



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2016 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2015 Enacted:	\$7.8 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$153,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2016 Budget Request:	\$8.0 million (33 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2015 Enacted:	+\$153,000 (+1.9%)

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 2016 budget request for OLC totals \$8.0 million, which is a 1.9% increase over the FY 2015 Enacted.

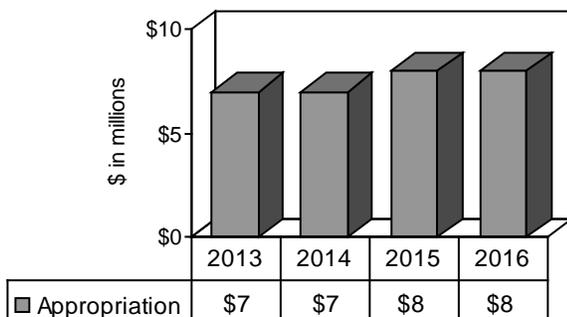
Organization:

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 25 attorney advisers located in Washington, DC. OLC's administrative functions has been provided by the executive office of the Office of the Solicitor General since FY 2012.

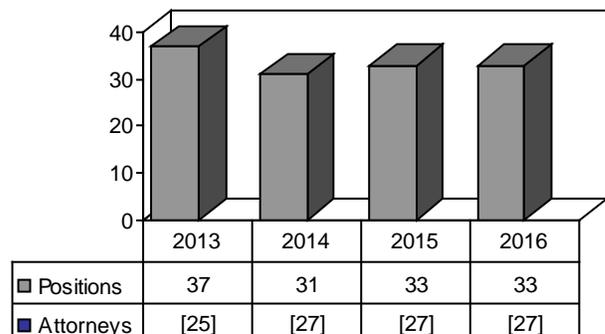
Personnel:

The OLC's direct positions for FY 2016 total 33 positions and are the same as FY 2015 Enacted.

Funding (FY 2012 - 2015)



Personnel (FY 2013 - 2016)



FY 2016 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 49 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 Office of Management and Budget 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 2016 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	FTE	Amount
2014 Appropriation	33	25	7,400
2015 Enacted	33	27	7,836
2016 Request	33	27	7,989
Change 2016 from 2015 Enacted	0	0	153
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	109
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	44
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	153
2016 Current Services	33	27	7,989
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2016 Request	33	27	7,989

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2015 Enacted			2016 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	33	27	7,836	33	27	7,989
Total	33	27	7,836	33	27	7,989
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	33	27	7,836	33	27	7,989

Comparison by activity and program	2016 Total Program Changes			2016 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	33	27	7,989
Total	0	0	0	33	27	7,989
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0	33	27	7,989