

# a **CLOSER** **LOOK** at the *2015-17 State Budget*



## **Justice and Courts**

### **Courts**

- Consolidates funding for circuit court support payments, guardian ad litem costs, and court interpreters into a new circuit court block grant appropriation
- Maintains Judicial Council as an independent agency
- Deletes proposed transfer of Judicial Commission to Supreme Court
- Creates a statewide problem-solving courts coordinator position
- Removes requirement that the Chief Justice receive a higher salary than other Supreme Court justices

### **District Attorneys/Public Defender**

- Provides a 2% average salary adjustment for ADAs, DDAs and public defenders under pay progression

### **Justice**

- Retains individual state justice assistance grant programs
- Provides funding and positions for Solicitor General's Office in DOJ. Positions must come from existing vacancies.
- Provides \$635,000 and 4 positions for officer involved death investigations
- Increases funding for sexual assault victim services grants by \$100,000 in FY 2016-17
- Provides \$220,000 to the JFC supplemental appropriation to support 2 DOJ gun violence prosecutor positions
- Creates a 24/7 sobriety pilot program for 2nd offense and above OWI offenders
  - Program participants would be court ordered or volunteers
  - Participants must submit to frequent testing for alcohol or drug use; a failed test would cause a participant to be arrested
  - Up to 5 counties may participate, subject to DOJ approval