



Federal Bar Association

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

The Latest on Public Policy and Advocacy Developments

JUNE 2026

ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Senate Appropriations Committee postponed the markup of its FY 2027 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) legislation, originally noticed for June 4. The FBA tracks the CJS bill because it provides funding for the Department of Justice and its grant programs, including the state and local government grants authorized by the Daniel Anderl Act. FBA is urging Congress to provide \$10 million in FY 2027 for the second year of implementation of the Anderl grant program, based on the fact that there is significant unmet need for state and local governments to remove federal judges' PII from their websites. The text of the Senate CJS bill has not yet been released.

As a reminder, the House Appropriations Committee has approved a CJS bill that would provide \$7.5 million for the Anderl Act grant program in FY 2027—the same amount Congress provided for the current fiscal year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal Judiciary Funding

There have been no developments since May with regard to FY 2027 appropriations for the federal judiciary. As a reminder, the judiciary requested \$9.7 billion in funding for the coming year. On April 22, 2026, the full House Appropriations Committee approved a Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) bill that would provide a total of \$9.6 billion in discretionary funding for operations of the Judiciary, an increase of \$381 million above fiscal year 2026, though still \$36 million below the request.

Of the total provided, the bill includes:

- Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services – \$6.4 billion, an increase of \$312 million above fiscal year 2026 and equal to the amount requested.
- Defender Services – \$1.8 billion, an increase of \$27 million above fiscal year 2026 and equal to the amount requested.
- Court Security – \$921 million, \$29 million above fiscal year 2026 and equal to the amount requested.

The Senate has not yet released draft FSGG legislative text.

Federal Judgeships Legislation

There are no developments to report regarding judgeships legislation.

JUDICIARY UPDATE

[Twenty-nine](#) of 890 active federal judicial positions, including the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the United States territorial courts, are currently vacant. Fourteen more judicial vacancies are [expected](#) through May 11, 2027, with five nominees named in advance.

Current Judicial Vacancies as of June 15, 2026
[According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts](#)

	Vacancies	Nominees Pending
Supreme Court	0	0
Courts of Appeal	0	0
District Courts	28	8
US Court of Federal Claims	0	0
US Court of International Trade	1	1
Total	29	9

There are [12 judicial vacancy emergencies](#), based on caseload and/or the length of the vacancy, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Seven emergency districts are in Texas.

Judicial Confirmations: The Senate has [confirmed](#) six nominees since May 14, 2026.

Nominee	Jurisdiction	Confirmation Date
Sheria Akins Clarke	District of South Carolina	May 19, 2026
Evan Rikhye	District of Virgin Islands	May 20, 2026
Kathleen S. Lane	District of Montana	June 2, 2026
Jeffrey M. Kuhlman	District of Kansas	June 2, 2026
Anthony W. Mattivi	District of Kansas	June 9, 2026
Anthony J. Powell	District of Kansas	June 10, 2026

Judicial Nominations: Since May 14, President Trump has [submitted](#) zero nominations for judicial vacancies.