



## GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2020 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2019 Continuing Resolution:	\$8.0 million (32 positions; 26 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2020 Budget Request:	\$8.0 million (32 positions; 26 attorneys)
Change From FY 2019 Continuing Resolution:	+\$0

### Mission:

The mission of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) is to assist the Attorney General in his role as legal adviser to the President and Executive Branch departments and agencies. OLC also serves as arbiter of legal disputes within the Executive Branch; provides general legal assistance to other components of the Department, including where litigation or proposed legislation raises constitutional issues or general issues of executive authority; and reviews for form and legality all Executive Orders and substantive Proclamations and many presidential Memoranda, as well as all proposed Orders of the Attorney General and all regulations requiring Attorney General approval.

### Resources:

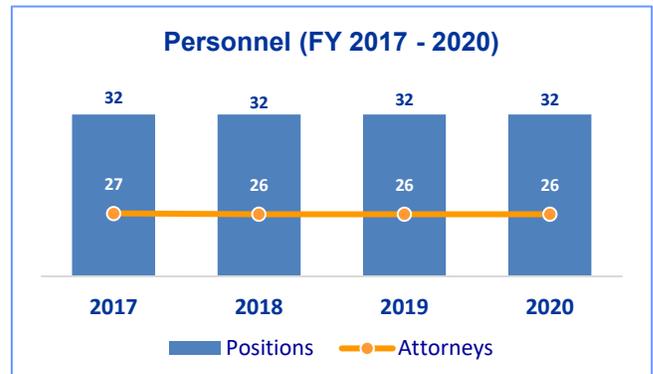
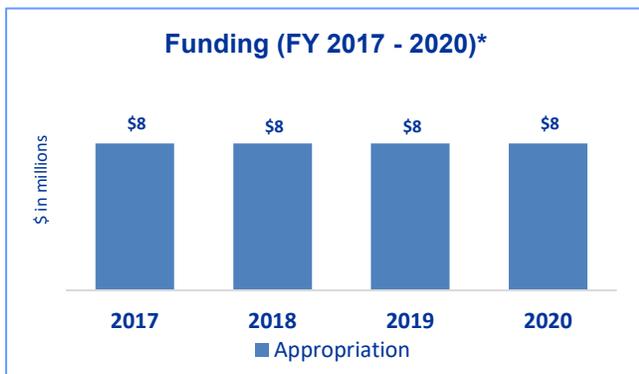
The FY 2020 budget request for OLC totals \$8.0 million, which is the same as FY 2019 Continuing Resolution.

### 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, four career and three political Deputies, and 18 other attorneys, all located in Washington, DC. 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 2020 total 32 positions and are the same as the FY 2019 Continuing Resolution.



\* FY 2019 annualized CR

**FY 2020 Strategy:**

OLC's mission remains critical as the Department confronts national security and intelligence challenges and advises various Executive Branch departments and agencies about priorities of the Administration.

OLC is involved in reviewing hundreds of pieces of pending legislation annually for constitutionality, and reviews for form and legality all proposed Executive Orders and substantive Proclamations and many presidential Memoranda, as well as proposed regulations and Orders of the Attorney General. OLC is also the principal office providing legal advice to the White House and Executive Branch departments and agencies concerning their responses to congressional oversight inquiries.

OLC's challenges are of an internal and external nature. OLC generally does not initiate any programs, nor does it have control over the volume of its work. The work results from requests for opinions and legal advice from the Counsel to the President; general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies; and the Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials.

The lack of control over this externally driven workload has been and is likely to remain a constant challenge to OLC's mission, and is inherent in all aspects of the Office's work, including reviewing legislation, testimony, and presidential and Attorney General documents.

**FY 2020 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
<b>2018 Appropriation</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$7,989</b>
<b>2019 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$7,989</b>
<b>2020 Request</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$7,989</b>
<b>Change 2020 from 2019 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>			
<b>Total Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Base Adjustments</b>			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	113
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	-114
Other Adjustments	0	0	1
<b>Total Base Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>2020 Current Services</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$7,989</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Increases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Decreases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>2020 Request</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$7,989</b>

**Office of Legal Counsel**

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2019 Continuing Resolution			2020 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	32	32	\$7,989	32	32	\$7,989
<b>Total</b>	32	32	\$7,989	32	32	\$7,989
<b>Grand Total</b>	32	32	\$7,989	32	32	\$7,989

Comparison by activity and program	2020 Total Program Changes			2020 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	\$0	32	32	\$7,989
<b>Total</b>	0	0	\$0	32	32	\$7,989
<b>Grand Total</b>	0	0	\$0	32	32	\$7,989