



## House Finance Committee Alaska Court System Overview

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Deputy Administrative Director
January 30, 2014





#### Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska Court System is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.





## Distinguishing Characteristics of the Alaska Court System

- State Funded
- Unified Judiciary

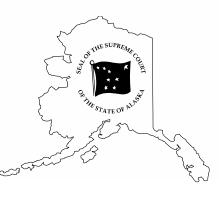
  No County or Municipal Courts
- Administrative Director Position Established in the Constitution





#### Court System Employees

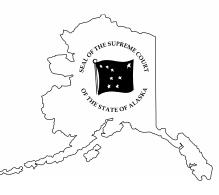
- About 800 Permanent (GF-Funded)
  - Primarily Clerical Employees
  - Five Supreme Court Justices
  - Three Court of Appeal Judges
  - > 42 Superior Court Judges
  - 23 District Court Judges
  - > 51 Magistrate Judges





#### Factors Impacting Workloads

- Population
- Police
- Economy
- Other





#### Caseloads – FY12 vs. FY13

- 138,782 New Cases Filed in FY13
  - ➤ 59% of All Cases Originated in the Anchorage/Palmer/Kenai Courts
- Superior Court Caseload is up 3%
  - Felony Cases up 6%
  - Child in Need of Aid (CINA) Cases up 6%
- District Court Caseload is down 10%
  - Minor Offenses are down 15%





#### State of Alaska Criminal Trial Totals Calendar Years 2011 – 2013

- Superior Court Trials for 2013 are up 21% from 2011 Trial Totals and up 12% from 2012 Trial Totals
- District Court Trials for 2013 are up 47% from 2011 Trial Totals and up 35% from 2012 Trial Totals

137

CY 2011

CY 2012

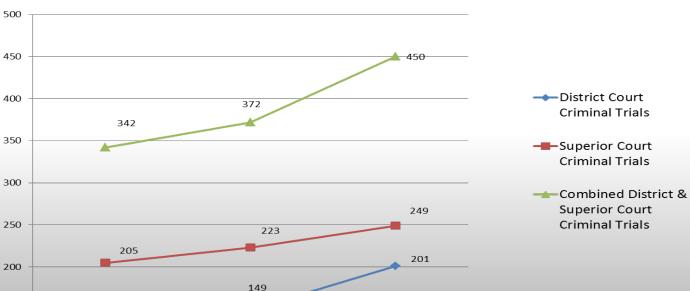
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**Alaska Court System** State of Alaska Criminal Jury Trials\* Calendar Years 2011 to 2013





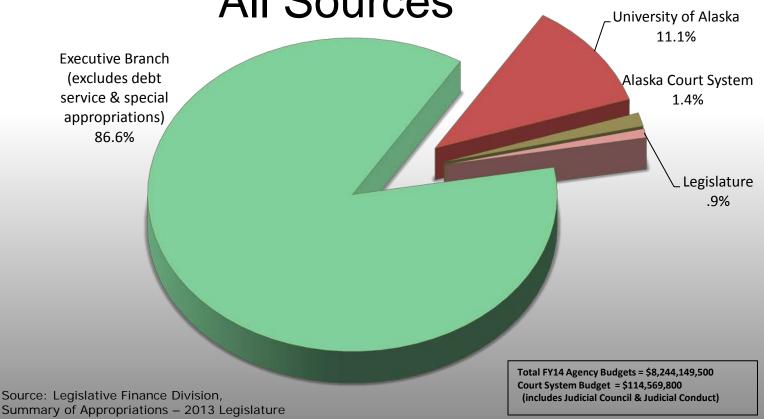
CY 2013

\*Does not include Folded Trials





FY14 State of Alaska Funding – All Sources

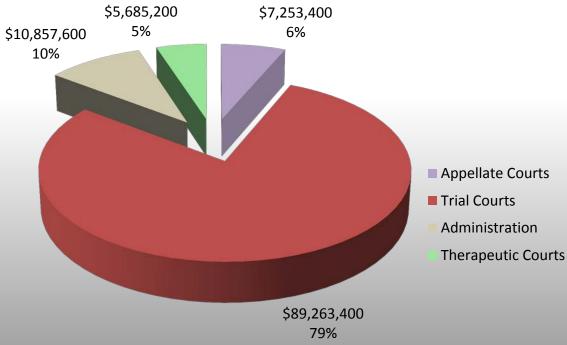






#### Alaska Court System FY14 Operating Budget Appropriation

**All Fund Types** 



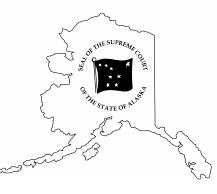
Total FY14 Funding = \$113,059,600 (excludes Judicial Council and Judicial Conduct)





#### Breakdown of FY14 Funding (GF)

- ☐ Personal Services Costs 76.0%
- ☐ Travel Costs 1.3%
- ☐ Services 19.6%
- ☐ Supplies/Commodities 2.8%
- ☐ Capital Outlay .3%





#### Increments Funded in FY14

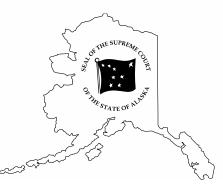
- Bandwidth to Improve Network Transmission Speeds
- Therapeutic Courts
- Leases, Utilities, and Software Support
- Bethel Accommodation





#### FY15 Funding Requested

- Utilities, Contractual Services, and Leases – \$173,800
- Expanded Security Screening Services \$400,000
- Wide Area Network Bandwidth Expansion
   \$636,100
- Court Visitor Program \$60,000 (adjusted from \$107,000)
- Increased Jury Expenses \$200,000





## FY15 Funding Requested (Continued)

- Computer Replacement Funding -\$175,000
  - Increase Base Funding to \$600,000
- Interpreter & Translation Services -\$25,000
- Transcripts Prepared for OPA and PDA
   \$60,000





## Funding Changes FY06 to FY15 Personal Services:

- Salary Adjustments
- New Judges Eight Superior Court and Three District Court
- No Dark Courtrooms Initiative





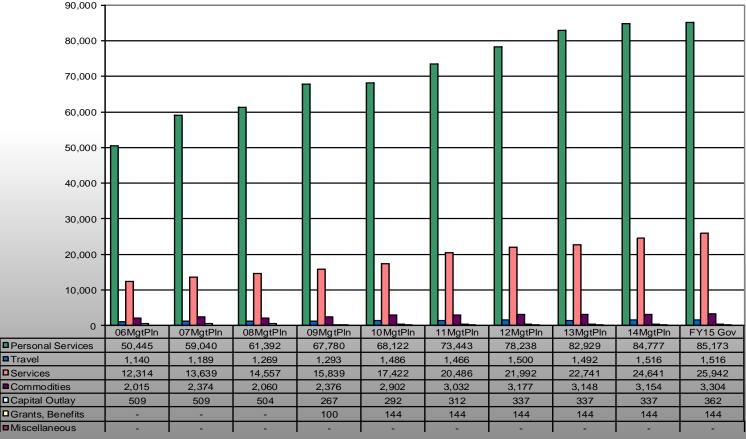
## Funding Changes FY06 to FY15 Services:

- Leased Facility Expenses including Public Building Fund Participation
- Utility and Maintenance Costs
- Software Support & Bandwidth Costs
- Therapeutic Courts



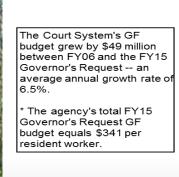
Alaska Court System Line Item Comparison (All Funds) (\$ Thousands)

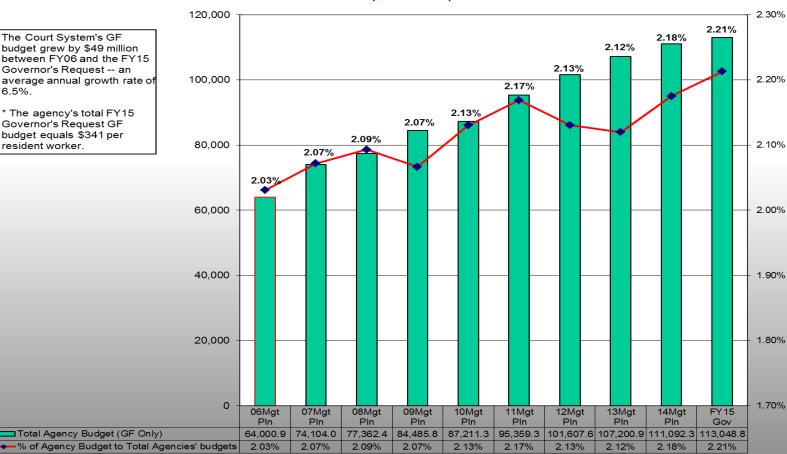












According to the Department of Labor, there were 331,081 resident workers in Alaska in 2011

■ Total Agency Budget (GF Only)



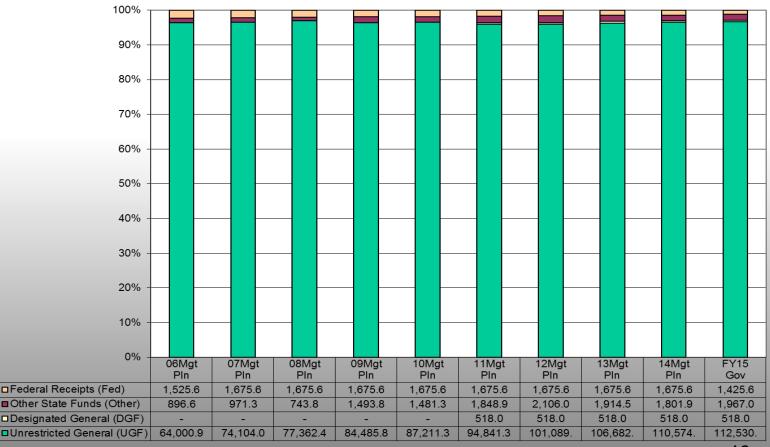
Alaska Court System

Percent of the Total Agency's Budget by Fund Group

(All Funds)

(\$ Thousands)



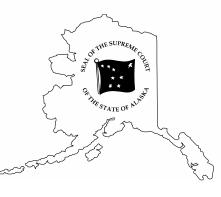






#### FY16 and Beyond

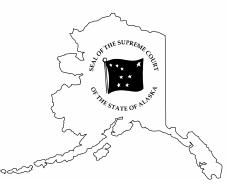
- Electronic Document Management (E-Filing) Project
  - Impact to All Justice Agencies
  - Improve Public Access to Data and Case Information
  - Facilitate Data Exchanges Between Justice Agencies
  - Improve Case Processing Efficiencies





#### FY16 and Beyond...(Cont.)

- In the Near Term, New Superior Court
  Judges <u>may</u> be Needed for Juneau,
  Bethel, and Palmer Courts
- In the Long Term, New Judges <u>may</u> be Needed Due to Population Changes in Southcentral Alaska





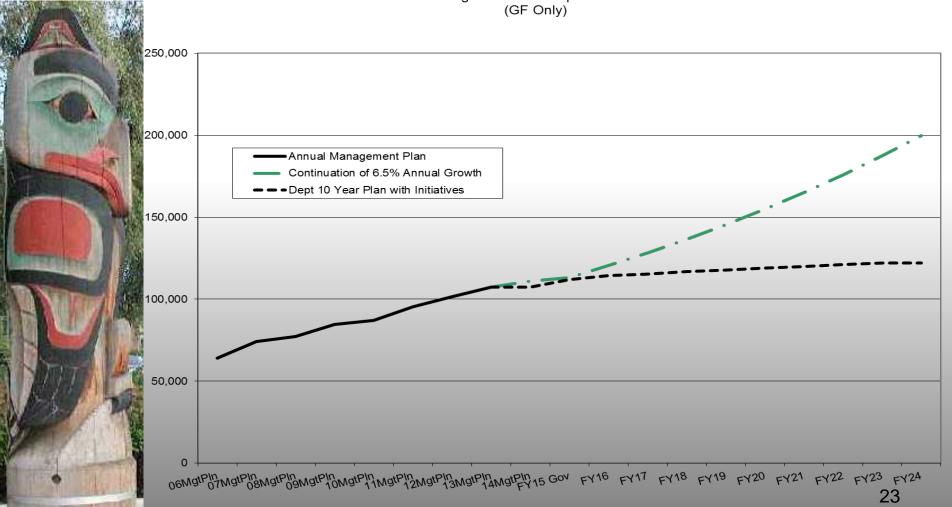
#### FY16 and Beyond...(Cont.)

- Improvement of Justice Facilities in Juneau, Kotzebue, Bethel, and Nome and Additional Space in Palmer
- Video Arraignment and Bandwidth Expansion

Alaska Court System

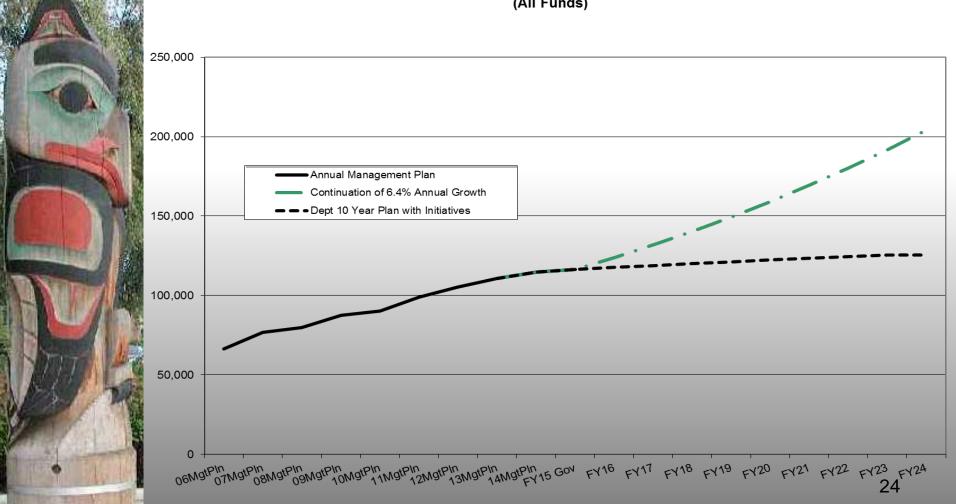
Continued Budget Growth Compared to 10-Year Plan

(GF Only)



Alaska Court System

Continued Budget Growth Compared to 10-Year Plan
(All Funds)







# Thank you for your time.

Questions?