

# JUDICIAL

The Judicial section of the Leon County FY 2003/2004 Annual Budget is comprised of Court Administration, the Public Defender, and the State Attorney.

Court Administration protects right and liberties, upholds and interprets the law, and provides for the peaceful resolution of disputes for citizens of Leon County and other surrounding counties in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit. Additionally, Court Administration is responsible for court reporting, Guardian Ad Litem, the law library, family law assistance program, family visitation program, mediation, teen court, conflict attorneys, non-conflict attorney, and indigent probate services. The Public Defender's office provides quality legal representation to all indigents charged with criminal offenses. The State Attorney prosecutes all criminal cases in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit for the punishment of crimes and the safety and protection of the public.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The implementation of Article V/Revision 7 on July 1, 2004 requires the state to fund all essential elements of the court system. The impact of this legislation is contemplated in the various judicial budgets.

Within **Court Administration** the Teen Court program will institute a Law Awareness Workshop (L.A.W.), which is a two week summer educational program intended to provide students with an overview of the judicial system. Guardian Ad Litem staff will participate in and speak at various public relation events throughout the circuit, in order to educate the public about child abuse and neglect and stimulate interest in volunteering.

The **Public Defender's Office** will continue to fulfill its responsibilities which include the handling of all indigent appeals in the First District Court of Appeal, representing juveniles charged with delinquency, and representing indigent persons in civil commitment proceedings in Circuit Court.

The **State Attorney** received and handled over 6,000 felony referrals, 22,000 misdemeanor referrals, and 2,000 juvenile referrals (during the State Attorney's Office fiscal year). Additionally, disposition by jury verdicts (as a percentage of all dispositions) are among the highest of the 20 judicial circuits statewide. In FY 2003/2004 the State Attorney's office will maintain its efforts to fulfill its duties and responsibilities in the most effective manner possible.

## SECTION INDEX

PAGE	PROGRAM TITLE	FY 01/02 BUDGETED FTEs	FY 02/03 BUDGETED FTEs	FY 03/04 BUDGETED FTEs	FY 01/02 ACTUAL	FY 02/03 BUDGET	FY 03/04 BUDGET
12-3	Court Administration	21.50	22.50	24.50	\$2,947,378	\$3,181,961	\$2,654,247
12-51	Public Defender	0.00	0.00	0.00	329,746	327,632	336,855
12-50	State Attorney	0.00	0.00	0.00	235,798	246,192	257,533
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75.50</b>	<b>78.80</b>	<b>86.30</b>	<b>\$ 3,512,922</b>	<b>\$ 3,755,785</b>	<b>\$ 3,248,635</b>