AT A GLANCE

- Chief Legal Officer for the State of Minnesota
- Provides legal representation to State agencies, boards, and commissions
- Takes legal action on behalf of Minnesota citizens

PURPOSE

The Attorney General is the State of Minnesota’s Chief Legal Officer. The Attorney General helps to ensure that the laws the Legislature enacts are upheld. The Attorney General’s Office provides legal representation to State agencies, boards, and commissions. The Attorney General’s Office also protects the public by bringing lawsuits on behalf of the citizens of Minnesota. Through its legal work, including the representation of State agencies, the Attorney General’s Office helps to support the following statewide outcomes:

- Efficient and accountable government services
- People in Minnesota are safe
- Strong and stable families and communities
- A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities
- All Minnesotans have optimal health
- Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals
- A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources

BUDGET

STRATEGIES

- Deliver high-quality, efficient and effective legal representation to State agencies, boards and officials.
- Protect and save taxpayers’ dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against State agencies and employees.
- Defend laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature against constitutional and other legal challenges.
- Facilitate the enforcement of laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature.
- Provide legal representation to State agencies and boards in various civil and administrative proceedings and obtain monetary payments as directed by the Minnesota Legislature.
- Provide proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
- Provide Minnesota counties and law enforcement agencies with assistance in serious criminal matters.
- Ensure that the public interest is protected in delivering legal services.
- Population primarily served is the citizens of the State of Minnesota and the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of State government and State agencies, boards, and commissions.
AT A GLANCE

In 2016, the section:

- Saved millions of taxpayer dollars by defending claims against State entities.
- Defended and enforced the laws and rules enacted to protect Minnesota citizens.
- Represented State entities in enforcement proceedings.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Government Legal Services Section provides a broad range of legal representation to various Minnesota State entities, including Minnesota Management and Budget, the Minnesota Departments of Corrections, Commerce, Education, Health and Transportation and the State Board of Investment and state pension boards.

The section provided legal representation to State entities in licensing, regulatory, ratemaking, disciplinary and enforcement actions. The section advises State agencies and boards in financial investment, real estate, contract and bond issuance transactions. The section primarily serves State agencies and boards and Minnesota citizens protected by State regulatory actions.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provide high quality legal representation to State agencies and boards.
- Provide legal representation to State agencies and boards in enforcement and disciplinary proceedings.
- Provide proactive legal advice to State entities to avoid lawsuits.
- Defend legal claims for money judgments.
- Represent State agencies and boards in complex financial and contract transactions.

RESULTS

- The State Treasury is protected by the defense of claims and through recovery actions for State entities.
- Citizens’ rights, health and safety are protected by enforcement of Minnesota laws and regulations.
- The public’s interest is advanced in litigation and legal representation.
- State agencies and boards are represented efficiently and competently.
- Legal advice and representation facilitates the implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
AT A GLANCE

In 2016 the section:

- Provided legal representation to state agencies and boards to ensure that the laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature were enforced and upheld.
- Saved taxpayer dollars by defending the State in actions for money judgments and in tax appeals.
- Represented the health licensing boards in actions to discipline health care professionals.
- Protected the public interest by providing proactive legal advice and in resolving disputes.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Regulatory Law and Professions Section of the Attorney General’s Office provides legal advice and representation to various state agencies and boards, including the Department of Revenue, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Quality Board, and nearly 20 Minnesota health licensing boards.

The Section provides high quality legal representation in the most cost efficient and effective manner and works to resolve disputes in a manner that protects the public interest. The Section regularly represents state agencies and boards in disciplinary and enforcement proceedings to ensure that Minnesota law is enforced and upheld. By representing the Department of Revenue, the section saves and recovers taxpayer dollars. The Section also regularly provides legal advice and representation in matters involving real estate.

The population primarily served includes the Department of Revenue, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, health licensing boards, Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota citizens.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Regulatory Law and Professions section provides the following services:

- Represents the Department of Revenue, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Quality Board and Minnesota’s health licensing boards.
- Litigates matters on behalf of state agencies and boards to ensure that Minnesota laws are enforced and upheld.
- Provides proactive legal advice with the benefit of avoiding lawsuits or resolving disputes.
- Ensures that the public interest is protected in providing legal advice to state agencies and boards.
- Protects taxpayer dollars by defending the state agencies and boards in actions to recover money judgments and by representing the Department of Revenue in tax appeals.
- Counsels state agencies and boards on real estate issues and provides legal representation on litigated real estate matters involving the State.

RESULTS

- Recover funds due to the State and defend monetary claims made against the State to protect taxpayer dollars.
- Laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature are enforced and upheld.
- Delivers proactive and effective legal representation to state agencies and boards in a cost efficient manner.
- Protects the public interest in its representation of state agencies and boards.
- Citizens’ rights are protected by ensuring that laws are enforced and upheld.
- Discipline actions are brought against health care professionals, thereby providing Minnesota citizens with access to safer health care.
AT A GLANCE

In 2016, the section:

- Provided Minnesota counties and law enforcement agencies with prosecutorial assistance in serious criminal matters.
- Prosecuted healthcare providers that fraudulently obtained State Medicaid funds.
- Participated in False Claims Act cases resulting in recoveries of over $12 million in FY 2016.
- Protected and saved taxpayer dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against the Department of Human Services.
- Represented the Department of Public Safety at implied consent hearings.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The State Government Services Section provides a broad range of legal services with the goals of protecting public safety and taxpayer dollars. The section provides assistance to county attorneys and local law enforcement agencies in prosecuting serious crimes and in the civil commitment of sex offenders. The section further provides assistance to Minnesota counties for criminal appeals. The section also prosecutes healthcare providers committing Medicaid fraud and assists county attorneys in prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation cases. The section provides assistant to citizens.

Through its defense of the Minnesota Department of Human Services in litigation, the section defends the State's laws and the constitutionality of the State's actions and decisions. In addition, the section provides legal representation to the Commissioner of Public Safety, including at implied consent hearings. The population primarily served includes Minnesota county attorneys and local law enforcement agencies, Minnesota agencies, boards and commissions and Minnesota citizens.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The State Government Services Section provides the following services:

- Assists Minnesota counties and law enforcement in prosecuting serious crimes.
- Assists county attorneys in civil commitment hearings involving dangerous sexual predators.
- Provides assistance to county attorneys in felony appeals, including murder, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, felony assault, and drug distribution cases.
- Prosecutes healthcare provider fraud within the Medicaid program and recovers fraudulently obtained Medicaid funds.
- Provides legal counsel to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, including the defense of the constitutionality of the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- Appears in court on behalf of the Commissioner of Public Safety in implied consent cases.
- Delivers proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
- Assists citizens who contact the office.

RESULTS

- Legal work helps facilitate the implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
- High quality, effective and efficient legal representation delivered to state agencies, boards, and commissions.
- Providers are prosecuted for fraudulent use of Medicaid funds.
- Public interest is advanced by providing assistance in prosecutions and appeals.
- Public interest is advanced in civil litigation.
- Citizens’ rights and safety are protected.
AT A GLANCE

In 2016, the section:
• Upheld and implemented the laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
• Ensured Minnesota nonprofits, charities, and trusts registered and complied with Minnesota law.
• Advocated for residential and small business ratepayers in utility issues.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Civil Law Section of the Attorney General’s Office regulates nonprofits, charities, and trusts that operate and fundraise in Minnesota. The section also advocates for the interest of residential and small business ratepayers in matters involving electric, natural gas, and telecommunications services and rates. The Civil Law Section also enforces Minnesota’s antitrust laws and ensures that businesses operating in Minnesota comply with state consumer protection laws by investigating and taking enforcement actions against entities that violate state law.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Civil Law Section provides the following services:

• Oversees and regulates Minnesota nonprofit organizations, charities and trusts.
• Advocates for residential and small business ratepayers in utility matters before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.
• Files enforcement actions to ensure businesses comply with the state consumer protection and antitrust laws.

RESULTS

• Legal work facilitates the implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
• Recover funds for the State and obtain restitution to Minnesota consumers.
• Public interest is advanced in civil litigation.
• Citizens’ rights are protected by making sure Minnesota laws are enforced and upheld.
• Ensures nonprofits, charities and trusts register and comply with Minnesota laws.
• Residential and small business ratepayer interests are advanced in utility matters.
• Consumer protection and antitrust laws are enforced.
In 2016, the section:

- Successfully defended Minnesota laws from constitutional and other legal challenges.
- Provided high-quality, effective legal representation to all three branches of Minnesota Government, including Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials, and employees.
- Protected and saved taxpayer dollars by defending against claims that often seek significant monetary payments, including tort and employment law claims.
- Provided legal advice and representation to the Public Utilities Commission.

The population primarily served by the Civil Litigation Section includes the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of State government and the citizens of Minnesota.

The Civil Litigation Section provides high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective legal representation to all three branches of Minnesota government.

The section defends Minnesota law against constitutional and other legal challenges. The section also defends Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials, and employees against claims seeking significant monetary payments, including tort, employment, and other important civil legal claims.

The section is responsible for representing the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in state and federal court and provides legal advice on matters brought before the Commission.

The Civil Litigation section provides the following services:

- Represents the State of Minnesota in state and federal courts, including at the appellate levels.
- Defends the laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature against constitutional and other legal challenges.
- Defends Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials and employees in a variety of significant legal claims, including challenges to their implementation of state law, as well as tort and employment law claims.
- Protects and saves taxpayer dollars by successfully defending against claims for monetary damages.
- Provides legal representation to the Public Utilities Commission in state and federal court, and provides legal advice on matters pending before the Commission.

State laws are protected from constitutional and other legal challenges, allowing them to be enforced as intended by the Minnesota Legislature.

High-quality and effective legal representation provided to Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials, and employees when their work on behalf of the State is challenged in a civil legal action.

Significant taxpayer dollars are protected through successful defense of civil legal claims seeking monetary payments.

Public interest is advanced in litigation.
Program: Attorney General
Activity: Administrative Operations

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AT A GLANCE

- Provide administrative, human resources and accounting services to the Attorney General’s Office.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

- Ensure that budget and accounting practices are in accordance with State law and procedures.
- Protect and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring an efficient use of resources and staff.
- Purchase goods and services pursuant to State guidelines and requirements.
- Interact with other State agencies and boards on personnel, administrative and accounting issues.
- Primary customers are the Attorney General’s Office and the citizens of the State.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring accounting services are complete, accurate and in accordance with the law.
- Maintain budget and accounting systems to ensure that they are in compliance with State law and practice.
- Develop and implement administrative policies and procedures in accordance with State law and requirements.
- Provide the Attorney General’s Office with necessary administrative support to provide high quality and efficient legal representation.
- Supply human resource, administrative and accounting services.
- Facilitate purchasing to ensure that it is cost effective and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

RESULTS

- Fiscal matters are handled to ensure that efficient and accountable government services are provided and that the systems are in accordance with the laws of the State.
- Personnel matters are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner and in accordance with the law.
- Access to accurate legal resources is provided to ensure timely and effective representation is provided.
- Administrative support is provided to efficiently carry out the delivery of high quality legal services.