OPLA MISSION STATEMENT
To protect the homeland from national security and public safety threats, uphold the rule of law, and promote public confidence by providing exceptional legal services and zealously representing the agency, including in proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, by advocating for just and fair results while adhering to the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct and optimizing resources to advance DHS and ICE missions.

OPLA VISION STATEMENT
To operate as a premier, inclusive, and nimble legal program composed of collaborative legal experts who will ensure that OPLA conducts its missions with integrity, fairness, and in the pursuit of justice.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor

STRATEGIC PLAN
2022–2026

The Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) is the largest legal program in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with over 1,300 attorneys. Pursuant to statute, OPLA serves as the exclusive representative of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), litigating cases involving criminals, terrorists, human rights abusers, and other priority noncitizens.

OPLA delivers a full range of legal services to all ICE programs and offices. OPLA provides legal advice and prudential counsel to ICE personnel on their law enforcement authorities, legal liability under the Federal Tort Claims Act and Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act, ethics, and administrative law issues, such as contract, fiscal, and employment law. OPLA represents the agency before the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Contract Board of Appeals. OPLA attorneys support the Department of Justice in the prosecution of ICE cases and in the defense of civil cases against ICE.

In addition to its headquarters in Washington, D.C., OPLA has 25 field locations with presence in more than 60 cities throughout the United States.

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The OPLA Strategic Plan aligns with DHS and ICE Strategic Goals.