

STATEMENT OF JANE A. RESTANI  
Chief Judge  
UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
before  
The Subcommittee on  
Financial Services and General Government  
United States Senate

March 21, 2007

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I would like to again thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit this statement on behalf of the United States Court of International Trade, a court established under Article III of the Constitution with exclusive nationwide jurisdiction over civil actions pertaining to matters arising out of the administration and enforcement of the customs and international trade laws of the United States.

The Court's Fiscal Year 2008 original budget request of \$16,727,000 represented an overall increase of \$690,000 or 4.3 percent over the Fiscal Year 2007 assumed appropriation of \$16,037,000. This assumed appropriation included an across the board cut of one percent. In February, the Court received an appropriation of \$15,825,000. Based on this enacted appropriation, and after a detailed and careful review, the Court's Fiscal Year 2008 budget request has been reduced to \$16,632,000. This represents an overall increase of 5.1 percent over the enacted Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation. Despite the reduction, we anticipate that this request will enable the Court to maintain current services and provide for mandatory increases in pay, benefits and other inflationary adjustments to base, including increases in costs paid to GSA for rent and to the Federal Protective Service for building basic and building-specific security surcharges. These security surcharges provide for the Court's pro-rata share of installing, operating and maintaining systems for the critical and necessary security of the Federal Complex in lower Manhattan.

As it has done in the past, the Court continues to budget and expend funds in a conservative and cost effective manner, and will continue to do so to manage within the reduced request. Through the use of its annual appropriation and the Judiciary Information Technology Fund (JITF), the Court continues to promote and implement the objectives set forth in its Long Range Plan for providing access to the Court through the effective and efficient delivery of information to litigants, bar, public, judges and staff. This access is of particular importance in realizing the Court's mission to resolve disputes by (1) providing cost effective, courteous and timely service by those affected by the judicial process, (2) providing independent, consistent, fair and impartial interpretation and application of the customs and international trade laws and (3) fostering improvements in customs and international trade law and practice and improvements in the administration of justice.

The Court continues to make substantial progress in implementing its information technology and cyclical maintenance programs. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Court: (1) purchased a new server for a public access terminal that will allow access to the Court's customized version of the Federal Judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) System; (2) purchased an additional server for storing utility files and desktop images; (3) purchased a high speed digital networked copier with scanning and faxing capabilities; (4) cyclically upgraded laptops and purchased desktop computers, monitors and printers for a new judge; (5) upgraded vital existing software applications, (6) continued maintenance agreements for computer hardware and software applications; (7) implemented the on-line system (pay.gov) for the payment of filing fees and the electronic application of CM/ECF for filing appeals and opening cases; (8) upgraded to a new version of CM/ECF and (9) provided training in the new electronic case opening and filing of appeals applications to attorneys, staff and the public. Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2006, the Court continued its cyclical maintenance program by refurbishing chambers for a new judge, and offices for a new clerk of court, replacing aging furniture/chairs and upgrading public access corridors.

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Court has planned to: (1) purchase new courtroom and conference room technology systems, including an upgraded video conferencing system; (2) replace the Court's Internet server and the server for the Court's library on-line cataloguing and acquisition system; (3) replace desktop computer systems, laptops and printers in accordance with the Judiciary's cyclical replacement program; (4) upgrade and support existing software applications; (5) purchase new software applications to ensure the continued operational efficiency of the Court; (7) support Court equipment by the purchase of yearly maintenance agreements; and (8) upgrade copier machines in chambers and clerks' offices. The Court also will expand its developmental and educational programs for staff in the areas of job-related skills and technology.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Court remains committed to using its carryforward balances in the Judiciary Information Technology Fund to continue its information technology initiatives and to support the Court's short-term and long-term information technology needs.

Additionally, the Court will continue its commitment to its cyclical replacement and maintenance program for equipment and furniture and for the courthouse. This program not only ensures the integrity of equipment and furnishings, but maximizes the use and functionality of the internal space of the courthouse. Moreover, the Fiscal Year 2008 request includes funds for the support and maintenance of the security systems upgraded by the Court in Fiscal Years 1999 through 2005, and the Court's COOP. Lastly, the Court will continue its efforts to address the educational needs of the bar and Court staff.

As I have stated in previous years, the Court remains committed to maintaining its security systems to ensure the protection of those who work in and visit the Courthouse. In July, 2005, GSA received Senate approval for Fiscal Year 2006 funding for the design and construction of a security pavilion for entry into the building. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Court worked closely with GSA in the design and construction of this entrance pavilion. To that end, the Court, in Fiscal Year 2006, entered into a Reimbursable Work Authorization

with GSA for a non-prospectus security project for the purchase and installation of additional security equipment, including cameras and for the upgrade of the Court's security infrastructure. The design phase was completed in Fiscal Year 2006 and construction began in Fiscal Year 2007. The Court will continue in Fiscal Year 2008 to work in full partnership with GSA during the last phases of construction in order to ensure the total success of this project. GSA projects a completion date in Fiscal Year 2008.

I would like to again emphasize that the Court remains committed to an approach of conservatively managing its financial resources through sound fiscal, procurement and personnel practices. As a matter of internal operating principles, the Court routinely engages in cost containment strategies in keeping with the overall administrative policies and practices of the Judicial Conference, particularly regarding rent, security costs, equipment costs, technology, contractual obligations and personnel. I can assure you that this management approach with respect to the Court's financial affairs is on-going.

Lastly, I would like to personally extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Congress for recognizing the needs of the courts by providing, in Fiscal Year 2007, adequate funding to maintain current services so that the courts can remain committed to the administration of justice for all.

The Court's "General Statement and Information" and "Justification of Changes," which provide more detailed descriptions of each line item adjustment, were submitted previously. If the Committee requires any additional information, we will be pleased to submit it.