

General Legal Activities

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* Please refer to individual GLA component exhibits

I. Overview

The General Legal Activities (GLA) appropriation is requesting a total of 4,366 permanent positions, 4,625 FTE (including 814 FTE) and \$957,423,000. This resource level represents program increases of 218 positions, 112 FTE, and \$28,687,000, outlined below. The FY 2017 request also includes net adjustments-to-base (ATBs) of 9 FTE and \$35,736,000. Specific details about individual programs are discussed in the budget justifications of the respective General Legal Activities components.

II. Summary of Program Changes

Criminal Division

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) Reform: 97 positions, 49 FTE and \$10.036 million

International Law Enforcement and Justice Development: 61 positions, 31 FTE and \$4.964 million

Civil Division

Immigration Enforcement: 7 positions, 4 FTE and \$.729 million

Elder Justice: 2 positions, 1 FTE and \$.558 million

Funding for E-Records: \$1.6 million

Environment & Natural Resources Division

Enhancing the Safety of America's Workforce: 6 positions, 3 FTE and \$1 million

Ensuring the Welfare of Animals in the United States: 3 positions, 2 FTE and \$1 million

Improving Environmental Enforcement in Indian Country: 4 positions, 2 FTE and \$1.5 million

Civil Rights Division

Policing and Criminal Justice: 24 positions, 12 FTE and \$2.7 million

Protecting the Rights of Servicemembers: 5 positions, 3 FTE and \$.587 million

Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities: 7 positions, 4 FTE and \$.983 million

INTERPOL Washington

INTERPOL Washington Operations: 2 positions, 1 FTE and \$1.430 million

INTERPOL Washington IT Expansion Initiative: \$1.6 million

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

A. Appropriations Language

New language proposed for FY 2017 is *italicized and underlined*.

Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed \$20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, [\$893,000,000] \$957,423,000, of which not to exceed \$20,000,000 for litigation support contracts shall remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount provided for INTERPOL Washington dues payments, not to exceed \$685,000 shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed \$9,000 shall be available to INTERPOL Washington for official reception and representation expenses *and not to exceed \$9,000 shall be available to the Criminal Division for official reception and representation expenses*: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to "Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities" from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: Provided further, That any transfer pursuant to the previous proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section [505] 504 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under [section 8 of] the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. [10305] 10301 et seq.) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, \$3,390,000 shall remain available until expended.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, not to exceed [\$9,358,000] \$11,970,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.

B. Analysis of Appropriations Language

The FY 2017 request proposes several changes in the General Legal Activities appropriations language. First, the Criminal Division requests \$9,000 in representational fund authority for FY 2017 for the use of the three Criminal Division offices that represent the Department of Justice on international matters: the Office of International Affairs (OIA); the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT); and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). On behalf of the Department of Justice, these offices deal with foreign counterparts on a daily basis, both in Washington and in their overseas posts. Yet these offices are not funded to provide, or to reciprocate to, even the most basic hospitalities that are integral to the conduct of international relations.

The Criminal Division's inability to fund hospitality measures undermines the fundamental objective of building overseas partnerships to fight terrorism and transnational crime. Because our foreign counterparts almost universally are funded to provide such hospitality, they logically assume that the United States must likewise provide representational funds to DOJ and may conclude that the Criminal Division's inability to fund gestures of hospitality means that we do not highly value the relationship. Accordingly, in order to build the relationships key to fighting terrorism and transnational crime, the Criminal Division's offices of OIA, OPDAT, and ICITAP seek this authority to advance the building of foreign relationships that are key to U.S. security.

Second, the Civil Rights Division directs and manages federal enforcement of the provisions of the Voting Rights Act, including the election monitoring provisions of the Act. The Division reimburses the Office of Personnel Management for salaries and expenses that it incurs for federal observers for elections. The language change ensures that the appropriations language fully covers the election monitoring program, which operates under numerous provisions of the Voting Rights Act—not just Section 8. Travel is the single biggest cost associated with DOJ's own election monitoring work.

Finally, the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program caseload has doubled over FY 2009 levels and is projected to continue increasing through FY 2017 and beyond. To manage this drastic increase in case activity, Civil is requesting an increase of \$2.61 million for total program funding of \$11.97 million to fund 12 additional positions. If this request is not funded, significant delays in the adjudication process will occur, causing delays in compensation to meritorious claimants, which will undermine this innovative compensation system that Congress designed.

IV. Program Activity Justification*

V. Program Increases by Item*

*Please refer to individual GLA component exhibits