

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**

***Salaries and Expenses***

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$106,953,000</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Request</b>	<b>\$113,769,000</b>
<b>Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation</b>	<b>\$6,816,000</b>

**APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses of the Administration Office of the United States Courts as authorized by law, including travel as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1345, hire of a passenger motor vehicle as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b), advertising and rent in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, [\$106,953,000] \$113,769,000, of which not to exceed \$8,500 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

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

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2027**  
(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)

**Fiscal Year 2027 Resource Requirements:**

		<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Obligations</b> .....	<b>1,248.3</b>	<b>308,522</b>
	Obligations from Supplemental Appropriation (P. L. 119-21) .....	-	(1,250)
	Estimated FY 2026 Fee Collections .....	-	(9,239)
	Fee Carryforward from FY 2025 into FY 2026 .....	-	(12,817)
	Carryforward from Judiciary Information Technology Fund .....	-	(3,938)
	Reimbursable Programs .....	(724.3)	(174,325)
	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation</b> .....	<b>524.0</b>	<b>106,953</b>
<b>Page No.</b>	<b><u>Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:</u></b>		
	<b>A. Personnel</b>		
	<i>Pay and Benefit Adjustments</i>		
8.14	1. Annualization of January 2026 Pay Adjustment (1.0% for three months) .....	-	234
8.14	2. Promotions and Within-Grade Increases .....	-	936
	3. Benefits Adjustments		
8.14	a. Health Benefits .....	-	630
8.14	b. FICA Adjustment .....	-	140
8.15	c. FERS .....		(477)
	<b>B. Other Adjustments</b>		
8.15	4. Inflationary Increases in Charges for Contracts, Services, Supplies, and Equipment .....	-	119
8.15	5. Increase in Requirements to Maintain FY 2026 Service Levels Due to Anticipated Decrease in Non-appropriated Funds .....	-	1,074
	<b>Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services</b> .....	<b>-</b>	<b>2,656</b>
	<b>Total Current Services Appropriation Required</b> .....	<b>524.0</b>	<b>109,609</b>
	<b>C. Program Increases</b>		
8.16	6. Restoration .....	24.0	4,160
	<b>Subtotal, Program Increases</b> .....	<b>24.0</b>	<b>4,160</b>
	<b>Total Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Required</b> .....	<b>548.0</b>	<b>113,769</b>
	<b>Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027</b> .....		<b>6,816</b>
	<b><u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2027 Request:</u></b>		
	<b>Total Appropriation Required</b> .....	<b>548.0</b>	<b>113,769</b>
8.16	7. Estimated FY 2027 Fee Collections .....	-	9,666
8.16	8. Estimated Fee Carryforward from FY 2026 into FY 2027 .....	-	11,316
8.16	9. Reimbursable Programs .....	755.3	184,469
8.17	10. Obligations from Supplemental Appropriation (P. L. 119-21) .....	-	1,250
	<b>Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2027</b> .....	<b>1,303.3</b>	<b>320,470</b>

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
**Salaries and Expenses**  
**Obligations by Activity (\$000)**

Activity	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Program Direction and Policy Formulation	119,278	123,158	129,872
Program Services	53,167	42,352	44,976
Administrative Services	63,461	56,593	60,952
Chief Information Officer	-	86,419	84,670
Technology Services	58,246	-	-
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>294,152</b>	<b>308,522</b>	<b>320,470</b>
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(2,872)	(3,938)	-
Deposits and Other Adjustments:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(3,595)	-	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	3,938	-	-
<i>Subtotal, Other Obligations</i>	<i>(2,529)</i>	<i>(3,938)</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>Direct and Reimbursable Obligations</b>	<b>291,623</b>	<b>304,584</b>	<b>320,470</b>
Offsetting Collections			
Federal Funds	(34,858)	(22,056)	(20,982)
Reimbursable Programs	(152,842)	(174,325)	(184,469)
<i>Salaries and Expenses</i>	<i>(110,667)</i>	<i>(124,390)</i>	<i>(133,343)</i>
<i>Electronic Public Access</i>	<i>(22,704)</i>	<i>(28,286)</i>	<i>(29,008)</i>
<i>Defender Services</i>	<i>(12,462)</i>	<i>(13,456)</i>	<i>(13,830)</i>
<i>Court Security</i>	<i>(7,009)</i>	<i>(8,194)</i>	<i>(8,288)</i>
<b>Available Appropriation</b>	<b>\$103,923</b>	<b>\$108,203</b>	<b>\$115,019</b>
Appropriation - Discretionary	102,673	106,953	113,769
Appropriation - Supplemental (P. L. 119-21)	1,250	1,250	1,250

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
**Salaries and Expenses**  
**Obligations by Budget Object Class (\$000)**

Description	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
11.0 Personnel compensation	205,552	219,643	233,511
12.1 Personnel benefits	76,718	73,649	76,692
13.0 Benefits for former personnel	1,071	1,280	25
21.0 Travel	1,316	1,597	1,637
22.0 Transportation of things	87	253	259
23.3 Communications, utilities, & misc	122	739	757
24.0 Printing and reproduction	46	126	130
25.0 Other services	1,630	5,253	5,365
26.0 Supplies and materials	970	1,005	1,034
31.0 Equipment	612	1,039	1,060
91.0 Undefined Disbursements (JITF Deposits)	3,500	-	-
<b>Direct and Reimbursable Obligations</b>	<b>291,623</b>	<b>304,584</b>	<b>320,470</b>
Other Obligations (JITF Obligations)	2,529	3,938	-
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>294,152</b>	<b>308,522</b>	<b>320,470</b>

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
**Salaries and Expenses**  
**Full-time Equivalents by Activity**

Activity	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Program Direction and Policy			
Formulation	234.4	232.0	241.0
Program Services	338.6	208.3	216.3
Administrative Services	383.6	291.0	309.0
Chief Information Officer		517.0	537.0
Technology Services	350.3		
<b>Total, Full-Time Equivalents</b>	<b>1,306.9</b>	<b>1,248.3</b>	<b>1,303.3</b>
Less: Reimbursable Positions	(711.9)	(724.3)	(755.3)
<i>Salaries and Expenses</i>	533.8	520.3	550.3
<i>Electronic Public Access</i>	89.3	109.0	109.0
<i>Defender Services</i>	57.9	62.0	63.0
<i>Court Security</i>	30.9	33.0	33.0
<b>Total, Direct Full-Time Equivalents</b>	<b>595.0</b>	<b>524.0</b>	<b>548.0</b>

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

	<b>FY 2025 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2027 Request</b>
Direct obligations incurred	295,561	308,522	320,470
Obligated balance, unpaid obligations, start of year	(6,907)	2,400	3,500
Obligated balance, unpaid obligations, end of year	(4,855)	3,500	6,000
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>283,799</b>	<b>314,422</b>	<b>329,970</b>
Less Offsets	(179,876)	(196,381)	(208,951)
Net Outlays	103,923	118,041	121,019

## GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

This appropriation is for the necessary expenses of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 601-613. Created by an Act of Congress in 1939, the AO is the central support entity for the judicial branch. It supports and serves the federal judiciary in carrying out its constitutional mission to provide equal justice under the law. The fiscal year (FY) 2027 request for the AO account totals \$113.8 million in direct appropriations to support staff and operating expenses at a current services level and program increases to restore staff due to prior funding shortfalls to support mission critical needs in human resources, financial management and accountability, and court support.

The AO provides administrative, legal, financial, management, program, security, and IT services to the federal courts, court units, and federal defender organizations. It provides support and staff counsel to the Judicial Conference of the United States and its committees, and it implements Judicial Conference policies as well as applicable federal statutes and regulations. The AO has central responsibility for communication and coordination within the judiciary, and with Congress, the executive branch, and the public, on behalf of the judiciary. The AO's lawyers, court administrators, accountants, systems engineers, analysts, architects, statisticians, security experts, and other staff provide professional services to meet the needs of judges and staff working in the federal courts and federal defender organizations nationwide. These services include:

- performing central payroll, personnel, accounting, and procurement functions;
- developing and executing the judiciary's budget and guiding local court and federal defender budget execution;
- collecting and analyzing statistics on court, probation and pretrial services, and federal defender workload;
- auditing judiciary financial operations;
- monitoring and reviewing program performance and use of resources;
- developing and supporting automated systems and technologies used throughout the courts and federal defender offices;
- coordinating construction and management of judiciary facilities with the General Services Administration (GSA);
- monitoring U.S. Marshals Service implementation of the Judicial Facility Security Program;
- defining court and federal defender resource needs through caseload forecasts and work measurement analyses;
- providing program leadership and support for circuit executives, clerks of court, probation services, federal defenders, and other managers; and

- developing and conducting education and training programs focused on improving court administration and operations.

The *Strategic Direction for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (Strategic Direction)*, published in 2022, complements the [\*Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary\*](#), approved by the Judicial Conference in September 2025. Taken together, these two documents define the mission, values, and strategic intent of the federal judiciary and its supporting administrative office, as “One Judiciary.” As described in the *Strategic Direction*, the AO focuses on delivering excellent service to the courts, court units, probation and pretrial services offices, and federal defender organizations effectively and efficiently. At the same time, the *Strategic Direction* aligns with the AO’s priorities imperative to maintain an exemplary workplace; continually strengthen its security posture; maintain effective communication channels and tools; and foster collaboration and partnerships that strengthen understanding, trust, and confidence in the AO and the judiciary.

**Table 8.1 Selected AO Fiscal Year 2026 Projected Workload Indicators**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Number</b>
Active and Senior Judges (Article III, Bankruptcy, Magistrate, and Court of Federal Claims)	2,483
Court Staff (Appellate, District, Bankruptcy, Probation and Pretrial Services) and Public Defender Staff	27,720
Court Units (Appellate, District, Bankruptcy, Probation and Pretrial Services)	356
Federal Defender Organizations (Districts)	92
Court Facilities (GSA- and U. S. Postal Service-Owned Federal Buildings and Leased Facilities)	767
Judicial Conference Committees	25
Court Appropriations and Fees (Salaries and Expenses, Defender Services, Fees of Jurors, Court Security, and Judicial Retirement Funds)	\$9.1 Billion

## **FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS**

The judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2027 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 119-75). The FY 2026 enacted level for the AO of \$107.0 million is an increase of \$4.3 million over the FY 2025 enacted level but \$4.3 million below the judiciary's Conference Appeal level.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027**

### ***Critical Staffing Shortfalls***

The AO offered voluntary separation incentive payments (VSIPs) to all employees at the end of FY 2025 and the start of FY 2026 due to several years of flat AO appropriations and the uncertainty in the FY 2026 appropriation outlook. The VSIPs yielded a reduction of 92 staff by January 2026 – most in mission areas that are integral to overall functioning of the AO and the courts. Based on the enacted appropriation level for FY 2026, the AO will be able to backfill approximately 15 to 20 critical vacancies attributed to the previous downsizing. However, the AO will need additional funding in FY 2027 to backfill 48 more of the critical positions that were reduced to absorb budget shortfalls. These critical position needs are in the areas of human resources, financial management and accountability, and court support which are essential to the effective operations of the Judiciary as a whole.

### ***Investing in Efforts to Foster an Exemplary Workplace Across the Judiciary***

The judiciary has continued its efforts to foster an exemplary workplace for its employees, coordinating at the local, circuit, and national levels to deliver a range of tailored training programs and provide multiple points of contact, both within and outside individual courts and employing offices, for employees to confidentially seek guidance and advice about options to address workplace conduct concerns.

The AO's national Office of Judicial Integrity (OJI) and Directors of Workplace Relations (DWRs) in each circuit provide employees with access to confidential advice outside of the traditional court chain of command. Together, the national OJI, circuit DWRs, and Employee Dispute Resolution (EDR) coordinators at the local level (designated in each court/office) form a national network of trained professionals who support the judiciary's workplace conduct initiatives and EDR processes. This includes providing confidential advice and guidance to employees, managers, and judges, as well as other services. For example, DWRs assist EDR coordinators to support

and facilitate EDR processes. The OJI and DWRs also coordinate on the development and delivery of workplace conduct training programs and other initiatives, including recommending best practices for handling workplace conduct concerns when they arise, and providing training on conducting workplace conduct investigations.

Because the judiciary places such a high priority on ensuring an exemplary workplace for its employees, expansion and investment in this area have occurred even in the absence of increased funding. The OJI previously requested additional staff to support the work of the office and to carry out initiatives centered around workplace conduct investigations, including providing courts and offices with independent investigative assistance, specialized investigative training, and consultative support. Despite that funding increase not being included in the AO's enacted appropriation, the AO reprioritized activities to ensure the OJI could hire the new staff it requires. The decision to prioritize OJI funding in multiple flat budget years further demonstrates the judiciary's commitment to fostering an exemplary workplace.

Similar prioritization has occurred at the circuit level, with several Offices of Workplace Relations adding staff in recent years to support the work of DWRs, such as Deputy Director of Workplace Relations and Workplace Specialist positions. Though staffing needs differ based on each circuit's size, structure, and population, these investments further illustrate the judiciary's continued commitment to supporting employees and addressing workplace conduct issues promptly and effectively.

The judiciary has also continued its work in establishing clear and trusted lines of communication with law schools to ensure they are aware of the judiciary's workplace protections and processes for addressing concerns available to law students and graduates interning, clerking, or working in the judiciary. The OJI and DWRs continue to provide tailored programming for law school administrators and for new and incoming law clerks.

In March 2025, the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group (Working Group) published its report on the results of the judiciary's first national workplace survey. The branch-wide survey—conducted by the Federal Judicial Center, the judiciary's independent education and research arm—was sent to nearly 28,000 employees in 2023 and benefited from a statistically impressive response rate of 50 percent.

As the Working Group emphasized in its report, the results of the survey showed that the overwhelming majority of judiciary employees are satisfied with their workplace, with 84 percent responding that they are satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs and 80 percent

affirming that they would recommend their court or employing office to others. The survey also revealed that wrongful conduct is not pervasive in judiciary workplaces, with nearly 92 percent of employees reporting that they had not experienced wrongful conduct of any kind. Retaliation for reporting misconduct is also not widespread, with two percent of all respondents indicating they experienced some form of retaliation.

The results of the judiciary's first national workplace survey provided a wealth of data that the judiciary is using to gain a deeper understanding of employees' experiences and to guide continued efforts to foster an exemplary workplace for all employees. In addition to the valuable insights gained through the national workplace survey, the Judiciary also benefited from the reports and recommendations of two independent studies that were completed in July 2024 – one conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the other by a joint research team from the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). Both reports found that significant aspects of the system were working well and validated the Judiciary's overall approach and also provided recommendations for further improvements. All of these recommendations are actively being considered by the various program offices, both nationally and throughout the circuits, and by the relevant Committees of the Judicial Conference.

### ***Chief Information Officer (CIO) Structural Realignment***

In 2022 the judiciary established a Chief Information Officer (CIO). Appointment of a CIO was a significant step towards improving IT management and establishing enterprise oversight over the IT portfolio. Since that time, the AO evaluated and studied the existing IT management and organizational structure as well as other CIO models. Ultimately, the AO determined that a realignment of the judiciary's IT structure and workforce was necessary. The existing structure presented challenges, suggesting that an improved CIO organizational structure would provide a better foundation for the judiciary's success. To support this effort, the judiciary developed and began implementation of a new IT organizational structure that ensures judiciary IT development and security functions report to the CIO. The objectives are better strategic planning, more efficient resource allocation, and improved coordination of technology initiatives that support the judiciary's mission-critical objectives. The new structure aligns with business needs, separates service and product strategy from operations, and improves IT support services. This structure consolidates similar services and enables the judiciary to be more responsive to changes in business demand or market conditions. Execution is underway, and the structural realignment is projected to be completed in FY 2026.

## 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 Federal Courthouse Construction

**Report:** On November 15, 2024, GAO issued [\*Federal Courthouse Construction: New Design Standards Will Result in Significant Size and Cost Increases \(GAO-25-106724\)\*](#).

**Issues Examined:** The report examines, among other things, (1) the judiciary’s rationale for making changes in the 2021 *U. S Courts Design Guide (Design Guide)*, and the extent to which these changes could affect the size and cost of selected courthouse projects; and (2) the extent to which the judiciary collaborated with partner agencies in making changes in the 2021 *Design Guide*.

**Recommendations:** GAO made three recommendations for the AO to (1) clearly define, or provide specific examples of, variations from the *Design Guide* that constitute exceptions subject to additional oversight, (2) develop and document a process to better ensure effective collaboration when updating the *Design Guide*, and (3) in collaboration with GSA, reassess the need for increased circulation requirements in the 2021 *Design Guide* using relevant information.

**Administrative Office Action:** The AO has addressed the first recommendation by developing a report identifying all items from the previous *Design Guide* exceptions appendix. Regarding the other two recommendations, the AO is conducting a review of collaboration and communication processes to identify areas for improvement and is collaborating with GSA regarding a methodology to reassess circulation requirements.

### GAO Study on Judiciary Workplace Conduct

**Report:** On July 25, 2024, GAO issued [\*Federal Judiciary: Additional Actions Would Strengthen Efforts to Prevent and Address Workplace Misconduct \(GAO-24-105638\)\*](#).

**Issues Examined:** The federal judiciary’s policies and practices to prevent and address workplace misconduct; how those practices align with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) recommended practices; the judiciary’s workplace conduct data and data collection; and the judiciary’s oversight and evaluation of workplace conduct policies.

**Recommendations:** GAO made eight recommendations, including that the judiciary more fully align with selected EEOC recommended practices; develop a plan to collect and analyze additional data; and set performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the judiciary’s workplace conduct policies and practices.

**AO ACTION:** In April 2025, the AO provided GAO with updated judicial circuit-level training materials, resulting in GAO closing one recommendation as implemented. In July 2025, the AO provided GAO with an update on steps the Judiciary has taken to address the other recommendations. Open recommendations are under review by representative Judiciary advisory bodies and Judicial Conference Committees, including consideration of potential updates to workplace conduct policies and practices, data collection methods, and additional approaches for measuring the effectiveness of those policies and practices.

## JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The judiciary requests \$113.8 million for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in FY 2027, an increase of \$6.8 million, or 6.4 percent, over the enacted FY 2026 level of \$107.0 million. The FY 2027 request supports necessary adjustments to base to maintain current services as well as a program increase of \$4.2 million to restore base requirements after two years of flat funding.

### ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

#### A. PERSONNEL

##### *Pay and Benefit Adjustments*

##### 1. Annualization of 2026 pay adjustment

**Requested Increase: \$234,000**

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.

##### 2. Promotions and within-grade increases

**Requested Increase: \$936,000**

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.

##### 3. Benefits adjustments

###### a. Health benefits

**Requested Increase: \$630,000**

Based on information from OPM, 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.

###### b. FICA adjustment

**Requested Increase: \$140,000**

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.

**c. FERS adjustment**

**Requested Decrease: (\$477,000)**

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), there is a projected decrease in the agency contribution rate to Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution 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.

**B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS**

***General Inflationary Adjustments***

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

**Requested Increase: \$119,000**

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.

**5. Increase to maintain FY 2026 service levels due to anticipated decrease in non-appropriated funds**

**Requested Increase: \$1,074,000**

In addition to appropriations from Congress, the judiciary relies on other funding sources to finance its requirements. These non-appropriated funds include current year fee collections and carryforward of fee balances from the prior year. The use of these funds allows the AO appropriations request to be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The FY 2027 request of \$113.8 million assumes \$21.0 million in available non-appropriated funds. The FY 2026 planned obligations include \$22.1 million in new fee collections and FY 2025 carryforward. Therefore, the FY 2027 request includes \$1.1 million in appropriated funding, to account for the decrease in these non-appropriated funds to maintain FY 2026 current services. The judiciary's estimates for non-appropriated funds typically fluctuate during the fiscal year. AO staff will update

appropriations subcommittee staff on changes in non-appropriated funds levels.

### **C. PROGRAM INCREASES**

#### **6. Restoration – Salaries (48 Positions)**

**Requested Increase: \$4,160,000    FTE: 24**

The AO is requesting restoration of reductions to its base requirements due to appropriations remaining at the same level from FY 2023 through FY 2025. This restoration would allow the AO to restore some of the critical staff lost due to the accumulation of prior-year funding shortfalls. The areas with critical needs include human resources, financial management and accountability, IT, and court support.

### **FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 REQUEST**

#### **7. Estimated FY 2027 Fee Collections**

**Estimated Funds Available: \$9,666,000**

The judiciary has authority to collect fees for various services such as bankruptcy filing, civil filing, bankruptcy noticing, and registry administration. These fees are used to reimburse judiciary appropriations and are available without fiscal year limitation. The judiciary estimates that \$9.7 million of new

fee collections will be available to offset the AO's FY 2027 appropriation request. The judiciary will continue to monitor filings and other collections throughout FY 2026 and will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of any changes to these estimates.

#### **8. Estimated fee carryforward from FY 2026 into FY 2027**

**Estimated funds available: \$11,316,000**

In addition to receiving a portion of new fee collections, the AO account receives a portion of the fee balances carried over from prior years. This request reflects funds from existing carryforward balances in the judiciary fee accounts that the judiciary estimates will be available to offset the AO's FY 2027 budget request. The judiciary will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of any changes to this estimate.

#### **9. Reimbursable Programs**

**Funds Available: \$184,469,000    FTE: 755**

Beginning in 1990, Congress authorized reimbursable funds for the AO to carry out specific support functions for the courts. These functions now include background checks/investigations, case management improvement,

Central Violations Bureau, court automation, court financial administration, court financial systems, court investment services, court security, defender services audit and assessment, defender services training, Electronic Public Access services, the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Training Academy, financial disclosure, judiciary benefits, and work measurement.

The FY 2027 request for the AO reimbursable programs includes funding for FTE from the Salaries and Expenses (550 FTE), Defender Services (63 FTE), and Court Security (33 FTE) appropriations under the Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services heading, as well as 109 FTE reimbursed from Electronic Public Access fees.

These positions are necessary to maintain a sufficient staffing level to fulfill core court and defender support responsibilities, oversee the court security program, and continue to develop, implement, and support automated systems and technologies in the courts. These systems include network and telephone systems; case management/electronic case files systems that support appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts and probation and pretrial services offices; and financial management systems that ensure sound financial practices and internal controls.

The FY 2027 request for the AO's reimbursable program totals \$184.5 million, a net increase of \$10.2 million from the FY 2026 level of \$174.3 million. The request assumes 30 additional previously authorized FTE from the Salaries and Expenses account will be filled during FY 2027.

Within the Defender Services account, the FY 2027 request includes \$250,000 for annualization of two positions for IT security (1.0 FTE). These positions address concerns and recommendations made in the Judiciary IT Security Task Force Report, the *Judiciary IT Modernization and Cybersecurity Strategy*, the Judiciary Information Security Framework, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology requirements adopted by the judiciary as information systems best practices. This increase is further explained in the Defender Services chapter on page 5.17 – 5.18.

## **10. Public Law 119-21: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act**

### **Supplemental Appropriation: \$1,250,000**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides the AO with \$1.3 million in FY 2027 for continuing analyses and reporting under 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(2), including an assessment of the number, frequency, and related metrics of judicial orders

issuing non-party relief against the Federal Government and their aggregate cost impact on the taxpayers of the United States, as determined by each court when imposing securities for the issuance of preliminary injunctions or temporary restraining orders against the Federal Government.