

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Under supervision of the Chief Justice, who is the administrative head of the Unified Judicial System, the State Court Administrator is the non-judicial officer who implements the rules and policies of the Supreme Court as they apply to the operations and administration of the courts. The State Court Administrator serves as the liaison between the judicial branch and the other branches of state and local government. To ensure efficient and responsive operation, the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) provides centralized administrative assistance and support services to the entire Unified Judicial System. Detailed information about the five divisions within the SCAO is available on our website at <http://uj.s.sd.gov>. Following is a brief summary of the functions of the SCAO:

- * Assists in the formulation of fundamental policies, principles, and standards for court administration in South Dakota including initiating, researching, developing, implementing, and evaluating proposed policies, principles, and standards
- * Facilitates cooperation, consultation, and exchange of information by and among the circuit courts, the State Court Administrator's Office, the Supreme Court, and with national, state, local offices and organizations directly concerned with court administration, including tribal entities
- * Fosters the use of the principles and techniques of modern management in the field of court and judicial administration
- * Endeavors to improve administrative practice and procedure in all state courts in South Dakota as well as increase the services received by the public.

FINANCING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The State Court Administrator's Office manages the fiscal operations of the Unified Judicial System. This office prepares and submits the annual budget, administers the annual operating budget, and manages a uniform accounting system for the receipt and disbursement of all funds handled by circuit and magistrate courts.

In addition to state funding, city and county governments are required by state law to pay for certain court-related expenses. Each county is responsible for supporting court operations by paying all jury and witness fees, transcript and interpreter costs, and attorney fees incurred while defending the indigent. Counties are also required to provide operational facilities for the court. Operational facilities include office space, courtrooms, jury rooms, and other space needed to support the court's operations. In addition, many counties maintain their own county law libraries, funded in part by a law library fee collected by the UJS on each civil filing made in circuit court.