

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Salaries and Expenses
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

	Mandatory	Discretionary	Total
Total Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed Appropriation	\$2,383,000	\$21,682,000	\$24,065,000
Total Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation Request	\$2,516,000	\$22,784,000	\$25,300,000
Total Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed Appropriation	\$133,000	\$1,102,000	\$1,235,000

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries of officers and employees of the court, services, and necessary expenses of the court, as authorized by law, [~~\$21,682,000~~]~~\$22,784,000~~.

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of the chief judge and judges of the court.

(H.R. 4664/S. 2309 - Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024, updated to reflect the judiciary's fiscal year 2024 assumed appropriation)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2025
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

Fiscal Year 2025 Resource Requirements:

	Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed Obligations	9	2,383	68	23,377	77	25,760
Utilization of Judiciary Information Technology Fund Balances.....	-	-	-	(1,695)	-	(1,695)
Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed Appropriations	9	2,383	68	21,682	77	24,065

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No. **Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:**

A. Judges

Pay and benefit adjustments

3.10	1. Proposed 2025 pay adjustment (1.5% for nine months).....	-	53	-	-	-	53
3.10	2. Annualization of 2024 pay adjustment (4.6% for three months).....	-	56	-	-	-	56
3.10	3. Benefits increases	-		-		-	
	a. Health benefits increase.....	-	19	-	-	-	19
	b. FICA adjustment.....	-	5	-	-	-	5

B. Court Support Personnel and Programs

Pay and benefit adjustments

3.11	4. Proposed 2025 pay adjustment (2.0% for nine months).....	-	-	-	121	-	121
3.11	5. Annualization of 2024 pay adjustment (5.2% for three months).....	-	-	-	105	-	105
3.11	6. Promotions and within-grade increases.....	-	-	-	60	-	60
3.11	7. Benefits increases	-		-		-	
	a. Health benefits.....	-	-	-	152	-	152
	b. FICA adjustment.....	-	-	-	4	-	4

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2025
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

C. Other Adjustments		Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
		FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
General Inflationary Adjustments							
3.12	8. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment.....	-	0	-	62	-	62
3.12	9. GSA rent increase.....	-	0	-	159	-	159
3.12	10. Increase in FPS basic/building specific security surcharges.....	-	0	-	9	-	9
D. Program Increase							
3.12	11. Courthouse Security.....		0		430		430
 Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services		-	133	-	1,102	-	1,235
 Total Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation Required		9	2,516	68	22,784	77	25,300
 <u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2025 Request:</u>							
Total Appropriation Required, Fiscal Year 2025.....		9	2,516	68	22,784	77	25,300
3.13	Utilization of Electronic Public Access Receipts and the Judiciary Information Technology Fund Balances.....	-	-	-	130	-	130
Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2025.....		9	2,516	68	22,914	77	25,430

**UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	Fiscal Year 2023 Actual	Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed	Fiscal Year 2025 Request
Salaries and Expenses, Total Obligations	23,667	25,760	25,430
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(1,371)	(1,765)	(100)
Deposits and Other Adjustments:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(1,036)		
Prior Year Recoveries	(5)	(30)	(30)
Unobligated Balance, End of Year			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	1,765	100	
<i>Subtotal, Other Obligations</i>	<i>(647)</i>	<i>(1,695)</i>	<i>(130)</i>
Direct Obligations	23,020	24,065	25,300
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	30	-	-
Offsetting Collections	-	-	-
Appropriation Required (Direct)	23,050	24,065	25,300
Appropriation Required - Mandatory	1,790	2,383	2,516
Appropriation Required - Discretionary	21,260	21,682	22,784

Object Classification (\$000)

Description	Fiscal Year 2023 Actual	Fiscal Year 2024 Assumed	Fiscal Year 2025 Request
11 Personnel compensation	8,267	10,218	10,613
12 Personnel benefits	2,474	3,026	3,206
21 Travel	150	167	171
22 Transportation of things	17	17	18
23 Rent, communications and utilities			
<i>Rental payments to GSA</i>	7,698	7,950	8,109
<i>Communications, utilities & misc. charges</i>	23	24	25
24 Printing and reproduction	0	1	1
25 Other services	3,094	2,385	2,441
26 Supplies and materials	37	37	37
31 Equipment	224	240	679
91 Undefined Disbursements*	1,036	0	0
Direct Obligations	23,020	24,065	25,300
Other Obligations (JITF Obligations)	647	1,695	130
Total Obligations	23,667	25,760	25,430

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Salaries & Expenses
Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Assumed	FY 2025 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Direct obligations incurred	23,020	24,065	25,300	1,235
Obligated balance, start of year	1,584	1,954	2,043	89
Adjustments of prior year activity	(1,550)	(1,620)	(1,704)	(83)
Obligated balance, end of year	(1,954)	(2,043)	(2,148)	(105)
Total Outlays	21,100	22,356	23,492	1,136
Less Offsets	(34)	(34)	(34)	-
Net Outlays	21,066	22,322	23,458	1,136

Personnel Summary

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2023 Assumed	FY 2024 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Total compensable workyears:				
Full-time equivalent employment	63	77	77	0

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Summary of Mandatory Costs

	<u>Fiscal Year 2024</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2025</u>		
	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits (\$000)</u>	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits (\$000)</u>	<u>Increase (\$000)</u>
Article III Judges	9	2,383	9	2,516	133

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The United States Court of International Trade, with nine authorized Article III judgeships, has exclusive nationwide jurisdiction of civil actions against the United States, its agencies and officers, and certain civil actions brought by the United States, arising out of import transactions and the administration and enforcement of the federal customs and international trade laws. In keeping with its national jurisdiction, sessions of the Court may be held throughout the country.

The funds requested in this account are for the salaries of the judges and supporting personnel of the Court of International Trade, located in Manhattan, New York, and the necessary operating expenses of the Court. These operating expenses include internal courthouse security, Federal Protective Service (FPS) surcharges for basic and building-specific security services, GSA rent charges, travel, equipment maintenance contracts, cyclical maintenance of the facility, printing and binding, general office supplies, purchase or repair of office equipment and furniture, access to legal research databases, and acquisition and maintenance of legal reference materials.

The fiscal year (FY) 2025 request for the Court of International Trade totals \$25,300,000 to support the operations of the Court at current service levels and to make improvements in the physical security of the court's facilities. The request includes \$2,516,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,784,000 for discretionary appropriations.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 APPROPRIATION

The judiciary built the FY 2025 discretionary budget request for the U.S. Court of International Trade on the assumed FY 2024 discretionary appropriation, which is \$21,682,000, which is the midpoint between the FY 2024 House and Senate marks. For bill language, the judiciary used the language from H.R. 4664 and S. 2309 - Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bills, 2024, as the closest approximation of the eventual enacted FY 2024 appropriation language, updated with the assumed level as described above.

The table below provides caseload data of the Court for FY 2019 through FY 2023.

Civil Action Cases

Fiscal Year	Pending Beginning of Year	Filed	Terminated	Pending End of Year
2019	1,491	223	631	1,083
2020	1,083	3,670 ^{1/}	482	4,271
2021	4,271	781	362	4,690
2022	4,690	373	418	4,645
2023	4,645	273	290	4,628

^{1/}During FY 2020, the Court experienced an unprecedented increase in case filings. From FY 2019 to FY 2020, new case filings increased from 223 to 3,670 – an increase of over 1,500 percent. This massive increase is primarily due to novel challenges to recent applications of the federal trade laws.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The FY 2025 budget request for the Court includes \$2,516,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,784,000 for discretionary appropriations. The discretionary request is a 5.1 percent increase over the FY 2024 assumed appropriation of \$21,682,000. The total increase reflects the necessary adjustments to base to maintain current services and the Court requests one program increase in FY 2025.

ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

The following narrative provides information and justification for each of the adjustments to base for the Court.

A. JUDGES

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

1. Proposed 2025 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$53,000

The judiciary is assuming federal pay rates will increase by 1.5 percent for judges in January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost of nine months of the anticipated pay raise in FY 2025, from January 2025 to September 2025. (If the pay adjustment included in the President's FY 2025 budget request

is different from this 1.5 percent guidance, the judiciary will revise this line item in its FY 2025 budget re-estimate.)

2. Annualization of 2024 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$56,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2024 pay adjustment of 4.6 percent for judges associated with the Employment Cost Index (ECI), effective as of January 2024. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October 2024 to December 2024) of the 2024 pay increase in FY 2025.

3. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Mandatory Increase: \$19,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, agency health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2024 and January 2025. The requested increase annualizes the 2024 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2025.

b. FICA adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$5,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the FICA tax will increase in 2024. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$160,200 to \$168,600 in January 2024. The requested amount is needed to pay the Court’s contribution in FY 2025.

B. PERSONNEL

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

4. Proposed 2025 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$121,000

The judiciary is assuming federal pay rates will increase by 2.0 percent in January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost of nine months of the anticipated pay raise in FY 2025, from January 2025 to September 2025. (If the pay adjustment included in the President’s FY 2025 budget request is different from this 2.0 percent, the judiciary will revise this line item in its FY 2025 budget re-estimate.)

5 Annualization of 2024 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$105,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of a 2024 pay adjustment for Employment Cost Index (ECI) and locality pay. As a result of an ECI and locality adjustment, federal pay rates increased by an average of 5.2 percent, effective as of January 2024. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October 2024 to December 2024) of the 2024 pay increase in FY 2025.

6. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$60,000

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 at least a satisfactory performance rating.

7. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$152,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are

projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2024 and January 2025. The requested increase annualizes the 2024 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2025.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$4,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the FICA tax will increase in 2024. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$160,200 to \$168,600 in January 2024. The requested amount is needed to pay the Court's contribution in FY 2025.

C. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

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

Requested Increase: \$62,000

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, this requested increase is required to fund inflationary adjustments of 2.2 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies

and materials, and furniture and equipment.

9. GSA rent increase

Requested Increase: \$159,000

This request represents a 2.0 percent inflationary increase and adjustments in the cost of GSA space rental charges for FY 2025.

10. Increase in Federal Protective Service (FPS) basic/building specific security surcharges

Requested Increase: \$9,000

Based on the Department of Homeland Security's FPS's estimate, this requested increase is required in basic and building specific security surcharge costs expected in FY 2025. The building specific security surcharges provide for the Court's pro rata share of installing, operating, and maintaining the enhanced security for the Federal Complex in lower Manhattan.

D. PROGRAM INCREASE

11. Courthouse Security

Requested Increase: \$430,000

This request will fund the replacement, installation, and implementation of various courthouse security systems. The requested funds will improve and integrate the Physical Access Control System (PACS); replace security cameras; add duress alarm and intrusion detection systems within the building; and add entry control devices for sensitive areas.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 REQUEST

Utilization of Electronic Public Access Receipts and the Judiciary Information Technology Fund

Estimated Obligations: \$130,000

At the beginning of FY 2024, \$1,795,000 was available in carryforward balances from the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, including \$30,000 from Electronic Public Access receipts. Of this amount, the Court is planning to use \$1,695,000 during FY 2024 to:

- install audio/video technology for use in courtrooms and conference rooms;
- license and maintain the court's IT hardware and software applications;
- maintain and support digital recording systems, data network and voice connections, Virtual Private Network System (VPN), Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), and Judiciary Data Communications Network (DCN); and

- procure computer desktop systems, laptops, conference phones, and mobile devices, according to the judiciary's cyclical replacement program.

At the beginning of FY 2025, the Court anticipates that \$130,000 will be available in carryforward balances into the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, including \$30,000 of EPA receipts. These funds will be used to continue the Court's information technology initiatives as described above and to support its short-term and long-term IT needs.