

**For further information contact
Public Information Office (202) 479-3211**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY
Tuesday, July 14, 2026**

**Statement of Justice Elena Kagan
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
Before the
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
of the
House Committee on Appropriations
Tuesday, July 14, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2359**

Chairman Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer, and Members of the Subcommittee.

Thank you for giving Justice Barrett and me the opportunity to present the Supreme Court's fiscal year 2027 budget request.

I would like to note at the outset how appreciative we are of this subcommittee's constructive engagement and support. You and your staff have been with us every step of the way as we've added security funding to meet the challenges of these times. I personally have enjoyed our regular meetings together. Our respective staffs also speak and share information regularly. I look forward to our future work.

The Supreme Court's funding is provided separately from the lower federal courts and split between two appropriations, one for salaries and expenses related to the daily operations of the Court, and another for care of the building and grounds. We will

address the operating budget today. The Architect of the Capitol will submit a separate statement concerning our building and grounds.

The Court's operating budget funds the daily activities you'd expect in any federal courthouse, such as library and research services, case management, visitor services, information technology, facility management, and security. We carry out our work with relatively modest funding. Our budget represents just 2 percent of the Judiciary Branch's total funding, which in turn represents one tenth of one percent of the federal budget. Nonetheless, we take our responsibility as fiscal stewards very seriously.

In fiscal year 2027, the Court is requesting an additional \$14 million, a 7 percent increase, for salaries and expenses. Over the last five fiscal years, the Supreme Court's funding needs have grown, on average, 15 percent per year. Aside from annual inflationary increases, recent growth in the Court's budget has been almost entirely for security expenses. The majority of last year's funding increase went to shifting the responsibility for residential security from the Marshals Service to the Supreme Court Police.

I first joined the Court in 2010. Our security was much different at that time. The Supreme Court Police focused almost exclusively on protecting the building, and our IT Department focused on supporting the latest Blackberry devices. I did not have a

security team of my own, and was accompanied by security personnel only when I participated in work-related, public events.

We began expanding our security program in earnest in 2017, initially at the behest of members of Congress. We engaged government and private-industry experts to evaluate our needs on an ongoing basis. We started by expanding personal security beyond the Chief Justice, so that Associate Justices also received small security details--much too small as it turned out. As threat assessments called for larger details, and as overtime costs correspondingly rose, we requested funding for more officers, vehicles, and support staff. As events at the Capitol and other federal courthouses revealed our building's vulnerabilities, we also added new physical security systems. When personal threats increased following the *Dobbs* leak, we expanded our residential security and threat assessment activities. As online attacks grew in number and sophistication, we requested additional cybersecurity resources. Our strategy has been consistent across security functions: expand incrementally but effectively to meet evolving security challenges.

We are not alone in this. Although orders of magnitude smaller, the Supreme Court's Police Department is modeled after your Capitol Police Department. The two departments have matching pay tables and similar organizational charts. They work closely together on threats pertaining to the Capitol campus and beyond. They also face many of the same challenges, especially officer recruitment and retention, and they have

implemented many of the same solutions to address those challenges. Over the last five years, the Capitol Police Department's annual operating needs have increased 70 percent, a figure similar to the Court's. For fiscal year 2027, Capitol Police requested a 16 percent increase. As neighbors, I'm sure our two police departments will continue to work cooperatively together.

Our respective police departments' growing needs are obvious, given current conditions. The Capitol Police Chief recently testified that threats against Congress are up 50 percent this year. The Supreme Court Police expect a smaller but still substantial 38 percent annual increase in threats this year, which follows a 25 percent increase last year. For some of us, those threats have come very close, and all of us live with the knowledge that they may again materialize. But, as the Chief Justice has said, all members of the Court continue to do their jobs as they believe legally right, adjudicating cases without fear or favor. We are grateful to the Supreme Court Police for all they do to support our ability to do so.

While we cannot comment on decisions or pending cases, Justice Barrett and I are happy to answer any budget-related questions you have.