



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL KRIS MAYES

MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report for the Office of the Arizona Attorney General. This report offers a complete and comprehensive overview of the various initiatives and cases our office has undertaken this past year to improve and protect the lives of Arizonans, uphold the rule of law, and ensure justice for everyone in our state.

From battling the fentanyl crisis and the drug cartels, combatting elder abuse and consumer fraud, to holding greedy corporations accountable and protecting Arizonans from unsustainable groundwater pumping, every single member of the Arizona Attorney General's Office has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Arizona. This report will detail the actions we took this year to protect the well-being of Arizonans as the chief legal and law enforcement office in the State of Arizona.

Since taking office, I have been continually impressed by the opportunity to collaborate and work with so many dedicated public servants. Our achievements would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our skilled attorneys, support staff and various partners including local law enforcement offices.

There is so much we can do together to protect consumers from scams, opposing corporate consolidation that would raise prices of everyday good, lower the cost of living by going after corporate landlords who have engaged in price-fixing, or protecting our natural resources from exploited by foreign corporations. Together, we have been able to see the tangible impact of our office's work on live of everyday Arizonans.

And while we are proud of our accomplishments, we recognize that our work is far from complete. I remain committed to hearing directly from Arizonans across our state about their needs and I'll use that information to advocate on their behalf. We continue to balance the need to respond quickly while staying focused on long-term priorities like consumer protection, public safety, and protecting our environment. And no matter what, I will push back on policies that would harm Arizonans and their families.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to improve and better serve the people of Arizona. I am your Attorney General, lawyer of for the people, and remain dedicated to protecting the public interest of Arizona. Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to review our annual report.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the legislature and state government partners as we serve the people of this great state in the year ahead. We invite you to read through this report to better understand our ongoing efforts and plans for the upcoming year. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



My Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Mayes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kris Mayes
Arizona Attorney General

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ABOUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

LAWYER FOR THE PEOPLE

The Arizona Attorney General's Office operates as the largest law firm in the state, charged with representing state agencies and enforcing the state's laws. The Office represents the public interest of Arizona and its citizens in fighting the fentanyl crisis and the drug cartels, protecting Arizona's children, combating elder abuse and consumer fraud, litigating complex, multi-state settlements, serving crime victims and much more.

As the people's lawyer, Attorney General Kris Mayes is working to maintain the core mission of the Attorney General's Office to serve and protect the people of Arizona.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Arizona Attorney General's Office's (AGO) Community Engagement Team is a vital link between the office and the public, focusing on educating, informing, and empowering Arizona residents. The team ensures communities have access to resources and tools to safeguard their rights and well-being. The AGO traveled across Arizona, hosting town halls on holding the federal government accountable under the law, educating seniors about fraud prevention, and discussing housing justice.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office Community Engagement team continues to provide Arizonans with knowledge and tools to protect against fraud and scams, as well as vulnerable and elder adult communities. The team offers educational presentations on consumer protection, elder affairs, drug trends. These presentations aim to empower communities with knowledge to prevent substance misuse and save lives in the face of the opioid crisis.

We are committed to strengthening our relationship with Tribal Nations and enhancing communication on Tribal Lands by visiting sovereign nations. By reaching out to tribal communities, we can gain valuable insights into their governmental structures.





PROTECTING CONSUMERS

Fraudsters and scammers attempt to take advantage of Arizonans. Attorney General Mayes is dedicated to taking on bad actors who attempt to take Arizonans' hard-earned money through unfair business practices. The AGO protects consumers by returning stolen funds, investigating unfair business practices and educating the public on scams and fraud.



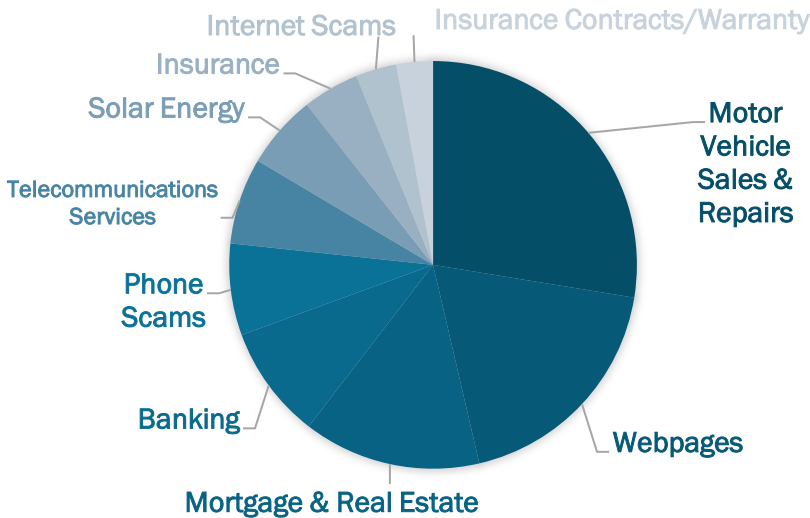
RESOLVING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

Any Arizonan who believes they are a victim of a consumer fraud or a scam may file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office. The Office then facilitates an informal process between consumers and businesses to attempt to resolve disputes and obtain recovery for consumers whenever possible.

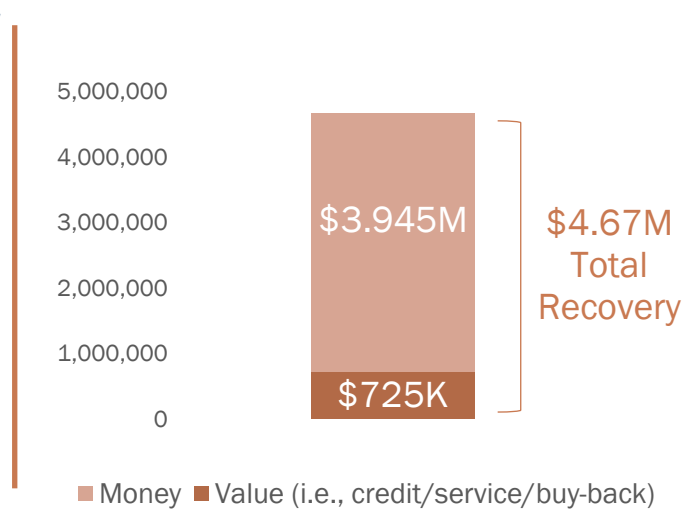
20,182
CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

\$4.67 million
RECOVERED FOR CONSUMERS THROUGH AN INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS

TOP CONSUMER COMPLAINTS



RECOVERY FOR CONSUMERS





ENSURING FAIR BUSINESS COMPETITION

The Attorney General’s Office continued its vigorous enforcement of antitrust laws intended to restore public confidence in a competitive and fair economy. The Office filed or continued litigation affecting diverse economic issues such as grocery stores, farm equipment, concert ticketing, prescription drugs, and internet technology. The Antitrust and Privacy Unit also monitored compliance with Arizona’s data breach notification law and resolved consumer fraud cases connected to data breaches by businesses with consent judgments that ensure those businesses employ robust security protocols, architecture, accountability, and data minimization efforts to protect the private data of others.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: 23&ME

When the nation’s largest direct-to-consumer genetic testing company filed for bankruptcy, Attorney General Mayes warned the public of the risk that 23andMe might try to sell Arizonans’ genetic data and other personal information as part of the bankruptcy proceeding. 23andMe changed its privacy policy to permit it to sell customers’ genetic data long after most of its customers had already provided their genetic samples to 23andMe. Joining a 28-state coalition, the Attorney General reached an agreement allowing a medical research nonprofit created by 23andMe’s founder and CEO to acquire 23andMe outright. Under the terms of the agreement, consumers retain control over their genetic data and can choose to destroy it at any time, 23andMe must maintain its existing privacy policies and cybersecurity protections, and a portion of the funds used to purchase 23andMe will be set aside to help pay claims of millions of people affected by a 2023 data breach. The case helped develop groundbreaking legal authority for protecting consumers’ rights over their genetic data in bankruptcy proceedings.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: KROGER-ALBERTSONS MERGER LAWSUIT

Attorney General Mayes continued her fight to block the merger of Kroger and Albertsons, the two largest national supermarket chains, which presented a significant risk of reduced competition, higher food prices, and job losses nationwide. In Arizona, Kroger and Albertsons are the 4th and 7th largest private employers, with 35,000 employees across 250 stores combined. The companies also operate under the Fry’s, Smith’s, and Safeway banners in Arizona. After commencing an antitrust investigation in February 2023 and holding a series of townhalls across the state to hear from Arizonans about how the mergers would impact them, Attorney General Kris Mayes joined with the FTC and a bipartisan group of state attorneys general in suing to block the merger. In December 2024, the federal court agreed and blocked the merger. Kroger and Albertsons canceled their deal rather than attempt any appeal.

“I’m proud to have brought [*the Kroger-Albertsons merger*] case on behalf of Arizona consumers and I am grateful for the talented members of our antitrust team for their incredibly hard work.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES





CASE HIGHLIGHT: JOHN DEERE LAWSUIT

In January 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes joined the FTC and 4 other state attorneys general to sue Deere and Co., commonly known as John Deere for monopolization and other anticompetitive practices related to repairing John Deere large tractors and combines. Farmers and ranchers who buy John Deere equipment are not required to use John Deere’s authorized dealers to perform equipment repairs. Often, they go to independent repair providers for lower cost repairs or repair parts or attempt to make repairs themselves. In fact, due to the typically rural location of farm equipment and relatively few authorized dealers available, even customers who want to use authorized dealers may have to haul equipment long distances or wait extended times for service. As farm equipment becomes more complex with more electronic control units and software integration, it is increasingly essential for repairers to have access to the electronic repair tools needed for diagnostics, testing, and resetting controllers, but John Deere refused to let independent repair providers or farmers access the same tools and software it makes available to authorized dealers. The result is that many repairs must be completed by Deere authorized dealers, and when something goes wrong with a tractor, it might be impossible to even diagnose whether the problem can be fixed by a cheaper, independent repairer. This lawsuit aims to force John Deere to make its diagnostic and repair tools equally available to owners and independent repairers at a fair price.

PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM PRICE GOUGING

CASE HIGHLIGHT: GLAXOSMITHKLINE (FLOVENT) LAWSUIT

In February 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes filed a first-of-its-kind consumer fraud lawsuit against GlaxoSmithKline for its role in an unfair scheme to jack up the price of prescription asthma medication for thousands of Arizona children and consumers. In response to federal limits placed on the inflation of name brand drug prices, GlaxoSmithKline converted their widely prescribed asthma medication Flovent to a generic drug, allowing the pharmaceutical company to continue charging outrageous prices. Through manipulation of the patent system, GlaxoSmithKline ensured that it could avoid Medicare reimbursement rates while also avoiding competing generic drugs. The generic drug scheme caused a medication shortage and forced many consumers to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket to purchase necessary medication previously covered by their insurance. The Attorney General will not tolerate this kind of predatory behavior and the AGO will continue to do everything we can to stop these unfair practices to protect Arizona consumers.



“GlaxoSmithKline jeopardized the health of asthma patients to avoid their legal obligations. Arizona's families and children deserve better.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



STOPPING FALSE AND DECEPTIVE MEDICAL CLAIMS

CASE HIGHLIGHT: CORD BLOOD BANK LAWSUIT

In March of 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes filed a lawsuit against CBR Systems, Inc. (“CBR”), alleging the company engaged in deceptive and unfair practices that preyed on families at one of the most vulnerable moments of their lives—the birth of a child. CBR, one of the nation’s largest cord blood banking companies, marketed itself as a trusted partner for parents hoping to safeguard the future health of their newborns by preserving valuable stem cells in the blood from umbilical cords. The Attorney General filed a consumer fraud lawsuit alleging that that CBR systematically misled consumers concerning the uses of cord blood, failed to deliver on its promises to adequately preserve cord blood, and engaged in an unethical kickback scheme with healthcare providers.

“As long as I am Attorney General, any company that preys on parents during one of the most important moments of their lives will be held accountable.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES

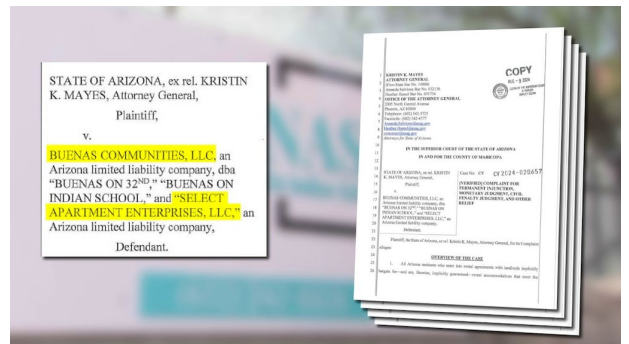


ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISES

Throughout Fiscal Year 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes continued her relentless efforts to protect Arizona renters from deceptive and unfair business practices. Through public advocacy for mobile home park residents and tenants to strategic litigation, the Attorney General has made the needs of mobile home park residents and tenants a top priority of her administration. While continuing to litigate against anti-competitive practices with price-fixing rental algorithms, the Attorney General has turned her attention to unlawful practices that affect the health and safety renters and mobile home park residents.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: BUENAS COMMUNITIES LAWSUIT

In August of 2024, Attorney General Kris Mayes filed a lawsuit against Buenas Communities LLC, the corporate landlord operating the apartment complex known as “Buenas on 32nd,” for willfully neglecting to provide habitable living conditions for its residents. The complaint alleges a pattern of neglect and deception by Buenas Communities the jeopardized the residents through faulty, intermittent air conditioning and pervasive mold. Upon learning about the conditions at Buenas Communities, Attorney General Mayes issued a demand letter requiring the landlord to immediately fix the issues. When the landlord failed to act, Attorney General Mayes filed a consumer fraud lawsuit and obtained a temporary restraining order to prevent any further harm to the tenants.





CASE HIGHLIGHT: REDWOOD MOBILE HOME PARK LAWSUIT

In the summer of 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes took decisive action to address the ongoing epidemic jeopardizing the lives of residents in mobile home parks throughout Arizona. In August Attorney General Mayes filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against the owners and operators of Redwood Mobile Home Park in Tucson for failing to inform Park residents that the Park’s electrical system was extremely dangerous, unreliable, and overloaded. Residents of the Park have suffered unacceptable regular electrical outages, leaving them unable to air condition their homes as temperatures in Tucson routinely spike to triple digits. The repeated outages had created dangerous and potentially deadly conditions for residents.



“Every Arizona renter, no matter their income level, deserves fairness and honesty from their landlord. I will not stand by while vulnerable residents are subjected to such deplorable conditions.”
-ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES

ADDRESSING ISSUES FOR RURAL ARIZONANS

CASE HIGHLIGHT: FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS LAWSUIT

In 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes filed a consumer protection lawsuit and reached settlement with Frontier Communications, Inc. regarding its internet and telephone services in rural Arizona. For years, Frontier has failed to provide Arizonans with the telecommunications services that were promised, leaving rural Arizonans to suffer slower internet service, frequent outages, and, at times, the inability to even dial “911.” As a result of this settlement, Frontier Communications will invest \$8M to expand and enhance rural broadband in Navajo and Apache counties, which will help bring reliable, high-speed internet and telephone services to areas where it has been lacking. This consumer fraud investigation was settled in conjunction with Attorney General Mayes’ settlement regarding Frontier’s merger with Verizon in front of the Arizona Corporation Commission and also addressed Frontier’s reliability and public safety.



PROTECTING VULNERABLE AND OLDER ADULTS

Protecting Arizona seniors from abuse and exploitation is an important priority for the Attorney General's Office. The office provides information on scams and consumer fraud, takes legal and criminal action against those who prey on seniors, and supports legislation to protect seniors.

FOCUSING ON COMBATING ELDER ABUSE

Attorney General Mayes created an Elder Affairs Unit to dedicate more investigative and prosecution resources to assist those victims of elder financial exploitation and abuse. The Unit works closely with law enforcement, state agencies and stakeholders to prevent and prosecute elder abuse. This fiscal year, the Elder Affairs Unit opened 25 criminal elder abuse cases and handled 653 phone calls and emails from the Taskforce Against Senior Abuse related complaints.

ELDER ABUSE REGISTRY

The Attorney General's Office published a new online Elder Abuse Registry, which includes civil, criminal, and administrative actions involving vulnerable adults that have been reported to the Attorney General. The Elder Abuse Registry is available to view and download at our 'Senior Abuse' webpage.

FIGHTING FRAUDSTERS THAT PREY ON OLDER ADULTS

CASE HIGHLIGHT: REAL ESTATE SCAM TARGETING ELDERLY ARIZONANS

In August of 2025, Attorney General Mayes filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against a pair of individuals, along with more than 50 entities they controlled, for allegedly running a predatory real estate scheme that stripped vulnerable homeowners of their property. The defendants operated under several misleading names such as "Hands with Hope," advertising themselves as professionals who could "rescue" homeowners from foreclosure. Instead of helping homeowners in need, the defendants tricked them into signing over the deeds to their homes.

"This scheme specifically targeted elderly Arizonans who were already struggling. Let me be clear: anyone who tries to profit by exploiting vulnerable Arizonans will be held accountable by my office."

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES





HEALING COMMUNITIES FROM THE OPIOID CRISIS

Attorney General Mayes is taking an all-of-the-above approach to help Arizonans recover from the fallout of the opioid crisis. As the Arizona Attorney General, it is her job to protect Arizona’s citizens, and she will continue using all legal avenues available to confront and fight the drug cartels that are causing immeasurable and irreparable harm in our state.

“With every sentence my office secures, the streets of Arizona become safer. We will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute those responsible for the scourge of fentanyl in our communities.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



CLOGGING THE FENTANYL FUNNEL

**6.54
Million**
FENTANYL PILLS
SEIZED

Attorney General Mayes has made fighting the fentanyl crisis a top priority since taking office in 2023. The Attorney General’s office partners with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies on High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task forces to reduce or eliminate the production, manufacture, transportation, distribution and chronic use of illegal drugs and money laundering in Arizona.

The collaboration between the AGO and our local and federal law enforcement partners has been vital to our efforts at keeping this deadly drug off our streets. Our task forces have successfully completed significant seizures of fentanyl pills and other illicit drugs that are funneled through Arizona. The AGO has announced multi-year sentences for the drug traffickers responsible for the sale and possession of these dangerous drugs. These sentences serve as a clear message: those who choose to endanger our communities by trafficking dangerous drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine will be held accountable. The Attorney General will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute these crimes to the fullest extent of the law. In addition to enforcement actions, the Attorney General's Office is also focusing its efforts to combat the fentanyl crisis on prevention and awareness.

OPERATION DOUBLE DOWN

Operation Double Down was a wiretap investigation designed to gather intelligence to identify and interdict individuals transporting illegal drugs throughout the Phoenix-area. The Criminal Division worked in conjunction with Phoenix Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Prosecutors indicted 25 subjects and the investigation was honored at the National HIDTA Awards in April 2025.





CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. VICTOR VARGAS

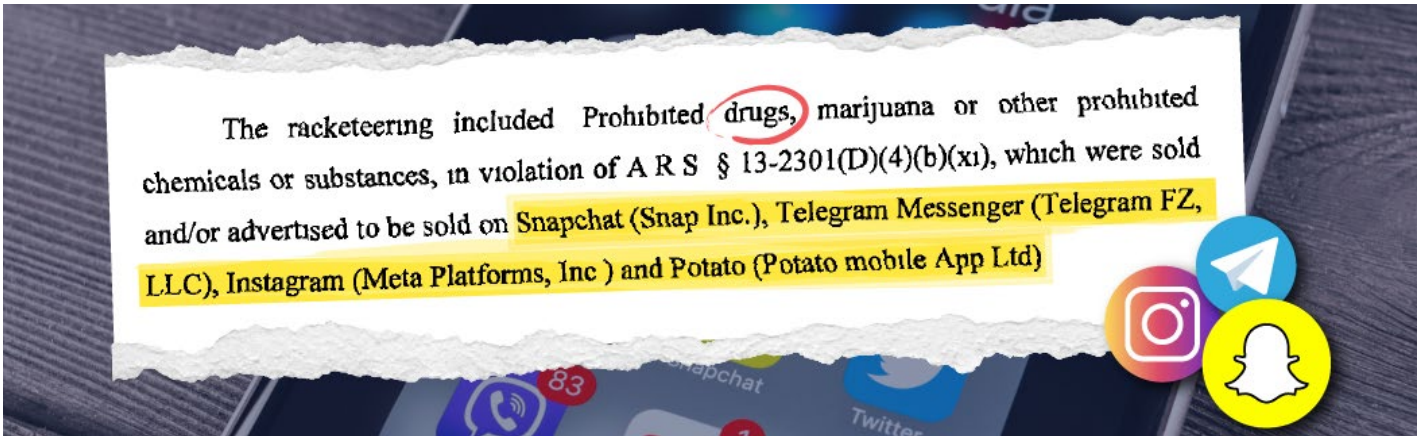
The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Scottsdale Police Department recovered approximately 142 pounds of methamphetamine, 53 pounds of fentanyl (equating to approximately 241,000 pills marked as oxycodone but laced with fentanyl), 3 pounds of cocaine, 1.5 pounds of heroin, \$24,000 in cash, and a handgun. Vargas was prosecuted and sentenced to 15 years in prison.



CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. BALTAZAR QUINTERO-BUENO

Baltazar Quintero-Bueno sold fentanyl pills, and other drugs for cash. He also possessed for-sale quantities of fentanyl pills, fentanyl powder, and methamphetamine to sell. He was prosecuted and sentenced to seven years of prison. He was also ordered to forfeit guns involved in the offense, including: a Rugar 9mm, CZ Pistol, and a Polymer80 Pistol 9mm.

HOLDING SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE



Attorney General Mayes believes Arizonans have a right to know when social media companies are used to enable and facilitate illegal activities including drug trafficking. To expose these abuses, the AGO created a webpage at www.azag.gov/holding-social-media-companies-accountable. This webpage serves as a resource where the public can see cases, indictments, and investigations where social media companies are named in connection with criminal activity and drug trafficking.

“For too long, social media companies have turned a blind eye to how their platforms are used by drug traffickers—especially to target young people. We will call it out, case by case, and hold these companies publicly accountable.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES





PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

Attorney General Mayes’ takes seriously her role in protecting the environment to the full extent of the law. Whether it is protecting our rural groundwater resources from depletion or holding polluters accountable, Attorney General Mayes is dedicated to fighting for a clean and healthy environment that will sustain Arizonans for generations to come.

PRESERVING OUR WATER

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE OF ARIZONA V. FONDOMONTE ARIZONA, LLC.

On December 11th, 2024, the Attorney General made good on this commitment when she brought suit against Fondomonte Arizona, LLC, for conducting a public nuisance by pumping massive amounts of groundwater to grow alfalfa. In the lawsuit, General Mayes alleges that Fondomonte continues to extract vast amounts of groundwater, causing a significant decline in the groundwater levels in the Ranegras Plain Basin in rural La Paz county, an area of the state that lacks the protection against excessive groundwater pumping provided by the Arizona’s Groundwater Management Act. As such, there are few options available to protect the groundwater other than the public nuisance doctrine.

Under A.R.S. § 13-2917, a public nuisance is anything that is “injurious to health, indecent, offensive to the senses or an obstruction to the free use of property that interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by an entire community or neighborhood or by a considerable number of persons.” As alleged in the complaint, Fondomonte’s actions have already inflicted harm on the entire community within the Ranegras Basin, and its ongoing conduct will exacerbate this damage. A defendant can commit a public nuisance without violating any law or regulation. Indeed, public nuisance law often fills the gap when regulatory bodies – the state legislature and state agencies, have failed to address the risks to public health or welfare. That, Mayes contends, is the case here, where the people of La Paz county are at risk of losing their access to water because there are no laws in place to protect their access.

Attorney General Mayes continues to litigate this ground-breaking case to protect the groundwater of rural Arizona. She is asking that the court enjoin Fondomonte from excessively pumping groundwater in violation of A.R.S. 13-2917 and requiring Fondomonte establish an abatement fund to assist the Ranegras Basin’s community with the harms they are experiencing as a result of Fondomonte’s alleged over-pumping, from continued and worsening groundwater shortages, water quality decline, subsiding land, damage to infrastructure, and degraded equipment.





PROTECTING LANDS AND COMMUNITIES

Arizona’s lands and communities are rich and diverse. Attorney General Mayes takes seriously her job to uphold the laws that protect Arizona’s land and people from those who would ride roughshod over those protections for short-term profit.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: WASHINGTON V. TRUMP

In May 2025, Attorney General Mayes filed suit alongside 14 other state attorneys general to challenge President Trump’s fake “energy emergency,” declared to enrich Big Oil and gut environmental protections by fast-tracking polluting energy projects without proper review.

On Inauguration Day, President Donald Trump declared a “national energy emergency” under the National Emergencies Act. That law was passed to ensure presidents don’t abuse emergency powers for partisan gain – exactly what the Trump administration is doing.

At the president’s direction, federal agencies are bypassing critical environmental and public health reviews required under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. These laws safeguard Arizona’s rivers, wildlife, and tribal heritage.

U.S. energy production is already at record highs. The president’s order won’t increase supply – but it will drive up prices by boosting exports and allow polluters to trample state protections and public lands.

Federal agencies have historically used emergency procedures only in true crises, like hurricanes or catastrophic oil spills – not to push through fossil fuel projects without public input or science-based analysis. Yet agencies are now acting under emergency protocols simply because the president ordered it.

Attorney General Mayes is asking the court to declare the executive order and its implementation illegal, and to halt the issuance of emergency permits under this unauthorized policy.



“Arizona will not stand by while the federal government trashes environmental safeguards, endangers Tribal lands, and undermines clean energy in favor of outdated, polluting fuels.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



DEFENDING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Attorney General Kris Mayes hit the ground running on her first day in office to protect reproductive rights in Arizona. The first-ever Reproductive Rights Unit within the Attorney General’s Office stays attuned to key issues and legal developments in the reproductive healthcare space, as well as coordinates with other states and groups nationwide to protect and expand access. Attorney General Mayes has also vowed to keep Arizonans informed on the state of the law and updates in reproductive healthcare.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO ABORTION

Attorney General Mayes takes legal positions that will protect the health, safety, and privacy of all Arizonans. Under her leadership, Arizona has joined with other states in affirmative litigation to preserve and expand reproductive freedoms in our state and across the country.

In June 2025, Attorney General Mayes joined a coalition of Attorneys General in a letter to the American Hospital Association reminding hospitals of their obligation to comply with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA). The letter responds to the Trump Administration’s recent decision to revoke prior guidance that underscored the obligation of covered hospitals to provide emergency abortion care under EMTALA. As the letter explains, the Trump Administration cannot change the law unilaterally, and EMTALA continues to remain in full force and effect throughout the country.

In August 2025, Attorney General Kris Mayes and 16 other states, as well as the District of Columbia, urged the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to remove burdensome restrictions on mifepristone, one of two drugs used in medication abortions, the most common means of abortion in the U.S. The coalition of attorneys general request that the FDA finally remove these onerous and unnecessary restrictions on mifepristone. Alternatively, they ask FDA to stop enforcing the requirements in their states because the states already have robust regulatory schemes to ensure patient safety. Since taking office, Attorney General Mayes has fought to preserve access to medication abortion, including as a plaintiff alongside 16 other states and the District of Columbia in a federal lawsuit in Washington state to protect access to mifepristone.

“Medical decisions should be left between patients, their families, and their providers—and they should be guided by science, not political agendas.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES





SAFEGUARDING CIVIL RIGHTS

The Attorney General’s Office enforces civil rights laws, increases public awareness of civil rights, provides dispute resolution services, and offers community services.

3,017
ALLEGATIONS OF
DISCRIMINATION
INVESTIGATED

PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS

The AGO secured a consent decree to resolve a public enforcement lawsuit against a behavioral healthcare company, Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc. and its subsidiary, Sierra Tucson, LLC. The suit alleged that Sierra Tucson violated the Arizonans with Disabilities Act (“AzDA”) by failing to provide effective communication to an individual who is hard of hearing during her inpatient residential treatment. Under the AzDA, a person or entity that operates a place of public accommodation must not discriminate against individuals with disabilities in providing goods and services.

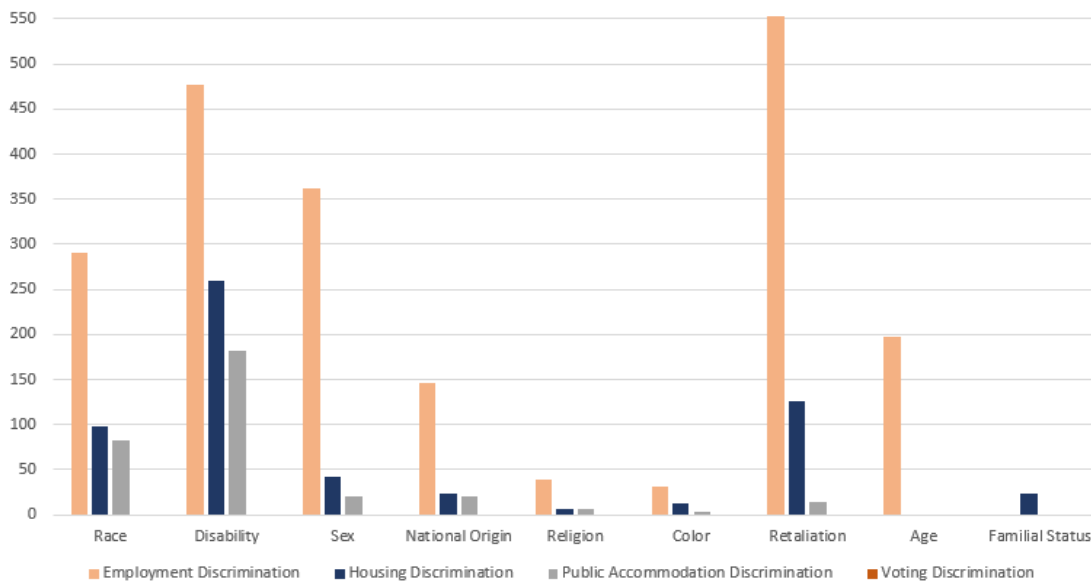
EMPLOYMENT

The AGO secured a Consent Decree to successfully resolve a public enforcement employment discrimination lawsuit against Precision Tool & Construction Supply, Inc. (“Precision”). The suit alleged that Precision violated the Arizona Civil Rights Act (“ACRA”) by suspending an employee without pay because its owners learned she was pregnant. Under the ACRA, it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against applicants and employees because of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

FAIR HOUSING

The AGO secured a Consent Decree to successfully resolve a public enforcement discrimination lawsuit against Shirley Ann Enterprises, LLC (“Shirley Ann”). The suit alleged that Shirley Ann violated the Arizona Fair Housing Act when it refused to renew a lease due to a tenant’s disability-related need for an assistance animal and retaliated against and interfered with a tenant’s fair housing rights.

ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION





STOPPING CRIMINALS IN THEIR TRACKS

The Attorney General’s Office prosecutes crimes including RICO crimes, public corruption, internet crimes committed against children, human trafficking, crimes against vulnerable adults, money laundering, street gangs, and transnational drug trafficking organizations responsible for smuggling fentanyl and other dangerous drugs.

2,857
CASES
OPENED

1,677
DEFENDANTS
CHARGED

\$38.2 M
RESTITUTION TO
VICTIMS

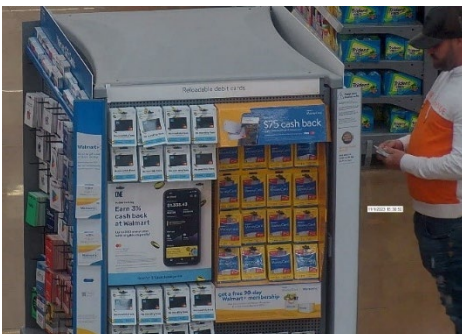
1,061
CASES
RESOLVED

COMBATING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME

The Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Task Force brings together retailers and with local and federal law enforcement to address the sophisticated, organized crime rings. The cross-agency collaboration leads to greater success in addressing multi-jurisdictional thefts that endanger employees and cause significant economic harm to the State of Arizona, businesses and consumers.



CASE HIGHLIGHT: YUNIEL RODRIGUEZ LEON, ET AL



Yuniel Rodriguez Leon was convicted for his role in an ORT ring in which he and co-defendant Osvaldo Rodriguez worked with others to steal and clone gift cards. Once the cards were loaded with funds, the funds would be withdrawn before the consumer could use them. These defendants have affected victims in New Mexico, Florida, and several locations throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan area stealing approximately \$40,000. Prosecutors worked with store investigators to assist with this investigation. Yuniel and Osvaldo were sentenced to prison and a period of probation upon release.



ENFORCING TOBACCO LAWS

The Attorney General’s Office continued its efforts to enforce statutes related to the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products in the state. This work provides a significant public health benefit to Arizonans. The office was in full compliance with the Escrow Statute and Directory Statute, work that is integral to the protection of the annual Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement payment of approximately \$100 million.

1,877
TOBACCO
INSPECTIONS

445
TOBACCO
CITATIONS



OPERATION COUNTER STRIKE

The Tobacco Enforcement Unit (TEU) continued their efforts to reduce youth access to tobacco products through the Counter Strike program. Counter Strike is focused on monitoring retailer compliance with state laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products – including electronic cigarettes- to minors. This program operates statewide, with special agents and youth volunteers working undercover to determine if retailers are complying with this prohibition.

STAMPING OUT GOVERNMENT FRAUD & ABUSE

The AGO prosecutes frauds by individuals and organized criminal groups who take advantage of government programs. The Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) is a program attracts fraud and abuse that the AGO investigates and prosecutes in order to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. DELORES SWEET, ET. AL.

Delores Sweet and co-conspirators used their Arizona Department of Education (ADE) positions to divert over \$600,000 in tax-payer monies under the guise that it would be used for educational services. Documents showed that several of the students who were categorized as disabled and received the highest funding, did not exist, or did not qualify for the program. The ESA funds were used for day-to-day living and cash reimbursements. Defendants pled guilty and were sentenced to probation, jail, prison, and restitution.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. RANDY KAAS

An investigation revealed that Randy Kaas was fraudulently obtaining funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) administered through the victim Small Business Administration to mitigate the effects of COVID on the business community. Kaas obtained approximately \$3.7 million in PPP funds through a scheme of creating multiple corporations with thousands of non-existent employees. Prosecutors recovered \$1.82 million for the victim agency.



SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS

The AGO Health Care Fraud and Abuse Section investigates and prosecutes health care fraud crimes that impact the State's \$21 billion-dollar Medicaid program administered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Prosecutors and Agents continued to uncover massive frauds in the realm of behavioral health and sober living homes funded by AHCCCS. In FY25, over 50 criminal investigation referrals were received from AHCCCS OIG including approximately 18 referrals of credible allegations of Medicaid Fraud by criminal organizations masquerading as Behavioral Health Providers and/or Sober Living Homes.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. L & L Investments

A jury found L & L Investments guilty of multiple felony charges. L & L was ordered to pay more than \$34 million in fines and restitution following the company defrauding Arizona's Medicaid program through fraudulent sober living home claims by defrauding taxpayers and exploiting those seeking behavioral health treatment. L & L also facilitated fraud by other bad actors by acting as a "consultant," handling billing and administrative duties—but in reality, L & L was maximizing profits by franchising its fraud scheme.

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. JEFFREYON KENNEDY JR

An undercover chat operation was conducted in the City of Globe. Detectives were contacted via a social media account by a male suspect wanting to meet to have sex with a 9-year-old boy. During that contact the male suspect sent five videos of minor children as young as a 1-year-old being sexual abused by adults. While the suspect did not meet and stopped communicating with the detectives, Special Agents authored dozens of search warrants, identifying the male suspect. Kennedy is was a registered sex offender. He was later prosecuted and was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. CRISTOPHER MCKAY

After a cyber tip was reported by someone uploading 2,906 child sex abuse material (CSAM), several search warrants to the electronic service providers identified Christopher McKay. After a search warrant to seize McKay's laptop and hard drives, a forensic preview identified 76,000 more images/videos. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

ASSISTING COUNTY ATTORNEYS

The Criminal Division accepts conflict cases from County Attorney's offices around the State of Arizona. In FY25, 10 cases were accepted.

FIGHTING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As a state agency with specialized resources, the Criminal Division is in best position to handle human trafficking investigations. National human trafficking expert, Special Agent Heidi Chance joined the office to lead Arizona's human trafficking efforts. Prosecutors and agents partnered with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies to prosecute three interstate human traffickers. The office also conducted 19 training sessions for over 1,600 attendees for various organizations throughout the State.



SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THOSE MISSING & MURDERED

The Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)/Cold Case Unit investigated and/or reviewed 34 cold case homicides. Ten of those cases are being actively pursued. The team has also attended missing person events at Navajo Nation, Fort McDowell Nation, Tohono O’odham Nation, Gila River Nation and Salt River Nation where they passed out DNA kits to the tribal community and conducted missing person training.

SERVING VICTIMS

The Attorney General’s Office is committed to a system of justice that ensures that those who do harm to others are held responsible. But equally important is a justice system that remembers, respects, and includes victims. The Office of Victim Services (OVS) team is tasked with providing trauma-informed, victim-centered rights and assistance to crime victims in cases the office is investigating, prosecuting and handling on appeal—to include capital death penalty cases.

The office is charged with the Arizona Victims' Bill of Rights, ensuring compliance with victims' rights through financial and technical support to State, county and city law enforcement and prosecutorial offices, custodial and correctional agencies as well as courts who have duties and responsibilities established by Arizona's victims' rights laws.

5,749
VICTIMS
SERVED



“Through the long process of bringing the case to its conclusion both [advocates] have been helpful, courteous and professional. It was because of their assistance we have been able to put this matter in our past and move on to a better future.”

- VICTIMS, TRIAL



REPRESENTING THE STATE ON APPEAL

The Solicitor General's Office appears on behalf of the State in federal and state appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court and Arizona Supreme Court. The division handles appeals from felony convictions, including in capital cases and cases involving other serious violent crimes. The division also handles civil appeals, public monies investigations, and a variety of high-profile, constitutional litigation in state and federal trial courts.

DEFENDING CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, SENTENCES, AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Attorney General's Office, which is responsible for handling appeals in all felony criminal cases in the state—including all capital cases—successfully defended convictions and sentences in hundreds of criminal cases this year. That includes defending felony convictions obtained across Arizona on direct appeal in the Arizona Court of Appeals and Arizona Supreme Court. It also includes defending those convictions in federal court when petitions for writs of habeas corpus are filed.

RESUMING EXECUTIONS, CARRIED OUT LAWFULLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY

This year, the Attorney General successfully obtained a warrant of execution for Aaron Gunches, who committed a horrific murder more than 20 years ago. Gunches was executed on March 19, 2025. The execution of another death row inmate, Richard Djerf, is currently scheduled for October 17, 2025.

REPRESENTING AZ'S INTERESTS IN CASES OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

The Attorney General's Office represented and defended the State's interests in numerous cases before both state and federal courts involving matters of statewide importance. In addition, the Office filed and joined amicus curiae briefs in federal court—including the United States Supreme Court—to defend Arizona's interests regarding national issues. For example, the Office:

- Continued fighting in a lawsuit to prevent the Food and Drug Administration from reversing its approval of a proven-safe abortion medication;
- Informed a court that Arizona's 15-week abortion ban was unconstitutional under Prop 139, the constitutional amendment passed by the voters in 2024;
- Continued defending against three challenges to the Stop Dark Money Initiative (Prop 211)—including one filed by the Arizona Legislature—which passed with more than 70% of the vote in 2022;
- Pushed back on utility regulators' attempts to increase rates;
- Fought to protect Baaj Nwaavjo l'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument in a lawsuit filed by the Arizona Legislature and others;
- Joined amicus briefs to help ensure that veterans receive all the benefits they've been promised;
- Initiated a public monies investigation regarding unlawful spending in the Empowerment Scholarships Account (ESAs) program and litigated those issues in court;
- Defended the Election Procedures Manual against attack in multiple cases;
- Defended a statute that protects victims' rights against attack;
- Defended Arizona sex offender registration laws against attack; and
- Defended numerous other state statutes against constitutional challenges.

PROVIDING LEGAL CLARITY THROUGH ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

The Attorney General's Office receives requests from state legislators, state officials, and county attorneys to provide legal opinions to clarify important areas of law. Thus far in 2025, Attorney General Mayes has issued eight opinions clarifying, among other things:

- Voters who are citizens and who did everything right cannot have their voter registrations cancelled by county recorders simply because the government made a mistake in its recordkeeping;
- Arizona's law allowing undocumented individuals who meet specific requirements to obtain in-state tuition is consistent with federal law; and
- Law enforcement officers certified to conduct urgent blood draws for criminal investigations do not need to obtain medical malpractice insurance to do that important work.



FIGHTING UNLAWFUL FEDERAL ABUSE

The federal government has taken numerous steps this year to deprive Arizona of much-needed funding, usurp the plain language of the Constitution, and threaten the rule of law. The Solicitor General’s Office’s Special Litigation Section has worked hard to push back on these unlawful actions. And the Attorney General’s fight against unlawful federal actions is not just limited to the Trump administration—she continues to pursue a lawsuit that seeks to undo a determination made by the Biden administration’s IRS, which cost Arizona taxpayers millions of dollars.

Since President Trump took office, the Attorney General has filed 26 lawsuits to challenge unlawful actions that harm Arizonans. Already, through those lawsuits, the Attorney General has secured over \$1.5 billion in funding that the federal government had sought to withhold from Arizona. That funding includes money for critical services like health care, education, and border security.

Attorney General Mayes
is Fighting to Protect Arizonans through **Federal Action Lawsuits**

KRIS MAYES is Fighting to Protect:

- Arizona Consumers
- Federal Funding
- Data Privacy
- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Federal Workers
- Public Education
- Election Integrity
- Clean Energy
- Libraries & Museums
- Birthright Citizenship
- Medical Research

learn more at : azag.gov/media/lawsuits

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LAWSUITS FILED:

- Challenging President Trump’s illegal and arbitrary tariffs, which would raise costs for consumers and businesses, and weaken Arizona’s economy.
- Challenging President Trump’s unlawful executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship when the plain language of the Constitution clearly provides for it;
- Challenging President Trump’s unlawful executive order on elections, which oversteps the role of the federal government, threatens Arizona’s sovereignty, and threatens the integrity of our elections.
- Challenging President Trump’s unlawful effort to freeze funds for states across the board, including for Medicaid (AHCCCS), border security, counterterrorism, veterans’ services, air quality, and roads.



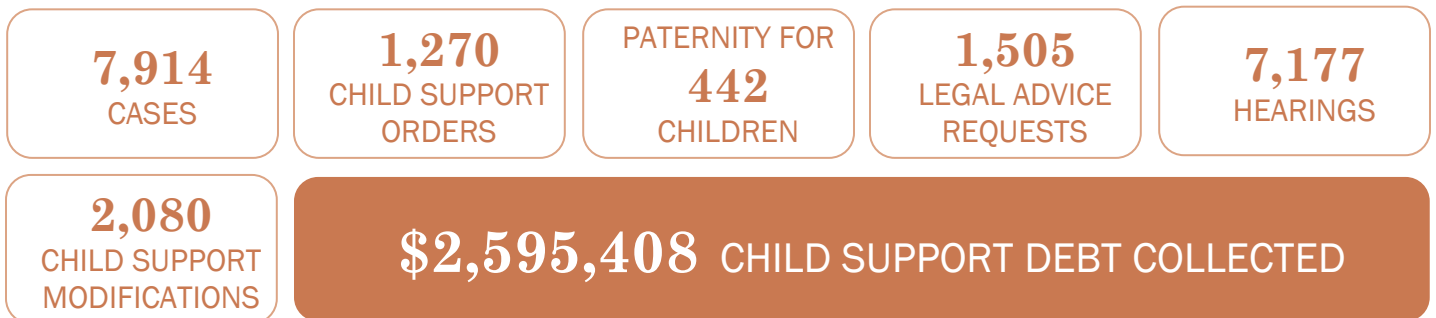
SERVING ARIZONA FAMILIES

The Child and Family Protection Division (CFPD) at the Attorney General’s Office works closely with the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to protect children, their safety and well-being.

SECURING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

The Child Support Services Section (CSS) provides legal advice and representation to DES’s Division of Child Support Services (DCSS). In partnership with DCSS, CSS works to set up co-parenting families to succeed and to ensure that children receive financial support from both parents.

This year, CSS worked more than seven thousand cases to secure results for DCSS and Arizona families—attending more than seven thousand hearings, in addition to companion court-ordered settlement meetings. CSS facilitated paternity establishment for hundreds of children and obtained new child support orders for more than one thousand families. CSS assisted families that were navigating changing financial circumstances by resolving more than two thousand child support modifications. Having collected more than two million dollars in past-due child support, CSS ultimately assisted DCSS in collecting child support debt of more than \$240,263,754.52.

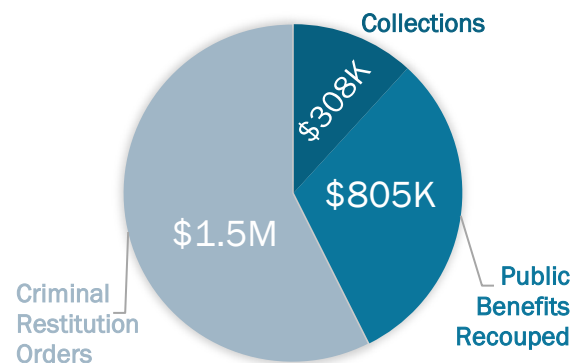


SAFEGUARDING FUNDS FOR FAMILIES

Attorneys in the Civil and Criminal Litigation and Advice Section (CLA) provide legal advice to DES and DCS and represent the agencies in administrative, civil, and criminal proceedings. In the majority of proceedings, members of the public have the opportunity to appeal adverse public benefit determinations or challenge their proposed placement on certain registries. CLA closed 806 administrative, civil, and appellate cases this fiscal year and reviewed 167 contracts, leases, intergovernmental agreements and/or amendments. CLA also advises and represents DES and DCS regarding matters arising from their respective business operations, including employment law matters, public records law, agency policies, proposed rule changes, proposed legislation, and facilities management.

Those who defraud the State through DES public benefits programs are prosecuted by CLA. In FY25, CLA recouped \$804,893 in public benefits prior to sentencing and secured \$1.5 million in criminal restitution orders. Through its collections and garnishment proceedings, CLA recouped an additional \$307,963 in public benefits on behalf of DES.

PUBLIC MONIES RECOUPED





PROTECTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Protective Services Section (PSS) provides legal advice and representation to DCS in dependency, guardianship and termination proceedings. The primary objective of each case is to safely reunify families or, if reunification is not possible, find safe, permanent caregivers for each child. The path to permanency requires intense and frequent litigation. Attorneys participated in about 40,500 hearings this year.

Of the cases that concluded in 2024, over 2000 cases ended with parental reunification and stronger family situations, more than 1100 cases ended with children residing in permanent guardianships with relatives or family friends, and over 1000 children became available for adoption.

The newly created Appeals Section (APL) was formed late in the fiscal year, but previously functioned as a unit within PSS. It provides appellate representation and legal advice to the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) statewide. The Section's appellate work derives from cases that are litigated in the superior court by PSS attorneys; from appeals that arise from ADES Appeals Board decisions, primarily regarding unemployment insurance benefits; and from matters litigated in the superior court by CSS or CLA attorneys. APL also provides legal research, consultation, and other litigation support to division attorneys. In Fiscal Year 2025, appellate attorneys for the Child & Family Protection Division filed 108 appellate briefs and at least thirty-eight substantive motion pleadings or other memoranda for an appellate court.

UNDERSTANDING LITIGANTS TO BETTER SERVE CLIENTS

The entire CFPD team once again came together for our annual continuing legal education (CLE) conference. Over the course of two days, attorneys and paralegals participated in seminars to enhance understanding of trial advocacy, trauma-informed litigation practice, and pertinent legislative and appellate developments. The division benefitted both from community experts and leaders within our division. CFPD provided up to eleven hours of required CLE, including all required hours of professional responsibility CLE. The division also recognized outstanding attorney and legal support professionals for their leadership, team work, and advocacy.





REPRESENTING STATE AGENCIES

The State Government Division provides legal advice and representation to state agencies in areas of environmental enforcement, education and health, employment law, liability management, licensing, natural resources, public law, taxes and transportation.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Enforcement Section (EES) represents the State in civil enforcement actions for violations of Arizona's environmental protection laws.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. SUPERSTITION CRUSHING

In *State of Arizona v. Superstition Crushing*, EES successfully negotiated a consent judgment requiring the Defendant to pay a total civil penalty of \$340,000 for air quality violations (\$190,000 which was due and payable immediately and \$150,000 which was deferred and collectible if Defendant committed future violations during the two-year duration of the consent judgment). Superstition Crushing had knowingly violated their air quality permit for several months by exceeding throughput limits for their rock crushing and screening activities, thereby emitting excess particulate matter pollution into the air. Over the 141 days it operated during the calendar year in question, Superstition Crushing violated its throughput limits on 93 of those days. Superstition Crushing also failed to notify ADEQ that it had moved its equipment from Marana to Tucson for over four months, making it difficult for ADEQ to uncover the violations.

DEFENDING ARIZONA'S SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Education Unit represents Arizona's K-12 state education entities, which include the State Board of Education, State Board for Charter Schools, State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and the School Facilities Oversight Board within the ADOA School Facilities Division. This past year, the attorneys in the Education Unit provided advice on matters involving school capital funding, educator discipline, school achievement profiles (A-F grades), Open Meeting Law, rulemaking, and more. Beyond advising client agencies, the Education Unit assists in the initial drafting of formal AGO opinions related to education. This year, the Education Unit assisted in drafting opinions regarding the regulation of "tiny homes" on a college campus in northern Arizona and reimbursement mechanisms between school districts and career technical education (CTE) districts. A small, but mighty subset of the Education Unit, the Educator Discipline Team, handled over 230 cases this year, settling approximately half of them while taking the remaining cases to a hearing before the Board's Professional Practices Advisory Committee.

ENSURING HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS ARE SAFE

All health care institutions in Arizona—such as hospitals, outpatient clinics, behavioral health facilities, nursing care institutions, assisted living facilities, home health care agencies, sober living homes, and hospices—are required to be licensed and to comply with the Arizona Department of Health Services' (ADHS) licensing statutes and rules. The Attorney General's Office may file an action to prevent unlicensed facilities or unlicensed individuals from operating; and if a licensed health care institution or licensed individual violates statute and rule, the office may file action to fine, suspend or revoke a license. The Health Unit has handled more than 350 licensing enforcement actions this year and has successfully defended ADHS actions taken to ensure public health and safety.



CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. KANKIEWICZ

The Department successfully obtained a permanent injunction against an unlicensed midwife performing midwifery without licensure.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. LOYAL CARE ASSISTED LIVING, LLC, CLERFOND AND ROBERTO-THELEMAQUE

The Department successfully brought an injunctive action against assisted living home providers who were operating without licensure after they ignored notices from the Department for over a year. The permanent injunction will prevent unlicensed care and enjoin the providers from obtaining any health care licensure for at least seven years.

LICENSING

The Licensing & Enforcement Section (LES) represents 30 state professional licensing and regulatory boards and agencies. The LES attorneys serve as general counsel and provide representation in administrative disciplinary and license denial hearings. The attorneys also represent the boards and agencies in the Superior Court, the Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court in judicial review actions, special actions, and injunctive proceedings. The LES attorneys also provide legal advice to the boards and agencies regarding their governing statutes and rules and provide legal assistance with respect to their compliance with the open meeting and public records laws.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: HUBER V. ARIZONA NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS MEDICAL BOARD

The matter of *Huber v. Arizona Naturopathic Physicians Medical Board* serves as a representative example of the type of cases the Licensing Enforcement Section undertakes to help ensure their clients are protecting the public's health, safety and welfare. In this matter, Dr. Huber's license to practice naturopathic medicine was revoked after she repeatedly refused a patient's request for the contents and dosages of an intravenous (IV) therapy she prescribed to treat a patient's thyroid cancer. During and after treatment, the patient expressed concern about possible interactions between the IV and other supplements she was taking and repeatedly asked for a list of the IV's ingredients. Dr. Huber refused. At hearing, Dr. Huber unsuccessfully argued that that the IV's ingredients and amounts were proprietary. After conducting a trial de novo, the Superior Court affirmed the Board's decision. The matter is now pending before the Court of Appeals.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Section ("NRS") represents state land management agencies in litigation and provides advice regarding agency authority, compliance with state and federal law, property rights, land use, and contractual issues.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE TRUST LAND

NRS represented the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) in negotiations which lead to the Arizona Department of Water Resources' issuing a Transportation Order approving the transportation of groundwater from the Harquahala Groundwater Basin to the City of Buckeye and Town of Queen Creek.



The underlying agreement will enable ASLD to benefit from the use of infrastructure and the preservation of available groundwater that may be transported to Buckeye, Queen Creek, and other areas with significant amounts of State Trust Land, maximizing the benefit of these Lands to the Trust's beneficiaries, primarily public education.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: INDIAN LAND AGREEMENTS

NRS represents the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) in the implementation of the 1996 Hopi-Navajo Land Settlement Act, which will allow the Hopi Tribe to add up to 110,000 acres of land to the Hopi Reservation in areas south and west of Winslow, Arizona. The Hopi acquired over 20,000 acres in the past year. The parties are currently working to complete the final two phases of acquisition and to finalize the payment of just compensation to the Arizona State Land Trust for the benefit of the Trust's beneficiaries, primarily public education.

PUBLIC LAW

The Public Law Section (PLS) represents a diverse set of client agencies including those involved in financial and occupational regulation, liquor regulation, agriculture and natural resources, military affairs, economics, and promotions. This year, PLS successfully resolved a cattle forfeiture case for the Department of Agriculture. The Department seized 58 cattle which the Respondent had transported for sale from the Navajo Nation to Marana Stockyards. The Department then initiated forfeiture proceedings to determine ownership of the cattle. With PLS assistance, multiple members of the Navajo Nation testified during a six-day bench trial. The Pima County Superior Court found that the Navajo claimants succeeded in establishing ownership of 43 cattle, and that they were entitled to proceeds from the sale of those cattle totaling almost \$60,000. Proceeds from the sale of the remaining cattle totaling over \$16,000 were forfeited to the Department.

TAX

The Tax Unit represents the Arizona Department of Revenue in property tax, income tax, transaction privilege (sales) and use tax, and several other tax litigation matters. It also represents the Arizona Department of Transportation in fuel tax and aircraft license matters. The Tax Unit frequently litigates in The Arizona Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court, and works closely with the SGO on those matters. The Tax Unit also represents ADOR in federal court and this year successfully defendant a Petition for Review at the U.S. Supreme Court challenging certain property taxes.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Section (TRN) provides legal services to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), ADOT's Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS). TRN's representation of its clients encompasses litigation, transactions and day-to-day legal advice. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, attorneys in the TRN Right of Way Unit provided legal advice in almost all areas related to the design, construction, maintenance and regulation of the State highway system. Attorneys are currently providing representation on many high profile ADOT highway projects including I- 11, ADOT's I-10 widening project, SR 189 Nogales Point of Entry and the SR Loop 303 expansion. Between July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 DPS attorneys completed 749 legal opinions concerning the publication of offenders on the DPS Sex Offender Web Page.



PROMOTING EFFECTIVE STATE EMPLOYMENT MANAGEMENT

The Employment Law Section (ELS) provides advice and counsel, at every stage of the employment relationship, to more than one hundred state agencies, boards, commissions, and courts. ELS also provides proactive training for supervisors across state government to promote sound management practices and positive employee relations. ELS defends client agencies in matters alleging claims under the U.S. and Arizona constitutions; Title VII, the FMLA, the ADA, the FLSA, and the Arizona Employment Protection Act; and various employment-related torts. ELS attorneys represent state agencies in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies including the EEOC, the State Personnel Board, and the Law Enforcement Merit System Council. ELS also represents the State in workers compensation matters before the Arizona Industrial Commission.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: HUMMEL V. MARICOPA ADULT PROBATION DEPT.

An adult probation officer claimed that her employer violated the Americans with Disabilities Act when it declined to extend her medical leave beyond seven months. On appeal following a bench trial, the Ninth Circuit affirmed judgment for the defendant, affirming that the employer had reason to believe that the plaintiff would not have been physically able to work as a probation officer by her requested return date and that the absence would last indefinitely. The Ninth Circuit also affirmed that reinstatement was not an available remedy in light of the district court's well-supported finding that, should plaintiff be ordered reinstated, defendant would fire her for a lawful reason—the reason being that, while on approved medical leave, plaintiff operated a bail bond business in knowing violation of her employer's conflict of interest policies.

LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

The Liability Management Section (LMS) defends the State and State employees in lawsuits for which ADOA Risk Management provides coverage. Generally, these lawsuits allege State liability for torts or civil rights violations and seek substantial monetary damages. LMS also provides advice to ADOA Risk Management on various issues related to liability claims. The Section is comprised of four units—the ADC Unit, which represents the Department of Corrections and its employees in inmate lawsuits and other matters; the ADOT Unit, which represents the Department of Transportation in roadway liability cases; the Torts Unit, which represents most other State agencies and the State's three public universities; and the Appellate Unit, which does the appellate work when LMS cases go up on appeal.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: SANCHEZ-RAVUELTA V. YAVAPAI COUNTY, ET AL.

LMS achieved an Arizona Supreme Court victory in Sanchez-Ravuelta v. Yavapai County, et al. Plaintiffs were injured in a car crash caused by a drunk driver and sued the State, among others. Plaintiffs asserted, inter alia, that the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (DLLC) should have revoked the serving bar's liquor license based on an alleged pattern of overserving its patrons. The superior court dismissed the DLLC claim, holding that licensing does not create a tort duty to plaintiffs. Plaintiffs appealed and the court of appeals reversed, holding that the DLLC's enabling statutes create a tort duty to protect the public when a liquor licensee overserves a patron who then causes injury. The Supreme Court accepted the State's petition for review and rejected the lower court's finding that DLLC owed a duty, a critically important decision for the many state agencies with licensing functions.



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KRIS

MAYES

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE