



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of the Solicitor General (OSG)

FY 2027 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2026 Enacted:	\$15.3 million (55 positions; 23 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$1.1 million
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2027 Budget Request:	\$16.4 million (55 positions; 23 attorneys)
Change From FY 2026 Enacted:	+\$1.1 million (+6.9%) (+0 positions; +0 attorneys)

Mission:

The mission of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) is to conduct all litigation on behalf of the United States and its agencies in the Supreme Court of the United States, to approve decisions to appeal and seek further review in cases involving the United States in the lower Federal courts, to supervise the handling of litigation in the Federal appellate courts, and assisting the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Associate Attorney General in the development of broad Department policy.

The major functions of the Office of the Solicitor General include conducting all Supreme Court cases, including appeals, petitions for and briefs in opposition to certiorari, merits briefs, and oral arguments; determining whether, and to what extent, appeals will be taken by the government and whether the government will file amicus briefs in any appellate court; determining whether the United States should intervene in any court to defend the constitutionality of an Act of Congress and to assist the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Associate Attorney General, as requested, in the development of Department programs and policy.

Organization:

OSG is headed by the Solicitor General, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Within the attorney staff, 16 career staff attorneys work with four career Deputy Solicitors General, two Principal Deputy Solicitor General, and the Solicitor General to prepare oral arguments, Supreme Court briefs, and other related legal materials. The 32 support positions are organized into three sections, including the Executive Office, Case Management and Research and Publications. The Executive Office also supports the administrative functions of the Office of Legal Counsel.

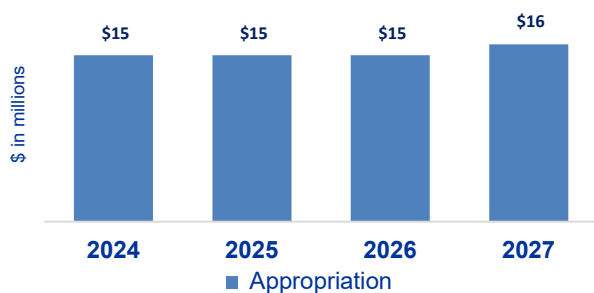
Resources:

The FY 2027 budget request for OSG totals \$16.4 million, which is a 6.9 percent increase over the FY 2026 Enacted.

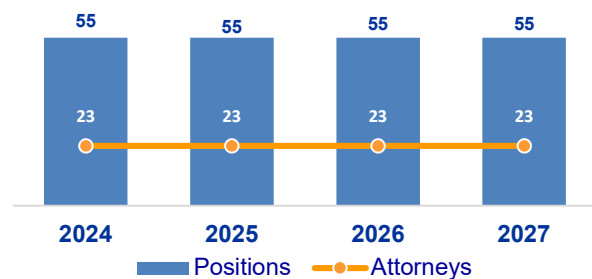
Personnel:

The OSG's direct authorized positions for FY 2027 total 55 positions and are the same as the FY 2026 Enacted.

Funding (FY 2024 - 2027)



Personnel (FY 2024 - 2027)



FY 2027 Strategy:

The Supreme Court's merits docket has featured a number of constitutional and administrative-law cases of significance, ranging from cases about executive power to the Second Amendment to religious liberty. OSG expects that trend to continue. Such cases require substantial time and resources to solicit and coordinate views within the government; to research the relevant legal questions, which often require substantial historical inquiries; to develop arguments that most effectively advance the interests of the United States; and to present those arguments as persuasively as possible in written briefs and oral arguments before the Court.

In recent years, constitutional, criminal, and administrative law cases have been at the heart of the Supreme Court's caseload. For example, in the current term, the Supreme Court's docket featured several cases presenting important constitutional issues, including if the International Emergency Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1701 ("IEEPA"), authorize the president to impose tariffs and if the statutory removal protections for members of the Federal Trade Commission violate the separation of powers. Cases like these require substantial time and resources to solicit and coordinate the views of all interested agencies and components of the government; to research the relevant legal questions, which often require substantial historical inquiries; to develop arguments that advance the interests of the United States; and to present those arguments persuasively to the Court.

The Solicitor General likewise defends the implementation of an expanding set of government programs and congressional enactments. Although the precise docket is impossible to predict, experience suggests that OSG will continue to be involved in cases implicating an array of federal statutes, such as the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other antidiscrimination laws, the Patent Act, the Copyright Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act, the National Bank Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Bankruptcy Code, and federal firearms laws. In preparation for these cases, OSG attorneys engage in extensive coordination and consultation with the agencies that Congress has directed to implement these statutes.

OSG has exclusive authority to decide whether the United States should request the Supreme Court to review a case or participate in a case as a supporting party based on the best interest of the Nation. However, a component of variability complicates their planning. The number of cases in which the Supreme Court grants a review of a lower court's judgment can vary widely from year to year. That variation limits the Office's ability to plan its workload.

Finally, OSG regularly handles cases affecting foreign affairs, including cases under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, the Alien Tort Statute, and the Torture Victims Protection Act. Those cases can have important consequences for the conduct of foreign affairs and typically require close consultation with the Department of State and other interested agencies.

FY 2027 Program Changes:

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

Office of the Solicitor General
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of the Solicitor General		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted*	55	49	15,342
2026 Enacted	55	55	15,342
2027 Request	55	55	16,406
Change 2027 from 2026 Enacted	0	0	1,064
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	38
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	34
Other Adjustments	0	0	992
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	1,064
2027 Current Services	55	55	16,406
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2027 Request	55	55	16,406

* FTE is actual.

Office of the Solicitor General
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2026 Enacted			2027 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Federal Appellate Activity	55	55	15,342	55	55	16,406
Total	55	55	15,342	55	55	16,406

Comparison by activity and program	2027 Total Program Changes			2027 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Federal Appellate Activity	0	0	0	55	55	16,406
Total	0	0	0	55	55	16,406