

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**  
*Salaries and Expenses*  
**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Fiscal Year 2019 Assumed Appropriation</b>	<b>\$92,693,000</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriation Request</b>	<b>\$96,945,000</b>
<b>Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2019 Estimated Appropriation</b>	<b>\$4,252,000</b>

**APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses of the Administrative 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, [\$92,693,000]\$96,945,000, of which not to exceed \$8,500 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

(H.R. 6147 - Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2019, updated to reflect the judiciary's fiscal year 2019 assumed appropriation)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2020  
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

**Fiscal Year 2020 Resource Requirements:**

<u>Page</u>		<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<b>Fiscal Year 2019 Obligations. . . . .</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>\$222,097</b>
	Estimated FY 2019 fee collections. . . . .	-	(10,781)
	Fee carryforward from FY 2018 into FY 2019 . . . . .	-	(10,365)
	Carryforward from Judiciary Information Technology Fund. . . . .	-	(3,456)
	Reimbursable Programs . . . . .	<b>(582)</b>	<b>(104,802)</b>
	<b>Fiscal Year 2019 Assumed Appropriation. . . . .</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>\$92,693</b>

**Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:**

**A. Personnel**

	Pay and benefit adjustments		
8.14	1. Annualization of assumed 2019 pay adjustment . . . . .		486
8.14	2. Promotions and within-grade increases. . . . .	-	779
8.14	3. Benefits increases . . . . .		
8.14	a. Health Benefits increase . . . . .	-	66
8.14	b. FICA increase . . . . .	-	85
8.15	c. FERS adjustment . . . . .	-	1,967
8.15	4. One more compensable day . . . . .	-	400

<u>Page</u>		<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<b>B. Other Adjustments</b>		
8.15	5. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment. ....	-	105
	<b>Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services</b> .....	-	<b>3,888</b>
	<b>Total Current Services Appropriation Required</b> .....	<b>622</b>	<b>96,581</b>
	<b><u>Program Increases:</u></b>		
8.15	7. Expand Office of Judicial Integrity. ....	<b>2</b>	<b>364</b>
	<b>Total Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriation Required</b> .....	<b>624</b>	<b>96,945</b>
	<b>Total Appropriation Increase, Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020.</b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>4,252</b>
	<b><u>Financing the Fiscal Year 2020 Request:</u></b>		
	<b>Total Appropriation Required.</b> .....	<b>624</b>	<b>96,945</b>
8.16	Estimated FY 2020 fee collections .....	-	10,614
8.16	Estimated fee carryforward from FY 2019 into FY 2020. ....	-	10,526
8.16	Reimbursable programs .....	592	109,638
8.17	Contractor Conversions .....	38	5,991
	<b>Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2020</b> .....	<b>1,254</b>	<b>233,714</b>

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

Activity	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Assumed Obligations	FY 2020 Request
Program Direction and Policy Formulation <sup>1/</sup>	41,933	81,456	90,312
Program Services	45,098	44,945	45,706
Administrative Services	74,343	52,877	53,772
Technology Services	35,756	42,819	43,924
<b>Total Obligations</b> <sup>2/</sup>	<b>197,130</b>	<b>222,097</b>	<b>233,714</b>
Offsetting Collections			
Federal Funds	(19,452)	(21,146)	(21,140)
Information Technology Fund	(2,524)	(3,456)	-
Reimbursable Programs	(84,731)	(104,802)	(115,629)
<b>Available Appropriation</b>	<b>\$90,423</b>	<b>\$92,693</b>	<b>\$96,945</b>

1/ Includes \$51,793,000 in FY 2019 for agency-wide employee benefits, lump sum leave, and other agency-wide costs.

2/ Includes JITF obligations of \$2,524,000 in FY 2018 and \$3,456,000 in FY 2019.

Activity	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Assumed Obligations	FY 2020 Request
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>197,130</b>	<b>222,097</b>	<b>233,714</b>
Judiciary Information Technology	(2,524)	(3,456)	-
New Deposit	(3,456)	-	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	3,456	-	-
Reimbursable Programs			
<i>Salaries and Expenses</i>	(78,340)	(97,632)	(107,726)
<i>Defender Services</i>	(5,127)	(5,342)	(6,045)
<i>Court Security</i>	(1,264)	(1,828)	(1,858)
<b>Total Direct Obligations</b>	<b>109,875</b>	<b>113,839</b>	<b>118,085</b>

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

Description	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Assumed Obligations	FY 2020 Request
	Total Obligations	Total Obligations	Total Obligations
1100 Personnel compensation	137,474	159,316	167,317
1200 Personnel benefits	44,213	49,359	56,139
1300 Benefits for former personnel	119	23	23
2100 Travel	1,696	1,707	1,741
2200 Transportation of things	118	137	140
2330 Communications, utilities, & misc	471	603	613
2400 Printing and reproduction	212	251	256
2500 Other services	5,213	5,331	4,775
2600 Supplies and materials	443	1,076	1,239
3100 Equipment	3,571	4,294	1,471
4200 Claims	300	-	-
9100 Undefined Disbursements <sup>1/</sup>	3,300	-	-
<b>Total <sup>2/</sup></b>	<b>197,130</b>	<b>222,097</b>	<b>233,714</b>
Less: Reimbursable Funding	(84,731)	(104,802)	(115,629)
Less: JITF	(2,524)	(3,456)	-
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>109,875</b>	<b>113,839</b>	<b>118,085</b>

1/ Deposited into JITF fund.

2/Includes JITF obligations of \$2,524,000 in FY 2018 and \$3,456,000 in FY 2019.

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

Activity	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Assumed Obligations	FY 2020 Request
Program Direction and Policy Formulation	137	199	206
Program Services	346	329	343
Administrative Services	350	380	385
Technology Services	253	296	320
<b>Total, Full Time Equivalents</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>1,254</b>
Less: Reimbursable Positions	(487)	(582)	(630)
<i>Salaries and Expenses</i>	446	540	583
<i>Defender Services</i>	32	33	38
<i>Court Security</i>	9	9	9
<b>Total, Direct Full Time Equivalents</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>624</b>

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

	<b>FY 2018 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2019 Assumed Obligations</b>	<b>FY 2020 Request</b>	<b>Difference (+) or (-)</b>
Total Obligations <sup>1/</sup>	197,130	222,097	233,714	11,617
Unpaid Obligations, Start of Year	11,627	12,944	11,400	(1,544)
Unpaid Obligations, End of Year	(12,944)	(11,400)	(12,000)	(600)
Adjustments in Prior Year Activity	170	0	0	0
Total Outlays	195,983	223,641	233,114	9,473
Less Offsetting Collections from:				
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(2,524)	(3,456)	0	3,456
<b>Total Direct Gross Outlays</b>	<b>193,459</b>	<b>220,185</b>	<b>233,114</b>	<b>12,929</b>
Less Offsetting Collections from:				
Fee Collections (Federal Sources)	(19,452)	(21,146)	(21,140)	6
Reimbursable Programs	(84,731)	(104,802)	(115,629)	(10,827)
Other Adjustments	1,670	0	0	0
<b>Net Outlays</b>	<b>90,946</b>	<b>94,237</b>	<b>96,345</b>	<b>2,108</b>

1/ Includes JITF obligations.

## 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) 2020 request for the AO account totals \$96,945,000 to support staff and operating expenses at a current services level and a program increase to expand the Office of Judicial Integrity.

The AO provides administrative, legal, financial, management, program, security, and information technology services to the federal courts. It provides support and staff counsel to the Judicial Conference of the United States and its committees and 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 agency'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 nationwide. These services include:

- ▶ providing program leadership and support for circuit executives, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services officers, federal defenders, and other managers;
- ▶ performing central payroll, personnel, accounting, and procurement functions;
- ▶ developing and executing the judiciary's budget and guiding local court budget execution;
- ▶ collecting and analyzing statistics on court 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;
- ▶ coordinating construction and management of court 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; and
- ▶ developing and conducting education and training programs focused on improving court administration and operations.



The AO’s Strategic Direction, updated in 2017, communicates the mission, vision, and values of the AO, and includes 30 goals that the AO will pursue over the next three to five years. The Strategic Direction continues the AO’s focus on enhancing services; cultivating partnerships; communicating effectively; operating efficiently; and developing a highly qualified, diverse, and engaged workforce. Among the stated goals are protecting the security of judiciary assets, supporting judiciary cost containment, and strengthening accountability and internal controls.

A table of selected workload indicators for the AO follows:

**Table 8.1 Selected AO Fiscal Year 2019 Projected Workload Indicators**

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>
Active and senior judges (Article III, bankruptcy, magistrate, and Court of Federal Claims)	2,216
Court staff (Appellate, district, bankruptcy, probation, and pretrial services) and public defender staff	28,524
Court units (Appellate, district, bankruptcy, probation and pretrial services)	360
Federal defender organizations (Districts)	91
Court facilities (GSA- and U. S. Postal Service-owned federal buildings and leased facilities)	783
Judicial Conference committees	25
Court appropriations and fees (Salaries and Expenses, Defender Services, Fees of Jurors, Court Security, and Judicial Retirement Funds)	\$7.6 billion

**FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS ASSUMPTION**

In the absence of enacted full year FY 2019 appropriations, the judiciary made funding assumptions to construct a FY 2020 budget request. The judiciary built the FY 2020 budget request for the Administrative Office assuming Congress fully funds the FY 2019 re-estimate of \$92,693,000. This amount, combined with \$21,146,000 in new and prior year fee balances, funds all FY 2019 requirements.

After full year FY 2019 appropriations are enacted, the judiciary will re-estimate its FY 2020 budget request and transmit to the Appropriations Committees any changes to FY 2020 appropriations requirements.

For bill language, the judiciary used the language from H.R. 6147, the House-passed Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations Act, 2019, updated with the assumed funding level as described above, as the closest approximation of eventual enacted FY 2019 appropriations language.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

### *Workplace Conduct*

In December 2017, the Chief Justice asked the Director of the AO to establish a working group to examine the sufficiency of the safeguards in place within the judiciary to protect court employees from inappropriate conduct in the workplace. The goal is to “ensure an exemplary workplace for every judge and every court employee.” In January 2018, the Director announced the formation of the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group, consisting of eight experienced judges and court administrators from diverse units within the judiciary. The AO provided staff support to the Working Group as it collected information and formulated recommendations.

The Working Group proceeded from the premise that the judiciary shares many common features with other public and private workplaces, but also recognized that the judicial workplace is different in significant respects. The Working Group received input from current and former law clerks, court employees, Judicial Branch advisory councils, and individual circuits. It issued a report of findings and recommendations in June 2018.

The Working Group offered recommendations in three areas:

- (1) revise codes of conduct and guidance to state clear standards, delineate responsibilities, and promote appropriate workplace behavior;
- (2) improve procedures for identifying and addressing misconduct, strengthen existing processes, and add informal mechanisms for employees to seek advice and raise concerns; and
- (3) supplement training programs to raise awareness of conduct issues, prevent discrimination and harassment, and promote civility through the judiciary.

A key recommendation was that the AO establish a national office to provide employees with advice and assistance. The AO established the national Office of Judicial Integrity to provide counseling and assistance regarding workplace conduct to all judiciary employees through telephone and email. The judiciary’s first judicial integrity officer was named in December 2018. A program increase is included in the FY 2020 budget request to expand the office to include additional staff beyond the judicial integrity officer. Further information on the functions of this office can be found on page 8.15.

## ***Cybersecurity***

The judiciary has taken steps in recent years to counter threats posed by hackers, computer viruses, and other malicious acts. Assisting courts with their cybersecurity needs is a top priority of the AO. A multi-faceted effort to protect the judiciary's information technology systems is ongoing. These efforts include:

- (1) Mandatory security assessments by independent experts, conducted in every court once every five years, to evaluate management, technical, and operational safeguards.
- (2) Comprehensive annual self-assessments of each court to identify vulnerabilities and the resources needed to address them (informing investments in new cybersecurity tools, policies, and services).
- (3) Regular security assessments of the judiciary's national information technology systems, including the Case Management and Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system, used judiciary-wide to store and manage court case files. Independent system assessments are scheduled on a recurring basis in accordance with a risk-based determination of priority.

Underpinning these efforts, the AO continues to foster a security-aware culture by creating educational programs, materials, and training to enlist the support of every information technology user in protecting the judiciary.

## ***Contractor Conversion***

The AO has continued its re-assessment of functions performed by AO contractors and is implementing a second and third round of contractor conversions. This process began in 2012 as part of the AO's cost-containment efforts. The goal of contractor conversions is to improve project/program management by adjusting the ratio of federal employees to contractors and ensuring appropriate supervision of contract operations, as well as save money by converting more expensive contractor positions to less expensive government staff. Most recently, as part of the second round of contractor conversions, 37 judiciary contractors were converted during 2018. The third round of contractor conversions totals 114, of which 76 will happen in FY 2019 and 38 during FY 2020. The personnel costs associated with these conversions will be partially offset by reductions to contract services in the Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services, Salaries and Expenses appropriation. These conversions are expected to lower overall requirements in the Salaries and Expenses appropriation by \$5.7 million in FY 2019 (from the 37 conversions in 2018 and the 76 expected conversions in FY 2019), and another \$1.7 million in FY 2020 (from the 38 expected conversions in FY 2020). The remaining savings of \$900,000 will be included in the FY 2021 request.

## **AO SUPPORT OF THE JUDICIARY (INCLUDING COST CONTAINMENT)**

The AO supports a number of key national initiatives in the federal courts to strengthen accountability, improve the delivery of justice, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. Cost containment continues to be a high priority of the judiciary, and AO staff supporting the Judicial Conference and its committees are heavily involved in these efforts. Many of the initiatives and projects completed during FY 2018, or being implemented now, reflect the application of information technology solutions to court operations and systems enhancements to improve service. The AO's work to support the judiciary and its cost-containment efforts is summarized below.

**Space Footprint Reduction:** In September 2018, the judiciary capped a multi-year space reduction effort by exceeding the goal of reducing office and courtroom space by three percent nationally, resulting in annual rent payment savings of \$36 million. This was the result of close collaboration among the courts, the AO, and GSA, and the integrated effort staffed by the AO to ensure that courts were fully informed about the space reduction program and aware of resources available to assist them.

**Emergency Preparedness:** AO managers comprising the Judiciary Emergency Response Team worked closely with the affected courts, GSA, and other federal partners to help restore and sustain operations during hurricanes Florence and Michael and typhoons Manghut and Yutu. The AO also provided support during the Carr and Ferguson wildfires in California. The AO conducted four regional hurricane preparedness seminars, nine continuity of operations workshops, and three preparedness workshops for courts outside the continental United States.

**Southwest Border Workload:** The AO is providing coordination support for the five southwest border courts impacted by the increase in immigration filings resulting from the administration's enforcement policy. The AO convened a conference with court officials from these courts focused on addressing challenges of processing immigration cases. Separately, a task force on Southwest Border Issues was established by the Director in conjunction with the Department of Justice. The intent is for executive and judicial branch officials to identify and collaborate on issues arising from increased immigration caseloads along the southwest border such as locating separated family members, returning identification documents to defendants, and interpretation needs.

**Next Generation Case Management:** During 2018, an AO implementation team and court staff mentors supported courts transitioning to the judiciary's upgraded Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system. By the end of 2018, all courts of appeals (13) had made the transition, and 61 out of 187 district, bankruptcy, and national court units had transitioned or were in the process of implementation. Full implementation will occur by 2021.

**Criminal Justice Act Review Study:** The first comprehensive review of the federal public defense system in over 20 years was completed in November 2017 by the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Criminal Justice Act, a committee created by the Chief Justice. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted its findings and recommendations to the Judicial Conference. In 2018, the Judicial Conference and the AO began reviewing the committee’s recommendations and implementing them, as appropriate.

**Reducing Recidivism by Federal Offenders:** A multi-year study by the AO showed that recidivism is declining in the federal criminal justice system, coinciding with a shift to evidence-based supervision practices and use of assessment tools to help federal probation and pretrial services officers focus and prioritize supervision resources.

**Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Academy Accreditation:** In November 2018, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board awarded accreditation to the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Academy’s training program for probation and pretrial services officers, recognizing the quality of the training component of the AO’s Probation and Pretrial Services Office.

**Staffing Formulas:** The AO completed work on, and the Judicial Conference approved, new or updated staffing formulas for district clerks’ offices and court reporters, based on work measurement data from 6,400 judiciary personnel.

**Tools for Collaboration and Efficiency:** In 2018, the AO began the process of adopting SharePoint Online, a web-based collaboration and communications platform for increased collaboration, productivity, and efficiency among the federal courts and their staffs.

## **JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES**

The Administrative Office appropriation request for FY 2020 totals \$96,945,000. This represents an increase of \$4,252,000, or 4.6 percent, over the FY 2019 assumed appropriation of \$92,693,000. The FY 2020 budget request includes funds needed to maintain current services and a program increase to expand the Office of Judicial Integrity.

Adjustments to base to maintain current services include funding for salaries and benefits increases for staff and increased costs for recurring requirements, such as travel, communications, service agreements, and supplies.

### **A. PERSONNEL**

#### ***Pay and Benefit Adjustments***

##### **1. Annualization of assumed 2019 pay adjustment**

**Requested Increase: \$486,000**

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of an assumed 2019 pay adjustment associated with the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and locality pay adjustments. Based on the FY 2019 appropriations action to date, federal pay rates are assumed to increase by an average of 1.9 percent, effective January 2019. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October 2019 to December 2019) of the assumed 2019 pay increase in FY 2020. (If Congress ultimately does not enact a 2019 pay adjustment for federal civilian workers, or if one is provided at a rate different than

1.9 percent, the judiciary will revise this line item in its FY 2020 budget re-estimate.)

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

**Requested Increase: \$779,000**

The requested increase provides for promotions and within-grade increases for AO personnel to recognize outstanding work and promote staff development, thereby fostering the AO's ability to recruit and retain a highly professional and capable workforce.

##### **3. Benefits increases**

###### **a. Health Benefits**

**Requested Increase: \$66,000**

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 1.2 percent both in January 2019 and January 2020. The requested increase annualizes the 2019 premium increase, and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2020.

###### **b. FICA adjustment**

**Requested Increase: \$85,000**

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

2019. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$128,400 to \$132,900 in January 2019. The requested amount is needed to pay the office's contribution in FY 2020.

**c. FERS adjustment**

**Requested Increase: \$1,967,000**

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, funds are requested for an increase in the agency contribution rate to Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) plans for FY 2020. For most employees, the agency contribution rate will increase from 13.7 percent to 16.0 percent. Any FERS increase 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.

**4. One more compensable day**

**Requested Increase: \$400,000**

There is one more compensable day in FY 2020 than in FY 2019. The requested amount increases personnel compensation and benefits associated with one more compensable day for biweekly paid employees.

**B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS**

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

**Requested Increase: \$105,000**

Consistent with guidance from OMB, this request of \$105,000 is required to fund inflationary increases of 2.0 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment.

**C. PROGRAM INCREASES**

**6. Expand Office of Judicial Integrity**

**Requested Increase: \$364,000**

**FTE: 2**

This request provides for the salaries, benefits, and expenses of two additional staff to expand the Office of Judicial Integrity beyond the judicial integrity officer, who was named in December 2018. Establishing this office fulfills one of the most significant recommendations of the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group, formed in January 2018 at the direction of the Chief Justice. The goal was to “ensure an exemplary workplace for every judge and every court employee.”

The new office will provide guidance and assistance regarding workplace conduct to all judiciary employees through telephone and email. The office will serve as an independent source of information and referral, answering individuals' questions and providing advice on conflict resolution, mediation, and formal complaint options. It will identify trends and conduct systemic analyses and reviews, provide training throughout the judiciary, and serve as a resource for workplace conduct staff throughout the court system.

## FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 REQUEST

### *Estimated Fiscal Year 2020 Fee Collections*

**Estimated Funds Available: \$10,614,000**

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 \$10.6 million of new fee collections will be available to offset the AO's FY 2020 budget request.

### *Estimated fee carryforward from Fiscal Year 2019 into Fiscal Year 2020*

**Estimated funds available: \$10,526,000**

In addition to receiving a portion of new fee collections, the AO account also 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 2020 budget request. The judiciary will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of any changes to this estimate.

### *Reimbursable Programs*

**Funds Available: \$109,638,000**

**FTE: 592**

**Requested Increase: \$4,836,000**

Beginning in 1990, Congress authorized reimbursable funds for the AO to carry out specific support functions for the courts. These functions 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, Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Academy, financial disclosure, judiciary benefits, and work measurement.

The request for the AO reimbursable programs includes funding for 592 FTEs from the Salaries and Expenses, Defender Services, and Court Security appropriations under Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services. These positions are necessary to maintain a sufficient AO reimbursable 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



operations; and financial management systems that ensure sound financial practices and internal controls.

The FY 2020 obligation level requested for the AO's reimbursable program totals \$109,638,000, a net increase of \$4,836,000 from the projected FY 2019 obligation level of \$104,802,000.

The FY 2020 request includes \$3,173,000 in net adjustments to base for inflationary increases in salaries, benefits, and other expenses; and one additional FTE and \$186,000 to annualize three new positions approved in the FY 2019 Defender Services appropriation request for expanding federal defender and panel attorney training programs.

The FY 2020 request also includes program increases for additional AO reimbursable staffing. Four additional FTE and \$620,000 are requested for the first-year cost of eight new positions funded by the Defender Services appropriation for program operations and training support. These staff include a branch chief, three program review analysts, and two data analytics staff for the Program Operations Division; and a supervisory attorney and administrative analyst for the Training Division. This increase is further explained in the Defender Services chapter on page 5.29. Five additional FTE and \$857,000 are requested to support the implementation of the SharePoint Online collaboration and communication platform in the courts (Salaries and Expenses) and the Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) Next Generation

project in the courts (Electronic Public Access fees). These programs are further explained on page 8.12.

### ***Contractor Conversions***

**Requested Increase: \$5,991,000**

**FTE: 38**

As explained on page 8.11, in FY 2020, the AO will be continuing to implement a third round of contractor conversions. This multi-year third round will result in a total of 114 judiciary staff being hired by the end of FY 2020. This 38 FTE and \$5,991,000 in increased reimbursable resources is needed to annualize the 38 contractor conversions which will occur during FY 2019 and fund six months of the 38 contractor conversions planned for FY 2020.

After all of the 114 third round contractor conversions are completed, the judiciary will realize annual net savings of \$5.2 million. A reduction of \$2.6 million to the Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services, Salaries and Expenses appropriation was included in the FY 2019 request. This FY 2020 request includes a reduction of \$1.7 million in the Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services, Salaries and Expenses appropriation. (See page 4.43 in the Salaries and Expenses chapter for additional information on this reduction.) The remaining \$900,000 savings will be included in the FY 2021 request. Additional contractor conversions beyond the 114 are possible, and the judiciary will advise appropriations subcommittee staffs of any changes to these estimates.