

**2/01/12**  
**BUDGET**  
**OVERVIEW:**  
**ALASKA**  
**COURT**  
**SYSTEM**

2/2/12



# Alaska Court System

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## 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.



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## Distinguishing Characteristics of the Alaska Court System

- State Funded – No County or Municipal Courts
- Unified Judiciary
- Administrative Director Position Established in the Constitution



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## Distinguishing Characteristics of Alaska Court System vs. Other State Entities

- No Discretionary Functions
- Reactive in Nature
- Must Accept Work Initiated by Others



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## Factors Impacting Workloads

- Population
- Police
- Economy
- Statutory Changes
- Other



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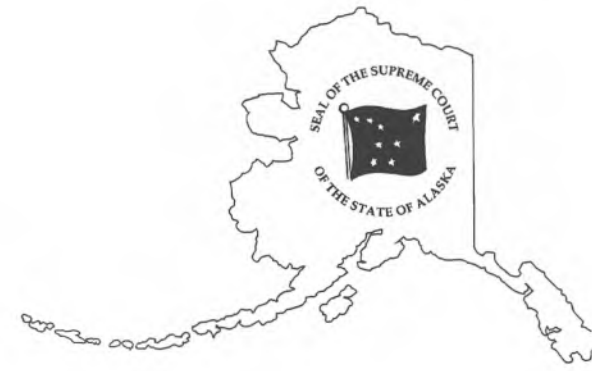
## Caseloads – FY10 vs. FY11

- 164,180 New Cases Filed in FY11
  - Two-Thirds of All Cases Originated in the Anchorage/Palmer/Kenai Courts
- Superior Court Cases up 4%
- Probate Cases up 15%
- Child in Need of Aid Cases up 13%
- Domestic Violence Restraining Orders up 4%



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## Court System Employees

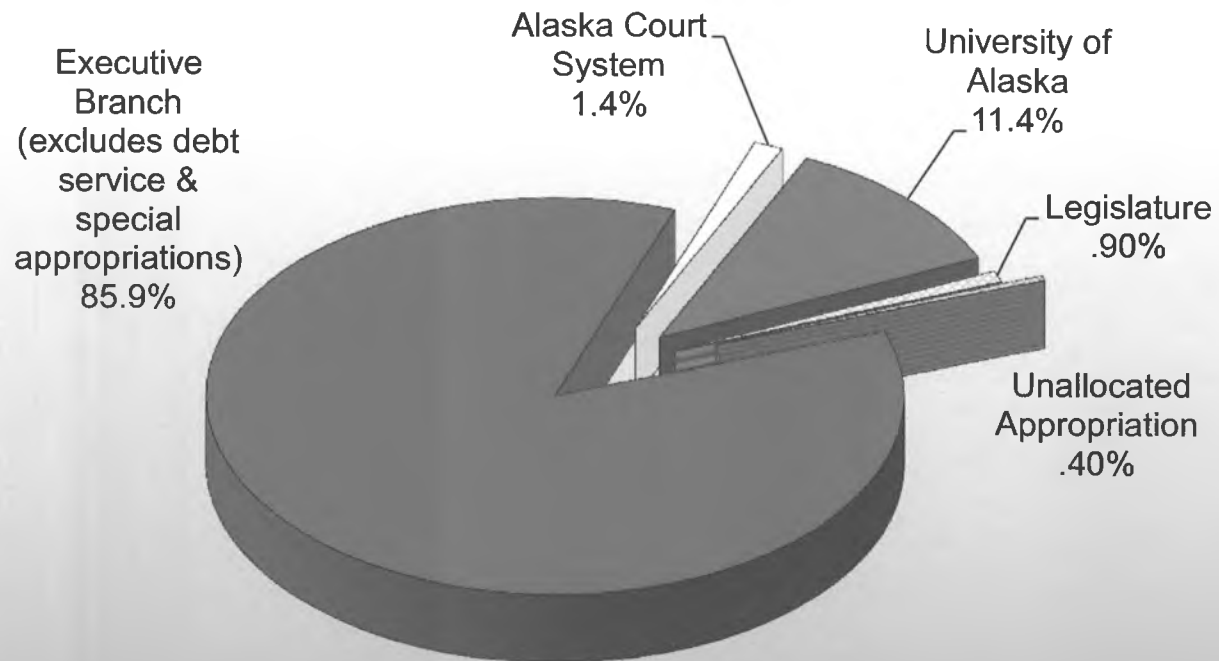
- About 800 Permanent (GF-Funded)
  - Primarily Clerical Employees
  - Five Supreme Court Justices
  - Three Court of Appeal Judges
  - 42 Superior Court Judges
  - 23 District Court Judges
  - 43 Magistrates



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## FY12 State of Alaska Funding – All Sources



The State of Alaska FY12 Operating Budget = \$7,768,044,300



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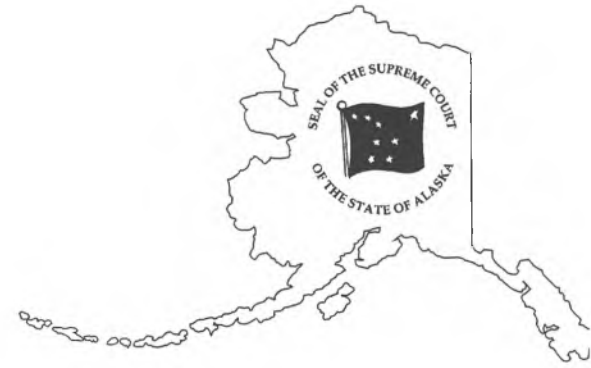


## Breakdown of FY12 Funding (GF):

- Personal Services Costs – 76.8%
- Travel Costs – 1.4%
- Services – 18.4%
- Supplies/Commodities – 3.1%
- Capital Outlay - .3%

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## Positions Funded in FY12:

- SB58 - Two New Superior Court Judges and Support Staff
- No Dark Courtrooms – Six Clerical Positions
- Six Positions - Therapeutic Courts, Trial Courts, and Administration



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## Other FY12 Funding

- Improved Handling of Cases Involving Children's Matters
  - Special Court Dockets
  - Settlement Conferences
  - Early Neutral Evaluation



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## FY13 Funding Requested:

- Total GF Request is \$2,544,500 above the FY12 Adjusted Base
- No Dark Courtrooms – \$488,400
  - Final Year of Initiative
  - Six Remaining Positions
- Geographic Differential - \$436,200 to pay non-judicial employees the same differentials paid to union employees

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## FY13 Funding Requested (Cont.):

- \$503,200 is requested for:
  - Utilities and Operating Leases
  - Security Screening Cost Increases
  - Emmonak Courthouse Expansion (\$74,500)
- Five New Positions - \$545,900
  - Magistrate Trainer
  - Security Analyst
  - Contracts and Leasing Manager
  - Records Technician
  - Wellness Court Probation Officer (continuation funding)



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## FY13 Funding Requested (Cont.):

- Computer Replacement Funding - \$175,000 to increase base funding to \$600,000
- Therapeutic Courts Treatment Funding - \$200,000 (Convert MHTAAR Funding to GF/MH)



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## Funding Changes FY05 to FY13

### Personal Services:

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



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## Funding Changes FY05 to FY13

### Services:

- Leased Facility Expenses Including PBF Participation
- Utility and Maintenance Costs
- Software Support Costs
- Therapeutic Courts

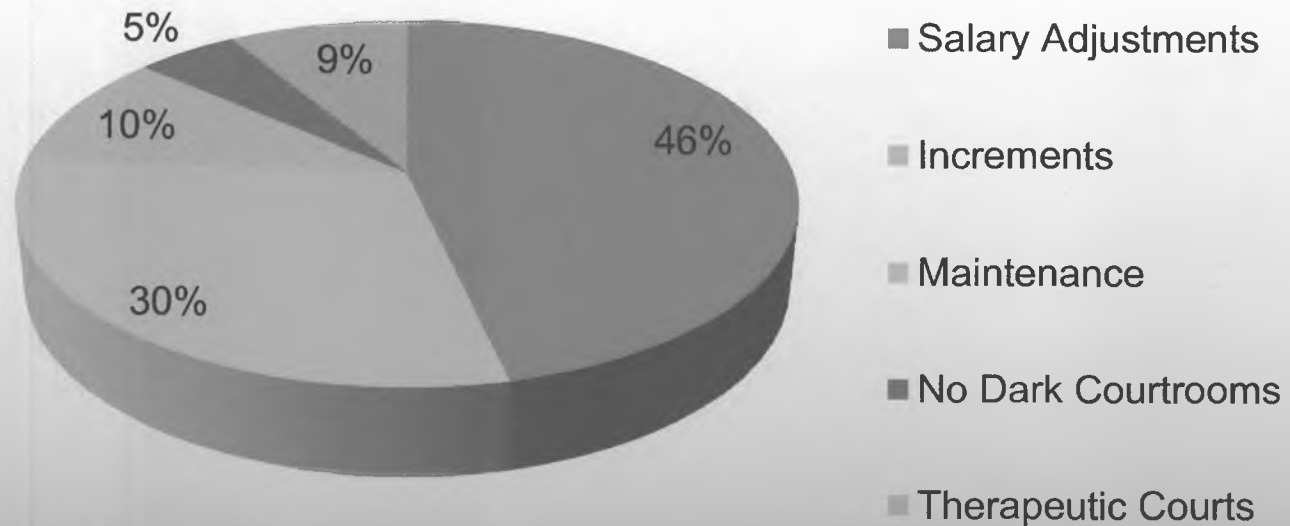


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## Funding Changes FY05 to FY13

### Allocation of Increased GF



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## FY14 and Beyond...

- Respond to Work Initiated by Others
  - Makes Planning for the Next Ten Years Very Difficult



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## FY14 and Beyond...

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



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## FY14 and Beyond...(Cont.)

- Electronic Document Management (E-Filing) Project
  - Impact to All Justice Agencies



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Thank you for your  
time.

Questions?

