



Government Relations Update

The Latest on Public Policy and Advocacy Developments from the Federal Bar Association

August 2024

Advocacy Update

FBA's advocacy continues to pay off with major advances for the JUDGES Act and the provision of funding to implement the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act.

JUDGES Act—On Aug. 1, 2024, the Senate unanimously passed the JUDGES Act ([S. 4199](#)). With a dwindling number of legislative days remaining on the calendar for this Congress, FBA outside counsel immediately contacted staff for House Judiciary Courts Subcommittee Chairman Darrell Issa to offer FBA's assistance in advancing judgeship legislation through the House as well. We are asking FBA members to contact their elected representatives in the House, seeking their support for the Senate-passed version of the judgeship legislation and asking them to urge leadership to facilitate a vote by the full House in September.

Daniel Anderl Act—As we reported in July, the House FY 2025 Commerce, Justice & Science (CJS) appropriations bill sent to the House Floor includes \$10 million for a DOJ grant program authorized by the Anderl Act that will provide funds to state and local governments to help defray the costs of scrubbing judges' and their family members' PII from their databases. The Senate CJS bill, approved by the Appropriations Committee on July 25, also includes \$10 million for the Anderl Act grant program. FBA members, including a number of judges, deserve tremendous credit for their effective advocacy in securing these historic allocations. Although we do not expect the enactment of FY 2025 spending bills before the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, we also do not expect the further negotiations over spending bills to impact the Anderl Act grant program line item. We will continue to monitor carefully the progress of this legislation.

Legislative Update

Appropriations for the Judiciary

On June 13, the House Appropriations Committee approved its Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill for FY 2025. The bill provides \$8.804 billion for the Judiciary, which is \$554.6 million below the FY 2025 Budget Request, but \$173.9 million above the FY 2024 enacted level. It supports an increase in funding for the Supreme Court Police to provide residential protection for the Justices. On August 1, the Senate

Appropriations Committee approved its FSGG bill, providing \$8.82 billion for the federal judiciary, which is slightly higher than the \$8.804 billion in the House bill.

Both the House and Senate bills include \$1.5 billion for Defender Services, an increase of \$49 million above Fiscal Year 2024’s number, and both bills state that funds made available under the Court Security heading “may be used for managing a Judiciary-wide program to facilitate security and emergency management services among the Judiciary, United States Marshals Service, Federal Protective Service, General Services Administration, other Federal agencies, state and local governments and the public; and for purposes authorized by the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022.”

Independent Immigration Court

There are no developments to report at this time regarding the Real Courts, Rule of Law Act ([H.R. 7724](#)).

Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Charter Amendments Act

There are no developments to report at this time regarding the Charter Amendments bill ([S. 2694](#)).

Judiciary Update

[Forty-seven](#) of 890 active federal judicial positions, including the United States Court of Federal Claims and the United States territorial courts, are currently vacant. Twenty-three more judicial vacancies are [expected](#) through January of 2025, with fourteen nominees named in advance.

Current Judicial Vacancies – As of Aug. 15, 2024
[According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts](#)

Court	Vacancies	Nominees Pending
Supreme Court	0	0
Courts of Appeal	1	1
District Courts	46	18
US Court of Federal Claims	0	0
US Ct of International Trade	0	0
Total	47	19

There are [21 judicial vacancy emergencies](#), based on caseload and/or the length of the vacancy, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Judicial Confirmations: The Senate has [confirmed](#) four nominees since July 8, 2024.

Nominee	Judicial/District Court	Confirmation Date
Robin Michelle Meriweather	Court of Federal Claims	July 11, 2024
Stacey D. Neumann	District of Maine	July 30, 2024
Meredith A. Vacca	Western District of New York	July 31, 2024
Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr.	Middle District of Pennsylvania	July 31, 2024

Judicial Nominations: Since July 11, 2024, President Biden has [nominated](#) 0 candidates for judicial vacancies.