- 2. The Inspector General Staff (S9A–2).
  - D. The Division of General Law (S9B).
  - E. The Division of Litigation (S9C).
- F. The Division of Policy and Legislation (S9E).
- G. The Offices of Regional Chief Counsels (S9G–F1—S9G–FX).

Section S9.20 *The Office of the General Counsel*—(Functions):

- A. The General Counsel (S9) is directly responsible to the Commissioner for carrying out the OGC mission and providing general supervision to the major components of OGC.
- B. The Principal Deputy General Counsel (S9) assists the General Counsel in carrying out his/her responsibilities and performs other duties as the General Counsel may prescribe. In the event of the General Counsel's absence or disability, or in the event of a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, the Principal Deputy General Counsel acts for him/her unless the Commissioner directs otherwise.
- C. The Immediate Office of the General Counsel (S9A) provides the General Counsel with staff assistance on the full range of his/her responsibilities. It includes:
- 1. The Deputy General Counsel (Regional Operations) (S9A–1) directs and coordinates regional Offices of the General Counsel personnel who carry out OGC's mission. In the event of the absence or disability of both the General Counsel and the Principal Deputy General Counsel, the Deputy General Counsel (Regional Operations) acts for the General Counsel unless the Commissioner directs otherwise.
- 2. The Inspector General Staff (S9A–2) provides legal services to SSA's Inspector General in all areas within the jurisdiction of the Inspector General including prosecution of all claims by SSA for civil money penalties under section 1129 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320a–8.
  - D. The Division of General Law (S9B).
- 1. Provides legal services on business management activities and administrative operations throughout SSA, including procurement, contracting, patents, copyrights, personnel, budget, appropriations, employment, compensation, travel and claims involving these areas by and against SSA.
- 2. Provides legal services and advice regarding SSA's civil defense, civil rights and security programs as well as for SSA's administration of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts. Provides liaison with the Department of Justice on administering the Freedom of

- Information and Privacy Acts. Liaisons with the Comptroller General.
- 3. Provides legal advice to officials and employees regarding ethics and standards of conduct matters. Coordinates SSA's confidential reporting system for reporting on financial interests and outside activities.
- 4. Assists SSA components with the development and implementation of ethics training, provides liaison with the White House General Counsel and the Office of Government Ethics on ethics matters.
- 5. Furnishes litigation support and litigation related advice to the Commissioner and all components of SSA in both administrative and court litigation in connection with each of the areas mentioned above. Represents SSA in all such litigation when such direct representation is authorized by law. In other cases, makes and supervises contacts with attorneys responsible for the conduct of such litigation.
  - E. The Division of Litigation (S9C).
- 1. Furnishes legal support and litigation related advice in both administrative and court litigation in connection with the operations and administration by SSA of the various programs administered by SSA under the Social Security Act and of other programs which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Division of General Law (DGL) or the Inspector General Staff (IGS).
- 2. Represents SSA in all such litigation when such direct representation is authorized by law and in other cases, makes and supervises contacts with attorneys responsible for the conduct of such litigation.
- F. The Division of Policy and Legislation (S9E).
- 1. Furnishes nonlitigation legal services and advice in connection with the operations and administration by SSA of the various programs administered by SSA under the Social Security Act and of other programs and areas which do not fall within the jurisdiction of DGL or IGS.
- 2. Drafts proposals for legislation originating in SSA, reviews specifications for such proposed legislation and reviews all proposed legislation submitted by SSA for comment. Drafts or reviews reports and letters to congressional committees, the Office of Management and Budget and others on proposed legislation and legislative matters. Prescribes the procedures to govern the routing and review within SSA of material relating to proposed legislation.
- 3. Drafts or reviews proposed testimony of SSA officials before

Congress relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the division.

- 4. Drafts or reviews all SSA regulatory materials and legal instruments relating to an area within the jurisdiction of the division.
- G. The Offices of Regional Chief Counsels (S9G–F1—S9G—FX) provide the Commissioner and the various regional components of SSA with legal services and support as follows:

1. Provide professional legal and managerial expertise for the OGC in their respective geographic locations.

2. Provide litigation support and legal services and advice to the SSA Regional Commissioners in the various areas set out above regarding OGC divisions and the IGS.

This statement establishes part T of the Statement of the Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority which covers the Social Security Administration (SSA). Notice is given of the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Programs, Policy, Evaluation and Communications (TA) at the first level below the Commissioner. Notice is further given of the establishment of the Office of Program Coordination and Planning, the Office of Policy Analysis and Evaluation, the Office of the Actuary, the Office of Disability, the Office of Disclosure Policy, the Office of Hearings and Appeals, the Office of International Policy, the Office of Policy, the Office of Communications, the Office of Research and Statistics and the Office of Program Benefits Policy. The new chapter reads as follows:

## Chapter TA—Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Programs, Policy, Evaluation and Communications

TA.00 Mission TA.10 Organization TA.20 Functions

Section TA.00 The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Programs, Policy, Evaluation and Communications—(Mission): The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Programs, Policy, Evaluation and Communications (ODCPPEC) directs the formulation of overall policy for SSA. Directs the formulation and issuance of program objectives. Directs and manages the planning, development, issuance and evaluation of program and operational policies, standards and instructions for the retirement and survivors insurance, disability and supplemental security income programs. Serves as a focal point for international program policy issues and activities. Oversees Agency hearings and appeals activities. Directs a public communications program that effectively promotes and furthers the