



## Administrative Review and Appeals Office of the Pardon Attorney (OPA)

### FY 2011 Budget Request At A Glance

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| FY 2010 Enacted:              | \$2.7 million (15 positions; 6 attorneys)     |
| Current Services Adjustments: | +\$0.048 million (1.8% above FY 2010 Enacted) |
| Program Changes:              | +\$0.0 million                                |
| FY 2011 Budget Request:       | \$2.8 million (15 positions; 7 attorneys)     |
| Change from FY 2010 Enacted:  | +\$0.048 million (+1.8% ) (+0 positions)      |

#### Mission:

The Office of the Pardon Attorney (OPA), in consultation with the Attorney General (AG) or his 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 sentences, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieves.

#### Resources:

The budget request for FY 2011 totals \$2.8 million for direct salaries and expenses, which is a 1.8 percent increase from the FY 2010 Enacted level.

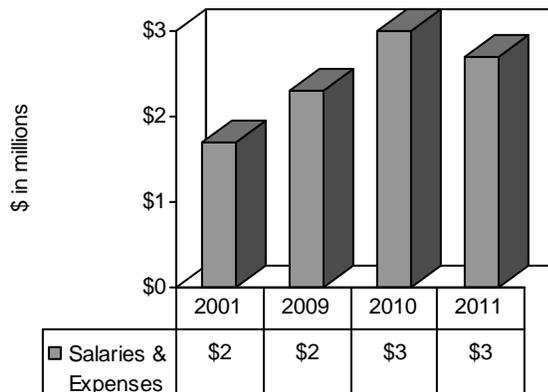
#### Organization:

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

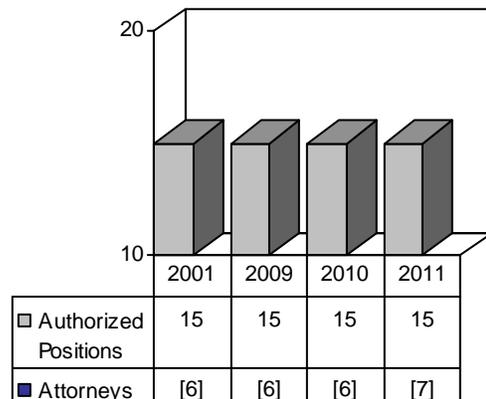
#### Personnel:

The OPA's direct authorized positions for FY 2011 total 15 positions, including 7 attorneys. All the positions are domestically located.

**Funding (FY 2001 - 2011)**



**Personnel (FY 2001 - 2011)**



\*Includes reimbursable attorneys

**FY 2011 Strategy:**

OPA maintains in paper records and on compact disc, copies of documents signed by Presidents from George Washington through the current President granting pardons or other forms of clemency.

OPA faces external and internal challenges. The number of applications for executive clemency is at an all-time high. In FY 2008, OPA received 2,325 requests for executive clemency. In FY 2009, OPA received 2,621 clemency applications for processing (666 for pardon and 1,955 for commutation).

Applications for pardons have increased substantially in the last several years. Applications for commutation of sentence have increased significantly because of the growth of the federal prison population, the elimination of other possibilities of release such as parole and the variety of federal crimes subject to mandatory minimum sentences.

In addition to the volume of new cases, many of the letters of advice prepared by OPA are more detailed than a decade ago. There have been significant increases in media and public interest in clemency matters, and particularly in specific grants or denials of clemency by the President.

**FY 2011 Program Changes:**

The FY 2011 Budget does not request a program change for OPA.

**Financial Snapshot 2009**

|                                       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Clean Opinion on Financial Statements | Yes  |
| Timely Financial Reporting            | Yes  |
| Material Weaknesses                   | None |