



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2014 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2012 Enacted:	\$7.6 million (37 positions; 25 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	-\$203,000
Program Changes:	-\$232,000
FY 2014 Budget Request:	\$7.2 million (29 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2012 Enacted:	-\$435,000 (-5.7%) (-8 positions; +2 attorneys)

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 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 all constitutional questions and reviewing pending legislation for constitutionality. OLC reviews all Executive Orders and Attorney General Orders for form and legality.

Resources:

The FY 2014 budget request for OLC totals \$7.2 million, which is a 5.7% decrease from the FY 2012 Enacted. This is reflective of the transfer of funds and positions as part of executive office functions merger with OSG executed in FY 2012.

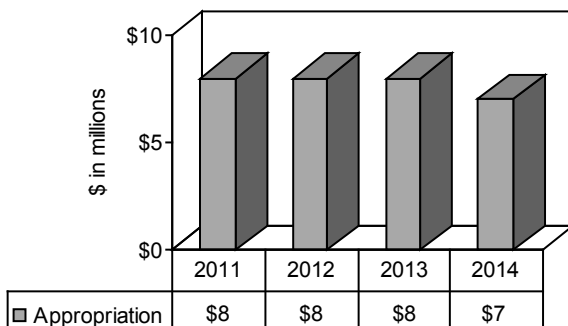
Organization:

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 attorney staff of 27 located in Washington, DC. In FY 2012, several executive office functions were merged with the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG).

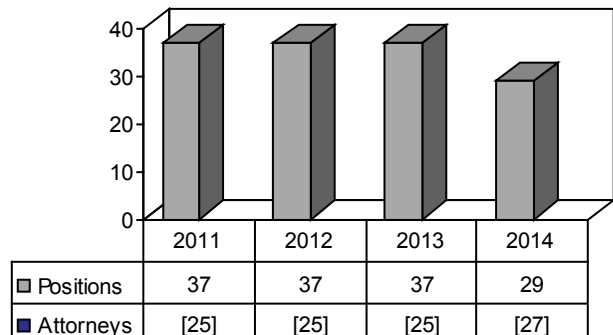
Personnel:

The OLC's direct positions for FY 2014 total 29 positions. OLC's FY 2014 request includes a decrease of -8 positions from the FY 2012 Enacted of 37 direct positions. In FY 2012, 6 positions were transferred to OSG as part of the executive office functions merger.

Funding (FY 2011 - 2014)



Personnel (FY 2011 - 2014)



FY 2014 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 43 of its full 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's 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, internal challenges come into play because 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 2014 Program Changes:

Program Offset - OLC/OSG Executive Office Merger:
-\$232,000 and 0 positions

OLC and the OSG are similarly sized components of the General Legal Activities (GLA) appropriation. Several executive office functions were consolidated by merging the executive offices of OLC and OSG into a single, unified executive office. This consolidation streamlines the executive office functions of OSG and OLC and combines many of the overlapping functions. The FY 2013 President's Budget included this request; the FY 2014 President's Budget includes the same request in the same amount. OLC's FY 2014 current services for this initiative are 4 positions and \$419,000.

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE**	Amount
2012 Enacted	37	28	7,605
2013 Continuing Resolution*	37	28	7,652
2014 Request	29	20	7,226
Change 2014 from 2012 Enacted	-8	-8	-435
Technical Adjustments			
Adjustment - 2013 CR 0.612%	0	0	-47
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	-47
Base Adjustments			
ATB Transfers	-6	-6	-571
Pay & Benefits	-2	-2	255
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	113
Total Base Adjustments	-8	-8	-203
2014 Current Services	29	20	7,402
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Program Offset - OLC/OSG Executive Office Merger	0	0	-232
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	-232
Total Program Changes	0	0	-232
2014 Request	29	20	7,170

* The 2013 Continuing Resolution includes the 0.612% funding above current rate, provided by P.L. 112-175, sec. 101 (c).

** The FTE for FY 2012 is actual and for FY 2013 and FY 2014 are estimates.

Office of Legal Counsel

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Enacted			2014 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	37	28	7,605	29	20	7,402
Total	37	28	7,605	29	20	7,402
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	37	28	7,605	29	20	7,402

Comparison by activity and program	2014 Total Program Changes			2014 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	-232	29	20	7,170
Total	0	0	-232	29	20	7,170
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	-232	29	20	7,170