



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2027 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2026 Enacted:	\$11.5 million (47 positions; 39 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$665,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2027 Budget Request:	\$12.2 million (47 positions; 39 attorneys)
Change From FY 2026 Enacted:	+\$665,000 (+5.8%) (+0 positions; +0 attorneys)

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), by delegation from the Attorney General, is to provide legal advice to the President and all Executive Branch agencies. The Office reviews all executive orders, substantive proclamations and presidential Memoranda for form and legality before they are released. The Office also reviews proposed Orders of the Attorney General and all regulations requiring Attorney General approval. Further, OLC also serves as an impartial arbiter of legal disputes within the Executive Branch and provides general legal assistance, especially when litigation, proposed laws, or issues regarding the Constitution or executive authority arise.

OLC attorneys are involved in reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality and is the principal office providing legal advice to the White House and Executive Branch agencies regarding their response to congressional oversight inquiries.

Resources:

The FY 2027 budget request for OLC totals \$12.2 million, which is a 5.8 percent increase over the FY 2026 Enacted.

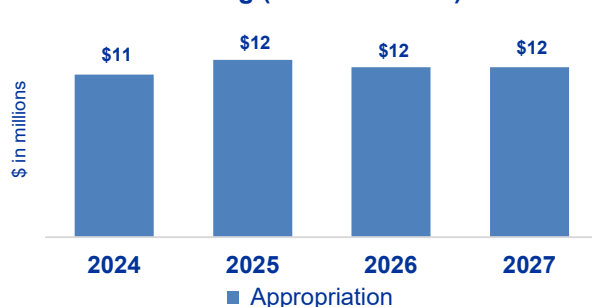
Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The AAG is supported by a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, five career and political Deputies, and 40 staff attorneys and paraprofessionals, all located in Washington, DC. Its administrative functions have been provided by the Executive Office of the Office of the Solicitor General since FY 2012.

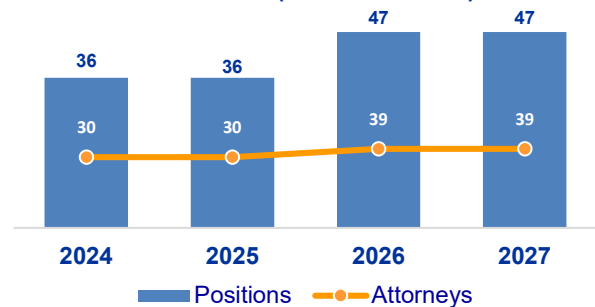
Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2027 total 47 positions and are the same as the FY 2026 Enacted.

Funding (FY 2024 - 2027)



Personnel (FY 2024 - 2027)



FY 2027 Strategy:

OLC's mission remains critical as the Department of Justice confronts ongoing challenges, including those pertaining to national security and immigration. OLC provides sound and timely legal advice to Executive Branch departments and agencies regarding the priorities of the Administration. It examines proposed orders and regulations of the Attorney General requiring approval and performs a range of special tasks as directed by the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General.

The Office ensures the federal government acts in accordance with the law and the Constitution. The Office drafts legal opinions of the Attorney General and provides its own written opinions and other advice in response to requests from the Counsel to the President, the various agencies of the Executive Branch, and other components of the Department of Justice. Such requests typically deal with legal issues of particular complexity and importance or those about which two or more agencies are in disagreement.

The Office reviews proposed laws and executive actions and orders, commenting on the legal accuracy and constitutionality of each. OLC's involvement strengthens the legality of government actions and helps build trust in the government's decision-making process. OLC opinions are followed unless overruled by higher authorities, which demonstrates its influence in steering the government's legal decisions and maintaining respect for the law.

FY 2027 Program Changes:

OLC's FY 2027 budget request only includes current service adjustments. No program changes are requested.

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted*	36	26	11,537
2026 Enacted	47	47	11,537
2027 Request	47	47	12,202
Change 2027 from 2026 Enacted	0	0	665
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	-9
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	24
Other Adjustments	0	0	650
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	665
2027 Current Services	47	47	12,202
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2027 Request	47	47	12,202

* FTE is actual.

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2026 Enacted			2027 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	47	47	11,537	47	47	12,202
Total	47	47	11,537	47	47	12,202

Comparison by activity and program	2027 Total Program Changes			2027 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	47	47	12,202
Total	0	0	0	47	47	12,202