



Federal Bar Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

The Latest on Public Policy and Advocacy Developments

JULY 2025

ADVOCACY UPDATE

In response to judicial security concerns raised by some federal judges about a WANTED poster featuring 18 federal judges displayed on the wall outside a Member of Congress' DC office, FBA leaders contacted the chief of staff to the Congressman and within minutes, the chief of staff showed great responsiveness and notified FBA that the poster was no longer on display.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Appropriations for the Judiciary

Now that the budget reconciliation bill is off its plate, Congress is returning to the appropriations process. As we noted in June, the Trump Administration's budget proposal includes the \$9.4 billion in discretionary funding requested by the federal judiciary, as well as \$5 million in DOJ funding to implement the Anderl Act grant program. As of this writing, neither chamber has announced markup dates for the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) bills, which include the budget for the federal Judiciary.

On July 10, the Senate Appropriations Committee began—but did not conclude—consideration of the FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) spending bill. The Subcommittee recessed the meeting to allow for further negotiations over cuts to FBI funding and the relocation of FBI headquarters. As currently drafted, according to Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Moran (R-KS), the legislation would provide \$10 million for the Daniel Anderl Act state and local government database manager grant program, to be administered by the Department of Justice. Although no date has been announced, we expect the Subcommittee to reconvene soon.

On July 15, the House CJS Subcommittee approved its version of the FY 2026 CJS spending bill, which would provide \$5 million for the Anderl Act grant program, as requested by the agency for FY 2026. At some point this Fall, it is possible that the two differing versions will be reconciled as part of a year-end final appropriations bill.

Federal Judgeships Legislation

California Republican Congressman Darrell Issa's JUDGES Act ([H.R. 1702](#)), now has 10 Republican and 5 Democratic cosponsors. Although the House Judiciary Committee reported H.R. 1702 favorably on March 5, the bill has not yet been scheduled for Floor consideration. Outside counsel and FBA members continue to urge House leadership to bring the bill to the Floor. As we have previously explained, the current version of the bill would add 66 federal district court seats across the country, as recommended by the Judicial Conference in 2023; however, Rep. Issa plans to amend the bill to reflect the Judicial Conference's 2025 recommendations, which were not available when the bill was introduced. The 2025 report adds 3 district court seats, for a total of 69 recommended new district court judgeships. It also makes some adjustments to the previously recommended locations for the new seats.

There has been no committee activity on the competing judgeships bill ([H.R. 1929](#)) introduced on March 6 by Democrat Reps. Hank Johnson, Jerry Nadler, and Jamie Raskin. No new cosponsors have been added since Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA-35) joined the bill in March.

Efforts to craft a bipartisan Senate judgeships bill remain on hold pending further House action, due to differing views between Republicans and Democrats on the appropriate timing of authorizing the new judgeships.

JUDICIARY UPDATE

[Forty-nine](#) of 890 active federal judicial positions, including the United States Court of Federal Claims and the United States territorial courts, are currently vacant. Fourteen more judicial vacancies are [expected](#) through June 8, 2026, with two nominee named in advance.

Current Judicial Vacancies as of July 15, 2025 [According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts](#)

	Vacancies	Nominees Pending
Supreme Court	0	0
Courts of Appeal	3	1
District Courts	46	9
US Court of Federal Claims	0	0
US Court of International Trade	0	0
Total	49	10

There are [twenty-four 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 current Congress has confirmed one nominee.

Nominee	Jurisdiction	Nomination Date
Whitney D. Hermandorfer	Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals	July 14, 2025

Judicial Nominations: Since June 15, President Trump has submitted six nominations for judicial vacancies:

Nominee	Jurisdiction	Nomination Date
Emil J. Bove, III	Third Circuit Court of Appeals	June 16, 2025
Kyle Christopher Dudek	Middle District of Florida	June 16, 2025
John M. Guard	Middle District of Florida	June 16, 2025
Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe	Middle District of Florida	June 16, 2025
Edward L. Artau	Southern District of Florida	June 16, 2025
Stephen Chad Meredith	Eastern District of Kentucky	June 23, 2025