



Administrative Review and Appeals Office of Pardon Attorney (OPA)

FY 2016 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2015 Enacted:	\$3.9 million (22 positions; 11 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$578,000
Program Changes:	+\$2.0 million
FY 2016 Budget Request:	\$6.5 million (46 positions; 27 attorneys)
Change From FY 2015 Enacted:	+\$2.6 million (+66.1%) (+24 positions; +16 attorneys)

Mission:

The OPA 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 2016 budget request for OPA totals \$6.5 million, which is a 66.1% increase over the FY 2015 Enacted.

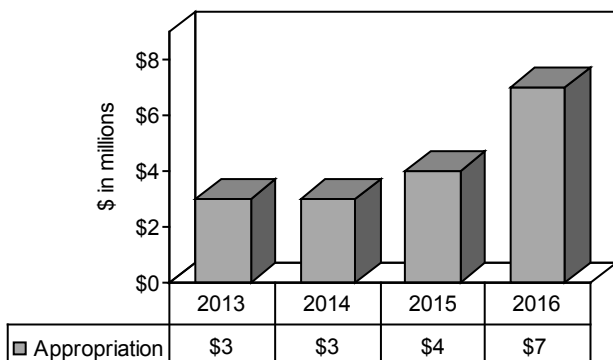
Organization:

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

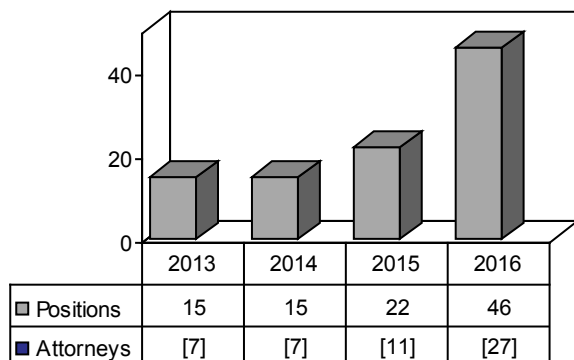
Personnel:

The OPA's direct positions for FY 2016 total 46 positions. OPA's FY 2016 request includes an increase of 24 positions over the FY 2015 Enacted of 22 direct positions.

Funding (FY 2013 - 2016)



Personnel (FY 2013 - 2016)



FY 2016 Strategy:

In FY 2016, OPA will assist the President in the exercise of the clemency power. OPA will respond to inquiries concerning clemency petitions and the clemency process from applicants, their representatives, members of the public, members of Congress, and various federal, state, and local officials and agencies; prepare all necessary documents to effect the President's decision to grant clemency; and notify each clemency applicant of the President's decision concerning his/her clemency request. OPA will also provide general advice to the White House concerning clemency procedures and the historical background of clemency matters.

In January 2014, the Deputy Attorney General announced a new Clemency Initiative allowing the filing of commutation applications by certain low-level, non-violent federal offenders who, if sentenced today for the same offenses, would likely receive substantially shorter prison terms. Announcement of this initiative resulted in an unprecedented influx of clemency petitions to OPA. During FY 2014, OPA received 6,834 clemency applications, of which 6,561 were commutation requests and 273 were pardon requests.

Also, thousands of commutation petitions are expected from Clemency Project 2014 (CP 2014), a consortium of legal groups formed in response to the Deputy Attorney General's January 2014 announcement calling for bar associations to provide pro bono assistance to federal inmates seeking commutation under the Clemency Initiative. As of January 2015, CP 2014 had received more than 33,000 requests from federal inmates for legal assistance to file clemency petitions.

OPA anticipates receiving many thousands of additional commutation applications in FY 2015 and FY 2016 because CP 2014 began providing legal assistance to eligible inmates in the fall of 2014. Moreover, OPA expects to receive thousands more applications from uncounseled inmates who are eligible to seek clemency outside of the Initiative. The additional resources requested for OPA in the FY 2016 budget are crucial for its effort to meet the unprecedented increase in its workload resulting from the Initiative.

FY 2016 Program Changes:

Clemency Initiative: \$2.0 million and 24 positions (16 attorneys)
This increase will provide additional support to achieve OPA's mission of advising and assisting the President in the exercise of his executive clemency power. These additional resources are necessary to help OPA address the substantial growth in commutation applications received as a result of the Department's Clemency Initiative. The current services for this program are 22 positions (11 attorneys) and \$4.5 million.

Office of Pardon Attorney

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Office of Pardon Attorney		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2014 Appropriation	15	13	2,800
2015 Enacted	22	18	3,918
2016 Request	46	33	6,508
Change 2016 from 2015 Enacted	24	15	2,590
Technical Adjustments			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	0
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	3	429
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	149
Total Base Adjustments	0	3	578
2016 Current Services	22	21	4,496
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Clemency Initiative	24	12	2,012
Subtotal, Program Increases	24	12	2,012
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	24	12	2,012
2016 Request	46	33	6,508

Office of Pardon Attorney

(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2015 Enacted			2016 Current Services		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	22	18	3,918	22	21	4,496
Total	22	18	3,918	22	21	4,496
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	22	18	3,918	22	21	4,496

Comparison by activity and program	2016 Total Program Changes			2016 Request		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Office of the Pardon Attorney	24	12	2,012	46	33	6,508
Total	24	12	2,012	46	33	6,508
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	24	12	2,012	46	33	6,508