

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

Salaries and Expenses

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Mandatory	Discretionary	Total
Fiscal Year 2025 Salaries and Expenses Enacted Appropriation	\$537,108	\$5,995,055	\$6,532,163
Fiscal Year 2025 Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Enacted Appropriation	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,975</u>	<u>\$9,975</u>
Total, Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted Appropriation	\$537,108	\$6,005,030	\$6,542,138
Fiscal Year 2026 Salaries and Expenses Appropriation Request	\$553,534	\$6,338,096	\$6,891,630
Fiscal Year 2026 Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Appropriation Request	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,042</u>	<u>\$12,042</u>
Total, Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Request	\$553,534	\$6,350,138	\$6,903,672
Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted Appropriation	\$16,426	\$345,108	\$361,534

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the salaries of judges of the United States Court of Federal Claims, magistrate judges, and all other officers and employees of the Federal judiciary not otherwise specifically provided for, necessary expenses of the courts, and the purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for Probation and Pretrial Services Office staff, as authorized by law, [\$5,995,055,000]*\$6,338,096,000* (including the purchase of firearms and ammunition); of which not to exceed \$27,817,000 shall remain available until expended for space alteration projects and for furniture and furnishings related to new space alteration and construction projects.

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of circuit and district judges (including judges of the territorial courts of the United States), bankruptcy judges, and justices and judges retired from office or from regular active service.

In addition, for *reimbursement of* expenses of the United States Court of Federal Claims associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-660), [not to exceed] [\$9,975,000]*\$12,042,000*, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund *and to remain available until expended*.

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47).

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Resource Requirements:</u>		Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
		<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Fiscal Year 2025 Available Resources (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,891	537,108	25,059	6,610,122	26,950	7,147,230
	FY 2024 Encumbered Carryforward	-	-	-	(155,939)	-	(155,939)
	Fiscal Year 2025 Obligations (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,891	537,108	25,059	6,454,183	26,950	6,991,291
	Non-Appropriated Sources of Funding						
	Estimated FY 2025 Fee Collections.....	-	-	-	(152,974)	-	(152,974)
	Carryforward Balances from FY 2024 into FY 2025.....	-	-	-	(296,179)	-	(296,179)
	Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,891	537,108	25,059	6,005,030	26,950	6,542,138
Page No.	<u>Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:</u>						
	A. Judges and Associated Staff						
4.26	1. Pay and Benefit Adjustments						
4.26	a. Annualization of 2025 Pay Adjustment (1.7% for three months).....	-	2,123	-	715	-	2,838
4.26	b. Benefits Increases						
4.26	i. Health Benefits.....	-	1,375	-	1,118	-	2,493
4.27	ii. FICA Adjustment.....	-	653	-	212	-	865
4.27	2. Increase in Average Number of Filled Active Article III Judgeships (12 judge FTE/68 staff FTE).....	12	3,279	68	8,645	80	11,924
4.28	3. Increase in Average Number of Senior Judges (17 judge FTE/90 staff FTE).....	17	4,495	90	11,267	107	15,762
4.29	4. Increase in Average Number of Filled Bankruptcy Judgeships (15 judge FTE/50 staff FTE).....	15	4,501	50	6,614	65	11,115
	B. Court Personnel and Programs						
4.31	5. Pay and Benefits Adjustments						
4.31	a. Annualization of 2025 Pay Adjustment (2.0% for three months).....	-	-	-	18,124	-	18,124
4.31	b. Promotions and Within-grade Increases.....	-	-	-	27,487	-	27,487
4.31	c. Benefits Increases						
4.31	i. Health Benefits.....	-	-	-	24,061	-	24,061
4.31	ii. FICA Adjustment.....	-	-	-	589	-	589
4.31	6. Funding Necessary to Maintain FY 2026 Service Levels Due to Anticipated Decrease in Non-appropriated Funds	-	-	-	62,881	-	62,881

C. Other Adjustments						
4.32	7. General Inflationary and Miscellaneous Adjustments.....	-	-	-	22,506	- 22,506
4.32	8. Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Adjustment.....	-	-	-	2,067	- 2,067
4.33	9. GSA Space Rental and Related Services					
4.33	a. Changes in Space/New Space.....	-	-	-	3,498	- 3,498
4.33	b. Building Operations and GSA Rent	-	-	-	11,008	- 11,008
4.33	c. Tenant Improvements.....	-	-	-	29,887	- 29,887
4.33	d. Space Reduction Savings.....	-	-	-	(1,000)	- (1,000)
4.34	e. Other Space-related Adjustments.....	-	-	-	3,202	- 3,202
4.35	10. Information Technology (IT) Requirements					
4.35	a. Court Administration and Case Management Systems.....	-	-	-	4,132	- 4,132
4.35	b. Administrative and Management Systems.....	-	-	-	4,446	- 4,446
4.36	c. Telecommunication Program.....	-	-	-	(8,694)	- (8,694)
4.36	d. Infrastructure and Collaboration Tools.....	-	-	-	50,772	- 50,772
4.36	e. Judicial Statistical and Reporting Systems.....	-	-	-	3,944	- 3,944
4.37	f. Court IT Allotments.....	-	-	-	14,540	- 14,540
4.37	g. Cybersecurity and IT Modernization.....	-	-	-	(23,843)	- (23,843)
	Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services.....	44	16,426	208	278,178	252 294,604
	Total Current Services Appropriation Required.....	1,935	553,534	25,267	6,283,208	27,202 6,836,742
<u>Program Increases:</u>						
4.37	11. New FY 2026 Full-time Magistrate Judge and Staff (1 full-time new judgeship 1 FTE and 4 staff FTE).....	-	-	5	420	5 420
4.38	12. FY 2026 Court Support Staffing Due to Workload Changes.....	-	-	170	17,188	170 17,188
4.38	13. Probation Staff to Support Implementation of Evidence Based Practices.....	-	-	7	1,960	7 1,960
4.38	14. No Net New Reduction Projects.....	-	-	-	10,000	- 10,000
4.39	15. Cloud Integration.....	-	-	-	14,356	- 14,356
4.39	16. National IT Tracking System.....	-	-	-	4,339	- 4,339
4.39	17. Development, Security, and Operations	-	-	-	1,338	- 1,338
4.40	18. Budget Formulation and Execution System.....	-	-	-	1,313	- 1,313
4.40	19. Human Resource Services Support.....	-	-	-	4,040	- 4,040
4.40	20. Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls Program					
4.40	a. Financial Training Opportunities.....	-	-	-	2,000	- 2,000
4.40	b. Audit Support Readiness.....	-	-	-	2,624	- 2,624
4.41	c. Financial Management Support.....	-	-	-	6,400	- 6,400
4.41	d. Financial Data and Programs Support.....	-	-	-	951	- 951
	Subtotal, Program Increases.....	-	-	182	66,930	182 66,930
	Total Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Request.....	1,935	553,534	25,449	6,350,138	27,384 6,903,672
	Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026.....	44	16,426	390	345,108	434 361,534
<u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2026 Request:</u>						
	Total Appropriation Request, Fiscal Year 2026.....	1,935	553,534	25,449	6,350,138	27,384 6,903,672
4.41	21. Estimated FY 2026 Fee Collections.....	-	-	-	171,272	- 171,272
4.42	22. Anticipated Unencumbered Carryforward from FY 2025.....	-	-	-	215,000	- 215,000
	Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2026.....	1,935	553,534	25,449	6,736,410	27,384 7,289,944

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES
Salaries and Expenses (\$000)

Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2024 Actuals			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.
Appeals	790,079	24,989	815,068	778,566	64,489	843,055	818,455	41,434	859,889
District	3,186,414	100,782	3,287,196	3,253,376	269,480	3,522,856	3,420,060	173,140	3,593,199
Bankruptcy	778,148	24,612	802,760	781,186	64,706	845,892	821,209	41,574	862,783
Probation/Pretrial	1,745,254	55,200	1,800,454	1,787,377	148,050	1,935,427	1,878,952	95,122	1,974,073
Total Obligations	6,499,896	205,582	6,705,478	6,600,504	546,726	7,147,230	6,938,675	351,269	7,289,944
Encumbered Carryforward	-	-	-	-	(155,939)	(155,939)	-	-	-
Revised Obligations	6,499,896	205,582	6,705,478	6,600,504	390,787	6,991,291	6,938,675	351,269	7,289,944
Fee Availability	-	(162,113)	(162,113)	-	(152,974)	(152,974)	-	(171,272)	(171,272)
Vaccine Injury Trust Fund	-	(9,975)	(9,975)	-	(9,975)	(9,975)	-	(12,042)	(12,042)
Prior Year Recoveries & Other Adjustments	-	6,740	6,740	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:									
Encumbered Carryforward	-	(192,409)	(192,409)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unencumbered Carryforward	-	(299,942)	(299,942)	-	(296,179)	(296,179)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:									
Encumbered Carryforward	-	155,939	155,939	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unencumbered Carryforward	-	296,179	296,179	-	215,000	215,000	-	-	-
Anticipated Financial Plan Savings	-	-	-	-	(215,000)	(215,000)	-	-	-
Appropriation	6,499,896	-	6,499,896	6,600,504	(68,341)	6,532,163	6,938,675	(47,045)	6,891,630
Mandatory	-	-	504,841	-	-	537,108	-	-	553,534
Discretionary (Direct)	-	-	5,995,055	-	-	5,995,055	-	-	6,338,096

Carryforward (Unobligated Balance) Analysis (\$000)

	FY 2024 Actuals			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total
Start of Year:									
Fee Account	(93,343)	(237,924)	(331,267)	(91,881)	(205,427)	(297,308)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(91,798)	(62,018)	(153,816)	(58,694)	(88,797)	(147,491)	-	-	-
S&E No-Year Funds	(7,268)	-	(7,268)	(5,364)	(1,955)	(7,319)	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal (Unobligated Balance)</i>	<i>(192,409)</i>	<i>(299,942)</i>	<i>(492,351)</i>	<i>(155,939)</i>	<i>(296,179)</i>	<i>(452,118)</i>	-	<i>(215,000)</i>	<i>(215,000)</i>
End of Year:									
Fee Account	91,881	205,427	297,308	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	58,694	88,797	147,491	-	-	-	-	-	-
S&E No-Year Funds	5,364	1,955	7,319	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anticipated Financial Plan Savings ¹	-	-	-	-	215,000	215,000	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal (Unobligated Balance)</i>	<i>155,939</i>	<i>296,179</i>	<i>452,118</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

¹Anticipated Financial Plan Savings for FY 2025 into FY 2026 (\$215.0 million) include unobligated balances from the Fee Account, the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, and S&E no-year funds.

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES
Salaries and Expenses
Obligations by Budget Object Class (\$000)

Description	FY 2024 Actuals			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.
11.0 Personnel Compensation	3,068,738	97,060	3,165,798	3,071,152	254,386	3,325,539	3,318,736	168,010	3,486,746
12.0 Personnel Benefits	1,136,106	35,933	1,172,039	1,075,357	89,073	1,164,430	1,151,476	58,293	1,209,769
13.0 Benefits for Former Personnel	6,821	216	7,036	6,942	575	7,517	7,477	378	7,855
21.0 Travel	60,080	1,900	61,980	61,354	5,082	66,436	62,803	3,179	65,982
22.0 Transportation of Things	4,256	135	4,391	4,269	354	4,622	4,551	230	4,781
23.1 Rental Payments to GSA	1,045,209	33,058	1,078,267	1,068,318	88,490	1,156,808	1,113,922	56,392	1,170,314
23.2 Rental Payments to Others	39,655	1,254	40,909	34,138	2,828	36,965	30,463	1,542	32,005
23.3 Communications, Utilities, and Misc.	34,089	1,078	35,167	34,772	2,880	37,652	37,456	1,896	39,352
24.0 Printing and Reproduction	6,862	217	7,079	6,888	571	7,458	7,428	376	7,804
25.0 Other Services	399,537	12,637	412,174	438,007	36,281	474,288	386,276	19,555	405,831
26.0 Supplies and Materials	8,730	276	9,006	17,742	1,470	19,212	23,485	1,189	24,674
31.0 Equipment	39,773	1,258	41,031	44,684	3,701	48,385	46,690	2,364	49,054
91.0 Financial Transfers	650,040	20,560	670,600	736,881	61,037	797,918	747,915	37,863	785,778
Total Obligations	6,499,896	205,582	6,705,478	6,600,504	546,726	7,147,230	6,938,675	351,269	7,289,944
Encumbered Carryforward	-	-	-	-	(155,939)	(155,939)	-	-	-
Revised Obligations	6,499,896	205,582	6,705,478	6,600,504	390,787	6,991,291	6,938,675	351,269	7,289,944

**COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL
SERVICES
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
Summary of Mandatory Obligations (\$000)**

	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Request	
	Authorized Judgeships	Compensation	Authorized Judgeships	Compensation
Circuit Judgeships	167	47,759	167	47,390
District Judgeships	677	180,900	677	184,549
Senior/Retired Judgeships	-	216,454	-	224,392
Bankruptcy Judgeships	345	91,995	345	97,203
Total	1,189	537,108	1,189	553,534

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

Summary of Personnel Compensation and Benefits by Activity (\$000)

Program	FY 2024		FY 2025		FY 2026 Request					
	Actual		Enacted		Adj. to Base		Workload Adj.		Total Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Appeals										
Judges										
Article III Judges										
Active	163	46,648	161	47,759	(1)	(369)	-	-	160	47,390
Senior	120	36,009	126	37,240	(3)	(923)	-	-	122	36,317
Retired	31	7,813	33	9,625	-	1,658	-	-	33	11,283
Court Staff										
Article III Judges' Staff	1,193	152,454	1,204	144,221	(18)	(2,061)	-	-	1,186	142,160
Circuit Executives	306	55,594	379	65,894	-	1,185	-	-	379	67,079
Clerks Offices	557	75,915	628	80,748	-	1,453	14	1,208	642	83,409
Staff and Preargument Attorneys	517	92,385	507	95,025	-	1,710	-	(22)	507	96,713
Librarians	199	29,890	233	33,341	-	600	6	580	239	34,521
Bankruptcy Appellate Panels	9	1,627	12	1,790	-	32	1	65	13	1,887
Total Appeals	3,095	498,335	3,282	515,642	(23)	3,284	21	1,831	3,281	520,757
District										
Judges										
Article III Judges										
Active	630	168,792	645	180,901	13	3,649	-	-	659	184,549
Senior	494	129,498	485	130,405	20	5,419	-	-	505	135,824
Retired	125	28,008	142	39,184	-	1,785	-	-	142	40,969
Magistrate Judges	550	167,444	568	175,162	-	1,980	1	153	569	177,295
Court of Federal Claims Judges	15	5,083	17	5,832	-	66	-	-	17	5,898
Court Staff										
Article III Judges' Staff	2,971	411,464	2,974	414,584	145	15,825	-	-	3,119	430,409
Magistrate Judges' Staff	1,104	173,596	1,146	184,533	-	3,319	4	188	1,150	188,040
Federal Claims Judges' Staff	65	8,568	102	9,277	-	908	-	-	102	10,185
Clerks Offices	5,555	744,108	5,447	762,000	-	13,708	116	11,503	5,563	787,211
Pro Se and Death Penalty	437	93,970	484	102,754	-	1,849	-	-	484	104,603
Court Reporters	685	106,114	716	112,299	31	4,614	(2)	(253)	745	116,660
Court Interpreters	101	21,108	91	20,215	-	364	4	644	95	21,223
Total District	12,732	2,057,752	12,817	2,137,144	210	53,486	123	12,235	13,149	2,202,865
Bankruptcy										
Judges										
Bankruptcy Judges	297	88,072	299	91,995	15	5,208	-	-	314	97,203
Court Staff										
Bankruptcy Judges' Staff	604	93,609	576	94,653	50	7,067	-	-	626	101,720
Clerks	2,362	337,691	2,276	335,484	-	6,035	69	7,101	2,345	348,620
Bankruptcy Administrators	39	6,542	40	6,783	-	122	2	232	42	7,137
Total Bankruptcy	3,301	525,914	3,191	528,915	65	18,432	71	7,333	3,326	554,680
Probation/Pretrial Services	7,702	1,227,117	7,660	1,293,601	-	23,272	(33)	(2,208)	7,627	1,314,665
Total Judges	2,424	677,367	2,475	718,102	44	18,472	1	153	2,520	736,727
Total Chambers	6,375	933,660	6,486	950,021	177	26,907	4	188	6,667	977,116
Total Court Staff	18,031	2,698,091	17,989	2,807,179	31	53,095	177	18,850	18,197	2,879,124
GRAND TOTAL	26,830	4,309,119	26,950	4,475,302	252	98,474	182	19,191	27,384	4,592,967

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

Salaries and Expenses Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Total Obligations	6,705,478	6,991,291	7,289,944
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	374,928	365,138	378,729
Adjustments to Prior Year Activity	(4,028)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Change in Uncollected Payments	(94,146)	-	-
Obligated Balance, End of Year	<u>(365,138)</u>	<u>(378,729)</u>	<u>(383,623)</u>
Total Outlays	6,617,094	6,973,700	7,281,050
Less Offsets	(107,561)	(459,128)	(398,437)
Net Outlays	6,509,533	6,514,572	6,882,613

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The judiciary performs a core government function that is a pillar of the United States of America's democratic system of government. The scope and volume of the judiciary's work is dictated by the functions assigned to it by the Constitution and by statute. The judiciary must adjudicate all criminal, bankruptcy, civil, and appellate cases that are filed with the courts and must protect the community by supervising defendants awaiting trial and persons under supervision on post-conviction release.

The rulings of the federal courts protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Through fair and impartial judgments, federal courts interpret and apply the law to resolve disputes. District courts, courts of appeals, bankruptcy courts, and federal probation and pretrial services offices all work to ensure a fair and independent judicial process.

The fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations request for the courts' Salaries and Expenses account totals \$6,903.6 million to support the operation of the courts. The request includes \$553.5 million in mandatory appropriations and \$6,350.1 million in discretionary appropriations. Specifically, this request funds appropriations for the salaries, benefits, and other operating expenses of judges and supporting personnel for the United States courts of appeals, district courts, bankruptcy courts, Court of Federal Claims, and probation and pretrial services offices. The request also funds the judiciary's national information technology (IT) initiatives and other operations supporting the business functions of the courts. The FY 2026 request for the Salaries and Expenses account supports the operations of the courts at a current services level, as well as program changes in court support staff due to caseload and workload estimates; an increase for one new magistrate judge and staff; critical IT systems and project improvements; increases to strengthen personnel services, including employment suitability, recruitment, and benefits processing; an increase to support financial training, audit support, and financial management and probation staff to support implementation of evidence-based practices.

This account makes up 67.0 percent of the judiciary's total appropriations request and supports approximately 29,000 judges and judiciary staff positions in clerk of court and probation and pretrial services offices located throughout the United States in 637 federally-owned and leased court buildings and facilities (excluding Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Court of Federal Claims, Court of International Trade, and federal defender organizations).

The four components of this account are District Courts; Appellate Courts; Bankruptcy Courts; and Probation and Pretrial Services Program. Each is discussed separately below.

DISTRICT COURTS

The district courts are responsible for administering justice in civil and criminal cases under federal jurisdiction in 94 judicial districts throughout the United States and its territories. The public benefits from effective and efficient district courts by having criminal cases thoroughly processed through the criminal justice system and by having civil disputes fairly and expeditiously resolved.

The number of criminal defendants, the mix of civil cases, the amount of juror activity, and the number of authorized judges impact the staffing needs of the district courts, as indicated by the staffing formulas, which are based primarily on the number of civil and criminal cases and the number of judges supported. Projected caseload and workload through June 30, 2025, is used to determine district court support staffing requirements in FY 2026. Furthermore, these forecasts are based on data collected prior to the change in presidential administration. The new administration's stated law enforcement priorities are anticipated to increase filings above current statistical projections. The judiciary will continue to monitor this issue and, if necessary, reflect updated projected workload changes in an FY 2026 budget re-estimate.

Criminal Case Filings

Criminal case filings are, in part, influenced by the number of U.S. Attorneys and the emphasis placed on prosecution of offenses such as illegal immigration, drug crimes, and violations of firearms laws. As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.17, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, criminal cases filed increased by 1.1 percent from the previous year. Filings for criminal defendants increased by 0.2 percent for the same 12-month period. Through June 2025, criminal cases filed are projected to increase by 7.7 percent, and criminal defendants are projected to increase by 5.5 percent.

The following factors highlight the importance of the courts receiving adequate staffing resources: the time-sensitive nature of criminal cases, due to statutory deadlines in the Speedy Trial Act; multiple hearings for defendants (i.e., initial appearances, arraignments, and pleas in the early stages alone); increasingly large volumes of digital evidence; the need for comprehensive pretrial and post-conviction supervision; and the need for interpreter services.

Civil Case Filings

Civil case filings are driven by prisoner petitions, social security cases, U.S. plaintiff recovery cases, large-volume multi-district litigation cases, and diversity of citizenship cases¹. As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.17, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, civil case filings increased 15.4 percent from the previous year. New civil filings are expected to decrease by 17.8 percent in 2025. In the projections, it is important to note that multidistrict litigation, executive branch policies, and certain economic considerations are difficult to model and may cause unusual surges in future values.

APPELLATE COURTS

The 94 judicial districts are organized into 12 regional circuits, each of which has a United States court of appeals. The appellate court is responsible for hearing appeals from the district courts and the bankruptcy appellate panel (if one exists) located within its circuit, as well as appeals from certain federal administrative agencies and, in limited situations, direct appeals from bankruptcy courts. The appellate courts also have original jurisdiction in some categories of cases, such as petitions for Writ of Mandamus, second or successive habeas corpus petitions, and petitions for Writ of Prohibition. A party has the right to appeal every federal case in which a district court enters a final judgment. When an appeal is filed, a court of appeals reviews the decision and record of proceedings in the lower court or administrative agency. The court of appeals affirms, reverses, or remands the case back to the original court. The court of appeals will issue a written order or opinion in each case. Appeals from the courts of appeals may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, which, unlike the courts of appeals, generally has discretion over the number and types of cases it hears. Projected caseload and workload through June 30, 2025, is used to determine appellate court support staffing requirements in FY 2026.

Appellate Case Filings

As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.17, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, the number of appeals filed decreased to 39,850, a 2.1 percent decline from the previous year. The judiciary currently projects that appellate case filings will decrease by 1.6 percent in 2025, to 39,200. Administration initiatives, legislative initiatives, and court decisions can certainly have significant effects on some

¹ Diversity of citizenship exists when there is no common state citizenship between the plaintiffs and defendants in a suit. A district court has subject matter jurisdiction based on diversity of citizenship when the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between parties not from the same state or country.

annual totals. Looking forward, shifts in the priorities and policies of the executive branch away from those of the previous administration is likely to impact appellate caseload, though it is difficult to project how due to the wide variety in the types of cases that get appealed in the federal courts.

BANKRUPTCY COURTS

Bankruptcy courts exercise jurisdiction over bankruptcy cases and proceedings, pursuant to statute and by reference from the district courts. The Bankruptcy Code is set forth at Title 11 of the U.S. Code, and it provides different chapters under which a debtor may file bankruptcy. A key purpose of the Bankruptcy Code is to provide an orderly and equitable process for debtors to resolve their debts with creditors. Through the bankruptcy courts, the legal system protects businesses and individual debtors, as well as their creditors, as intended by law. Projected caseload and workload through June 30, 2025, is used to determine FY 2026 bankruptcy court support staffing requirements.

Bankruptcy Case Filings

Bankruptcy case filings, particularly consumer filings, declined steadily each year from 2010 through the beginning of 2022, including during the COVID-19 pandemic due to emergency economic support measures to stabilize the economy. However, bankruptcy filings increased in 2023 and again in 2024. As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.17, filings for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, increased by 16.2 percent compared to the same period in 2023. Based on filing trends prior to the pandemic and an analysis of current economic conditions, the judiciary currently projects a further increase of 11.5 percent in 2025, for a projected total of 542,700 bankruptcy case filings for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025.

The judiciary remains concerned that economic factors may result in an increase in bankruptcy filings beyond current projections. Because filing levels drive staffing needs in bankruptcy courts, a sudden spike in filings may result in courts with inadequate staffing facing challenges in processing these filings. The judiciary will continue to monitor this issue and, if necessary, reflect updated projected workload changes in an FY 2026 budget re-estimate.

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Cases

Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code allows for liquidation of a debtor's nonexempt assets to pay back creditors as much as possible. Individuals and business entities (with certain exceptions) may file bankruptcy under chapter 7. Bankruptcy courts are expected to handle 329,600 new chapter 7 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2025, which is 15.7 percent higher than the same period in 2024.

Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Cases

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code offers businesses the opportunity to reorganize or liquidate in an orderly manner. Individuals also may file bankruptcy under chapter 11, when they are ineligible to file under chapter 13 due to its debt limitations. In chapter 11 cases, bankruptcy courts are directly involved in reviewing and approving complicated business reorganization plans and asset sales focusing on the goal of achieving a benefit for all interested parties. Bankruptcy courts are expected to handle 11,100 new chapter 11 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2025, which is 27.3 percent higher than the same period in 2024.

Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Cases

Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code allows individual debtors who have regular income to adjust their debts within a repayment plan. Under such a plan, debtors can save their homes from foreclosure by allowing them to catch up on past-due payments. Bankruptcy courts are expected to handle 201,800 new chapter 13 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2025, an increase of approximately 4.9 percent from the same period in 2024.

PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The federal probation and pretrial services program assist the federal courts by protecting the public and promoting the fair administration of justice.

Pretrial Services and Presentence Reports

Probation and pretrial services officers provide the courts with in-depth and objective pretrial services and presentence reports. Pretrial services officers investigate defendants and recommend to the judge conditions that would reasonably assure the defendant's

appearance in court and protect the community while the defendant's case is pending disposition, as set forth under 18 U.S.C. § 3142. Probation officers investigate persons convicted of federal crimes and recommend a sentence that addresses the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

- Courts rely on these reports to make release and sentencing decisions.
- The reports notify the litigants of all relevant release and sentencing issues.
- U.S. Attorneys' offices use presentence reports to locate assets to be seized for any fines, restitution, or assessments ordered.
- The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) relies on presentence reports to guide its handling of offenders sentenced to prison.
- The U.S. Sentencing Commission uses the reports to analyze federal sentencing practices.

Supervision

Probation and pretrial services officers also support public safety by supervising defendants and persons under supervision living in the community. Many persons under post-conviction supervision lack adequate life skills to smoothly transition back into the community. Officers help persons under supervision reestablish, or secure for the first time, appropriate housing, employment, and legitimate community relationships. They also provide life skills counseling and leverage programs offered by other federal agencies and local social service organizations.

Successful post-conviction supervision requires persons under supervision to overcome not only the original factors that contributed to their criminal behavior, but:

- institutionalization;
- alienation from family and friends; and
- other consequences of a lengthy prison term.

To assist with the transition of persons under supervision back into the community, officers provide the following support throughout the country:

- secure resources for persons under supervision;
- cultivate employment prospects; and
- develop collaborative relationships with a wide variety of organizations.

Where the court deems it appropriate, a client's location and activities can be monitored electronically through global positioning system and other technologies. Similarly, the court may authorize drug testing, restrict travel, or prohibit association with certain individuals. In higher risk cases, courts can order persons under supervision to undergo polygraph examinations and authorize warrantless searches and seizures by probation officers.

Probation and Pretrial Services Workload

Probation and pretrial services officers' workload is dictated by prosecutions brought by U.S. Attorneys' offices and the number of inmates released by the BOP for supervision. Projected caseload and workload through June 30, 2025, is used to determine probation and pretrial services staffing requirements in FY 2026. For the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, the judiciary projects:

- + 8.6 percent in pretrial cases activated;
- - 3.3 percent in pretrial supervision;
- - 1.6 percent in presentence reports; and
- - 0.8 percent in post-conviction supervision.

Projected caseload does not track the risk levels of supervision cases. Accordingly, the projected change in the number of cases does not fully represent the expected change in workload requirements, as the staffing formula developed for the Probation and Pretrial Services Offices weighs cases by risk level. These factors include: the risk level of the person supervised, the presence or absence of court-ordered conditions, and the type of investigation conducted, and report completed for the court. A greater percentage of cases received for supervision is expected to involve persons who pose higher risks, which would mean increased work requirements.

Challenges from Factors Affecting Cases Supervised by Officers

Successful case investigations and supervision outcomes depend on sufficient resources that can be used for personnel, treatment and monitoring services, and training and program implementation. A high caseload is detrimental to an officer's ability to support behavioral change and properly monitor the behaviors of those under supervision. Many factors influence caseload size, including:

- risk levels;
- geography; and
- the need to manage special populations (e.g., location monitoring caseloads, sex offenders).

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The narrative found here satisfies the 31 U.S.C. § 720(b)(2) requirement to inform the House and Senate Appropriations Committee on actions taken in response to Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations.

GAO Study on Pretrial Supervision

Report: On September 25, 2023, GAO issued [Pretrial Supervision: Actions Needed to Enhance Management of the Location Monitoring Program \(GAO-23-105873\)](#).

Issues Examined: The federal judiciary's location monitoring program, including: (1) how the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) manages the program and assesses district adherence to policies, (2) characteristics of individuals with court-ordered location monitoring and obstacles they face, and (3) challenges encountered by pretrial services officers in responding to alerts and the extent to which the AO has initiatives to address challenges.

Recommendations: GAO made three recommendations for the AO to: (1) capture additional location monitoring data, (2) use that data to determine underlying causes of key alerts to inform corrective actions, and (3) take steps to incorporate data on the length of time for responding and investigating key alerts to inform its workload analysis and future staffing decisions.

AO Action: GAO's recommendations coincide with replacement of the AO's case management system for U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, the Probation/Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS), which is projected to occur in 2027. The AO continues to work with developers to identify how the next generation case management system (PACTS360) will support the implementation of GAO recommendations. The AO anticipates advances in technology and efficiencies gained with the new system (e.g., improved data tracking and reporting capabilities) will make implementation of GAO's recommendations most feasible in the new system compared to the legacy system.

Table 4.1 Comparison of Judiciary Workload Factors

WORKLOAD FACTOR ¹	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actuals 2023	Actuals 2024	Projected 2025
Criminal Filings	67,257	73,012	64,853	59,500	55,220	54,366	54,961	59,200
Year-to-Year Change:	15.7%	8.6%	-11.2%	-8.3%	-7.2%	-1.5%	1.1%	7.7%
Criminal Defendants Filed	84,828	90,541	79,122	75,407	69,466	67,651	67,785	71,500
Year-to-Year Change:	12.8%	6.7%	-12.6%	-4.7%	-7.9%	-2.6%	0.2%	5.5%
Civil Filings	281,202	293,520	421,082	374,250	293,762	295,215	340,698	279,900
Year-to-Year Change:	3.5%	4.4%	43.5%	-11.1%	-21.5%	0.5%	15.4%	-17.8%
Appellate Filings	49,220	47,783	49,044	45,790	42,094	40,713	39,850	39,200
Year-to-Year Change:	-5.4%	-2.9%	2.6%	-6.6%	-8.1%	-3.3%	-2.1%	-1.6%
Bankruptcy Filings	775,578	773,361	682,363	462,309	380,634	418,724	486,613	542,700
Year-to-Year Change:	-2.6%	-0.3%	-11.8%	-32.2%	-17.7%	10.0%	16.2%	11.5%
Pretrial Services: Cases Activated	90,951	98,627	83,839	71,647	67,701	68,816	65,684	71,300
Year-to-Year Change:	10.6%	8.4%	-15.0%	-14.5%	-5.5%	1.6%	-4.6%	8.6%
Pretrial Services: Persons Under Supervision	43,997	46,539	46,646	52,915	55,471	51,606	47,546	46,000
Year-to-Year Change:	0.0%	5.8%	0.2%	13.4%	4.8%	-7.0%	-7.9%	-3.3%
Probation: Presentence Reports	60,498	66,622	68,974	47,628	62,829	63,126	57,952	57,000
Year-to-Year Change:	-0.3%	10.1%	3.5%	-30.9%	31.9%	0.5%	-8.2%	-1.6%
Probation: Persons Under Supervision	131,036	128,120	126,875	124,249	124,167	123,852	122,591	122,100
Year-to-Year Change:	-3.6%	-2.2%	-1.0%	-2.1%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-1.0%	-0.4%

¹ Both actual and projected workload factors are for 12-month periods ending June 30 each year.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Resolution Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects the bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47).

For the Salaries and Expenses account, the FY 2025 discretionary appropriation is \$6,005.0 million. At this funding level, courts will have a significant challenge in hiring the staff necessary to support workload changes given the anticipated increases across various courts. As a result, the judiciary projects that 37 percent (130 of 356) of appellate, district, and bankruptcy clerks of court offices, as well as probation and pretrial services offices cannot afford on-board staff which could result in staff downsizing in some of these offices over the remainder of FY 2025, and to adequately fund critical information technology, cybersecurity, and data communications infrastructure projects.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Law Enforcement Priorities of New Administration

There is potential for significant workload increases for the judiciary associated with the law enforcement priorities of the new administration. A January 21, 2025, memorandum from the Acting Attorney General to all U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) employees indicates the administration intends to prioritize resources to investigate and prosecute transnational gangs, border and immigration offenses, and fentanyl and opioid crimes. Prosecutors are expected to charge and pursue the most serious, readily provable offenses.

Increased federal prosecutions and convictions will increase workload in the federal courts, specifically district clerks of court offices where criminal cases are filed and docketed; pretrial services offices which prepare reports to assist a court in determining whether a defendant should be held in custody or released pending trial, and supervise defendants released pretrial; and for probation offices which prepare sentencing reports for the court as well as supervise offenders released from prison serving a term of supervised release in the community.

Given the timing of formulating the judiciary's FY 2026 budget request and the recent transition to the new administration, the judiciary is not requesting resources in its initial FY 2026 request to address workload associated with changes in DOJ law enforcement priorities. The judiciary will closely monitor criminal filings and pretrial and probation workload and advise the Appropriations Committees of any additional FY 2026 resource needs in a budget re-estimate.

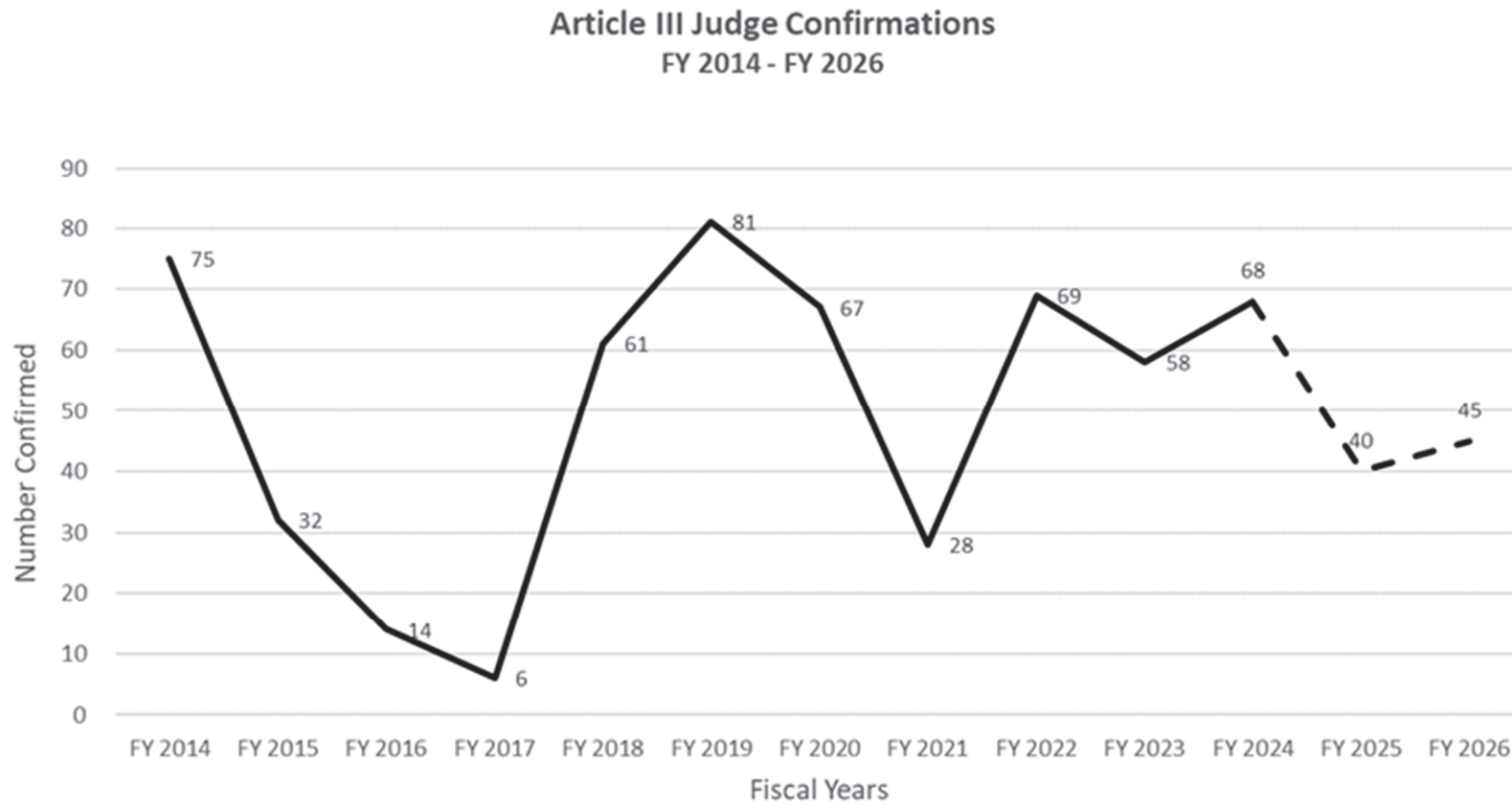
Judicial Confirmations

The number of filled Article III judgeships has a direct impact on funding requirements for the Salaries and Expenses account. This account funds all Article III judges and associated costs, except for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the Court of International Trade (as those courts have separate appropriations). While the salaries and benefits of judges are paid from the Salaries and Expenses account's mandatory appropriation, the number of active Article III judges impacts this account's discretionary appropriations requirements for chambers staff, court support staff, and associated operating and maintenance costs that are increased when a new or replacement Article III judge is confirmed. Operating and maintenance costs include space, travel, training, courtroom digital audio recording equipment, telephone systems, furniture and furnishings, and law books.

Currently, there are 844 authorized Article III and territorial judgeships. However, not all judgeships are filled at any given time. In its annual budget requests, the judiciary makes assumptions regarding the number of anticipated confirmations each year to determine the number of filled Article III judgeships and therefore the associated number of staff required. For budgeting purposes, the judiciary has estimated between 40 and 45 Article III confirmations each year, though as seen in the chart below, actual confirmations have varied over the years. Current projections estimate there will be 40 confirmations in FY 2025 and 45 confirmations in FY 2026.

The judiciary's FY 2026 request includes \$11.9 million in funding for annualization costs related to confirmations from FY 2025 and to accommodate an assumption of 45 additional Article III judge confirmations. The judiciary will update this assumption as part of its FY 2026 budget re-estimate process.

Table 4.2 Article III Judge Confirmations



Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls

To support the multiyear Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls (JDIRC) program, the judiciary is requesting \$11.9 million in the Salaries and Expenses appropriation in FY 2026. Combined with existing resources, this funding will allow the JDIRC program to demonstrate clear iterative progress at a sustainable pace for the judiciary.

The goal of the JDIRC program is to ensure the integrity of funds, information, operations, and programs through strengthened internal controls and audit procedures. With appropriate resourcing the activities required to implement, support, and deliver a complete set of auditable consolidated financial statements can be accomplished. Since its inception in FY 2020, the JDIRC effort has eliminated more than \$180.0 million in aged obligations and transactions from judiciary records that did not require the full obligated amount for travel, services and various goods, improved the ability to report financial data to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) from one to four times per year, and eliminated other government agency outstanding transactions through reconciliation from our financial statements but continues to face challenges due to staffing and budget constraints. A crucial component of the JDIRC program is the successful upgrade of the Judiciary Integrated Financial System (JIFMS), which is currently underway and planned to be completed in FY 2025. To continue momentum achieved to date, it is crucial that JDIRC is adequately funded in FY 2026 to collect and prepare requirements, analyze business processes, and ensure adherence to mandates and regulations issued by the Treasury. Assuming sufficient funding and staffing requirements are met, the judiciary anticipates implementing auditable consolidated financial statements in FY 2032.

Within the JDIRC, the judiciary seeks a total increase of \$2.6 million for audit enhancements in FY 2026. A request of \$1.3 million will support the continued tracking, reviewing, and resolving of internal audit findings by external auditors; studies by the AO's Office of Compliance and Risk; and other sources. Contractor support is imperative for reviewing and addressing audit findings and compliance-related matters. Funding will assist in gaining contract resources to develop and implement systems, policies, and procedures for tracking, responding, documenting, and creating corrective action plans (CAPs). An additional \$1.3 million in FY 2026 will support the preparation of upcoming audit reviews of the financial statements for the AO and Defender Services appropriations.

To successfully prepare for the audits, the AO's Financial Management Office requires additional contractor support to establish a robust record management system which is crucial for logging audit findings, developing CAPs, monitoring progress, and ensuring

compliance. This work is foundational for enhancing transparency, validating financial positions, and improving financial management practices across the judiciary.

COST CONTAINMENT

The judiciary works to contain costs whenever possible and has implemented a number of major cost-containment initiatives since 2004. These efforts have achieved significant cost savings and cost avoidance for over twenty years and will continue to do so. Several of the judiciary's cost-containment initiatives have focused on gaining efficiencies in utilization of personnel and leveraging technology to improve productivity on a longer term or permanent basis, for example:

- Several bankruptcy courts pursued pilots to consider sharing operational and administrative services of the clerks' offices to consolidate use of personnel resources. Though these courts ultimately returned to operating with one clerk of court in each court, they continue to share key services such as human resources, finance, and budget staff.
- The judiciary implemented a policy to review using recalled magistrate judges or visiting judges when considering requests for new magistrate judge positions. In addition, the judiciary is researching a program to use existing bankruptcy judgeships in low-weighted-caseload districts to help districts with demonstrated emergency needs. These efforts not only save significant costs for personnel resources, but also for space, infrastructure, and other support resources.
- IT solutions continue to be a major focus for increasing efficiencies at court units and throughout the judiciary. By strategically expanding the use of tools such as electronic sound recording and electronic bankruptcy noticing, valuable resources can be rationed while achieving operational goals and delivering excellent customer service. In addition, remote meeting technologies are being explored in areas where federal pretrial detainees are located far from federal courthouses. Along with videoconferencing capabilities to support interviews, these technologies include scheduling software and tools to improve access to e-discovery that allow probation and pretrial services officers to perform their jobs more effectively by better managing their time.

No Net New Space Reduction Initiative

Effective 2013, the Judicial Conference-approved No Net New policy requires that any increase in square footage within a circuit be offset of an equivalent reduction in square footage.² As courts add staff to address workload needs, Article III judges take senior status, and new judges are appointed, demand will continue to increase for space, particularly chambers space required for new judges. As a result, circuits need to improve the utilization of their space to ensure that they do not expand their space footprints. The FY 2026 budget request includes \$20.0 million to undertake projects needed to reconfigure space to offset space increases and maintain compliance with the No Net New policy. The three No Net New projects that were approved in FY 2023 are expected to result in over 19,721 usable square feet (USF) in space reduction or space growth avoidance. The five No Net New projects that were approved in FY 2024 are expected to result in over 32,288 USF in space reduction or space growth avoidance.

Table 4.3 No Net New Space Reduction Projects³

FY 2023 Approved Projects		FY 2024 Approved Projects	
Project	Projected USF reduction	Project	Projected USF reduction
Portland, ME, Bankruptcy	(4,910)	Boston, MA, Bankruptcy	(3,263)
Scranton, PA, Satellite Library Closure	(4,301)	Easton & Allentown, PA, District	(1,739)
South Bend, IN, Bankruptcy	(10,510)	Houston, TX, District & Bankruptcy	(8,586)
		San Francisco, CA, District & Bankruptcy	(12,387)
		Oklahoma City, OK, Bankruptcy	(6,313)
Total	(19,721)	Total	(32,288)

² The No Net New policy is subject to the following exclusions: new courthouse construction, renovation, or alterations projects approved by Congress. The baseline for this policy is the square footage of total space holdings within each circuit as of the beginning of FY 2013 (JCUS-SEP 13, p. 32; JCUS-SEP 14, p. 29).

³ Table displays projects by the year of approval, and projects are typically implemented over one to three fiscal years following approval. The judiciary will consider additional projects for approval in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

Rent Service Validation Initiative

The judiciary has also implemented the Service Validation Initiative (SVI), which is a cooperative effort of the AO, the courts, and GSA to maximize the value derived from the judiciary's space rental payments. The initiative is intended to reduce costs and improve the quality of services by improving business processes and educating staff on best practices for effective rental space management. Now in its twelfth year, the SVI program's impact includes a cumulative \$100.0 million rent savings based on aligning rent bills to space occupied; improved judiciary understanding of GSA's project delivery and cost estimating processes enabling projects to be executed more smoothly; enhanced understanding of the roles that the judiciary, USMS, FPS, and GSA play in emergency preparedness and response; and creating an in-person forum for collaboration between facility service providers and those served to improve communication and mutual understandings of priorities and constraints. The SVI National Joint Training Program provides opportunities for experts from the USMS, FPS, GSA, and the judiciary to address systemic concerns related to facilities and security. All workshop presentation materials along with several virtual training videos in facilities, security, and emergency management produced are available to the judiciary.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 REQUEST

The FY 2026 discretionary appropriation request for the Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account totals \$6,350.1 million, including \$12.0 million for requirements funded from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund. The judiciary also requests \$553.5 million for requirements funded from mandatory appropriations. The FY 2026 discretionary request is a 5.7 percent increase over the FY 2025 appropriation discretionary appropriation level of \$6,005.0 million.

In addition to appropriated funds, the S&E account utilizes other funding sources to offset its appropriation requirements, including current year fee collections, carryover of fee balances from the prior year, and no-year appropriation balances (excluding encumbered carryforward). The judiciary projects that these sources of non-appropriated funds will total \$386.3 million in FY 2026, \$62.9 million less than the \$449.2 million expected to be utilized in FY 2025.

Total Mandatory Appropriation Increases: \$16,426,000

**Total Requested Discretionary Appropriation Increases:
\$345,108,000**

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The changes in the FY 2026 budget request are divided into two sections: adjustments to base and program increases.

Adjustments to base totaling \$294.6 million (81.5 percent of the requested change) are for the following increases:

- mandatory appropriations for personnel costs for judges and costs associated with an increase in filled Article III judgeships, bankruptcy judgeships, and Article III judges who have taken or are expected to take senior status (+\$16.4 million);
- personnel costs for Court of Federal Claims judges, magistrate judges, chambers staff, and other court support staff (+\$72.3 million);
- chambers staff to support filled Article III and bankruptcy judgeships and Article III judges who have taken or are expected to take senior status, and related costs (+\$26.5 million);
- a financing adjustment to account for a decrease in non-appropriated sources of funds (+\$62.9 million);
- inflationary and miscellaneous adjustments (+\$22.5 million);
- personnel and related costs for the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund (+\$2.1 million);
- General Services Administration (GSA) rent and related costs (+\$46.6 million); and
- information technology (IT) requirements (+\$45.3 million).

Program changes totaling \$66.9 million (18.5 percent of the requested change) are for the following increases:

- new FY 2026 full-time magistrate judge and staff (+\$0.4 million);
- court support staffing due to caseload and workload changes (+\$17.2 million);
- additional probation staff to support implementation of evidence-based practices (+\$2.0 million);
- No Net New space reduction projects (+\$10.0 million);
- IT integration of cloud modernization (+\$14.4 million);
- national IT tracking system (+\$4.3 million);
- Development, Security, and Operations System (+\$1.3 million);
- Budget Formulation and Execution System (+\$1.3 million);
- recruitment services (+\$0.3 million);
- employment suitability screenings (+\$2.8 million);
- personnel actions and benefits processing (+\$0.6 million);
- strategic workforce planning support (+\$0.3 million); and
- the Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls program (+\$12.0 million).

ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

The following provides information and justification for each of the adjustments to base for the courts' S&E account. This section is divided into three subsections: judges and associated staff, court personnel and programs, and other adjustments.

A. JUDGES AND ASSOCIATED STAFF

1. Pay and Benefit Adjustments

a. Annualization of 2025 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$2,123,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$715,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2025 pay adjustment of 1.7 percent for judges and 2.0 percent for chambers staff effective as of January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2025 pay increase (from October to December 2025) in FY 2026.

b. Benefits increases

i. Health benefits

Mandatory Increase: \$1,375,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$1,118,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), agency health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2025 and 10.1 percent in January 2026. The requested increase annualizes the 2025 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2026.

ii. FICA adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$653,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$212,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax increased in 2025. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$168,600 to \$176,100 in January 2025. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2026.

2. Increase in average number of filled active Article III judgeships

Mandatory Increase: \$3,279,000 FTE: 12

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$8,645,000 FTE: 68

In FY 2025, the judiciary anticipates that an average of 802 out of the 844 authorized Article III appellate and district judgeships will be filled. Based on historical confirmation patterns, the judiciary projects 45 Article III judges will be confirmed during FY 2026, offset by 41 active judges who will take senior status or retire. As a result of the anticipated timing of these confirmations and departures from active Article III status, the FY 2026 request includes funding for 820 Article III appellate and district court judgeships, a net increase of 12 FTE above FY 2025.

The request also supports chambers support staff (42 law clerks, 13 courtroom deputies, three secretaries, and 13 court reporters) associated with the increase in 12 judges' FTE.

In summary, the request includes \$3.3 million for the salaries and benefits of 12 judges, \$7.3 million for the salaries and benefits of 68 supporting staff, and \$1.3 million for supporting costs such as law books, furniture, travel, supplies, and equipment.

Table 4.4 Active Article III Judgeship Vacancies and FTEs¹

Fiscal Year	Authorized Article III Judgeships	Average Vacancies	Avg. Number of Active Judges
2020	844	77	767
2021	844	65	779
2022	844	64	780
2023	844	78	766
2024	844	55	789
Estimates			
2025	844	42	802
2026	844	42	820

¹The number of authorized Article III judgeships in this table excludes the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Court of International Trade, but includes territorial courts.

3. Increase in average number of senior judges

Mandatory Increase: \$4,495,000

FTE: 17

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$11,267,000 FTE: 90

Funding is requested in FY 2026 for an increase of 17 senior judge FTE and the associated chambers staff. The request includes \$4.5 million for the salaries and benefits of judges, \$10.3 million for the salaries and benefits of supporting staff (46 law clerks, 6 secretaries, 20 courtroom deputies, and 18 court reporters) and approximately \$1.0 million for supporting costs such as law books, furniture, travel, supplies, and equipment. Table 4.5 provides the historical levels of senior judges.

Table 4.5 Article III Senior Judgeship FTEs

Fiscal Year	Avg. Number of Senior Judges (FTE)
2020	587
2021	580
2022	604
2023	601
2024	600
Estimates	
2025	604
2026	621

Under federal law, an Article III judge has three options when leaving active service.

- 28 U.S.C. § 371(a) allows the judge to retire from office and receive an annuity for life equal to the salary in effect at the date of retirement.
- 28 U.S.C. § 372(a) allows the judge to retire on disability grounds and provides that the judge receives the salary of the office for life after serving 10 years.
- 28 U.S.C. § 371(b) allows the judge to take senior status and to retain the office but retire from regular active service. Senior status allows the judge to continue rendering substantial judicial service for a number of years, notwithstanding his or her retirement.

As of October 1, 2024, there were 122 U.S. Court of Appeals and U.S. District Court judges eligible to take senior status or retire. In FY 2025, the judiciary projects an additional 33 judges will become eligible and an additional 26 judges will become eligible in FY 2026. For FY 2026, the judiciary estimates that 41 active Article III judges will either take senior status or retire and 26 senior or retired judges will leave the judiciary's payroll. As a result of the projected timing of these actions, the FY 2026 budget request reflects a net increase of 17 senior judge FTE.

4. Increase in average number of filled bankruptcy judgeships

Mandatory Increase: \$4,501,000 FTE: 15

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$6,614,000 FTE: 50

The judiciary projects a total of 310 FTE (including recalled bankruptcy judges) for the 345 authorized bankruptcy judgeships will be funded in FY 2025. Based on historical patterns, the judiciary projects that 15 additional judgeships will be filled during FY 2026, increasing the average number of filled bankruptcy judgeships to 325 FTE (including recalled bankruptcy judges) in FY 2026. This request also funds 30 law clerks, 14 courtroom deputies, one court reporter, and five secretaries associated with the increase of 15 bankruptcy judge FTE.

Table 4.6 Summary of Judicial Officers

	Article III & Bankruptcy Judges (Mandatory Costs)						Claims & Magistrate Judges					
	FY 2025			FY 2026			FY 2025			FY 2026		
	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)
Appellate Judgeships	167	162	47,759	167	163	47,390						
District Judgeships ¹	677	645	180,900	677	657	184,549						
Senior/Retired		784	216,454		801	224,392						
Bankruptcy Judgeships ²	345	299	91,995	345	314	97,203						
U.S. Court of Federal Claims ³							16	16	5,832	16	16	5,898
Magistrate Judgeships - Full-time							562	546	167,542	563	547	169,597
Magistrate Judgeships - Part-time ⁴							25	21	7,620	25	21	7,697
Total	1,189	1,891	537,108	1,189	1,935	553,534	603	583	180,994	604	584	183,192

1 Includes territorial judges

2 FTE include recalled bankruptcy judges

3 FTE include recalled court of federal claims judges.

4 FTE include recalled magistrate judges.

Table 4.7 U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judges

Fiscal Year	Authorized Court of Fed. Claims Judgeships	Average Vacancies	Avg. No. Active Judges
2020	16	7	9
2021	16	3	13
2022	16	2	14
2023	16	0	16
2024	16	0	16
Estimates			
2025	16	0	16
2026	16	0	16

Table 4.8 Bankruptcy Judges (excludes recalled)

Fiscal Year	Authorized Bankruptcy Judgeships	Avg. Vacancies	Avg. No. Active Judges
2020	347	36	311
2021	345	35	310
2022	345	26	319
2023	345	43	302
2024	345	54	291
Estimates			
2025	345	33	312
2026	345	41	304

Table 4.9 Magistrate Judges (Full-Time)

Fiscal Year	Authorized Magistrate Judgeships	FTE
2020	547	534
2021	549	542
2022	555	555
2023	561	547
2024	562	548
Estimates		
2025	562	567
2026	563	568

B. COURT PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS

5. Pay and Benefit Adjustments

a. Annualization of 2025 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$18,124,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2025 pay adjustment of 2.0 percent, effective January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2025 pay increase (from October to December 2025) in FY 2026.

b. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$27,487,000

The requested increase provides for promotions and within-grade increases for personnel. The salary plan for judicial support personnel provides for periodic within-grade increases for staff who receive a performance rating of satisfactory or higher.

c. Benefits increases

i. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$24,061,000

Based on information from OPM, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2025 and 10.1 percent in January 2026. The requested increase annualizes the 2025 premium increase and

includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2026.

ii. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$589,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the OASDI portion of the FICA tax increased in 2025. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$168,600 to \$176,100 in January 2025. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contributions in FY 2026.

6. Funding necessary to maintain FY 2026 service levels due to anticipated decrease in non-appropriated funds

Requested Increase: \$62,881,000

In addition to appropriations from Congress, the judiciary relies on non-appropriated funding sources to finance its annual requirements. These include current year fee collections as well as associated carryforward, no-year appropriation carryforward, and Judiciary Information Technology Fund (JITF) carryforward. This additional funding allows the judiciary to reduce its appropriations request on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The FY 2026 S&E account discretionary appropriation request of \$6.4 billion reflects a projected availability of \$386.3 million in non-appropriated funds. Without these funds, the judiciary's discretionary appropriations request would total approximately \$6.8 billion.

While the use of these funds benefits the judiciary (and reduces the need for appropriated funds), the amounts available fluctuate year-to-year due to changes in filing fee collections, unobligated balances from prior years, etc. When budget year available non-appropriated funds exceed prior year non-appropriated funds, the budget year's appropriations request will be reduced further. However, if total budget year non-appropriated funds are lower than the total non-appropriated funds in the prior year, appropriations are requested to replace the non-appropriated funds and maintain current services.

As illustrated by Table 4.10 below, the FY 2026 request estimates that fee collections and prior-year carryforward will total \$386.3 million, a net decrease of \$62.9 million from FY 2025. As a result, the judiciary's FY 2026 request is an increase in appropriated funds due to the lower amount of anticipated non-appropriated funds. The judiciary's estimates for non-appropriated funds typically fluctuate during the fiscal year. AO staff will update the appropriations subcommittee staff on changes in non-appropriated funding levels.

Table 4.10 Non-Appropriated Sources of Funding

Dollars in Thousands	FY 2025 Assumed	FY 2026 Request	Difference
Fee Collections	152,974	171,272	18,298
Unencumbered Carryforward	296,179	215,000	(81,179)
Total, Non-appropriated Available Funding	449,153	386,272	(62,881)

C. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

7. *General Inflationary and Miscellaneous Adjustments*

Requested Increase: \$22,506,000

Consistent with guidance from OMB, the requested increase is required to fund inflationary adjustments of 2.1 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment.

8. *Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund adjustment*

Requested Increase: \$2,067,000

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. § 300aa) created a special fund to pay judgments awarded under the Act. This legislation also created the Office of Special Masters within the U.S. Court of Federal Claims to hear vaccine injury cases, and further stipulated that up to eight special masters may be appointed for this purpose. The special masters' expenditures are reimbursed to the judiciary for Vaccine Injury Act cases from a special fund set up under the Act.

For FY 2026, the judiciary requests \$12.0 million from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund, an increase of \$2.1 million above the FY 2025 enacted level of \$10.0 million. FY 2025 represents the second consecutive year the judiciary's vaccine fund appropriation has been frozen at

the FY 2023 level, so an above inflation adjustment is needed to address vaccine injury claims.

9. GSA space rental and related services

Requested Increase: \$46,595,000

The judiciary requests an increase of \$46.6 million in FY 2026 for GSA rent and related services. This net increase is comprised of:

- (a) Changes in space/new space (+\$3.5 million);
- (b) Building operations and GSA rent (+\$11.0 million);
- (c) Tenant improvements (+\$29.9 million);
- (d) Space reduction savings (-\$1.0 million); and
- (e) Other space-related adjustments (+\$3.2 million).

a. Changes in space/new space

Requested Increase: \$3,498,000

In FY 2026, the judiciary anticipates an increase of \$3.2 million for annualization of new space delivered in FY 2025 and a \$0.3 million increase for 46,000 useable square feet related to projects to be occupied by the courts of appeals, district courts, bankruptcy courts, and probation and pretrial services offices based on projected occupancy dates and rental rates provided by GSA. Table 4.11 on page 4.35 identifies FY 2026 major project that GSA plans to complete.

b. Building operations and GSA rent

Requested Increase: \$11,008,000

This request represents a 1.0 percent, or \$11.0 million, inflationary increase in the cost of GSA space rental.

c. Tenant improvements

Requested Increase: \$29,887,000

The request supports funding for build-out and tenant improvement projects in FY 2026. This includes chambers and courtroom projects for judges taking senior status and replacement judges. In these cases, space is necessary for a senior judge courtroom in the district or for a replacement judge for a judge assuming senior status.

d. Space reduction savings

Requested Decrease: (\$1,000,000)

A cost savings of \$1.0 million is estimated to be achieved in FY 2026 due to reductions in court-occupied space. The savings will result from No Net New projects, an initiative which requires any increase in square footage to be offset by an equivalent reduction in square footage identified within the same fiscal year.

e. Other space-related adjustments

Requested Increase: \$3,202,000

An increase of \$3.2 million is required in FY 2026 for non-recurring costs associated with cyclical maintenance, tenant alterations, furniture, repairs, and miscellaneous space adjustments.

Table 4.11 Space to be Delivered in FY 2026 - Prospectus Project

City	State	Net Rentable Square Feet to be Delivered	Estimated Occupancy Date	FY 2026 Rent Cost for New Space	FY 2026 Annualization of Rent Cost	Total Annual Rent Cost
Savannah	GA	46,000 (modernization)	8/1/2026	\$300,015	\$1,500,074	\$1,800,089

Table 4.12 GSA Space Rental Increase

	Square Feet of Space	Amount in \$000 ¹
Space Occupied at Start of Year	39,981,345	\$1,144,085
Estimated New Space to be Delivered in FY 2025	238,839	\$12,689
Total, FY 2025	40,220,184	\$1,156,774
Increase for Estimated Inflation (1.0%)		\$11,008
Estimated savings Due to Reduction in Footprint	(25,000)	(\$1,000)
Annualization of New Space Assigned in FY 2025		\$3,198
Estimated New Space to be Delivered in FY 2026	46,000	\$300
Total, FY 2026 Budget Request	40,241,184	\$1,170,280
FY 2026 Increase over FY 2025	21,000	\$13,506

¹The fiscal year average cost per square foot is \$28.76 for FY 2025 and \$29.08 for FY 2026.

This cost includes the annualization of rent costs for space added in the succeeding fiscal year.

10. Information technology requirements

Requested Increase: \$45,297,000

The judiciary requests an increase of \$45.3 million for adjustments to maintain current/existing IT operations.

Note: Associated pay and benefits and general inflationary adjustments for these program areas are included above in adjustment to base 5 and 8 on pages 4.31 and 4.32. The request includes the following:

- (a) Court Administration and Case Management Systems (+\$4.1 million);
- (b) Administration and Management Systems (+\$4.4 million);
- (c) Telecommunications program (-\$8.7 million);
- (d) Infrastructure and collaboration tools (+\$50.8 million);
- (e) Judicial Statistical and Reporting Systems (+\$3.9 million);
- (f) Court IT allotments (+\$14.5 million); and
- (g) Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Plan (-\$23.8 million).

The FY 2026 JITF request includes the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Plan, which was created in FY 2023. This category tracks requirements and obligations specifically tied to the judiciary's multiyear cybersecurity and IT modernization plan and does not constitute the sum total of all judiciary investments in cybersecurity or IT modernization.

Additional information on the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Plan and the overall judiciary's IT program can be found in section 14, "Judiciary Information Technology Fund."

a. Court administration and case management systems

Requested Increase: \$4,132,000

For FY 2026, \$4.1 million is requested for a variety of tools, including:

- Probation and Pretrial Automated Tracking System (PACTS) 360, an initiative that will provide secure access to critical case information and law enforcement databases;
- systems for juror qualification, management, and payment;
- tools for jury participants to communicate with the courts; as well as
- the system that accurately captures requests for payments to private court-appointed counsel and expert service providers.

b. Administrative and management systems

Requested Increase: \$4,446,000

An increase of \$4.4 million is requested to fund minimum requirements for maintaining judiciary finance and personnel

systems, as well as systems to support and manage space and facilities projects, travel expenses, and judiciary web sites.

The FY 2026 request includes \$2.9 million for JIFMS upgrade post implementation development and \$1.5 million for judiciary financial disclosure system operational support.

c. Telecommunication program

Requested Decrease: (\$8,694,000)

This base adjustment decrease of \$8.6 million is due to the anticipated completion of the transition from the Networx contract to the Enterprise Infrastructure Services (EIS) contract. This program involves support for voice and data transmission services and telecommunications. The judiciary's communications program enables the judiciary to operate communications services for the appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts and for probation and pretrial services offices, as well as to procure communications equipment for new courthouses and courthouses undergoing major repairs and alteration.

d. Infrastructure and collaboration tools

Requested Increase: \$50,772,000

This category encompasses building and maintaining a robust, reliable, and resilient judiciary-wide IT infrastructure. Included are the costs of hardware, software, and IT security associated with the judiciary's full enterprise hosting and cloud

computing services and email and collaboration systems. This category also includes the costs of IT infrastructure for new courthouse construction projects and operating systems' support, maintenance, testing, and research.

In FY 2026, the base will increase due to the recategorization of requirements previously captured under the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Priorities that are anticipated to be fully implemented in FY 2025. Components of the infrastructure base increase are recurring operations and maintenance (\$36.1 million); strengthening early detection, diagnosis, and response capabilities to manage application performance problems and cybersecurity events (\$5.6 million); rising contract costs (\$5.0 million); continuing development of the framework needed to implement an enterprise-wide architecture program (\$3.9 million); and support for external cybersecurity testing and assessments (\$0.2 million).

e. Judicial statistical and reporting systems

Requested Increase: \$3,944,000

Funding request supports systems that gather and report statistics in the judiciary; perform judiciary-wide data analyses and management reporting; and assist planning and decision-making with staffing, financial, and workload data.

The base increased by \$3.9 million to include the recategorization of requirements previously captured under the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Priorities that are anticipated to be fully implemented in FY 2025 for the

modernized EDW operations and maintenance; integrate legacy PACTS and PACTS 360 data into the EDW for analytical research, trend reporting, statistical reporting, and other data dependent activities; and the EDW initial transition to the cloud.

f. Court IT allotments

Requested Increase: \$14,540,000

The \$14.5 million increase in court IT allotments covers costs paid directly by courts for operating, maintaining, and replacing computers, printers, local-area-network equipment, and software. Also included in this category are costs for local telecommunications services, equipment, maintenance, and courtroom technology.

The base adjustment includes recurring IT infrastructure and maintenance expenses (\$10.0 million) and IT office supplies and maintenance (\$4.6 million).

g. Cybersecurity and IT modernization plan

Requested Decrease: (\$23,843,000)

This category encompasses requirements reflected in the judiciary's multi-year cybersecurity and IT modernization plan. As outlined in the plan, these funds will be dedicated to high-priority cybersecurity efforts and modernizing aging legacy systems or applications that are based on vulnerable

programming technologies or technologies that are becoming obsolete.

The decrease of \$23.8 million is due to requirements previously included in this component that are expected to be fully implemented in FY 2025 and will be tracked as recurring operations and maintenance in other program components beginning in FY 2026.

PROGRAM INCREASES

11. New FY 2026 full-time magistrate judge and staff

Requested Increase: \$420,000

FTE: 5

The judiciary requests an additional \$420,000 for one additional full-time magistrate judge position (1.0 FTE), 4 support staff positions (5.0 FTE), and associated operating costs. The new full-time position has been accelerated because of the critical need for the position. Thus, full-year funding is assumed for this magistrate judge position in FY 2026.

Table 4.13 Cost of Additional Magistrate Judges

	<u>Positions</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Total Request</u>
New Full-Time Magistrate Judges	1	1	\$152,700
Supporting Personnel	4	4	\$187,700
Operating Expenses	-	-	\$79,600
Total	5	5	\$420,000

12. FY 2026 court support staffing due to workload changes

Requested Increase: \$17,188,000

FTE: 170

The judiciary requests a program increase for court support staff in appellate, district, bankruptcy, and probation and pretrial services offices in FY 2026 for changes in projected caseload and workload. Table 4.14 provides a breakdown of FTE and funding. To calculate the number of staff needed, the judiciary's request uses the current staffing formulas for each court unit type. To determine FY 2026 FTE, projected caseload and workload data through June 30, 2025, are used (see workload table on p. 4.17). Some staffing formulas use caseload data for multiple years, so depending on the formula, a single year increase or decrease in workload will not necessarily result in a corresponding increase or decrease in formula results.

Table 4.14 Fiscal Year 2026 Staffing Changes

Court Support Staffing FY 2026 Workload Changes		
Program	Fiscal Year 2026 FTE	Dollars in Thousands
Appellate	19	\$1,831
Bankruptcy	71	7,333
District	120	12,192
Probation/Pretrial	-40	(4,168)
Total	170	\$17,188

13. Probation staff to support implementation of evidence-based practices

Requested Increase: \$1,960,000

FTE: 7

The judiciary requests \$2.0 million to fund seven FTE that are essential to support implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP) and national oversight objectives such as: facilitation, collaboration, training, and follow-up activities and action planning for continuous improvement. EBP is the conscientious use of the best available evidence to inform decisions about the release, detention, and supervision of defendants (pretrial) and offenders (post-conviction), as well as the design and delivery of policies and practices, to achieve the maximum, measurable reduction in failure-to-appear, offenses committed while on release, and recidivism. Under the proposed model, administrators will be regionally located throughout the system and will be assigned to the AO's Probation and Pretrial Services Program to ensure appropriate oversight and program effectiveness for EBP initiatives.

14. No Net New space reduction projects

Requested Increase: \$10,000,000

The judiciary requests \$10.0 million in additional funding for No Net New space reduction projects, which are projects that will reduce space usage to offset separate increases in square footage within a circuit. The total requested appropriation is \$20.0 million, approximately equal to the FY 2024 obligation

level for No Net New projects. Additional details can be found on page 4.23.

15. Cloud integration

Requested Increase: \$14,356,000

The judiciary has been operating a private cloud environment for many years, with physical locations in the two judiciary data centers. While the private cloud has adequately served the needs of the judiciary, access to commercial cloud services is necessary to take advantage of newer technologies which are not available in traditional on-premise data centers and to reduce dependence on the two data centers.

The judiciary requests \$14.4 million to fund integration into a commercial cloud, combining the current on-premises judiciary private cloud with readily available modern and secure public cloud offerings, which will spur innovation, improve continuity of court operations and disaster recovery capabilities, and support a more mobile workforce. Additional details can be found on cloud integration in the JITF chapter on pages 11.13 and 11.14.

16. National IT tracking system

Requested Increase: \$4,339,000

The judiciary requests \$4.3 million to support the implementation of a national IT tracking system, which is a cloud-based workflow platform that consists of modules. Each

module offers capabilities that can be deployed across the judiciary to fulfill various business needs. The IT Operations Management module focuses on implementation and maintenance and will automate monitoring and lifecycle management for IT services, applications, and infrastructure. The IT Asset Management module is focused on asset management and automates the process of accounting for assets during their lifecycle, which includes procurement, purchasing, software license management, technology refresh, and asset valuation.

17. Development, Security, and Operations

Requested Increase: \$1,338,000

The judiciary requests \$1.3 million to fund the implementation of DevSecOps (Development, Security, and Operations), a framework for approaching building or modifying any IT application. The framework requires the integration of security into all phases of any application's full development lifecycle. The previous way of approaching IT upgrades was to build an application's functionality and then find ways to secure it. The DevSecOps framework, by contrast, requires incorporating security features from the very beginning and maintaining them throughout the life of the application. The program increase will fund the continued support for the creation of a DevSecOps framework within the judiciary. The funding requested supports DevSecOps subject matter experts, ongoing training and implementation, and licenses for continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) pipeline tools in

support of the ongoing implementation. Requirements include contractors that will provide resources to support the ongoing engineering, architecture, governance, training, and implementation efforts.

18. Budget formulation and execution system

Requested Increase: \$1,313,000

The judiciary requests \$1.3 million to support the development and implementation of a national budget formulation and execution system with full integration to JIFMS, the judiciary's financial system, and key budget execution processes, as well as inclusion of scenario analyses, program-specific reporting, and additional decision support capabilities.

19. Human resource services support

Requested Increase: \$4,040,000

The judiciary requests \$4.0 million to enhance its human resources programs, processes, and capabilities. \$0.3 million is requested for contractual labor to build on the modernization efforts underway to the judiciary's recruitment and applicant tracking systems. \$2.8 million is sought to fund contractual labor to strategically resource the judiciary's critical personnel security program, automated systems, and other requirements needed to identify vulnerabilities and reduce risk, particularly those related to accessing the judiciary's IT systems. \$0.6 million is requested to improve personnel actions and benefits processing to ensure timely and efficient handling of

staff-related matters. Finally, \$0.3 million is requested to support the strategic workforce planning staff who prepare data on the judiciary workforce, analyze judiciary workforce trends, and develop proactive talent management strategies.

20. Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls program

a. Financial training opportunities

Requested Increase: \$2,000,000

The judiciary requests \$2.0 million to support the successful execution of the bi-annual judiciary Financial Forum, a comprehensive combined in-person/hybrid training program on financial management, including budget, finance, travel, procurement, and judiciary financial management systems. This funding will support knowledge sharing and professional development for the maximum number of professionals to develop skills and share judiciary financial management best practices.

b. Audit support readiness

Requested Increase: \$2,624,000

An increase of \$2.6 million is requested to fund contract support to develop a robust record management system to log audit findings, store exhibits and other files, track the development of remediation and corrective action plans (CAPs), monitor progress, and track compliance with CAPs.

This funding will also support tracking, reviewing, and addressing findings from audits conducted by external auditors, observations from studies conducted by the AO's Office of Compliance and Risk (OCR) and other sources, as well as pursuing avenues to utilize audit findings to reduce improper payments through post payment analysis and reconciliation.

c. Financial management support

Requested Increase: \$6,400,000

An increase of \$6.4 million is requested to fund contractual labor to support the completion of the judiciary's financial system upgrade, implementation of a comprehensive debt management solution, replacement of the current travel system, and improvements to existing financial forms. These teams will address necessary process improvements to support general financial management processes with a focus on enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in all financial transactions.

d. Financial data and programs support

Requested Increase: \$951,000

An increase of \$1.0 million is requested to obtain contractual resources, that possess both business process analysis skill and program and project management skillsets, to provide project management support and help implement project management best practices. The business process analysts will help document, maintain, and optimize processes, and assist with

knowledge transfer and retention, and automate processes, ultimately reducing resources.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 REQUEST

21. Estimated FY 2026 fee collections

Estimated funds available: \$171,272,000

Congress has authorized the judiciary to collect fees for civil and bankruptcy filings, as well as fees for a variety of case services, including registry account administration and miscellaneous court case administration costs. A portion of the fees collected by the courts is deposited into a special fund maintained by the Treasury and may be used to reimburse judiciary accounts for expenses incurred. These fees are available without fiscal year limitation.

The judiciary estimates that \$171.3 million in revenue from these sources will be available in FY 2026 to finance requirements in the S&E account, an increase of \$18.3 million from the \$153.0 million projected in FY 2025. Table 4.15 lists offsetting receipts from collections by type, and displays the actual amounts collected in FY 2024, assumed collections for FY 2025 and estimated collections for FY 2026 collections. The judiciary will continue to monitor filings and other collections throughout FY 2025 and will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of changes to these estimates.

Table 4.15 Offsetting Receipts from Collections

Dollars in Thousands

Type of Collection and Source	FY 2024 Actual Collections (\$000)	FY 2025 Assumed Collections (\$000)	FY 2026 Estimated Collections (\$000)
<i>Fees</i>			
Registry Administration Fees	1,576	1,414	1,500
Bankruptcy Filing and Misc. Fees ¹	101,878	94,310	114,551
Civil Filing and Misc. Fees ²	59,423	57,500	55,176
Central Violations Bureau Fees	3,594	3,301	3,405
Immigration Adjudication and Naturalization Fees	4,174	4,500	5,654
Subtotal, Fees	170,645	161,025	180,286
Fee allocation to the AO ³	-8,532	(8,051)	(9,014)
Total Available to S& E	162,113	152,974	171,272

¹ Includes statutory bankruptcy filing fees and bankruptcy court miscellaneous fees.

² Includes statutory civil filing fees and appellate court and district court miscellaneous fees.

³ Based on Judicial Conference policy, up to 5.0 percent of total fees collected may be used to support AO requirements.

22. Anticipated unencumbered carryforward from FY 2025**Estimated funds available: \$215,000,000**

The judiciary estimates that \$215.0 million will be available through anticipated savings in FY 2025 to carry forward into FY 2026 and offset the FY 2026 appropriation request for the S&E account. Savings generally become available due to delays in GSA space delivery schedules that reduce space rental and furniture expenses and unobligated funds returned from the nearly 400 court units throughout the judiciary. This carryforward balance includes the carryforward of fee balances from the prior year, no-year appropriation balances, and JITF balances.

The judiciary will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of changes to this estimate.