

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.1.2007

Requests for immunity by Federal prosecutors to the U.S. Attorney General and witnesses involved in these requests

By origin of request, fiscal years 1973-2007

Fiscal year	Requests			Witnesses		
	Total number	Criminal Division		Total number	Criminal Division	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1973	1,160	769	66%	2,715	1,598	59%
1974	1,410	1,121	80	3,655	2,055	56
1975	1,632	1,259	77	3,733	2,183	58
1976	1,789	1,361	76	3,923	2,366	60
1977	1,798	1,250	70	4,413	1,969	45
1978	1,445	959	66	2,997	1,403	47
1979	1,596	1,163	73	3,204	1,816	57
1980	1,653	1,207	73	3,530	1,892	54
1981	1,686	1,252	74	3,271	2,032	62
1982	1,836	1,394	76	3,810	2,233	59
1983	1,986	1,425	72	4,226	2,243	53
1984	2,378	1,838	77	4,784	2,858	60
1985	2,451	1,898	77	5,146	3,329	65
1986	2,550	1,948	76	5,013	3,267	65
1987	2,359	1,869	79	4,603	3,249	71
1988	2,359	1,821	77	4,702	3,205	68
1989	2,301	1,807	79	4,495	3,249	72
1990	2,049	1,694	83	3,735	2,905	78
1991	1,953	1,561	80	3,377	2,449	73
1992	1,819	1,417	78	3,242	2,309	71
1993	1,959	1,466	75	3,521	2,393	68
1994	1,717	1,262	74	3,279	2,225	68
1995	1,520	1,182	78	2,776	1,987	72
1996	1,493	1,135	76	2,806	2,066	74
1997	1,502	1,108	74	2,737	1,953	71
1998	1,340	1,017	76	2,300	1,616	70
1999	1,196	908	76	2,059	1,444	70
2000	1,206	955	79	2,164	1,584	73
2001	1,132	929	82	1,986	1,558	78
2002	901	717	80	1,546	1,084	70
2003	913	743	81	1,613	1,175	73
2004	877	708	81	1,497	1,105	74
2005	887	710	80	1,583	1,127	71
2006	743	621	84	1,280	1,063	83
2007	665	540	81	1,134	862	76

Note: These data reflect requests received from Federal prosecutors under 18 U.S.C. 6001-6005, the statute that governs the granting of use immunity. 18 U.S.C. 6003 requires all Federal prosecuting attorneys to receive authorization from the U.S. Attorney General (or representative) before seeking a court order for witness immunity. It should be noted that in some cases in which the authorization is obtained, the prosecutor may decide not to seek the immunity order from the courts. Therefore, the number of witnesses actually granted immunity is probably lower than the data in the table indicate. It should also be noted that data for 1973 and 1974 include a total of 11 requests and 27 witnesses, and 7 requests and 11 witnesses, respectively, falling under an older statute, 18 U.S.C. 2514, which was repealed. "Criminal Division" includes the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. attorneys. Other requests, not pertaining to the Criminal Division, come from the remaining divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice (e.g., Antitrust, Tax, Civil Division, Civil Rights, and Environment and Natural Resources), as well as from the other Federal agencies (e.g., Federal Trade Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission, and Department of the Army) and from Congress, all of which may request immunity for witnesses. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division.