



## **“A Message from the Inspector General: Audit of the U.S. Marshals Service Judicial Security Activities,” June 2021**

Hello, I'm Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, my office released a report that found that the U.S. Marshals Service does not have the resources or proactive threat detection capabilities it needs to meet its important mission to protect federal judges, courts, and judicial employees.

The Marshals Service has responsibility to protect about 2,700 federal judges, the Marshals the Deputy Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, U.S. Attorneys, and more than 30,000 federal prosecutors and court employees nationwide. It also has responsibility for handling security inside and outside federal courthouses. Complicating this mission is the fact that thousands of threats are made each year, and this number is on the rise.

Recent budget requests demonstrate that the Marshals Service believes its judicial security function is significantly understaffed, which has limited its ability to provide protective services and keep up with the increasing number of threats. We also found that the Marshals Service does not have the capability to proactively monitor the current threat landscape, including online and social media threats.

We further found that the home protection equipment that the Marshals Service offers to federal judges is limited or outdated. This could dissuade judges from opting into the home protection program, or cause judges to use an alternative security system outside of the Marshals Service's purview.

In today's report, we make 8 recommendations to the Marshals Service to help them address these concerns and to improve its judicial security activities.

To read our report and all of our recommendations, please visit our website [oig.justice.gov](https://oig.justice.gov), or go to [oversight.gov](https://oversight.gov).

Thank you for joining me today.

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