United States Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review



FY 2025 Performance Budget
Congressional Budget Submission
March 2024

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I. Overview for Executive Office for Immigration Review

Introduction

To support the mission of the agency, the Department of Justice's (DOJ or "the Department") Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) requests a total of \$981,133,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. This funding request supports the addition of 159 new permanent positions and sustains 3,209 positions overall. This request includes a \$4,000,000 transfer from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Immigration Examination Fee Account.

EOIR is responsible for conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings to fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly administer and interpret U.S. immigration laws. As the Department's primary office for applying and adjudicating immigration law, EOIR plays an essential role in the Nation's larger immigration system. As a major actor within the immigration space, it is crucial that EOIR be prepared to meet current and future challenges.

Immigration cases typically begin when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) files a Notice to Appear (NTA), which charges a potential undocumented individual from a foreign country (a noncitizen) with a violation of federal immigration law and seeks the removal of that individual from the United States. Due to recent changes in immigration enforcement priorities and policies, DHS agencies such as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) have significantly increased their enforcement and processing, and will likely continue to do so in the coming years. As a result, it remains critically important that EOIR has sufficient resources to keep pace with DHS enforcement efforts.

Budget Summary

EOIR's primary strategic focus is reducing the over 2.4 million pending caseload. The FY 2025 budget request increases adjudicatory and case processing capacity and implements innovative solutions that will promote operational efficiency.

In addition to supporting its current services, this budget request includes two program enhancements. The adjudicatory optimization initiative adds 25 new immigration judges (IJs) and critical legal support staff totaling 75 FTEs. This new tranche of adjudicators will provide upwards of 15,000 case completions annually. The digital transformation initiative adds nine FTEs and in partnership with the U.S. Digital Service will enable EOIR to rapidly deploy digital modernization strategies and align technology investments to address the pending caseload while centering the customer experience.

Program Overview

Organization of EOIR

EOIR administers the Nation's immigration court system. EOIR primarily decides whether foreign-born individuals charged by DHS with violating immigration law should be a) ordered removed from the United States or b) granted relief or protection from removal and allowed to

remain in the country. To make these critical determinations, EOIR operates approximately 70 immigration courts and adjudication centers throughout the country and has a centralized Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) located at EOIR Headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia.

EOIR also adjudicates cases involving illegal hiring and employment eligibility verification violations, document fraud, and immigration-related employment discrimination. EOIR Headquarters provides centralized operational, policy, and administrative support to EOIR immigration proceedings and programs conducted throughout the United States.

EOIR's FY 2025 Budget Strategy

EOIR's program increase of \$75.0 million is essential to advance initiatives that fulfill the President's and the Attorney General's strategic and priority goals to administer an equitable and efficient immigration court system, expand equal access to justice, and execute EOIR's mission.¹

The Growing Caseload

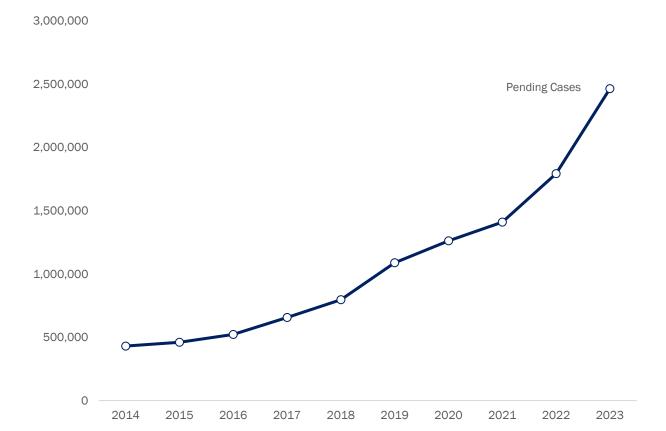
EOIR continues to face both internal and external challenges to increasing the adjudicative and case processing capacity that is needed to help reduce the pending caseload. Over the years, several outside factors have contributed to record growth in both the number of pending immigration cases and the time required to adjudicate them. These include substantial changes across the immigration landscape, including but not limited to changes in case law, law enforcement priorities, and trends in migration. In light of these changes, and their corresponding challenges, sustained investments in legal support staff, technological capabilities, customer service, and respondent access is required. Long-term investments in these areas will address the growing caseload by creating efficiencies throughout the processing of immigration cases. In order to build toward this long-term goal, EOIR's budget request includes program increases both for additional immigration judge teams as well as for digital court innovation programs.

At the end of FY 2023, there were over 2.4 million active cases pending in immigration courts nationwide, the largest caseload ever pending before the agency. FY 2023 also marked the seventeenth consecutive year that the pending caseload increased. In FY 2022, DHS filed just over 707,000 NTAs, an almost threefold increase from FY 2021. In FY 2023, DHS filed nearly 1.2 million NTAs, exceeding FY 2022's record number of filings by 69%. Even though EOIR is more productive than ever, with case completions totaling just over 523,000 in FY 2023 and exceeding FY 2022 case completions by 66%, the pending caseload will continue to grow should filings continue outpacing adjudicative capacity. (See the following charts regarding immigration court caseload and completions.)

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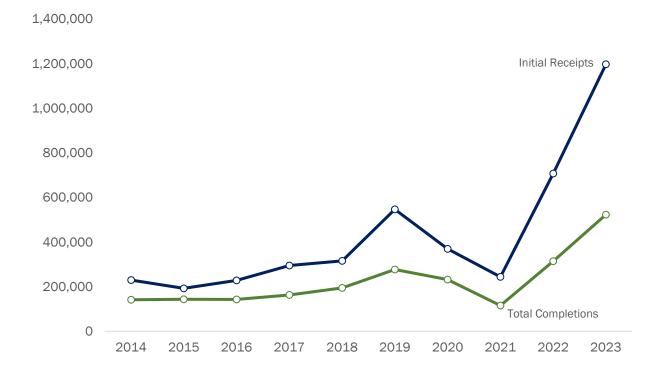
¹ EOIR's primary mission is to, "adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws."

Office of the Chief Immigration Judge Historic Caseload FY 2014 through FY 2023



| Fiscal Year | Pending Cases at end of Fiscal Year |
|-------------|--|
| 2014 | 430,287 |
| 2015 | 460,262 |
| 2016 | 521,728 |
| 2017 | 656,383 |
| 2018 | 796,862 |
| 2019 | 1,088,578 |
| 2020 | 1,261,144 |
| 2021 | 1,408,908 |
| 2022 | 1,791,777 |
| 2023 | 2,464,021 |

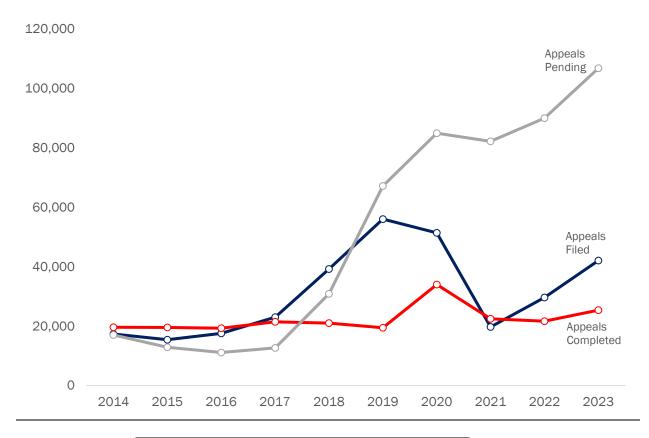
Office of the Chief Immigration Judge New Cases and Total Completions FY 2014 through FY 2023



| Fiscal Year | Initial Receipts | Average Initial Receipts Per Month | Total Completions | Average Total Completions Per Month |
|----------------|------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 2014 | 230,176 | 19,181 | 141,681 | 11,807 |
| 2015 | 193,006 | 16,084 | 143,645 | 11,970 |
| 2016 | 228,459 | 19,038 | 143,490 | 11,958 |
| 2017 | 295,261 | 24,605 | 163,081 | 13,590 |
| 2018 | 316,138 | 26,345 | 195,140 | 16,262 |
| 2019 | 547,315 | 45,610 | 277,085 | 23,090 |
| 2020 | 369,777 | 30,815 | 232,259 | 19,355 |
| 2021 | 244,286 | 20,357 | 115,910 | 9,659 |
| 2022 | 707,583 | 58,965 | 314,409 | 26,201 |
| 2023 | 1,197,254 | 99,771 | 523,477 | 43,623 |

The large and growing pending caseload also has downstream effects (see chart below regarding BIA appeals). For instance, in FY 2023, approximately 42,000 appeals were filed, which is a 42% increase from FY 2022; in that same year, just over 25,000 appeals were completed. Currently, the BIA's pending caseload has grown to a peak of nearly 107,000, a rise of over 500% in the past decade. If the current trends persist, BIA's pending caseload will continue to increase to still new historic highs.

Board of Immigration Appeals FY 2014 through FY 2023



| FY | Appeals Filed | Appeals Completed | Pending (End of FY) |
|------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2014 | 17,329 | 19,627 | 17,013 |
| 2015 | 15,423 | 19,569 | 12,867 |
| 2016 | 17,550 | 19,286 | 11,131 |
| 2017 | 23,008 | 21,454 | 12,685 |
| 2018 | 39,160 | 20,987 | 30,858 |
| 2019 | 55,985 | 19,448 | 67,103 |
| 2020 | 51,348 | 33,974 | 84,860 |
| 2021 | 19,735 | 22,443 | 82,110 |
| 2022 | 29,607 | 21,656 | 89,927 |
| 2023 | 42,039 | 25,370 | 106,681 |

Internal Challenges

On-boarding IJs is a lengthy process. The thorough vetting and hiring process for IJs historically took well over a year. However, due to changes implemented at EOIR and the Department, IJ hiring time improved dramatically beginning in FY 2018. Current hiring time is approximately

four to six months. In FY 2023, EOIR hired 133 additional IJs, besting the previous annual highwater mark of FY 2022 by 29 IJs. Most importantly, the agency met its targeted goal and authorized level of 734 total IJs on-board by the end of FY 2023. However, even with process improvements, time and effort is needed to vet the most qualified candidates and get them on-board as soon as possible.

Further, with having successfully improved the time to hire IJs, EOIR is now focusing on ensuring that courtrooms are available as soon as those adjudicators are trained. A critical challenge in increasing adjudicatory capacity is not just time to hire, but also the associated time to obtain or build out space for those IJs and staff. Throughout the growth of the Immigration Court program over the last few years, EOIR has successfully partnered with the General Services Administration to reduce the traditional timeframes to obtain and occupy space and has successfully sped up the space acquisition process. As of January 2024, EOIR has 601 courtrooms and expects to add another 41 new courtrooms by the end of FY 2024.

Another challenge facing EOIR is the remaining paper records of proceedings that are sizable to store, take time and incur cost to ship from one court to another whenever a case is transferred, and require staff resources to reproduce when a noncitizen requests a copy of their court records. In 2021, the EOIR Court and Appeals System (ECAS) was rolled out across all immigration courts nationwide and the BIA, allowing for parties in EOIR proceedings to file and review documents electronically. EOIR is currently pursuing digitization efforts for existing paper records. This is a multi-year effort due to the massive quantity of paper records and the need to ensure the validity, security and records retention requirements are met. To improve efficiency and increase flexibility to adjudicate across the agency and prepare for the future closure of the Federal Records Centers (FRC), EOIR is working towards converting paper records to electronic files. EOIR must move to a wholly electronic system (as opposed to the hybrid paper and electronic system it has now) before the FRC facilities close, and EOIR must secure its own long-term storage space for paper records until such time as the agency can go entirely electronic. EOIR's digital transformation enhancement request partners with the U.S. Digital Service to build on this effort by deploying digital modernization strategies and aligning technology investments to address the pending caseload.

For several years EOIR has had a major discrepancy between positions that are "reported" or authorized and positions that are "funded" or supportable by current appropriations. As described in GAO-23-105431, Immigration Courts: Actions Needed to Address Workforce, Performance, and Data Management Challenges, a significant imbalance evolved between staff "reported" or authorized and staff "funded" or supportable by current appropriations. As recommended in the report, EOIR is reducing its authorized staffing by 1,145 positions to resolve the imbalance between 'reported' and 'funded' total positions, reducing its authorized staffing level accordingly.

Finally, EOIR is working to reshape its workforce to meet both current and future needs. EOIR has grown substantially in recent years and incorporated a much more IT-dependent business process. It is critical that EOIR further evaluate its workforce planning to ensure the right mix of legal support staff is hired. To that end, EOIR has contracted with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to assist in designing and documenting a robust and sustainable enterprise workforce planning process that aligns with DOJ and OPM requirements. This contract has already resulted in strategic consultation and planning sessions with EOIR leadership, improved

workforce planning procedures and integration, a significant reduction in operational silos, and increased component-level perspective in daily execution of the operational mission.

External Challenges

EOIR faces two prominent external challenges: (1) recent surges of families, unaccompanied children, and asylum seekers and (2) the significant increase in the number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since FY 2016.

The recent surges of families, unaccompanied children, and asylum seekers from Central America have led to a substantial increase in new case filings by DHS. According to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data, federal agents encountered a record 2.5 million people at the southern U.S. border in FY 2023. In FY 2023, EOIR received nearly 1.2 million new cases, exceeding FY 2022's record high by a further 69%. The already voluminous caseload has increased dramatically, reaching a peak of over 2.4 million pending cases. While EOIR continues to work as efficiently and effectively as possible in support of its mission and goals, the pending caseload will continue to grow should filings continue to outpace adjudicative capacity.

Finally, the significant increase in immigration adjudications combined with the FOIA Amendments of 2016, plus increased media attention and public scrutiny of immigration operations, have resulted in a substantial increase in EOIR FOIA requests and records requests. EOIR received a record 70,465 FOIA requests in FY 2023, a 25% increase over FY 2022's record filings. EOIR has had difficulty handling the increased FOIA demands because of the paper-based file system, obsolete processing technology, and staffing shortages and ended FY 2023 with a FOIA backlog of just over 25,000.

II. Summary of Program Changes

| Item Name | Description | Pos. | FTE | Amount (\$000) | Page |
|---|---|------|-----|----------------|------|
| Adjudicatory Optimization Initiative | Improving and augmenting adjudicatory capacity. | 150 | 75 | \$45,000 | 24 |
| Digital Transformation | Increase EOIR's ability to deploy digital modernization strategies. | 9 | 9 | \$30,000 | 29 |
| Total | | 159 | 84 | \$75,000 | |

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

Appropriations Language:

Executive Office for Immigration Review (Including Transfer of Funds)

For expenses necessary for the administration of immigration-related activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, [\$1,455,316,000,] \$981,133,000, to remain available until [September 30, 2026] September 30, 2027, of which \$4,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the "Immigration Examinations Fee" account[: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$179,000,000 shall be for Legal Access Programs activities, of which \$150,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make grants and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements to provide legal representation: Provided further, That not more than 3 percent of the funds made available for legal representation in the preceding proviso shall be available for administrative expenses].

Note.—A full-year 2024 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the Budget was prepared; therefore, the Budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Division A of Public Law 118-15, as amended). The amounts included for 2024 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Analysis of Appropriations Language

EOIR re-requests a change of its appropriation from an annual funding account to a three-year funding account. This will enable EOIR to significantly grow its staffing level to meet incoming caseload. It will also add flexibility that will enable EOIR to begin working on the expansion of new courts and the hiring of IJs and associated staff without any risk of lapsing funds – given that it is a two-year process to build and occupy a new court. Further, until such time as additional space becomes available, EOIR is limited in the number of staff it can on-board in the first year, creating lapse funding while court buildouts and hiring are pending. A multi-year appropriation ensures the baseline staffing and adjudicatory costs are available once space is ready to be occupied. In addition, this also ensures that EOIR has second-year costs in its base, which will lead to improved planning, expedite the staff hiring, and help reduce the pending

caseload. It will also eliminate funding unpredictability. By moving from an annual to a three-year funding account, EOIR can manage and plan the execution of its appropriation in a manner that will optimize spending, hiring, and space readiness, allowing EOIR to bring on new IJs and support staff more quickly, in greater quantities, and across fiscal years.

IV. Program Activity Justification

| Executive Office for Immigration Review | Direct Positions | Estimated FTE | Amount (\$000) |
|---|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2023 Enacted ¹ | 4,195 | 2,482 | \$860,000 |
| 2024 Continuing Resolution ² | 3,050 | 2,632 | \$860,000 |
| Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments | - | 168 | \$46,133 |
| 2025 Current Services | 3,050 | 2,800 | \$906,133 |
| 2025 Program Increases | 159 | 84 | \$75,000 |
| 2025 Program Offsets | - | - | - |
| 2025 Request | 3,209 | 2,884 | \$981,133 |
| Total Change 2024-2025 | 159 | 252 | \$121,133 |
| | | | |
| Executive Office for Immigration Review- Information Technology Breakout (of Decision Unit Total) | Direct Positions | Estimated FTE | Amount (\$000) |
| 2023 Enacted ¹ | 46 | 30 | \$110,135 |
| 2024 Continuing Resolution ² | 44 | 44 | \$117,000 |
| Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments | - | - | \$(2,500) |
| 2025 Current Services | 44 | 44 | \$114,500 |
| 2025 Program Increases | 9 | 9 | \$30,000 |
| 2025 Program Offsets | - | - | _ |
| 2025 Request | 53 | 53 | \$144,500 |
| Total Change 2024-2025 | 9 | 9 | \$27,500 |

¹ FY 2023 FTE is actual.

1. Program Description

Under the direction of the EOIR Director and Deputy Director, the following components conduct adjudicative proceedings:

Adjudicative Components

• Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ) – OCIJ oversees the administration of approximately 70 immigration courts and adjudication centers located throughout the United States and exercises administrative supervision over OCIJ employees, including immigration judges, assigned to those courts. OCIJ develops policies and procedures for immigration proceedings throughout the immigration court system. The IJs in OCIJ preside over administrative hearings and call removal proceedings to determine whether foreign-born individuals, who are charged by DHS with violating immigration law, should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief or protection from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. Generally, IJs determine removability and adjudicate applications for relief from removal such as cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, asylum, and/or waivers of removability. Custody redetermination hearings are held when a noncitizen in DHS custody seeks a reduction in the bond amount set by DHS, or a release on their own recognizance.

² Amounts included herein referring to the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution reflect an Annualized Continuing Resolution level.

With respect to criminal noncitizen adjudications, the Institutional Hearing Program (IHP)² provides the framework for hearings to determine the immigration status of noncitizens convicted of offenses who are incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons across the United States. EOIR's IHP is designed to expedite the removal of criminal noncitizens and involves close coordination with DHS, the Bureau of Prisons, and State and local corrections authorities.

The Chief Immigration Judge provides overall program direction, articulates policy, and establishes priorities for the immigration judges located in courts throughout the United States. The Chief Immigration Judge carries out these responsibilities with the assistance of Deputy and Assistant Chief Immigration Judges; and offices such as the Chief Clerk's Office and Language Services Unit that assist with coordinating management and operation of the immigration courts.

Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) – The BIA is the highest administrative tribunal for interpreting and applying U.S. immigration law. The BIA exercises independent judgment and provides a uniform application of the immigration laws nationwide. The BIA hears cases appealed from OCIJ and, in some cases, certain decision from DHS officers.

Most cases before the BIA appeal the outcome of immigration proceedings. In some cases, the BIA considers appeals from cases arising from DHS decisions. These cases typically involve denials from familial visa petitions and administrative fines on transportation carriers. In addition, the BIA also issues decisions relating to the EOIR Attorney Discipline Program, which regulates the conduct of attorneys and other representatives who practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals and immigration courts.

BIA decisions are binding on immigration judges and all DHS officers unless modified or overruled by the Attorney General or a Federal Court. Certain BIA decisions that the BIA designates as precedent decisions apply to immigration cases nationwide. If the decision is not published, the decision is binding only on the parties of the particular case. By contrast, if the BIA elects to publish the decision, it becomes legal precedent and is binding nationwide. Through precedent decisions, the BIA provides guidance to immigration judges, DHS, and the general public on the proper interpretation and administration of the immigration laws and regulations.

A challenge for the BIA is to maintain a high-volume administrative caseload while addressing the differing issues associated with the law of eleven different circuits and the Supreme Court.

• Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) – OCAHO adjudicates cases involving illegal hiring and employment eligibility verification violations ("employer sanctions"), document fraud, and employment discrimination under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). OCAHO is headed by a Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (CAHO) who provides overall program direction and management,

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² Note, DHS refers to this same program as the "Institutional Hearing and Removal Program."

articulates and develops policies and procedures, establishes priorities, assigns cases, and administers the hearing process presided over by Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). The CAHO also reviews decisions and orders issued by OCAHO ALJs in employer sanctions and document fraud cases, and may modify, vacate, or remand those decisions and orders.

OCAHO employs ALJs appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3105 to adjudicate cases arising under Sections 274A, 274B, and 274C of the INA. Section 274A provides for sanctions (civil penalties and injunctive relief) against employers or entities who: (1) knowingly hire, recruit, or refer for a fee, or continue to employ, unauthorized noncitizens; (2) fail to comply with employment eligibility verification requirements; or (3) require the execution of an indemnity bond by employees to protect the employer or entity from potential liability for unlawful employment practices. Section 274B prohibits employment discrimination based on national origin or citizenship status and provides for civil penalties and various equitable remedies. Section 274C provides civil penalties for immigration-related document fraud. Adjudicative proceedings are initiated by complaints filed with OCAHO by DHS (in Section 274A and Section 274C cases), or the Immigrant and Employee Rights (IER) section in the Civil Rights Division, and/or aggrieved private parties and entities (in section 274B cases).

Parties may seek administrative reviews of ALJ decisions in INA Sections 274A and 274C cases, or the CAHO may review such decisions on their own initiative, and may affirm, modify, vacate, and/or remand such decisions. Unless the case is certified to the Attorney General, the CAHO's decision on review constitutes the final agency action with respect to these cases. Appeals from final OCAHO decisions are brought before the U.S. circuit courts of appeal.

Non-Adjudicative Components

A number of other Headquarters offices also provide EOIR-wide mission support:

- Office of the Director (OOD) In addition to the Director, Deputy Director, and senior advisors, the OOD includes the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, the Ombuds, and the Planning, Analysis, and Statistics Division. These offices provide mission support to the OOD by (1) ensuring equality and diversity in the workplace; (2) providing oversight of certain pilot programs and initiatives; (3) overseeing the strategic management process; (4) conducting research, evaluation, and statistical analysis; (5) expanding analytics capacity to meet the demand for advances and predictive analysis; and (6) enhancing data quality and governance to quickly and effectively mitigate any data quality issues in the field. Other mission support housed within OOD includes many of the legal access functions of the Legal Access Programs as well as the Judicial Conduct and Professionalism Unit.
- Office of the General Counsel (OGC) Provides legal advice on a wide variety of matters involving EOIR employees in the performance of their official duties. OGC staff handle employee labor relations issues, review, and prosecute complaints involving attorney misconduct, and coordinate and respond to requests for assistance involving immigration fraud. OGC also coordinates development of agency regulations and forms;

provides litigation support to U.S. Attorneys, the Civil Division's Office of Immigration Litigation, and the Solicitor General's Office; coordinates inter-agency activities; and responds to all EOIR FOIA and Privacy Act requests.

- Office of Policy (OP) Centralizes coordination between the components on a number of projects and issues, including communications, training, and legal updates. This office (1) standardizes and communicates agency priorities and policies; (2) oversees and standardizes the EOIR regulatory process; (3) coordinates all legal training and related resources; and (4) other related programs.
- Office of Administration (OA) Provides administrative and managerial support in several areas concerning financial management and special emphasis and compliance programs. Specifically, OA supports the following areas: budget and financial management, contracts and procurement, human resources, space and facilities management, and security.
- Office of Information Technology (OIT) Responsible for the design, development, operations, and maintenance of the complete range of information technology systems supporting EOIR's day-to-day operations. OIT manages programs such as EOIR's current multi-year effort to modernize the case management and related electronic systems that support EOIR's mission.

Map of the Immigration Courts and Adjudication Centers



Adjudication of Immigration Cases

Immigration Court Proceedings Overview: DHS initiates cases before the immigration courts by charging an individual with potential grounds of removability and issuing an NTA in Immigration Court under §240 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1229a). Other types of proceedings before the immigration courts include bond hearings or fear reviews, which do not begin with an NTA, but are adjudicated by IJs.

IJs are responsible for conducting formal immigration court proceedings. In removal proceedings, IJs determine whether an individual from a foreign country (a noncitizen) should be allowed to enter or remain in the United States or should be removed. IJs also have jurisdiction to consider various forms of relief or protection from removal. If the IJ finds the individual to be removable as charged, the individual can then request several different forms of relief or protection from removal such as asylum and withholding of removal (including protection under the Convention Against Torture), cancellation of removal, voluntary departure, or other forms of relief or protection from removal. IJ decisions are administratively final unless appealed or certified to the BIA.

Some removal proceedings are conducted in prisons and jails as part of the Institutional Hearing Program. In coordination with DHS and correctional authorities across the country, IJs conduct hearings to adjudicate the immigration status of noncitizen inmates while they are serving sentences for criminal convictions.

Appellate Review: In most appeals to the BIA, the process begins with filing a notice of appeal challenging an IJ decision. The appeal can be filed either by the noncitizen or the Government (represented by ICE).

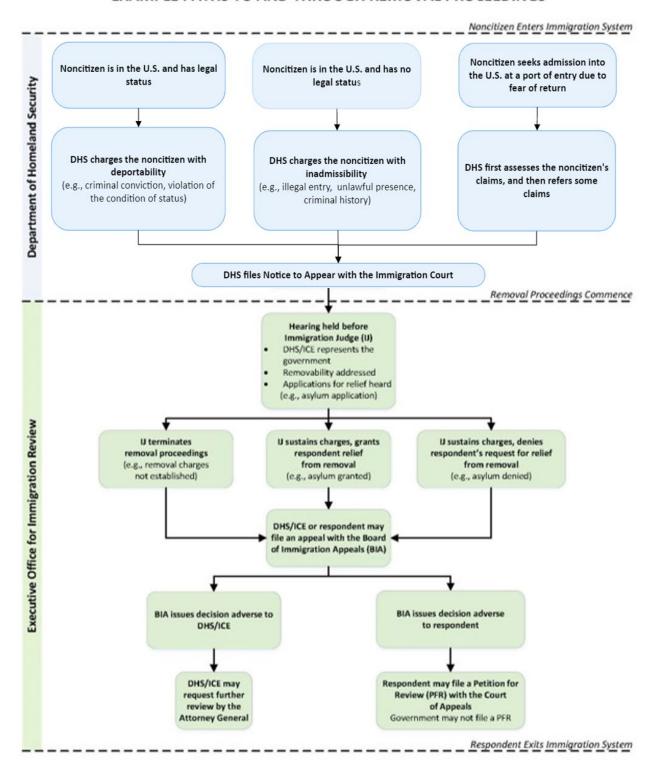
When an appeal is filed by either party, the BIA acknowledges receipt of the appeal, transcribes the proceedings (where appropriate), and sets a briefing schedule to allow both parties to present their arguments. Once briefing concludes, the appeal is adjudicated by a panel of one, three, or all Board Members.

If the decision is not published, the decision is binding only on the parties. If the BIA elects to publish the decision, it becomes legal precedent and is binding nationwide. The BIA's decision will stand unless and until modified or overruled by the Attorney General, a Federal Court, or the BIA itself.

In addition to appeals, parties to proceedings before the Board, or their representatives, may also file motions to remand, reopen and/or reconsider, among other motions, as appropriate to the relevant facts and applicable law of each particular case.

The following flow chart details examples of paths to and through removal proceedings.

EXAMPLE PATHS TO AND THROUGH REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS



OCAHO Administrative Hearings: OCAHO cases begin with the filing of a complaint, either by the DHS/ICE, in employer sanctions and document fraud cases under INA §§ 274A and 274C, respectively, or by private individuals or entities and/or the Civil Rights Division's IER Section in immigration-related employment discrimination cases under INA § 274B. After the complaint is filed, the respondent is given an opportunity to file an answer. Following the answer, the parties typically file prehearing statements, undertake discovery, and participate in one or more telephonic prehearing conferences with the ALJ. Parties may also engage in settlement negotiations and file dispositive motions with the ALJ. Cases that are not resolved or dismissed proceed to a formal evidentiary hearing, typically held near where the parties reside, or the alleged violation(s) occurred. Final decisions and orders issued by the ALJ in employer sanctions and document fraud cases are reviewable by the CAHO and/or the Attorney General. Once a final agency decision has been issued, a party may file an appeal with the appropriate federal circuit court of appeals. Final ALJ decisions in immigration-related employment discrimination cases are not reviewable by the CAHO or the Attorney General; rather, these decisions may be appealed directly to the appropriate federal circuit court of appeals.

2. Performance and Resource Tables

| | | | PERFO | RMANCE A | AND RES | OURCES TA | BLE | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--|----------------|---------|--|-------|------------|
| Decision Unit: | Executive Office f | or Immigration Review | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RESOURCES | S (\$ in thousands) | | T | arget | A | ctual | Ta | arget | C | hanges | Reque | sted (Total) | | |
| | | | FY | 2023 | FY | Z 2023 | FY | 2024 | Current Services Adjustments and FY 2025 Program Changes | | FY 20 | 25 Request | | |
| Total Costs an | nd FTE | | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | | |
| (Reimbursable included in total | | but costs are bracketed and not | 2,632 | 860,000 [21,516] | 2,482 | 860,000 [5,184] | 2,632 | 860,000 [6,505] | 252 | 121,133 [0] | 2,884 | 981,133 [6,505] | | |
| ТҮРЕ | STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | PERFORMANCE ³ | FY | 2023 | FY 2023 | | | | FY | 2024 | Adjustn | ent Services nents and FY gram Changes | FY 20 | 25 Request |
| Program | APG; Strategic | EOIR | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | FTE | \$000 | | |
| Activity | Objective 5.1 | | 2,632 | 860,000 | 2,482 | 860,000 | 2,632 | 860,000 | 252 | 121,133 | 2,884 | 981,133 | | |
| Priority Measure/KPI | 5.1 | Increase the number of case resolutions by 8% | | NA | | NA | 67 | 8,749 | | | 6 | 98,142 | | |
| Priority Measure: | 5.1 | Reduce the vacancy gap for immigration judges to 5% | | 5% | | 0% | | 5% | | | | 5% | | |
| Priority Measure | 5.1 | Ensure all Pro Bono rooms have video teleconferencing capability, including new immigration courts | | NA | | NA | 7 | 72% | | | | 100% | | |
| KPI: | 5.1 | Avg. number of vacancy-days for IJ positions | | 382 | | 133 | | 357 | | | | 350 | | |
| KPI: | 5.1 | Percent of IJs who have received all relevant continuing legal education annually | ġ | 92% | | 99% | ğ | 95% | | | | 95% | | |
| KPI: | 5.1 | Visits to the Immigration Court Online Resource (ICOR) | 24 | 4,000 | 40 | 52,503 | 40 | 0,000 | | | 4 | 00,000 | | |

Data Definition, Validation, Verification, and Limitations: OCIJ and BIA data are collected from the Case Access System for EOIR (CASE), a nationwide case tracking system at the trial and appellate levels. Court and appellate staff enter data, which is electronically transmitted and stored at EOIR headquarters, allowing for timely and complete data collection. Data are verified by on-line edits of data fields. Headquarters and field staff use routine daily, weekly, and monthly reports that verify data. Data validation is also performed on a routine basis through data comparisons between EOIR and DHS databases. There are no data limitations known at this time.

³ To align with the DOJ Strategic Plan 2022-2026, EOIR established new metrics starting in FY 2024.

| | | PF | ERFORMA | NCE ME | ASURE TA | ABLE | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| | Decision Unit: Executive Office for Immigration Revi | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective | Perform | ance Measures | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | | |
| | | | Actual | Target | Actual | Target | Target | | |
| 5.1 | Priority Measure/Key Performance Indicator | Increase the number of case resolutions by 8% | NA | NA | NA | 678,749 | 698,142 | | |
| 5.1 | Priority Measure | Reduce the vacancy gap for immigration judges to 5% | | 5% | 0% | 5% | 5% | | |
| 5.1 | Priority Measure | Ensure all Pro Bono rooms have video teleconferencing capability, including new immigration courts | NA | NA | NA | 72% | 100% | | |
| 5.1 | Key Performance Indicator | Average number of vacancy-days for immigration adjudicator positions | 655 | 382 | 133 | 357 | 350 | | |
| 5.1 | Key Performance Indicator | Percent of immigration judges who have received all relevant continuing legal education annually | 99.8% | 92% | 99% | 95% | 95% | | |
| 5.1 | Key Performance Indicator | Visits to the Immigration Court Online Resource (ICOR) | 276,913 | 24,000 | 462,503 | 400,000 | 400,000 | | |

3. Performance, Resources, and Strategies

EOIR's adjudication functions are part of the Government's broader immigration and border control programs. The guarantee of fairness and due process, including for those noncitizens in immigration proceedings, helps assure the integrity of the overall process.

a. Performance Plan and Report for Outcomes

To align with the DOJ Strategic Plan 2022-2026, EOIR established new metrics which can be found in the preceding pages Performance and Resources Table and the Performance Measure Table.

All three of EOIR's adjudicatory components (OCIJ, BIA, and OCAHO) continue their execution of EOIR's mission "to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws."

b. Strategies to Accomplish Outcomes

Filling Existing and New Vacancies

EOIR's continued focus on filling existing vacancies has helped increase adjudicative capacity over the last several years, and EOIR has currently hired or has extended offers to individuals to fill funded positions. Despite this increase in adjudicative capacity and EOIR's continued improvements to the process of hiring new IJs, the pending caseload continues to grow. To successfully decrease the pending caseload to a manageable level, EOIR requires additional IJs and support staff.

Docket Adjustments

EOIR continues to make docket adjustments and prioritize certain case types to reflect the shifts in enforcement priorities. EOIR will continue engaging with Federal partners to gauge the impact of enforcement activities, migratory patterns, and other factors that affect the immigration courts and adjust dockets and resource allocations accordingly.

New and Expanded Court Locations

Over the last several years, EOIR has added space in some existing locations and expanded its number of court locations, going from a total of 337 courtrooms at the close of FY 2016 to 601 courtrooms at the end of FY 2023, 36 of which opened in FY 2023. EOIR plans to add an additional 41 new courtrooms in FY 2024, to include three brand new court locations in Concord California, Lowell Massachusetts, and Indianapolis Indiana. By adding available court space as the IJ corps expands, EOIR will be able to hear a greater volume of cases, reducing the pending caseload more quickly.

Leveraging Existing IT Systems

To maximize the capacity of immigration courts nationwide, EOIR continues to make efficient use of Video Teleconferencing (VTC) systems and internet-based technologies, which enable IJs to adjudicate cases in other parts of the country. This has multiple benefits. IJs in locations with a lower caseload can administer cases in higher-volume locations remotely. IJs are able to adjudicate certain detained and Institutional Hearing Program (IHP) cases remotely, diminishing the challenges associated with reaching DHS and Federal facilities that are not co-located with immigration courts. All courtrooms and many conference rooms are now equipped with VTC capability. Looking forward,

EOIR is using analytics to explore how VTC, and other internet-based technology could minimize the number of underutilized courtrooms or expand access beyond a traditional courtroom. In FY 2023, EOIR implemented its virtual court initiative which began to scale these mentioned efficiencies across the organization.

In addition, EOIR continues to modernize and digitize its critical information systems. The benefits of an electronic filing and case management system are undisputed. A fully electronic system will improve case scheduling and adjudication efficiency, reduce time spent on administrative tasks related to paper files, and free space to be used for additional staff or court expansion. In 2018, EOIR piloted its new electronic filing system, ECAS, at five immigration courts and the BIA. Since the end of calendar year 2021, ECAS had been launched nationwide across all immigration court locations and the BIA. The next important phase of this effort is a multi-year project to scan and appropriately prepare all of the existing paper records into an electronic format that is amenable to use with the ECAS system.

Policy Coordination and Analysis

In addition to process improvement, technology, and communication strategies, EOIR strategizes work to ensure that short-term and long-term human capital needs are met, particularly as they relate to the IJ hiring process and immigration court staffing and resourcing requirements. OCIJ, BIA, and agency leadership continually examine activities critical to case completion and the amount of time required for staff to complete these activities thoroughly.

EOIR works with DHS, the Department's Office of Legal Policy and others on immigration related policies and regulations to increase adjudicatory capacity, as well as implement many new internal policies. This serves to enhance EOIR decision making by furthering consistency as well as enhancing fraud prevention and detection activities.

Improving the IJ Hiring Process

EOIR and DOJ continue to take steps to reduce the timeline to hire and on-board new IJs. The Department implemented a streamlined hiring plan in FY 2017 that EOIR revised and updated in FY 2021 and FY 2022. It retains the same degree of rigorous vetting as before but aims to reduce the timeline an application is pending before the agency.

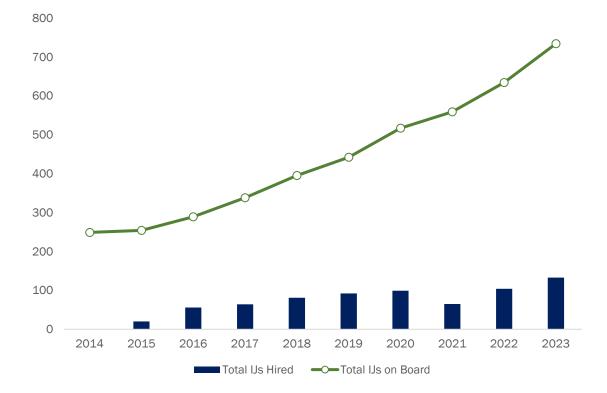
Under the revised processes, hiring times have been reduced by approximately 50%. EOIR hired 133 IJs in FY 2023 and has been able to clear a new IJ to start in as little as 150 days and to on-board a new IJ in as little as 195 days, which is a 74% reduction in hiring time compared to the 742 days cited in a 2017 GAO report on the subject⁴. Moving forward, EOIR will continue to assess the hiring process and identify any areas for improvement.

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⁴ Report GAO-17-438, Actions Needed to Reduce Case Backlog and Address Long-Standing Management and Operational Challenges

Immigration Judge (IJ) Hiring FY 2014 through FY 2023

| Fiscal Year | Total IJs Hired | Total IJs On-Board |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2014 | 0 | 249 |
| 2015 | 20 | 254 |
| 2016 | 56 | 289 |
| 2017 | 64 | 338 |
| 2018 | 81 | 395 |
| 2019 | 92 | 442 |
| 2020 | 99 | 517 |
| 2021 | 65 | 559 |
| 2022 | 104 | 634 |
| 2023 | 133 | 734 |



c. Priority Measures

EOIR's mission "to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws" directly aligns with the Department's priority goal to improve the administration of immigration courts. EOIR adjudicators and staff demonstrate daily their efforts to address the Department's immigration priority. The proposals contained in this budget are all designed to further strengthen EOIR's ability to meet its mission and this goal. By increasing adjudicative capacity, strengthening the privacy protections and framework for the sensitive information shared by participants in the immigration process, providing for meaningful assistance with legal access, and ensuring a system wherein all can participate regardless of location, EOIR is working to improve the immigration system on multiple fronts.

23

V. Program Increases by Item

Item Name: Adjudication Optimization Initiative

Budget Decision Unit(s): <u>Executive Office for Immigration Review</u>

Organizational Program: <u>Immigration Adjudications</u>

Program Increase: Positions 150 Agt/Atty 63 FTE 75 Dollars \$45,000,000

Description of Item

This request provides \$45.0 million, which will enable EOIR to add 25 new immigration judges and 125 support staff as well as space, equipment and associated adjudicatory needs to address EOIR's significant pending caseload more efficiently and effectively.

• \$45.0 million for improving, augmenting and adding to existing adjudicatory capacity.

• Hire 25 new IJ positions, associated support staff, and necessary space, equipment, and adjudicatory requirements (75 FTE).

Justification

The single greatest challenge facing the immigration courts today is the pending caseload. At the close of FY 2023, the pending caseload stood at over 2.4 million cases. While EOIR does not control the volume of cases that are filed with its courts by the Department of Homeland Security, the agency can ensure that each case is handled in an efficient manner without sacrificing due process or fairness for the individuals who appear before the courts. This program enhancement will improve and augment existing adjudicatory capacity by adding 25 new immigration judges and integral legal and support staff. In the aggregate, this will add upwards of 15,000 case completions annually once immigration judges are fully tenured.

Improve, Augment and Add to Existing Adjudicatory Capacity

EOIR requests 25 IJs and associated legal and support staff which, in conjunction with the new IJs on-boarded in FY 2023, would bring EOIR's total number of IJs to 759. In addition to the 25 IJs, EOIR is requesting funding for the associated 125 attorneys and support staff, adjudicatory requirements, and equipment and space for these new employees. The legal and support staff is critical as these employees play a crucial role in supporting the IJs and ensuring expediency and efficiency of case processing. While IJs are EOIR's most necessary resource, each one requires a team of legal staff to facilitate the efficient, fair, and legally correct adjudication of each case on their extensive and complex dockets. Arming IJs with the requisite support staff will enable existing IJs to complete more cases and improve the quality of each IJ decision.

EOIR completed 66% more cases in FY 2023 than in FY 2022. However, the massive number of new case filings continued to outpace EOIR's case processing capacity. Thus, the pending caseload increased 69% from FY 2022 to FY 2023. The pending caseload is anticipated to continue to rise, as

new case filings for FY 2024 and FY 2025 are projected to be at or above FY 2023's record level. A significant investment of resources over a sustained period of time is the only way to halt the growing caseload and begin to meaningfully reduce it.

Impact on Performance

This program increase directly supports the Department Agency Priority Goal to Improve the Administration of Immigration Courts, the Department Strategic Goal 5 to Administer a Just Court and Correctional System, and the Department Strategic Objective 5.1 to Administer an Equitable and Efficient Immigration Court System as well as supporting EOIR's overall mission.

Funding

1. Base Funding

| | FY 20 | 023 Ena | cted | FY 2 | 2024 Co | ntinuing | Resolution | FY 2025 Current Services | | | |
|-------|--------------|---------|----------------|-------|--------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|----------------|
| Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) |
| 4,195 | 1,785 | 2,632 | 860,000 | 3,050 | <u>1,500</u> | 2,632 | 860,000 | 3,050 | <u>1,500</u> | 2,800 | 906,133 |

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

| Type of Position/Series – IJ Team | FY 2025 Request (\$000) | Positions Requested | Full Year Modular Cost per Position | | | Annualizations (\$000) | s |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ((***) | | (\$000) | 2 nd Year | 3 rd Year | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) |
| Immigration Judges (0905 – IJ-1) | 3,860 | 25 | 309 | 176 | 12 | 4,397 | 296 |
| Legal Assistant (0986 – GS-7) | 2,777 | 37 | 150 | 72 | 1 | 2,678 | 36 |
| Attorney (0905 – GS-12) | 4,187 | 38 | 220 | 129 | 35 | 4,900 | 1,337 |
| Professional Admin and Other Law (001-0599; 950; 1000-2299 – GS-12) | 5,587 | 50 | 223 | 127 | 35 | 6,346 | 1,759 |
| Total Personnel | 16,410 | 150 | | | | 18,321 | 3,428 |

3. Non-Personnel Increase/Reduction Cost Summary

| No Proposition Cont. | FY 2025 | H.: C. | | Annualizations (\$000) | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|---|--------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Non-Personnel Item – Court Costs (IJ Teams) | (IJ Teams) Request (\$000) Quantity | | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) | | |
| Operational Travel | 86 | 3 | 25 | 2 | -68 | |
| Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges | 490 | 20 | 25 | 10 | -374 | |
| Guard Services – Security Work Authorizations | 1,093 | 44 | 25 | 23 | 22 | |
| Furniture | 745 | 30 | 25 | 16 | -729 | |
| Network Costs | 714 | 29 | 25 | 15 | -485 | |
| Video Teleconferencing (VTC) Equipment | 554 | 22 | 25 | 12 | -413 | |
| Digital Audio Recording (DAR) System | 794 | 32 | 25 | 17 | -549 | |
| Printing Equipment | 210 | 8 | 25 | 4 | -121 | |
| Document Reader | 51 | 2 | 25 | 1 | -35 | |
| ECAS Scanner | 84 | 3 | 25 | 2 | -57 | |
| Guard Services Equipment (X-ray, magnetometers, etc.) | 279 | 11 | 25 | 6 | -217 | |
| Space Buildout Associated with IJ Teams | 18,750 | 750 | 25 | 394 | -16,827 | |
| Total Non-Personnel | 23,849 | | | 501 | -19,853 | |

| Non-Personnel Item – | FY 2025 | Unit Cost | | Annualizations (\$000) | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Adjudicatory Costs (IJ Teams) | Request (\$000) | (\$000) | Quantity | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) | |
| National Qualified Representation Program (NQRP) | 518 | 21 | 25 | 10 | 11 | |
| Interpretation | 3,541 | 142 | 25 | 656 | 84 | |
| Transcription | 556 | 22 | 25 | 11 | 11 | |
| Litigation Support | 9 | 0.35 | 25 | 0 | 0 | |
| Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) | 117 | 5 | 25 | 2 | 2 | |
| Total Non-Personnel | 4,741 | | | 680 | 108 | |

4. <u>Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations</u>

The future annualizations contained in the above charts reflect sustained resources needed to reduce EOIR's multi-year backlog of pending cases.

5. Total Request for this Item

| | Positions | | | A | Amount Requested (\$000) | Annualizations (\$000) | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Category | Count | Agt/Atty | FTE | Personnel | Non-Personnel | Total | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) |
| Current Services | 3,050 | 1,500 | 2,800 | 543,680 | 543,680 362,453 | | | |
| Increases | 150 | 63 | 75 | 16,410 | 28,590 | 45,000 | 19,502 | -16,316 |
| Grand Total | 3,200 | 1,563 | 2,875 | 560,090 | 391,043 | 951,133 | 19,502 | -16,316 |

6. Affected Crosscuts

Immigration

Item Name: <u>Digital Transformation</u>

Budget Decision Unit(s): <u>Executive Office for Immigration Review</u>

Organizational Program: <u>Immigration Adjudications</u>

Program Increase: Positions 9 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 9 Dollars \$30,000,000

Description of Item

• \$30.0 million for Digital Transformation

\$25.8 million to increase EOIR's ability to deploy digital modernization strategies (5 FTE).

o \$4.2 million to protect the security of EOIR information and data (4 FTE).

Justification

On December 13, 2021, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14058 *Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery To Rebuild Trust in Government*⁵. The EO aims to improve how the Government delivers services by utilizing a customer-centric approach. Further, the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (P.L. 115-336) requires agencies to identify websites, digital services, and forms viewed or utilized by the public that need to be prioritized for modernization and digitization, especially those that have non-digital, paper-based, or in-person services without a digital option. In addition to improving government operations, a primary goal of these digitization efforts is to improve the customer experience (CX) for those interacting with Federal programs and agencies. Through innovative information technology (IT) solutions and digital modernization strategies, EOIR aims to meet these objectives. This effort will be undertaken in conjunction with the U.S. Digital Service.

Deploying Digital Modernization Strategies and Protecting the Security of EOIR Information

The Digital Transformation request will support EOIR's efforts to deploy digital modernization strategies and align technology investments to improve EOIR immigration processes and services, thus helping to address the pending caseload and enhance customer experiences through an improved immigration court system. This initiative, in partnership with the U.S. Digital Service, will enable EOIR to design, develop, and implement innovative solutions that will promote adjudicatory efficiency and facilitate the consistent application of immigration law. The proposed funding will simplify processes and improve the customer experience by using modern, cloud-based solutions and agile methodologies to develop and implement new capabilities, including greater digitization of EOIR forms. In combination, these investments in digital court services will provide the public with greater accessibility, ease of use, and improved interaction with EOIR.

The requested funds would also be used to develop and deploy new capabilities in data transparency including the ability for Application Programming Interface based data exchanges with other federal partners. Increased digitization of immigration cases combined with enhanced data analytics would further the adoption of the Evidence Based Policy Making Act, while also providing EOIR increased

⁵ https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/13/executive-order-on-transforming-federal-customer-experience-and-service-delivery-to-rebuild-trust-in-government/

ability to improve case management across the various courts, thereby enhancing the overall productivity and services of the immigration court system.

Further, these funds would facilitate the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence that would enable increased automation for routine tasks and increase efficiency per adjudicator. EOIR is already working with the U.S. Digital Service to allow for linked cases to be updated simultaneously when the primary case is updated, instead of entering the information multiple times across multiple screens. Additionally, efforts are planned that would automate enrollment of cases into EOIR's "caseflow management" process. EOIR estimates that automation could double the number of cases enrolled into caseflow management for a total of 500,000 cases.

With the significant increase in privacy-related work and the rapidly evolving cybersecurity threat landscape, EOIR's current privacy-focused workforce and perimeter-focused IT security architecture is approaching obsolescence, which will ultimately degrade EOIR's risk posture. In keeping with E.O. 14028 regarding improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, EOIR requests funding to improve EOIR's cybersecurity posture. As noted in the E.O., the United States faces persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns that threaten the public sector, the private sector, and ultimately the American people's security and privacy. Given the sensitive nature of the information EOIR stores and manages, it is imperative that data is protected. Improving EOIR's cybersecurity posture for the future will require investment in hardware, software, cloud-based services, and the people to design, install and operate in this new environment. As the agency has rapidly increased in personnel the past few years, the number of devices on EOIR's network that must be managed is now over 10,000 and continues to expand. The digitization of EOIR's proceedings and other functionalities also means more applications and services to be monitored, analyzed, and managed. Increasing digitization, combined with the rising threat landscape as identified by E.O. 14028 and the growing amount of EOIR information present in a cloud-based system, requires improved security and resilience.

Impact on Performance

This program increase directly supports the E.O. 14058; E.O. 14028, the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act, the Department Agency Priority Goal to Improve the Administration of Immigration Courts, the Department Strategic Goal 5 to Administer a Just Court and Correctional System, and the Department Strategic Objective 5.1 to Administer an Equitable and Efficient Immigration Court System as well as supporting EOIR's overall mission.

Funding

1. Base Funding

| | FY 20 | 23 Enac | eted | FY 2024 Continuing Resolution | | | | FY 2025 Current Services | | | |
|-------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | Amount (\$000) |
| 4,195 | <u>1,785</u> | <u>2,632</u> | 860,000 | 3,050 | <u>1,500</u> | <u>2,632</u> | 860,000 | 3,050 | <u>1,500</u> | <u>2,800</u> | 906,133 |

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

| Type of Position/Series – Digital Transformation | FY 2025 Request | Positions Requested | Full Year Modular Cost | Annualizations (\$000) | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| | (\$000) | | per Position (\$000) | 2 nd Year | 3 rd Year | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) | |
| Professional Admin and Other Law (2210 - GS-13) | 507 | 2 | 253 | 19 | 1 | 39 | 2 | |
| Professional Admin and Other Law (2210 - GS-14) | 1,725 | 6 | 287 | -15 | 1 | -88 | 6 | |
| Professional Admin and Other Law (2210 - GS-15) | 327 | 1 | 327 | -15 | 1 | -14 | 1 | |
| Total Personnel | 2,558 | 9 | | | | -63 | 9 | |

3. Non-Personnel Increase/Reduction Cost Summary

| Non Bourgard House Divided | FY 2025 | Unit Cost | | Annualizations (\$000) | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Non-Personnel Item – Digital Transformation | Request (\$000) | (\$000) | Quantity | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) | |
| IT Modernization Contractual Services | 22,612 | 22,612 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Software | 1,150 | 1,150 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| IT Equipment | 3,680 | 3,680 | 1 | -2,500 | 0 | |
| Total Non-Personnel | 27,442 | 27,442 | | -2,500 | 0 | |

4. <u>Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations</u>

The future annualizations contained in the above charts reflect sustained resources needed to reduce EOIR's multi-year backlog of pending cases.

5. Total Request for this Item

| | Positions | | | Am | ount Requeste (\$000) | Annualizations (\$000) | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Category – Digital Transformation | Count | Agt/Atty | FTE | Personnel | Non- Personnel | Total | FY 2026 (net change from 2025) | FY 2027 (net change from 2026) |
| Current Services | 3,050 | 1,500 | 2,800 | 543,680 | 362,453 | 906,133 | | |
| Increases | 9 | 0 | 9 | 2,558 | 27,442 | 30,000 | -2,563 | 9 |
| Grand Total | 3,059 | 1,500 | 2,809 | 546,238 | 389,895 | 936,133 | -2,563 | 9 |

6. Affected Crosscuts

Immigration

VI. Program Offsets by Item (N/A)

VII. Exhibits