

**Report of the Director of the Administrative Office
of the United States Courts
on Applications for Delayed-Notice Search Warrants and Extensions**

The USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) to transmit to Congress annually a full and complete report summarizing information reported by judges to the AO on delayed-notice search warrants. The report is to include the number of applications for warrants and extensions of warrants authorizing delayed notice and the number of such warrants and extensions granted or denied during the preceding fiscal year. The requirement to report this information to Congress began with the fiscal year ended September 30, 2007.

This report covers applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions between October 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015.

Reporting Requirements of the Statute

Any federal or state judge who issues or denies a federal warrant authorizing delayed notice, or an extension of such a warrant, is required to file a report on the warrant with the AO (18 U.S.C. § 3103a(d)(1)). This report is to be furnished not later than 30 days after the expiration of the warrant's notice period (including any extensions to the notice period) or 30 days after the denial of the warrant or the request for extension. The report must include the offense specified in the warrant or application, the period of delay authorized, the number and duration of any extensions, and the action taken on the application.

The AO is required to report annually to Congress on the information submitted by judges for the preceding fiscal year. This report must include the number of applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions and the number of warrants and extensions granted or denied (18 U.S.C. § 3103a(d)(2)).

Summary and Analysis of Reports for Fiscal Year 2015

Summary data on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions for fiscal year 2015 are shown in Table 1. A total of 9,256 warrant requests and 5,545 requests for extensions were reported for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. Twenty-eight of the applications reported were denied, 54 of the applications were granted as modified, and the rest were granted as requested.

Judges in 91 federal judicial districts reported actions on applications for delayed-notice search warrants or extensions. The highest numbers of applications were reported by judges in the Northern District of Illinois (753), the Western District of Texas (619), the Northern District of Ohio (615), the Southern District of Texas (589), the Eastern District of Michigan (585), and the Southern District of New York (573); applications in these six districts accounted for a quarter of all applications reported. Of the 14,801 applications reported by all districts, 13,769 (93 percent)

were reported by federal magistrate judges, and 1,022 were reported by federal district judges. Ten applications were reported by state judges.

The periods of delay specified ranged from 1 day to 999 days. The most frequently reported period of delay was 30 days, specified in 6,678 (45 percent) of the applications that were granted. (See Graph 1.) Requests for extensions to a delay numbered from 1 to 18, with first extensions being the most frequently requested in 2015. (See Graph 2.)

Offenses

Table 2 presents the types of offenses specified in delayed-notice search warrant and extension requests reported in 2015. Drug offenses were specified in 81 percent of applications reported, followed by fraud (5 percent), extortion/racketeering (3 percent), and sex offenses (2 percent).

Table 1. Delayed-notice warrant and extension requests - fiscal year 2015

	Total requests	Average delay (in days)	Warrant requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied	Extension requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied
ALL CIRCUITS	14,801	69	9,256	9,191	43	22	5,545	5,528	11	6
DC CIRCUIT	92	62	80	78	1	1	12	12	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	92	62	80	78	1	1	12	12	0	0
FIRST CIRCUIT	856	50	555	530	24	1	301	301	0	0
MAINE	44	52	25	24	0	1	19	19	0	0
MASSACHUSETTS	343	49	234	234	0	0	109	109	0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	65	69	21	21	0	0	44	44	0	0
RHODE ISLAND	213	60	93	93	0	0	120	120	0	0
PUERTO RICO	191	34	182	158	24	0	9	9	0	0
SECOND CIRCUIT	925	86	836	830	5	1	89	88	1	0
CONNECTICUT	5	102	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
NEW YORK (NORTHERN)	18	48	15	14	1	0	3	3	0	0
NEW YORK (EASTERN)	160	34	142	142	0	0	18	18	0	0
NEW YORK (SOUTHERN)	573	111	558	554	3	1	15	14	1	0
NEW YORK (WESTERN)	97	63	65	65	0	0	32	32	0	0
VERMONT	72	41	52	51	1	0	20	20	0	0
THIRD CIRCUIT	414	46	308	308	0	0	106	106	0	0
DELAWARE	24	38	21	21	0	0	3	3	0	0
NEW JERSEY	101	69	31	31	0	0	70	70	0	0
PENNSYLVANIA (EASTERN)	3	90	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
PENNSYLVANIA (MIDDLE)	146	31	141	141	0	0	5	5	0	0
PENNSYLVANIA (WESTERN)	137	47	112	112	0	0	25	25	0	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS	3	35	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOURTH CIRCUIT	1,028	44	791	788	2	1	237	237	0	0
MARYLAND	507	35	422	422	0	0	85	85	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA (EASTERN)	29	44	18	17	1	0	11	11	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA (MIDDLE)	28	30	27	27	0	0	1	1	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA (WESTERN)	230	43	159	158	1	0	71	71	0	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	124	69	75	75	0	0	49	49	0	0
VIRGINIA (EASTERN)	31	47	23	23	0	0	8	8	0	0

	Total requests	Average delay (in days)	Warrant requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied	Extension requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied
VIRGINIA (WESTERN)	66	66	58	57	0	1	8	8	0	0
WEST VIRGINIA (NORTHERN)	2	30	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST VIRGINIA (SOUTHERN)	11	46	7	7	0	0	4	4	0	0
FIFTH CIRCUIT	1,924	60	1,350	1,341	5	4	574	574	0	0
LOUISIANA (EASTERN)	108	31	106	106	0	0	2	2	0	0
LOUISIANA (MIDDLE)	3	82	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOUISIANA (WESTERN)	111	53	67	67	0	0	44	44	0	0
MISSISSIPPI (NORTHERN)	21	89	7	7	0	0	14	14	0	0
MISSISSIPPI (SOUTHERN)	74	12	73	73	0	0	1	1	0	0
TEXAS (NORTHERN)	379	62	261	258	0	3	118	118	0	0
TEXAS (EASTERN)	19	75	15	14	1	0	4	4	0	0
TEXAS (SOUTHERN)	589	71	427	422	4	1	162	162	0	0
TEXAS (WESTERN)	619	57	390	390	0	0	229	229	0	0
SIXTH CIRCUIT	1,867	61	957	952	2	3	910	902	8	0
KENTUCKY (EASTERN)	93	34	54	53	0	1	39	34	5	0
KENTUCKY (WESTERN)	155	66	63	63	0	0	92	92	0	0
MICHIGAN (EASTERN)	585	70	296	293	1	2	289	286	3	0
MICHIGAN (WESTERN)	46	51	37	36	1	0	9	9	0	0
OHIO (NORTHERN)	615	65	247	247	0	0	368	368	0	0
OHIO (SOUTHERN)	202	43	145	145	0	0	57	57	0	0
TENNESSEE (EASTERN)	55	60	35	35	0	0	20	20	0	0
TENNESSEE (MIDDLE)	85	48	57	57	0	0	28	28	0	0
TENNESSEE (WESTERN)	31	34	23	23	0	0	8	8	0	0
SEVENTH CIRCUIT	1,188	77	696	694	2	0	492	491	1	0
ILLINOIS (NORTHERN)	753	83	359	359	0	0	394	394	0	0
ILLINOIS (CENTRAL)	73	59	51	49	2	0	22	21	1	0
ILLINOIS (SOUTHERN)	55	70	22	22	0	0	33	33	0	0
INDIANA (NORTHERN)	65	69	58	58	0	0	7	7	0	0
INDIANA (SOUTHERN)	130	51	121	121	0	0	9	9	0	0
WISCONSIN (EASTERN)	109	83	84	84	0	0	25	25	0	0
WISCONSIN (WESTERN)	3	90	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0

	Total requests	Average delay (in days)	Warrant requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied	Extension requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied
EIGHTH CIRCUIT	876	73	528	527	0	1	348	347	0	1
ARKANSAS (EASTERN)	57	60	45	45	0	0	12	12	0	0
ARKANSAS (WESTERN)	36	34	32	32	0	0	4	4	0	0
IOWA (NORTHERN)	18	99	6	6	0	0	12	12	0	0
IOWA (SOUTHERN)	113	50	77	77	0	0	36	36	0	0
MINNESOTA	135	57	72	72	0	0	63	63	0	0
MISSOURI (EASTERN)	134	88	41	41	0	0	93	92	0	1
MISSOURI (WESTERN)	207	55	108	108	0	0	99	99	0	0
NEBRASKA	112	43	84	84	0	0	28	28	0	0
NORTH DAKOTA	58	281	57	57	0	0	1	1	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA	6	30	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
NINTH CIRCUIT	3,237	83	1,928	1,920	2	6	1,309	1,305	1	3
ALASKA	52	47	38	38	0	0	14	14	0	0
ARIZONA	466	68	200	200	0	0	266	266	0	0
CALIFORNIA (NORTHERN)	201	58	141	141	0	0	60	60	0	0
CALIFORNIA (EASTERN)	339	45	260	260	0	0	79	79	0	0
CALIFORNIA (CENTRAL)	443	69	268	261	2	5	175	174	0	1
CALIFORNIA (SOUTHERN)	450	83	237	236	0	1	213	211	0	2
HAWAII	102	90	76	76	0	0	26	26	0	0
IDAHO	30	39	26	26	0	0	4	4	0	0
MONTANA	59	47	41	41	0	0	18	18	0	0
NEVADA	51	76	36	36	0	0	15	14	1	0
OREGON	425	184	266	266	0	0	159	159	0	0
WASHINGTON (EASTERN)	209	85	100	100	0	0	109	109	0	0
WASHINGTON (WESTERN)	267	85	149	149	0	0	118	118	0	0
GUAM	135	58	82	82	0	0	53	53	0	0
NORTHERN MARIANAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TENTH CIRCUIT	1,124	64	577	577	0	0	547	547	0	0
COLORADO	347	55	172	172	0	0	175	175	0	0
KANSAS	528	76	204	204	0	0	324	324	0	0
NEW MEXICO	155	47	126	126	0	0	29	29	0	0
OKLAHOMA (NORTHERN)	32	52	27	27	0	0	5	5	0	0
OKLAHOMA (EASTERN)	4	64	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
OKLAHOMA (WESTERN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UTAH	38	35	36	36	0	0	2	2	0	0
WYOMING	20	66	9	9	0	0	11	11	0	0

	Total requests	Average delay (in days)	Warrant requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied	Extension requests	Granted	Granted as modified	Denied
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT	1,269	78	649	645	0	4	620	618	0	2
ALABAMA (NORTHERN)	9	47	8	8	0	0	1	1	0	0
ALABAMA (MIDDLE)	30	44	28	28	0	0	2	2	0	0
ALABAMA (SOUTHERN)	9	57	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
FLORIDA (NORTHERN)	80	76	56	55	0	1	24	24	0	0
FLORIDA (MIDDLE)	164	79	98	98	0	0	66	66	0	0
FLORIDA (SOUTHERN)	506	63	270	267	0	3	236	234	0	2
GEORGIA (NORTHERN)	447	101	164	164	0	0	283	283	0	0
GEORGIA (MIDDLE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GEORGIA (SOUTHERN)	24	30	16	16	0	0	8	8	0	0
STATE	10	30	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE	10	30	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0

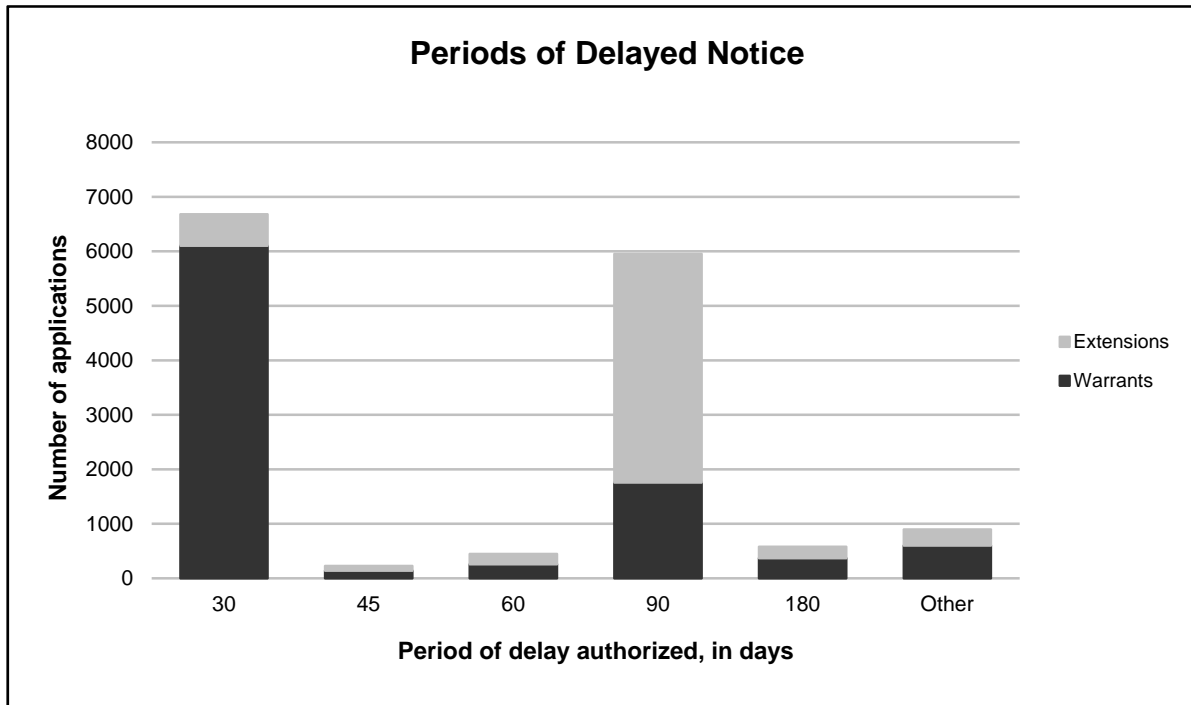
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Table 2. Offenses specified for delayed-notice warrant and extension requests - fiscal year 2015

Offense	Reports		Warrants		Extensions	
	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*	Number	Percent*
Total	14,801	100%	9,256	100%	5,545	100%
Drugs	12,056	81%	7,173	77%	4,883	88%
Fraud	686	5%	527	6%	159	3%
Extortion / Racketeering	428	3%	225	2%	203	4%
Sex Offenses	291	2%	249	3%	42	-
Weapons	205	-	168	2%	37	-
Fugitive / Escape	180	-	177	2%	3	-
Other	168	-	109	-	59	-
Immigration	160	-	115	-	45	-
Theft	129	-	104	-	25	-
Robbery	86	-	69	-	17	-
Terrorism	83	-	76	-	7	-
Kidnapping	67	-	43	-	24	-
Smuggling	64	-	42	-	22	-
Obstruction	49	-	43	-	6	-
Murder	48	-	48	-	0	-
Unspecified	41	-	34	-	7	-
Counterfeit	34	-	29	-	5	-
Tax	26	-	25	-	1	-

* Percentages not shown where the percentage is less than 2%.

Graph 1. Periods of delayed notice - fiscal year 2015



Graph 2. Numbers of extensions requested - fiscal year 2015

