

STATEMENT OF JANE A. RESTANI  
Chief Judge  
UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
before  
The Subcommittee of the  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

April 5, 2006

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I would like to once again thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit this statement on behalf of the United States Court of International Trade, which is established under Article III of the Constitution with exclusive nationwide jurisdiction over civil actions pertaining to matters arising out of the administration and enforcement of the customs and international trade laws of the United States.

The Court's budget request for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$16,182,000, which is \$840,000 or 5.5 percent over the Fiscal Year 2006 available appropriation of \$15,342,000. This request will enable the Court to maintain current services and provide for standard pay and other inflationary adjustments to base. The request also includes funds to pay for increases in costs paid to GSA for rent and to the Federal Protective Service for building basic and building-specific security surcharges. These surcharges provide for the Court's pro-rata share of installing, operating and maintaining the systems for the critical and necessary security of the Federal Complex in lower Manhattan. The Court continues, as it has done for the past 12 years, to budget conservatively and request funds that will provide for mandatory increases in pay, benefits and other inflationary factors, as well as to fund the essential on-going operations and initiatives of the Court.

Within the funds requested, the Court continues to meet the objectives set forth in its Long-Range Plan through the use of its annual appropriation and the Judiciary Information Technology Fund (JITF). These objectives promote access to the Court through the effective and efficient delivery of services and information to litigants, bar, public, judges and staff. As a national court, this access is critical in realizing the Court's mission to resolve disputes by (1) providing cost effective, courteous and timely service by those affected by the judicial process, (2) providing independent, consistent, fair and impartial interpretation and application of the customs and international trade laws and (3) fostering improvements in customs and international trade law and practice and improvements in the administration of justice.

Technology is a critical component of the Court's commitment to service delivery to its varied constituencies. As such, in Fiscal Year 2005, the Court: (1) purchased new servers for and upgraded the database used in connection with the Federal Judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) System, (2) cyclically upgraded, replaced and supported desktop computers and vital existing software applications, (3) purchased new software applications that enhance computer security and ensure the efficient deployment of software updates to all computer systems at the Court and (4) purchased a fire wall server and software to ensure the security of the Court's network and help build a secure identity management system. Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2005, the Court continued its cyclical maintenance program by refurbishing its trial courtrooms, robing rooms and jury rooms, and replacing aging furniture.

For Fiscal Year 2006, the Court plans to expend funds to: (1) implement the new operating system for the CM/ECF System and migrate the attendant database, (2) continue the support of its upgraded data network and voice connections and Virtual Private Network (VPN) System, (3) replace the servers for the Court's library on-line cataloguing and acquisition system and for the Court's Internet Website, (4) replace desktop computer systems, laptops and printers in accordance with the Judiciary's extended cyclical replacement program, (5) upgrade and support existing software applications, (6) purchase new software applications to ensure the continued operational efficiency of the Court, (7) support Court equipment by the purchase of yearly maintenance agreements and (8) upgrade the Court's digital recording equipment. Additionally, the Court will expand its efforts to provide the developmental and educational programs for staff in the areas of job-related skills and technology. In the same vein, the Court will further its work with bar associations and law schools to provide continuing legal education programming to raise the quality of practice in the area of customs and international trade law.

In carrying out its mission in Fiscal Year 2007, the Court remains committed to enhancing the administration of justice to the litigants, bar, Court family and public. In so doing, the Court will continue its information technology initiatives. Among the technology projects to be supported by the Court's Fiscal Year 2007 budget request and the carryforward balance from its JITF are: (1) continuing the deployment of its CM/ECF System and training the bar in its use, (2) supporting and maintaining all technical equipment and systems, (3) supporting new software applications that enable judges and staff to view instructional videos at individual workstations and integrates the Federal Judiciary's Training Network with the Court's local area network and (4) upgrading the Court's wiring closets with switches and fiber modules.

Additionally, the Court intends to continue its cyclical replacement and maintenance program for equipment, furniture and building maintenance. This program not only ensures the integrity of equipment and furnishings, but maximizes the use and functionality of the internal space of the Courthouse. Moreover, the Fiscal Year 2007 request includes funds for the support and maintenance of the upgraded security systems implemented by the Court in Fiscal Years 1999 through 2005, and the Court's COOP. Lastly, the Court again will participate in efforts to address the educational needs of the bar and the Court staff.

As I stated last year, maintaining security systems and ensuring the protection of those who work in and visit the Courthouse continue to be top priorities. In July, 2005, GSA received Senate approval for Fiscal Year 2006 funding for the construction of a security pavilion for entry into the Courthouse. The Court is working closely with GSA in the design and construction of this entrance pavilion. To that end, the Court, in Fiscal Year 2005, entered into a Reimbursable Work Authorization with GSA for a non-prospectus project for replacing the present entrance doors to the Courthouse with blast resistant glass and for installing video-surveillance cameras in strategic locations in the new pavilion that will further secure the Courthouse and its environs. GSA expects construction of the new pavilion to begin in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2006. The Court will continue to work in full partnership with GSA to ensure the success of the security pavilion project.

I would like to emphasize that the Court remains committed, as it has in the past, to an approach of conservatively managing its financial resources through sound fiscal, procurement and personnel practices. As a matter of internal operating principles, the Court routinely has engaged in cost containment strategies in keeping with the overall administrative policies and practices of the Judicial Conference, particularly regarding rent,

security costs, equipment costs, technology, contractual obligations and personnel. I can assure you that this management approach with respect to the Court's financial affairs will continue into Fiscal Year 2007 and beyond.

The Court's "General Statement and Information" and "Justification of Changes," which provide more detailed descriptions of each line item adjustment, were submitted previously. If the Committee requires any additional information, we will be pleased to submit it.