



**U.S. Department of Justice
FY 2024 Budget Request**

**Administering Just Court and Correctional Systems
(Amounts in \$000s)**

Component / Initiative	Positions	Agents/ Attorneys	IJs	\$000s
Bureau of Prisons (BOP)				
Inmate Communications	0	0	0	\$12,000
Subtotal, BOP	0	0	0	\$12,000
Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)				
Backlog Reduction Initiative	948	237	150	\$367,055
Subtotal, EOIR	948	237	150	\$367,055
Total Resources	948	237	150	\$379,055

The Department of Justice is responsible for applying our Nation’s laws justly, consistently, and in a timely fashion, as well as upholding, under the law, due process. Fundamental to that is administering a just Federal criminal justice system and immigration system. With over 158,000 individuals held in the Federal prison system it is important that they are accounted for, treated humanely and with dignity, and returned to their communities with the training and skills they need to be productive, law-abiding citizens. Further, with Federal agencies increasing their immigration enforcement and processing, it is becoming even more imperative that the Department conduct immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, administrative hearings, and immigration related litigation matters, fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly, as well as address the 1.8 million pending immigration court cases. The FY 2024 request will strengthen both the Federal correctional and immigration systems in support of Goal 5, *Administer Just Court and Correctional Systems*, of the Department’s FY 2022-FY 2026 Strategic Plan.

The Department’s FY 2024 President’s Budget includes \$367.1 million in immigration-related program enhancements. These investments will enhance the Department’s ability to conduct immigration hearings by expanding adjudicatory capacity, improving efficiency, and removing impediments to the timely administration of justice, as well as other efforts to reduce the current case backlog. It also includes \$12.0 million for the Bureau of Prisons to provide electronic access to court documents. This new system will reduce the opportunity of inmates to obtain court sentencing documents and use that information to target cooperators, while also allowing vulnerable inmates to have access to records necessary for appeals or other legal proceedings.

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Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR): \$367.1 million and 948 positions (150 IJs and 237 attorneys)

Backlog Reduction Initiative

This program increase will enable EOIR to add 948 staff to meaningfully address EOIR's substantial and growing backlog of pending cases. This initiative will improve adjudicatory capacity and legal staffing infrastructure. The initiative would fund \$358.6 million to hire 150 new immigration judges (IJs), for a total of 884 IJs; associated support staff and necessary space and equipment requirements; and \$8.4 million to hire 48 staff, made up of 12 attorney advisors and 36 legal and professional administrative staff, that are necessary to support the pre-existing adjudicatory capacity. EOIR has not been able to sustain the funding required to hire the legal and support staff required per IJ. This request will help rebalance this inequity. *Current services are \$938.3 million and 4,195 positions (1,785 attorneys).*

Bureau of Prisons (BOP): \$12.0 million and zero positions

Inmate Communications

This request will allow the BOP to install kiosks throughout its facilities nationwide that provide inmates with electronic access to court records that are operated in conjunction with the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts (AOUSC). This supports the recommendation made by the Director of the AOUSC, whose Interim Report of the Task Force on Protecting Cooperators cites the issue of court sentencing documents being used to identify an individual as a cooperator. This electronic kiosk system will keep court sentencing documents, such as Pre-sentence Reports or Statements of Reasons, safeguarded. Limiting access to this type of documentation will assist in protecting cooperating witnesses and provide vulnerable inmates access to records necessary for appeals or other legal proceedings. *There are no current services for this request.*