

**District of Columbia Courts  
FY 2010 Budget Justification  
Appropriations Language**

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

For salaries and expenses for the District of Columbia Courts, [\$248,409,000] \$352,228,000 to be allocated as follows: for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, [\$12,630,000] \$13,156,000, of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the District of Columbia Superior Court, [\$104,277,000] \$111,036,000, of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the District of Columbia Court System, [\$55,426,000] \$66,256,000, of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; and [\$76,076,000] \$161,780,000, to remain available until September 30, [2010] 2011, for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities, including structural improvements to the District of Columbia cell block at the Moultrie Courthouse: *Provided*, That funds made available for capital improvements shall be expended consistent with the General Services Administration (GSA) master plan study and building evaluation report: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts under this heading shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for salaries and expenses of other Federal agencies, with payroll and financial services to be provided on a contractual basis with the GSA, and such services shall include the preparation of monthly financial reports, copies of which shall be submitted directly by GSA to the President and to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate: *Provided further*, That 30 days after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the District of Columbia Courts may reallocate not more than \$1,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading among the items and entities funded under this heading for operations, and not more than 4 percent of the funds provided under this heading for facilities. (*District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2009.*)

DEFENDER SERVICES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

For payments authorized under section 11-2604 and section 11-2605, D.C. Official Code (relating to representation provided under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act), payments for counsel appointed in proceedings in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia under chapter 23 of title 16, D.C. Official Code, or pursuant to contractual agreements to provide guardian ad litem representation, training, technical assistance, and such other services as are necessary to improve the quality of guardian ad litem representation, payments for counsel appointed in adoption proceedings under chapter 3 of title 16, D.C. Code, and payments for counsel authorized under section 21-2060, D.C. Official Code (relating to representation provided under the District of Columbia Guardianship, Protective Proceedings, and Durable Power of Attorney Act of 1986), [\$52,475,000] \$55,000,000, to remain available

until expended: *Provided*, [That the funds provided in this Act under the heading `Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts' (other than the \$76,076,000 provided under such heading for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities) may also be used for payments under this heading: *Provided further*, That in addition to the funds provided under this heading, the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia may use funds provided in this Act under the heading `Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts' (other than the \$76,076,000 provided under such heading for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities), to make payments described under this heading for obligations incurred during any fiscal year: *Provided further*,] That funds provided under this heading shall be administered by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, this appropriation shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for expenses of other Federal agencies, with payroll and financial services to be provided on a contractual basis with the General Services Administration (GSA), and such services shall include the preparation of monthly financial reports, copies of which shall be submitted directly by GSA to the President and to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate. (*District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2009.*)

<b>ACCOUNT: FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS</b>	
<b>Proposed change</b>	Amended Language: “For salaries and expenses for the District of Columbia Courts, . . . to be allocated as follows: for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, . . . of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the District of Columbia Superior Court, . . . of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the District of Columbia Court System, . . . of which not to exceed [\$1,500] \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses;”
<b>Purpose</b>	Changes the amount of funds available for official reception and representation expenses to \$2,500.
<b>Justification</b>	The Courts request a modest increase in funds for official reception and representation purposes to meet responsibilities such as to support legal education in the District, to work with D.C. Bar committees of volunteers, and to host the high number of international guests who visit the D.C. Courts to learn about legal systems in democratic societies. The amount requested is commensurate with small federal agencies and considerably less than the representation funds of other District officials.

**ACCOUNT: DEFENDER SERVICES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS**

<b>Proposed change</b>	Deletion of language: “That the funds provided in this Act under the heading ‘Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts’ (other than the \$76,076,000 provided under such heading for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities) may also be used for payments under this heading: <i>Provided further</i> , That in addition to the funds provided under this heading, the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia shall use funds provided in this Act under the heading ‘Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts’ (other than the \$76,076,000 provided under such heading for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities), to make payments described under this heading for obligations incurred during any fiscal year: <i>Provided further</i> ,”
<b>Purpose</b>	Deletes the authority to supplement the Defender Services appropriation with the Federal Payment appropriation.
<b>Justification</b>	The Defender Services account must be adequately funded to ensure quality representation for indigent defendants and families in the District of Columbia Courts. The Courts cannot finance any potential future shortfalls in the Defender Services appropriation with operating budget resources without severe detrimental consequences to the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.