

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS



FY 2027
CONGRESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION

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Table of Contents

	Page No.
I. Overview.....	1
II. Summary of Program Changes	13
III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language.....	14
IV. Program Activity Justification	15
A. Criminal	15
1. Program Description.....	16
B. Civil	20
1. Program Description.....	21
C. Legal Education	24
1. Program Description.....	25
V. Program Increases by Item	27
A. Make the District of Columbia Safe.....	27
B. Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation	32
VI. Program Offsets by Item	N/A

VII. Exhibits 38

- A. Organizational Chart
- B. Summary of Requirements
- C. FY 2027 Program Increases/Offsets by Decision Unit
- D. Resources by DOJ Strategic Goal/Objective – NOT REQUIRED
- E. Justification for Technical and Base Adjustments
- F. Crosswalk of FY 2025 Availability
- G. Crosswalk of FY 2026 Availability
- H-R. Summary of Reimbursable Resources
- H-S. Summary of Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections Resources
- I. Detail of Permanent Positions by Category
- J. Financial Analysis of Program Changes
- K. Summary of Requirements by Object Class
- L. Status of Congressionally Requested Studies, Reports, and Evaluations (NOT APPLICABLE)





I. Overview of the United States Attorneys

A. Introduction

For fiscal year (FY) 2027, the United States Attorneys request **\$2,870,335,000** and 11,566 positions, of which 6,244 are attorneys and 58 are agents. This staffing level does not include reimbursable positions. The budget request contains \$31,601,000 in program increases to make the District of Columbia Safe and to address Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation offenses. The United States Attorneys budget aligns with a wide array of Administration policy priorities outlined in various executive actions given the expansive scope of their work. Specifically, the FY 2027 program increases align with the Administration's priorities of *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful* and *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*. The budget further addresses the Department of Justice (DOJ) memorandum relating to *Operation Take Back America*.

Electronic copies of the Department of Justice's Congressional Budget Justifications and Capital Asset Plan and Business Case exhibits can be viewed or downloaded from the Internet using the Internet address: <https://www.justice.gov/doj/budget-and-performance>

The United States Attorneys serve as the nation's principal litigators. In response to the mandates of the Constitution that required establishment of a system of Federal courts, Congress enacted the Judiciary Act of 1789, directing the President to appoint, in each Federal district, "a person learned in the law to act as an attorney for the United States."

Since 1870, the United States Attorneys have worked under the direction of the United States Department of Justice.

There are 94 United States Attorney's Offices (USAOs) located throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The 93 United States Attorneys (Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are under the direction of a single United States Attorney) are appointed by, and serve at the discretion of, the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. The map on page 3 depicts the current district and branch office locations of each USAO.

The United States Attorneys report to the Attorney General through the Deputy Attorney General. Each United States Attorney serves as the chief Federal law enforcement officer within their judicial district and, as such, are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the Federal Government, the litigation and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party, and the handling of criminal and civil appellate cases before the United States Courts of Appeals. The United States Attorneys and Assistant United States Attorneys represent the interests of the United States in cities, towns, and communities across the country and seek to ensure that justice is served throughout the nation. The USAOs conduct most of the trial work in which the United States is a party. Although caseloads vary by district, each USAO has a diverse docket of cases. Each United States Attorney exercises broad discretion in the use of their resources to further local priorities and serve their community's needs.



The Attorney General's Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys

United States Attorneys provide advice and counsel to the Attorney General and the Department's senior leadership through the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (AGAC) and its various subcommittees and working groups. The AGAC was established in 1973 to give United States Attorneys a voice in advising the Attorney General on Department policies. The Committee is typically comprised of approximately 15 members, representing various Federal judicial districts, and geographic locations. The Committee members meet regularly with the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Associate Attorney General, and work to further the goals set by the President of the United States. The AGAC's subcommittees and working groups play an important role in addressing Administration priorities.

U.S. ATTORNEYS' OFFICES





Executive Office for United States Attorneys

In 1953, Attorney General Order No. 8-53 established the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) to “provide general executive assistance and supervision to the offices of the United States Attorneys.” One of the original directives instructed EOUSA to “serve as liaison, coordinator, and expeditor with respect to the Offices of the United States Attorneys, and between these offices and other elements of the Department [of Justice].” EOUSA provides the 94 USAOs with general executive assistance and supervision; policy guidance; administrative management direction and oversight; operational support; and coordination with other components of the Department and other Federal agencies. EOUSA’s responsibilities encompass legal, budgetary, administrative, and personnel services, as well as continuing legal education. See Exhibit A for an organizational chart of EOUSA.

Under 28 CFR § 0.22, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys shall be under the direction of a Director who shall:

- A. Provide general executive assistance and supervision to the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys, including:
 - 1) Evaluating the performance of the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys, making appropriate reports and inspections, and taking corrective action where indicated.
 - 2) Coordinating and directing the relationship of the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys with other organizational units of the Department of Justice.
- B. Publish and maintain the Justice Manual and other guidance for the U.S. Attorneys’ offices and those other organizational units of the Department concerned with litigation.
- C. Supervise the operation of the Office of Legal Education, which shall provide training to all Department of Justice attorney and non-attorney legal personnel, and publish the Department of Justice Journal of Federal Law and Practice.
- D. Provide the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys with such staff assistance and funds as are reasonably necessary to carry out the Committee’s responsibilities (28 CFR 0.10(d)).
- E. Establish policy and procedures for the satisfaction, collection, or recovery of criminal fines, special assessments, penalties, interest, bail bond forfeitures, restitution, and court costs in criminal cases.

The major functions of EOUSA are to:

- Provide support to the Deputy Attorney General regarding United States Attorney appointments.
- Provide general direction and supervision of the management and policy activities of the United States Attorneys’ financial litigation programs, including 1) the establishment of policy and procedures for debt collection activities, affirmative civil enforcement and bankruptcy litigation, 2) litigative and technical support, 3) training, 4) publication of newsletters, 5) coordination and implementation of legislative



initiatives, and 6) the establishment of guidelines and procedures on criminal fine collection issues.

- Provide general legal interpretations, opinions, and advice to United States Attorneys in areas of recusals, cross-designations, outside activities, representation, allegations of misconduct, adverse actions, grievances, labor relations, and ethical and conflict of interest questions.
- Provide general support to the United States Attorneys in matters involving Assistant United States Attorney and Special Assistant United States Attorney appointments.
- Provide overall administrative management oversight and support to the United States Attorneys in the program areas of facilities management (to include acquisition of real property/space, construction, renovation, repair, and relocation); and support service programs (to include personal property management, small purchases procurement, motor vehicle support, telephone systems, printing, and records disposition).
- Provide overall management oversight and support to the United States Attorneys in the area of security programs (to include physical security, information security, communications security, security awareness, and safety).
- Analyze, design, and provide automated services and systems in support of the litigation mission and of selected administrative functions of the United States Attorneys' offices including development, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs for office automation, systems development activities, and data base maintenance.
- Design, develop, and support the operations and software for caseload and collections systems, and administrative/litigative applications in the districts and central systems, as well as provide technical assistance; produce the Annual Statistical Report; and monitor the quality of the USAOs data.
- Support the USAOs in the conduct of their law enforcement coordination programs.
- Serve as the liaison on victim-witness assistance activities within the USAOs, supporting the United States Attorneys in their work relating to these matters.
- Provide budget and fiscal assistance and guidance to the 94 USAOs.
- Respond to requests under the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) on behalf of the USAOs, coordinate and respond to litigation arising from these matters, and provide advice and training to the United States Attorneys' staffs relating to FOIA/PA.
- Respond to inquiries from members of Congress and private citizens, and review and comment on legislative and regulatory proposals relating to the activities of the USAOs.

Additionally, in FY 2026 the Community Relations Service (CRS) was realigned to the EOUSA, as part of the Department's Agency Reduction in Force and Reorganization Plan (ARRP) to consolidate offices and create a more streamlined Department focused on implementing the President's priorities.



CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

The USAOs investigate and prosecute the vast majority of criminal cases brought by the Federal Government – representing an incredibly diverse workload. The types of cases include violent crime and firearms; international and domestic terrorism; identity theft; public corruption; procurement, securities, and mortgage fraud; gangs and organized crime; drug enforcement; human trafficking; illegal immigration; southwest border enforcement; and criminal civil rights. Many of these cases involve multiple defendants and are extremely complex.



The United States Attorneys receive most of their criminal referrals, or “matters,” from Federal investigative agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the United States Secret Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The USAOs also receive criminal matters from state and local investigative agencies, and sometimes through reports from private citizens. Following careful consideration of each criminal matter, the United States Attorney must decide whether to present the matter to a grand jury for indictment.

Federal Law Enforcement Partners



Although historically a large percentage of criminal defendants have pled guilty prior to trial, a USAO must always be prepared to go to trial after the grand jury returns an indictment. Careful and diligent preparation for trial, including thorough pre-trial discovery and the litigation of pre-trial motions, helps to clarify issues, promote efficiency, and protect a defendant’s rights under the Constitution and the Speedy Trial Act. When a defendant does not plead guilty, however, a trial before a petit jury or a judge (a bench trial) becomes necessary. If the defendant is convicted after trial, the USAO must participate in a sentencing hearing and also defend the conviction in post-trial litigation and on appeal. The USAOs handle most criminal appeals before the United States Courts of Appeal. If there is a further appeal, the United States Attorney may be called upon to assist the Solicitor General in preparing the case for review by the United States Supreme Court.



CIVIL LITIGATION

The United States Attorneys represent and defend the government in its many roles – as employer, regulator, law enforcer, medical care provider, revenue collector, contractor, procurer, property owner, judicial and correctional systems managers, and administrator of Federal benefits. When the United States is sued, the Department of Justice must be its legal representative. Defensive litigation includes actions seeking monetary damages for alleged torts, contract violations, and discrimination by the United States and its agents and employees. It also includes defending suits challenging government administrative actions, including Social Security disability determinations; habeas corpus petitions; and constitutional challenges to statutes and other Federal policies.

Defensive civil work is unique because it is not optional and non-delegable. Unlike criminal matters, defensive civil cases cannot be declined to manage or reduce an office's caseload. All cases filed against the United States, its agencies, and employees in their official capacities must be defended.

In addition to defending the government, the USAOs initiate civil actions, referred to as "affirmative litigation," to assert and protect the United States' interests. They also defend the United States' interests in lawsuits filed against the government, referred to as defensive civil litigation. In other civil cases, the United States is a third party, creditor, or intervener, such as representing the government's interests in bankruptcy actions.

Examples of affirmative litigation include civil actions brought to enforce the nation's environmental, admiralty, and civil rights laws; recoup money and recover damages resulting from Federal program and other fraud; enforce administrative summonses; and forfeit assets seized by Federal, state, and local law enforcement.

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL APPEALS

Appeals require a thorough review of the entire record in the case, the filing of briefs, and in many instances, participation in oral argument before the United States Court of Appeals. In most appellate matters handled by the USAOs, the United States is the appellee and must respond to an appeal initiated by an opposing party. Accordingly, the appellate workload of the United States Attorneys fluctuates based on decisions outside their control. Furthermore, the complexity and time required to handle appellate work increases when the case presents complicated facts or novel questions of law.



CRIMINAL AND CIVIL DEBT COLLECTION

The USAOs are responsible for collecting both criminal and civil debt for the Federal Government. Each USAO has a Financial Litigation Program (FLP) responsible for criminal and civil debt collection activities as well as an Affirmative Civil Enforcement staff devoted to civil debt collection.

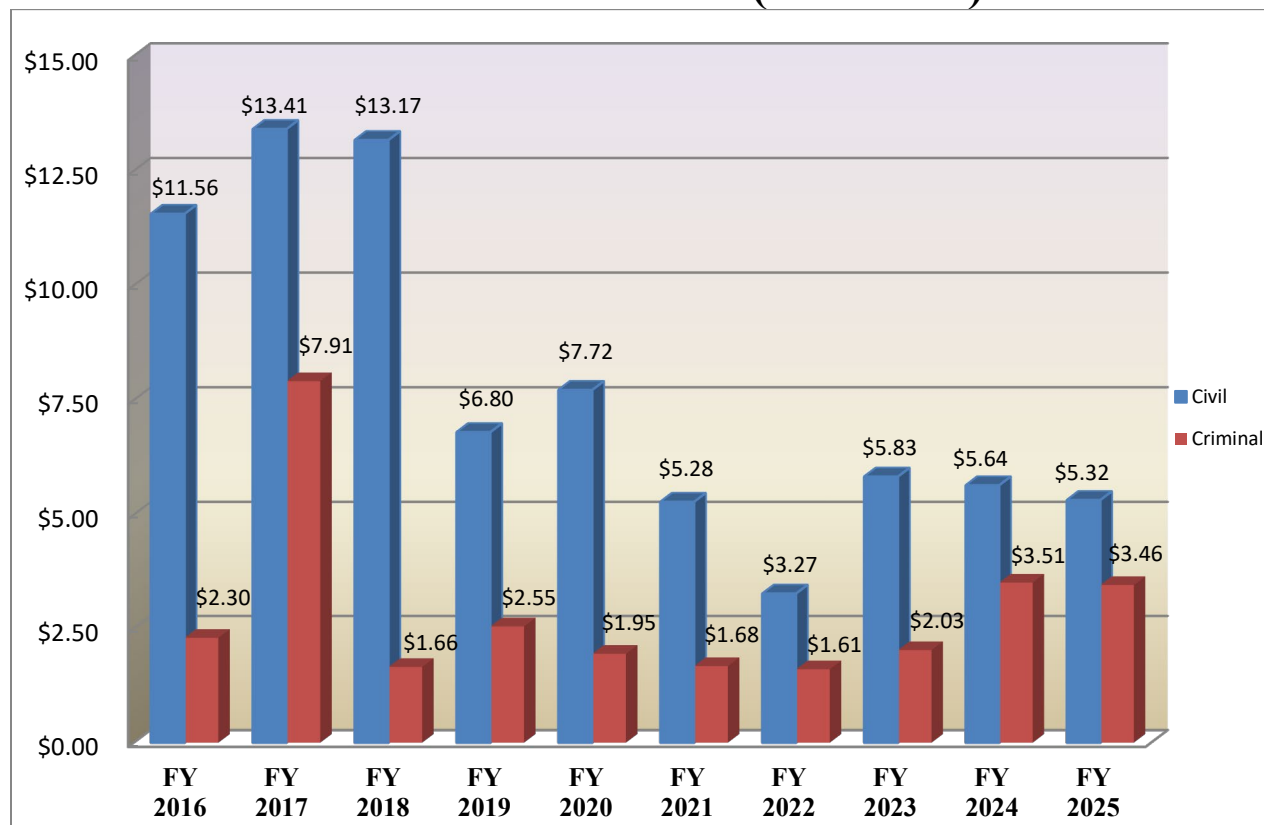
Debts are incurred by a criminal defendant when the defendant is sentenced by the court. These debts may be in the form of restitution to crime victims, fines imposed by the court, special assessments on each criminal conviction count, costs of prosecution and other costs, or forfeitures of appearance bonds. Interest may also be collected in certain cases. When restitution is ordered, the USAOs are involved in collecting Federal restitution payments (owed to the United States) as well as non-Federal restitution (owed to private individuals and entities). As a result of the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act (MVRA), courts must impose monetary restitution orders in all violent crimes and most property crimes, regardless of a defendant's ability to pay restitution. United States Attorneys are required to enforce restitution orders on behalf of all Federal crime victims.

The United States Attorneys are also the legal representatives for other Federal agencies to pursue repayment of debts. For example, when Federal agencies lend money and the recipients default on repayment, or when Federal agencies have paid on guaranteed loans that have not been repaid as provided for in the lending agreement, the United States Attorneys pursue repayment of the debt. The Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration are some of these client agencies. The United States Attorneys file suit to obtain judgments to collect debts, foreclose on real property, compel physicians to repay or fulfill their commitment to the Public Health Service in return for education grants, sue to set aside fraudulent transfers of property which could be used to satisfy defaulted loans, and manage debtor repayment schedules.



The table below illustrates the significant amount of debt collected each year from FY 2016 through the end of FY 2025.

Debt Collection Chart (in billions)



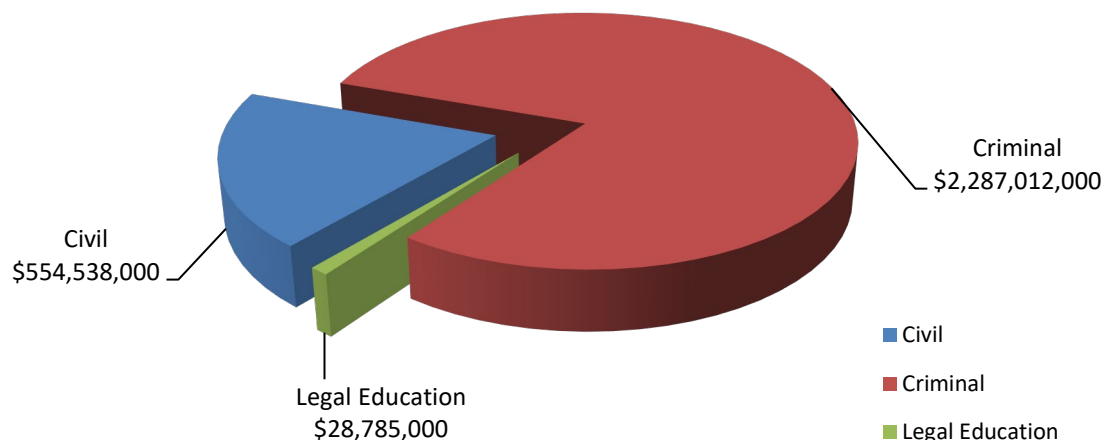
In FY 2025, the USAOs collected \$8.78 billion in criminal and civil debts. Of the total debts collected, USAOs recovered \$3.46 billion in criminal debts; and \$5.32 billion in civil debts. Totals include both USAO collections and shared collections with other DOJ components. The United States Attorneys' FY 2025 collection efforts, handled by a very small percentage of the total workforce, returned to the Treasury funding well in excess of the \$2.61 billion appropriated in the FY 2025 budget for the entire United States Attorneys' community.



B. Full Program Costs

The United States Attorneys' **\$2,870,335,000** budget request for FY 2027 is divided into three decision units: criminal, civil, and legal education.

FY 2027 Budget Request by Decision Unit



Some programs, as well as management and administration costs, cross decision units. Included, also are the indirect costs of continuing activities, which are central to the operations of each decision unit. The FY 2027 request will fund the United States Attorneys' role in supporting the Department's Priorities. The United States Attorneys' with this funding will be able to continue to provide Federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime, and seeking just punishment of those found guilty of unlawful conduct.

C. Challenges

The United States Attorneys face both external and internal challenges that can impact their ability to meet their goals. Some of these challenges are summarized below.

External Challenges

Coordinating with External Partners: Law enforcement is a central element of the United States Attorneys' mission, yet the ability and willingness of other Federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement partners to coordinate and share intelligence, resources, and personnel with one another can pose significant challenges. Ongoing efforts to safeguard the public ensure that meaningful partnerships with local law enforcement, public officials, and leaders in communities remain relevant and collaborative. Failure to coordinate and collaborate can impede the prosecution of complex criminal activity and even disrupt ongoing investigations. Thus, the USAOs must continually strive to enhance coordination with law enforcement partners.



Identifying Emerging Criminal Activities: Criminal activity continues to evolve in response to new technologies and law enforcement efforts. The proliferation of synthetic drugs requires additional analytical resources to accurately identify and schedule the compounds. Persistent high levels of heroin abuse continue to put a strain on Department resources, particularly the need for additional outreach and education to state and local communities. Increased diversions of pharmaceutical drugs create a challenge for prosecution, as the process is extremely technical, time-consuming, and document intensive. Fraud schemes, which have become more sophisticated and complex over time, can have a significant impact on individual financial stability as well as our economy. As a result, the United States Attorneys and their investigative partners are working to identify these criminal activities as they emerge so law enforcement can address them in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Keeping Pace with Technology: New technologies have generated cutting-edge methods for committing crimes, such as the use of the dark web and encryption. The USAOs must also keep pace with the exponentially increasing volume and complexity of data associated with a diverse range of cases. The United States Attorneys must continue to develop innovative practices to ensure that each office has the capacity to process, analyze, and leverage electronic information. For example, the USAOs have implemented electronic litigation (eLitigation) processes to move from paper evidence to electronic evidence, and to manage, examine, and transfer large amounts of casework data. The USAOs have used technologically advanced tools and processes in sophisticated cases, allowing for data integration from multiple sources, which is critical to organizing and prosecuting complex cases, such as healthcare fraud and securities fraud cases. The USAOs are looking to expand this support to other types of cases, such as procurement fraud, and to increase data analytics capabilities.

Internal Challenges

Maintaining a Skilled Workforce: To address certain external changes and challenges, such as increasing amounts of eLitigation, the United States Attorneys need employees who can adapt to changes in the law, its practice, and the case analysis tools used in support of the United States Attorneys' mission. Each USAO must have sufficient access to qualified automated litigation support specialists and legal support staff who have the expertise necessary to consult with attorneys on technical issues and institute and follow defensible practices with respect to electronic data. This requires a significant effort focused on improving the competencies of existing employees through training and hiring new employees with the appropriate skill sets.

Adapting to Changing Technology: As technology has evolved, so have the types and amount of electronically stored information that comprises critical evidence in the USAOs investigations and cases. To keep pace with technological changes and to ensure that criminal and civil cases are adequately supported, the United States Attorneys must continue to develop an integrated approach to eLitigation that focuses on the protocols, best practices, and technological tools needed to identify, collect, process, review, analyze, and present electronic evidence.



Suballotments and Direct Collection Resources: The United States Attorneys receives various funding sources, in addition to its direct appropriations. These resources, which the United States Attorneys rely on to support sub-allotted positions, such as Three Percent Funding, Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Act (HCFAC), Interagency Law Enforcement (ILE), and Asset Forfeiture Fund (AFF), are becoming more limited and in some cases reduced. These reductions place an internal burden on the United States Attorneys' direct resources to make up any shortfalls in order to maintain the positions funded through those external sources. The FY 2027 President's Budget request alleviates the largest of these pressure points by building in both the funding and corresponding positions previously funded from Interagency Law Enforcement (ILE) into the United States Attorneys' base resources. However, variation in available funding from those other external sources may still exist, and the United States Attorneys will continue to develop strategic and fiscally prudent ways to maintain those sub-allotted positions and support their vitally important work for the Department.



II. Summary of Program Changes

For FY 2027, the United States Attorneys' budget request is \$2,870,335,000, which include two program increases totaling 220 positions; 110 full-time equivalents (FTE); and \$31,601,000. The program increases are outlined in the chart below:

Item Name	Description				Page
	Purpose	Pos.	FTE	Dollars (\$000)	
Make the District of Columbia Safe	Funding is critically needed to provide the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAO-DC) with the resources required to effectively combat and eradicate gun violence, prioritize the prosecution of federal firearms violations, pursue tougher penalties for these offenses, and hold accountable those who commit violent crimes, including immigration-related offenses. More specifically, the requested funds will be used to support the USAO-DC's efforts as they relate to court proceedings arising from the District of Columbia Superior Court.	192	96	\$27,194	27
Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation	Funding is needed to provide dedicated resources to investigate and prosecute human trafficking and child exploitation crimes, spread public awareness, collaborate with state and local partners, and expand the Department's reach to ensure the safety of the American people. These resources will increase the United States Attorneys' offices abilities to identify victims and target dangerous human traffickers and child predators that prey upon some of the most helpless individuals in our society, including minors and migrants victimized by traffickers, who are frequently suffering inescapable situations in which they are unseen, unheard, and underserved.	28	14	\$4,407	32
TOTAL		220	110	\$31,601	



III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

Appropriations Language

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including inter-governmental and cooperative agreements, \$2,870,335,000: Provided, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$19,600 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: Provided further, That not to exceed \$40,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided further, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

Appropriations Language Analysis:

The Budget adjusts the period of availability from no-year to two-year money to support more efficient and timely obligation of resources.



IV. Program Activity Justification

A. Criminal

Criminal Litigation	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	8,520	8,237	2,040,225,000
2026 Enacted	8,281	7,501	2,047,994,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	814	811	207,537,000
2027 Current Services	9,095	8,312	2,255,531,000
2027 Program Increases	220	110	31,481,000
2027 Request	9,315	8,422	2,287,012,000
Total Change 2026-2027	1,034	921	239,018,000

Criminal Litigation Information Technology Breakout	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	353	353	142,736,000
2026 Enacted	341	341	142,745,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	1	1	126,000
2027 Current Services	342	342	142,871,000
2027 Program Increase	0	0	0
2027 Request	342	342	142,871,000
Total Change 2026-2027	1	1	126,000



1. Program Description – Criminal Program Activity

The Department is committed to protecting national security and enforcing Federal laws that protect public safety and keep our country safe. To realize these goals, the Department has prioritized protecting the American people from the impact of all types of criminal activities, including violent crime, domestic terrorism, immigration and gun-related crimes, illegal firearms possession, drugs, cybercrime, and Indian country crimes. The United States Attorneys are critical to carrying out the Administration and the Department's policies and priorities, including securing our borders, combatting illegal immigration, protecting the United States from national security and public safety threats, eliminating cartels and other transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and combatting illegal trafficking of dangerous drugs and human beings.

USAO Success Story

United States v. Garner

District of Columbia – In September 2025, Khayan Garner was sentenced to 87 months in prison in connection with distributing videos depicting prepubescent boys engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Garner, aka “Khy,” pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of child pornography. In addition to the prison term, Garner was ordered to serve 10 years of supervised release. According to court documents, Garner was acting as an administrator of an online public group dedicated to trading child sexual abuse material. On June 26, 2024, Garner sent a private message from his account that included a MEGA link containing a folder labeled “CP,” which contained several videos depicting prepubescent boys engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The recipient was an undercover FBI employee.

USA will continue to prioritize and prosecute illegal immigration and border-related criminal offenses occurring along the Southern and Northern borders, and throughout the United States. In recent years, increased transnational criminal organizations at the Southern and Northern borders have become savvier and more organized in planning and directing their criminal activity and more brazen and ruthless in the implementation of their criminal schemes. To maximize and streamline the Department's focus on illegal immigration, Operation Take Back America was established. This comprehensive initiative empowers federal prosecutors and law enforcement to protect their communities from these ongoing threats and risks. Operation Take Back America enables the Department to consolidate and maximize its immigration enforcement, public safety, and national security resources into a framework that implements core policy objectives of this Administration

as outlined in [Executive Order 14159](#), *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*; [Executive Order 14157](#), *Designating Cartels And Other Organizations As Foreign Terrorist Organizations And Specially Designated Global Terrorists*; [Executive Order 14165](#), *Securing Our Borders*, and [Executive Order 14164](#), *Restoring the Death Penalty and Protecting Public Safety*.

Violent crime is devastating to communities in ways that are long-lasting and exceedingly difficult to overcome. As the chief Federal law enforcement officers in their districts, U.S.



attorneys play a pivotal role in the Department's renewed commitment to reducing crime in America by focusing on the most violent criminals, taking down violent gang networks, reducing gun violence, prioritizing public safety, and supporting state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners.

Domestic terrorism poses significant threats to our Nation. The term "domestic terrorism" is interpreted broadly and includes all violent criminal acts in furtherance of ideological goals stemming from domestic influences. The USAOs play a critical role in identifying, disrupting, and prosecuting all Federal crimes, to the maximum extent permissible by law. Presidential Memoranda titled *Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence*, outlines domestic terrorism priorities that include politically motivated terrorist acts such as organized doxing campaigns, swatting, rioting, looting, trespassing, assault, destruction of property, threats of violence, and civil disorder. In confronting this threat, the Department will ensure that it is using all available tools while remaining steadfast in protecting civil liberties and the rule of law.

Human Trafficking and exploitation of children in all forms requires a comprehensive and coordinated response to prosecuting human traffickers and individuals who sexually exploit children online, to protect and support victims of human trafficking and child exploitation, and to provide education to raise awareness and help lower the incidence of human trafficking and child exploitation. The USAOs are committed to pursuing justice and ending all forms of predacious abuse of children, trafficking of minors and other vulnerable members of our society, as outlined in several executive orders, such as [Executive Order](#) titled *Combating Human Trafficking and Online Child Exploitation in the United States*; [Executive Order 14159](#), *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*; [Executive Order 14165](#), *Securing Our Borders*; and [Executive Order](#) titled *Combatting Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against American Citizens*.

The USAOs will also investigate and prosecute a wide range of white-collar crimes from large-scale crimes committed in the financial sector, to cases involving schemes to defraud the public. The USAOs will prioritize prosecutions of cyber-enabled fraud and scam schemes targeting Americans as outlined in an [Executive Order](#), titled *Combating Cybercrime, Fraud, and Predatory Schemes Against American Citizens*.

The following cases are examples of the breadth of United States Attorneys' criminal case successes:

- The USAO in the **District of Connecticut**, [United States v. Rivera, et al.](#)– In March 2025, Tyjon Preston was sentenced to 264 months of imprisonment, followed by five years of supervised release, for his involvement in a violent New Haven street gang, including two murders and additional shootings. According to court documents and statements made in court, in an effort to address violence in New Haven, the ATF, FBI, DEA and New Haven Police Department, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office and New Haven State's Attorney's Office, have been investigating a gang war between members and associates of the Exit 8 street gang and rival gangs in the Hill section and other areas of the city. The investigation revealed that Preston and other members of the Exit 8 gang engaged in drug



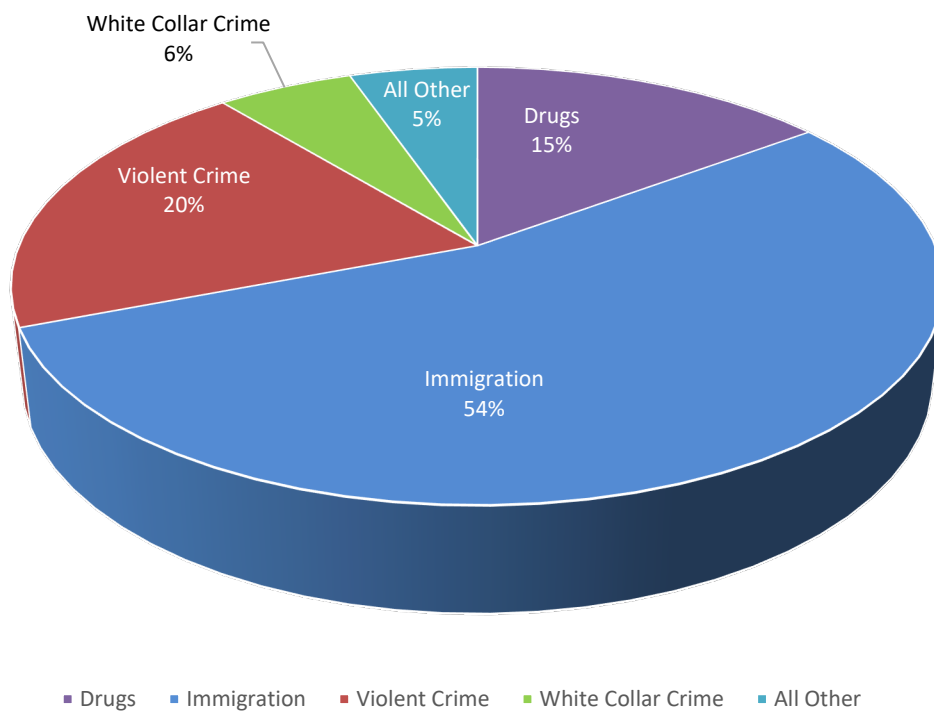
trafficking, used and shared firearms, and committed at least three murders and 16 attempted murders.

- The USAO in the **District of Kansas**, [*United States v. Gillen*](#) – In March 2025, Martin Brandon Gillen was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping and sexually assaulting his victim at gunpoint as he transported her across state lines. He was also sentenced to 95 years in prison for other related crimes, to be served concurrent with his life sentence. In late 2021, Gillen began an online relationship with a minor female who was then 17 years of age. He persuaded her to take and send him sexually explicit images and videos, which he kept and later used to threaten the victim. Over the course of the online relationship, Gillen repeatedly made violent threats against the victim. In March 2024, Gillen traveled to Illinois to pick up the victim then transported her across state lines, from Illinois to Missouri to Kansas. During this trip, Gillen sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions. Upon his arrest, Gillen admitted to officers that his cell phone contained child sexual abuse materials.
- The USAO in the **Eastern District of Kentucky**, [*United States v. Ernsting*](#) – In September 2025, Edward Albert Ernsting was sentenced to 76 months in prison for possession with intent to distribute fluorofentanyl and heroin, as well as a mixture containing methamphetamine. According to his plea agreement, Ernsting was found passed out in his vehicle at a gas station, where law enforcement recovered approximately 16 grams of a mixture containing fluorofentanyl, fentanyl, and heroin, and 14 grams of methamphetamine, as well as digital scales, baggies, and cash from Ernsting's body and vehicle. Ernsting admitted significant heroin and fentanyl trafficking activity for a year or more before his arrest.
- The USAO in the **Northern District of New York**, [*United States v. Solano-Azamar*](#) – In March 2025, Pedro Solano-Azamar, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced to 36 months in prison for his role in an alien smuggling conspiracy. As part of his prior guilty plea, Solano-Azamar – an illegal alien who entered the United States in 2020 – admitted that he traveled from North Carolina to Northern New York, along with four co-conspirators, and smuggled 16 citizens of Mexico who had illegally entered the United States from Canada. Following Solano-Azamar's service of his term of imprisonment, he faces deportation to Mexico.
- The USAO in the **District of Maine**, [*United States v. Muller, et al.*](#) – In April 2025, Andre Muller was sentenced to 200 months in prison and Robert Holland was sentenced to 188 months in prison for conspiring to interfere with commerce by robbery in connection with a violent home invasion in 2016. Both men were also sentenced to three years of supervised release following their terms of imprisonment. According to evidence presented during the trial, Muller, Holland and four co-conspirators developed a plan to steal controlled substances from a Rangeley residence. On July 26, 2016, Muller traveled from New York City with two co-conspirators, meeting up with Holland and a fifth man at a location just outside Rangeley. Two of the co-conspirators entered the Rangeley residence armed with knives with the intent to take the controlled substances. During the commission of the robbery, the robbery's intended target shot and killed one of the co-conspirators. Muller and Holland were initially convicted following a five-day jury trial.



Criminal Workload

FY 2025 Cases Filed – 63,954



In FY 2025, the USAOs handled 140,730 criminal cases against 188,081 defendants, of which 63,954 were new felony criminal cases charged against 76,409 defendants in United States District Court. The above chart shows the types of cases filed by the USAOs. In addition to the cases filed, a total of 60,900 cases against 73,693 defendants were closed during FY 2025. Of the 73,693 defendants whose cases were closed, 94 percent, or 69,240, either pled guilty or were found guilty after a trial. Of these, 51,093 defendants received prison sentences, and 112 of these defendants' received sentences of life imprisonment.



B. Civil

Civil Litigation	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	2,265	2,190	542,338,000
2026 Enacted	2,201	1,993	544,403,000
Adjustments to base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	10,135,000
2027 Current Services	2,201	1,993	554,538,000
2027 Program Increases	0	0	0
2027 Request	2,201	1,993	554,538,000
Total Change 2026-2027	0	0	10,135,000

Civil Litigation Information Technology Breakout	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	90	90	36,136,000
2026 Enacted	86	86	36,138,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	32,000
2027 Current Services	86	86	36,170,000
2027 Program Increase	0	0	0
2027 Request	86	86	36,170,000
Total Change 2026-2027	0	0	32,000



1. Program Description – Civil Program Activity

Civil litigation pursued by the United States Attorneys falls into two basic categories:

(1) affirmative civil litigation, in which the United States is the plaintiff; and (2) defensive civil litigation, in which the United States is the defendant. Affirmative civil litigation cases are actions taken by United States Attorneys to assert and protect the government's interests. They include such issues as the enforcement of the nation's admiralty and civil rights laws, as well as the recovery of damages sustained by the government through fraud. The United States Attorneys also use affirmative civil litigation to recoup money owed and recover damages sustained by the government. Defensive civil litigation includes actions seeking monetary damages for alleged torts, contract violations, and discrimination by the United States and its agencies and employees.

USAO Success Story

Stax, Inc. Settlement

District of Columbia In May 2025, Stax Inc., a private consultant based in Boston, Massachusetts, agreed to pay \$1 million to resolve allegations it overbilled the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in claims for salary reimbursement in the implementation of the U.S. Government-funded Sri Lanka@100 project. During an administrative audit, it was discovered that Stax put hidden profit in its proposed salary for its employees. This hidden profit violated the terms of the cooperative agreement entered into by USAID and further, was in direct contradiction to expressed statements to Stax informing them that they were not to get any profit from this cooperative agreement. During the investigation, Stax was bought out by another company that immediately began to cooperate with the investigation and instituted remedial measures.

One key difference between affirmative and defensive civil litigation is that, while United States Attorneys have some discretion in deciding which affirmative civil cases they will pursue, they must defend the government in all defensive civil litigation. This includes defending suits challenging government administrative actions, including Social Security disability determinations; habeas corpus petitions; and constitutional challenges to statutes and other Federal policies. The Department as a whole, including the United States Attorneys, has an obligation to vigorously defend all Administration's efforts to protect the American people. The United States Attorneys are defending an increasing number of civil actions brought by immigration detainees who either are in deportation proceedings or are subject to final orders of deportation.

The United States Attorneys may also be called upon to represent the United States in cases that are not clearly defined as either affirmative or defensive civil litigation, but in which the government has an interest, such as bankruptcy cases in which the United States is a party.

The USAOs will continue to effectively carry out the Department's mission to "ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans," and defend against the rise in the number and complexity of immigration, prisoner litigation, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) cases.

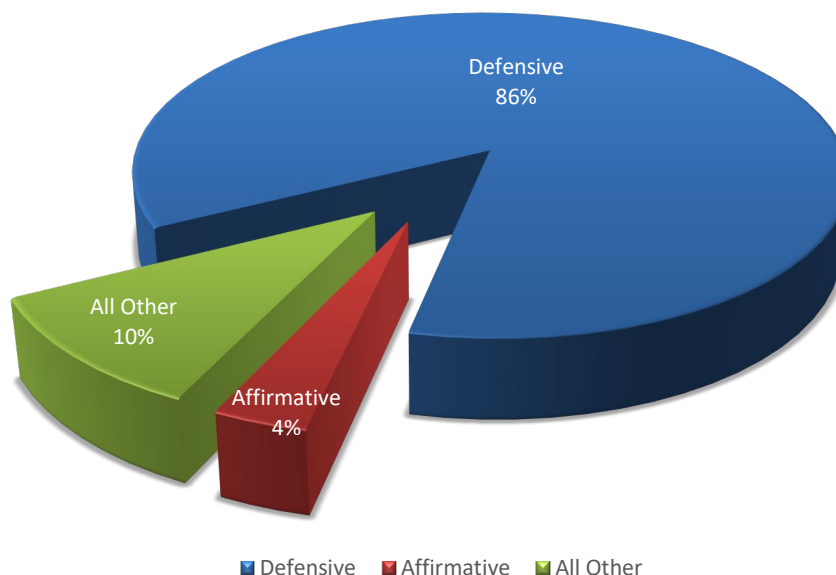


The following cases are examples of the United States Attorneys' civil casework successes:

- The USAO in the **District of Maryland**, [*Praetorian Shield Inc. Settlement*](#) – In May 2025, Praetorian Shield, Inc., formerly a Delaware company, and Grady Baker, and his wife Ranya Baker, agreed to pay the United States to settle allegations that they violated the False Claims Act by fraudulently obtaining small business set-aside contracts. This settlement further resolves allegations that Praetorian and the Bakers violated the Anti-Kickback Act. The settlement resolves allegations that Praetorian and the Bakers falsely represented that Praetorian was a Woman-Owned Small Business and a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business. They made these false claims to obtain small business set-aside contracts awards from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for security services at federal buildings. Praetorian was a purported small business subcontractor to Paragon Systems Inc. (Paragon), one of the federal government's largest security guard providers at federal buildings throughout the U.S. The U.S. alleged that Paragon, acting through former high-ranking corporate executives, knowingly engaged in a fraudulent scheme to use purported small businesses that it controlled, such as Praetorian, to obtain DHS set-aside contracts for which Paragon was itself ineligible.
- The USAO in the **Western District of Oklahoma**, [*Richard Swenson Settlement*](#) – In May 2025, Richard Swenson, M.D., paid to settle civil penalty claims stemming from allegations that he violated the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 and its regulations. Dr. Swenson also agreed to permanently cease dispensing and administering controlled substances as of April 3, 2025. During the relevant time, Dr. Swenson practiced medicine at Accident Care and Treatment Center, Inc. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The United States alleged that Dr. Swenson failed to maintain DEA Forms 222 for certain purchases of Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen, which is an opioid and a Schedule II controlled substance. The United States further alleged that, Dr. Swenson also failed to maintain records for certain purchases of Schedule III and Schedule IV controlled substances.
- The USAO in the **Eastern District of Washington**, [*United States ex rel. Harmon v. Washington River Protection Solutions LLC, et al.*](#) – In June 2025, Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC (WRPS) paid \$6.5 million to the United States of which \$3.0 million is restitution, meaning that WRPS has paid more than double the damage it caused to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and taxpayers. This was part of a settlement agreement resolving allegations that WRPS fraudulently overcharged DOE for millions of dollars in labor hours. According to court documents, the United States alleged that WRPS's management was aware of and failed to prevent inflated labor hours being charged to DOE, including labor hours in which WRPS employees, paid for with federal funds, were not scheduled or assigned sufficient work to perform. Under the cost-plus-award-fee contract with DOE for the management and operation of the Hanford Site's "Tank Farms," which consist of 176 large underground storage tanks holding millions of gallons of mixed hazardous and radioactive waste, WRPS was able to receive reimbursement for its claimed allowable costs, including labor. According to the allegations filed in court, WRPS fraudulently inflated reimbursable costs by failing to provide its employees with work assignments sufficient to fill an entire shift and then directed those same employees to record their time as if they had worked the entire shift.



Civil Workload FY 2025 Cases Filed/Responded To – 82,261



Civil matters and cases represent a significant part of the United States Attorneys' workload. In FY 2025, the United States Attorneys received 86,787 civil matters, which represented 44 percent of all the 195,134 criminal and civil matters received during the fiscal year. Of the civil matters received, 82 percent or 71,156 were defensive matters, 7 percent or 5,731 were affirmative matters, and 11 percent or 9,900 were other civil matters.

The United States Attorneys filed or responded to 82,261 civil cases in FY 2025, which represented 56 percent of the 146,215 criminal and civil cases filed during the fiscal year. Of the civil cases filed, 86 percent or 70,729 were defensive cases; 4 percent or 2,909 were affirmative cases; and 10 percent or 8,623 were other civil cases.

The USAOs' successes in defensive civil litigation preserves taxpayer dollars and enhances the efficient operation of the Federal Government by defending the policies and programs of Federal agencies against individual and class action lawsuits challenging agency authority or compliance with Federal laws and the Constitution.

The USAOs track the different types of cases where they can defend the Government and whether they are successfully resolved. In affirmative civil cases handled by USAOs, or jointly with the Civil Division, USAOs' successes have resulted in the collection of billions of dollars for the Government and victims of fraud.



C. Legal Education

Legal Education	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	53	53	28,437,000
2026 Enacted	50	50	28,603,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	62,000
2027 Current Services	50	50	28,665,000
2027 Program Increase	0	0	120,000
2027 Request	50	50	28,785,000
Total Change 2026-2027	0	0	182,000

Legal Education Information Technology Breakout	Direct Pos.	Estimate FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	4	4	1,807,000
2026 Enacted	4	4	1,807,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	2,000
2027 Current Services	4	4	1,809,000
2027 Program Increase	0	0	0
2027 Request	4	4	1,809,000
Total Change 2026-2027	0	0	2,000



1. Program Description–Legal Education

The Office of Legal Education (OLE) develops and conducts training for all Department attorney and non-attorney legal personnel [28 C.F.R. §0.22 (2019)]. OLE’s classroom training is conducted at the National Advocacy Center (NAC), a federal training facility in Columbia, South Carolina that features an integrated instructional and residential facility with rooms for up to 264 guests. Students come from all 94 USAOs and from DOJ’s litigating divisions, as the NAC is the Department’s only training facility specifically designed to serve its legal personnel. As the Department’s legal training center, the NAC also hosts students from tribal, state, and local prosecutorial and investigative agencies who work with DOJ to advance its nationwide initiatives, including protecting public safety in communities such as Indian country, eliminating transnational criminal organizations, and protecting the public fisc against waste fraud and abuse.

Residential training: In FY 2025, OLE trained 4,360 participants onsite at the NAC in 58 separate events. OLE trained another 481 legal personnel at 10 residential courses held in remote locations when it was more cost-effective to do so, including training in the Washington, D.C. area on national security topics.

Distance training (synchronous): OLE uses its distance education program to complement its residential training. It uses this delivery method where the training objectives are focused more on knowledge development than skill acquisition and practice. In FY 2025, OLE continued to offer extensive virtual training through online courses, webinars, and its unique **Virtual Classroom (VC)**, launched in FY 2021. OLE sponsored 110 webinars for 29,828 attendees and 26 fully online courses for 5,944 attendees. It trained another 4,715 in the VC across 160 classes. One advantage of virtual training is its efficiency. Offerings like the Supreme Court Update can accommodate over 1,000 attendees, far more than could be accommodated with residential training.

Distance training (asynchronous): In addition to the live, synchronous training, OLE provided extensive asynchronous (**on-demand**) training. Use of the user-friendly video platform, USAflix, launched by OLE in FY 2022, increased dramatically in FY 2025. This is in part a result of OLE’s finding a technological solution to open USAflix beyond EOUSA to include litigating components. Specifically, legal personnel completed a record high 42,320 videos on learnDOJ.

Publications: OLE also creates and supplies the DOJ legal community with written and online resources that are widely relied upon. In FY 2025, it published a new practice manual for federal prosecutors called Prosecuting Bankruptcy Fraud, an OLE Style Manual (3d. ed.), and five new issues of the DOJ Journal of Federal Law and Practice. In response to increased demand from Department legal personnel, OLE shipped a record 21,143 Blue Books and Journals to the field. It also continued to offer all its publications online for easy access. The DOJBook website, which OLE updates daily, continues to be the most accessed online resource in the Department, with 343,901 views in FY 2025.



Unit Work Descriptions

OLE's Publications Unit maintains and updates daily the online resource DOJBook and posts DOJBook weekly podcasts on recent legal developments. The unit also regularly updates, publishes, and fills orders for Blue Books, which are practice manuals for Department attorneys that cover discrete topics; the DOJ Journal of Federal Law and Practice; and the OLE Style Manual.

OLE's National Indian Country Training Initiative (NICTI) team focuses on training related to law enforcement in Indian Country to promote public safety. New in FY 2025, it launched a series of webinars in a joint training project with federal law enforcement agencies. NICTI also hosted multiple trainings in Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country (CJIC), successful completion of which is a requirement for law enforcement agents to investigate crime on reservations.

The Criminal Law and National Security training team delivers residential and distance learning training programs for federal criminal prosecutors. In FY 2025, the team offered critical skills courses like criminal trial advocacy and appellate advocacy in person and continued virtual delivery of training on topics like the federal sentencing guidelines and combatting drug and human trafficking, violent crime, and public corruption. This team also provides all training on national security matters, including combatting international and domestic terrorism.

The Civil Law and Legal Programs training team trains civil attorneys to pursue and defend cases on behalf of the United States. In FY 2025, the team offered skills courses like civil trial advocacy and deposition skills in person. It also hosted residential and virtual training for DOJ personnel who bring civil enforcement actions on behalf of the United States to combat fraud and recover payments and penalties owed. The team also provided key training for civil attorneys who defend the United States against suits under the Federal Claims Act, Federal Tort Claims Act and more.

OLE's Litigation Technology and Support training team provides litigation technology training for attorneys and non-attorneys to equip them to litigate their cases more skillfully and efficiently. Its work supports the Department mandate that all attorneys and legal support staff know how to use eLitigation technology.

International training support: Finally, OLE continues its tradition of providing training support to Department of Justice personnel by assisting the Criminal Division's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT), which helps support judicial and prosecutorial agencies around the world. In FY 2025, OLE hosted visiting foreign delegations from Malta and Cyprus.



V. Program Increases by Item

Item Name: **Make the District of Columbia Safe**

Budget Decision Unit(s): Criminal

Program Increase: Positions **192** Attorneys **100** Agents **16** FTEs **96** Dollars **\$27,194,000**

Description of Item

The United States Attorneys requests **\$27.2 million** and **192 positions (100 Attorneys and 16 Agents)** to hire additional Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) and staff to support its commitment and efforts to be responsive and accountable to the citizens of the District of Columbia (DC) and the Administration's priority to make DC safe again. Funding is critically needed to provide the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAO-DC) with the resources required to effectively combat and eradicate gun violence, prioritize the prosecution of federal firearms violations, pursue tougher penalties for these offenses, and hold accountable those who commit violent crimes, including immigration-related offenses. More specifically, the requested funds will be used to support the USAO-DC's efforts as they relate to court proceedings arising from the District of Columbia Superior Court. These resources will also be used to support and direct the Administration's immigration enforcement policies within DC, as well as monitor the district's "sanctuary-city status and compliance with the enforcement of Federal Immigration law", as provided in the President's March 28, 2025 Executive Order, [*Making The District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*](#).

The USAO-DC is unique among United States Attorneys' offices in both the size and scope of its work. The USAO-DC serves as both the local and the Federal prosecutor for the nation's capital. The role of this Office as both local and Federal prosecutor places extraordinary burdens on resources that are not borne by any other district in the nation. On the Federal side, the prosecutions, similar to other USAOs, span a wide range of casework, from child exploitation to gangs, violent crime, white collar crime, and terrorism. These crimes are prosecuted in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Unlike other USAOs, however almost all violations of criminal statutes included in the District of Columbia Code are prosecuted by the USAO-DC by its **Superior Court Division**. The Superior Court Division prosecutes local crime from misdemeanor drug possession cases to murders and handles the majority of violent crime cases in DC. The uniqueness of this office has led to the rate of attorney turnover being historically higher than in other districts due to "burnout" caused by the particularly high volume and intensity of Superior Court prosecutions.



Justification

Over the last 20 years, DC's resident population has increased by **23 percent**. Despite this growth, funding has not commensurately risen to allow for new prosecutor positions to combat local public safety challenges in the District of Columbia. Further, over the last two decades, the complexity of cases has and will continue to increase. In today's digital world, most cases in the USAOs involve electronic evidence, and the USAOs are collecting it at a rapidly accelerating rate. The extensive increase in quantity, complexity, and use of data in both civil and criminal prosecutions have resulted in larger responsibilities and time commitments per case. To ensure that the citizens and visitors to DC get the public safety they deserve, more resources are necessary.

Protecting the American people from acts of violence and immigration-related offenses is critical to public safety and national security. The USAO-DC's location in the seat of the Federal government gives it sole responsibility for many cases of national importance, including far-reaching challenges to federal policies and employment practices. This responsibility is reflected in the President's March 28, 2025 Executive Order, [*Making The District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*](#), which was promulgated to restore law and order in DC and to help make our nation's capital not only safer, but also worthy of its place as the pride of every American. Additionally, pursuant to this Executive Order, the President established a *DC Safe and Beautiful Task Force* that is tasked with targeting crime and making the district safe for all Americans. This is achieved by facilitating effective coordination with local law enforcement and governmental entities and effectuating federal participation in law enforcement efforts.¹

In support of this Executive Order, the USAO-DC announced the "Make D.C. Safe Again" initiative in March 2025,² aimed at aggressively addressing gun violence and prosecuting violent offenders. As part of the initiative, the USAO-DC seeks to detain those arrested for gun crimes to prevent repeat offenses, advocate for appropriate punishments, and review all pending Superior Court cases to identify potential federal firearms violations for federal District Court prosecution. As a result of these efforts, in 2025, there were 8,406 arrests and 856 illegal guns taken off the streets. Due to the USAO-DC's surge starting in August 2025, homicides are down 60 percent, robberies are down 49 percent, carjackings are down 68 percent and overall crime is down 32 percent compared to the same time in 2024. Cases prosecuted under this initiative include a drug trafficker in unlawful possession of six firearms³ and a felon in possession of a concealed, loaded 9mm semi-automatic "ghost gun" with no serial number.⁴

Similarly, because of DC's unique role as the nation's capital, the USAO-DC is often called upon to handle complex and serious criminal cases. Notably, as a result of the President's

¹ These policy objectives include the President's January 20, 2025 Executive Order, [*Protecting the American People Against Invasion*](#) and the Deputy Attorney General's March 6, 2025 [*Operation Take Back America Memorandum*](#), which works in tandem with policy objectives set forth by the Attorney General, including the Department's February 5, 2025 [*General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing*](#).

² See, e.g., [*"Make D.C. Safe Again" Initiative Gets Off to Fast Start, Doubling the Monthly Average since January 2021*](#)

³ See [*District Drug Trafficker Pleads Guilty in Unlawful Possession of Six Firearms*](#)

⁴ See [*Felon Charged with Possession of Firearm Following Arrest in Southeast*](#)



August 11, 2025 Executive Order, [*Restoring Law and Order in the District of Columbia*](#), over 2,000 National Guardsmen were activated “to address the epidemic of crime in our nation’s capital.” Unfortunately, during this time was the tragic shooting of two National Guardsmen on November 26, 2025, killing one and critically injuring the other. The USAO-DC is currently prosecuting the individual who allegedly perpetrated this crime.⁵

The above demonstrates that the USAO for the District of Columbia has an extraordinary requirement for additional resources to meet its unique jurisdictional responsibilities and combat the rising tide of violent crime in the community.

Impact on Performance

The USAO-DC plays a pivotal role in the Department’s renewed commitment to reducing crime and immigration-related offenses in America by focusing on violent criminals, prioritizing public safety, and supporting state and local law enforcement partners. As stated in President Trump’s Executive Order, [*Making The District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*](#), “America’s capital must be a place in which residents, commuters, and tourists feel safe at all hours, including on public transit.” The requested resources are essential to supporting the continued strategic, effective, and focused efforts of the USAO to *Make DC Safe Again*.

⁵ See [*Lakanwal Newly Indicted in Shooting of Guardsmen Near White House that Killed Sarah Beckstrom*](#)



Make District of Columbia Safe Funding

1. Base Funding

FY 2025 Enacted				FY 2026 Enacted				FY 2027 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)
749	403	749	\$87,465	749	403	749	\$87,465	749	403	749	\$87,465

The resources above represent the USAO-DC base allocation amounts (which includes District Court and Superior Court).

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	FY 2027 Request (\$000)	Positions Requested	Full Year Modular Cost per Position (\$000)	Annualizations (\$000)			
				2nd Year	3rd Year	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Attorneys (0905)	\$17,998	100	\$331	\$142	\$0	\$14,165	\$0
Paralegals (0950)	\$3,528	46	\$130	\$63	\$23	\$2,898	\$1,066
Agents (1811)	\$2,416	16	\$255	\$114	\$0	\$1,824	\$0
Professional Support (0300)	\$2,952	30	\$172	\$64	\$0	\$1,907	\$0
Total Personnel	\$26,894	192				\$20,794	\$1,066

3. Non-Personnel Increase/Reduction Cost Summary

Non-Personnel Item	FY 2027 Request (\$000)	Unit Cost (\$000)	Quantity	Annualizations (\$000)	
				FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Training	\$100	\$1	100	\$0	\$0
Data Storage and Tools	\$200	n/a	n/a	\$0	\$0
Total Non-Personnel	\$300			\$0	\$0

4. Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations

This request includes funding for Training and data storage annually.

The United States Attorneys are not requesting non-personnel annualizations.



5. Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions			Amount Requested (\$000)			Annualizations (\$000)	
	Count	Agt/Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Current Services	749	403	749	\$87,465	\$0	\$87,465	\$0	\$0
Increases	192	100	96	\$26,894	\$300	\$27,194	\$20,794	\$1,066
Grand Total	941	503	845	\$114,359	\$300	\$114,659	\$20,794	\$1,066

Note: Agt/Atty only reflects the Attorney increases.

6. Affected Crosscuts

N/A



Item Name: **Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation**

Budget Decision Unit(s): **Criminal Litigation**

Program Increase: Positions 28 Attorney 20 FTE 14 Dollars \$4,407,000

Description of Item

The United States Attorneys request **\$4.4 million** and **28 positions (20 Attorneys)** to further the Department’s commitment to protecting and defending some of the most vulnerable victims in American society—persons subjected to human trafficking and children who have been victimized by predators and violent offenders. The Attorney General has reiterated this commitment and emphasized that, “[t]he Department of Justice will never stop fighting to protect victims—especially child victims—and [] will not rest until we hunt down, arrest, and prosecute every child predator who preys on the most vulnerable among us.”⁶

As part of the Department’s mission to prosecute crimes of exploitation and protect victims, the United States Attorneys’ offices (USAOs) are committed to prosecuting and eliminating human trafficking and all forms of predacious abuse of children, including online sexual exploitation. This request for additional resources will be used to hire Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) and support staff dedicated to investigating and prosecuting these human trafficking and child exploitation crimes, spread public awareness, collaborate with state and local partners, and expand the Department’s reach to ensure the safety of the American people. These resources will increase the USAOs’ abilities to identify victims and target dangerous human traffickers and child predators that prey upon some of the most helpless individuals in our society, including minors and migrants victimized by traffickers, who are frequently suffering inescapable situations in which they are unseen, unheard, and underserved. Notably, human trafficking organizations, purveyors of child abuse, and distributors of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) also promote and fuel violent criminal activity. The additional requested resources will provide essential support to fulfill the Department’s commitment to serving victims and protecting our communities. Effectively combating these crimes requires a comprehensive and coordinated response to prosecute human traffickers.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, [Justice Department Announces Results of Operation Restore Justice: 205 Child Sex Abuse Offenders Arrested in FBI-led Nationwide Crackdown](#), May 7, 2025. These policy objectives support Presidential [Executive Order 14159](#), *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* and policy objectives set forth by the Attorney General, including the Department’s February 5, 2025 [General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing](#).



Justification

Human traffickers exploit innocent victims for labor and/or sex. Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations, has charged the Department with investigating and prosecuting human traffickers. Human trafficking prosecutions are consistently challenging for federal prosecutors and law enforcement agencies working these cases because they involve vulnerable victims who are often reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement. These investigations are usually complicated and require a multi-disciplinary approach for successful outcomes. Effective prosecutions of human trafficking networks are typically long-term, multi-jurisdictional investigations that require dedicated prosecutors with specialized training to manage the complexities of these resource intensive cases and work in tandem with skilled law enforcement agents and service providers to build out the investigations and cases, while also assisting and supporting the survivors.

Human trafficking prosecutions are among the Department's highest priorities. To further this mission, the Department announced on September 4, 2025, the expansion of Joint Task Force Alpha (JTFA).⁷ JTFA marshals Department investigative and prosecutorial resources, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, to enhance enforcement efforts against the most prolific and dangerous human smuggling and trafficking groups. JTFA investigations and prosecutions are typically coordinated and worked jointly between JTFA attorneys and AUSAs. Hence, the expansion of JTFA will require additional dedicated USAO resources for these important investigations and prosecutions.

During FY 2021, a total of 407 persons were referred to USAOs for human trafficking offenses. By FY 2025, that number had increased by 7 percent to 437. During that same period, the number of defendants convicted of human trafficking offenses increased 30 percent from 118 in FY 2021 to 153 in FY 2025. These increases are not sustainable without additional prosecutor and staff positions. The requested resources for the USAOs will enable experienced federal prosecutors to handle the complex and wide-ranging investigations necessary to bring these traffickers to justice, while also providing district-based support to these efforts through JTFA.

The United States Attorneys will also benefit from having experienced witness support staff who are trained to work effectively with vulnerable, oftentimes traumatized victims, who may struggle both mentally and physically. Many of these victims do not speak English, suffer from substance abuse, have experienced homelessness, and/or are runaways. They are fearful and have repeatedly been advised by their traffickers that law enforcement will target them if they seek help, speak up, or agree to testify as a witness in court. Having dedicated victim witness positions is critical to ensure successful human trafficking-related investigations and prosecutions. This is particularly true in USAOs already overburdened with border-related criminal conduct, including fentanyl smuggling, firearms trafficking, and immigration-related offenses, which often also gives rise to large scale human trafficking networks.

⁷U.S. Department of Justice, [*The Department of Justice Announces Significant Enforcement and Expansion Efforts to Dismantle Transnational Human Smuggling and Trafficking Networks*](#), September 4, 2025.



As an example of the USAOs growing need for experienced federal prosecutors, in January 2026, the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security announced that Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) would be conducting a human trafficking surge operation. This surge is focused on intensifying operational efforts, raising public awareness, and strengthening partnerships across federal, state, and local agencies to disrupt trafficking networks, protect vulnerable individuals, and ensure traffickers are brought to justice.⁸ The enhanced human trafficking investigations by the HSTFs requires additional prosecutors to charge the resulting cases.

Similarly, child exploitation cases are among the most challenging and difficult cases that the USAOs prosecute. Federal child exploitation cases include “contact” offenses, such as child abuse and sexual assault, as well as online offenses, such as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), sexting, and extortion. To combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, the Department launched Project Safe Childhood (PSC) in May 2006. Led by the USAOs and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), PSC coordinates federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify, protect, and save victims. During FY 2021, 4,677 matters were referred to USAOs for prosecution; that number increased by approximately 12 percent to 5,230 in FY 2025. Based on those referrals, in FY 2025, USAOs charged 3,409 PSC defendants and convicted 2,853 individuals.⁹ This growth in the volume of cases (which includes an increasing number of technology-facilitated child exploitation crimes) further demonstrates the need for additional prosecutorial resources.

In December 2025, the Department of Justice announced the results of Operation Relentless Justice, a coordinated enforcement effort to identify, track, and arrest child sex predators.¹⁰ The nationwide crackdown resulted in the rescue of 205 child victims and the arrests of 293 child sexual abuse offenders. The effort was executed over the course of two weeks by the FBI, and all the USAOs around the country. This strategic effort followed two other successful operations: [Operation Restore Justice](#) in May 2025, which resulted in the rescue of 115 children and the arrests of 205 child sex abuse offenders, and Operation Enduring Justice in August 2025, which resulted in the rescue of 133 children and the arrests of 234 offenders. These operations underscore the Department’s unwavering commitment to protecting children and combating child sexual exploitation.

Both human trafficking and child exploitation cases require significant resources to effectively identify victims and perpetrators. With additional resources to dedicate to these offenses, the USAOs will be able to increase the volume and complexity of cases their offices accept for prosecution, while also supporting the efforts of JTFA and expanding the breadth of this work with their state, local, and tribal partners in these critical areas. Many state and local prosecuting

⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, [Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security Recognize National Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#), January 23, 2026

⁹ PSC cases are identified based on the statute(s) under which a defendant was charged, and these statistics may include some cases included in the human trafficking statistics above.

¹⁰ Department of Justice, [Justice Department Announces Results of Operation Relentless Justice](#), December 19, 2025.



offices are not equipped to investigate and prosecute interstate and international human trafficking organizations or multi-jurisdictional child exploitation/CSAM cases. Moreover, such offenses in Indian country are primarily the responsibility of the federal government. As noted above, these are some of the most significant and impactful prosecutions within the Department's jurisdiction and the requested additional resources will critically enhance the Department's ability to combat these crimes and protect our most vulnerable populations.

Impact on Performance

Additional dedicated resources will better position the United States Attorneys with the necessary staff and tools to reach the Department's goals in responding directly to human trafficking, in the form of both sex and labor trafficking, as well as child exploitation. The additional positions requested will be used to enhance human trafficking and child exploitation prosecutions by focusing on dangerous offenders and criminal organizations, while assisting victims/witnesses in acute need. These objectives directly further the Department's mission of keeping our most vulnerable citizens—our children safe -- and our country safe.



Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Funding

1. Base Funding

FY 2025 Enacted				FY 2026 Enacted				FY 2027 Current Services			
Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Pos	Agt/ Atty	FTE	Amount (\$000)
143	118	143	\$41,369	143	118	143	\$41,369	143	118	143	\$41,369

The resources above represent Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation

2. Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Type of Position/Series	FY 2027 Request (\$000)	Positions Requested	Full Year Modular Cost per Position (\$000)	Annualizations (\$000)			
				2nd Year	3rd Year	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Attorneys (0905)	\$3,600	20	\$331	\$142	\$0	\$2,833	\$0
Professional Support (0300)	\$787	8	\$172	\$64	\$0	\$509	\$0
Total Personnel	\$4,387	28				\$3,342	\$0

3. Non-Personnel Increase/Reduction Cost Summary

Non-Personnel Item	FY 2027 Request (\$000)	Unit Cost (\$000)	Quantity	Annualizations (\$000)	
				FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Training	\$20	\$1	20	\$0	\$0
Total Non-Personnel	\$20			\$0	\$0

4. Justification for Non-Personnel Annualizations

This request includes funding for Training annually.

The United States Attorneys are not requesting non-personnel annualizations.



5. Total Request for this Item

Category	Positions			Amount Requested (\$000)			Annualizations (\$000)	
	Count	Agt/Atty	FTE	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total	FY 2028 (net change from 2027)	FY 2029 (net change from 2028)
Current Services	143	118	143	\$41,369	\$0	\$41,369	\$0	\$0
Increases	28	20	14	\$4,387	\$20	\$4,407	\$3,342	\$0
Grand Total	171	138	157	\$45,756	\$20	\$45,776	\$3,342	\$0

6. Affected Crosscuts

This program change will be reported in the Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking crosscuts.



VII. EXHIBITS

