

# GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Civil Rights Division (CRT)

#### FY 2022 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2021 Enacted: \$158.2 million (639 positions; 401 attorneys)

Current Services Adjustments: +\$4.4 million

Program Changes: +\$20.7 million

FY 2022 Budget Request: \$183.2 million (724 positions; 461 attorneys)

Change From FY 2021 Enacted: +\$25.0 million (+15.8%) (+85 positions; +60 attorneys)

#### Mission:

The Civil Rights Division (CRT) protects the civil and constitutional rights of all people in this country, enforcing the Constitution and Federal laws of the United States in pursuit of our founding ideals – human dignity, equal justice, and equal opportunity for all. Toward that end, the CRT strives to advance three key principles:

- Protecting the most vulnerable by ensuring that all in America can live free from fear of violence, discrimination, and exploitation;
- Safeguarding the fundamental right to vote in our democracy; and
- Advancing the opportunity to learn, earn a living, live where one chooses, and worship freely in one's community.

## Organization:

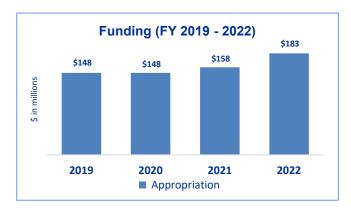
The CRT is headed by the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (AAG), who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The AAG is assisted by five Deputy Assistant Attorneys General. The AAG oversees a Division that is organized into ten sections dedicated to the enforcement of the Nation's civil rights laws. The CRT is headquartered in Washington, DC. Due to its broad jurisdiction, CRT staff travel throughout the United States to prosecute and litigate cases and to engage in technical assistance, outreach, and training.

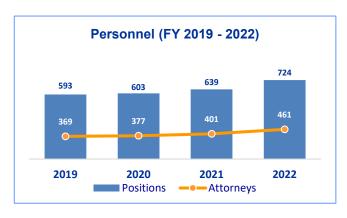
#### Resources:

The FY 2022 budget request for the CRT totals \$183.2 million, which is a 15.8 percent increase over the FY 2021 Enacted.

#### Personnel:

The CRT's direct authorized positions for FY 2022 total 724 positions, including an increase of 85 positions over the FY 2021 Enacted of 639 direct authorized positions.





#### FY 2022 Strategy:

In FY 2022, the CRT will continue to prioritize longstanding enforcement activities, as well as to pursue new areas. These activities include:

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on civil rights, including addressing hate, bias, and xenophobia against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community;
- Promoting effective, constitutional, and nondiscriminatory policing practices;
- Combating discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation;
- Upholding civil rights in an evolving technological landscape;
- Enforcing Federal laws protecting the right to vote; and
- Prosecuting human traffickers, including those in organized criminal networks.

#### FY 2022 Program Changes:

**Investments in Civil Rights Priorities:** \$20.7 million and 85 positions (60 attorneys)

The CRT is requesting \$20.7 million and 85 positions (60 attorneys) to for:

Responding to the Pandemic's Impact on Civil Rights: The multi-faceted nature of the civil rights issues exacerbated by COVID-19 calls for a significant scaling up of CRT efforts. This includes:

- Coordinating the Department's focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander hate crimes and incidents, as well as working with other Federal agencies to support state and local efforts to prevent discrimination against AAPI communities.
- Working to address inequalities in education as schools reopen by working to ensure schools meet the needs of students most impacted by the pandemic, including English learners, students of color, students with disabilities, and students facing pandemic-related trauma and other mental health challenges.

<u>Promoting Effective, Constitutional, Non-Discriminatory Policing Practices:</u> Additional funding will expand our capacity to work on criminal justice policy reforms such as bail reform, fines and fees reform, and provide the staff and resources needed to:

- Continue investigating and prosecuting law enforcement officers who violate the Constitutional rights of others; and
- Open new investigations of law enforcement agencies that may engage in unlawful policing practices

Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation: With additional resources, the Division will work toward realizing the promise of Bostock and Executive Order 13988: that all people should be treated equally, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. To advance this goal, the CRT will:

- Expand its capacity to investigate and litigate claims of discrimination against individuals based on gender identity and sexual orientation in the contexts of housing, employment, and education; and
- Extend its outreach capabilities as we consider the implications of Bostock, which shifted the legal landscape and expanded the CRT's enforcement duties to reach more claims of discrimination involving gender identity and sexual orientation.

<u>Upholding Civil Rights in an Evolving Technological Landscape:</u> This budget enhancement would aid the CRT in tackling the growth of automated and augmented decision-making without weakening its ability to counter traditional forms of discrimination. Additional funding will provide the staff and resources needed to:

- Make subject matter experts available to work with CRT legal teams; and
- Expand coordination with other Federal agencies that are also tackling the implications of augmented decisionmaking.

Enforcing Federal Laws Protecting the Right to Vote: Using additional resources, the CRT will identify new investigations. When supported by the facts and the law, the CRT will use their enforcement authority to achieve compliance with Federal laws. Additional resources will allow the CRT to respond to this expanded activity without compromising existing levels of civil rights enforcement and outreach in other areas.

Current services for this initiative are 639 positions (401 attorneys) and \$162.5 million.

## <u>Civil Rights Division</u> (Dollars in Thousands)

	С	Civil Rights Division				
	Pos	FTE	Amount			
2020 Appropriation	603	520	148,239			
2021 Enacted	639	584	158,167			
2022 Request	724	657	183,181			
Change 2022 from 2021 Enacted	85	73	25,014			
Technical Adjustments						
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0			
Base Adjustments						
Pay & Benefits	0	9	3,663			
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	670			
Other Adjustments	0	0	20			
Total Base Adjustments	0	9	4,353			
2022 Current Services	639	593	162,520			
Program Changes						
Increases:						
Investments in Civil Rights Priorities	85	64	20,661			
Subtotal, Program Increases	85	64	20,661			
Decreases:						
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0			
Total Program Changes	85	64	20,661			
2022 Request	724	657	183,181			

# **Civil Rights Division** (Dollars in Thousands)

	2021 Enacted			2022 Current Services		
Comparison by activity and program	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Civil Rights Enforcements	639	584	158,167	639	593	162,520
Total	639	584	158,167	639	593	162,520
Reimbursable FTE		23			23	
Total Direct and Reimbursable	639	607	158,167	639	616	162,520
Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)		44			44	
FTE Grand Total		651			660	

	2022 Total Program Changes			2022 Request		
Comparison by activity and program	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Civil Rights Enforcements	85	64	20,661	724	657	183,181
Total	85	64	20,661	724	657	183,181
Reimbursable FTE		0			23	
Total Direct and Reimbursable	85	64	20,661	724	680	183,181
Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)		0			44	
FTE Grand Total		64			724	