



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)

FY 2025 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	\$11.0 million (36 positions; 30 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$503,000
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2025 Budget Request:	\$11.5 million (36 positions; 30 attorneys)
Change From FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	+\$503,000 (+4.6%)

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) is to assist the Attorney General, who serves as the legal advisor to the President and Executive Branch departments and agencies. The OLC also serves as an impartial arbiter of legal disputes within the Executive Branch and provides general legal assistance, especially when litigation, proposed laws, or issues regarding the Constitution or executive authority arises. The Office also reviews for form and legality all Executive Orders, substantive Proclamations and many presidential Memoranda. It also reviews proposed Orders of the Attorney General and all regulations requiring Attorney General approval.

The OLC is 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 response to congressional oversight inquiries.

Resources:

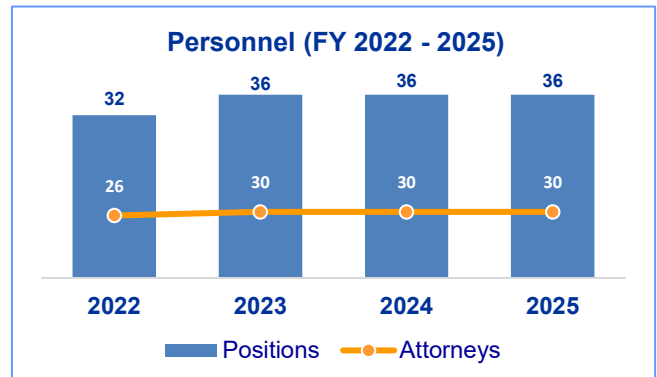
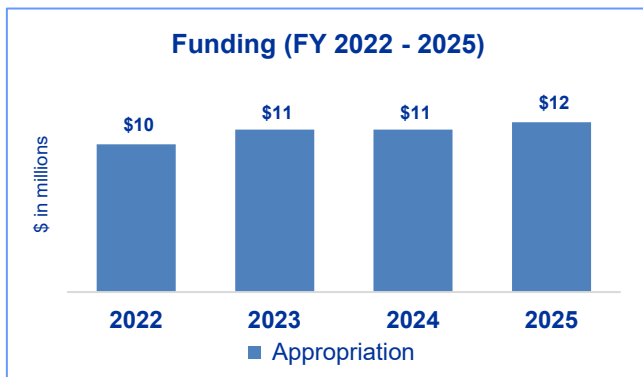
The FY 2025 budget request for the OLC totals \$11.5 million, which is a 4.6 percent increase over the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.

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 and political Deputies, and staff attorneys and paraprofessionals, all located in Washington, DC. Its administrative functions have been provided by the Executive Office of the Office of the Solicitor General since FY 2012.

Personnel:

The OLC's direct authorized positions for FY 2025 total 36 positions and are the same as FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.



FY 2025 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 confronting racial injustice, and addressing problems in the immigration system. It examines proposed orders and regulations of the Attorney General requiring approval and performs a range of special tasks as directed by the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General.

The Office ensures the Federal Government acts in line with the law and the Constitution. It is responsible for reviewing and commenting on the constitutionality of pending legislation. This 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 officials.

The OLC provides the President, executive agencies, and the Department with well researched, legal advice, and reviews proposed laws and Executive actions and orders, ensuring they are legally accurate, and Constitutional. This strengthens the legality of government actions, and helps build trust in the government's decision-making process.

The Office provides unbiased advice, even if it is in opposition to current policy goals, which is a demonstration of its role as a neutral party and upholding legal standards. While the OLC maintains confidentiality in its advice, it also addresses public requests for information, to include topics related to national security. The OLC opinions are followed unless overruled by higher authorities, which demonstrates its influence in steering the government's legal decisions and maintaining respect for the law.

The OLC is a small component with an extraordinary responsibility and is faced with meeting the challenge of an ever-changing workload with dedication to its mission. The value of the OLC advice depends upon the strength of its analysis. This environment is part of the Office's representation and depends on its leadership and each of its attorneys to continue its long-established tradition as to how its work should be carried out.

FY 2025 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services for the OLC. No program changes are requested.

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Legal Counsel		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2023 Appropriation	36	32	10,986
2024 Continuing Resolution	36	36	10,986
2025 Request	36	36	11,489
Change 2025 from 2024 Continuing Resolution	0	0	503
Technical Adjustments			
Additional Amount for 2024 Pay Raise	0	0	186
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	186
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	218
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	99
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	317
2025 Current Services	36	36	11,489
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2025 Request	36	36	11,489

Office of Legal Counsel
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2024 Continuing Resolution			2025 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	36	36	10,986	36	36	11,489
Total	36	36	10,986	36	36	11,489

Comparison by activity and program	2025 Total Program Changes			2025 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of Legal Counsel	0	0	0	36	36	11,489
Total	0	0	0	36	36	11,489