



## General Legal Activities Office of the Solicitor General (OSG)

### FY 2012 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2011 CR:	\$10.8 million (48 positions; 22 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.1 million
Program Changes:	+\$0.4 million
FY 2012 Budget Request:	\$11.3 million (50 positions; 24 attorneys)
Change From FY 2011 CR:	+\$0.5 million (+5.0%) (+2 positions; +2 attorneys)

#### Mission:

The mission of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) is to conduct all litigation on behalf of the United States and its agencies in the Supreme Court of the United States, to approve decisions to appeal and seek further review in cases involving the United States in the lower federal courts, and to supervise the handling of litigation in the federal appellate courts.

#### Resources:

The FY 2012 budget request for OSG totals \$11.3 million, which is a 5.0 percent increase from the FY 2011 CR.

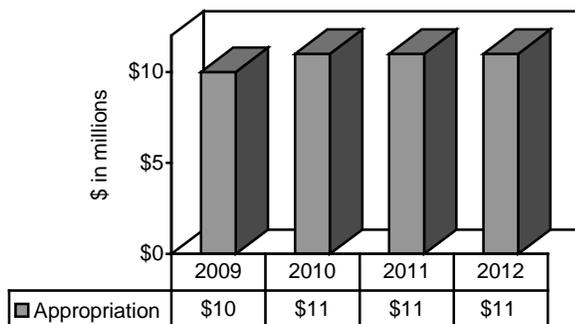
#### Organization:

OSG is headed by the Solicitor General, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Within the attorney staff, 17 career Assistants to the Solicitor General work with three career Deputy Solicitors General, the Principal Deputy Solicitor General, and the Solicitor General to prepare oral arguments, Supreme Court briefs, and other related legal materials. The 26 support staff are organized into three sections which include Administration, Case Management, and Research and Publication.

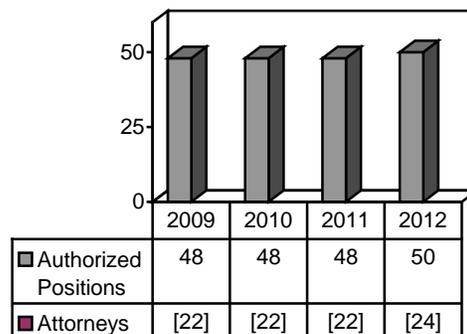
#### Personnel:

OSG's direct authorized positions for FY 2012 total 50, of which 24 are attorneys. OSG's FY 2012 request includes an increase of 2 positions over the FY 2011 CR of 48 direct authorized positions.

**Funding (FY 2009 - 2012)**



**Personnel (FY 2009 - 2012)**



## **FY 2012 Strategy:**

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) is required to handle all appropriate Supreme Court cases and requests for appeal, amicus, or intervention authorization. In the vast majority of cases filed in the Supreme Court in which the United States is a party, a petition is filed by an adverse party and the United States responds in some way, either by filing a brief or (after reviewing the case) waiving its right to do so. Additionally, the Supreme Court formally requests the Solicitor General to express the views of the United States on whether the Court should grant certiorari in cases in which the United States is not a party. The number of cases in which the Solicitor General petitions the Supreme Court for review, acquiesces in a petition for a writ of certiorari filed by an adverse party, or participates as an intervener or as amicus curiae is governed exclusively by the Solicitor General's determination that it is in the best interest of the United States to take such action. Further, such activity may vary widely from year to year, which limits the Office's ability to plan its workload.

## **FY 2012 Program Changes:**

**Federal Appellate Activity:** \$424,000 and 2 positions (2 attorneys)

This request supports increasing workloads for the Office of the Solicitor General related to several issues, including terrorism and new economic regulation arising from the financial crisis. OSG attorneys have increasingly been asked to brief and argue particularly important criminal cases in the en banc stage in the appellate courts. These enhancements will enable OSG to meet the demands placed upon it without any decrease in the quality of its work. The FY 2012 current services for this initiative are 48 positions (22 attorneys) and \$10.9 million.

**Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies:** -\$8,000 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 OSG, these administrative efficiencies will result in an offset of \$8,000.

**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 OSG.

**Solicitor General**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Solicitor General		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
<b>2010 Enacted</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10,809</b>
<b>2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10,809</b>
<b>2012 Request</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>11,348</b>
<b>Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>539</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	-10
Pay & Benefits	0	0	85
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	51
Subtotal Increases:	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
Subtotal Decreases:	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Adjustments to Base</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Total Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>2012 Current Services</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10,935</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
Federal Appellate Activity	2	2	424
Subtotal, Program Increase	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
Program Offset - Administrative Efficiencies	0	0	-8
Program Offset - Extend Tech Refresh	0	0	-3
Subtotal, Program Decrease	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-11</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>2012 Request</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>11,348</b>
<b>Change 2012 from 2011 Continuing Resolution</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>539</b>

**Solicitor General**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2011 Continuing Resolution			2012 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Federal Appellate Activity	48	49	10,809	48	49	10,935
<b>Total</b>	48	49	10,809	48	49	10,935
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	48	49	10,809	48	49	10,935

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Total Program Changes			2012 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Federal Appellate Activity	2	2	413	50	51	11,348
<b>Total</b>	2	2	413	50	51	11,348
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	2	2	413	50	51	11,348