



General Legal Activities Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2011 Budget Request At A Glance

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|-------------------------------|---|
| FY 2010 Enacted: | \$7.7 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys) |
| Current Services Adjustments: | +\$0.1 million (1.3% above FY 2010 Enacted) |
| Program Changes: | +\$0.0 million |
| FY 2011 Budget Request: | \$7.8 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys) |
| Change from FY 2010 Enacted: | +\$0.1 million (+1.3%) (+0 positions) |

Mission:

The mission of the OLC is to assist the Attorney General (AG) in his functions as legal advisor to the President and all of the Executive Branch agencies.

Resources:

The budget request for FY 2011 totals \$7.8 million for direct salaries and expenses, which is a 1.3 percent increase from the FY 2010 Enacted level.

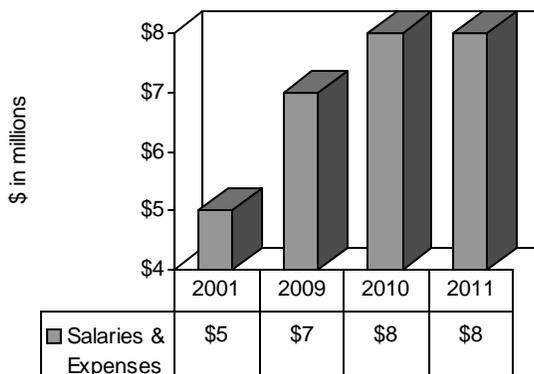
Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Office drafts legal opinions 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 typically deal with legal issues about which two or more agencies are in disagreement. OLC is also responsible for providing legal advice to the executive branch on all constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality.

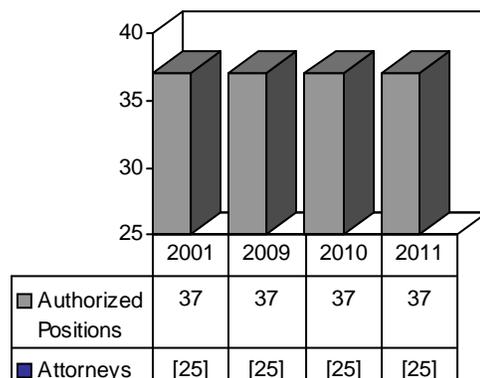
Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2011 total 37 positions, including 25 attorneys. All the authorized positions, 37 are located in Washington, DC. The FY 2011 request does not include an increase in the number of authorized positions.

Funding (FY 2001 - 2011)



Personnel (FY 2001 - 2011)



* Includes reimbursable attorneys

FY 2011 Strategy:

OLC's mission remains highly critical and urgent as the Department enters into a new era of responsibility confronting national security and intelligence challenges, reinvigorating federal civil rights enforcement and advising the myriad of agencies involved in responding to the economic crisis.

OLC is involved in reviewing legislation concerning health care reform, climate change, and other important initiatives, and in reviewing the large number of Executive Orders and Presidential memoranda that is used to carry out executive branch policies. OLC has already published a dozen of its full 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 thus 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 of the President, general counsels of OMB and other Executive Office of the President's components, general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies, the National Security Council Legal Advisor, the AG and other Department of Justice officials. Because OLC is a relatively small component, internal challenges come into play because OLC has little flexibility in responding to unexpected surges in workload, such as those created by national security matters, financial crisis, or new legislative initiatives.

FY 2011 Program Changes:

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

Travel and Management Efficiencies: The Department is continually evaluating its programs and operations with the goal of achieving across-the board economies of scale that result in increased efficiencies and cost savings. In FY 2011, DOJ is focusing on travel as an area in which savings can be achieved. For OLC, travel and other management efficiencies will result in offsets of \$9,000. This offset will be applied in a manner that will allow the continuation of effective law enforcement program efforts in support of Presidential and Departmental goals, while minimizing the risk to health, welfare and safety of agency personnel.

Financial Snapshot 2009

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