



# Administrative Memorandum

Nebraska Supreme Court  
State Court Administrator  
P. O. Box 98910  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
402-471-3730

DT: January 2005

RE: Administrative Memorandum 05-001

- 2005 – 2007 Biennium Budget
- Final JNC Chair Named
- JRC to Consider County Judgeships
- Revised Child Support Calculator
- Payroll Notes
- Rules of Practice & Procedure
- County Court Audits on Internet
- AG Opinion on Court Records
- Commission on Children in the Courts
- Jury Survey
- Work Ethic Camp Demographics
- Legal Research Unit Established
- Two New Spanish Court Interpreters
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- New Judicial Ethics Opinion Issued
- 2004 Caseload Statistics
- Judicial Retirements
- Judicial Branch Education
- Legislative Contact Information
- InSight Employee Assistance Program
- Filing & Reporting Requirements
- JUSTICE Training Opportunities

*John V. Hendry,  
Chief Justice*

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State Court Administrator  
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Administrative Memoranda available at [www.nebraskacourt.com](http://www.nebraskacourt.com) under "Court Administrator's Office" on the main page, left hand menu.

## ◆ 2005 – 2007 BIENNIUM BUDGET

In September, 2004, the Nebraska Supreme Court presented its budget request for FY 2005 – 2007. The combined request includes court and probation programs.

The request consists of the following:

### Court Request

	<u>Current Appropriation</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$39,883,237	\$44,914,682	\$45,721,225
Cash Fund	\$ 4,389,185	\$ 3,714,813	\$ 3,532,221
Federal Fund	\$ 1,048,276	\$ 782,754	\$ 716,668
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,320,698</b>	<b>\$49,412,249</b>	<b>\$49,970,114</b>

### Probation Request

	<u>Current Appropriation</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$16,087,184	\$18,010,629	\$18,054,748
Cash Fund	\$ 6,166,987	\$ 3,955,304	\$ 3,955,304
Federal Fund	\$ 232,290	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,486,461</b>	<b>\$21,965,933</b>	<b>\$22,010,052</b>

### Total Request

	<u>Current Appropriation</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$55,970,421	\$62,925,311	\$63,775,973
Cash Fund	\$10,556,172	\$ 7,670,117	\$ 7,487,525
Federal Fund	\$ 1,280,566	\$ 782,754	\$ 716,668
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,807,159</b>	<b>\$71,378,182</b>	<b>\$71,980,166</b>

### Court Budget Highlights:

- **Retired judges:** Increase budgeted amount from \$25,000 to \$60,000.
- **Minority and Justice Implementation Committee:** Share a portion of the Committee coordinator salary with the Bar Association; approx. \$28,500 per year.
- **Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts:** A commission would be created by the Supreme Court and members appointed by the Supreme Court.

- **Commission on Restorative Justice and Problem-Solving Courts:** A commission would be established by the Supreme Court. The objective would be to create a minimum of two (2) problem solving courts in each judicial district; one for adult offenders and one for Juvenile offenders. Each court program would be developed that includes the ten (10) key components for drug courts. The budget request provides for aid to the host counties for the provision of providing for two program coordinator positions at \$35,000 each and for \$5,000 for each program for drug screening costs. Each judicial district would be eligible for a total of \$80,000 in state aid for counties to fund the programs. This is a similar model to the six mediation centers, though they are funded through a 75¢ filing fee, which goes to an ODR case fund..
- **Judicial Resources Commission:** Funding in the amount of \$85,000 is requested to engage the National Center for State Courts to update the Judicial Workload Analysis, last done in 1996.
- **Court Interpreter Program:** Since the program was created in 1999, the Legislature has never funded the program at the amounts requested by the State Court Administrator. The budget requests an annual boost in the funding for interpretation. The budget requests an hourly rate increase in the second year of the budget. The hourly rate for interpreters has not changed since 1999.
- **State Law Library:** A 10% increase in books and subscriptions to the collection is included. The acquisition of an automated card catalog program is included.
- **Legal Research Unit:** A law clerk and legal interns would be employed and housed in the law library to provide for legal research services to all district judges in the state.
- **Court Reporters:** The Court currently is allocated 66 official court reporter positions; one court reporter for each district and separate juvenile court judge. This budget requests that we create two relief court reporters and add additional funds to hire freelancers as needed.

#### County Courts

- **Staffing:** Requesting 14 new deputy clerk positions in 2005-2006 and 13 new positions in 2006-2007; half would be entry level records clerks and other half more advanced clerk I positions.
- **Reclassification:** Upgrade Accounting Clerk and Court Steno positions.
- **Court Recording Equipment:** Requesting 10 Lanier Recorders each year.

#### Technology/JUSTICE

- **Juvenile Case Information Project:** The initial costs are \$750,000 to procure a Juvenile Case Information System, with modifications to meet our Nebraska requirement; \$75,000 for additional servers. \$150,000 per year for licensing agreement and system maintenance. Funds for personal computers and printers for the judges and personnel of the three separate juvenile courts.
- **Trial Court Technology Survey:** \$250,000 to examine the useful life of JUSTICE
- **Personal computers and printers for all judges:** The Court is statutorily required to provide equipment to the judges and courts if it has a case information system, which it does.
- **Accelerate the replacement of personal computers and printers:** in clerk's offices of county courts and district courts.
- **Create a juvenile court business analyst (help-desk):** one in the first year; one in the second year.
- **Create one additional county court business analyst (help-desk):** in year one.
- **Establish a principal technology trainer position**

## Probation Budget Highlights:

### Statewide Probation

A request was made to add Ten (10) traditional probation officers, twelve (12) case managers, and five (5) clerical support staff, as well as the standard costs associated with entry-level training, travel and equipment costs. Traditional probation objectives evolve around the delivery of investigative reports to the courts and community-based supervision for what is generally either a low to moderate risk/need juvenile or adult offender.

This would allow the Nebraska Probation System the ability to fulfill its statutory obligation to provide quality investigations to the courts, effective community supervision of offenders, and intake service delivery to juveniles who are in the custody of law enforcement

### Intensive Supervision Probation

A request was made to add Eight and one-half (8.5) intensive supervision probation officers and two (2) clerical support staff, as well as the standard costs associated with entry-level training, travel and equipment costs. The objectives of the program center around identifying and selecting moderate-to-high-risk and/or high-need adult and juvenile offenders for intensive community-based supervision rather than incarceration/commitment and balancing supervision strategies associated with surveillance, intervention, and enforcement to hold the unique offender population accountable. If funded adequately, the Nebraska Probation System would be able to provide high levels of intensive supervision statewide within this program without depreciating offender rehabilitative efforts or the protection of the community.

## Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 05 – 07

	<u>Recommendation for the Court</u>		<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	
	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$40,481,525	\$41,539,815	\$(4,433,157)	\$(4,181,310)
Cash Fund	\$ 3,960,814	\$ 3,998,888	\$ 245,001	\$ 466,667
Federal Fund	\$ 666,556	\$ 666,567	\$ (116,198)	\$ (50,101)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,108,895</b>	<b>\$46,205,370</b>	<b>\$(4,303,354)</b>	<b>\$(3,764,744)</b>

	<u>Recommendation for Probation</u>		<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	
	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$16,641,688	\$17,288,129	\$(1,368,941)	\$(766,619)
Cash Fund	\$ 4,268,915	\$ 3,812,925	\$ 313,611	\$(142,379)
Federal Fund	\$ 467	\$ 469	\$ 467	\$ 469
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,911,070</b>	<b>\$21,101,523</b>	<b>\$(1,054,863)</b>	<b>\$(908,529)</b>

	<u>Total Recommendation</u>		<u>DIFFERENCE</u>	
	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>	<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
General Fund	\$57,123,213	\$58,828,044	\$(5,802,098)	\$(4,947,929)
Cash Fund	\$ 8,229,729	\$ 7,811,813	\$ 559,612	\$ 324,288
Federal Fund	\$ 667,023	\$ 667,036	\$ (115,731)	\$ (49,632)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,019,965</b>	<b>\$67,306,893</b>	<b>\$(5,358,217)</b>	<b>\$(4,673,273)</b>

- Employee salary increase of 3.0% on July 1, 2005, and 3.25% on July 1, 2006.  
*The step plan is not funded for either year under the current proposal. If approved as proposed by the Governor, court and probation employees would likely receive a 3.0% increase on July 1, 2005, and a 3.25% increase on July 1, 2006. Funding would not be available to implement step increases for either year.*
- Judges salary increase of 3.0% and 3.25% for the first and second year. The last salary increase for judges occurred in 2002.
- Increase in fund for interpreters; \$85,000 for FY 05 and \$138,200 for FY 06.
- \$56,870 for FY 06 – 07 to convert JUSTICE terminals to personal computers in the county and district courts.
- \$83,328 for leasing of computers for district, juvenile, and county court judges.
- The balance of the Governor’s budget is a continuation of prior year funding.
- The Governor’s Budget did not include the additional requested staff which was included in Program 397, Traditional Probation, and Program 398, ISP. However, the Governor’s Budget recommended that \$400,000 be transferred into Probation’s cash fund to support drug testing and electronic monitoring.

◆ **FINAL JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION CHAIR NAMED**

At the time of the printing of the last Administrative Memorandum, the Governor had not sent the Certificate of Appointment of the chairman for the Judicial Nominating Commission for District and County Court in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District. The Supreme Court Chairman is Justice Connolly.

◆ **JUDICIAL RESOURCES COMMISSION TO CONSIDER COUNTY JUDGESHIPS**

The Judicial Resources Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, February 14, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., central time. The hearing will be teleconferenced from the Lincoln Executive Building, Suite 103, 521 South 14th St., Lincoln, Nebraska, and will include participation from the Panhandle Education Center, High Plains Room, 4502 Ave. I, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and from the State Office Building, Room 207, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1313 Farnam Street, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The positions under consideration are:

- County judge of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, due to the retirement of the Honorable Gary F. Hatfield, effective March 31, 2005; and
- County judge of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, due to the retirement of the Honorable Larry F. Fugit, effective April 1, 2005.

◆ **REVISED CHILD SUPPORT CALCULATOR ON THE WEBSITE**

[www.nebraskacourt.com/community/cscalculator/calculator.cfm](http://www.nebraskacourt.com/community/cscalculator/calculator.cfm)

The 2005 child support calculator has been revised and updated by Judge Alan Gless. You can download it from the Judicial Branch Web Site at the address above or go to the homepage, click on “For the Court Community” and select “Child Support Calculator”.

## ◆ PAYROLL NOTES

Be sure to take a close look at your January paycheck to verify that the benefits you signed up for during Open Enrollment are being deducted.

Please consider enrolling in Direct Deposit if you aren't already taking advantage of the service. With Direct Deposit, your paycheck is automatically deposited on pay day, eliminating the worry of a lost or stolen payroll check. If your paycheck is lost in the mail, we have to wait one week to reissue it.

If you enroll, you will receive an earnings statement each month showing your gross salary, taxes, other deductions, net pay deposited and leave balances similar to your current payroll stub. The amount of the Direct Deposit will also appear on the monthly statement you receive from your financial institution.

Also, please remember to notify our office if you move, add or lose a dependent, get married/divorced, etc., as soon as possible.

## ◆ RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – NOTIFY STAFF

The Rules of Practice and Procedure Neb. Ct. R. of Prac. 5(b)(3)(d) were amended to clarify the existing rule that bills of exceptions cannot be altered in any way. Magistrates and District Judges, please notify your staff if they are not already aware of this change.

## ◆ COUNTY COURT AUDITS ON THE INTERNET

Newly released county court audits are available on the Auditor of Public Accounts' website, [www.auditors.state.ne.us](http://www.auditors.state.ne.us). Click on "What's New" to view the reports of individual counties.

## ◆ ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION ON COURT RECORDS

<http://www.ago.state.ne.us/>

The AG's opinion regarding briefing materials and legal memoranda filed with a court as public records is on the internet. The opinion is that legal briefs are considered public records but are subject to a separate provision of the law that allows some records to be kept confidential. The opinion, requested by Senator Patrick J. Bourne and written by Dale A. Comer, Assistant Attorney General, was released December 27, 2004. (Opinion 04030)

## ◆ SUPREME COURT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN IN THE COURTS

[www.nebraskacourt.com/comm/child\\_in\\_courts.htm](http://www.nebraskacourt.com/comm/child_in_courts.htm)

The Supreme Court has named a new commission on children to study the court system's response to the treatment of children within the system. The Commission is co-chaired by **Hon. Everett O. Inbody**, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals, and **Hon. Douglas F. Johnson**, Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge. Other members of the Commission are:

Sen. Patrick Bourne  
Lynnette Z. Boyle  
Hon. G. Glenn Camerer  
Hon. Vernon Daniels  
Mark Ells  
Bob Goodwin  
Marsha E. Fangmeyer  
Hon. Lawrence Gendler  
Rebecca R. Harling  
Meghan Houston  
Hon. Paul Korslund

Hon. Patrick McDermott  
Nancy Montanez  
Kathy Bigsby Moore  
Nicole Neesen  
Jodi Nelson  
Mary Jo Pankoke  
Hon. Linda Porter  
Sen. Ron Raikes  
Hon. Gerald Rouse  
James E. Ruby  
Hon. Patrick Runge

Jane Schoenike  
Dick Stafford  
Roberta Stick  
Carol Stitt  
Sen. Nancy Thompson  
Kenneth Vampola  
Marlene Vetick  
Hon. Gary G. Washburn  
Elizabeth A. F. Waterman  
Kirs Wertz

◆ **JURY SURVEY**

Please look for surveys being mailed through our office on jury service within our state. The surveys are part of a multi-phase project sponsored by the National Center for State Courts designed to promote public understanding of jury service and to support state and local courts in their efforts to improve the jury system. These surveys are being completed by judges, trial lawyers, court administrators and court leaders throughout the U.S. The results are designed to give each state objective and comparative information with which to measure their performance. Look for the surveys soon.

◆ **WORK ETHIC CAMP DEMOGRAPHICS**

*Statistics as of December 31, 2004*

Grand Total Admissions, April 30, 2001 – December 31, 2004.....	818
Total Admissions for Calendar Year 2004 (January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004).....	244
Total Current Count in the Program as of December 31, 2004 .....	73
Total Completed Successfully Since 2001.....	607
Total Removed from the Program Since 2001.....	138

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**Counties Sending Offenders and How Many Sent**

Douglas .....	178	Cass.....	15	Butler.....	7
Lancaster.....	88	Custer .....	10	Burt .....	4
Hall .....	54	Richardson.....	9	Furnas.....	4
Sarpy .....	32	Johnson .....	10	Hamilton.....	6
Adams .....	33	Box Butte .....	8	Holt.....	4
Dodge.....	31	Cheyenne .....	8	Howard.....	4
Red Willow .....	26	Saline .....	10	Nance .....	4
Gage.....	24	Washington.....	7	Dawes .....	3
Dakota .....	21	Fillmore .....	11	Franklin .....	3
Scotts Bluff .....	20	Jefferson .....	6	Nuckolls .....	3
Buffalo .....	21	Nemaha .....	8	Colfax.....	2
Madison.....	17	Otoe .....	6	Cuming.....	3
Saunders.....	18	Sheridan .....	6	Greeley .....	2
Phelps .....	13	Clay.....	7	Hitchcock .....	2
Dawson .....	12	Merrick.....	5	Keith.....	2
Lincoln.....	10	Morrill .....	9	Pierce.....	2
		Platte.....	8	Thayer.....	2

1 from each as follows: Antelope, Boone, Cedar, Cherry, Dixon, Dundy, Garden, Gosper, Grant, Harlan, Kearney, Polk, Seward, Valley, Wayne, Webster.

**Offenses**

Theft or Burglary Offenses.....	364
Drug Offenses .....	315
Forgery/UL use of UL use of Trans. Device/Issuing a Bad Check.....	47
Other – Criminal Mischief, Terroristic Threats, Escape, Etc. ....	92

**Gender**

Total Males.....	704
Total Females .....	114

**Age**

Age Range ..... 16 – 48 years  
Average Age ..... 21 – 25 years

**Race**

Caucasian ..... 629  
African American ..... 110  
Hispanic ..... 55  
Native American ..... 14  
Asian Amrican ..... 6  
Other ..... 4

**Substance Abuse**

Total Offenders Treated ..... 753  
Percentage Treated for Substance Abuse ..... 92%

**Programming**

Each offender attends an average of **225** hours of programming class time (cognitive behavior, job preparation skills, life skills, problem solving and parenting classes) during a minimum 120-day stay at the Work Ethic Camp. Offenders who need Substance Abuse treatment and/or ABE/GED will spend more time in classes or groups.

**Education**

Total Needing ABE/GED Upon Admission ..... 417  
Lowest Education Level ..... 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Highest Education Level ..... College Junior  
Total Who Have Received GED while at WEC ..... 154

**Road Crew Hours**

Grand Total, April 30, 2001 – December 31, 2004 ..... 135,033  
Total Hours, Calendar Year 2004 ..... 44,091

◆ **LAW DAY 2005 THEME CHOSEN**  
*The American Jury: We the People in Action*

The American Bar Association has chosen “The American Jury: We the People in Action” as the theme for this year’s Law Day, May 1. We can help the public understand the jury system and appreciate their role in making it effective.

To celebrate Law Day, we are once again co-sponsoring an essay contest with the Nebraska State Bar Foundation. The students, grades 7 – 12, will base their entries on the theme. If you would like to help grade the essays, contact Janet Bancroft, 402-471-3205, or Marcie Brush, 402-471-2249.

## ◆ LEGAL RESEARCH UNIT ESTABLISHED

The lead attorney for the "Office of the Judicial Law Clerks" has been hired to establish the office. Ann M. Landis of Eudora, Kansas, will serve as office coordinator and research attorney for district judges throughout the state. Ms. Landis is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and until accepting this position, she was a law clerk to a trial court judge in Kansas.

The office will be housed in the State Law Library under the direction of the State Court Administrator. In cooperation with the deans of the University of Nebraska College of Law and Creighton University School of Law, legal interns and externs will be added to the Legal Research Unit at a later date.

The research assistance is intended for district judges initially. If additional resources become available in the next fiscal year, the assistance will be extended to county and separate juvenile court judges.

The Legal Research Committee, consisting of Hon. James Livingston, Chair, and Hon. Sandra Dougherty, Hon. Paul Korslund and Hon. John Samson will oversee the Unit operation. They were directly involved in the hiring of the Judicial Law Clerk.

An informational memo will be forthcoming to all district judges that will explain the research resources available and how to make research requests.

## ◆ TWO NEW SPANISH COURT INTERPRETERS SWORN-IN

The Nebraska Supreme Court announced earlier this month that two more interpreters have successfully passed the oral certification court interpreter exam sponsored by the Consortium of the National Center for State Courts. Irma Watt of Hooper, Nebraska, and Dale H. Taylor of Norfolk, Nebraska, are now Nebraska Supreme Court Certified Spanish Court Interpreters.

The two interpreters received their certification and took their oath as Certified Court Interpreters in a ceremony held in Madison, Nebraska, on January 21. They join eleven other previously certified Nebraska court interpreters who have successfully passed the Consortium's oral certification exam.

Contact Kenneth Wade at the Office of the State Court Administrator, 402-471-2671, concerning any aspect of the state interpreter program.

## ◆ REMINDER: NEW MILEAGE RATE

The mileage rate, effective January 1, 2005, is 40.5 cents per mile.

## ◆ NEW JUDICIAL ETHICS OPINION ISSUED

05-1 May a judge serve on a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) board serving a county which is outside the judge's judicial district?

Contact Marcie Brush, Administrative Assistant, 402-471-2249, for copies of previously issued opinions. You can also print them from the Judicial Branch website, [www.nebraskacourt.com/comm/jecintro.htm#opinions](http://www.nebraskacourt.com/comm/jecintro.htm#opinions).

◆ 2004 CASELOAD STATISTICS

**District Court Case Filings**

Total Filings by Year

1995	35,330	2000	37,915
1996	35,261	2001	39,201
1997	36,709	2002	40,796
1998	38,117	2003	41,038
1999	38,330	<b>2004</b>	<b>41,447</b>

**2004 Filings by District – District Court**

Judicial District	Criminal	Regular Civil	Domestic Relations	Appellate Action	Totals
1	261	390	1,479	77	2,207
2	1,016	479	1,862	107	3,464
3	1,037	730	2,480	185	4,432
4	3,091	2,455	9,151	376	15,073
5	533	445	1,594	86	2,658
6	359	366	1,218	70	2,013
7	426	222	943	50	1,641
8	121	237	556	43	957
9	481	374	1,504	91	2,450
10	263	257	836	80	1,436
11	599	520	1,394	44	2,557
12	454	444	1,539	122	2,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,641</b>	<b>6,919</b>	<b>24,556</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>41,447</b>

**County Court Case Filings**

Total Filings by Year

1995	434,282
1996	396,708
1997	374,079
1998	376,285
1999	383,930
2000	390,654
2001	385,995
2002	412,651
2003	408,829
<b>2004</b>	<b>398,636</b>

## **2004 Filings by District – County Court**

Judicial District	Misd/Ord Traffic	Misd/Ord Non-Traffic	Felony	Civil	Small Claims	Probate/ Inher. Tax	Guard Cons	Adoption	Juvenile	Totals
1	8,444	3,618	398	2,463	338	403	95	50	486	16,295
2	23,474	10,101	1,330	4,083	386	332	169	88	282	40,245
3	23,123	22,050	1,782	10,289	892	642	290	145	0	59,213
4	27,062	36,276	4,003	21,377	1,899	1,189	716	249	0	92,771
5	13,641	6,948	816	4,436	534	607	137	71	1,139	28,329
6	12,881	6,728	739	3,538	506	458	105	37	618	25,610
7	10,046	5,356	515	1,870	412	392	88	30	494	19,203
8	7,212	3,604	210	1,816	473	319	98	24	271	14,027
9	9,371	7,445	851	5,672	525	307	135	60	541	24,907
10	7,911	3,779	445	3,266	406	429	151	45	700	17,132
11	20,224	7,647	1,015	4,337	856	478	152	65	1,110	35,884
12	12,065	6,957	716	2,962	700	415	151	41	1,013	25,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,454</b>	<b>120,509</b>	<b>12,820</b>	<b>66,109</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>5,971</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>398,636</b>

### **Total Cases Referred From District Court to County Court, 2004 – 2,075**

Type	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Marriage Dissolution	1	67	29	0	0	66	0	1	0	1	0	0
Support/ Custody	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paternity	0	3	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
URESAs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Protection Orders	297	189	341	0	174	290	54	77	258	19	0	184
Misc.	1	5	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185</b>

### **◆ JUDICIAL RETIREMENTS**

*Bidding farewell...*

Ronald E. Reagan, District Court Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District; Samuel V. Cooper, County Court Judge, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; and Robert V. Burkhard, District Court Judge, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, are all retiring effective February 1, 2005.

Gary F. Hatfield, County Court Judge, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, is retiring effective March 31, 2005.

Larry F. Fugit, County Court Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District, is retiring effective April 1, 2005.

## ◆ JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION

Please mark your calendars for the following in-state programs to be held in 2005:

- **County Judges Annual Meeting**, June 28 – 30, North Platte, Sandhills Convention Center
- **Dist. Judges/Sep. Juv. Judges/Off. Court Reporters Annual Meeting**, June 8 – 10, Omaha, Marriott Hotel
- **Clerk Magistrates Annual Meeting**, September 28 – 30, South Sioux City, Marina Inn Conference Center
- **Fall Judges Meeting/NSBA Annual Meeting**, November 9 – 11, Lincoln, Cornhusker Hotel

If you have any education-related questions, contact Philip Gould, Director of Judicial Branch Education, 402-471-3072.

## ◆ LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Getting information is easier than ever regarding the Unicameral. Contacts for bills, senators and the Unicameral Update are listed below:

### Unicameral Web Site

- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us)
- Technical Assistance – email: [support@unicam.state.ne.us](mailto:support@unicam.state.ne.us)

### Unicam LIVE!

- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us/videos/live.htm](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/videos/live.htm)

### Unicameral Update Subscriptions

- 24-Hour Request Line: 402-471-2877

### Unicameral Update Online

- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us/update/](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/update/)

### Status of Bills or Resolutions

- Legislative Hot Line: 402-471-2709 or 800-742-7456
- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us/documents/bills.htm](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/documents/bills.htm)

### Bills, Resolutions or Legislative Journals

- Subscriptions: Room 2018, State Capitol, 402-471-2271
- Individual Copies: 24-Hour Request Line, 402-471-2877
- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us/documents/bills.htm](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/documents/bills.htm)

### Nebraska Blue Book

- Nebraska Blue Book Office: 402-471-2220
- On the web: [www.unicam.state.ne.us/bluebook/](http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/bluebook/)

## ◆ INSIGHT EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### *Workplace Conflict*

Workplace conflicts naturally emerge from the incompatible or opposing needs, wishes, external demands, or perceived demands of others. Conflict between coworkers can be visible in the work environment or stay hidden from others. Conflicts frequently grow worse without resolution and can be costly if they appear irreconcilable.

Although often stressful, conflict at work is normal. When managed and controlled, conflict in the workplace is beneficial because it can stimulate change and discovery, and increase productivity. Understanding accepted principles about conflict in the workplace can help you feel less victimized by it and more in control of its outcome.

## **What your EAP - InSight - can do:**

InSight can help you resolve conflicts using different approaches depending on an assessment of your struggles with a coworker. The EAP may begin by interviewing coworkers individually, or meet with you as a group before using goal-oriented approaches to resolution. Call your EAP to learn more. There is much to gain in resolving conflicts — your happiness, health, and productivity.

For more information, please contact The InSight Program, P.C., by calling 800-488-1043. They are located at 8101 'O' Street, Ste. 214, Lincoln, NE 68501.

## **◆ FILING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Judicial Financial Interest Statements: Due May 1 for all full-time individuals subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct.

Statement for Payment of Interpreters: Interpreter to submit between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Judges' Cases Under Advisement Reports: Due by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month (reports are compiled and submitted to the Supreme Court).

Court Reporter Timesheets: Due by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month (judges are to sign time sheets prior to submission).

Permanently Assigned Vehicle Logs: Due by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Report of Probate Cases Pending: Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Court Caseload Monthly Statistic Reports: Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

County Court Time Sheets: Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Stenographer Transcription Reports: Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Cash Drawer Short/Long Transactions (County Court only): Due by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

Expense Vouchers: Submit on a monthly basis (rather than combining several months of expenses on one voucher).

## **◆ JUSTICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

- County Court, February 7 – 11, North Platte
- District Court, February 15 – 17, Lincoln
- District Court, March 22 – 24, North Platte
- County Court, April 11 – 15, Lincoln

Complete training calendars for 2005 can be found online:

- County Court Calendar: [http://court.nol.org/community/cc\\_justice\\_train\\_cal.pdf](http://court.nol.org/community/cc_justice_train_cal.pdf)
- District Court Calendar: [http://court.nol.org/community/dc\\_justice\\_train\\_cal.pdf](http://court.nol.org/community/dc_justice_train_cal.pdf)

Contact Marcie Brush, Administrative Assistant, at 402-471-2249, for registration information.