



## GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

### FY 2015 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2014 Enacted:	\$7.4 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$342,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2015 Budget Request:	\$7.7 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2014 Enacted:	+\$342,000 (+4.6%)

#### 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. The Office drafts legal opinions on behalf of the Attorney General 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 may involve legal issues about which two or more agencies are in disagreement. OLC is also responsible for providing legal advice to the Executive Branch on constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality. OLC reviews all Executive Orders and Attorney General Orders for form and legality.

#### Resources:

The FY 2015 budget request for OLC totals \$7.7 million, which is a 4.6% increase over the FY 2014 Enacted.

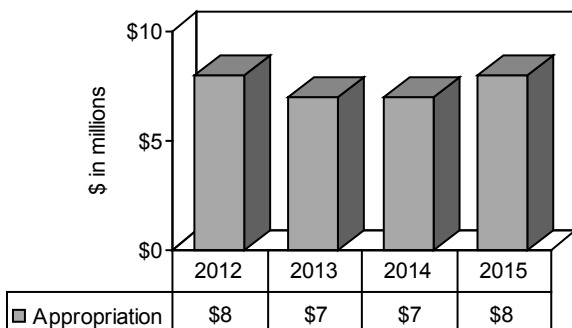
#### Organization:

OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Additionally, the AAG is supported by a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and an additional attorney staff of 25 located in Washington, DC. In FY 2012, several executive office functions were merged with the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG).

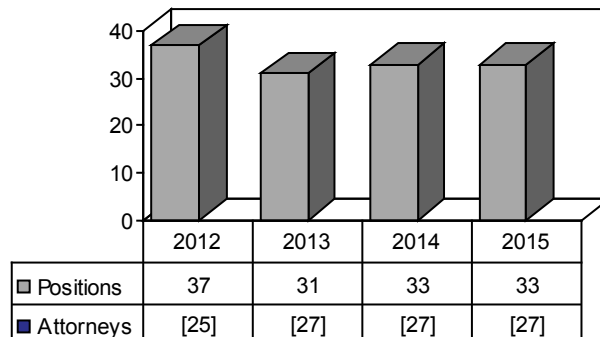
#### Personnel:

The OLC's direct positions for FY 2015 total 33 positions and is the same as FY 2014 Enacted. However, between January 2011 and December 2013, the number of OLC's onboard staff declined by 6.

**Funding (FY 2012 - 2015)**



**Personnel (FY 2012 - 2015)**



**FY 2015 Strategy:**

OLC's mission remains highly critical and urgent as the Department continues to confront national security and intelligence challenges and advises the myriad of agencies involved in responding to the economic crisis.

OLC is involved in reviewing legislation on a wide variety of important Administration 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 44 of its formal 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 to the President, general counsels of OMB and other Executive Office of the President components, general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies, the National Security Council Legal Advisor, and the Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials. Because OLC is a relatively small component, OLC has little flexibility in responding to unexpected surges in workload, such as those created by national security matters, the financial crisis, or new legislative initiatives.

**FY 2015 Program Changes:**

The budget request includes funds for current services for OLC. No program changes are requested.

**Office of Legal Counsel**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	Est. FTE	Amount
<b>2013 Appropriation</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7,337</b>
2013 Rescissions (1.877 % & 0.2%)	0	0	-164
2013 Sequester Cut	0	0	-390
<b>2013 Enacted with Rescissions and Sequester</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6,783</b>
<b>2014 Enacted</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7,400</b>
<b>2015 Request</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7,742</b>
<b>Change 2015 from 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>			
<b>Total Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Base Adjustments</b>			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	135
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	207
<b>Total Base Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>2015 Current Services</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7,742</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Increases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Decreases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2015 Request</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7,742</b>

**Office of Legal Counsel**

(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 Legal Counsel	33	27	7,400	33	27	7,742
<b>Total</b>	33	27	7,400	33	27	7,742
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	33	27	7,400	33	27	7,742

Comparison by activity and program	2015 Total Program Changes			2015 Request		
	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	Est. FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	33	27	7,742
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	33	27	7,742
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	0	0	0	33	27	7,742