Proposal Name</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
Mandatory E-Filing FTE reduction (Reduction)	\$ 197,878	(3.00)
Process Working Papers Electronically (Reduction)	\$ -	9.00
ECR Program Staff Reduction (Reduction)	\$ 187,507	(2.00)*
Implement Ex Parte Orders via Clerk (Revenue)	\$ 100,000	4.00
Eliminate Show Cause Process (Reduction)	\$ 65,898	(1.00)
Eliminate Customer Service TLT (Reduction)	\$ 61,720	(1.00)*
Reduce Adult Drug court Treatment Services (Reduction)	\$ 200,000	
Civil Filing Fee: Non Residential ITA (Revenue)	\$ 25,168	
Creditor's Claims in Estate Cases (Revenue)	\$ 204,400	
Record Services Correspondence Fee (Revenue)	\$ 52,560	
Record Services Expedited Fee (Revenue)	\$ 30,000	
Self-Service Copies - ECR Online (Revenue)	\$ 39,399	
State LFO Funding (Revenue)	\$ 51,000	
Transfer Dependency Publications to AG (Reduction)	\$ 50,000	
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>\$ 1,265,530</b>	<b>6.00</b>

<b>Life Boat Reductions</b>		
<b>Proposal Name</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
Life Boat Contra (Reduction)	\$ 165,417	
Eliminate Domestic Violence Program (Reduction)	\$ 115,000	(1.75)
Reduce Law Library Share of Filing Fee (Revenue)	\$ 55,000	
Adult Drug Diversion Court (Reduction)	\$ 84,526	(1.00)
<b>TOTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>\$ 419,943</b>	<b>(2.75)</b>

Note: Because both expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements are counted toward target reductions, both are shown as positive numbers in this table to illustrate the net impact of all budget changes. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) reductions are shown as negative and additions are shown as positive numbers. Some revenue enhancements require FTE additions to implement. All lifeboat reductions are for six months. The full annual impact will be double the expenditure and FTE reductions shown here.

**Permanent Ongoing Reductions/Revenues**

**Mandatory E-Filing.** DJA undertook a pilot project in 2008 to determine the feasibility of requiring electronic filing (E-filing). The results of the pilot project were promising and DJA will make E-filing mandatory in 2009. E-filing achieves staff savings by reducing the time needed to prepare and scan court documents.

**Process Working Papers Electronically.** Because it is mandating E-filing, DJA must provide customers with the ability to submit judicial working papers electronically. This revenue-backed proposal institutes a fee for electronic working papers that will cover the clerical costs associated with processing the papers. This item has a net-zero impact on the General Fund.

**Electronic Court Record (ECR) Program Staff Reduction.** This item eliminates the TLTs associated with the development, implementation and support of ECR. The ECR, ECR Connectivity, E-Service, ECR Online projects are complete. E-Filing, the final phase of the ECR program has been fully developed, making it possible to implement mandatory E-filing and achieve these staff savings.

**Implement Ex Parte Orders via Clerk (Revenue).** Under this proposal, Superior Court and DJA will begin charging a \$30 fee to process Ex Parte orders. The fee is expected to generate \$995,100 in revenue, which is partially offset by \$261,640 in related staff increases needed to process the fee. The net revenue increase to DJA is \$100,000. The remaining \$633,460 in revenue is credited toward Superior Court's target reduction.

**Eliminate Show Cause Process.** This proposal eliminates the Civil Show Cause calendar, which tracks the progress of a given case against its established timeline. Instead, cases will be reviewed closer to their trial date by the judges and their support staff. This proposal reduces clerk time needed to review the timeliness of civil cases and scheduling out-of-compliance cases on a show cause calendar.

**Eliminate Customer Service TLT.** This TLT was added in response to long waits on the DJA central phone line. DJA is now working on potential improvements to phone and Web-based services that will compensate for this reduction. Until alternatives are identified and implemented, this reduction will increase phone wait times for customers seeking information

**Reduce Adult Drug Court Out-Patient Treatment.** This proposal reduces DJA's budget for out-patient drug treatment for Adult Drug Diversion Court participants. Since Drug Court's inception, DJA has secured additional grant funding for in-patient drug and alcohol treatment, reducing the need for out-patient treatment. This reduction does not jeopardize treatment for Drug Court participants.

**Civil Filing Fee: Non-Residential ITA (Revenue).** Each year, an average of 286 involuntary commitment cases are started in King County for non-county residents. This proposal would charge the civil filing fee to the county of residence. Other Washington counties have already adopted this practice.

**Creditor's Claims in Estate Cases (Revenue).** This revenue increase requires state legislation. The estimate is based on the \$200 filing fee being approved and implemented by mid-2009. This proposed fee mirrors similar fees for counter claims in other cases and DJA anticipates little difficulty securing the necessary state legislation.

**Record Services Correspondence Fee (Revenue).** This new fee would charge for handling and postage for requests made by the mail.

**Record Services Expedited Fee (Revenue).** This new fee would allow customers to have mail-in requests expedited for an additional \$30.

**Self-Service Copies – ECR Online (Revenue).** This proposal increases the fee for online copies from \$0.10/page to \$0.15/page, which is the current charge for self-service copies.

**State Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) Funding (Revenue).** The state allocates funding in support of LFO collections to be distributed by an approved formula. The State Clerks Association has requested additional LFO funding. If approved, DJA's share would be \$102,000. In anticipation of funding being available by mid-year, the revenue estimate is for one half of DJA's projected annual allotment.

**Transfer Dependency Publications to Attorney General.** This proposal transfers responsibility for dependency publications to the State Office of the Attorney General. The Washington State Association of Clerks is working to make the necessary state legislative change. This estimate represents one half year of savings, assuming a July 1, 2009 implementation.

**Eliminate General Fund Support for Law Library.** This proposal eliminates General Fund support for the Law Library, a discretionary non-county program. This reduction constitutes 12 percent of the Law Library's total budget. The law library will continue to collect a portion of the civil filing fee, as well as some fees for service.

## Lifeboat

The following agency programs have been placed in the lifeboat. Funding for these programs expires on June 30, 2009 unless King County secures sufficient flexibility and revenue tools from the state legislature to sustain them.

**Lifeboat Contra.** If the State Legislature fails to provide King County with options to address the structural imbalance in the General Fund, DJA will have to identify program reductions that will generate \$165,417 worth of savings if programs are eliminated effective July 1, 2009. When annualized, this reduction will total \$330,294 in 2010.

**Eliminate Domestic Violence Program.** The Domestic Violence program includes the Step Up program, a part-time grants manager, and a full-time program manager, for a total of 3.50 FTEs.

**Reduce Law Library Share of Filing Fee (Revenue).** State law requires that \$17 of the \$200 civil filing be directed toward the Law Library. Currently, \$20 of the civil filing fee is dedicated to the Law Library. Given the financial crisis facing the General Fund, it is no longer tenable to provide the Law Library a greater share of the civil filing fee than the minimum required under state law. When annualized, the total revenue increase in the General Fund would be \$110,000 in 2010.

**Adult Drug Diversion Court (DDC).** This reduction is being proposed because, while playing a key role in addressing offenders' underlying drug dependency issues, DDC is a discretionary service. DDC is a pre-adjudication program that provides eligible defendants the opportunity to receive drug treatment in lieu of incarceration. Because the average DDC client spends 13 months in the program, a phased reduction beginning in 2009 would be required. Assuming DDC stops accepting new defendants July 1, 2009, the 2009 savings in DJA would be generated by the reduction in calendars as clients leave the program, which results in a reduced need for Treatment Case Managers. In 2010, the savings from the phased reduction would be about \$1.3 million in all agencies involved in DDC. By 2011, final cases should be complete. The total annual savings from phasing out DDC would be approximately \$2 million for all agencies. A process evaluation performed in 2006 found that each DDC graduate produced \$14,848 in savings for the State of Washington due to avoided prison costs.

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This summary does not include all budget items for this department. For full budget details, please see the 2009 Executive Proposed Budget Book at <http://www.metrokc.gov/budget/>.