



OGC General and Historical Information

OGC consists of approximately 750 civilian attorneys plus approximately 30 uniformed Navy JAGs and Marine Corps Judge Advocates, and approximately 100 support staff located throughout the United States and overseas. Approximately 370 attorneys are located in the Washington, D.C. area, with the others in approximately 120 field offices throughout the country and abroad. Approximately one-half of OGC's positions are assigned to four large business organizations - Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Naval Air Systems Command, and Naval Supply Systems Command. OGC also includes approximately 50 Intellectual Property and Patent attorneys. The staffing within OGC Field offices can range in size from one to a dozen or more attorneys and paraprofessionals depending upon the size of the client organizations, and magnitude of the client's workforce, assets, budget and contracting authority, multi-sited locations, and other variables.

OGC attorneys help clients address legal concerns in virtually every area of the law relating to business, Government contracts, property, human resources and other issues arising in a multifaceted, high-technology organization. OGC attorneys also represent the Navy in administrative cases before a variety of boards and agencies and support the Department of Justice in litigation brought by or against the DON in Federal courts. OGC attorneys are regularly called upon to provide legal advice and recommendations spanning the many OGC areas of practice. With the consolidation of DON assets and regionalization of activities, OGC attorneys are also assisting an increasing number of Fleet and other activities as they assume new responsibilities that were previously addressed by other OGC clients and shore activities. OGC's structure allows for the coordinated provision of legal advice at all levels of the Department of the Navy's principal components.

The use of civilian attorneys within the Department of the Navy began during the Civil War. For the next century, the need for civilian attorneys waxed and waned with the Office of the Judge Advocate General's ability to accommodate the Department's procurement requirements. The official position of the procurement attorneys became more permanent as a direct result of World War II (WWII). At that time, the Procurement Legal Division was established, later to be renamed "The Office of the General Counsel."

The core tenets of OGC were forged on a day-to-day basis during WWII. The fact that the entire organization continues to revolve around service to the warfighter remains a testament to the dedication of the attorneys and clients from the beginning. After the war ended, a concerted effort was made to focus on OGC as a "firm" and began implementing the training and standardization of practice necessary to allow attorneys to efficiently and effectively serve their clients. In 1949, "The Navy Contract Lawyer" was created in an effort to gather all procurement laws and regulations into one source.

OGC's history is a story of growth, change and adaptation, while providing dedicated service to the warfighter, and expertly navigating the world of statutory laws and regulations. Since the 1950's, OGC's charter has undergone many reiterations, and the organization's effectiveness has been questioned on multiple occasions. The story of OGC will seem familiar to even the newest member of the organization, because on a daily basis, we too, serve the warfighter in an environment that rapidly changes.