



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2026

July 1st, 2025 -
June 30th, 2026

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL KRIS MAYES

A Message From the Attorney General

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2026 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, combating 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.

Over the last four years, I have continually been 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 black ink, appearing to read 'K Mayes'.

Kris Mayes

Arizona Attorney General



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About the Arizona 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.



15 Town Halls

8 AZ Counties Visited





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 Arizona Attorney General's Office protects consumers by returning stolen funds, investigating unfair business practices and educating the public on scams and fraud.



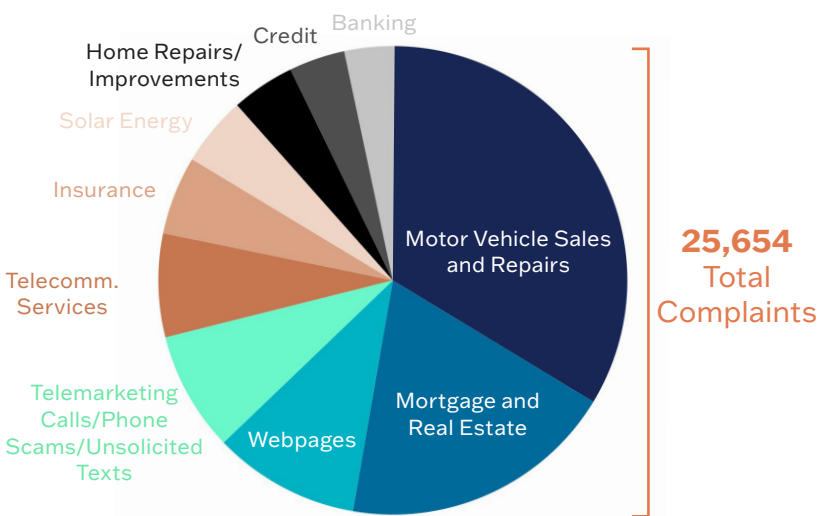
Resolving Consumer Complaints

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.

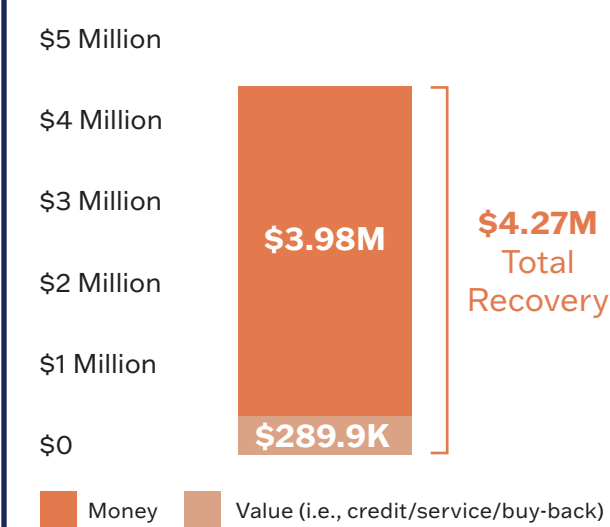
25,654
Consumer
Complaints

\$4,274,289
Recovered for
Consumers

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 algorithmic rental price-fixing, concert ticketing, and grocery prices.

Case Highlight: *RealPage - Settlements with Weidner & Avenue5*

Ever since filing a lawsuit against RealPage and related landlord conspirators in February 2024, the case has remained one of the groundbreaking actions against algorithmic price-fixing. RealPage's software allowed landlords to price apartment rents using competitors' nonpublic data and in a manner where RealPage's algorithms either assume pricing control or otherwise artificially inflate rents market-wide. Defendant and non-defendant landlords are starting to pay attention by adjusting their pricing policies and adjusting their use of third-party pricing software. In FY2026, landlord defendants Weidner and Avenue5 entered settlements valued at \$2.4 million that ensure they will not engage in illegal use of pricing algorithms going forward. The monetary portion of Weidner's settlement will be donated to a nonprofit to provide rental assistance to current and former Weidner residents, while funds from Avenue5's settlement will be distributed as restitution to affected tenants.

ABC15 Arizona

Arizona renters see money from \$1M settlement in price-fixing scheme

Thousands of Arizona renters could be eligible for part of a \$1 million agreement a landlord reached with the state to settle price-fixing...

Feb 25, 2026



Case Highlight: *Live Nation/Ticketmaster*

The Attorney General, joined by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and 39 other states, originally sued Live Nation and Ticketmaster in 2024, alleging it monopolized and drove up prices in several aspects of the live entertainment business, including concert promotions, venue management, and ticketing services. The case finally reached trial on March 2, 2026, but the DOJ shocked the nation with an underwhelming settlement in the first week of trial that would not fix the monopolization problems and provide consumers minimal relief, if any. The DOJ's settlement also purported to settle the states' claims. Attorney General Mayes stood firm with 33 other attorneys general to reject this gift to an unrepentant monopolist reached through a backroom deal. Instead, the states replaced all of the holes in its trial team left by the departing DOJ attorneys and powered through a five-week trial. The jury sided with the states on every claim. The case now proceeds to a second, liability phase where a judge will determine the specific damages and other remedies to impose on Live Nation and Ticketmaster.



Case Highlight: Egg Price Benchmark Manipulation

Attorney General Mayes joined a coalition comprised of the DOJ and 16 other states that investigated price spikes for eggs between June 2022 and March 2025, a time corresponding with historically high egg prices. Although egg producers blamed the price increases on bird flu outbreaks, similar outbreaks in previous years had not caused price spikes as large as seen during this period. The investigation revealed that some egg producers had coordinated bidding activity in an effort to manipulate an independent egg price benchmarking service, which in turn inflated egg prices paid by retailers and consumers nationwide. Three companies—Hickman’s Egg Ranch, Cal-Maine Foods, and Versova—agreed to collective settlements worth \$3.3 million and which required them to donate 53 million eggs, including over 2.3 million eggs to food banks in Arizona.



“When major egg producers engaged in illegal price-fixing that drove prices up, my office stepped in to stop them. When companies break the law and drive up costs for Arizonans, *we will hold them accountable and get real relief for Arizonans.*”

- Attorney General Mayes

Fighting for Housing Justice

Throughout Fiscal Year 2026, Attorney General Kris Mayes continued her ceaseless efforts to protect Arizona renters and homeowners from deceptive and unfair business practices. The Attorney General continued to litigate hidden rental charges and unlawful practices that affect the health and safety of renters and mobile home park residents. In addition, Attorney General Mayes secured the largest settlement with a home warranty company in Arizona history.

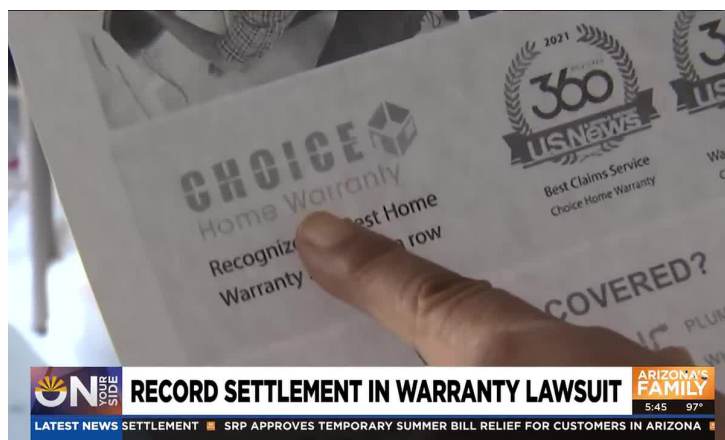
Case Highlight: Greystar

The Greystar general settlement officially adopted the injunctive relief negotiated in connection with The FTC and Colorado v. Greystar Real Estate Partners, LLC, et al. In that settlement, Greystar agreed to pay \$23 million to the Federal Trade Commission, with an anticipated \$1,500,000 in restitution going to Arizona consumers. The settlement also requires the company to clearly and conspicuously display total monthly leasing prices and all mandatory fees. The other settlements resolved Greystar’s liability for junk fees charged at two individual complexes and include a combined payment of \$100,000 for consumer restitution.



Case Highlight: *Choice Home Warranty*

Attorney General Mayes resolved her office's long-running consumer fraud lawsuit against Choice Home Warranty, a New Jersey service contract company operating in Arizona and throughout the country, for a record \$11.8 million. The judgment requires Choice Home Warranty to reform its sales practices and to provide meaningful disclosures to consumers prior to selling warranties. The office filed its lawsuit against Choice Home Warranty in 2019 after being inundated with consumer



complaints alleging that the company failed to replace air conditioning units and other home appliances it had advertised as being covered. Since 2013, more than 1,500 Arizona customers had submitted complaints against Choice Home Warranty to the Arizona Attorney General, the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions, and to the Better Business Bureau.

Case Highlight: *Palo Verde Mobile Home Park*

The Attorney General's Office secured \$795,000 in restitution, civil penalties, and fees from Palo Verde Mobile Home Park, LLC, in Tucson, Arizona. The consent judgment came as a result of the company allegedly misleading tenants about the usability of electricity at the Palo Verde Mobile Home Park. Since 2023, the Park's electrical system experienced regularly occurring electrical outages, which peak during the summer months. Starting June 2025, the Park's electrical system began shutting down regularly, and at least one outage lasted for more than 24 hours. Although Defendants engaged an electrical contractor to make repairs as early as September 2023, they still failed to adequately repair the Park's electrical system before the State's intervention. Since the State's intervention, the Park owner acted with urgency to address electrical system repairs and replacements. The Park owner took the initiative to cooperate with our office in implementing meaningful solutions for their tenants. \$130,000 of the \$795,000, is being paid as restitution to Park tenants. \$585,000 in civil penalties is available for offset by the Park for the cost of repairs, encouraging the Park to put money in the electrical system to address failures long-term.



"All tenants deserve habitable homes, including the ability to use electricity for critical systems like air conditioning."

- Attorney General Mayes



Case Highlight: Sedona Springs Apartment Complexes

The Attorney General's Office filed a Complaint and Application for Preliminary Injunction against corporate landlord and property manager, Dasmen Residential, and three of its complexes in Tucson, Arizona. For years, the Defendants have intentionally underfunded maintenance and repairs at the Complexes, leaving tenants without reliable air conditioning, running water, or safe infrastructure. The Complaint alleges that the Defendants deceived consumers about the condition of the property, the safety and reliability of utilities, and its willingness to perform necessary maintenance work. An evidentiary hearing on our Application for a PI is set for October 2026.

Protecting Utility Customers During Extreme Heat

Case Highlight: Arizona Public Service (APS)

In April 2026, Attorney General Kris Mayes secured a \$7 million settlement with Arizona Public Services (APS), the State's largest utility, resolving allegations that APS violated the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act in connection with its disconnection practices during periods of extreme heat. Under the agreement, APS will pay \$2.75 million into the state's Consumer Protection–Consumer Fraud Revolving Fund along with up to \$250,000 in attorneys' fees, and will provide \$1 million in assistance through the Arizona Consumer Assistance and Education Program, including at least \$800,000 in bill credits for eligible customers. The settlement also requires APS to invest \$3.4 million in consumer protection improvements and adopt stronger temperature-based safeguards, reinstating a voluntary 95 degree hold and maintaining a 32 degree cold weather hold on residential disconnections.



Arizona AG Mayes wins \$7M settlement with APS over heat disconnections

PHOENIX (KVOA) - Attorney General Kris Mayes announced a \$7 million settlement with Arizona Public Service Company following an...

Apr 16, 2026



Safeguarding Veterans From Disability Benefit Fraud

Case Highlight: **VetLink Solutions**

In May 2026, Attorney General Kris Mayes filed lawsuit under the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act and obtained a Consent Judgment against White Tanks Group LLC, d/b/a VetLink Solutions, along with its principals, after alleging that the company misled veterans seeking disability benefit increases. The Consent Judgment secured \$1.95 million in restitution for veterans, civil penalties, and fees. The Consent Judgment resolves allegations that VetLink Solutions misled veterans about the nature of its services, implying that it could perform services that only VA accredited representatives were authorized to provide, and improperly charged thousands of dollars for services that accredited VA representatives could not charge.

“Veterans deserve trusted assistance—not deceptive sales tactics. My office will continue to hold accountable anyone who tries to take advantage of our veterans.”

- Attorney General Mayes



Defending Youth From Social Media Harm

Case Highlight: **Meta Platforms**

In August of 2025, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit granted a multi-state petition, joined by Attorneys General for 20 different states and commonwealths, for a writ of mandamus. The states and commonwealths brought this action because Meta had been leveraging defensive discovery against every government agency in every litigating state and halting case momentum. The Court found in favor of the Arizona Attorney General that defendant Meta Platforms, Inc. had failed to show the existence of an attorney-client relationship between the Arizona Attorney General and various non-party Arizona state agencies, including the Offices of the Governor of Arizona, the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Arizona Department of Transportation. The court’s decision ended Meta’s delay tactics so that the states and commonwealths could return to their litigation relating to the 2023 federal multi-state complaint, which accused Meta of designing its social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, to utilize addictive features while knowingly exposing young users to serious mental harm, mishandling user data, and intentionally misleading the public. The Arizona Attorney General refused to buckle in response to Meta’s attempted abuse of discovery and has remained committed to pursuing justice for Arizona children and families for the harm inflicted by social media companies like Meta.



Protecting Vulnerable and Older Adults

Protecting Arizona seniors and vulnerable adults 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 vulnerable and older adults, and supports legislation to protect seniors.

Focusing on Combating 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.

Throughout FY26, the Criminal Division's Elder Affairs Unit devoted extensive effort to community outreach, delivering trainings and education aimed at preventing the exploitation of older adults. Alongside these preventive initiatives, agents opened 38 elder abuse cases, investigated more than a dozen incidents involving abuse and financial exploitation, and responded to over 850 calls, emails, and complaints submitted through the Taskforce Against Senior Abuse (TASA).

Case Highlight: *Meadows Catalina*

The AGO conducted an in depth investigation into the death of Holly Given, a vulnerable adult who depended on caretakers for her daily wellbeing. Despite experiencing multiple falls, significant injuries, and a continued lack of appropriate medical and supervisory care, Given ultimately succumbed to her injuries. The investigation led to the arrest of seven individuals for vulnerable adult abuse. One of those individuals, Paula Fox, was additionally charged with Manslaughter for her role in the neglect that resulted in Given's death.

"I ran for Attorney General on a promise to protect Arizona's seniors from abuse and exploitation—and *that's exactly what I've done*. From uncovering egregious physical abuse at senior living facilities to increasing transparency for families deciding on their loved ones' care, my office has made stopping senior abuse a top priority."

- Attorney General Mayes

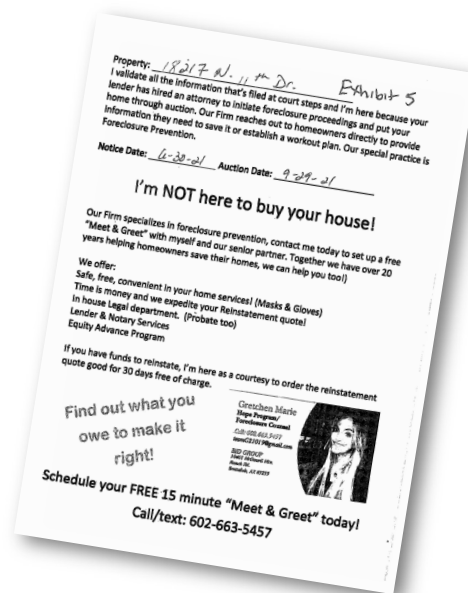




Fighting Fraudsters That Prey on Older Adults

Case Highlight: Real Estate Fraud Targeting Elderly Homeowners

In August 2025, Attorney General Mayes filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against a couple who intentionally targeted elderly homeowners in financial distress. The scammers would trick the homeowners into believing they were transferring ownership of their homes to a family trust, when in fact they were transferring the homes to fraudulently named limited liability companies based in Delaware. Recognizing the need for immediate action to protect the elderly homeowners, Attorney General Mayes successfully convinced the court to impose an ex parte receivership before the defendants learned about the lawsuits and began hiding assets. Because she acted aggressively, the receiver took control of nearly two dozen residential properties worth at least \$3 million before the defendants could sell them. The receiver is currently in the process of returning as many homes as possible to their original owners.



Case Highlight: Equity Stripping Scheme - Fraudulent Foreclosure

In March 2025, Attorney General Mayes filed a lawsuit against more than 50 defendants alleging a fraudulent “equity stripping” scheme led by Cameron Jones and Samuel Sutton. In early 2026 the Attorney General received notice that a lawyer for Sutton named William Kozub had formed a shell company and purchased the mortgage on one of the properties in the lawsuit and started foreclosure proceedings. Foreclosure would have resulted in the eviction of the elderly homeowner and her family, who still lived in the home and still believed she owned the home. The foreclosure also would have destroyed the Attorney General’s ability to restore the home to its rightful owner. When asked to postpone the foreclosure due to the ongoing lawsuit, Kozub refused. Attorney General Mayes filed a separate lawsuit against Kozub. After that, Kozub agreed to postpone the foreclosure.



Arizona AG files lawsuit to save widow’s home from fraudulent foreclosure

Arizona's attorney general has filed a lawsuit to stop the foreclosure of a Valley woman's home allegedly taken in an equity stripping...

May 19, 2026





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

**1.48
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.



Case Highlight: Operation Mechanic

“Operation Mechanic” 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 the Drug Enforcement Agency and Maricopa County Drug Suppression Task Force (MCDST) resulting in 34 indictments. Various items were seized, along with the following drugs that were recovered and removed from the streets: 1,700 lbs. of methamphetamine, 113.4 lbs. of cocaine, 11.3 lbs. of fentanyl (pills and powder), 1.2 lbs. of heroin, 2.8 lbs. of marijuana, 14.6 lbs. of spice, 23 firearms, 25 vehicles, \$612,932 in U.S. currency, and \$300,000 in cryptocurrency.



Case Highlight: State v. Andronico Arvizu III, et al.

Andronico Arvizu and Priscilla Fimbres operated a drug trafficking enterprise in Pima County, selling approximately 6.6 lbs. of fentanyl to an undercover detective and possessing large quantities of fentanyl pills and methamphetamine, along with prohibited firearms. They were prosecuted and received a prison followed by probation sentence, along with ordered to pay fines and \$11,900 in investigative costs to the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Arvizu was also ordered to forfeit their guns involved in the offense.





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 Arizona's 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.

*"As a daughter of rural Arizona, I can't imagine anything more important than paving a new way forward to conserve groundwater and *protect a future for the rural communities that define Arizona.*"*

- Attorney General Mayes



Protecting Our Groundwater

Case Highlight: *Riverview*

In January 2026, the Attorney General announced a settlement agreement between Arizona and Riverview, LLP, to reduce Riverview's groundwater usage and deliver \$11 million to impacted residents for well-drilling, water-hauling and groundwater access. This groundwater access settlement is the first of its kind in Arizona and across the country. The settlement includes new water conservation and groundwater access practices implemented by Riverview, to fallow or transition to a different use 2,000 acres of irrigated farmland and establish two \$5.5 million funds to help ensure continued access to potable water for residents of the Sulphur Springs Valley in Cochise County.

 AZ Family

AG Mayes secures \$11M settlement for water conservation in southern Arizona

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes has reached an \$11 million settlement with agricultural giant Riverview LLP that will also scale back...

Jan 8, 2026





Case Highlight: *Fondomonte*

In December 2024, the Attorney General 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.



“My office will keep fighting to protect the people of La Paz County and hold Fondomonte accountable for the public nuisance we allege they have created due to their overuse of groundwater.”

- Attorney General Mayes

In January 2026, the Director of the Department of Water Resources issued a Findings, Decision and Order to designate the Ranegras Plain Groundwater Basin as a subsequent Active Management Area (AMA) (Designation Order), pursuant to A.R.S. § 45-414. In February 2026, Attorney General Mayes filed a supplemental brief arguing that while the AMA imposes generalized basin-wide water conservation programs that will, over time, slow the rate of groundwater depletion, only the Attorney General's public nuisance lawsuit can address the alleged harms against an entire community. In an order issued in May 2026, a Maricopa County Superior Court judge denied Fondomonte's request to halt Attorney General Mayes' public nuisance lawsuit during the multi-year AMA study, allowing the case to move forward.

Attorney General Mayes continues to litigate this case to protect the future of rural Arizona. She is asking that the court enjoin Fondomonte from excessively pumping groundwater and requiring Fondomonte establish an abatement fund to assist the community with the harms they are experiencing including: continued and worsening groundwater shortages, water quality decline, subsiding land, damage to infrastructure, and degraded equipment.





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.

Mifepristone Access

In September 2025, Attorney General Mayes joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general in issuing a joint statement addressing concerns over a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review of mifepristone, a safe and effective abortion medication. The review was referenced by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and FDA Commissioner Makary in response to a letter from Republican state attorneys general to the FDA calling for restrictions on or withdrawal of mifepristone from the market.

In May 2026, the Attorney General joined a coalition of 22 states and the District of Columbia in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to stay a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit that restricted access to mifepristone. The Supreme Court has now ordered that stay, temporarily blocking the Fifth Circuit's ruling from taking effect.

Case Highlight: *Isaacson v. Arizona - Prop 139 Ruling*

In February 2026, Attorney General Mayes celebrated a court ruling in *Isaacson v. State of Arizona*, a case brought by plaintiffs to strike down unconstitutional abortion restrictions after the passage of Prop 139. The ruling affirms that Arizona women have a constitutional right to access the reproductive healthcare they need without unnecessary government interference.

"I will not stop fighting to ensure that every Arizonan can access reproductive health care."

- 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. In Fiscal Year 2026, the Civil Rights Division resolved 121 cases of discrimination through mediation, conciliation, and litigation settlements. As a result of the Division's enforcement, the CRO obtained approximately \$3,363,335 in monetary relief for aggrieved parties in addition to injunctive relief to proactively alleviate future potential civil rights violations. This fiscal year, the CRO secured consent decrees in protecting individuals against discrimination in their employment and housing.

2,862

Allegations of
Discrimination
Investigated

Case Highlight: *Olive Branch Assisted Living*

An individual entered Olive Branch Assisted Living seeking substance-use treatment. Soon after, she was diagnosed with a disability and privately informed owner. Within hours, the owner gathered the facility's residents and announced that "somebody" had tested positive. The individual burst into tears, effectively revealing her identity. The owner then told her that she could leave or transfer, but could not remain at Olive Branch because of her disability. Respondents agreed to pay the individual \$585,000 to resolve the case, a \$15,000 civil penalty, and numerous policy changes and training on the Fair Housing Act's prohibitions on evicting individuals with disabilities.

Case Highlight: *SREIT Village*

A mom asked her housing provider, SREIT Village at Sun Valley, to allow an assistance animal for her son, who was diagnosed with various disabilities. Despite the individual providing multiple documents from providers who treated her son for years supporting the request, management and its counsel denied the accommodation, charged the family back rent, a pet deposit, and monthly pet fees, then refused rent unless the family also paid the disputed charges. Respondents agreed to pay the individual \$35,000 to resolve the case, a \$25,000 civil penalty, and for policy changes and training to ensure that families who have children with disabilities enjoy full and equal enjoyment of their housing.



"I will fight to guarantee that anyone who discriminates against or threatens an Arizonan faces consequences under the Arizona Fair Housing Act."

- Attorney General Mayes



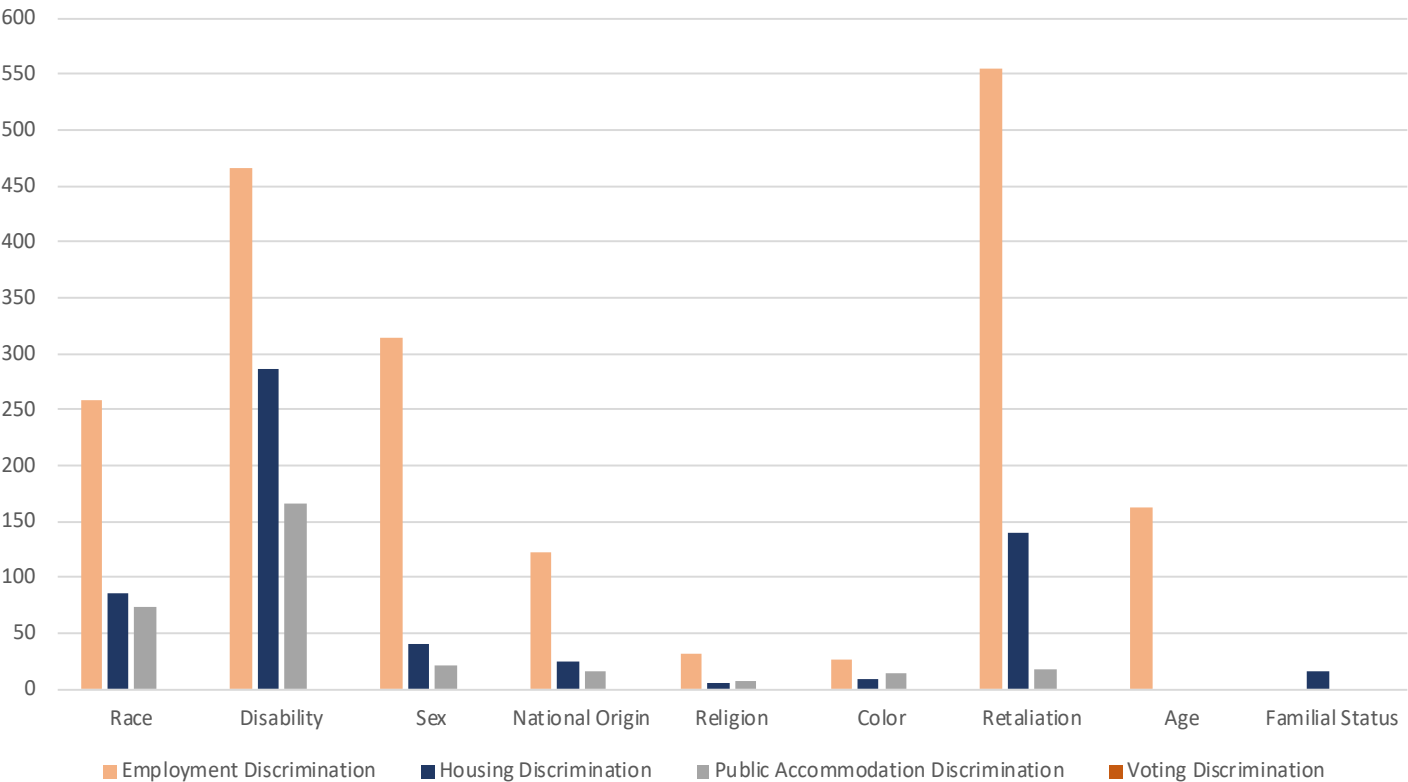
Case Highlight: Fry’s Food Stores

A employee who is Deaf was successful at Fry’s Food Stores for years, until Fry’s implemented complex timekeeping technology without providing the individual an ASL interpreter for the associated training. When disciplinary issues inevitably arose, Fry’s did not provide an ASL interpreter for those meetings either, instead relying on the individual’s family to communicate for him. Fry’s finally provided the individual with an ASL interpreter for the first time when it called him in to tell him he was terminated. Fry’s agreed to pay the individual \$120,000 to resolve the case and to amend its non-discrimination policies to include stronger protections for individuals with disabilities state-wide.

Case Highlight: Cox

An individual with bipolar disorder was an excellent employee for Cox, but her bipolar disorder sometimes required her to take leave without immediately notifying Cox. When the employee requested leave due to her disability, Cox refused to provide her the accommodation because she did not yet qualify for FMLA. Leave can be a reasonable accommodation, though, even when an employee does not qualify for FMLA. After improperly rejecting the individual’s request for accommodation, Cox terminated her because of her subsequent absences. Cox agreed to pay the individual \$50,000 to resolve the case, and to amend its policies and training to ensure that requests for reasonable accommodation are appropriately considered.

Allegations of Discrimination





Stopping Criminals in their Tracks

The Attorney General's Office Criminal Division 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. In addition, it pursues forfeiture actions in all cases to ensure criminals do not financially benefit from their crimes.

3,732

Cases Opened

1,395

Defendants
Charged

\$7.5M

Restitution to
Victims

1,945

Cases
Resolved

Protecting Arizonans from Cartel-Related Drug Trafficking

Case Highlight: *Bryan Crisosto Cabrera*

Chandler Police stopped Bryan Crisosto Cabrera on I-10 and discovered 238 pounds of methamphetamine concealed in a hidden compartment in his vehicle. He admitted returning from Mexico earlier that day, knowing the vehicle likely contained drugs. The methamphetamine—linked to a Mexican drug trafficking organization—had a wholesale value of approximately \$238,000 and a potential street level profit of over \$1.5 million. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 7.5 years in prison and ordered to pay a fine.



Case Highlight: *Gilbert Borquez & Erika Acosta*



DPS GIITEM detectives observed Gilbert Borquez leaving his Phoenix residence with a bag later found to contain over half a pound of cocaine. A search warrant at his residence revealed three unattended minor children and evidence of an active drug sales operation, including marijuana, THC, fentanyl, cocaine wrappings, seven firearms, and ammunition. Both defendants were charged with drug-related charges and child abuse. Borquez was sentenced to 8.75 years in prison; Acosta was sentenced to two years of supervised probation.



Arizona Attorney General's Office Staff Members Receive HIDTA Recognition

SIS SA Dilsher Ali and members of the Arizona AGO/HSI El Dorado Task Force (EDTF) received the National HIDTA Award for Excellence in Washington, D.C., for their work investigating money laundering by Mexico's cartels. Their analysis revealed that drug trafficking groups used MSB agents to move bulk cash, sending hundreds of millions of dollars. EDTF developed an innovative, data-driven investigative approach that significantly reduced casework time. Working with federal, state, and local partners, the team executed over 50 MSB search warrants in Arizona, resulting in major cash seizures, arrests, indictments, and the dismantling of key money laundering operations.



Prosecuting Medicaid Fraud & Safeguarding Public Health Funds

The Criminal Division investigates and prosecutes health care fraud crimes that impact the State's \$22 billion dollar Medicaid program administered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for its 2.5 million members. The principal responsibilities for these types of crimes are to investigate and prosecute criminal fraud committed upon Arizona's Medicaid program and to investigate the abuse and neglect of patients in healthcare facilities funded by the Medicaid program. Prosecutors and Agents continued to uncover massive frauds in the realm of behavioral health and sober living homes funded by AHCCCS. In FY26, over 74 criminal investigation referrals were received from AHCCCS OIG, which included 14 credible allegations of Medicaid Fraud by criminal organizations masquerading as Behavioral Health Providers and/or Sober Living Homes. In FY26, the Criminal Division took enforcement action related to Medicaid Fraud & Patient Abuse cases: 76 criminal indictments, 38 individuals and entities convicted, approximately \$27 million in financial seizures, estimated forfeitures totaling \$3.5 million.

Case Highlight: Dr. Irfan Fazil

An AGO investigation uncovered that Dr. Irfan Fazil engaged in a large scale Medicaid fraud scheme, submitting more than \$36 million in fraudulent claims over a six month period. This conduct occurred shortly after prior suspensions and supposed fraudulent billing activity involving the Medicare program. The AGO executed coordinated law enforcement operations, including search warrants and forfeiture/seizure actions, culminating in Dr. Fazil's arrest. Recently, Dr. Fazil pled guilty to four felony counts, and will be sentenced October 2026.



2026 National Health Care Fraud Take Down

In June 2026, the AGO filed charges against 42 defendants across ten cases as part of the 2026 National Health Care Fraud Take Down. The charges—filed in five Arizona counties—represent one of the largest and most coordinated health care enforcement actions in state history. These cases encompass a broad range of alleged criminal conduct, including: unlicensed medical practice, drug diversion, exploitation and neglect of vulnerable adults, and manslaughter.

*“For the past three years, my office has made it a top priority to hunt down and prosecute the criminals who stole from Arizona’s Medicaid program while exploiting some of our most vulnerable residents. And billing to the programs targeted in this scheme *has dropped by an astonishing 92% since we launched our fraud crackdown.*”*

- Attorney General Mayes



Case Highlight: *Rita Anagho*

This year, the AGO continued its aggressive efforts to protect Arizona’s Medicaid program (AHCCCS) by dismantling large scale behavioral health billing fraud schemes. Nurse Practitioner, Rita Anagho operated TUSA Integrated Clinic (TUSA) and acted as the Behavioral Health Professional for approximately 10 to 15 additional behavioral health facilities—many of which have since been suspended or terminated.

Investigators found that Anagho engaged in pervasive fraudulent billing practices, including submitting claims for behavioral health services never rendered; billing for services purportedly provided to minor children who received no care; billing for incarcerated and deceased AHCCCS members; and coercing vulnerable AHCCCS members to switch health plans under threats of removal from unlicensed sober living homes. Her conduct specifically and repeatedly targeted Native American and American Indian communities—some of the most vulnerable populations within Arizona’s Medicaid system. Following extensive litigation, Anagho was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison.

Case Highlight: *Jose Andres Lopez*

Between 2017 and 2021, Jose Andres Lopez exploited his role as office manager to issue unauthorized prescriptions and falsify patient treatment records, resulting in fraudulent insurance payouts. Lopez was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, followed by seven years of supervised probation, and ordered to pay \$45,000 in restitution.



Taking on Organized Retail Criminals

The Criminal Division continues to work closely with, and collaborate with, multiple law enforcement agencies. In addition to local law enforcement agencies, the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Task Force has working relationships with multiple federal entities, including Department of Homeland Security and the United States Postal Service; also maintaining excellent working relationships with retail partners including Target, Home Depot, CVS, Walgreens, Fry's, Victoria Secrets, Safeway, Kroger, Walmart, Lowe's, TJ Maxx and Kohl's.



Organized Retail Theft Team Received Recognition from Walmart

The AGO ORT Investigation and Prosecution Team received special recognition from Walmart for their outstanding partnership and continued efforts to combat organized retail theft across Arizona. Walmart acknowledged the team's professionalism, responsiveness, and the significant impact their investigative and prosecutorial work has had on reducing ORT activity and improving retailer safety statewide.



"We don't tolerate retail theft in Arizona. These crimes aren't victimless, they hurt local businesses and drive up costs for all of us. Those who engage in organized retail crime will be held accountable under the law."

- Attorney General Mayes

Case Highlight: **Harold Ashley**

Harold Ashley was charged with stealing merchandise from Walmart and trafficking it through an online marketplace to Arizonans. The investigation revealed that Ashley stole more than \$40,000 in merchandise found in his storage locker. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 9.25 years in prison.

Case Highlight: *Nicholas Miller, et al.*

The Oro Valley Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, AGO ORT TF and the United States Postal Service, working with local retail loss prevention partners identified Nicholas Miller was part of an enterprise that stole roughly \$2 million in merchandise from Tucson to Phoenix. Investigators identified Miller as a key suspect and discovered he shipped stolen goods to an East Coast fence, receiving about \$450,000 in payments. Miller pled guilty and was sentenced to 3.25 years in prison, followed by five years of probation and ordered to pay \$75,000 in restitution. All seized items were forfeited.



Case Highlight: *Angela Barraza*

Angela Barraza stole merchandise from several retailers, trafficking the items to others. The investigation identified more than 25,000 in stolen merchandise. ORT TF agents served a search warrant resulting in the recovery of \$13,547.36 in merchandise. She was prosecuted and sentenced to two years in prison, followed by seven years of probation and ordered to pay over \$55,000 in restitution to Fry's, Target and Walmart.

Protecting Arizonans from Financial Fraud

The Criminal Division prosecutes white collar crimes and frauds by individuals and organized criminal groups and organizations. The Criminal Division is the primary prosecutor for complex fraud cases from Arizona state agencies, including Office of Inspector General-Department of Economic Security (OIG-DES), Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI), Arizona Department of Revenue (DOR), Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC), Arizona Auditor General's Office, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Case Highlight: *Neh Reh, et al.*

The AGO worked closely with Arizona Game and Fish to investigate and prosecute individuals from the Burmese community who hunted, killed, prepared, and barbecued game on State Land across four counties—Maricopa, Gila, Yavapai, and Coconino—resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in loss, including several big horn sheep. The defendants pled guilty and received sentences ranging from jail to probation and nearly \$31,000 in restitution.



Case Highlight: Marie Masenga

After conducting a financial audit, Phoenix company Total Seal, Inc. reported to the AGO that evidence revealed that former CFO, Marie Masenga used the company funds to pay her credit card bills and diverted funds to her bank account outside payroll totaling \$696,718. She pled guilty to Theft, was placed on probation and ordered to pay Total Seal for their losses.

Case Highlight: Victor Hetherington

Police Officer Victor Hetherington used his volunteer position as President to the Nogales Police Officers' Association President to embezzle \$39,150.04 by electronically transferring other members' union dues and political contributions from NPOA's bank accounts to his own accounts. Hetherington was sentenced to four years' probation and paid \$39,150 to NPOA.

Case Highlight: Michael Woolbright

Former president of the Tucson Delta Chi Alumni Board, Michael Woolbright, stole over \$500,000 by writing checks and transferring Board funds to himself, his businesses, and businesses tied to his family members. He was convicted by a Pima County jury of five counts of Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices and one count of Theft. Woolbright was sentenced to four years in prison followed by seven years of probation and ordered to pay \$563,905 in restitution.

"Knowing the signs of crypto ATM fraud can help protect you and your loved ones, but if you have fallen victim to this scam, contact my office right away. *We are here to help.*"

- Attorney General Mayes



Safeguarding Arizonans from Cryptocurrency Scams

The AGO continues to investigate and support law enforcement partners on numerous cryptocurrency related fraud cases. These crimes commonly involve suspects using telephonic or online schemes to convince Arizona residents—often vulnerable adults—to transfer funds through cryptocurrency ATMs or digital wallet addresses. Agents have successfully traced the movement of illicit cryptocurrency and served seizure warrants on multiple companies, recovering stolen funds whenever possible. Since August 2025, SIS has handled 63 cryptocurrency related matters, including tracing requests for partner agencies.

For example, in Cochise County, an elderly victim lost \$15,000 to an online Microsoft Tech Support scam and unknowingly deposited the funds via a bitcoin ATM. Tracing revealed the funds were co mingled with those of another victim in Wisconsin. A seizure warrant was served on Tether Financial, resulting in the recovery of \$34,313. Funds were returned to both victims.



Stamping Out Empowerment Scholarship Account Fraud

Case Highlight: *Johnny Lee Bowers, et al.*

Johnny and Ashley Bowers submitted 50 applications for 50 children (real and fictitious), to the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account website using various names, emails, and documents. They received a total of \$110,258 in ESA Program funds which were deposited into their bank accounts. Investigation revealed that the Bowers' were residing in Colorado and none of the "children" had an Arizona Student ID number. They were prosecuted and received sentences ranging from prison to probation and ordered to pay full restitution.

Stripping Criminals of their Illicit Gains

The AGO plays a critical role in deterring, preventing, and addressing economic crimes by stripping criminals of their illicit gains. Funds recovered through forfeiture are distributed victims, as restitution, and local, Tribal, State and Federal law enforcement agencies, to support training, equipment needs, future investigations, prosecutions, and public safety programs.

\$8 Million

Funds
Recovered
through
Forfeiture

Case Highlight: *Manuel Bon Esparza, et al.*

In February of 2026, our Financial Remedies Section completed an asset forfeiture case and obtained a forfeiture judgment against a Mexican cartel-based Drug Trafficking Organization. The case arose from a wiretap investigation by the Phoenix Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency and the AGO. The investigation resulted in the seizure of 1.5 million fentanyl pills, 348 pounds of methamphetamine, 20 pounds of cocaine and 12 pounds of heroin and the indictment of 25 defendants. The assets forfeited in the judgment included \$209,895 in bulk cash, 15 vehicles, 25 firearms and two money counters.

Stopping Government Fraud, Waste & Abuse

Case Highlight: *Steven Smiley*

An investigation revealed that Steven Smiley stole the identities of over 30 state and federal prisoners, obtaining over \$1 million in financial fraud from the 30 victims. Smiley was prosecuted and sentenced to four years in prison, followed by seven years' supervised probation.

Fighting Fraud on Government Benefits

During FY26, the Agents assigned to the Social Security Administration Task Force opened 14 new investigations, closed 13 investigations, and recovered a total of \$1,166,469 in SSA benefits and a total of \$1,838,550 non-SSA savings to include both Medicare and Medicare.

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 continues to lead Arizona's human trafficking efforts. Prosecutors and agents partnered with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies to prosecute six human trafficking cases, including two operations at Arizona casinos. The office also conducted 23 training sessions for over 2,000 attendees for various organizations throughout the State.



Seeking Justice for those Missing & Murdered

The Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)/Cold Case Unit reviewed numerous public tips related to missing persons and homicide investigations, working closely with local and rural law enforcement agencies to support these cases. Currently, agents are working 48 cold case homicides; 27 of those cases are being actively pursued.

Case Highlight: *Murder of Mary Powers*

In 2026, AGO agents and Pinal County Sheriff's Detectives re examined the 1972 rape and homicide of Mary Powers, whose body was discovered north of Tucson. Investigators developed suspect DNA from original scene evidence and entered the profile into the national database. The team is optimistic this case can be solved and provide long awaited answers to Mary's family.



Case Highlight: *Murder of James Chafin*

AGO agents partnered with the Glendale Police Department to review the 1987 murder of James Orison Chafin, whose body was found at the cemetery near 6300 West Northern Avenue. Detectives uncovered potential suspect DNA, and AGO's Cold Case Unit identified three previously investigative leads. AGO Agents interviewed and swabbed one of the three suspects. Shortly after that interview, the DNA swabbed was confirmed to match the DNA of the person responsible for Chafin's murder. That suspect died by suicide nearly a week after being interviewed, conclusively solving the case.



Protecting Arizona's Children

The AGO has dedicated prosecutors and special agents assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, where they work in close partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. These teams play a critical role in protecting Arizona's children by responding to cyber tips, conducting digital forensic examinations, executing search warrants, and supporting complex child exploitation investigations statewide.



"We are vigilantly investigating and prosecuting online predators and those exploiting vulnerable Arizona children.

I'm proud that my office works so closely with federal and local law enforcement partners to protect victims and bring these online predators to justice."

- Attorney General Mayes

Case Highlight: Gabriel Spencer Carr

Gabriel Spencer Carr was indicted after he posted multiple files online of children engaged in exploitive exhibition and/or other sexual conduct. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 16 years in prison, followed by lifetime probation and must register as a sex offender.

Case Highlight: Anthony Whyte

The AGO, working alongside Chandler Police Department detectives, conducted a successful undercover operation on a dark web messaging platform that resulted in the arrest of Anthony Whyte. Investigators recovered significant digital evidence confirming extensive criminal activity, including CSAM material. Whyte was convicted and received a 15 year prison sentence, followed by lifetime probation, and is required to register as a sex offender.

Case Highlight: Christopher Votey

Christopher Votey engaged in a conversation with an Agent from the Department of Homeland Security. That conversation led to his arrest where he was found in possession of multiple items of child sexual exploitation material. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 15 years in prison, followed by lifetime probation and must register as a sex offender.



Serving Crime Victims

The Criminal Division 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. OVS 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.

15,392

Victims
Served

Arizona Attorney General's Office Received ALEAP Accreditation

The Attorney General's Office received accreditation through the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police's Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP), recognizing the agency's adherence to 174-industry best practice standards for safe, effective, efficient, and non discriminatory law enforcement services. This accreditation follows a rigorous two year review of policies, procedures, records, and organizational practices conducted by ALEAP assessors. The initial accreditation is valid for four years and reflects the AGO's sustained commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.



Preserving Partnerships to Better Serve Victims



In FY26, the Office of Victim Services partnered with 7 other state and county agencies to host the annual event recognizing crime victims and those who serve them. The theme was CommUNITY and celebrated the 45th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Director of the ASU Sex Trafficking Intervention Research, made the keynote address focusing on research and education to support trafficking survivors while addressing the importance of stronger community initiatives and partnerships.



Assisting County Attorneys

The Criminal Division accepts conflict cases from County Attorney's offices around the State of Arizona. In FY26, 12 cases were accepted.

Enforcing Tobacco Laws

The Tobacco Enforcement Unit (TEU) once again achieved full compliance with the Delivery Sales Ban, Escrow and Directory Statutes. This work provides a significant public health benefit but is also integral to the protection of the annual payment received pursuant to the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). In FY26, Arizona received approximately \$80 million in total MSA payments, with payments since 1998 totaling approximately \$2.7 billion.

TEU assisted with the successful enactment of two much needed improvements to the state laws concerning the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21. These changes include expanding the list of products prohibits for sale to youths to include all nicotine products, such as vapes with synthetic nicotine and nicotine pouches, two of the most popular nicotine products in the youth demographic. Also, the punishment for selling these products to youths has been enhanced to include increased fines and escalating criminal penalties for repeat violations.



Operation Counter Strike Program

TEU continued their efforts to reduce 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 to persons under 21. The program operates statewide, with special agents and youth volunteers working undercover to determine if retailers are complying with this prohibition. In FY26, 1,859 inspections were performed, with 402 citations issued to clerks and businesses. The total failure rate for FY26 was 13.23%, down slightly from the 13.55% failure rate in FY25.



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, election and 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 is responsible for handling direct appeals in all felony criminal cases, which includes defending felony convictions obtained across Arizona in the Arizona appellate courts and the United States Supreme Court. The Office also defends those convictions in federal court when petitions for writs of habeas corpus are filed. This year, the Office successfully defended 1,018 convictions in more than three hundred criminal cases.

Resuming Executions, Carried Out Lawfully and Constitutionally

The Attorney General defends capital convictions and sentences from the county superior courts to the United States Supreme Court and has overcome every challenge to Arizona death sentences raised in the last year. Additionally, the Attorney General obtained warrants of execution for Richard Djerf and Leroy McGill. Djerf, who killed four members of the Luna family in 1993, was executed on October 17, 2025. McGill, who killed Charles Perez by dousing him in gasoline and lighting him on fire, was executed on May 20, 2026. The Attorney General continues to uphold Arizona law by defending the convictions and sentences in capital cases from direct appeal through execution, fighting for Arizona crime victims every step of the way.

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 clarifying important areas of law. In the past fiscal year, Attorney General Mayes has issued opinions clarifying, among other things:

- The constitutionality of the Legislature's new bill permitting Arizona's electric utilities to "securitize" certain operational costs and assets, issue bonds, and pass the cost to service those bonds on to their customers;
- Voters who are citizens cannot have their voter registrations canceled by county recorders as a result of the government's record keeping errors; and
- Hearing procedures the State Board of Equalization must follow to comply with state statute while ensuring due process.



Representing Arizona'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:

- Defended against a lawsuit seeking to invalidate a statute preserving the right of children of military and other overseas federal personnel to vote;
- Successfully vacated utility regulators' decision to allow APS to impose a surcharge on residential customers with rooftop solar;
- Fought to hold prediction market platforms accountable for illegal gambling;
- 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;
- Informed a court that certain Arizona abortion laws mandating one-size-fits-all rules for patients were unconstitutional under Prop. 139, the constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2024;
- Joined amicus briefs to help prevent the Food and Drug Administration from restricting access to a proven-safe abortion medication;
- Defended the right of agencies to regulate certain professions to ensure public safety;
- Defended Arizona sex offender registration laws against attack; and
- Defended numerous other state statutes against constitutional challenges.



“I am proud to defend the Constitutional rights that countless American patriots have fought for and died to protect.”

- Attorney General Mayes



Fighting Unlawful Federal Abuse

Over the past year, the federal government has continued its efforts 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 preserve the rule of law.

Since President Trump took office, the Attorney General has filed almost 50 lawsuits to challenge unlawful actions that harm Arizonans. To date, through those lawsuits, the Attorney General has preserved \$2.3 Billion in funding that the federal government had sought to withhold from Arizona. That funding includes money for critical services like SNAP benefits, education, election integrity, and border security.

49

Federal Action
Lawsuits Filed

**\$2.3
Billion**

Federal Funding
Preserved for
Arizona

Federal Lawsuit Highlights

- Challenging President Trump's renewed attempts to unilaterally impose illegal and arbitrary tariffs, which would raise costs for consumers and businesses, and weaken Arizona's economy.
- Challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's illegal termination of a \$7 billion program that lowers energy costs and pollution by bringing solar energy to more than 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the country;
- Challenging the Trump Administration's unlawful policy imposing a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions, which threatens rural Arizona schools, our growing semiconductor industry, and our economy, all of which rely on these visas to function;
- Challenging attempts by the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to construct a detention facility in Surprise, Arizona, without complying with the necessary environmental reviews or consulting with the local community; and
- Challenging the federal government's unprecedented efforts to gain access to private citizens' information to enable unwarranted and improper governmental monitoring.





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 handled more than 7,000 cases to secure results for DCSS and Arizona families—attending more than 5,000 hearings, in addition to companion court-ordered settlement meetings. Thanks to these pre-hearing settlement opportunities, CSS lowered the number of contested evidentiary hearings, thereby permitting parents to start their child support order from a place of agreement. CSS facilitated paternity establishment for hundreds of children and obtained new child support orders for more than one thousand families. As parents' and children's financial needs changed, CSS assisted those families by resolving more than 300 child support modifications. And this fiscal year, CSS's post-judgment efforts collected more than \$2 million in past-due child support.



Defending Children's Safety and Well-Being

The CFPD Appeals Section (APL) provides appellate representation and advice to the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES). APL attorneys handle all aspects of an appeal in the Court of Appeals and Arizona Supreme Court, including oral argument. APL also provides litigation support to CFPD attorneys, which includes conducting research, providing training and consultation, and writing or reviewing pleadings filed in the superior court.

In FY26, 250 appeals or special actions were filed in DCS-involved juvenile matters and twenty-three applications for appeal from decisions of the ADES Appeals Board were filed in the Arizona Court of Appeals. APL filed at least 131 substantive appellate pleadings on behalf of DCS and 8 on behalf of ADES (including child support matters). In non-child support appeals on behalf of ADES, the Section closed a total of thirty-five appellate actions. In addition, it processed well over 2,800 appeal-related filings by other litigants or orders from the appellate courts.

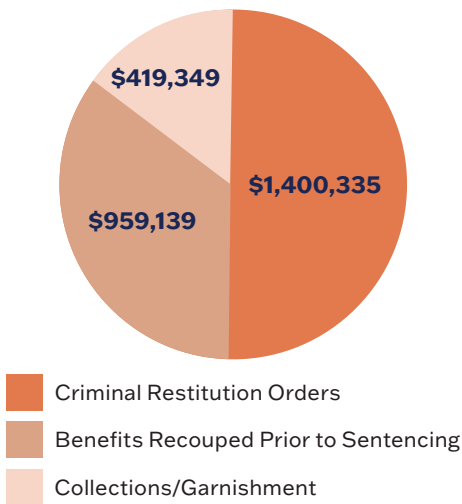


Safeguarding Funds for Families

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 many proceedings, members of the public can appeal adverse public benefit determinations or challenge their proposed placement on the DCS’s Central Registry or the DES’s Adult Protective Services (APS) Registry. In FY26, CLA provided legal advice and representation to APS, resulting in the placement of 169 individuals on the Adult Protective Services Registry due to substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, and/or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. CLA closed 750 administrative, civil, and appellate cases this fiscal year and reviewed 113 agency contracts, leases, intergovernmental agreements and/or amendments.

CLA recovered over \$2.7 million in public benefits overpayments through public benefits fraud prosecutions and collections and garnishment activity in FY26.

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 of parental rights proceedings. PSS attorneys handle a difficult subject matter, as many cases involve child abuse and neglect. PSS attorneys support DCS in its mission to ensure that we protect Arizona’s most vulnerable population—children. PSS attorneys work with DCS to try to assist and strengthen existing families, or help to establish new families for children if necessary. Witnessing a family go through such a difficult, emotional time and come out of the other side stronger and safer gives us all purpose in what we do each day.

PSS attorneys participated in more than 40,000 total hearings over the last year. Through experience and training, PSS attorneys become excellent litigators, regularly spending 4-5 days per week in court. PSS trials can be quite complex, particularly termination trials, often involving competing experts, and can take several days to complete. PSS attorneys must be adept not only in state law, but also federal law and administrative rules. Given their excellent training and experience, it’s no wonder that several PSS attorneys have been selected as court commissioners and retained judges.

Protecting Over

8,000

Arizona Children

Managing

4,900

Open Cases

Filed Over

3,200

New Cases

Trained

500

DCS Specialists

Understanding Litigants to Better Serve Clients

The entire CFPD team once again came together for our annual continuing legal education (CLE) conference. CFPD provided several hours of required annual continuing legal education for our lawyers, legal paraprofessionals, and certified paralegals, including all required hours of professional responsibility. Legal professionals across the division dedicated their time over two days to continue to maintain our high level of service-oriented legal work. CFPD members participated in seminars covering crucial topics, such as ethical and practical considerations regarding the rising use of artificial intelligence in litigation, pertinent legislative and appellate developments, and topics specific to CFPD's varied family-focused and program-participant-focused practices.





Representing State Agencies

The State Government Division (SGD) is comprised of nine sections that provide legal advice and representation to state agencies and boards in areas of environmental enforcement, education and health, employment law, liability management, licensing, natural resources, public and administrative law, taxes, and transportation. SGD also investigates Open Meeting Law violations throughout the State.

Promoting Transparency in Public Meetings

The State Government Division is charged with fulfilling the Attorney General's statutory responsibilities for investigating and resolving matters involving potential violations of the Open Meetings Law. This cross-Division effort involves 29 attorneys and support staff from the Agency Counsel Section, Environmental Enforcement Section, Licensing and Enforcement Section, Natural Resources Section, and the Public Law Section.

In fiscal year 2026, the Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (OMLET) received and processed 271 complaints. Many complaints involving the same body may be consolidated for investigative purposes and, as a result, OMLET opened 107 investigations and resolved 108 complaints. Violations were found in 20 OML investigations. As a result of these efforts, OMLET promoted accountability and compliance with the OML by educating public bodies across the State about their obligations under the law, and requiring training or imposing penalties when required.

Serving Arizonans

The Agency Counsel Section (ACS) is responsible for providing legal advice and litigation support to approximately 75 state agencies, boards and commissions that serve Arizonans. Amongst numerous other matters, the section reviewed 77 contracts and other agreements for various client agencies and resolved 82 lien foreclosure complaints that impacted interests held by the Superior Court Clerks of Court in the fifteen counties. The section also handled 83 notary complaint matters and 41 election lawsuits for the Secretary of State's Office.

Case Highlight: *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. Dept. of the Interior, et al., Arizona*

In district court lawsuits involving challenges by wildlife advocacy organizations to a federal rule governing the conservation of the endangered Mexican wolf, the U.S. DOJ and the AGO, representing the US Fish and Wildlife and Arizona Game and Fish respectively, won summary judgment on all issues. In 1980, the last seven Mexican wolves were captured and a captive breeding program was established in the US. In 1998, 11 wolves were reintroduced as an experimental population into AZ and NM. In 2015, the USFWS enlarged the wolf reintroduction area. As of 2024, 286 wild Mexican wolves exist in AZ and NM. In its lengthy ruling, the Court found the rule is based on the best available science and furthers the long-term conservation of the species. The decision is currently on appeal.



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. Arizona Waste Tire Recycling, LLC, et al.*

Following a two-day hearing held at Arizona Superior Court in November 2025, EES obtained a civil penalty judgment against Defendants in the amount of \$3,182,810 for violations of Arizona's waste tire and solid waste laws. Defendants illegally stored approximately 2,500 tires at five facilities near Yuma. Defendants failed to register or submit notices for the sites, jeopardized the safety of the community by violating Arizona laws requiring them to protect the sites from dangerous tire fires, and sold tires at one of the facilities without collecting and remitting waste tire disposal fees.

Supporting Public Education

The Education Unit represents the state agencies that oversee Arizona's public school system, including the State Board of Education, the State Board for Charter Schools, the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and the School Facilities Oversight Board/School Facilities Division of ADOA. Additionally, the Education Unit also assists the Solicitor General's Office in the drafting of attorney general opinions on education matters.

During the past year, the Education AAGs represented our agency clients through a large number of investigations, administrative hearings, judicial review appeals, and historic programmatic changes.

Our unit successfully defended a decision of the State Board of Education concluding that funds from the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account ("ESA") program could not be used toward children's go-karts. We also defended decisions of the State Board to take disciplinary action against educators who engaged in conduct harmful to students.

The educator discipline AAGs prosecuted over 300 cases this year for the State Board and assisted the State Board in drafting rules to streamline the enforcement process to cut down the time between the filing of a complaint and the hearing before the Board's Professional Practices Advisory Committee. Our attorneys have also been assisting the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind through the relocation of their historic Tucson campus and working with the agency on legal issues arising out of that relocation.



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 Health Unit files actions to prevent unlicensed facilities or unlicensed individuals from operating; as well as actions against licensed health care institution and licensed individuals who violate statutes and rules, to fine, suspend or revoke a license. To that end, the Health Unit AAGs have handled more than 300 licensing enforcement actions this year and has successfully defended ADHS actions taken to ensure public health and safety. In addition, the AAGs in the Health Unit support and represent the Arizona State Hospital – they manage hundreds of ongoing mental health matters in Superior Court to ensure public safety. The Health Unit has also provided representation on matters involving funeral homes and funeral directors, vital records, radiation regulation, emergency medical services, and the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The AAGs in the Health Unit are working daily to ensure that ADHS can continue to ensure public health is protected.

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.

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.



Licensing and Enforcement

LES advises and represents 31 licensing boards across the State to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of Arizona's public.

Case Highlight: *Maya Bellapianta v. Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board*

Based upon a pattern of highly erratic and questionable conduct, the Board issued Dr. Bellapianta an interim order requiring her to undergo a comprehensive psychological and substance abuse evaluation. Dr. Bellapianta challenged the Board's interim order by filing a petition for rehearing or review which the Board denied. Dr. Bellapianta then sought to appeal the interim order to the superior court. The appeal was unsuccessful. She then appealed to the Arizona Court of Appeals which affirmed the superior court's decision. In her appeal, Dr. Bellapianta raised various due process arguments. They were not persuasive. In their decision, the Court of Appeals expressly held that Dr. Bellapianta was not deprived of due process rights because the interim order requesting her to undergo a psychological and substance abuse evaluation is an investigatory tool to aid the Board in determining her ability to safely and competently practice veterinary medicine.

Liability Management

The Liability Management Section (LMS) defends the State and State employees in lawsuits for which Arizona Dept Of Administration 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: *Hartman v. State Of Arizona, et al.*

Plaintiff was injured in a collision with suspect Perez who was fleeing from a DPS Trooper after an attempted traffic stop. The trooper pursued Perez briefly, but terminated the pursuit within seconds and immediately lost sight of Perez. Perez continued on alone for five miles and collided with Plaintiff Hartman's vehicle. Plaintiff alleged gross negligence and respondeat superior against the Trooper and the State for initiating and engaging in the pursuit, and alleged negligent training, hiring, and supervision against the State. Plaintiff claimed a brain injury, various orthopedic injuries, loss of household services, and other economic damages, and asked for approximately \$5,000,000.00 at the end of a 6-day jury trial. The Court granted the State's Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law on Plaintiff's negligent training, hiring, and supervision claims, and the jury returned a full defense verdict on Plaintiff's gross negligence claim.



Natural Resources

NRS advises and represents the Arizona State Land Department, Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Arizona State Mine Inspector, and Arizona State Parks Board among other boards and agencies.

State Trust Land

NRS's representation of the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) assisted ASLD to achieve record-breaking returns for public education, nearly doubling the prior year's totals by depositing \$670 million into the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund as well as distributing \$640 million directly to K-12 public schools. A large percentage of these transactions involved sales to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation and associated uses.

Public Law

The Public Law Section (PLS) represents a diverse set of client agencies and boards, including those involved in financial and economic regulation, agriculture and natural resources, liquor regulation, military affairs, economics, and promotions. PLS provides legal advice on a variety of matters and represents its assigned agencies in administrative hearings and in all stages of litigation.

Case Highlight: *In the Matter of the Real Estate Broker License of Jennifer M. Wehner*

The Department of Real Estate investigated real estate broker Jennifer Wehner for more than 200 transactions in which she failed to disclose or did not timely disclose her financial interest in the title and mortgage companies involved in the real estate transactions. PLS attorneys assisted the Department in securing a Consent Order that required a \$90,000 civil penalty, a license suspension, a provisional license and an agreement by Wehner to disclose her financial interest in future transactions.

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. In addition, TRN advises and represents MVD concerning a variety of subjects including day-to-day matters, automobile and driver licensing, DUI matters and suspensions, and Third-Party Servicers. Between July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 DPS attorneys completed 562 legal opinions concerning the publication of offenders on the DPS Sex Offender Web Page.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE