



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2020 Budget Request

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

+\$72.1 million in Program Enhancements

FY 2020 Overview

The FY 2020 President's Budget strengthens the Nation's security through stronger enforcement of the Nation's immigration laws. The Department is requesting \$72.1 million in immigration related program enhancements for FY 2020, which will enhance border security and immigration enforcement. These investments will also improve our ability to conduct immigration hearings to help combat illegal immigration to the United States by expanding capacity, improving efficiency, and removing impediments to the timely administration of justice. This budget supports the Department's efforts, along with our partners at the Department of Homeland Security, to fix our immigration system.

New Program Enhancements

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)

- **Immigration Judges and Support: \$71.1 million and 600 positions (300 attorneys)**

EOIR oversees the Nation's immigration courts and the Board of Immigrant Appeals. At the beginning of FY 2019, there were nearly 790,000 cases pending in immigration courts nationwide, a nearly 20 percent increase from October 2017 and by far the largest pending caseload before the agency, marking the 12th consecutive year of increased backlogs. In addition, over the course of FY 2018, DHS filed nearly 304,000 Notices to Appear, representing a more than 5 percent increase in new case receipts over FY 2017.

To maintain the efficacy and efficiency of immigration enforcement and adjudication programs, the Department requests \$71.1 million for 100 new immigration judges (IJs) and support staff. Support staff consists of attorneys, judicial law clerks, legal assistants, and administrative support staff, including interpreters.

To date EOIR has 412 IJs; this enhancement will bring EOIR's authorized IJ level to 659 IJs by the end of FY 2020---a 36 percent increase in IJs since FY 2018.

Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD)

- **Land Acquisition Section: \$1.0 million and 10 positions (6 attorneys)**

ENRD is principally responsible for acquiring real property to secure the border between the United States and Mexico in accordance to the President’s January 25, 2017 Executive Order on *Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements*. ENRD’s Land Acquisition Section plays a critical role in fulfilling the requirements of the Executive Order through reviewing every condemnation case, providing training for Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and handling significant disputes, legal valuations, or title matters.

This enhancement will dedicate 10 positions to meet litigation, acquisition, and appraisal demands during the construction along the border between Mexico and the United States.

FY 2020 Program Enhancement Summary
(Amount in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Positions	Agents/ Attorneys	Amount
Executive Office for Immigration Review			
Immigration Judge and Support Staff	600	300	\$71,147
Subtotal, Executive Office for Immigration Review	600	300	\$71,147
Environment and Natural Resources Division			
Land Acquisition Section	10	6	\$960
Subtotal, Environment and Natural Resources Division	10	6	\$960
Total, Program Enhancements	610	306	\$72,107