AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

The Office of Special Counsel investigates allegations of certain activities prohibited by civil service laws, rules, or regulations and litigates before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Activities

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) was established on January 1, 1979, by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. app.). The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 1101 note), which became effective on January 11, 1979, enlarged its functions and powers. Pursuant to provisions of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (5 U.S.C. 1211 *et seq.*), OSC functions as an independent investigative and prosecutorial agency within the executive branch which litigates before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The primary role of OSC is to protect employees, former employees, and applicants for employment from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. Its basic areas of statutory responsibility are:

—receiving and investigating allegations of prohibited personnel practices and other activities prohibited by civil service law, rule, or regulation and, if warranted, initiating corrective or disciplinary action;

—providing a secure channel through which information evidencing a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health or safety may be disclosed without fear of retaliation and without disclosure of identity, except with the employee's consent; and

—enforcing the provisions of the Hatch Act.

Sources of Information

Field offices are located in Dallas, TX (Room 7C30, 1100 Commerce Street, 75242; phone, 214–767–8871; fax, 214–767–2764) and Oakland, CA (Suite 365S, 1301 Clay Street, 94612–5217; phone, 510–637–3460; fax, 510–637–3474).

For further information, contact the Office of Special Counsel, Suite 300, 1730 M Street NW., Washington, DC 20036–4505. Phone, 202–653–7188 or 800–872–9855 (toll-free). Fax, 202–653–5151. Internet, www.osc.gov.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

1100 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20527
Phone, 202–336–8400. Fax, 202–408–9859. Internet, www.opic.gov.

President and Chief Executive Officer	GEORGE MUÑOZ
Executive Vice President	KIRK ROBERTSON
Vice President, Investment Development	MARK VAN DE WATER
Vice President and General Counsel	CHARLES D. TOY
Vice President and Treasurer	MILDRED O. CALLEAR
Vice President, Finance	ROBERT B. DRUMHELLER
Vice President, Insurance	JULIE A. MARTIN

Vice President, Investment Funds JEFFREY GRIFFIN
Managing Director for Administration MICHAEL C. CUSHING

[For the Overseas Private Investment Corporation statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 22, Chapter VII]

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is a self-sustaining Federal agency whose purpose is to promote economic growth in developing countries by encouraging U.S. private investment in those nations.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) was established as an independent agency by the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681–790). OPIC assists American investors in four principal ways: financing of businesses through loans and loan guaranties; supporting private investment funds which provide equity for U.S. companies investing in projects overseas; insuring investments against a broad range of political risks; and engaging in outreach activities. All of these programs are designed to reduce the perceived stumbling blocks and risks associated with overseas investment.

Organized as a corporation and structured to be responsive to private business, OPIC is mandated to mobilize and facilitate the participation of U.S. private capital and skills in the economic and social development of developing countries and emerging economies. Currently, OPIC programs are available for new business enterprises or expansion in some 140 countries worldwide. The Corporation encourages American overseas private investment in sound business projects, thereby improving U.S. global competitiveness, creating American jobs, and increasing U.S. exports. The Corporation does not support projects that will result in the loss of domestic jobs or have a negative impact on the host country's environment or workers' rights.

The Corporation is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors, of whom 8 are appointed from the private sector and 7 from the Federal Government.

Activities

By reducing or eliminating certain perceived political risks for investors and providing financing and assistance not otherwise available, the Corporation helps to reduce the unusual risks and problems that can make investment opportunities in the developing areas less attractive than in advanced countries. At the same time, it reduces the need for government-to-government assistance by involving the U.S. private sector in establishing capital-generation and strengthening private-sector economies in developing countries.

The Corporation insures U.S. investors against the political risks of expropriation, inconvertibility of local currency earnings, and damage from war, revolution, insurrection, or civil strife. It also offers a special insurance policy to U.S. contractors and exporters against arbitrary drawings of letters of credit posted as bid, performance, or advance payment guaranties. Other special programs are offered for minerals exploration, oil and gas exploration, and development and leasing operations.

The Corporation offers U.S. lenders protection against both commercial and political risks by guaranteeing payment of principal and interest on loans (up to $200 million) made to eligible private enterprises.

Its Direct Investment loans, offered to small and medium-sized businesses, generally cover terms of from 5 to 15 years and usually range from $2 million to $30 million with interest rates depending on assessment of the commercial risks of the project financed.

Additionally, OPIC supports a family of privately managed direct investment funds in various regions and business sectors. Such funds currently operate in most countries in East Asia, sub-Saharan African, South America, Russia and other New Independent States, Poland and other countries in Central Europe, India, and Israel.

Programs are available only for a new facility, expansion or modernization of an existing plant, or technological or service products designed to generate investment that will produce significant new benefits for host countries.

Sources of Information

General Inquiries Inquiries should be directed to the Information Office, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20527. Phone, 202–336–8799. E-mail, OPIC@opic.gov. Internet, www.opic.gov.

Publications OPIC programs are further detailed in the *Annual Report* and the *Program Summary*. These publications are available free of charge.

For further information, contact the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20527. Phone, 202–336–8400. Fax, 202–408–9859. Internet, www.opic.gov.

PEACE CORPS

1111 Twentieth Street NW., Washington, DC 20526
Phone, 202–692–2000. Fax, 202–692–2231. Internet, www.peacecorps.gov.

Director	MARK L. SCHNEIDER
Deputy Director	CHARLES R. BAQUET III
Chief of Staff	THOMAS TIGHE
General Counsel	NANCY HENDRY
American Diversity Program Manager	BRENDA GOOCH
Inspector General	CHARLES SMITH
Director for Office of Planning, Policy, and Analysis	(VACANCY)
Director of Communications	MICHAEL CHAPMAN
Director of Press	(VACANCY)
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