The Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) is the largest legal program in the Department of Homeland Security, with over 1,100 attorneys. Congress chartered OPLA to represent the agency in administrative immigration litigation before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and to provide specialized legal advice to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, agents, and other personnel. Headquartered in Washington D.C., with offices in over 60 cities across the country, we are a national law firm offering an array of professional opportunities to talented attorneys committed to serving our nation.
WHO WE ARE:
OPLA stands alongside ICE’s other operational programs, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), with a shared mission to promote public safety, prevent terrorism, and combat the illegal movement of people and goods across our borders.

WHAT WE DO:
Our legal experts work in a dynamic and often highly visible environment, specializing in a variety of areas, such as administrative law, criminal law, customs law, government contracting, government ethics, immigration law, information law, labor and employment law, and national security law.

OPLA attorneys enjoy unmatched public service career development opportunities, including:
• Honing trial skills by appearing before EOIR and other administrative tribunals;
• Developing federal court practice expertise through interaction with the Department of Justice on criminal and civil litigation impacting ICE’s equities and serving as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys;
• Building close attorney-client relationships with specially trained ERO officers and HSI special agents, who rely on OPLA’s advice and counsel in planning and executing law enforcement operations;
• Exposure to the work of other federal agencies, as well as state, local, and foreign government partners, including negotiation of agreements, collaboration on cross-cutting initiatives, and delivery of training;
• Career-long training and mentoring, especially national training conferences for new and experienced attorneys;
• Travel and temporary duty assignment opportunities; and
• Career advancement, including management and executive leadership positions.

CAREERS AT OPLA:
OPLA hires legal interns, recent law school graduates, and experienced attorneys. Ideal candidates are licensed attorneys who possess advanced trial advocacy skills, subject-matter expertise, excellence in written advocacy, and past academic success. We are an equal opportunity employer that seeks to add to its diverse, productive, and highly motivated workforce. We offer a variety of exciting positions, competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and opportunities for career advancement. Find additional information about a career at OPLA at www.ice.gov/OPLA or www.USAsjobs.gov.