
Office of General Counsel

James B. Petrick

General Counsel



Functional Statement

To represent the interests of the participants and beneficiaries of the Thrift Savings Plan by providing advice to the Executive Director, Board Members, and staff of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board concerning their legal duties and responsibilities under the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 and other applicable laws.



Primary Responsibility: Provide Legal Advice to Clients

- Advise the Executive Director and Board Members (the “named fiduciaries” of the Thrift Savings Plan) concerning their fiduciary and other legal duties and responsibilities under FERSA
- Advise the Executive Director and the staff of the FRTIB and its contractors concerning the proper interpretation of the provisions of FERSA and other applicable laws and regulations in administering the TSP
- Advise the Executive Director and the staff of the FRTIB concerning issues arising from the FRTIB’s status as an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the United States



Substantive Areas of Focus:

Agency Counsel

- Ethics
- Contracts
- Freedom of Information/Privacy
- Personnel and employment

Program Counsel

- Interpretation of FERSA
- Death benefits
- Divorce orders
- Taxes
- Plan communication materials

Cross-functional

- Fiduciary duties
 - Applicability of Laws/Compliance
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Areas of Increasing Focus

- Privacy
- Freedom of Information
- Death Benefits
- Policies and Procedures
- Contracts
- Human Resources

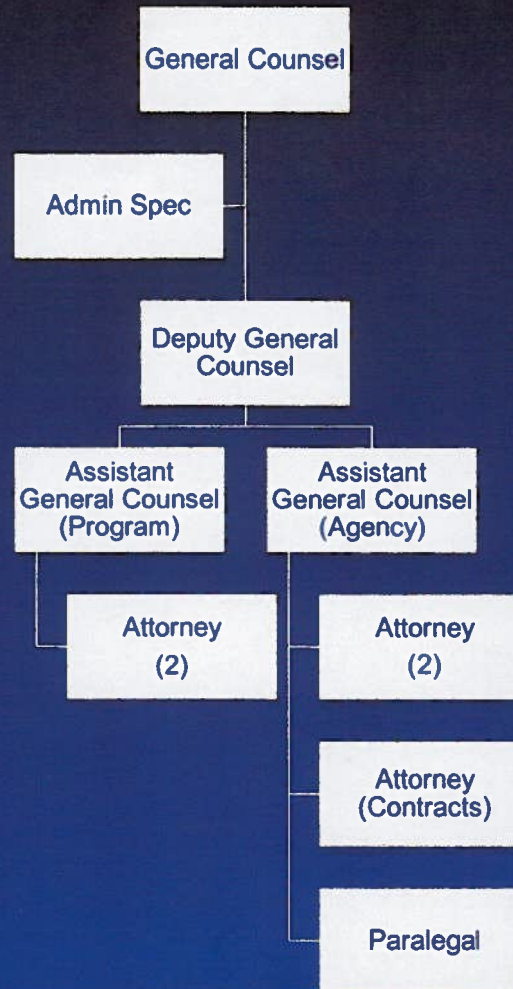


Other major responsibilities

- Regulations: Draft and handle the publication of all regulations for the FRTIB, including regulations required by FERSA and other applicable laws.
- Legislation: Work with the Office of External Affairs (OEA) to draft and review legislation affecting the TSP or FRTIB.
- DOJ liaison: Work with Department of Justice to handle all DOJ matters involving TSP or FRTIB, including all litigation matters.



OGC Organization



Accomplishments 2013

- Established and staffed Program and Agency Offices
- Implementation of privacy review procedures
- Supported EISRM and TESS efforts
- Successfully closed several litigation matters
- Reviewed and revised TSP-3 processing procedures
- Issued regulations outlining Agency's position following DOMA ruling
- Tracking and cataloguing all OGC workload



Initiatives 2014

- Review of policies and procedures with OERM
- Creation of OGC opinion database
- Support for acquisition policies
- Routinization of compliance reviews
- Tracking client service metrics



Questions?

