



Administrative Review and Appeals Office of Pardon Attorney (OPA)

FY 2015 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2014 Enacted:	\$2.8 million (15 positions; 7 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$403,000
Program Changes:	+\$715,000
FY 2015 Budget Request:	\$3.9 million (22 positions; 11 attorneys)
Change From FY 2014 Enacted:	+\$1.1 million (+39.9%) (+7 positions; +4 attorneys)

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 sentence, remission of fine or restitution, and reprieve.

Resources:

The FY 2015 budget request for OPA totals \$3.9 million, which is a 39.9% increase over the FY 2014 Enacted. The budget requests an enhancement of \$800,000 to increase capacity and respond to growing workload.

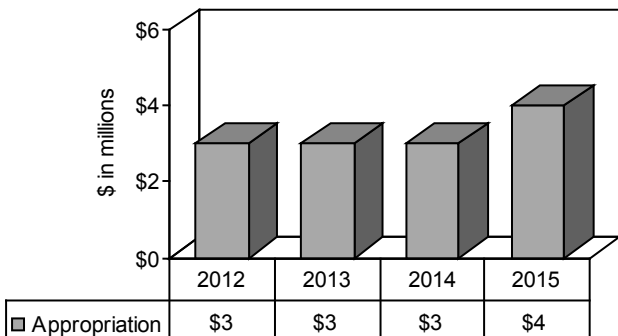
Organization:

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

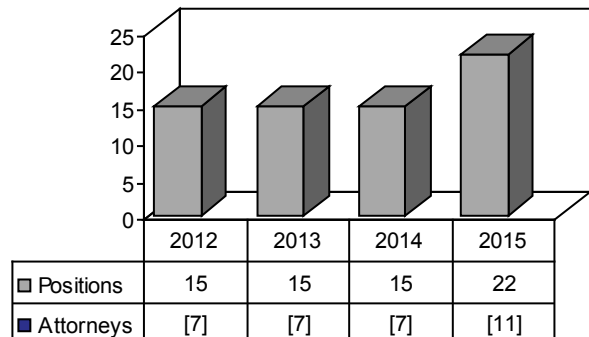
Personnel:

OPA's direct positions for FY 2015 total 22 positions. OPA's FY 2015 request includes an increase of 7 positions over the FY 2014 Enacted of 15 positions. The office's staffing level in FY 2014 remains the same as it was in the mid-1990s, when OPA's annual new case filings were approximately one-quarter to one-third the number of cases the office now receives in a fiscal year.

Funding (FY 2012 - 2015)



Personnel (FY 2012 - 2015)



FY 2015 Strategy:

In FY 2015, OPA will continue its sole mission to assist the President in the exercise of the clemency power. Additionally, OPA will continue to respond to inquiries concerning clemency petitions and the clemency process from applicants, their representatives, members of the public, members of Congress, and various federal, state, and local officials and agencies; prepare all necessary documents to effect the President's decision to grant clemency; and notify each clemency applicant of the President's decision concerning his/her clemency request. OPA will also provide general advice to the White House concerning clemency procedures and the historical background of clemency matters.

Starting in FY 2008, the number of applications for executive clemency submitted to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for processing grew to exceed 2,000 petitions annually, a historically high volume. This trend of approximately 2,000 annual filings has continued. In all, between FY 2008 and FY 2013, OPA received more than 13,600 clemency petitions for processing. In FY 2012, OPA received 383 pardon applications and 1,547 commutation applications for a total of 1,930 new petitions. In FY 2013, OPA received 303 pardon applications and 2,370 commutation applications, for a total of 2,673 petitions, a new all-time record for clemency applications filed in a single fiscal year and a 38% increase in the total number of new petitions over FY 2012.

The Department is renewing its focus on clemency matters and is looking to use its clemency authority to reduce the costs of incarcerating low- or no-risk inmates in the federal prison population. OPA's FY 2015 request includes an enhancement of \$800,000 to hire 7 new positions (including 4 attorneys) to help address its increasing workload and pending case backlog.

FY 2015 Program Changes:

Pardons and Commutations: \$800,000 and 7 positions (4 attorneys)

For additional support to achieve OPA's mission of advising and assisting the President in the exercise of his executive clemency power. These additional resources will help OPA address the growing number of pardon and commutation applications received and reviewed annually. FY 2015 current services for this initiative are 15 positions (7 attorneys) and \$3.2 million.

Program Offset - Miscellaneous Program and Administrative Reductions: -\$85,000 and 0 positions

Reductions to existing operations and services necessary to pay for increases in existing costs, including pay raises, FERS contributions, and GSA rent, among others. Program and administrative reductions to be identified once funds are appropriated.

Office of Pardon Attorney

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	Est. FTE	Amount
2013 Appropriation	15	14	2,795
2013 Rescissions (1.877 % & 0.2%)	0	0	-58
2013 Sequester Cut	0	0	-137
2013 Enacted with Rescissions and Sequester	15	14	2,600
2014 Enacted	15	14	2,800
2015 Request	22	18	3,918
Change 2015 from 2014 Enacted	7	4	1,118
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	41
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	362
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	403
2015 Current Services	15	14	3,203
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Pardons and Commutations	7	4	800
Subtotal, Program Increases	7	4	800
Decreases:			
Program Offset - Miscellaneous Program and Administrative Reductions	0	0	-85
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	-85
Total Program Changes	7	4	715
2015 Request	22	18	3,918

Office of Pardon Attorney
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2014 Enacted			2015 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	15	14	2,800	15	14	3,203
Total	15	14	2,800	15	14	3,203
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	15	14	2,800	15	14	3,203

Comparison by activity and program	2015 Total Program Changes			2015 Request		
	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	7	4	715	22	18	3,918
Total	7	4	715	22	18	3,918
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	7	4	715	22	18	3,918