

ITEM REDUCTIONS BY METHOD OF FINANCING
 81st Regular Session, 2010-11 Agency Item Reductions
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 3/3/2010
 Time: 9:12:50AM
 Page: 1 of 2

Agency code: 221

Agency name: **First Court of Appeals District, Houston**

Item Priority and Name/ Method of Financing	2010	2011	Biennial Total	Target
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1 Reclassification of Law Clerks

Item Comment: As discussed in the joint letter to state leadership of 2/16/10, the courts of appeals request to maintain the full level of funding appropriated to the courts for FY 2010-11 and to utilize that funding as authorized by the 81st Legislature. A 5% funding reduction for the First Court (\$353,723) would negatively impact the Court's ability to: (1) maintain similar funding for same-size appellate courts; (2) maintain a career ladder for staff attorneys and the Court's ability to recruit, promote and retain trained attorneys (\$194,621) without reorganization caused by loss of staff due to low salaries; (3) continue progress towards reclassifying law clerks to permanent staff attorneys based on judicial preference (not converting three positions \$64,500); and (4) make salary adjustments for non-legal staff to reflect levels of responsibility and a career ladder (\$94,602). A 5% reduction in FY 2010 would mean a loss of one or more attorneys, and one or more non-legal staff positions.

Satisfaction of the Court's core function and Constitutional mandate, the delivery of justice to Texas citizens through review of criminal and civil trial court proceedings, requires a highly skilled and trained workforce, both attorneys and non-legal support staff. As a result, 96% of the First Court's FY 2010-11 appropriated budget is dedicated to salaries. Full-level funding will support the Court's continued ability to attract and retain the qualified attorney, clerical and administrative staff the Court must have to operate effectively and efficiently so that it can deliver justice and satisfy legislative performance requirements. Full-level funding will support staff pay levels that better compete with private and other governmental sectors. Costs associated with turnover and the negative effects on productivity can be minimized, while the Court continues to operate at historical performance levels, and maintains the highest quality of legal analysis.

GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS

1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$64,500		
General Revenue Funds Total	\$0	\$64,500		
Item Total	\$0	\$64,500		

2 Non-Legal Salary Adjustments

Item Comment:

GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS

1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$94,602		
General Revenue Funds Total	\$0	\$94,602		
Item Total	\$0	\$94,602		

* - Indicates amount does not meet target requirements.

ITEM REDUCTIONS BY METHOD OF FINANCING
 81st Regular Session, 2010-11 Agency Item Reductions
 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 3/3/2010
 Time: 9:12:37AM
 Page: 2 of 2

Agency code: 221

Agency name: **First Court of Appeals District, Houston**

Item Priority and Name/ Method of Financing	2010	2011	Biennial Total	Target
3 Attorney Salary Adjustments				
Item Comment:				
GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS				
1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$194,621		
General Revenue Funds Total	\$0	\$194,621		
Item Total	\$0	\$194,621		
Agency General Revenue Total	\$0	\$353,723		
Agency GR Dedicated Total				
Agency Grand Total	\$0	\$353,723	\$353,723	\$353,723

* - Indicates amount does not meet target requirements.