



Administrative Review and Appeals Office of Pardon Attorney (OPA)

FY 2017 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2016 Enacted:	\$6.5 million (46 positions; 27 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$1.6 million
Program Changes:	+\$1.2 million
FY 2017 Budget Request:	\$9.3 million (60 positions; 34 attorneys)
Change From FY 2016 Enacted:	+\$2.8 million (+42.8%) (+14 positions; +7 attorneys)

Mission:

The Office of the Pardon Attorney, in consultation with the Attorney General or her designee, assists the President in the exercise of his executive clemency power as authorized under Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution. Under the Constitution, the President’s clemency power extends only to federal criminal offenses. All requests for executive clemency for federal offenses are directed to the Pardon Attorney for investigation and review. The Pardon Attorney prepares the Department’s recommendation to the President for final disposition of each application. Executive clemency may take several forms including pardon, commutation of sentence, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieve.

Resources:

The FY 2017 budget request for OPA totals \$9.3 million, which is a 42.8% increase over the FY 2016 Enacted.

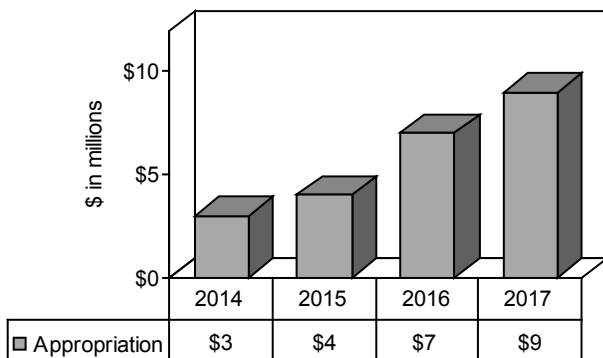
Organization:

OPA is headed by the Pardon Attorney who is appointed by the Attorney General. The Office is located in Washington, DC.

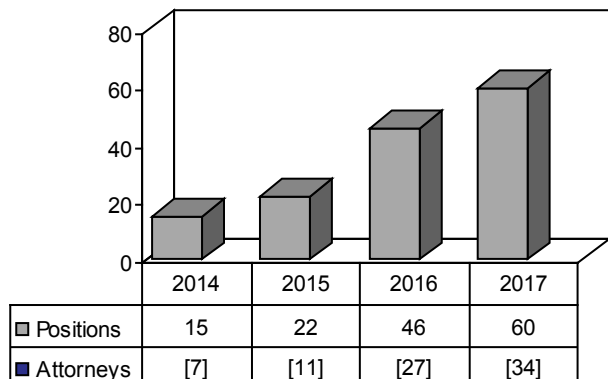
Personnel:

OPA's direct positions for FY 2017 total 60 positions. OPA's FY 2017 request includes an increase of 14 positions over the FY 2016 Enacted of 46 direct positions.

Funding (FY 2014 - 2017)



Personnel (FY 2014 - 2017)



FY 2017 Strategy:

In FY 2017, OPA will assist the President in the exercise of the clemency power. OPA will respond to inquiries concerning clemency petitions and the clemency process from applicants, their representatives, members of the public, members of Congress, and various federal, state, and local officials and agencies; prepare all necessary documents to effect the President's decision to grant clemency; and notify each clemency applicant of the President's decision concerning his/her clemency request. OPA will also provide general advice to the White House concerning clemency procedures and the historical background of clemency matters.

In January 2014, the Deputy Attorney General announced a new Clemency Initiative allowing the filing of commutation applications by certain low-level, non-violent federal offenders who, if sentenced today for the same offenses, would likely receive substantially shorter prison terms. Announcement of this initiative resulted in an unprecedented influx of clemency petitions to OPA. During FY 2014, OPA received 6,834 clemency applications, of which 6,561 were commutation requests and 273 were pardon requests. In FY 2015, OPA received 3,293 clemency petitions, including 294 pardon applications and 2,999 commutation applications.

Also, thousands of commutation petitions are expected from Clemency Project 2014 (CP 2014), a consortium of legal groups formed in response to the Deputy Attorney General's January 2014 announcement calling for bar associations to provide pro bono assistance to federal inmates seeking commutation under the Clemency Initiative. As of August 2015, CP 2014 had received more than 39,000 requests from federal inmates for legal assistance to file clemency petitions.

OPA anticipates receiving many thousands of additional commutation applications in FY 2016 and FY 2017 because CP 2014 began providing legal assistance to eligible inmates in the fall of 2014. Moreover, OPA expects to receive thousands more applications from uncounseled inmates who are eligible to seek clemency outside of the Initiative. The additional resources requested for OPA in the FY 2017 budget are crucial for its effort to meet the unprecedented increase in its workload resulting from the Initiative.

FY 2017 Program Changes:

Clemency Initiative: \$1.2 million and 14 positions (7 attorneys)

This increase will provide additional support to achieve OPA's mission of advising and assisting the President in the exercise of his executive clemency power. These additional resources are necessary to help OPA address the substantial growth in commutation applications received as a result of the Department's Clemency Initiative, as well as to continue addressing the thousands of petitions in the Office as a result of a multi-year backlog. Current services for this program are 46 positions (27 attorneys) and \$8.1 million.

Office of Pardon Attorney

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount
2015 Appropriation	22	18	3,918
2016 Enacted	46	33	6,508
2017 Request	60	52	9,293
Change 2017 from 2016 Enacted	14	19	2,785
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	12	1,560
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	62
Total Base Adjustments	0	12	1,622
2017 Current Services	46	45	8,130
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Clemency Initiative	14	7	1,163
Subtotal, Program Increases	14	7	1,163
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	14	7	1,163
2017 Request	60	52	9,293

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2016 Enacted			2017 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	46	33	6,508	46	45	8,130
Total	46	33	6,508	46	45	8,130
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	46	33	6,508	46	45	8,130

Comparison by activity and program	2017 Total Program Changes			2017 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	14	7	1,163	60	52	9,293
Total	14	7	1,163	60	52	9,293
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	14	7	1,163	60	52	9,293