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SNAPSHOT OVERSIGHT REPORT LAWYERED UP

FEDERAL SPENDING ON ATTORNEYS FROM 2007-2014





OPEN THE BOOKS
OVERSIGHT REPORT

LAWYERED UP
FEDERAL SPENDING ON ATTORNEYS
FISCAL YEARS 2007 – 2014: SNAPSHOT STUDY

PUBLISHED: APRIL 2016

By: Adam Andrzejewski, CEO of OpenTheBooks.com

American Transparency

“Open the Books is doing the work I envisioned when the Coburn-Obama bill became law. Their innovative app and other tools are putting sunlight through a magnifying glass.”

Dr. Tom Coburn, Honorary Chairman OpenTheBooks.com | March 11, 2014

OUR REPORT MADE POSSIBLE BY:

The “Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006”

Sponsors: Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) & Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)

(Public Law 109-282, 109th Congress)

“Is the spending in the public interest or the special interest?”

– U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn

“I know that restoring transparency is not only the surest way to achieve results, but also to earn back the trust in government...”

– U.S. Sen. Barack Obama

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One clear lesson from 2016 is that taxpayers are angry, *really* angry. The causes of this frustration are complex – and primarily economic – but Americans on the left and right are upset with a status quo in Washington that seems resistant to change. There are good reasons for this angst. Federal spending is exploding while wage growth is stagnating. Meanwhile, instead of leading with a positive agenda the perception is Washington seems to be digging in its heels.

At OpenTheBooks.com we track spending at all levels of government. One trend we've noticed over the past seven years is that the federal government has lawyered up – big time. Today, the federal government employs its own private army of attorneys. At a force level of more than 25,000 attorneys that's more than a combat division.



The lawyers aren't the problem per se – they simply serve at the pleasure of entrenched politicians and bureaucrats. Federal spending on attorneys both reflects and perpetuates the size, scope, expanse, and inertia of today's federal government. Our full database (link) is at OpenTheBooks.com, but here are a few highlights:

- **The federal government employs 25,060 lawyers in more than 200 agencies.**
- **If federal government attorneys formed a nation-state it would rank 158th in global GDP (\$3.3 billion in annual spending), more than combined GDPs of vacation paradises St. Lucia, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis.**
- **Since 2007, federal spending on attorneys exceeded \$26 billion in salaries and bonuses.**
- **In 2014, the top lawyer salary was \$266,469. More than 50 salaries topped \$250,000 since 2007.**
- **Since 2007, 19 bonuses exceeded \$50,000. The top bonus was \$83,900 and the second largest was \$62,895.**
- **In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency employed 1,020 attorneys while the Internal Revenue Service employed 1,423 attorneys. NASA Headquarters even employed 39 lawyers while the Ex-Im Bank employed 27 lawyers.**
- **Nearly half of all attorney positions (12,270) are based in Washington, D.C.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING YOUR MONEY – AND OFTEN PROTECTING ITSELF AT YOUR EXPENSE – AT OPENTHEBOOKS.COM



BACKGROUND ON OUR REPORT RESEARCH:

Our motto is 'Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.' Remember, it's your money. Therefore, we attempt to provide non-partisan facts using the resources of the 2.6 billion captured public expenditures at OpenTheBooks.com. We leave systemic solutions to the public policy debate.

Across the policy continuum, everyone can stand against waste, fraud, duplication of services, and taxpayer abuse. Our goal is that the federally disclosed expenditures showcased in this oversight snapshot report aid in the education of all stakeholders and thereby fully inform the debate on all sides.

American Transparency (OpenTheBooks.com) Chairman of the Board Thomas W. Smith recognizes the hard work of our team...

Adam Andrzejewski, founder and Chief Executive Officer, provided data interpretation, gave context, and authored this report. **John Hart**, Senior Advisor provided drafting, editing and contextual analysis. **Craig Mijares**, Director of Information Technology, assembled and organized the datasets. **Matthew Tyrmand**, Deputy Director, contributed to the editing and helped disseminate this report to national media. Special thank you to our graphic designer, **Paul Romanowski**.

ABOUT OPENTHEBOOKS.COM

Our mission is to post online "every dime" taxed and spent by federal, state and local units of government across America. Currently, we display 2.6 billion lines of government spending and are the largest publically accessible database of government spending in the world. We use the latest in technology to display the spending, including the first-to-market mobile app – Open The Books - which hyper-localized all disclosed United States Government checkbook spending since 2000. As showcased in *The Wall Street Journal*, our app is free for Apple and Android.

Since 2013, we publish OpenTheBooks Oversight Reports: *The Militarization of America*; *The Department of Self-Promotion - \$4.4 Billion in Federal Agency PR Spending*; *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*; *Export – Import Bank*; *Fortune 100 Companies*; *Small Business Administration Lending to the Wealthy Lifestyle*; *Veterans Administration Cash Compensation: Salaries and Bonuses*; and *Farm Subsidies in Urban Areas*. Learn more at OpenTheBooks.com

DISCLAIMER:

This report quantifies 'General Attorney' spending since FY2007-FY2014 from federal transactions compiled at www.openthebooks.com as a result of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. To the extent that the government makes mistakes in the reporting of inaccurate or incomplete data, our report will reflect these same mistakes.



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