



Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2013 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2012 Enacted:	\$7.6 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$263,000
Program Changes:	-\$232,000
FY 2013 Budget Request:	\$7.6 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys)
Change From FY 2012 Enacted:	+\$31,000 (+0.4%)

Mission:

The mission of OLC is to assist the Attorney General in his functions as legal advisor to the President and all of the Executive Branch agencies.

Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Office drafts legal opinions and provides written opinions and oral advice in response to requests from the Counsel to President, the various agencies of the Executive Branch, and offices within the Department. Such requests typically deal with legal issues about which two or more agencies are in disagreement. OLC is also responsible for providing legal advice to the Executive Branch on all constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality. In FY 2013, several executive office functions will be merged with the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG).

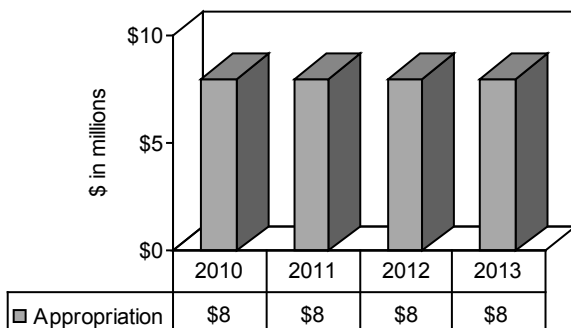
Resources:

The FY 2013 budget request for OLC totals \$7.6 million, which is a 0.4% increase over the FY 2012 Enacted.

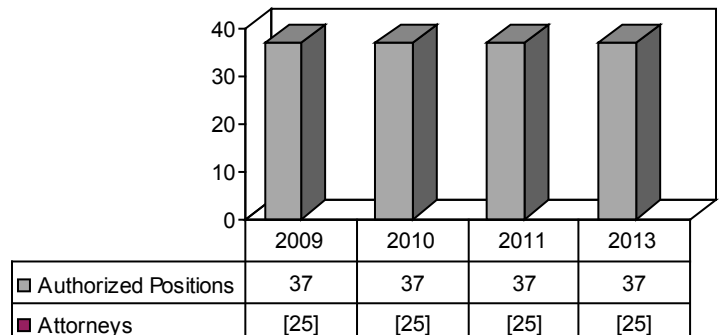
Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2013 total 37 positions and is the same as FY 2012 Enacted. A pay adjustment of \$200,000 has been included to fully fund current staffing requirements.

Funding (FY 2010 - 2013)



Personnel (FY 2010 - 2013)



FY 2013 Strategy:

OLC's mission remains highly critical and urgent as the Department enters into a new era of responsibility confronting national security and intelligence challenges, reinvigorating federal civil rights enforcement and advising the myriad of agencies involved in responding to the economic crisis.

OLC is involved in reviewing legislation concerning health care reform, climate change, and other important initiatives, and in reviewing the large number of Executive Orders and Presidential memoranda that are used to carry out Executive Branch policies. OLC has already published a dozen of its full opinions issued in this Administration. These opinions cover constitutional and statutory questions from a wide range of fields, including national security, criminal law, civil rights, fiscal law, and appointment and removal authorities. OLC thus gives critical advice on how the Executive Branch organizes itself and carries out its missions.

OLC's challenges are of an internal and external nature. OLC does not initiate its workload nor does it have control over the volume of work. The work results from requests for opinions and legal advice from the Counsel of the President, general counsels of OMB and other Executive Office of the President's components, general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies, the National Security Council Legal Advisor, the AG and other Department of Justice officials. Because OLC is a relatively small component, internal challenges come into play because OLC has little flexibility in responding to unexpected surges in workload, such as those created by national security matters, financial crisis, or new legislative initiatives.

FY 2013 Program Changes:

Program Offset - Administrative Functions Consolidation: -\$232,000 and 0 positions

The Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) and the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) are similarly sized components of the General Legal Activities (GLA) appropriation. Due to fiscal constraints, staffing challenges, and the need for constant reevaluation of processes to find the most efficient management of resources, several executive office functions will be consolidated in these two components by merging the executive offices of OLC and OSG into a single, unified executive office. This consolidation streamlines the executive office functions of OSG and OLC and combines many of the overlapping functions. OLC's current services for this initiative are 4 positions and \$419,000.

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2011 Enacted	37	37	7,605
2012 Enacted	37	37	7,605
2013 Request	37	37	7,636
Change 2013 from 2012 Enacted	0	0	31
Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Adjustments to Base			
Increases:			
ATB Transfers	0	0	-13
Pay & Benefits	0	0	253
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	23
Subtotal Increases:	0	0	263
Decreases:	0	0	0
Total Adjustments to Base	0	0	263
Total Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	263
2013 Current Services	37	37	7,868
Program Changes			
Increases:	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Program Offset - Administrative Functions Consolidation	0	0	-232
Subtotal, Program Decrease	0	0	-232
Total Program Changes	0	0	-232
2013 Request	37	37	7,636
Change 2013 from 2012 Enacted	0	0	31

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Enacted			2013 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	37	37	7,605	37	37	7,868
Total	37	37	7,605	37	37	7,868
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	37	37	7,605	37	37	7,868

Comparison by activity and program	2013 Total Program Changes			2013 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	-232	37	37	7,636
Total	0	0	-232	37	37	7,636
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	-232	37	37	7,636