



Administrative Review and Appeals Office of Pardon Attorney (OPA)

FY 2012 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2011 CR:	\$2.7 million (15 positions; 7 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$42,000
Program Changes:	-\$2,000
FY 2012 Budget Request:	\$2.8 million (15 positions; 7 attorneys)
Change From FY 2011 CR:	+\$40,000 (+1.5%)

Mission:

The Office of the Pardon Attorney, in consultation with the Attorney General 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.

Organization:

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

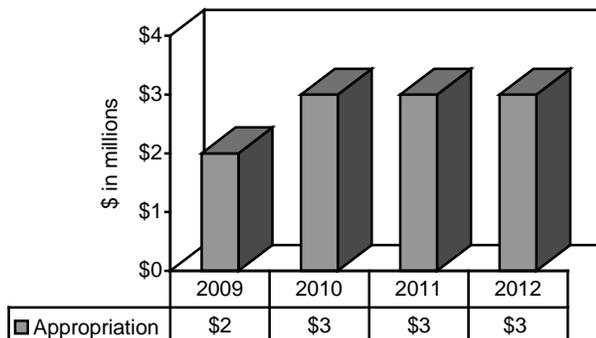
Personnel:

The OPA's direct authorized positions for FY 2012 total 15, of which 7 are attorneys. The FY 2012 budget request does not include any position increases over the FY 2011 CR level.

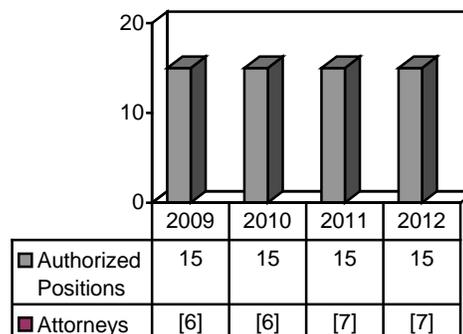
Resources:

The FY 2012 budget request for OPA totals \$2.8 million, which is a 1.5 percent increase from the FY 2011 CR.

Funding (FY 2009 - 2012)



Personnel (FY 2009 - 2012)



FY 2012 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. Since FY 2008, the number of applications for executive clemency submitted to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for processing has exceeded 2,000 petitions annually. In FY 2008, OPA received 555 petitions for pardon and 1,770 petitions for commutation (reduction) of sentence, for a total of 2,325 clemency petitions. This total was the greatest number of petitions submitted in any fiscal year since 1900. That record was surpassed in FY 2009, however, when OPA received 666 petitions for pardon and 1,955 petitions for commutation of sentence, for a total of 2,621 submitted applications. In FY 2010, OPA received 262 pardon petitions and 1,902 commutation applications, for a total of 2,164 applications submitted. This trend of 2,000+ annual filings is likely to continue. During the first quarter of FY 2011, OPA received 82 pardon applications and 506 commutation applications, for a total of 588 petitions filed in just those three months.

Current trends suggest that the submission of pardon applications may revert for a time in the immediate future to historically normal levels. However, numbers of petitions for commutation of sentence are likely to remain extremely high for the foreseeable future, due to 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, of necessity, more detailed than was common in the past. 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 2012 Program Changes:

Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies: -\$2,000 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 OPA, these administrative efficiencies will result in an offset of \$2,000.

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2010 Enacted	15	15	2,730
2011 Continuing Resolution	15	15	2,730
2012 Request	15	15	2,770
Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution	0	0	40
Technical Adjustments			
Subtotal Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Adjustments to Base			
Increases:			
ATB Transfers	0	0	-12
Pay & Benefits	0	0	50
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	4
Subtotal Increases:	0	0	42
Decreases:			
Total Adjustments to Base	0	0	42
Total Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	42
2012 Current Services	15	15	2,772
Program Changes			
Decreases:			
Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies	0	0	-2
Subtotal, Program Decrease	0	0	-2
Total Program Changes	0	0	-2
2012 Request	15	15	2,770
Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution	0	0	40

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2011 Continuing Resolution			2012 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Pardon Attorney	15	15	2,730	15	15	2,772
Total	15	15	2,730	15	15	2,772
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	15	15	2,730	15	15	2,772

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Total Program Changes			2012 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Pardon Attorney	0	0	-2	15	15	2,770
Total	0	0	-2	15	15	2,770
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	-2	15	15	2,770