



U.S. Department of  
**JUSTICE**

# Chief Data Officer Annual Report: FY2024



February 2026

Justice Management Division  
*Office of the Chief Information Officer*

### **Statutory Authority**

This annual report of the Department of Justice (Department or DOJ) Chief Data Officer (CDO) to Congress is prepared pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3520(e). It details agency compliance with the requirements of Title II of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act) – the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act, Pub. L. No. 115–435. In addition, this report also serves as the annual update to the agency’s strategic information resources management plan pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3506(b)(2).

### **Government-wide Requirements**

The OPEN Government Data Act created the CDO position at federal agencies with overall responsibility for lifecycle data management, as well as additional responsibilities to:

- Coordinate with agency officials for using, protecting, disseminating, and generating data to ensure agency data needs are met.
- Manage data assets for the agency.
- Ensure that, to the extent practicable, agency data conforms with data management best practices.
- Support the work and data needs of the agency Statistical Official, Performance Improvement Officer, and Evaluation Officer.
- Engage with agency employees, the public, and contractors in using public data assets and encouraging collaborative approaches on improving data use.

The Act also directs agencies to take steps to maintain a comprehensive data inventory and make data assets open by default, in accordance with published government-wide guidance.

Given the responsibility of the CDO for lifecycle data management regardless of data type or mission, it is important to reference additional statutes and authorities when reporting on the Department CDO efforts under the Evidence Act. The Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254 (GDA), designates DOJ as a covered agency, with additional requirements related to the management of geospatial data. Closely related to the Evidence Act is the Federal Data Strategy – Office and Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum M-19-18 – and accompanying action plans. Finally, Executive Orders on Artificial Intelligence (AI) include actions for agencies to undertake related to AI, which align with data responsibilities.

Though not an exhaustive list, when taken together these authorities emphasize the critical nature of government data and the steps for agencies to take to maximize the utility of this resource for agency operations and the public at large.

### **Department of Justice Approach**

Building on the efforts of individual DOJ components, as well as agency-wide initiatives, the Department continues to take a holistic and collaborative approach to implementing the

responsibilities of the CDO and the requirements of the Evidence Act and additional authorities listed above.

At DOJ, the same individual serves as both the Department Chief Information Officer (CIO) and CDO. This allows the Department to draw upon the resources and institutional knowledge of the CIO's office to enact CDO responsibilities in a way that combines both governance and the technologies needed to implement those responsibilities.

Following the passage of the Evidence Act, in February 2019 the Department published a DOJ Data Strategy – a foundational framework designed to build a standardized, programmatic approach to manage and share data while also advancing the capabilities of DOJ data communities. The DOJ Data Strategy includes numerous agency-wide and component-specific responsibilities designed to develop enterprise approaches across four goals: data management, information sharing, identity and access management, and workforce. DOJ updated the Data Strategy in 2022 to reflect progress since the inaugural publication.<sup>1</sup>

Oversight of the DOJ Data Strategy rests with the Department Data Governance Board (Board). Chaired by the CDO, the Board includes: the DOJ Evaluation Officer, Performance Improvement Officer, and Statistical Official; senior Department leaders from operational areas such as information technology, records, acquisitions, and privacy; and officials from DOJ offices representing mission areas including law enforcement, litigation, and corrections. Three working groups, co-chaired by Board members and representing the four goals of the DOJ Data Strategy, lead the day-to-day implementation efforts. In addition to these working groups, the Board chartered two communities of interest to bring together Department stakeholders on the topics of geospatial data and AI.<sup>2</sup>

To execute the responsibilities of the DOJ Data Strategy, the Board developed an implementation plan with discrete deliverables and timelines. The plan also incorporates requirements from the Evidence Act and related authorities such as the GDA to ensure a comprehensive approach to these requirements. The Board reviews and updates the plan quarterly which provides an opportunity to adjust timelines, as needed, and incorporate any new requirements from statutes or guidance. Through 2024, the Department completed 76 actions from the plan. Highlights of the Board's accomplishments in 2024 include:

- In support of data sharing and evidence-based decision making, published the DOJ Data Exchange Standards & Principles Framework.
- Collaborated with the Data Brokers Working Group to establish Department policy for the acquisition and use of commercially available information.

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<sup>1</sup> The DOJ Data Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/file/1560166/download/>

<sup>2</sup> The DOJ Geospatial Data Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1347246/download/> and the DOJ AI Strategy is accessible at: <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1364706/download/>

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- Closed two remaining recommendations from Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report 22-114, “Audit of the Department of Justice’s Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022”, and participated in OIG’s Audit 24-101, “Audit of the Department of Justice’s Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024”.

In 2024, the CDO continued to collaborate closely with the DOJ Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer regarding implementation of AI and emerging-technology-related taskings, including the 2024 annual AI use case inventory. The 2024 inventory expands significantly on the 2023 inventory, providing more information about more use cases to enable innovation, efficiency, and the management of potential rights and safety impacts. The 2024 AI use case inventory includes 240 entries, a 1507% increase from 2023.

Notably, in 2024, DOJ launched its inaugural DOJ Data Challenge, encouraging public participation. The data challenge was hosted on Challenge.gov and participants were invited to analyze open datasets to better inform our Nation’s public safety response to help solve the opioid crisis. The CDO team worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to clear Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for public release, and to highlight National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS). The data challenge included three phases over a five-month period: Phase I required a two-page executive summary addressing the proposed data analysis and an overview of the new insights to be gained, and Phase II required a 10-page analysis report executing on the Executive Summary. Three teams from Phase II were selected for a 30-minute presentation at the Finalists Forum, paneled by three DOJ CDOs on the data quality, analysis, presentation, and applicability to DOJ. The winner of the Data Challenge was announced on DOJ social media to coincide with National Overdose Awareness Day. They were selected for delivering a compelling presentation focused on creating community-based outcome metrics that truly combine law enforcement and public health data that extend beyond individual-based metrics.

The Department also leverages the expertise and knowledge of the larger government community. The CDO is a member of the Federal CDO Council and continues to ensure the Department’s views are represented in working groups of the Council, specifically the Large Agency Committee. Similarly, as a covered agency under the GDA, the Department participates in the Federal Geographic Data Committee and its Steering Committee.

### **Looking Ahead**

The Board will continue to mature DOJ open data capabilities and supporting artifacts. The structure established by the Board to implement the DOJ Data Strategy ensures the Department has the mechanisms in place to be responsive to new guidance or requirements as they become available.