



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Five-Year Strategic Plan

Fiscal Years 2019- 2023

MISSION:

The Office of the Attorney General will provide comprehensive legal protection to the citizens of Arizona and quality legal services to state agencies by upholding the Constitution and enforcing the rule of law in a fair and just manner.

AGENCY DESCRIPTION:

The Office of the Attorney General (the "AGO") was created by Article V. Section I of the Arizona Constitution. The Attorney General is an elected position and holds office for a four-year term. The powers of the Attorney General are conferred by the Arizona Constitution and by statute. The AGO is responsible for acting as the legal advisor to all state agencies, boards, and commissions except those exempted by law. Additional responsibilities include prosecuting and defending proceedings in which the State has an interest and rendering written opinions upon questions of law. The AGO serves as the "People's Lawyer" and must enforce the law regardless of personal beliefs and opinions. The AGO has a responsibility to defend the will of Arizona voters and laws enacted by the Arizona Legislature.

To fulfill these responsibilities, the Department of Law is divided into legal divisions and administrative offices. Legal divisions consist of Child and Family Protection, State Government, Criminal, Civil, and the Solicitor General's Office. Other divisions include Operations and Communications. Each division is further organized into sections that specialize in areas of practice and expertise.

Strategic Issues:

- ❖ To Defend the State from Criminal Activities
- ❖ To Protect Citizens Against Crime: Children, Seniors, Families & Communities
- ❖ To Provide Protection to Consumers
- ❖ To Provide Exemplary Legal Services

Strategic Issue #1:**To Defend the State from Criminal Activities**

GOAL 1: To disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations and aggressively prosecute criminals.

STRATEGIES:

- Coordinate efforts with federal, state, local, and neighboring countries law enforcement.
- Provide technical assistance to other law enforcement agencies, including the use of financial transaction data, to develop evidence relating to underlying criminal activity.
- Cooperate with and build effective working relationships with federal agencies.
- Provide federal and state law enforcement agencies with training on relevant legal issues and investigative techniques.
- Aid in and conduct wiretap and undercover investigations, including the investigations and prosecutions of multi defendant, highly complex drug trafficking organizations.
- Specialize in fighting drug trafficking and money laundering through court-authorized electronic interception focused against Mexican cartels and United States-based transportation cells involved in the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and bulk currency across Arizona's southern border.
- Assist in the support of a chain of inter-related task forces in the Southwest Border area, concentrating on anti-money laundering enforcement at the highest levels.

GOAL 2: To reduce the financial power of criminal enterprises.

STRATEGIES:

- Dismantle racketeering enterprises through aggressive prosecution and the proper use of civil racketeering remedies.
- Remediate the economic injury caused by individuals and criminal enterprises who engage in profit-motivated felonies, thereby increasing the compensation ultimately provided to victims for their economic loss.
- Deprive criminal enterprises of property and profit that keep them in business.
- Specialize in complex financial prosecutions to reduce the financial power of criminal enterprises.
- Foster multi-jurisdictional collaboration to identify, investigate, and disrupt financial activities that facilitate cross-border violence and money laundering.
- Enhance coordination of the Southwest Border states' anti-money laundering efforts.

GOAL 3: To continue to serve as a national leader among the nation's Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

STRATEGIES:

- Work collaboratively with federal law enforcement partners including the Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), DEA and the FBI to prosecute Medicaid fraud related crimes.
- Combat the enormous problem of health care fraud related to prescription drug crimes.
- Investigate and prosecute cases that involve the falsification of medical records; the filing of false or inflated Medicaid billing claims; thefts and embezzlements from AHCCCS clients and health care institutions; the illegal diversion of prescription drugs by health care providers; and the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of residents being cared for in AHCCCS-funded facilities.

Strategic Issue #2:	To Protect Vulnerable Citizens Against Crime
----------------------------	---

GOAL 1: Promote the safety, economic sufficiency and well-being of children.

STRATEGIES:

- Protect children through effective litigation and efficient case management in dependency, guardianship, severance, and adoption proceedings.
- Provide training to AGO, DCS, and DES staff, DCS caseworkers and supervisors, members of the judiciary, and various child welfare system stakeholders throughout Arizona for effective case management.
- Increase enforcement activity in judicial and administrative establishment of new child support orders.
- Aggressively prosecute child exploitation cases.
- Increase investigative involvement and provide dedicated resources to focus on Internet Crimes Against Children, and to aggressively prosecute individuals found guilty of Internet-related and associated child abuse charges.

GOAL 2: Combat financial and physical abuse of Arizona's senior population.

STRATEGIES:

- Develop cases internally and work collaboratively with outside law enforcement agencies and other state teams in order to pursue and prosecute allegations of abuse and neglect, including those that take place within health care settings.

- Work closely with other law enforcement offices, state and local agencies, and senior-focused groups to assure an aggressive investigative and prosecutorial presence in the State.
- Provide a dedicated telephone number through which the public, other law enforcement agencies, caregivers and family members can report concerns and receive information and referrals.
- Offer educational opportunities around the state in which seniors can participate.
- Offer training and education to groups who have significant interactions with the senior population.
- Use the strengths, skills, and resources across AGO Divisions to ensure the success of the Taskforce Against Senior Abuse (TASA).
- Prosecute telephone solicitation and phone scam crimes initiated by individuals and companies targeting seniors.
- Initiate legislative remedies and provide federal strategies that will help reduce the number of unwanted and illegal phone calls.

GOAL 3: To promote and facilitate justice, healing and restitution for all of Arizona crime victims.

STRATEGIES:

- Improve the treatment of crime victims by exhibiting leadership, promoting public policy reforms where needed, and increase the quality of victim services through the administration of the Victims' Rights Program.
- Provide for efficient and effective delivery of quality services to victims during all stages of criminal prosecutions.
- Serve as a leader statewide on victims' rights issues through participation in networking events, leading the Victims' Rights Advisory Committee and through the provision of statewide victim's rights training.
- Investigate allegations of victims' rights violations statewide.
- Created programs that advance and enforce statewide uniformity and efficiency in following victims' rights in Arizona.
- Take a unique approach by combining state funding, program audits, technical assistance, training, compliance and collaboration in order to increase awareness statewide about victims' rights, as well as increase compliance with victims' rights statutes and the Arizona Victims' Bill of Rights.
- Competently and efficiently defend the State in all capital and non-capital appellate cases.
- Enhance written and oral advocacy skills through participation in training.
- Improve expertise in handling federal habeas litigation through participation in training related to federal appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

Strategic Issue #3:	To Protect Consumers
----------------------------	----------------------

GOAL 1: To deter fraudulent business practices as a means to protect consumers against fraud and increase the amount of restitution recovered on behalf of Arizona consumers.

STRATEGIES:

- Investigate and prosecute violations of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act and other state and federal consumer protection laws.
- Increase public awareness through consumer education and alerts, presentations, and the distribution of literature.
- Increase the amount of pre-litigation restitution recovered on behalf of Arizona consumers.
- Prioritize AGO consumer fraud recovery efforts on consumer restitution.
- Reform the multistate consumer fraud recovery process to focus on consumer restitution.
- Aggressively litigate against companies, individuals, and corporations that blatantly defraud or deceive Arizona consumers.

GOAL 2: To reduce the number of unwanted and illegal telephone solicitation calls received by Arizonans.

STRATEGIES:

- Work with and encourage the FTC to develop rules and guidelines allowing carriers and states to take a more proactive approach in blocking unwanted phone calls.
- To test and make available call-blocking technology to Arizona seniors.
- To aggressively prosecute Arizona companies that blatantly violate and disregard the Do Not Call List.
- Educate Arizona consumers on how to reduce the number of unwanted calls and what to do when they receive illegal telephone solicitation calls.
- Work with the Arizona Legislature to pass legislation giving Arizona some of the strongest consumer protection laws in the country.

Strategic Issue #4:	To Provide Legal Services for State Agencies, Boards and Commissions
----------------------------	--

GOAL 1: To provide a superior level of legal services to our client agencies, the public and the State of Arizona.

STRATEGIES:

- Improve efficiency of legal services delivery through client relations meetings with agencies that frequently require our services.
- Provide advanced client agency training sessions in the areas of public records law, open meeting law, conflict of interest law, contracting and procurement law, and related legal restrictions on the activities of public officials and employees. Ethics training for elected officials and appointed agency heads is now available online for ease of access and updating.
- Maintain and enhance the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs currently being offered by the Solicitor General's Office.
- Reduce the need for outside counsel whenever possible, thereby preserving precious taxpayer resources.

Resource Assumptions Required to Support Strategic Plan					
	FY 2019 Budget Request	FY 2020 Estimate	FY2021 Estimate	FY 2022 Estimate	FY 2023 Estimate
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Positions	1,040.3	1,056.3	1,056.3	1,056.3	1,056.3
General Fund	25,940,300	26,578,600	26,578,600	26,578,600	26,578,600
Other Appropriated Funds	52,523,800	53,915,000	53,915,000	53,915,000	53,915,000
Non-Appropriated Funds	52,302,000	52,302,000	52,302,000	52,302,000	52,302,000
Federal Funds	7,628,500	7,628,500	7,628,500	7,628,500	7,628,500
Total Agency Funds	\$138,394,600	\$140,424,100	\$140,424,100	\$140,424,100	\$140,424,100