



## General Legal Activities Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

### FY 2012 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2011 CR:	\$7.7 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.2 million
Program Changes:	\$9,000
FY 2012 Budget Request:	\$7.8 million (36 positions; 26 attorneys)
Change From FY 2011 CR	+\$0.2 million (+2.3%) (-1 positions)

#### Mission:

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

#### Resources:

The FY 2012 budget request for OLC totals \$7.8 million, which is a 2.3 percent increase from the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.

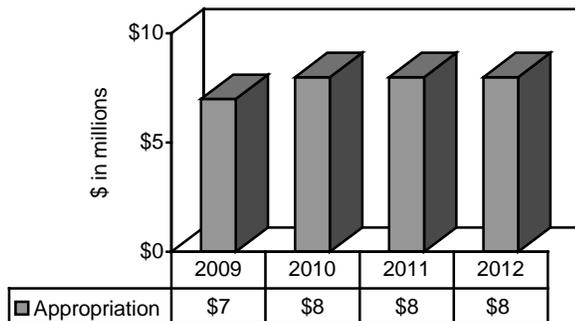
#### Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) 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.

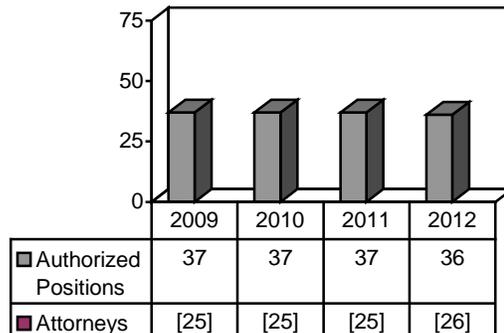
#### Personnel:

OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2012 total 36, of which 26 are attorneys. OLC's FY 2012 request includes a decrease of 1 position from the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution of 37 direct authorized positions. This change reflects the conversion of two support positions into one attorney position.

**Funding (FY 2001 - 2012)**



**Personnel (FY 2009 - 2012)**



## **FY 2012 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 are 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 2012 Program Changes:**

**Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies:** -\$6,000 and 0 positions

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 2012, the Department is focusing on areas in which savings can be achieved, which include: printing, publications, travel, conferences, supplies, and general equipment. For OLC, these administrative efficiencies will result in an offset of \$6,000.

**Program Offset - Extend Tech Refresh:** -\$3,000 and 0 positions

As desktops and laptops are used primarily for basic office automation applications (e.g., spreadsheets and word processing), replacing this inventory at a slower rate is expected to have minimal impact on Department operations. In FY 2012, the Department is proposing to extend the refresh rate of all desktops and laptops by one year, resulting in an offset of \$3,000 for OLC.

**Office of Legal Counsel**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
<b>2010 Enacted</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7,665</b>
<b>2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7,665</b>
<b>2012 Request</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7,839</b>
<b>Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>			
Subtotal Technical Adjustments	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Adjustments to Base</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
ATB Transfers	0	0	-42
Pay & Benefits	0	0	173
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	52
Other Adjustments	-1	-1	0
Subtotal Increases:	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Total Adjustments to Base</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Total Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>2012 Current Services</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7,848</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Decreases:</b>			
Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies	0	0	-6
Program Offset - Extend Tech Refresh	0	0	-3
Subtotal, Program Decrease	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>2012 Request</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7,839</b>
<b>Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>174</b>

**Office of Legal Counsel**

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2011 Continuing Resolution			2012 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	37	37	7,665	36	36	7,848
<b>Total</b>	37	37	7,665	36	36	7,848
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GrandTotal</b>	37	37	7,665	36	36	7,848

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Total Program Changes			2012 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	-9	36	36	7,839
<b>Total</b>	0	0	-9	36	36	7,839
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GrandTotal</b>	0	0	-9	36	36	7,839