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AT A GLANCE

- Serves as Chief Legal Officer for the State of Minnesota.
- Defends State law when challenged in court.
- Provides legal representation to State agencies, boards, commissions, and officials.
- Helps Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect by advocating for consumers and taking legal action on their behalf.
- Provides support to county attorneys in criminal matters when requested.

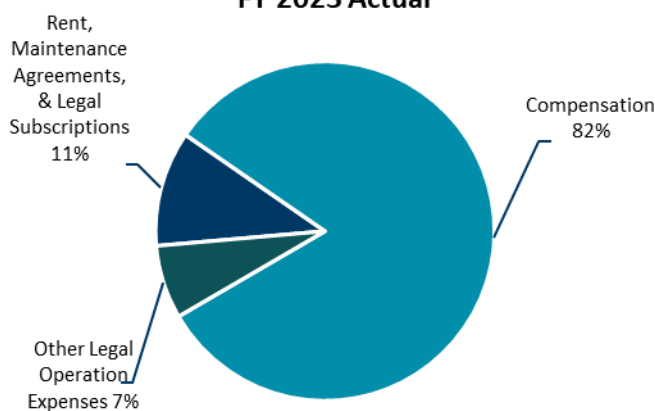
PURPOSE

The Attorney General is the State of Minnesota's Chief Legal Officer. The Attorney General's Office defends Minnesota laws when they face a legal challenge. The Office provides legal representation to more than 100 State agencies, boards, and commissions. The Office also protects the public by advocating for consumers and bringing legal action to help Minnesotans afford their lives and live with dignity and respect. The work of the Attorney General's Office helps to support the following statewide outcomes:

- State agencies, boards, and commissions deliver services to all Minnesotans fairly, effectively, and equitably.
- By reducing the cost of litigation and returning settlements to the State General Fund, the State of Minnesota has more resources to serve the needs of Minnesotans.
- All Minnesotans can afford their lives and live with dignity, safety and respect.
- All Minnesotans benefit from an economy that works for everyone.
- All Minnesotans can better afford their lives with access to high-quality, comprehensive healthcare, can live in healthier environments where natural resources are used sustainably, can be protected from fraud and deception in its many forms no matter where they live or how much they earn.

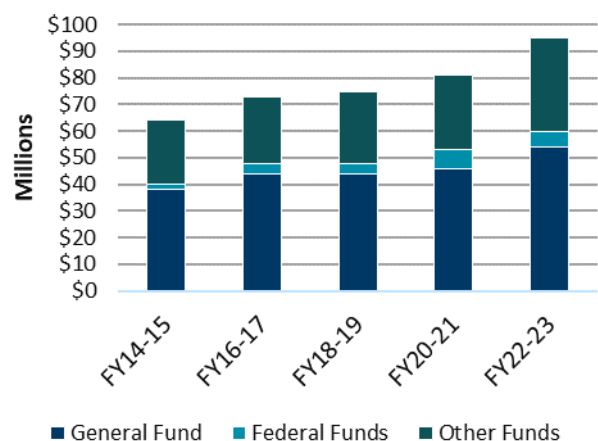
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

STRATEGIES

- Facilitate the enforcement of, and defend challenges to, duly enacted Minnesota laws.
 - Deliver high-quality, efficient, and effective legal representation to State agencies, boards, commissions, and officials.
 - Protect and save taxpayers' dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against the State.
 - Provide proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
 - Provide legal representation to State agencies and boards in various civil and administrative proceedings and obtain monetary payments as directed by the Minnesota Legislature.
 - Use the full power granted the Attorney General under Minn. Stat. § 8.31 and other State laws to protect Minnesotans from unfair, discriminatory, or other unlawful practices in business, commerce, or trade.
 - Directly advocate for consumers in disputes with business to put money directly in consumer's pockets.
 - Provide Minnesota counties and law enforcement agencies with assistance and expertise in serious criminal matters.
 - Ensure that the public interest is protected in delivering legal services.
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Program: Attorney General**Activity: Government Support****AT A GLANCE**

The Government Support Section:

- Enforced the laws and rules enacted to protect Minnesota residents.
- Defended State entities and laws in enforcement proceedings.
- Defended claims against State entities and employees saving millions of taxpayer dollars.
- Protected and saved taxpayer dollars by defending claims for monetary judgments against the Department of Human Services.
- Pursued monetary recovery for cost of care.
- Provided legal support to new agencies, boards, and other state entities

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Government Support Section provides a broad range of legal representation to the vast majority of state government through Minnesota State entities including, among others, Minnesota Management and Budget, the Departments of Corrections, Commerce, Health, Human Services, Labor and Industry, the State Board of Investment, Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, Board of Peace Officer Standards, and all of the Minnesota health-related licensing boards.

The section represents these state agencies and boards in disciplinary and enforcement proceedings in administrative, state, and federal courts to ensure that Minnesota law is enforced and upheld. The section provides consistent, high quality legal advice and representation in a cost-effective manner and works to ensure the public interest is represented in all matters.

The section primarily provides legal representation in state agencies' enforcement, disciplinary and regulatory actions to protect Minnesota residents. The section represents State entities in licensing, regulatory, rate making, disciplinary and enforcement actions. And, 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.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- State agencies and boards are provided legal representation in enforcement and disciplinary proceedings.
- Legal support is provided as new agencies, boards, and other state entities set themselves up.
- Claims and litigation are avoided by proactive legal advice.
- Millions of tax dollars are saved by defense of legal claims.
- Agencies and boards are represented in complex financial and contract transactions.
- Provides legal counsel to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, including the defense of the constitutionality of the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- Provides proactive legal counsel and representation in an effort to avoid lawsuits or resolve disputes.
- Litigates matters on behalf of state agencies and boards to ensure that Minnesota laws are enforced and upheld and that the public interest is protected.
- Pursues and recovers monetary fines, overpayments of government funds, and estate and subrogation claims.
- Protects government benefit program integrity by defending agency eligibility determinations.

RESULTS

- Enforcement of Minnesota laws and regulations protects Minnesotans' rights, health, and safety.
 - Legal advice and representation facilitate the implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
 - The implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature are facilitated by the provision of efficient and competent legal advice and representation.
 - Litigation is conducted in a manner to advance the public interest.
 - Defense of claims and recovery actions for State entities protects the State Treasury.
 - Represents the health-related licensing boards in disciplinary action so that Minnesota residents are provided with access to high quality healthcare through safe health care professionals.
 - Obtained judgments requiring repayment of funds to State government.
 - In FY 2024, represented the Minnesota Department of Health ("MDH") in enforcement proceedings to bring facilities into compliance with Assisted Living Licensure Law.
 - Pursued claims related to health care and health insurance paid, including subrogation claims.
 - Defended agency eligibility determinations so that only eligible individuals receive government assistance.
-

Program: Attorney General

Activity: Health And Safety Section

AT A GLANCE

The Health and Safety Section:

- Provided Minnesota counties and law enforcement agencies with prosecutorial assistance in serious criminal matters.
- Prosecuted healthcare providers that fraudulently obtained State Medicaid funds.
- Prosecuted criminal cases ranging from sexual assault to racketeering to murder.
- Handled False Claims Act cases.
- Represented the Department of Transportation in road improvement projects.
- Represented the Department of Public Safety at implied consent hearings.
- Provided assistance to Minnesota residents.
- Helped local prosecutors obtain expungement orders in approximately 900 cases.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Health and Safety 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 with criminal appeals. The section prosecutes healthcare providers committing Medicaid fraud and assists county attorneys in prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation cases. In addition, the section provides legal representation to the Commissioner of Public Safety, including at implied consent hearings, and the Minnesota State Patrol in forfeiture matters.

Through its work for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the section provides legal advice and litigation representation regarding construction-related matters and assists in real estate transactions, evaluating claims and attempting to resolve claims before litigation arises. The section also protects taxpayers by filing claims on behalf of Transportation against entities that fail to pay employees legally mandated wages.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Health and Safety Section provides the following services:

- Provides assistance to county attorneys when requested in serious criminal prosecutions.
- Provides assistance to county attorneys in felony appeals, including murder, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, felony assault, and drug distribution cases.
- Assists county attorneys in civil commitment hearings involving dangerous sexual predators.
- Prosecutes healthcare provider fraud within the Medicaid program and recovers fraudulently obtained Medicaid funds.
- Appears in court on behalf of the Commissioner of Public Safety in implied consent cases, and on behalf of the Minnesota State Patrol in its forfeiture proceedings.
- Investigations of innocence claims and assisting local prosecutors in obtaining expungement orders.
- Delivers proactive legal advice to avoid lawsuits.
- Defends monetary claims brought against the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota National Guard to protect millions of taxpayer dollars.

RESULTS

Specific benefits the Health and Safety Section obtained for the State include:

- 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 protects the health and safety of Minnesotans.
 - 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.
 - Residents' rights and safety are protected.
 - Legal representation saves millions of taxpayers' dollars by its defense of claims against State agencies.
 - Prosecuted a complex network of medical providers, interpreters, and non-emergency transportation drivers who conspired to steal the identities of Medicaid beneficiaries and defraud the Medicaid program by billing for services not provided, overbilling services, and using the stolen identities of individuals to bill for services they did not receive.
 - Handled nearly 3,500 district court proceedings and associated appeals challenging the revocation, cancellation, withdrawal, and disqualification of driving privileges under various provisions of Minnesota law.
 - Since early 2023, hosted and participated in nearly a dozen expungement clinics that helped nearly 1,000 people complete and submit their expungement application. To date, the Division has helped local prosecutors obtain expungement orders in approximately 900 cases.
 - In August 2024, the CRU recommended that the 2009 conviction in Hennepin County of Edgar Barrientos for murder be vacated. The recommendation follows a three-year investigation, culminating in a 180-page report compiled by the CRU. In November 2024, a Hennepin County District Court set aside Edgar Barrientos conviction based on the CRU evidence, ordered him to be released from prison and the case against him dismissed.
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Program: Attorney General**Activity: Consumer Protection Section****AT A GLANCE**

In FY 2024-25, the Consumer Protection Section:

- Upheld and implemented the laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
- Enforced Minnesota's consumer protection, worker protection, and antitrust laws.
- Responded to Minnesotans' concerns about fraud and other problems with businesses.
- Ensured Minnesota nonprofits, charities, and trusts registered and complied with Minnesota law.
- Advocated for residential and small business ratepayers on utility matters.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Consumer Protection Section of the Attorney General's Office investigates potential violations and enforces Minnesota's consumer protection, worker protection, wage theft, and antitrust laws. The Section responds to concerns about businesses submitted by members of the public and facilitates resolution of these complaints. It also 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.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Consumer Protection Section provides the following services:

- The Consumer, Wage, and Antitrust Division investigates and, where appropriate, files enforcement actions to ensure businesses comply with the state consumer protection, worker protection (including wage theft), and antitrust laws. The laws enforced by the Division include laws prohibiting consumer fraud, deceptive trade practices, false advertising, wage theft, and state and federal antitrust laws. The Division conducts investigations and takes action to stop and deter fraud, anticompetitive conduct, and other unlawful practices in business, commerce, or trade and to protect consumers and workers. The Division also participates in numerous coordinated investigations of potential fraudulent or anticompetitive conduct by multiple state and federal enforcers of consumer protection, worker protection, and antitrust laws, including other state attorneys general, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- The Consumer Action Division counsels consumers regarding disputes with businesses or concerns about fraudulent activity and responds to consumers' requests for assistance.
- Newly created Antitrust unit that undertakes investigations and enforcement actions focused on enforcement in industries important to Minnesota, including agriculture, healthcare, and technology, among others.
- Enforcement of the 2023 law requiring pre-merger notification of certain healthcare transactions and the Digital Fair Repair Act.
- Expanded the Wage Theft Unit into the full-fledged Wage Theft Division with five attorneys and two investigators. This has allowed the Office to undertake more investigations and enforcement actions.
- The Charities Division oversees and regulates Minnesota nonprofit organizations, charities, and trusts. The Division maintains a public registry of charities, charitable trusts, and professional fundraisers that operate in the State for transparency purposes. The Division also oversees and regulates charities, charitable trusts, and nonprofits active in Minnesota pursuant to the Office's authority under statute and

common law. Finally, the Charities Division enforces state charitable solicitation, charitable trust, and nonprofit laws.

- Fully staffed Civil Rights Division that protect tenants, home-purchasers, and other consumers in the marketplace that were targeted—or disproportionately harmed—by discrimination and fraud on the basis of race, religion, age, and other protected statuses.
- The Residential Utilities Division (“RUD”) represents the interests of residential and small-business utility consumers in the complex and changing electric, natural gas, and telecommunications industries, particularly regarding utility rates, reliability of service, and service quality issues. The RUD’s work supports Minnesota’s economy and the quality of life of its residents by making sure that utilities’ rates are reasonable, their expenses are prudent, and that customers receive high quality service. This is essential to ensure that the state’s residents and small businesses are not burdened by excessive costs or poor reliability for these necessary services. The RUD advocates for residential and small business ratepayers in utility matters before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”).

RESULTS

Specific benefits the Consumer Protection Section obtained for the State:

- Legal work facilitates the implementation and enforcement of laws enacted by the Minnesota Legislature.
- Consumer protection, worker protection (including wage theft), and antitrust laws are fairly enforced.
- Residents’ rights are protected by making sure Minnesota laws are enforced and upheld.
- The Division handled more than 18,000 cases of informal mediation and complaints about businesses and other organizations, up 20% from last fiscal year.
- Between January and June 2024, the Division handled more than 38,000 calls from the public including 1,255 calls on medical billing, 1,686 calls on home rentals, 205 calls about condominiums and townhomes, 70 calls from individuals facing foreclosure, 817 calls on consumer debt and garnishment, 540 calls on utilities and utility shutoffs, 1,176 calls about auto purchasing or leasing, and 936 calls about a variety of scams targeting Minnesotans of all ages.
- Arrived at settlements of more than \$19 million for Minnesota consumers, up from last year’s \$14 million.
- Obtained a settlement requiring two debt settlement companies that illegally collected fees from customers and misrepresented their services to cease operating in Minnesota and provide just over \$1 million in refunds to its Minnesota consumers. Since taking Office, Attorney General Ellison has returned over \$2.8 million to consumers harmed by fraudulent debt settlement companies.
- Resolved a tenant-protection case against vertically integrated companies who rented out over 600 single-family homes to Minnesota families and who systematically misrepresented their property-repair practices and failed to maintain habitable housing for their tenants. The settlement required the companies to cease their unlawful practices, provide \$2.2 million in cash restitution to their tenants, provide \$2 million in debt forgiveness for past tenants, and created a path for the sale of the entire rental portfolio to affordable-housing entities.
- In January 2024, filed a lawsuit against some dairy operations owners alleging that the companies systematically deprived its vulnerable, low-wage dairy employees of millions of dollars in wages. The lawsuit alleges that this was accomplished by shaving both regular and overtime hours from workers’ paychecks, not paying wages owed at the beginning and end of workers’ employment, and by unlawfully deducting rent for substandard onsite housing that fails to meet standards of habitability under Minnesota law.
- Since the new reporting requirements for certain health care entity transactions law went into effect, the AGO has received 11 notices of transactions and completed review of eight of those transactions, including a five-year oversight agreement with Wisconsin-based Aspirus Health and St. Luke’s Hospital of Duluth, following review of the proposed acquisition of St. Luke’s by Aspirus.

- Entered into settlements that guarantees Minnesotans (both insured and uninsured) access to a one-month supply of insulin for no more than \$35. The agreement also requires donations of free insulin through charitable programs throughout the state.
 - The section has secured historic settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and a consulting firm, as well as helped update Minnesota's landmark opioid legislation. This will result which will result in over \$300 million flowing into the state over the next 15 years. The first payments from these settlements were distributed in the fall of 2022. Minnesota received \$19.9 million from these companies in 2024. Pursuant to Minnesota's updated opioid legislation and the Memorandum of Agreement between the State and cities and counties, 75% of these funds will go directly to local governments and the remaining 25% will be put into a restricted opioid abatement fund, which is overseen by the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council.
 - In a telecom proceeding, the Division helped obtain an order requiring CenturyLink to restore adequate landline telephone service to approximately 5,000 consumers. Most of these consumers are in rural areas and lack alternative service providers.
 - In 2024, reduced electric and gas utilities' proposed rate increases by \$67.85 million through settlements.
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Program: Attorney General**Activity: Solicitor General Section****AT A GLANCE**

In FY 2024-2025, the Solicitor General Section:

- Provided high-quality legal advice and representation to all three branches of Minnesota Government, including Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials, and employees.
- Successfully defended Minnesota laws from legal challenges brought before state and federal courts.
- Secured \$109 million to settle the class actions arising out of Tyler v. Hennepin
- Saved the State just over \$25 million by defeating or effectively resolving claims by plaintiffs.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Solicitor General Section provides high-quality and effective legal advice and representation to all three branches of Minnesota Government in a wide variety of civil cases. After a reorganization in January of 2020, the Solicitor General Section is made up of four litigation divisions: Employment, Torts, and Public Utilities Commission (“ETP”); Environment and Natural Resources (“ENR”); Tax Litigation; and Education. Each division serves its clients by providing proactive legal counsel in an effort to avoid lawsuits and representing clients in litigation to ensure that the public interest is protected.

The ETP Division advises and represents individuals and entities across state government in tort, employment, and other civil legal claims that do not fit neatly in other divisions. ETP lawyers often are called on to defend challenges to the constitutionality of Minnesota laws. The division also provides legal advice and representation to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

The ENR Division advises and represents the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Board. In that role it helps enforce the State’s environmental laws and regulations and defends challenges to those agencies’ administrative actions. The ENR Division also houses the transactional attorneys from across the AGO, who primarily provide State clients with advice and expertise on contracting and real estate.

The Tax Litigation Division represents the Department of Revenue (“DOR”) in proceedings brought by taxpayers challenging DOR’s tax assessments; defends constitutional challenges to Minnesota’s tax laws; and advises DOR in the collection of delinquent taxes.

The Education Division advises and represents the Department of Education (“MDE”), the Office of Higher Education (“OHE”), the Perpich Center for Arts Education and the State Academies, as well as Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, with its system of 37 separate campuses. The Education division also represents the following pension boards: Teachers Retirement Association, Public Employees Retirement Association and Minnesota State Retirement System.

Finally, the Solicitor General ensures that all divisions of the AGO provide high quality and consistent representation in our state and federal appellate courts and takes on significant constitutional challenges to Minnesota laws.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Solicitor General Section provides the following services:

- Represents the above-mentioned government entities, the State of Minnesota and public officials in legal matters pending before state and federal courts, including at district court and appellate levels.
- Defends Minnesota laws against constitutional and other legal challenges.
- Defends Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials and employees in challenges to their implementation and administration of Minnesota laws.
- Defends Constitutional officers, State agencies, boards, public officials and employees in a variety of other civil matters, including in tort and employment claims.
- Advises and counsels the above-mentioned government entities and public officials on litigation risks and alternatives to avoid the commencement of adverse legal claims.
- Defends successfully against significant claims for monetary damages, saving and protecting taxpayer dollars.

RESULTS

Specific benefits the Solicitor General Section obtained for the State include:

- The ETP Division saved the State just over \$19 million by defeating or settling claims against the State.
 - The Tax Litigation Division obtained new judgments/settlements totaling \$3,142,463 of which \$1,784,859 was already collected. The Tax Litigation division also saved the State \$6,320,744 and saved counties \$5,985,000 by defeating or settling claims.
 - Settled the class actions arising out of Tyler v. Hennepin, the United States Supreme Court case that held that when a public entity sells property to collect a debt, retaining excess value of the property above the owner's tax debt violates the Takings Clause of the United States Constitution. The parties negotiated a settlement, which the Legislature approved.
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Program: Attorney General**Activity: Administrative Operations****AT A GLANCE**

In FY 2024-25, the Administrative Operations:

- Provided administrative, human resources, accounting services, information technology, and support services to the Attorney General's Office to provide efficient and effective legal representation.
- Ensconced several employee committees to help the office operate more effectively, inclusively, and efficiently to serve all Minnesotans.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

- Ensure that budget, human resources, payroll, 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 matters.
- Provide reliable, safe, and professional information technologies to support all staff and the State in delivering legal representation and services.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Protect taxpayer dollars by ensuring accounting and payroll 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 AGO with necessary administrative support to provide high-quality and efficient legal representation.
- Supply human resources, administrative, and accounting services.
- Ensure that purchasing is cost effective and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Provide hardware and software technical support to staff, maintain data security, and coordinate security updates and software improvements.
- Provide robust eDiscovery services, litigation support, and legal research tools.

RESULTS

- Administrative support is provided to carry out the delivery of high-quality legal services efficiently and effectively.
- Legal resources are available to ensure timely and effective representation.
- 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.
- The Office received the Star Tribune's 2024 Top Workplace award for the fourth year in a row. The Office was also named a Top Workplace nationally by USA Today for the third year in a row. The Office has also

received special recognition for the work it does to hire, retain, and support veterans and the military-connected community.

- Implementing Office-wide strategies, policies and training for further diversifying our workforce and increasing retention of our existing, talented workforce.
 - Staff training and professional development professional opportunities that help employees develop and maintain core competencies such as trial advocacy, deposition skills, and legal writing for litigators, or documentation and drafting techniques for transactional staff.
 - Renovation of the St. Paul office to update and modernize our present space, as well as improving physical security systems in the office. This work also includes enhancements to virtual court appearance spaces, conference rooms, and other collaboration spaces where attendees appear in person and remotely.
 - Rebuilding of the Office's outdated IT systems with a focus on security, data privacy and cybersecurity for sensitive data.
 - Expansion of the AGO's eDiscovery tools used to securely store and review large terabytes of data the AGO maintains when representing client agencies or bringing consumer protection litigation. Complex litigation matters often span multiple years, requiring large volumes of data to be hosted and searchable for long periods of time.
 - Modernization of the AGO Law Library through investment in digital research tools as well as an inventory tracking system, a self-checkout stand, and library security technology for the existing print collection.
 - Information technology services have been adapted to support hybrid work for the majority of AGO staff.
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