

Discretionary Appropriations for the Federal Judiciary (FY2024): Comparison of Amounts Recommended by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees

November 3, 2023

This Insight provides information related to FY2024 appropriations for the [federal judiciary](#). Funds for the judicial branch are included annually in the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill. The FSGG appropriations bill was not enacted prior to the beginning of FY2024 on October 1, 2023. The FY2024 Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act ([P.L. 118-15](#)), passed by Congress on September 30, 2023, and signed by the President on the same date, currently provides government funding through November 17, 2023.

The Judiciary's FY2024 Budget Request

The [judiciary's FY2024 budget request](#) was submitted to Congress on [March 9, 2023](#). By law, the President includes, without change, the judiciary's appropriations request in his annual budget submission to Congress.

The judiciary's FY2024 request included \$9.14 billion in discretionary funds, representing an 8.0% increase over the FY2023 enacted level of \$8.46 billion in discretionary funds provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 ([P.L. 117-328](#)). The amount enacted by Congress for FY2023 represented 97.9% of the judiciary's FY2023 request for \$8.64 billion in discretionary funds.

The judiciary's FY2024 budget request also included \$796.1 million in mandatory appropriations used to meet the constitutional and statutory obligations associated with paying the salaries and benefits of certain types of judges and also to provide funds for judicial retirement accounts.

House Committee Markup of the Judiciary's FY2024 Budget Request

On June 22, 2023, the House Appropriations subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government [held a markup](#) of the FY2024 FSGG bill. The subcommittee, by voice vote, recommended a total of \$8.68 billion in discretionary funds for the judiciary.

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On July 13, 2023, the House Appropriations Committee [held a markup](#) of the FY2024 FSGG bill and, by a vote of 34-26, recommended \$8.68 billion in discretionary funds for the judiciary ([H.R. 4664](#); [H.Rept. 118-145](#)).

No hearings were held by either the House FSGG subcommittee or the House Appropriations Committee on the judiciary's FY2024 budget request.

The House Appropriations Committee markup amount of \$8.68 billion represents 95.0% of the judiciary's FY2024 request for \$9.14 billion in discretionary funds.

Senate Committee Markup of the Judiciary's FY2024 Budget Request

The markup scheduled for July 11, 2023, by the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government [was cancelled](#) and not rescheduled.

On July 13, 2023, the Senate Appropriations Committee [held a markup](#) of the FY2024 FSGG bill and, by a vote of 29-0, recommended \$8.57 billion in discretionary funds for the judiciary ([S. 2309](#); [S.Rept. 118-61](#)).

No hearings were held by either the Senate FSGG subcommittee or the Senate Appropriations Committee on the judiciary's FY2024 budget request.

The Senate Appropriations Committee markup amount of \$8.57 billion represents 93.8% of the judiciary's FY2024 request for \$9.14 billion in discretionary funds.

Summary of Amounts by Account

Table 1 provides, for each judiciary account, (1) the enacted discretionary amounts for FY2023; (2) the discretionary amounts requested by the judiciary for FY2024; (3) the discretionary amounts for FY2024 recommended by the House Appropriations Committee; and (4) the discretionary amounts for FY2024 recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee. **Table 1** does not include mandatory appropriations.

Table 1. Discretionary Appropriations Amounts for the Judiciary: FY2023 Enacted, FY2024 Request, FY2024 Reported by House and Senate Appropriations Committees
(in millions of dollars)

Account	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Request	FY2024 House Comm. Markup	FY2024 Senate Comm. Markup
Supreme Court (total)	\$138.80	\$147.75	\$144.62	\$140.08
<i>Supreme Court—Salaries and Expenses</i>	\$109.55	\$127.06	\$124.20	\$119.39
<i>Supreme Court—Buildings and Grounds</i>	\$29.25	\$20.69	\$20.42	\$20.69
Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit	\$36.74	\$39.68	\$38.99	\$36.74
Court of International Trade	\$21.26	\$22.40	\$22.10	\$21.26
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services (total)	\$8,106.12	\$8,757.65	\$8,314.70	\$8,211.12
<i>Courts of Appeals, District Courts, Etc.—Salaries and Expenses</i>	\$5,905.06	\$6,370.39	\$6,050.97	\$6,010.06
<i>Defender Services</i>	\$1,382.68	\$1,533.02	\$1,411.12	\$1,382.68
<i>Court Security</i>	\$750.16	\$783.47	\$782.73	\$750.16

Account	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Request	FY2024 House Comm. Markup	FY2024 Senate Comm. Markup
<i>Fees of Jurors and Commissioners</i>	\$58.24	\$59.90	\$59.90	\$58.24
<i>Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund</i>	\$9.98	\$10.87	\$9.98	\$9.98
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts	\$102.67	\$112.97	\$107.30	\$102.67
Federal Judicial Center	\$34.26	\$35.08	\$34.17	\$34.26
Sentencing Commission	\$21.64	\$23.15	\$22.50	\$21.64
TOTAL	\$8,461.49	\$9,138.68	\$8,684.38	\$8,567.77

Sources: FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328), FY2024 Congressional Budget Summary, H.R. 4664, S. 2309.

Note: Mandatory appropriations are not included in the table.

Of the judiciary's FY2024 total request for \$9.14 billion in discretionary funds (see the second column in **Table 1**), the greatest amount of the request was for accounts within the *Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services* category—representing 95.8% of the judiciary's total request. Courts, programs, and other items funded by this large account include the [U.S. courts of appeals](#), [U.S. district courts](#) (including [territorial courts](#)), [U.S. bankruptcy courts](#), [U.S. magistrate judge positions](#), [pretrial and probation services](#), [federal public defender organizations](#), [protective guard services](#) and security systems and equipment for court security, [fees and allowances paid to federal jurors](#), and payments to the [Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund](#).

Within the *Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services* category, the three greatest differences in markup amounts between the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (with each amount being greater in the House markup), were for the *Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses* account (a difference of \$40.91 million), *Court Security* account (\$32.57 million), and *Defender Services* (\$28.44 million).

Apart from the House and Senate differences within the *Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services* category, the three greatest differences in markup amounts between the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (with each amount being greater in the House markup), were for the *Supreme Court—Salaries and Expenses* account (a difference of \$4.81 million), *Administrative Office of U.S. Courts* account (\$4.63 million), and the *Federal Circuit* account (\$2.25 million).

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