



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2022 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2021 Enacted:	\$9.6 million (32 positions; 26 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$302,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2022 Budget Request:	\$9.9 million (32 positions; 26 attorneys)
Change From FY 2021 Enacted:	+\$302,000 (+3.2%)

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) is to assist the Attorney General in his role as legal adviser to the President and Executive Branch departments and agencies. The OLC also serves as arbiter of legal disputes within the Executive Branch; provides general legal assistance to other components of the Department, including where litigation or proposed legislation raises constitutional issues or general issues of executive authority; and reviews for form and legality all Executive Orders and substantive Proclamations and many presidential Memoranda, as well as all proposed Orders of the Attorney General and all regulations requiring Attorney General approval.

Resources:

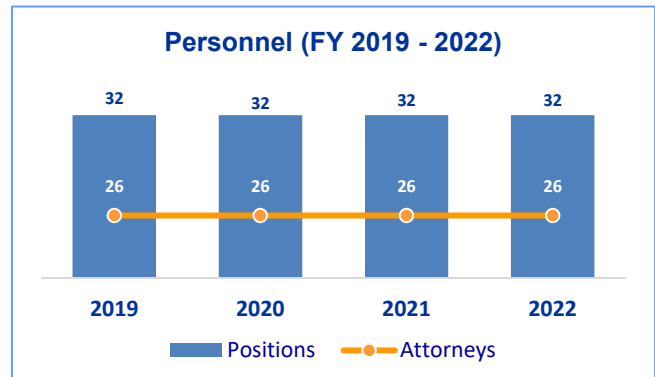
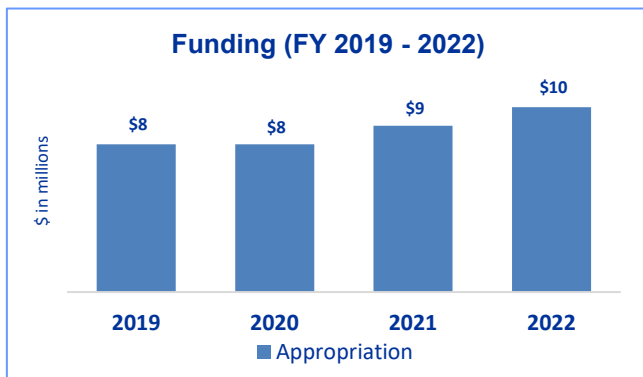
The FY 2022 budget request for the OLC totals \$9.9 million, which is a 3.2 percent increase over the FY 2021 Enacted.

Organization:

The OLC is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The AAG is supported by a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, four career or political Deputies, and 26 staff attorneys and paraprofessionals, all located in Washington, DC. The OLC's administrative functions have been handled by the Office of the Solicitor General's Executive Office since FY 2012.

Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2022 total 32 positions and are the same as FY 2021 Enacted.



FY 2022 Strategy:

The OLC's mission remains critical as the Department confronts national security and intelligence challenges and advises various Executive Branch departments and agencies about priorities of the Administration, including responding to the pandemic and its economic consequences, to racial injustice, and to problems in the immigration system.

The OLC's attorneys are involved in reviewing hundreds of pieces of pending legislation annually for constitutionality and is the principal office providing legal advice to the White House and Executive Branch departments and agencies concerning their responses to congressional oversight inquiries.

The OLC's challenges are of both an internal and external nature. The OLC generally does not initiate any programs, nor does it have control over the volume of its work. The work results from requests for opinions and legal advice from the Counsel to the President; general counsels of Executive Branch departments and agencies; and the Attorney General and other Department of Justice officials.

The OLC has little flexibility in responding to unexpected surges in workload, such as those created by national security matters that require legal advice to the President, the Attorney General, other components in the Department of Justice, and other executive departments and agencies. In addition, it is critical the OLC be adequately funded to ensure human and technological resources are available to meet workload challenges related to its core mission.

The lack of control over this externally driven workload has been and is likely to remain a constant challenge to the OLC's mission and is inherent in all aspects of the OLC's work, including reviewing legislation, and testimony, and presidential and Attorney General documents.

FY 2022 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services; no program changes are requested.

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2020 Appropriation	32	29	8,114
2021 Enacted	32	32	9,570
2022 Request	32	32	9,872
Change 2022 from 2021 Enacted	0	0	302
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	236
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	45
Other Adjustments	0	0	21
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	302
2022 Current Services	32	32	9,872
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2022 Request	32	32	9,872

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2021 Enacted			2022 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	32	32	9,570	32	32	9,872
Total	32	32	9,570	32	32	9,872

Comparison by activity and program	2022 Total Program Changes			2022 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	32	32	9,872
Total	0	0	0	32	32	9,872