



## Administrative Review and Appeals Office of Pardon Attorney (OPA)

### FY 2014 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2012 Enacted:	\$2.7 million (15 positions; 7 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$53,000
Program Changes:	+\$800,000
FY 2014 Budget Request:	\$3.6 million (22 positions; 11 attorneys)
Change From FY 2012 Enacted:	+\$853,000 (+31.3%) (+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 2014 budget request for OPA totals \$3.6 million, which is a 31.3% increase over the FY 2012 Enacted.

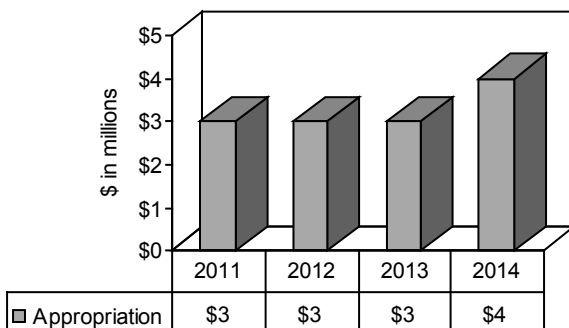
#### Organization:

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

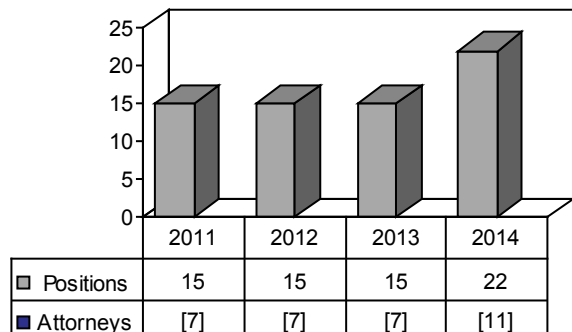
#### Personnel:

The OPA's direct positions for FY 2014 total 22 positions. OPA's FY 2014 request includes an increase of 7 positions over the FY 2012 Enacted of 15 direct positions.

**Funding (FY 2011 - 2014)**



**Personnel (FY 2011 - 2014)**



## **FY 2014 Strategy:**

OPA maintains in paper records and on compact discs, copies of documents signed by Presidents from George Washington through the current President granting pardons or other forms of clemency.

OPA faces external and internal challenges. 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. During FY 2011, OPA received 331 pardon applications and 1,585 commutation applications, for a total of 1,916 new petitions. In FY 2012, OPA received 383 pardon applications and 1,547 commutation applications for a total of 1,930 new petitions. During the first six months of FY 2013, OPA received 168 pardon applications and 1,096 commutation applications, for a total of 1,264 new petitions.

Moreover, the numbers of petitions filed for commutation of sentence are likely to remain extremely high for the foreseeable future. The high volume of the latter filings is due to the growth of the federal prison population, the elimination of other possibilities of release such as parole, and the variety of federal crimes subject to mandatory minimum sentences.

In addition to the volume of new cases, many of the letters of advice prepared by OPA are, out of necessity, more detailed than was common in the past. There have been significant increases in media and public interest in clemency matters, and particularly in specific grants or denials of clemency by the President.

## **FY 2014 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 its increasing workload and growing number of pardon and commutation applications received and reviewed annually. The FY 2014 current services for this initiative are 15 positions (7 attorneys) and \$2.78 million.

**Office of Pardon Attorney**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	FTE **	Amount
<b>2012 Enacted</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,725</b>
<b>2013 Continuing Resolution*</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,742</b>
<b>2014 Request</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3,578</b>
<b>Change 2014 from 2012 Enacted</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>853</b>
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>			
Adjustment - 2013 CR 0.612%	0	0	-17
<b>Total Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>Base Adjustments</b>			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	25
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	28
<b>Total Base Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>2014 Current Services</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,778</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
Pardons and Commutations	7	4	800
<b>Subtotal, Program Increases</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Decreases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>2014 Request</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3,578</b>

\* 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 Pardon Attorney**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2012 Enacted			2014 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	15	14	2,725	15	14	2,778
<b>Total</b>	15	14	2,725	15	14	2,778
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	15	14	2,725	15	14	2,778

Comparison by activity and program	2014 Total Program Changes			2014 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	7	4	800	22	18	3,578
<b>Total</b>	7	4	800	22	18	3,578
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	7	4	800	22	18	3,578