

**Office of State Budget and Management
Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions
(G.S. 143-34.1)**

Agency: Judicial Division: Indigent Defense Services

Budget Code: 12001 Center Title: Indigent Defense Services Center Number: 1380

***** Position Information *****

Proposed Classification: Attorney Fee Coordinator Proposed Salary Grade: n/a

Salary Range: \$26,986 to \$37,000 Proposed Effective Date: 01/01/06

Number of Positions: 1

	<u>Center Authorized Budget</u> <small>(annualized)</small>	<u>Current Request</u> <small>(annualized)</small>
Total Budget	\$ 49,023	\$ 46,102
Receipts	<u>\$ 49,023</u>	<u>46,102</u>
Appropriation	\$ 0	\$ 0

Funding Source(s): To be funded with receipts collected through recoupments.

Justification for Position (including description of duties and responsibilities):

This individual will work under the supervision of the Meck County Trial Court Administrator to review appointed attorney fee applications before they are submitted for payment, to work with Judges, Clerks and attorneys to improve recoupment of attorney fees in Mecklenburg County, and to review affidavits of indigency upon request of judges.

Currently only 6.7% of private attorney payments are recouped in Meck County, compared to 12% statewide. Improving recoupment rates even 1% would cover the cost of this position. There has also been interest among the local judicial officials in improving oversight of indigency applications, fee application accuracy and the process for recoupment. This project would be a pilot effort that will also help IDS assess the cost effectiveness of funding additional positions in other jurisdictions.

The position would be funded by recoupment of attorney fees (43 7990005). The current request is for personnel costs. The only additional cost would be for one-time equipment purchase, also to be funded with recoupment receipts.

Statutory Reference for Request

Malcolm Ray Hunter, Jr.
Presentation to be made by

Executive Director, IDS
Title

Malcolm Ray Hunter, Jr.
Agency Head Signature

David J. Gray
State Budget Officer Signature

OK
BKH