

## Background

The Legal Division provides legal advice to all divisions regarding personnel actions, and represents the agency in proceedings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The Office of the Regional Counsel has very significant responsibilities regarding environmental law/airports & procurement/contracting, where it reviews agency actions and gives advice on a broad range of issues. These areas may also result in litigation which involves attorneys from this office.

The Legal Division reviews responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and provides advice on both FOIA and the Privacy Act. The Office of the Regional Counsel also provides legal advice on questions dealing with ethics and conflicts of interest. The Regional Counsel is responsible for reviewing the confidential financial disclosure statements, and serves as the Designated Ethics Counselor for the Region.