



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2019 Budget Request

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

+\$65.9 million in Program Enhancements

FY 2019 Overview

The FY 2019 President's Budget strengthens the Nation's security through stronger enforcement of the Nation's immigration laws. The Department is requesting \$65.9 million in immigration related program enhancements for FY 2019, 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: \$39.8 million and 450 positions (150 attorneys)**
EOIR oversees the Nation's immigration courts and the Board of Immigrant Appeals. At the beginning of FY 2018, there were nearly 650,000 cases pending in immigration courts nationwide, a 25 percent increase from FY 2016 and by far the largest pending caseload before the agency, marking the eleventh consecutive year of increased backlogs. In addition, over the course of FY 2017, DHS filed nearly 300,000 Notices to Appear, representing a more than 25 percent increase in new case receipts over FY 2016.

To maintain the efficacy and efficiency of immigration enforcement and adjudication programs and process the increasing workload, the Department requests \$39.8 million for 75 new immigration judges (IJs) and support staff. Support staff consists of attorneys, judicial law clerks, legal assistants, and administrative support staff, including interpreters.

- **Immigration Courts Information Technology Modernization: \$25 million and 0 positions**
EOIR continues to struggle with a wholly paper-based system that is both cumbersome and inefficient. The budget provides \$25 million for information technology modernization to provide for electronic submission of all case-related information, establishment of an electronic Record of Proceedings (eROP), establishment of electronic

case adjudicatory aids for IJs, improvements in case management processes and end-to-end workflow, and eventually transition to a paperless courtroom.

United States Attorneys (USA)

- **Paralegal Support: \$1.1 million and 17 positions**

The United States Attorneys request paralegal support positions to assist with increasingly complex cases prosecuted by the United States Attorneys' offices (USAOs). This request will support the Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) as they prepare their document-intensive cases to carry out the Administration's priorities and other mission critical needs, to include supporting the additional 70 immigration enforcement prosecutors requested in FY 2018.

FY 2019 Program Enhancement Summary (Amount in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Positions	Agents/ Attorneys	Amount
Executive Office for Immigration Review			
Immigration Judge and Support Staff	450	150	\$39,839
Information Technology Modernization	0	0	25,000
Subtotal, Executive Office for Immigration Review	450	150	\$64,839
United States Attorneys			
Paralegal Support	17	0	\$1,100
Subtotal, United States Attorneys	17	0	\$1,100
Total, Program Enhancements	467	150	\$65,939

Enhancements Pending in the FY 2018 President's Budget

Executive Office for Immigration Review (IJs and Support, 390 pos.):	\$67.4 million
United States Marshals Service (Deputy US Marshals, 40 pos.):	\$8.8 million
Federal Prisoner Detention (Housing, Medical, Transportation):	\$50.3 million
United States Attorneys (Immigration Prosecutors, 70 pos.):	\$7.2 million
Civil Division (Office of Immigration Litigation, 20 pos.):	\$1.9 million
Environment and Natural Resources Division (Land Acquisition, 20 pos.):	\$1.8 million