

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

	Mandatory	Discretionary	Total
Total Fiscal Year 2023 Enacted Appropriation	\$2,163,000	\$21,260,000	\$23,423,000
Total Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation Request	\$2,383,000	\$22,404,000	\$24,787,000
Total Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2023 Enacted Appropriation	\$220,000	\$1,144,000	\$1,364,000

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, [~~\$21,260,000~~]*\$22,404,000*.

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.

(P.L. 117-328 - Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2023)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
 UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
 SALARIES AND EXPENSES
 FISCAL YEAR 2024
 (Dollar amounts in thousands)**

Fiscal Year 2024 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 2023 Assumed Obligations	9	2,163	68	22,465	77	24,628
Utilization of Electronic Public Access Receipts and Judiciary Information Technology Fund Balances ...	-	-	-	(1,205)	-	(1,205)
Fiscal Year 2023 Enacted Appropriation	9	2,163	68	21,260	77	23,423

Page

No. Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:

A. Judges

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

3.10	1. Proposed 2024 pay adjustment (4.7% for nine months)	-	150	-	-	-	150
3.10	2. Annualization of 2023 pay adjustment (4.1% for three months)	-	48	-	-	-	48
3.10	3. Benefits increases						
	a. Health benefits.....	-	15	-	-	-	15
	b. FICA adjustment.....	-	7	-	-	-	7

B. Personnel

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

3.11	4. Proposed 2024 pay adjustment (5.2% for nine months)	-	-	-	301	-	301
3.11	5. Annualization of 2023 pay adjustment (4.6% for three months)	-	-	-	89	-	89
3.11	6. Promotions and within-grade increases.....	-	-	-	58	-	58
3.11	7. Benefits increases						
	a. Health benefits.....	-	-	-	149	-	149
	b. FICA adjustment.....	-	-	-	9	-	9
3.12	8. One more compensable day.....	-	-	-	41	-	41

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
 UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
 SALARIES AND EXPENSES
 FISCAL YEAR 2024**

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	Mandatory		Discretionary		Total	
	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C. Other Adjustments						
General Inflationary Adjustments						
3.12 9. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment.....	-	-	-	173	-	173
3.12 10. Increase in GSA space rental costs.....	-	-	-	267	-	267
3.12 11. Increase in FPS basic/building specific security surcharges.....	-	-	-	57	-	57
Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services.....	-	220	-	1,144	-	1,364
Total Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation Required.....	9	2,383	68	22,404	77	24,787

Financing the Fiscal Year 2024 Request:

Total Appropriation Required, Fiscal Year 2024.....	9	2,383	68	22,404	77	24,787
3.13 Utilization of Electronic Public Access Receipts and Judiciary Information Technology Fund.....	-	-	-	234	-	234
Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2024.....	9	2,383	68	22,638	77	25,021

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

Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Assumed	FY 2024 Request
Total Obligations	22,942	24,628	25,021
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(1,082)	(1,371)	(200)
Deposits and Other Adjustments:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(950)	(34)	(34)
Prior Year Recoveries	(54)		
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:			
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	1,371	200	0
<i>Subtotal, Other Obligations</i>	<i>(715)</i>	<i>(1,205)</i>	<i>(234)</i>
Direct Obligations	22,227	23,423	24,787
Unobligated Balance, End of Year	90	0	0
Offsetting Collections	0	0	0
Appropriation Total	22,317	23,423	24,787
Appropriation - Mandatory	1,717	2,163	2,383
Appropriation - Discretionary	20,600	21,260	22,404

Obligations by Budget Object Class (\$000)

Description	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Assumed	FY 2024 Request
11 Personnel compensation	8,085	9,654	10,341
12 Personnel benefits	2,440	2,499	2,679
21 Travel	64	117	119
22 Transportation of things	21	22	23
23 Rent, communications and utilities			
<i>Rental payments to GSA</i>	8,814	8,901	9,168
<i>Communications utilities & misc. charges</i>	32	35	36
24 Printing and reproduction	1	5	5
25 Other services	1,608	1,940	2,130
26 Supplies and materials	29	50	77
31 Equipment	183	200	209
91 Undefined Disbursements (JITF Deposit)	950	0	0
Direct Obligations	22,227	23,423	24,787
Other Obligations (JITF Obligations)	715	1,205	234
Total Obligations	22,942	24,628	25,021

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

	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Assumed	FY 2024 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Direct obligations incurred	22,227	23,423	24,787	<u>1,364</u>
Obligated balance, start of year	4,349	1,584	1,669	<u>85</u>
Adjustments of prior year activity	(3,325)	(3,504)	(3,708)	<u>(204)</u>
Obligated balance, end of year	<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(1,669)</u>	<u>(1,766)</u>	<u>(97)</u>
Total Outlays	21,667	19,834	20,982	1,148
Less Offsets	<u>(34)</u>	<u>(34)</u>	<u>(34)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Outlays	<u>21,633</u>	<u>19,800</u>	<u>20,948</u>	<u>1,148</u>

Personnel Summary

	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Assumed	FY 2024 Request	Difference (+) or (-)
Total compensable workyears:				
Full-time equivalent employment	65	77	77	0

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Summary of Mandatory Costs

	<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2024</u>		<u>Increase</u> <u>(\$000)</u>
	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits</u> <u>(\$000)</u>	<u>No. of Judgeships</u>	<u>Compensation and Benefits</u> <u>(\$000)</u>	
Article III Judges	9	2,163	9	2,383	220

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.

These estimates 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) 2024 request for the Court of International Trade totals \$24,787,000 to support the operations of the Court at current service levels. The request includes \$2,383,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,404,000 for discretionary appropriations.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATION

The judiciary built the FY 2024 discretionary budget request for the U.S. Court of International Trade on the enacted FY 2023 discretionary appropriation, which is \$21,260,000. For bill language, the judiciary used the language from P.L. 117-328, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2023.

The table below provides caseload data of the Court for FY 2018 through FY 2022.

Civil Action Cases

Fiscal Year	Pending Beginning of Year	Filed	Terminated	Pending End of Year
2018	1,677	242	428	1,491
2019	1,491	223	631	1,083
2020	1,083	3,670	482	4,271
2021	4,271	781	362	4,690
2022	4,690	373	418	4,645

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The FY 2024 budget request for the Court includes \$2,383,000 for mandatory appropriations and \$22,404,000 for discretionary appropriations. The discretionary request is a 5.4 percent increase over the FY 2023 enacted appropriation of \$21,260,000. The total increase reflects only the necessary adjustments to base to maintain current services. The Court requests no program increases in FY 2024.

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 2024 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$150,000

The judiciary is assuming base federal pay rates will increase by 4.7 percent in January 2024 for an Employment Cost Index (ECI) adjustment. The requested increase provides for the cost of nine months of the anticipated pay raise in FY 2024, from January 2024 to September 2024. (If the ECI adjustment

included in the President's FY 2024 budget request is different from this 4.7 percent guidance, the judiciary will revise this line item in its FY 2024 budget re-estimate.)

2. Annualization of 2023 pay adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$48,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized cost of the 2023 Employment Cost Index (ECI) base pay adjustment. As a result of the ECI, base federal pay rates increased by 4.1 percent, effective as of January 2023. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October 2023 to December 2023) of the 2023 pay increase in FY 2024.

3. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Mandatory Increase: \$15,000

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 6.6 percent both in January 2023 and January 2024. The requested increase annualizes the 2023 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2024.

b. FICA adjustment

Mandatory Increase: \$7,000

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 2023. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$147,000 to \$160,200 in January 2023. The requested amount is needed to pay the Court’s contribution in FY 2024.

B. PERSONNEL

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

4. Proposed 2024 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$301,000

The judiciary is assuming federal pay rates will increase by 5.2 percent in January 2024. The requested increase provides for the cost of nine months of the anticipated pay raise in FY 2024, from January 2024 to September 2024. (If the pay adjustment included in the President’s FY 2024 budget request is different from this 5.2 percent guidance, the judiciary will revise this line item in its FY 2024 budget re-estimate.)

5. Annualization of 2023 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$89,000

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2023 pay adjustment for Employment Cost Index (ECI) and locality pay. As a result of the pay adjustment, federal pay rates increased by an average of 4.6 percent, effective as of January 2023. The requested increase provides for the cost of three months (from October 2023 to December 2023) of the 2023 pay increase in FY 2024.

6. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$58,000

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: \$149,000

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

projected to increase by an average of 6.6 percent both in January 2023 and January 2024. The requested increase annualizes the 2023 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2024.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$9,000

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 2023. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$147,000 to \$160,200 in January 2023. The requested amount is needed to pay the Court's contribution in FY 2024.

8. One more compensable day

Requested Increase: \$41,000

There is one more compensable day in FY 2024 than in FY 2023. The requested increase adjusts for personnel compensation and benefits associated with one more compensable day.

C. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

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

Requested Increase: \$173,000

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, this request of \$173,000 is required to fund inflationary increases of 2.4 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, furniture, and equipment.

10. Increase in GSA space rental costs

Requested Increase: \$267,000

This request represents a 3.0 percent inflationary increase and adjustments in the cost of GSA space rental charges for FY 2024.

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

Requested Increase: \$57,000

Based on the Department of Homeland Security's FPS' estimate, this requested increase is required for basic and building specific security surcharge costs expected in FY 2024. 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.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 REQUEST

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

Estimated Obligations: \$234,000

At the beginning of FY 2023, \$1,405,000 was available in carryforward balances from the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, including \$34,000 from Electronic Public Access receipts. Of this amount, the Court is planning to use \$1,205,000 during FY 2023 to:

- design and install audio/video technology for use in courtrooms and conference rooms;
- re-cable the data closets;
- 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, monitors, laptops, mobile devices, and printers, according to the judiciary's cyclical replacement program.

At the beginning of FY 2024, the Court anticipates that \$234,000 will be available in carryforward balances in the Judiciary Information Technology Fund, including \$34,000 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.