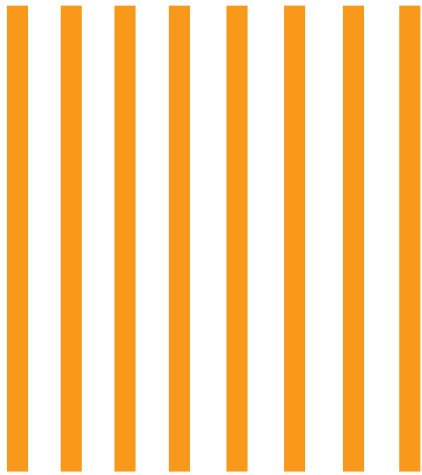




Serving Counties Since 1886

Correcting District Attorney/Judicial Pay

COUNTY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



Fact Sheet 2007

CCAP supports legislation to clarify the calculation of district attorney salaries and to remove the link between state judicial salaries, including those at the county level, with the salaries paid to the federal equivalent.

The Commonwealth pay raise legislation tied judicial pay to the salary of a similar judicial position at the federal level. In the same legislation, the funding for full-time district attorneys, previously \$1,000 less than the salary of a common pleas judge, was set at 95 percent of a judge's salary, essentially meaning a lesser increase for DAs. Although the pay raise was subsequently repealed, the Supreme Court decision reinstating the judicial salary increase also reinstated the district attorney salary increase.

The issue for counties is that counties are responsible for payment of the DA salaries out of county dollars (with partial state reimbursement), and the combined repeal and judicial reinstatement have left open the question of whether the DA is \$1,000 less than a judge or 95 percent of a judge. The pay raise law intended DAs' salaries to be 95 percent of the judicial pay level, and CCAP supports clarification of this original legislative intent.

At the same time, efforts are underway at the federal level to increase the pay for the federal judiciary, which would in turn, under the reinstated pay law, increase the pay for state judiciary and, by extension, district attorneys. Speculation is that the federal increase could be as much as 16 percent. With annual COLAs on top of that, the increase in salary for district attorneys would be significant, and would be borne by the county taxpayers. CCAP supports legislation to decouple the state judiciary from the salary schedule of the federal judiciary.

For more information on constable billing practices, contact Brinda Carroll Penyak at 717-232-7554 x3137, or bpenyak@pacounties.org.