

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

Salaries and Expenses

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

	Mandatory	Discretionary	Total
Fiscal Year 2026 Salaries and Expenses Appropriation	\$534,684	\$6,127,055	\$6,661,739
Fiscal Year 2026 Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Appropriation	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,109</u>	<u>\$12,109</u>
Total, Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation	\$534,684	\$6,139,164	\$6,673,848
Fiscal Year 2027 Salaries and Expenses Appropriation Request	\$542,916	\$6,439,018	\$6,981,934
Fiscal Year 2027 Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Appropriation Request	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,127</u>	<u>\$12,127</u>
Total, Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Request	\$542,916	\$6,451,145	\$6,994,061
 Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation	 \$8,232	 \$311,981	 \$320,213

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, [\$6,127,055,000]\$6,439,018,000 (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), [\$12,109,000]\$12,127,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund to remain available until expended.

(Division E, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 - P.L. 119-75)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2027
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

		Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
		FTEs	Amount	FTEs	Amount	FTEs	Amount
Fiscal Year 2027 Resource Requirements:							
Fiscal Year 2026 Available Resources (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....		1,900	534,684	24,718	6,711,192	26,618	7,245,876
FY 2025 Encumbered Carryforward		-	-	-	(152,974)	-	(152,974)
Fiscal Year 2026 Obligations (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....		1,900	534,684	24,718	6,558,218	26,618	7,092,902
Non-Appropriated Sources of Funding							
Estimated FY 2026 Fee Collections.....		-	-	-	(175,540)	-	(175,540)
Carryforward Balances from FY 2025 into FY 2026.....		-	-	-	(243,514)	-	(243,514)
Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....		1,900	534,684	24,718	6,139,164	26,618	6,673,848
Page No.	Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:						
A. Judges and Associated Staff							
1. Pay and Benefit Adjustments							
4.26	a. Annualization of 2026 Pay Adjustment (1.0% for three months).....	-	1,243	-	424	-	1,667
b. Benefits Adjustments							
4.26	i. Health Benefits.....	-	973	-	787	-	1,760
4.27	ii. FICA Adjustment.....	-	653	-	214	-	867
4.27	iii. FERS Adjustment.....	-	(283)	-	(1,350)	-	(1,633)
4.27	2. Increase in Average Number of Filled Active Article III Judgeships (11 judge FTE/65 staff FTE).....	11	3,174	65	8,463	76	11,637
4.28	3. Decrease in Average Number of Senior Judges (3 judge FTE/13 staff FTE).....	(3)	(963)	(13)	(1,580)	(16)	(2,543)
4.29	4. Increase in Average Number of Filled Bankruptcy Judgeships (12 judge FTE/37 staff FTE).....	12	3,435	37	4,985	49	8,420
B. Court Personnel and Programs							
5. Pay and Benefits Adjustments							
4.31	a. Annualization of 2026 Pay Adjustment (1.0% for three months).....	-	-	-	9,250	-	9,250
4.31	b. Promotions and Within-grade Increases.....	-	-	-	27,965	-	27,965
c. Benefits Adjustments							
4.31	i. Health Benefits.....	-	-	-	17,356	-	17,356
4.31	ii. FICA Adjustment.....	-	-	-	462	-	462
4.31	iii. FERS Adjustment.....	-	-	-	(11,679)	-	(11,679)
4.32	6. Funding Necessary to Maintain FY 2027 Service Levels Due to Anticipated Decrease in Non-appropriated Funds	-	-	-	20,399	-	20,399
C. Other Adjustments							
4.32	7. General Inflationary and Miscellaneous Adjustments.....	-	-	-	22,970	-	22,970
4.33	8. Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund Adjustment.....	-	-	-	49	-	49
9. GSA Space Rental and Related Services							
4.33	a. Changes in Space/New Space.....	-	-	-	10,736	-	10,736
4.33	b. Building Operations and GSA Rent	-	-	-	22,441	-	22,441
4.33	c. Space Reduction.....	-	-	-	(2,000)	-	(2,000)
4.33	d. Maintenance, Alterations, and other Space-related Adjustments.....	-	-	-	49,529	-	49,529
10. Information Technology (IT) Requirements							
4.36	a. Court Administration and Case Management Systems.....	-	-	-	24,255	-	24,255
4.36	b. Administrative and Management Systems.....	-	-	-	10,007	-	10,007
4.36	c. IT court support reimbursable program adjustments.....	-	-	-	7,958	-	7,958
4.37	d. Telecommunication Program.....	-	-	-	4,452	-	4,452
4.37	e. Infrastructure and Collaboration Tools.....	-	-	-	14,286	-	14,286
4.37	f. Judicial Statistical and Reporting Systems.....	-	-	-	4,657	-	4,657
4.37	g. Court IT Allotments.....	-	-	-	16,045	-	16,045
4.38	h. Cybersecurity and IT Modernization.....	-	-	-	(23,237)	-	(23,237)
Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services.....		20	8,232	89	237,844	109	246,076
Total Current Services Appropriation Required.....		1,920	542,916	24,807	6,377,008	26,727	6,919,924

<u>Program Increases:</u>							
4.38	11. New FY 2027 Full-time Magistrate Judges, Part-time Judge and Staff (3 full-time new judges and 13 staff FTE).....	-	-	16	1,457	16	1,457
4.38	12. FY 2027 Court Support Staffing Due to Workload Changes.....	-	-	210	20,409	210	20,409
4.39	13. Cloud Integration (Re-Request).....	-	-	-	10,971	-	10,971
4.39	14. IT Service Management.....	-	-	-	8,116	-	8,116
4.40	15. Enterprise Learning Management System (LMS).....	-	-	-	3,657	-	3,657
4.40	16. Judiciary Recruitment Modernization.....	-	-	-	9,957	-	9,957
4.40	17. No Net New space reduction efforts (Re-Request).....	-	-	-	4,594	-	4,594
4.40	18. Court Admin and Case Management Printing Material Costs.....	-	-	-	1,853	-	1,853
4.41	19. Court Admin and Case Management postage fees.....	-	-	-	2,806	-	2,806
4.41	20. Probation Staff to Supplement absences due to Paid Parental Leave (PPL).....	-	-	18	2,391	18	2,391
4.41	21. Establishment of a Regional Computer Forensic Lab.....	-	-	-	1,244	-	1,244
4.42	22. Financial Management Support (Re-Request)	-	-	-	4,882	-	4,882
4.42	23. Department of Administrative Services Advisory and Research Funding.....	-	-	-	1,800	-	1,800
	Subtotal, Program Increases.....	-	-	244	74,137	244	74,137
	Total Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Request (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,920	542,916	25,051	6,451,145	26,971	6,994,061
	Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027.....	20	8,232	333	311,981	353	320,213
<u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2027 Request:</u>							
	Total Appropriation Request, Fiscal Year 2027 (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,920	542,916	25,051	6,451,145	26,971	6,994,061
4.42	24. Estimated FY 2027 Fee Collections.....	-	-	-	183,655	-	183,655
4.43	25. Anticipated Unencumbered Carryforward from FY 2026.....	-	-	-	215,000	-	215,000
	Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2027 (includes Vaccine Injury Fund).....	1,920	542,916	25,051	6,849,800	26,971	7,392,716

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

Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2025 Actuals			FY 2026 Enacted			FY 2027 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.
Appeals	715,567	17,576	733,143	795,711	63,618	859,329	833,265	46,638	879,903
District	2,885,176	70,865	2,956,041	3,254,715	260,218	3,514,933	3,408,325	190,766	3,599,091
Bankruptcy	694,164	17,050	711,214	800,055	63,965	864,021	837,815	46,893	884,708
Probation/Pretrial	2,219,531	54,516	2,274,047	1,816,783	145,254	1,962,037	1,902,529	106,485	2,009,014
Total Obligations	6,514,439	160,006	6,674,445	6,667,265	533,054	7,200,319	6,981,934	390,782	7,372,716
Encumbered Carryforward	-	-	-	-	(119,216)	(119,216)	-	-	-
Obligations of JITF Balances/Recoveries	-	57,181	57,181	-	11,799	11,799	-	20,000	20,000
Revised Obligations	6,514,439	217,187	6,731,626	6,667,265	425,637	7,092,902	6,981,934	410,782	7,392,716
Fee Availability	-	(152,974)	(152,974)	-	(175,540)	(175,540)	-	(183,655)	(183,655)
Vaccine Injury Trust Fund	-	(9,975)	(9,975)	-	(12,109)	(12,109)	-	(12,127)	(12,127)
Prior Year Recoveries & Other Adjustments	-	52,874	52,874	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:									
Encumbered Carryforward	-	(155,939)	(155,939)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unencumbered Carryforward	-	(296,179)	(296,179)	-	(243,514)	(243,514)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:									
Encumbered Carryforward	-	119,216	119,216	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unencumbered Carryforward	-	243,514	243,514	-	215,000	215,000	-	-	-
Anticipated Financial Plan Savings	-	-	-	-	(215,000)	(215,000)	-	-	-
Appropriation (excluding Vaccine Injury)	6,514,439	17,724	6,532,163	6,667,265	(5,526)	6,661,739	6,981,934	-	6,981,934
Mandatory	-	-	537,108	-	-	534,684	-	-	542,916
Discretionary (Direct)	-	-	5,995,055	-	-	6,127,055	-	-	6,439,018

Carryforward (Unobligated Balance) Analysis (\$000)

	FY 2025 Actuals			FY 2026 Enacted			FY 2027 Request		
	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total	Encumbered	Unencumbered	Total
Start of Year:									
Fee Account	(91,881)	(205,428)	(297,309)	(71,937)	(251,772)	(323,709)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(58,694)	(88,797)	(147,491)	(41,754)	9,457	(32,297)	-	-	-
S&E No-Year Funds	(5,364)	(1,955)	(7,319)	(5,526)	(1,199)	(6,725)	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal (Unobligated Balance)</i>	<i>(155,939)</i>	<i>(296,179)</i>	<i>(452,119)</i>	<i>(119,217)</i>	<i>(243,514)</i>	<i>(362,731)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(215,000)</i>	<i>(215,000)</i>
End of Year:									
Fee Account	71,937	251,772	323,709	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	41,754	(9,457)	32,297	-	-	-	-	-	-
S&E No-Year Funds	5,526	1,199	6,725	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anticipated Financial Plan Savings ¹	-	-	-	-	215,000	215,000	-	-	-
<i>Subtotal (Unobligated Balance)</i>	<i>119,217</i>	<i>243,514</i>	<i>362,731</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>215,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

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

Description	FY 2025 Actuals			FY 2026 Enacted			FY 2027 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Coll.	Total Oblig.
11.0 Personnel Compensation	3,141,313	77,156	3,218,469	3,041,179	243,145	3,284,324	3,157,423	176,722	3,334,145
12.0 Personnel Benefits	1,177,214	28,914	1,206,128	1,200,864	96,010	1,296,874	1,259,293	70,483	1,329,776
13.0 Benefits for Former Personnel	6,570	161	6,731	6,675	534	7,209	7,660	429	8,089
21.0 Travel	58,902	1,447	60,349	53,769	4,299	58,068	59,659	3,339	62,998
22.0 Transportation of Things	3,991	98	4,089	3,518	281	3,799	4,038	226	4,264
23.1 Rental Payments to GSA	1,088,086	26,725	1,114,811	1,083,642	86,638	1,170,280	1,129,973	63,245	1,193,218
23.2 Rental Payments to Others	27,836	684	28,520	24,742	1,978	26,720	22,213	1,243	23,456
23.3 Communications, Utilities, and Misc.	32,982	810	33,792	42,022	3,360	45,382	47,357	2,651	50,008
24.0 Printing and Reproduction	7,332	180	7,512	6,226	498	6,724	7,371	413	7,784
25.0 Other Services	425,764	10,458	436,222	468,207	37,434	505,641	469,717	26,290	496,007
26.0 Supplies and Materials	8,810	216	9,026	13,495	1,079	14,574	15,383	861	16,244
31.0 Equipment	36,340	893	37,233	44,022	3,520	47,542	53,036	2,968	56,004
91.0 Financial Transfers	499,299	12,264	511,563	678,903	54,279	733,182	748,813	41,911	790,724
Total Obligations	6,514,439	160,006	6,674,445	6,667,265	533,054	7,200,319	6,981,934	390,782	7,372,716
Encumbered Carryforward	-	-	-	-	(119,216)	(119,216)	-	-	-
Obligations of Existing JITF Balances and Recoveries	-	57,181	57,181	-	11,799	11,799	-	20,000	20,000
Revised Obligations	6,514,439	217,187	6,731,626	6,667,265	425,637	7,092,902	6,981,934	410,782	7,392,716

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

	FY 2026 Enacted		FY 2027 Request	
	Authorized Judgeships	Compensation	Authorized Judgeships	Compensation
Circuit Judgeships	167	49,253	167	48,957
District Judgeships	677	178,630	677	182,098
Senior/Retired Judgeships	-	214,932	-	216,113
Bankruptcy Judgeships	345	91,869	345	95,748
Total	1,189	534,684	1,189	542,916

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

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

Program	FY 2025		FY 2026		FY 2027 Request					
	Actual		Enacted		Adj. to Base		Workload Adj.		Total Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Appeals										
Article III Judges										
Active	164	48,044	167	49,253	(1)	(296)	-	-	165	48,957
Senior	125	36,571	120	36,131	(3)	(872)	-	-	117	35,259
Retired	33	7,957	32	9,223	-	667	-	-	32	9,890
Chambers: Article III Judges' Staff	1,174	151,217	1,178	154,404	(16)	(1,336)	-	-	1,162	153,067
Court Staff										
Circuit Executives	318	59,372	342	69,478	-	746	(10)	(1,161)	332	69,063
Clerks Offices	553	77,968	544	82,849	-	889	(22)	(2,041)	522	81,697
Staff and Preargument Attorneys	511	93,969	477	97,228	-	1,043	(9)	(1,101)	468	97,170
Librarians	190	29,896	201	33,996	-	365	(6)	(699)	195	33,662
Bankruptcy Appellate Panels	9	1,549	11	1,999	-	21	-	-	11	2,020
Total Appeals	3,076	506,543	3,072	534,560	(20)	1,227	(47)	(5,002)	3,004	530,785
District										
Judges										
Article III Judges										
Active	639	175,201	642	178,630	12	3,468	-	-	655	182,098
Senior	492	135,413	506	133,517	-	(91)	-	-	506	133,426
Retired	139	29,987	137	36,061	-	1,477	-	-	137	37,538
Magistrate Judges	569	173,536	569	176,738	-	734	3	522	572	177,994
Court of Federal Claims Judges	16	5,553	16	5,750	-	9	-	-	16	5,759
Chambers										
Article III Judges' Staff	2,974	413,574	3,018	426,782	56	9,761	-	-	3,074	436,544
Magistrate Judges' Staff	1,113	176,792	1,113	178,921	-	1,804	13	591	1,126	181,316
Federal Claims Judges' Staff	63	8,325	61	8,575	-	1,836	-	-	61	10,411
Pro Se and Death Penalty	439	94,609	483	105,981	-	1,137	-	-	483	107,118
Court Staff										
Clerks Offices	5,581	769,645	5,590	813,331	-	8,619	159	15,532	5,749	837,482
Court Reporters	671	106,979	665	111,476	12	2,789	10	1,184	687	115,449
Court Interpreters	99	21,281	85	20,345	-	218	5	787	90	21,350
Total District	12,796	2,110,894	12,886	2,196,108	81	31,761	190	18,616	13,157	2,246,486
Bankruptcy										
Bankruptcy Judges	294	88,696	294	91,869	12	3,879	-	-	306	95,748
Chambers: Bankruptcy Judges' Staff	596	92,697	606	95,238	37	5,001	-	-	643	100,239
Court Staff										
Clerks	2,302	338,062	2,260	348,137	-	3,730	115	11,429	2,375	363,296
Bankruptcy Administrators	39	6,698	40	7,155	-	77	1	167	41	7,399
Total Bankruptcy	3,232	526,154	3,200	542,399	49	12,687	116	11,596	3,365	566,682
Probation/Pretrial Services	7,615	1,253,258	7,460	1,315,340	-	14,115	(16)	(1,398)	7,444	1,328,057
Total Judges	2,471	700,957	2,483	717,173	20	8,975	3	522	2,507	726,670
Total Chambers	6,358	937,213	6,459	969,901	77	18,203	13	591	6,550	988,695
Total Court Staff	17,888	2,758,679	17,675	2,901,334	12	32,612	227	22,699	17,915	2,956,645
GRAND TOTAL	26,718	4,396,849	26,618	4,588,407	109	59,790	244	23,812	26,971	4,672,010

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES
Salaries and Expenses
Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Total Obligations	6,674,445	7,200,319	7,372,716
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	365,138	346,846	381,943
Adjustments to Prior Year Activity	(4,732)	-	-
Change in Uncollected Payments	(42,576)	-	-
Obligated Balance, End of Year	<u>(346,846)</u>	<u>(381,943)</u>	<u>(285,272)</u>
Total Outlays	6,645,429	7,165,222	7,469,387
Less Offsets	(111,569)	(533,054)	(390,782)
Net Outlays	6,533,860	6,632,168	7,078,605

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) 2027 appropriation request for the courts' Salaries and Expenses account totals \$6,994.1 million to support the operation of the courts. The request includes \$542.9 million in mandatory appropriations and \$6,451.1 million in discretionary appropriations. This request funds 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 2027 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 new magistrate judges and staff; critical IT systems and project improvements; increases to strengthen personnel services; increases to support financial training, audit support, and financial management; and additional probation staff to support implementation of regional computer forensic labs.

This account makes up about two thirds of the judiciary's total appropriations request and supports nearly 27,000 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 the 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, 2026 is used to determine district court support staffing requirements in FY 2027. Law enforcement activity in the executive branch has significantly increased criminal filings, exceeding previous statistical projections. The judiciary will continue to monitor this issue and, if necessary, reflect updated projected workload changes in an FY 2027 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 4.13, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, criminal cases filed increased by 18.7 percent from the previous year. Filings for criminal defendants increased by 14.1 percent for the same 12-month period. Through June 2026, criminal cases filed are projected to increase by 5.0 percent, and criminal defendants are projected to increase by 4.2 percent. Additionally, over the past several months there has been an increase in other offense types. As an example, on April 11, 2025, a national security presidential memorandum directed the Defense Department to accept jurisdiction of certain federal lands along the southern border from other agencies. This caused a spike in regulatory (trespassing) and immigration filings over the entirety of 2025. Based on the most recent data, criminal case and defendant filings are expected to continue to increase in 2026.

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 4.13, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, civil case filings decreased 15.6 percent from the previous year. However, new civil filings are expected to increase by 6.8 percent in 2026. 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, 2026, is used to determine appellate court support staffing requirements in FY 2027.

Appellate Case Filings

As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.13, for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, the number of appeals filed increased to 41,012, a 2.9 percent increase from the previous year. This reverses a downward trend that has been occurring in appeals courts over the past several years. The judiciary currently projects that appellate case filings will increase by 3.6 percent in 2026, to 42,500. Executive

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.

branch initiatives, legislative initiatives, and court decisions can certainly have significant effects on some annual totals. Looking forward, shifts in the priorities and policies of the current administration are likely to impact appellate caseload. However, due to the wide variety in the types of cases that get appealed in the federal courts, it is difficult to predict the extent of the impact.

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, 2026, is used to determine FY 2027 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 have continued to increase since 2023. As shown in Table 4.1 on page 4.13, filings for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, increased by 11.5 percent compared to the same period in 2024. Based on analysis of current economic conditions, the judiciary projects an increase of 9.7 percent (a total of 595,100 bankruptcy case filings) for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2026.

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 2027 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 368,800 new chapter 7 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2026, which is 10.6 percent higher than the same period in 2025.

Chapter 7 pro se cases are projected to grow 23.0 percent to 30,900 during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2026. The growth in chapter 7 pro se filings can be attributed to the rise in unemployment rates and other economic factors. The rise in pro se filings may also be affected by the increasing availability of generative AI tools that can assist with the filing process. For the month of September 2025, the two largest numeric increases in chapter 7 pro se filings occurred in the Central District of California (CACB) (2,228 petitions) and the District of Maryland (2,197 petitions). CACB has experienced a 29.7 percent increase in chapter 7 pro se filings compared to September 2024, while the District of Maryland has experienced a 24.6 percent increase in chapter 7 pro se filings compared to September 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 8,900 new chapter 11 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2026, which is 5.9 percent higher than the same period in 2025.

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 217,100 new chapter 13 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2026, an increase of approximately 8.4 percent from the same period in 2025. Since 2024, bankruptcy courts have seen a rise in pro se chapter 13 filings. The courts are expected to handle 19,100 new pro se chapter 13 cases during the 12-month period ending June 2026, an increase of approximately 16.4 percent from the same period in 2025.

Table 4.1 Comparison of Judiciary Workload

WORKLOAD FACTOR ¹	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actuals 2023	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Projected 2026
Criminal Filings	73,012	64,853	59,500	55,220	54,366	54,961	65,245	68,500
Year-to-Year Change:	25.6%	-11.2%	-8.3%	-7.2%	-1.5%	1.1%	18.7%	5.0%
Criminal Defendants Filed	90,541	79,122	75,407	69,466	67,651	67,785	77,344	80,600
Year-to-Year Change:	20.3%	-12.6%	-4.7%	-7.9%	-2.6%	0.2%	14.1%	4.2%
Civil Filings	293,520	421,082	374,250	293,762	295,215	340,683	287,441	306,900
Year-to-Year Change:	8.0%	43.5%	-11.1%	-21.5%	0.5%	15.4%	-15.6%	6.8%
Appellate Filings	47,783	49,044	45,790	42,094	40,713	39,850	41,012	42,500
Year-to-Year Change:	-8.2%	2.6%	-6.6%	-8.1%	-3.3%	-2.1%	2.9%	3.6%
Bankruptcy Filings	773,361	682,363	462,309	380,634	418,724	486,613	542,529	595,100
Year-to-Year Change:	-2.8%	-11.8%	-32.2%	-17.7%	10.0%	16.2%	11.5%	9.7%
Pretrial Services: Cases Activated	98,627	83,839	71,647	67,701	68,816	65,684	75,193	77,900
Year-to-Year Change:	19.9%	-15.0%	-14.5%	-5.5%	1.6%	-4.6%	14.5%	3.6%
Pretrial Services: Persons Under Supervision	46,539	46,646	52,915	55,471	51,606	47,546	44,090	41,600
Year-to-Year Change:	5.8%	0.2%	13.4%	4.8%	-7.0%	-7.9%	-7.3%	-5.6%
Probation: Presentence Reports	66,622	68,974	47,628	62,829	63,126	57,952	58,544	60,200
Year-to-Year Change:	9.8%	3.5%	-30.9%	31.9%	0.5%	-8.2%	1.0%	2.8%
Probation: Persons Under Supervision	128,120	126,875	124,249	124,167	123,852	122,591	120,557	119,100
Year-to-Year Change:	-5.8%	-1.0%	-2.1%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-1.0%	-1.7%	-1.2%

¹Actual data is based on the 12-month period ending June 30 of the corresponding year.

²Estimates are based on projections for the 12-month period ending June 30 of the corresponding year.

PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The federal probation and pretrial services program supports 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, order treatment for substance use and mental health disorders, 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, 2026, is used to determine probation and pretrial services staffing requirements in FY 2027. For the 12-month period ending June 30, 2026, the judiciary projects:

- 3.6 percent in pretrial cases activated;
- -5.6 percent in pretrial supervision;
- 2.8 percent in presentence reports; and
- -1.2 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 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

IT Priorities

The combination of cyberattacks on judiciary IT systems and aging legacy applications critical to court operations has created IT vulnerabilities that require additional resources. The judiciary is working to address these IT vulnerabilities and strengthen the judiciary's ability to provide core IT services and cyber protections for the courts. Cybersecurity and IT modernization are identified as strategic priorities in the *Long-Range Plan for Information Technology in the Federal Judiciary* because they ensure that the judiciary can continuously improve and secure judiciary-related records. Please refer to pages 11.7 – 11.15 in the JITF chapter for details on the significant issues related to Case Management Modernization and ongoing Cybersecurity and IT Modernization efforts.

Shifting Workload/Caseload Due to Executive Branch Activity

Multiple categories of judiciary workload have changed significantly as a result of new priorities and law enforcement policies within the Executive Branch, and continued implementation and refinement of those priorities and policies could continue to affect workload and caseload estimates going forward. Immigration habeas cases present one particularly notable example.

Civil non-prisoner pro se case filings typically represent between 2 and 16 percent of the total civil caseload, however, throughout 2025 monthly filings nearly tripled. This is driven largely by the influx of complex immigration and civil rights claims and continues to place

an unprecedented strain on court workloads and resources. While “other civil rights” cases remain a driving factor, immigration habeas cases are now a distinct and heavy contributor to the workload; for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025, immigration habeas case filings increased 168 percent from the previous year. Based on December 31, 2025, data, immigration habeas case filings continue to rise at an unprecedented rate. The judiciary will continue to monitor this caseload and may adjust projections as part of its FY 2027 budget re-estimate process.

Real Property Authority/Rent Service Validation Initiative

In FY 2027, the General Service Administration (GSA) plans to increase the judiciary’s rent by unilaterally imposing pricing policy changes from the previous memorandum of understanding between GSA and the judiciary, which expires in December 2026. The judiciary has communicated its strong opposition to GSA’s rent increases directly to the Acting GSA Public Building Commissioner. This pricing increase may be implemented despite GSA’s inconsistent service delivery to the judiciary and GSA’s significant staffing reductions in 2025. As a result of this and other longstanding issues, the judiciary has been exploring ways to address challenges with rent and services provided by GSA, including through the establishment of a Rent Service Validation Initiative to closely examine the GSA’s pricing policies and the corresponding services provided.

More broadly, the judiciary recently asked Congress for real property authority independent of GSA – with the goal of gaining jurisdiction, custody, and control of those facilities that are most critical to the operations of the branch. Recognizing that obtaining this authority would require legislative changes that have to be enacted by Congress, the judiciary’s FY 2027 budget request has been formulated under the current structure and relationship with GSA and does not include funding related to the proposed changes. The judiciary will advise appropriations subcommittee staff as the issue evolves.

Judicial Confirmations

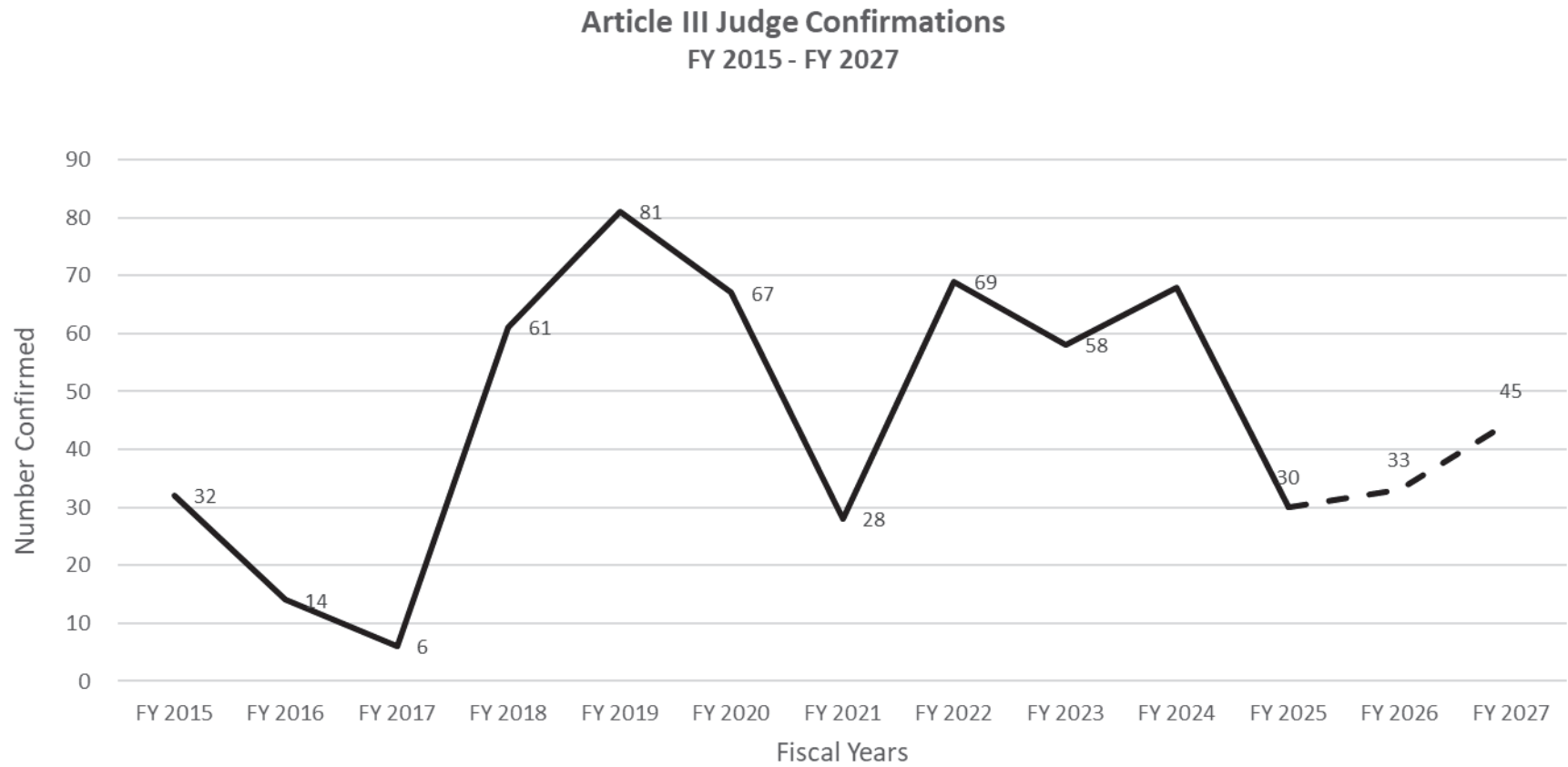
The number of filled Article III judgeships has a direct impact on funding requirements for the Salaries and Expenses account. This account funds all Article III judges and associated costs, except for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 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 33 confirmations in FY 2026 and 45 confirmations in FY 2027.

The judiciary's FY 2027 request includes \$3.2 million in funding for annualization costs related to confirmations from FY 2026 and to accommodate an assumption of 45 additional Article III judge confirmations. The judiciary will update this assumption as part of its FY 2027 budget re-estimate process.

Table 4.2 Article III Judge Confirmations



Financial Management Transformation

To support the multiyear Financial Management Transformation (FMT), formerly known as the Judiciary Data Integrity, Reporting, and Controls program, the judiciary is requesting \$4.9 million in the Salaries and Expenses appropriation in FY 2027. Combined with existing resources, this funding will allow the FMT program to demonstrate clear iterative progress at a sustainable pace for the judiciary.

The goal of the FMT 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 FMT 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); and eliminated other government agency outstanding transactions through reconciliation from our financial statements. However, the program continues to face challenges due to staffing and budget constraints. An essential component of the FMT program is continued maintenance and upgrading of the Judiciary Integrated Financial Management System (JIFMS). It is crucial that FMT is adequately funded in FY 2027 to collect and prepare requirements, analyze business processes, ensure adherence to mandates and regulations issued by the Treasury, and prepare for another JIFMS update in FY 2028. Program increases will enable the judiciary to demonstrate sound financial practices and stewardship of funds, while reducing risk and increasing accuracy and integrity of those transactions. Assuming sufficient funding and staffing requirements are met, the judiciary anticipates implementing auditable consolidated financial statements in FY 2032.

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 corrective action plans, 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

Since 2004, the judiciary has worked to contain costs whenever possible and implemented a number of major cost-containment initiatives. These efforts have significantly improved the judiciary's ability to manage cost increases over the years, thereby supporting the branch's ability to meet its mission of providing fair and impartial justice. 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:

- The judiciary has developed and actively promotes several programs to maximize efficient use of existing bankruptcy personnel resources. These include the Temporary Bankruptcy Law Clerk Program, use of recalled bankruptcy judges, multi-district designation of bankruptcy judges, the Bankruptcy Judgeship Vacancy Pilot, and intra- and intercircuit assignment of bankruptcy judges.
- Regarding Pro Se bankruptcy filings, the judiciary is exploring greater adoption of solutions such as the electronic self-representation (eSR) tool to increase clerk office efficiency. The online tool allows unrepresented individual debtors to electronically prepare and submit official forms for a chapter 7 or chapter 13 bankruptcy petition. Greater use of eSR is expected to lead to more complete and accurate petitions and therefore less work for the court, though further analysis is required for chapter 13 cases due to their greater complexity and duration.
- To facilitate sharing operational and administrative services between clerks' offices, the judiciary is developing internal capabilities to accurately account for employees performing services for multiple court units. Administrative difficulties in entering into and maintaining such service agreements have considerably limited adoption among court units.
- Effective October 1, 2024, the judiciary implemented a nationwide cap of \$3,000 on chambers legal resources, allowing for exceptions where necessary. From FY 2024 to FY 2025, total judiciary spending by chambers on legal research resources decreased by approximately \$1.1 million. These decreases are notable in light of the typically high inflation levels for legal resources.

No Net New Space Reduction Policy

Effective 2013, the Judicial Conference-approved No Net New policy requires that any increase in square footage within a circuit be offset by an equivalent reduction elsewhere in the circuit.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 2027 budget request includes \$14.6 million to undertake projects needed to reconfigure space to offset space increases and maintain compliance with the No Net New policy, an increase of \$4.6 million above the FY 2026 funding level. The two No Net New projects that were approved in FY 2025 are expected to result in 3,998 usable square feet (USF) in space reduction or space growth avoidance. The three No Net New projects that were approved in FY 2026 are expected to result in 18,257 USF in space reduction or space growth avoidance.

Table 4.3 No Net New Space Reduction Projects³

FY 2025 Approved Projects		FY 2026 Approved Projects	
Project	Projected USF Reduction	Project	Projected USF Reduction
Indianapolis, IN, Circuit Satellite Library	-2,540	Kansas City, MO, Circuit Library	-8,686
Milwaukee, WI, Circuit Satellite Library	-1,458	Omaha, NE, Bankruptcy Court	-5,380
		Worcester, MA, Probation Office	-4,191
Total	-3,998	Total	-18,257

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 2026 and FY 2027.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS

The judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2027 budget request for the Salaries and Expenses account reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 119-75). The discretionary FY 2026 enacted level of \$6,139.2 million for the Salaries and Expenses appropriation is \$203.1 million lower than the judiciary's Conference Appeal level but \$134.1 million higher than the enacted FY 2025 level.

At this funding level, FY 2026 court allotments are \$57.2 million higher than FY 2025 levels. This increase will allow courts to maintain current services in FY 2026 and allows for funding an additional magistrate full-time judge and associated staff, changes in court staff positions as a result of workload changes, human resource staffing to address personnel-related benefits processing, as well as critical IT modernization and cybersecurity efforts.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 REQUEST

The FY 2027 discretionary appropriation request for the Salaries and Expenses account totals \$6,451.1 million, including \$12.1 million for requirements funded from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund. The judiciary also requests \$542.9 million for requirements funded from mandatory appropriations. The FY 2027 discretionary request is a 5.1 percent increase over the FY 2026 discretionary appropriation level of \$6,139.2 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 \$398.7 million in FY 2027, \$20.4 million less than the \$419.1 million expected to be utilized in FY 2026.

Total Mandatory Appropriation Increase: \$8,232,000

**Total Requested Discretionary Appropriation Increase:
\$311,981,000**

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The changes in the FY 2027 budget request are divided into two sections: adjustments to base and program increases.

Adjustments to base totaling \$246.1 million (76.9 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 (+\$8.2 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 (+\$11.9 million);
- personnel costs for Court of Federal Claims judges, magistrate judges, chambers staff, and other court support staff (+\$43.4 million);
- a financing adjustment to account for a decrease in non-appropriated sources of funds (+\$20.4 million);
- inflationary and miscellaneous adjustments (+\$23.0 million);
- personnel and related costs for the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund (+\$49,000);
- General Services Administration (GSA) rent and related costs (+\$80.7 million); and
- information technology (IT) requirements (+\$58.4 million).

Program changes totaling \$74.1 million (23.1 percent of the requested change) are for the following increases:

- new FY 2027 full-time/part-time magistrate judges and staff (+\$1.5 million to support 16 FTE);
- court support staffing due to caseload and workload changes (+\$20.4 million to support 210 FTE);
- IT integration of cloud modernization (+\$11.0 million);
- IT service management (+\$8.1 million);
- Enterprise Learning Management System (+\$3.7 million);
- Judiciary Recruitment Modernization (+\$10.0 million);
- No Net New space reduction projects (+\$4.6 million);
- Court Admin and Case Management printing material costs (+\$1.9 million);
- Court Admin and Case Management postage increase (+\$2.8 million);
- additional probation staff to support absences due to paid parental leave (+\$2.4 million to support 18 FTE);
- establishment of four regional computer forensic labs (+\$1.2 million);
- the Financial Management Transformation (FMT) (+\$4.9 million); and
- Department of Administrative Services advisory and research funding (+\$1.8 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 2026 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$1,243,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$424,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2026 pay adjustment of 1.0 percent for judges and chambers staff, effective as of January 2026. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2026 pay increase (from October to December 2026) in FY 2027.

b. Benefits adjustments

i. Health benefits

Mandatory Increase: \$973,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$787,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management

(OPM), agency health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 10.1 percent in January 2026 and 5.0 percent in January 2027. The requested increase annualizes the 2026 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2027.

ii. FICA adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$653,000

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$214,000

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 2026. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$176,100 to \$184,500 in January 2026. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2027, based on the annualized 2026 increase and the 2027 projected increase in the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report.

iii. FERS adjustment

Mandatory Decrease: (\$283,000)

Requested Discretionary Decrease: (\$1,350,000)

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the funding requirement has decreased for the agency contribution rate to Federal Employees Retirement

System (FERS) plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution rate will decrease from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent. Any FERS decrease is in accordance with revised estimates of the cost of providing benefits by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System.

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

Mandatory Increase: \$3,174,000

FTE: 11

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$8,463,000 FTE: 65

In FY 2026, the judiciary anticipates that an average of 810 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 2027, offset by 40 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 2027 request includes funding for 821 Article III appellate and district court judgeships, a net increase of 11 FTE above FY 2026.

The request also supports chambers support staff (32 law clerks, 13 courtroom deputies, seven secretaries, and 13 court reporters) associated with the increase in 11 judges' FTE.

In summary, the request includes \$3.2 million for the salaries and benefits of 11 judges, \$7.0 million for the salaries and

benefits of 65 supporting staff, and \$1.5 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
2021	844	65	779
2022	844	64	780
2023	844	78	766
2024	844	55	789
2025	844	41	803
Estimates			
2026	844	34	810
2027	844	23	821

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, and the U.S. Court of International Trade, but includes territorial courts.

3. Decrease in average number of senior judges

Mandatory Decrease: (\$963,000) FTE: (3)

Requested Discretionary Decrease: (\$1,580,000) FTE: (13)

Funding requirements in FY 2027 project a decrease of 3 senior judge FTE and the associated chambers staff. The request includes decreases of \$1.0 million for the salaries and benefits of the reduced judge positions, \$1.5 million for the salaries and benefits of associated supporting staff (9 law clerk, 2 secretaries, 1 courtroom deputy, and 1 court reporter) and approximately

\$0.3 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)
2021	580
2022	604
2023	601
2024	600
2025	603
Estimates	
2026	612
2027	609

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, 2025, 124 U.S. Court of Appeals and U.S. District Court judges were eligible to take senior status or retire. The judiciary projects that 28 judges will become eligible in FY 2026, and an additional 30 judges will become eligible in FY 2027. For FY 2027, the judiciary estimates that 32 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 2027 budget request reflects a net decrease of 3 senior judge FTE.

4. Increase in average number of filled bankruptcy judgeships

Mandatory Increase: \$3,435,000 FTE: 12

Requested Discretionary Increase: \$4,985,000 FTE: 37

The judiciary projects 292 FTE (including recalled bankruptcy judges) of the 345 authorized bankruptcy judgeships will be funded in FY 2026. Based on historical patterns, the judiciary projects that 12 additional judgeships will be filled during FY 2027, increasing the average number of filled bankruptcy judgeships to 304 FTE (including recalled bankruptcy judges) in FY 2027. This request also funds 22 law clerks, 10 courtroom deputies, one court reporter, and four secretaries associated with the increase of 12 bankruptcy judge FTE.

Table 4.5 Summary of Judicial Officers

	Article III & Bankruptcy Judges (Mandatory Costs)						Claims & Magistrate Judges					
	FY 2026			FY 2027			FY 2026			FY 2027		
	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)	Positions	FTE	(\$000)
Appellate Judgeships	167	167	49,253	167	166	48,957						
District Judgeships ¹	677	642	178,630	677	656	182,100						
Senior/Retired		796	214,932		792	213,969						
Bankruptcy Judgeships ²	345	295	87,696	345	307	91,131						
U.S. Court of Federal Claims ³							16	16	5,750	16	16	5,808
Magistrate Judgeships - Full-time							563	555	167,858	563	559	168,464
Magistrate Judgeships - Part-time ⁴							30	14	8,880	30	13	8,834
Total	1,189	1,900	530,511	1,189	1,921	536,157	609	585	182,488	609	588	183,105

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 4.6 U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judges

Fiscal Year	Authorized Court of Fed. Claims Judgeships	Average Vacancies	Avg. No. Active Judges
2021	16	3	13
2022	16	2	14
2023	16	0	16
2024	16	0	16
2025	16	0	16
Estimates			
2026	16	0	16
2027	16	0	16

Table 4.7 Bankruptcy Judges (excludes recalled)

Fiscal Year	Authorized Bankruptcy Judgeships	Avg. Vacancies	Avg. No. Active Judges
2021	347	37	310
2022	347	28	319
2023	345	43	302
2024	345	54	291
2025	345	56	289
Estimates			
2026	345	52	293
2027	345	41	304

Table 4.8 Magistrate Judges (Full-Time)

Fiscal Year	Authorized Magistrate Judgeships	FTE
2021	549	542
2022	555	555
2023	549	547
2024	555	548
2025	562	548
Estimates		
2026	563	555
2027	563	559

B. COURT PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS

5. Pay and Benefit Adjustments

a. Annualization of 2026 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$9,250,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2026 pay adjustment of 1.0 percent, effective January 2026. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2026 pay increase (from October to December 2026) in FY 2027.

b. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$27,965,000

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 adjustments

i. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$17,356,000

Based on information from OPM, agency health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 10.1 percent in January 2026 and 5.0 percent in January 2027.

The requested increase annualizes the 2026 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2027.

ii. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$462,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the OASDI portion of the FICA tax increased in 2026. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$176,100 to \$184,500 in January 2026. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contributions in FY 2027, based on the annualized 2026 increase and the 2027 projected increase in the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report.

iii. FERS adjustment

Requested Decrease: (\$11,679,000)

Consistent with guidance from OMB, the funding requirement has decreased for the agency contribution rate to FERS plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution rate will decrease from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent. Any FERS decrease is in accordance with revised estimates of the cost of providing benefits by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System.

6. Funding necessary to maintain FY 2027 service levels due to anticipated decrease in non-appropriated funds

Requested Increase: \$20,399,000

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 JITF carryforward. This additional funding allows the judiciary to reduce its funding needs on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The FY 2027 S&E account discretionary appropriation request of \$6,451.1 million assumes a projected availability of \$398.7 million in non-appropriated funds. Without these funds, the judiciary’s discretionary appropriations request would total \$6,849.8 million.

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 and unobligated balances from prior years. When estimated budget year non-appropriated funds exceed prior year non-appropriated funds, the budget year’s appropriations request will be reduced further. However, if estimated budget year non-appropriated funds are lower than prior-year non-appropriated funds, appropriations equal to the difference are requested to maintain current services.

As reflected in Table 4.10 below, the FY 2027 request estimates that fee collections and prior-year carryforward will total \$398.7

million, a net decrease of \$20.4 million from FY 2026. As a result, the judiciary’s FY 2027 request includes \$20.4 million in appropriated funds to offset 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 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	Difference
Fee Collections	175,540	183,655	8,115
Unencumbered Carryforward	243,514	215,000	(28,514)
Total, Non-appropriated Available Funding	419,054	398,655	(20,399)

C. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

7. General Inflationary and Miscellaneous Adjustments

a. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment

Requested Increase: \$22,970,000

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: \$49,000

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 2027, the judiciary requests \$12.1 million from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund, an increase of \$49,000 above the FY 2026 enacted level of \$12.0 million.

9. Inflationary increase in GSA space rental costs

Requested Increase: \$80,706,000

The judiciary requests a net increase of \$80.7 million in FY 2027 for GSA rent and related services. This net increase is made up of:

- (a) Changes in space/new space (+\$10.7 million);
- (b) Building operations and GSA rent (+\$22.4 million);
- (c) Space reduction savings (-\$2.0 million); and
- (d) Maintenance, alterations, and other space-related adjustments (+\$49.5 million).

a. Changes in space/new space

Requested Increase: \$10,736,000

In FY 2027, the judiciary anticipates an increase of \$2.3 million for annualization of new space delivered in FY 2026 and a \$8.5 million net increase for 192,000 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 4.12 on page 4.34 identifies major projects that GSA plans to complete in FY 2027.

b. Building operations and GSA rent

Requested Increase: \$22,441,000

This request represents a 2.2 percent inflationary increase in the cost of GSA space rental and maintenance of facilities occupied by the courts in FY 2027, factoring in current FY 2026 rent estimates.

c. Space reduction

Requested Decrease: (\$2,000,000)

A net cost savings of \$2.0 million is estimated to be achieved in FY 2027 due to reductions in court-occupied space.

d. Maintenance, alterations, and other space-related adjustments

Requested Increase: \$49,529,000

A net adjustment of \$49.5 million is required in FY 2027 for cyclical maintenance, tenant alterations for court units, furniture, and No Net New project funding. The request includes deferred requirements of \$7.3 million for tenant improvements, including chambers and courtrooms for judges taking senior status, replacement judges, and new judgeships. \$29.5 million is for

tenant alterations for prospectus projects and judges elevator repair and replacement, representing multiple years of deferred requirements. The increase also includes \$4.6 million for furniture and \$8.1 million for cyclical maintenance and related costs.

Table 4.11 GSA Space Rental Increase

	Square Feet of Space	Amount in \$000¹
Space occupied at start of year	39,946,421	\$1,157,893
Estimated new space to be delivered in FY 2026	46,000	\$842
<i>Total, FY 2026</i>	<i>39,992,421</i>	<i>\$1,158,735</i>
Increase for estimated inflation (2.2%)		\$25,746
Estimated savings due to reduction in footprint	-50,000	(\$2,000)
Annualization of new space assigned in FY 2026		\$2,258
Estimated new space to be delivered in FY 2027	192,650	\$8,478
<i>Total, FY 2027 Budget Request</i>	<i>40,135,071</i>	<i>\$1,193,217</i>
<i>FY 2027 Increase over FY 2026</i>	<i>142,650</i>	<i>\$34,482</i>

¹The fiscal year average cost per square foot is \$28.98 for FY 2026 and \$29.73 for FY 2027. This cost includes the annualization of rent costs for space added in the succeeding fiscal year.

Table 4.12 Space to be Delivered in FY 2027 - Prospectus Project

City	State	Net Rentable Square Feet to be Delivered	Estimated Occupancy Date	Fiscal Year 2027 Rent Cost New Space	Fiscal Year 2028 Rent Cost	Total Annual Rent Cost
Ft. Lauderdale	FL	192,650	4/1/2026	\$8,477,861	\$8,477,861	\$16,955,722
Total		192,650		\$8,477,861	\$8,477,861	\$16,955,722

10. IT requirements

Requested Increase: \$58,423,000

The judiciary requests an increase of \$58.4 million for adjustments to maintain current/existing IT operations. Associated pay and benefits and general inflationary adjustments for these program areas are included above in adjustment to base 5 and 7 on pages 4.30 and 4.31. In Table 11.5 of the JITF chapter, pay and benefits and general inflationary costs are included in the IT requirements increases. Therefore, the numbers presented will not match. This non-pay request includes the following:

- (a) Court Administration and Case Management Systems (+\$24.3 million);
- (b) Administration and Management Systems (+\$10.0 million);
- (c) IT court support reimbursable program adjustments (+\$7.9 million);
- (d) Telecommunications program (+\$4.5 million);
- (e) Infrastructure and collaboration tools (+\$14.3 million);
- (f) Judicial Statistical and Reporting Systems (+\$4.7 million);
- (g) Court IT allotments (+\$16.0 million); and
- (h) Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Plan (-\$23.2 million).

The FY 2027 JITF request includes the final increment of funding needed for the current Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Plan, which was established in FY 2022. 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 the JIFT chapter.

a. Court administration and case management systems

Requested Increase: \$24,255,000

An increase of \$24.3 million is to fund a variety of specialized tools, including PACTS 360 for accessing law enforcement databases and various systems for managing juror qualification and communication. Additionally, the eVoucher system is used to process payment requests for court-appointed counsel and expert service providers.

Specifically, the FY 2027 requested increase includes \$10.0 million for modernizing the judiciary’s Case Management Modernization (CMM) initiative reallocated from the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization category where it was funded in FY 2026; \$7.5 million for modernizing probation and pretrial applications not subsumed into the modernized PACTS 360; \$4.8 million to support PACTS 360 integration and

operations and maintenance activities; and \$2.0 million to support other components including eVoucher enhancements and security updates.

b. Administrative and management systems

Requested Increase: \$10,007,000

An increase of \$10.0 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 2027 requested increase includes \$5.4 million for a bi-annual JIFMS upgrade; \$3.1 million to support the clerkship application system; and \$1.5 million for development services for SharePoint online.

c. IT court support reimbursable program adjustments

Requested Increase: \$7,958,000

An increase of \$7.9 million is to fund AO staff who provide IT development, management, and maintenance services to the courts. These services include IT policy and planning guidance; architecture and infrastructure support; security services; development, testing, and implementation of national IT applications; IT training; and other administrative and IT support services on behalf of the courts.

d. Telecommunication program

Requested Increase: \$4,452,000

An increase of \$4.5 million is for telecommunications security operations requirements. This service will conduct full system lifecycle engineering and support functions to ensure that systems used can detect and counter adversary cybersecurity activity. They will also fulfill support requests for engineering and data analytic services through an Agile methodology. In addition, this service provides operations support for all managed security systems.

e. Infrastructure and collaboration tools

Requested Increase: \$14,286,000

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 2027, the base will increase due to the recategorization of requirements previously captured under the Cybersecurity and IT Modernization Priorities category that are anticipated to be fully implemented in FY 2026. Components of the

infrastructure base increase include \$7.3 million for recurring operations and maintenance; \$3.8 million for ongoing implementation of enterprise project management; and \$3.2 million for continuation of web-based threat and endpoint protection services.

f. Judicial statistical and reporting systems

Requested Increase: \$4,657,000

An increase of \$4.7 million is requested to support 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 FY 2027 requested increase is \$4.7 million for the continued transition of the Enterprise Data Warehouse to the cloud.

g. Court IT allotments

Requested Increase: \$16,045,000

The \$16.0 million increase to the base includes recurring IT infrastructure and maintenance expenses (\$14.0 million) and maintenance, cyclical replacement, and upgrade of courtroom technologies (\$2.0 million).

h. Cybersecurity and IT modernization plan

Requested Decrease: (\$23,237,000)

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 \$23.2 million is due to requirements previously included in this component that are expected to be fully implemented in FY 2026 and will be tracked as recurring operations and maintenance in other program components beginning in FY 2027. The decrease also reflects \$10.0 million provided in this category for CMM in FY 2026 but which will be reflected in the Court Administration & Case Management category in FY 2027 and future fiscal years.

This category 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 the JITF chapter.

PROGRAM INCREASES

11. New FY 2027 magistrate judges and staff

Requested Increase: \$1,457,000

FTE: 16

The judiciary requests \$1.5 million for three new full-time magistrate judge positions, the conversion of a Level 1 part-time magistrate judge position to full-time status, 13 support staff positions, and associated operating costs. The increase in magistrate judge duties is the result of increases in most criminal statistical categories and some civil categories. Thus, full-year funding is assumed for these magistrate judge positions in FY 2027.

Table 4.13 Cost of Additional Magistrate Judges

	Positions	FTE	Total Request
New Full-Time Magistrate Judges	3	3	\$ 522,000
Supporting Personnel	13	13	\$ 591,000
Operating Expenses	-	-	\$ 344,000
Total	16	16	\$1,457,000

12. FY 2027 court support staffing due to workload changes

Requested Increase: \$20,409,000

FTE: 210

The judiciary requests a program increase for court support staff in appellate, district, bankruptcy, and probation and pretrial services offices in FY 2027 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 2027 FTE, projected caseload and workload data through June 30, 2026, are used (see workload table below). 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 2027 Staffing Changes

Court Support Staffing FY 2027 Workload Changes		
Program	Fiscal Year 2027 FTE	Dollars in Thousands
Appellate	-46	(\$4,901)
Bankruptcy	116	11,596
District	173	17,503
Probation/Pretrial	-33	(3,789)
Total	210	\$20,409

13. Cloud integration (Re-Request)

Requested Increase: \$10,971,000

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 re-requests \$11.0 million, which is unfunded in FY 2026, 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.

14. IT service management

Requested Increase: \$8,116,000

The judiciary requests \$8.1 million to fund further adoption of the enterprise-wide ServiceNow platform. This cloud-based platform, which consists of multiple modules, helps to automate the workflow associated with major IT management processes to improve their uniformity, efficiency and security. The judiciary has successfully deployed the ServiceNow module to the National Service Desk to coordinate service requests on national applications. The new platform will increase efficiency by: offering automation of processes and smart workflows resulting in shorter response and resolution time; utilizing a virtual agent where all users can request a service, find the status of an issue, and find knowledge articles; empowering users with a robust search engine to quickly find and access relevant

knowledge articles; and enabling use of an app for incident or service request creation, tracking statuses, and approvals.

15. Enterprise Learning Management System (LMS)

Requested Increase: \$3,657,000

The judiciary requests \$3.7 million to fund the development, configuration, operations, testing, training, and support of an enterprise Learning Management System (LMS). This LMS will provide personalized learning paths, robust compliance tracking, and certification management across key areas, including law enforcement, cybersecurity, IT, financial management, and procurement. The funds will cover software licensing, development contractor support, and implementation costs, directly enabling data-driven insights essential for employee engagement, retention, and maintaining crucial compliance standards.

16. Judiciary Recruitment Modernization

Requested Increase: \$9,957,000

The judiciary requests \$10.0 million to develop and implement a national-level technical solution for the full workforce planning lifecycle. This funding will provide a unified suite of recruitment sourcing and analysis tools, including dashboards, to help courts and offices identify skill gaps, formulate robust talent management strategies, and efficiently recruit and retain the right staff mix for key operational positions. This funding

would cover the cost of essential licensing and support, enabling the judiciary to manage, measure, and track recruitment efforts judiciary-wide for the first time in direct support of the judiciary's Strategic Plan.

17. No Net New space reduction projects (Re-Request)

Requested Increase: \$4,594,000

The judiciary re-requests an increase of \$4.6 million, which is unfunded in FY 2026, 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 request for No Net New space reduction projects is \$14.6 million.

18. Court Admin and Case Management printing material costs

Requested Increase: \$1,853,000

The judiciary requests \$1.9 million to fund a rise in the cost of print and electronic materials for the National Library program's legal research resources. These resources are vital for the efficient and informed functioning of the judiciary, directly supporting judges, clerks' offices, and public access to legal information.

19. Court Admin and Case Management postage fees

Requested Increase: \$2,806,000

The judiciary requests \$2.8 million to fund the rise in projected bankruptcy postage costs resulting from anticipated increases in bankruptcy filings. Based on statistical data collected during the 12 months ending June 2025, bankruptcy filings increased by 11.5 percent and are expected to increase another 9.7 percent in 2026. At the same time bankruptcy filings are increasing, so is the cost of postage. During the same 12-month period ending June 2025, postage costs increased by 14.0 percent.

20. Probation staff to supplement absences due to paid parental leave

Requested Increase: \$2,391,000

FTE: 18

The judiciary requests \$2.4 million for additional staff needed to mitigate the effect of paid parental leave (PPL) on probation and pretrial services offices' operations.

In FY 2024, probation and pretrial services staff used 128,964 hours of PPL, 52.0 percent of the total PPL hours used by judiciary staff overall. Extended absences of officers and staff create holes that must be filled by other officers and staff, many of whom already have full plates. Increasing officers' caseloads can add pressure to avoid delays in investigations and reports and increase the risk that supervision issues are not timely or adequately addressed. The funds will be used to make

supplemental salary allotments to districts that hire or designate incumbent officers to temporarily serve in another district when an extended absence occurs. Without such resources to support the gap in staffing, probation and pretrial services offices will continue to experience strain on staff, impacting efficacy, increasing the risk of sentinel events (i.e., serious negative case outcomes), and harming staff wellness.

21. Establishment of regional computer forensic labs

Requested Increase: \$1,244,000

The judiciary requests \$1.2 million to establish four regional forensic laboratories. This request includes \$0.6 million for the procurement of hardware, specialized software for advanced analysis, and secure storage solutions to protect sensitive evidence. In addition, \$0.6 million is requested to fund 12 temporary duty positions, including a dedicated administrator for each regional laboratory.

This structure is essential for ensuring specialized oversight and efficient workflow management to process the growing volume of digital evidence securely, while ensuring the work is done in accordance with current standards. The primary concerns with the current process involve significant quality control and training deficits that prevent staff from fulfilling court mandates or providing necessary testimony. Without internal subject matter experts, officers lack the tools and skills necessary to

detect high-risk conduct or verify the activities of dangerous individuals.

22. *Financial management support (Re-Request)*

Requested Increase: \$4,882,000

The judiciary requests \$4.9 million to fund contractual labor to support the completion of the judiciary’s financial system upgrade and integration of an invoice processing platform, implementation of a comprehensive debt management solution, and replacement of the current travel system. 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.

23. *Department of Administrative Services Advisory and Research Funding*

Requested Increase: \$1,800,000

The judiciary requests \$1.8 million for advisory and research services. As the Branch’s operational footprint evolves, the demands on the Branch’s administrative infrastructure are increasing. Securing expert advisory support will allow the judiciary to assess, streamline, and modernize its core administrative operations – budget and financial management, procurement, human resources, and facilities and security management. The funding will be used for contractual support

to develop workflow maps and process optimization strategies to strengthen service delivery to the courts.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 REQUEST

24. *Estimated FY 2027 fee collections*

Estimated funds available: \$183,655,000

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 \$183.7 million in revenue from these sources will be available in FY 2027 to finance requirements in the S&E account, an increase of \$8.2 million from the \$175.5 million projected in FY 2026. Table 4.15 lists offsetting receipts from collections by type, and displays the actual amounts collected in FY 2025, assumed collections for FY 2026 and estimated collections for FY 2027 collections. The judiciary will continue to monitor filings and other collections throughout FY 2026 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 2025 Actual Collections	FY 2026 Assumed Collections	FY 2027 Estimated Collections
<i>Fees</i>			
Registry Administration Fees	1,385	1,300	1,300
Bankruptcy Filing and Misc. Fees ¹	111,218	115,400	119,400
Civil Filing and Misc. Fees ²	66,837	59,800	63,595
Central Violations Bureau Fees	3,801	3,600	3,600
Immigration Adjudication and Naturalization Fees	4,443	4,500	5,654
Sequestration Filing Fees ³	(10,366)	174	(228)
Sequestration Registry Fees ³	(79)	5	-
Subtotal, Fees	177,239	184,779	193,321
Fee allocation to the AO ⁴	(8,862)	(9,239)	(9,666)
Total Available to S& E	168,377	175,540	183,655

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 the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985's 251A Sequestration policy, 5.7 percent of filing and registry fees must be temporarily sequestered.

⁴Based on Judicial Conference policy, up to 5.0 percent of total fees collected may be used to support AO requirements.

25. Anticipated unencumbered carryforward from FY 2026

Estimated funds available: \$215,000,000

The judiciary estimates that \$215.0 million will be available through anticipated savings in FY 2026 to carry forward into FY 2027 and offset the FY 2027 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.