



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2017 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2016 Enacted:	\$8.0 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$26,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2017 Budget Request:	\$8.0 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2016 Enacted:	+\$26,000 (+0.3%)

Mission:

The mission of OLC is to assist the Attorney General in her functions as legal advisor to the President and all of the Executive Branch agencies. The Office drafts legal opinions on behalf of the Attorney General 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 may involve legal issues about which two or more agencies are in disagreement. OLC is also responsible for providing legal advice to the Executive Branch on constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality. OLC reviews all Executive Orders and Attorney General Orders for form and legality.

Resources:

The FY 2017 budget request for OLC totals \$8.0 million, which is a 0.3% increase over the FY 2016 Enacted level.

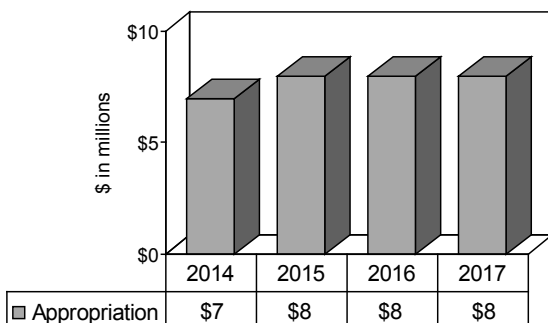
Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Additionally, the AAG is supported by a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and 25 attorney advisers located in Washington, DC. Several of OLC's administrative functions have been provided by the executive office of the Office of the Solicitor General since FY 2012.

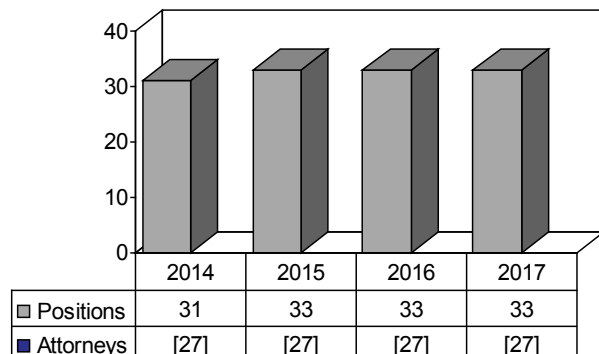
Personnel:

The OLC's direct positions for FY 2017 total 33 positions and are the same as the FY 2016 Enacted level.

Funding (FY 2014 - 2017)



Personnel (FY 2014 - 2017)



FY 2017 Strategy:

OLC's mission remains highly critical and urgent as the Department continues to confront national security and intelligence challenges and advises the myriad of agencies involved in responding to the economic crisis.

OLC is involved in reviewing legislation on a wide variety of important Administration 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 50 of its formal 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 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 to the President, general counsels of the Office of Management and Budget and other Executive Office of the President components, general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies, the National Security Council Legal Advisor, and the Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials. Because OLC is a relatively small component, OLC has little flexibility in responding to unexpected surges in workload, such as those created by national security matters, the financial crisis, or new legislative initiatives.

FY 2017 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services for OLC. No program changes are requested.

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount
2015 Appropriation	33	25	7,836
2016 Enacted	33	27	7,989
2017 Request	33	27	8,015
Change 2017 from 2016 Enacted	0	0	26
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	50
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	-24
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	26
2017 Current Services	33	27	8,015
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2017 Request	33	27	8,015

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2016 Enacted			2017 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	33	27	7,989	33	27	8,015
Total	33	27	7,989	33	27	8,015
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	33	27	7,989	33	27	8,015

Comparison by activity and program	2017 Total Program Changes			2017 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	33	27	8,015
Total	0	0	0	33	27	8,015
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0	33	27	8,015