



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024

JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL KRIS MAYES

MESSAGE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report for the Office of the Arizona Attorney General. This report offers a complete and comprehensive overview of the various initiatives and cases our office has undertaken this past year to improve and protect the lives of Arizonans, uphold the rule of law, and ensure justice for everyone in our state.

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

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

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

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

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

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



My Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Mayes".

Kris Mayes

Arizona Attorney General

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ABOUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

LAWYER FOR THE PEOPLE

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

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





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Attorney General Kris Mayes held town halls in Willcox and La Paz County to address groundwater depletion caused by industrial-scale farming. In Willcox, concerns were raised about large-scale dairy operations depleting local aquifers, leading to dry wells and land subsidence. In La Paz County, the Attorney General addressed the impact of extensive groundwater pumping by foreign-owned agricultural enterprises cultivating water-intensive crops like alfalfa for export. Residents reported significant declines in water levels, affecting local water availability and infrastructure.

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

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



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

The AGO expanded its online offerings to include comprehensive resources for seniors, providing caregiver guidance, and protection against fraud and exploitation. We created new community resources including a Sober Living Checklist to assist families and people in assessing sober living facilities. This tool facilitates the identification of trustworthy facilities, identifies red flags of fraudulent activity, and guarantees well-informed decision-making. We also created an informational document on arbitration agreements. Arbitration agreements are frequently included in assisted care facility contracts and our document helps families navigate the contract associated with these arrangements. Before signing, people should use this resource to make sure they are aware of their rights and the consequences of these agreements.

LISTA DE VERIFICACION PARA UNA VIDA SOBRE EN CASA. QUE SABER

Lista de verificación para una casa de vida sobria:

- ¿El centro tiene licencia o está acreditado? Busque la licencia de organizaciones de buena reputación o licencias estatales.
- ¿Cuál es la proporción de personal (por residente)?
- ¿Qué tipo de apoyo hay disponible? Infórmese sobre los procedimientos de atención médica y procedimientos de tratamiento.
- ¿Cuál es el costo y cómo se factura? Se debe tener un presupuesto claro de los procedimientos de tratamiento y transparentes o se debe evitar el pago por adelantado.

Señales de advertencia de vida sobria:

- No hay licencias ni acreditación o licencias estatales.
- Hacinamiento o sobrecarga.
- Una casa mal mantenida o con capacidad limitada.
- Alta rotación de personal.
- Sin reglas establecidas.
- Problemas de seguridad.
- Desconfianza en los proveedores.
- Tarifas altas.
- Costos ocultos.

Understanding the paperwork in long-term care facilities

Admitting a family member to a long-term care facility can be both emotional and confusing. It may seem easier to simply sign all the paperwork provided by the facility, but it's important to understand the arbitration agreement to preserve your rights in case something goes wrong.

What is an arbitration agreement?
If a facility hurts a loved one, you give up the right to a jury trial by signing an arbitration agreement. If the facility hurts a loved one, you may have to pay a private arbitrator instead of a judge and jury in your attempt to fix the arbitrator's errors if you can.

Why you shouldn't sign arbitration agreements.
You never have to sign an arbitration agreement, but if you do it will be nearly impossible to arbitrate. It is the best option for your family, you may not know that arbitration is a bad problem comes up in the future and you, your attorney, advises arbitration as the best course of legal action. That time, however, it is too late. To sign any agreement, you should know if you will need it.

What should you do?

- Ask about arbitration before selecting a facility. Always ask if a facility requires an arbitration agreement before accepting a new resident. Provide care without a signed arbitration agreement, question whether to consent. You will not allow a judge and jury to hear cases where one of the residents is harmed.
- Read the admission paperwork carefully. The admission paperwork can be confusing, but be on the lookout for any form with warning that you are waiving your right to a jury trial. If you find one, you should call a lawyer. If the facility refuses to admit your loved one without a signed arbitration agreement, you should call a lawyer. An experienced attorney can advise you on whether an arbitration agreement has already been signed.

SOBER LIVING HOME CHECKLIST: WHAT TO KNOW

What to ask when considering a sober living home:

- Is the facility licensed or accredited?** Look for licensing from reputable organizations or state licenses.
- What is the staff-to-resident ratio?** Find out about the credentials of the employees and if they have received any additional rehabilitation training.
- What are the house rules and expectations?** Legitimate homes have explicit policies on visits, drug usage, curfews, and treatment plans.
- Are drug tests administered regularly?** Regular drug testing is necessary if a professional sober home to make sure that there are no substances present.
- What kind of support is available?** Find out what treatment plans, therapy, or healthcare services are offered on-site or through partnerships.
- What is the cost, and how is it billed?** Be cautious of homes that need big deposits without transparent billing procedures or paperwork should be avoided.

Warning signs of illegitimate sober living homes:

- No Clear Licensing or Accreditation:** Homes that refuse to disclose their accreditation or licenses may not be complying with state or local requirements in the state.
- Overcrowded or Poor Living Conditions:** A poorly maintained home is likely overcrowded, with no complaints parked in communal spaces and unhygienic conditions.
- High Turnover Rates:** Staff or resident turnover on a regular basis may be a sign of a dangerous or poorly managed facility.
- No Formal Structure or Support:** Rules, support groups, and schedules are characteristics of legitimate sober living homes. Residents are free to come and go without being held accountable, proceed with caution.
- Push for Unnecessary Services:** Beware of homes that pressure residents into unnecessary medical procedures or therapy in order to maximize insurance profits.
- Unclear Fees and Financial Mismanagement:** It is very concerning if you are charged without the required paperwork or do not receive a detailed cost breakdown.

SI NECESITA INFORMAR INQUIETUDES.

AZ Department of Health Services | ATOCCS Quality of Care Unit
www.azdhs.gov/licensing/special | www.azatoccs.gov/ACMS
(602) 542-3422 | (602) 417-4885

2005 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

IF YOU NEED TO REPORT CONCERNS, CONTACT:

AZ Department of Health Services | ATOCCS Quality of Care Concerns
www.azdhs.gov/licensing/special | www.azatoccs.gov/ACMS
(602) 542-3422 | (602) 417-4885

AZ Attorney General's Office
www.azag.gov/complaints/criminal | www.azag.gov/complaints/civil
(602) 542-2123

www.azag.gov





PROTECTING CONSUMERS

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



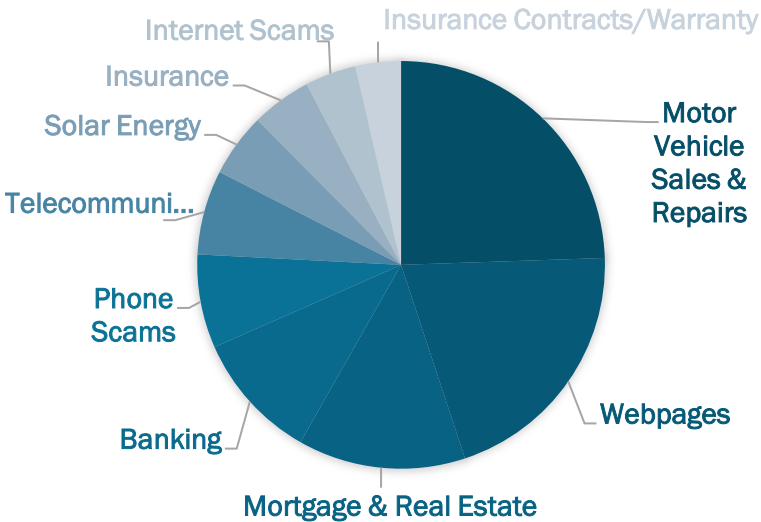
RESOLVING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

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

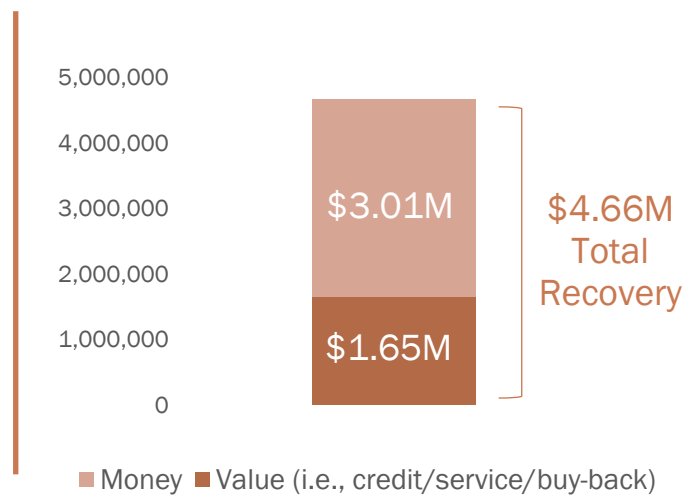
20,047
CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

\$4.66 million
RECOVERED FOR CONSUMERS THROUGH AN INFORMAL RESOLUTION PROCESS

TOP CONSUMER COMPLAINTS



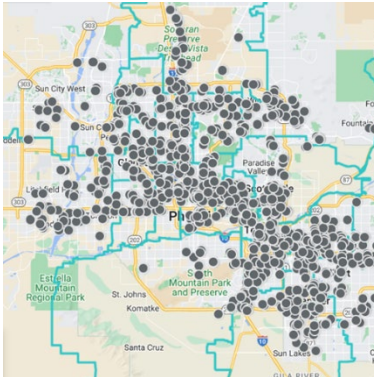
RECOVERY FOR CONSUMERS





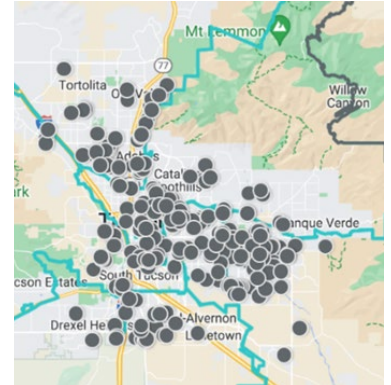
ENSURING FAIR BUSINESS COMPETITION

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



Arizona AG Mayes sues multiple Valley landlords, software company over alleged rent price fixing

Mayes says the scheme has added to Arizona's affordable housing crisis



CASE HIGHLIGHT: REALPAGE LAWSUIT

Attorney General Mayes filed suit against RealPage and nine apartment landlords and management companies to stop an alleged apartment rent price-fixing cartel and information-sharing scheme. As alleged in the Complaint, using RealPage’s revenue management software, landlords and management companies that operate a majority of the multifamily apartments in the Phoenix and Tucson areas shared confidential and competitively sensitive information with RealPage and then used steadily increasing rental rates generated by RealPage from that information on tenant leases. Knowing their competitors were using the same software generating the same advice from the same input, landlords no longer needed to compete with each other. At a time when Arizonans are suffering from catastrophic rent increases, the Attorney General’s Office seeks to restore competition between landlords, who should be fighting to provide lower rents and better amenities to fill their vacancies. Months after Attorney General Mayes filed suit, several other states attorneys general and the U.S. Department of Justice have come to the same conclusion and filed similar lawsuits.



“RealPage and these landlords have harmed Arizonans and directly contributed to Arizona’s affordable housing crisis.”
- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



CASE HIGHLIGHT: COULTER AUTO COMPLAINT AND SETTLEMENT

Attorney General Kris Mayes partnered with the FTC to take action against Arizona-based Coulter Motor Company for engaging in a wide array of practices that harm consumers, from deceptive online vehicle pricing to charging Latino car buyers more in interest and add-on products. Coulter, along with its former general manager, Gregory Depaola, will have to pay \$2.6 million to settle the lawsuit, most of which will go to provide refunds to consumers harmed by defendants' allegedly unlawful actions. Coulter used junk fees and other illegal tactics to drive up prices for consumers, especially Latino consumers. The Attorney General will not tolerate this kind of predatory behavior and the AGO will continue to do everything we can to stop these unfair and deceptive practices to protect Arizona consumers.

“We’re sending a clear message that businesses must fairly and honestly disclose all fees and honor the guarantees that they make to Arizonans,”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



CASE HIGHLIGHT: KROGER-ALBERTSONS MERGER LAWSUIT

In February 2023, Attorney General Mayes launched an antitrust investigation into the proposed Kroger-Albertsons merger and held a series of townhalls across the state to hear from Arizonans on how the merger would impact their lives and communities. These companies are the country's two largest national supermarket chains, and this merger presented a significant risk of reduced competition, higher food prices, and job loss nationwide. In Arizona, Kroger and Albertsons are the 4th and 7th largest private employers, with 35,000 employees across 250 stores combined. The companies also operate under Fry's, Smith's, and Safeway brands in Arizona. In February 2024, Attorney General Mayes joined the FTC and a bipartisan group of attorneys general in suing to block the merger, alleging it would create a monopoly.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: COX COMMUNICATIONS LAWSUIT AND SETTLEMENT

Attorney General Kris Mayes secured a substantial settlement with Cox Communications for more than \$13 million, resolving an investigation and lawsuit alleging the telecommunications company failed to adequately disclose additional fees to customers. Attorney General Mayes' lawsuit alleged that Cox deceived Arizonans who purchased television services to enter long-term contracts through promises of a “price lock guarantee” and other fixed-pricing “deals.” The settlement includes a \$10 million payment to the State and \$3,042,494 distributed by Cox to current and former customers. As Attorney General and a former utilities regulator, Attorney General Mayes has always fought to ensure that consumers are provided clear and accurate information about the services they receive. By holding Cox accountable for years of deceptive charges and false promises, the AGO sent a clear message that business must fairly and honestly disclose all fees and honor the guarantees that they make to Arizonans.



CASE HIGHLIGHT: J&J TALCUM POWDER LAWSUIT AND SETTLEMENT

Attorney General Kris Mayes, alongside a bipartisan group of 42 other state attorneys general, reached a massive \$700 million settlement with Johnson & Johnson to resolve a lawsuit related to the marketing of baby powder products that contained talc. For decades, Johnson & Johnson misled the public about the safety of its talc products. By stopping the manufacture and sale of these harmful products and imposing these penalties, Attorney General Mayes is protecting the health and well-being of countless Arizonans and ensuring accountability on behalf of consumers. As part of the lawsuit, Johnson & Johnson has agreed to stop the manufacture and sale of its baby powder and body powder products that contain talc in the United States. While this lawsuit targeted the deceptive marketing of these products, numerous other lawsuits filed by private plaintiffs in class actions raised allegations that talc causes serious health issues including mesothelioma and ovarian cancer.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: HERITAGE VILLAGE

Attorney General Kris Mayes sued Heritage Village Assisted Living facility operators in order to protect Arizonans from elder abuse, consumer fraud, and racketeering. Attorney General Mayes asked the courts to appoint a receiver of the assisted living facility in Mesa in order to protect the residents, bring the facility into compliance with state regulations and manage the facility's finances. The AGO's investigation and lawsuit uncovered evidence of Mission Management Services LLC, the operator of Heritage Village and other facilities like Visions Apache junction, scamming residents and their families out of payments that should have been used to provide care for their loved ones. Attorney General Mayes sued to protect the vulnerable residents living in these facilities, help bring in qualified health care providers to run the facility, and hold these fraudsters accountable.



“When repeated fines and agency punishments are not enough to deter predators who maximize profits at the expense of elderly citizens, the job of protecting our most vulnerable falls on the Attorney General’s Office,”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES

ASSISTING RENTERS AT EVERY LEVEL

In July, Attorney General Kris Mayes issued a demand letter on behalf of renters to Buenas Communities LLC, requiring immediate action from the landlord to address the last of proper air conditioning unit at their complex in Phoenix. At the time of the letter, media had reported up to 400 units were without adequate air conditioning. Especially in the summer months, the extreme heat poses a serious health risk—that’s why the AGO required Buenas Communities LLC to take immediate action to ensure residents have safe and habitable living conditions in accordance with the law.



In August, Attorney General Mayes sued Buenas Communities LLC for ongoing neglect and deception. In addition to failing to provide adequate air conditioning, the AGO's lawsuit alleges that the complex has pervasive issues including broken windows, faulty plumbing, bed bug infestations, and crumbling infrastructure. believes every Arizona resident should feel safe and comfortable in their home – regardless of their income bracket. The AGO will continue to protect the rights and well-being of Arizona residents.

HOLDING BIG TECH ACCOUNTABLE

There is no question that big tech companies play an ever-increasing role in our lives and the consumer marketplace. Throughout fiscal year 2024, the Attorney General's Office dedicated substantial resources to combating deceptive and unfair practices by tech companies.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: META LAWSUIT

Attorney General Kris Mayes joined a bipartisan group of 41 other state attorney to sue Meta for knowingly designing and deploying harmful features on Instagram and its other social media platforms that purposefully addict children and teens. At the same time, Meta falsely assured the public that these features are safe and suitable for young users. By violating consumer protection laws and federal privacy standards, they've put the mental health and well-being of an entire generation at risk. The complaint alleges that these actions violate state consumer protection laws and COPPA.

Nearly all the attorneys general in the country have worked together since 2021 to investigate Meta for providing and promoting its social media platforms to children and young adults while use is associated with physical and mental health harms. The multistate coalition that brought the Meta complaint is also investigating TikTok's conduct on a similar set of concerns.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: AMAZON LAWSUITS

Under Attorney General Kris Mayes' leadership, Arizona has sued Amazon twice, accusing the online giant of unfair and deceptive business practices under the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act and the Arizona Uniform State Antitrust Act.

The first lawsuit focuses on Amazon Prime's cancellation process, which the suit alleges is intentionally confusing and misleading, a strategy Amazon tellingly called Project Iliad. Amazon's cancellation process allegedly required users to navigate a complicated and manipulative interface with skewed wording, confusing choices, and repeated nudging. Such methods, known as "dark patterns," exploit cognitive biases to influence and manipulate consumer choices. These tactics include using repeated misdirection to make cancellation difficult through the use of misleading wording and graphics, and emphasizing the benefits lost upon cancellation to dissuade users from leaving the service.

The second lawsuit targets Amazon's Buy Box algorithm, which determines which offer for a given product is made available via the "Buy Now" or "Add to Cart" buttons. Amazon portrays itself as a cost-conscious retailer and publicly asserts that the Buy Box algorithm is intended to choose the offer that most consumers would prefer. The Attorney General believes Arizona consumers deserve to be treated fairly and without deception by big corporations like Amazon, and small businesses deserve a level playing field. The AGO will pursue Amazon until it changes its business practices to comply with Arizona law.



PROTECTING VULNERABLE AND OLDER ADULTS

The Attorney General's Office will not tolerate the abuse of Arizona's older and vulnerable adults—whether physical, emotional, financial or by neglect.

FOCUSING ON COMBATING ELDER ABUSE

Attorney General Mayes created an Elder Affairs Unit to dedicate more investigative and prosecution resources to assist those victims of elder financial exploitation and abuse. The unit works closely with law enforcement, state agencies and stakeholders to prevent and prosecute financial and physical elder abuse.

“One of my Office's top priorities is fighting elder abuse and protecting older adults in Arizona.”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. DONALD HUEGEL, ET AL

Donald Huegel acted as a 'Money Mule' for a criminal organization running online romance scams with elderly victims. Two Arizona victims met fake romantic partners online who wooed them, then started asking them to provide money for a variety of reasons. Overall, the victims were tricked into sending over \$449,000 to the scammers. Huegel was convicted by a jury on various felony counts and was later sentenced to four years in prison, followed by three years of probation.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. THOMAS TILTON

Disbarred attorney Thomas Tilton was asked by a friend to assist in disbursing the estate of the friend's client, Loretta Thomas. While the client was still alive, Tilton was added to Thomas' multiple bank accounts, which he stole money. He attempted to cover his crime by claiming that the business entities heirs had received their money, believing none of them knew of the bequest. However, Habitat for Humanity, knew they were getting a bequeath and followed up with the probate court. Tilton provided a final status report of the estate to the court that was inaccurate and designed to hide his theft. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: LIFE CARE PLANNING

The Attorney General's Office works to increase transparency for families to make informed decisions about their loved one's care. Through increased awareness and access to information, Arizonans of all ages can make their choices known about who will manage their medical affairs in the event of an emergency. To empower Arizonans, the Office distributes Life Care Planning packets across the state.



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.

COMPENSATING FOR THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

This year the AGO hosted the 2024 Arizona Fentanyl Forum a two-day conference to bring experts together from various fields to tackle the fentanyl crisis head- on alongside the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council (APAAC). The forum focused on the medical, investigative, prosecution, and community partnership aspects of tackling the fentanyl crisis.

CLOGGING THE FENTANYL FUNNEL

14.56 million
FENTANYL PILLS SEIZED

Attorney General Mayes has made fighting the fentanyl crisis a top priority since taking office last year. 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: STATE V. ALAN ELIAS BELTRAN HERNANDEZ

SIS Special Agents learned that Alan Elias Beltran Hernandez was responsible for delivering a bulk amount of fentanyl from the Nogales area into Phoenix. During their investigation, Agents recovered approximately 400,000 fentanyl pills hidden in an inflatable bounce house. Hernandez was prosecuted and sentenced to two years in prison.





CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. DAVID MARTINEZ-PARRA

Mohave County investigators observed David Martinez-Parra meeting with drug traffickers and money launderers in their community. Investigators followed Martinez-Parra back to a stash house in Phoenix where they seized 84 pounds of methamphetamine, 36,820 fentanyl pills, and over \$7,000. Martinez-Parra was prosecuted and sentenced to 12.5 years in prison.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. EDUARDO CRUZ

Arizona Department of Public Safety investigators arrested Eduardo Cruz for selling methamphetamine and approximately 10,000 fentanyl pills, weighing 2.4 pounds. Cruz was prosecuted by the AGO and was sentenced to 5 years in prison followed by three years on probation.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. FRANCISCO ABRIL, GLORIA ORTIZ, AND DAVID RIVIERA

Francisco Abril was investigated for conducting an illegal enterprise to sell methamphetamine and fentanyl pills in the Tucson area. He was found to be obtaining 16 pounds of methamphetamine and a handgun despite being prohibited by law due to prior convictions. Ortiz lived in the home with Abril and she was found guilty of endangerment for allowing the children to present in a house with access to fentanyl pills. Rivera was observed purchasing drugs from Abril's residence and pled guilty to attempted possession of 600 fentanyl pills and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon. Ortiz was placed on probation for 3 years, Rivera was sentenced to 6 months in prison followed by 3 years of probation, and Abril was sentenced to four and a half years in prison followed by three years on probation.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. LINO BOL

Lino Bol was a member of a multi-state drug trafficking organization operating in Arizona, Texas, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Illinois. Bol, along with other individuals in group, sent approximately \$68,862 to Tucson and received 16 packages believed to contain fentanyl. Based upon the money transferred and the messages exchanged, law enforcement officers estimate this group received over 16,000 fentanyl pills. Bol was sentenced to one year in jail and three years on probation.

“I’m proud of the dedicated agents, investigators, and prosecutors at the Attorney General’s Office who are working every day to protect Arizonans. Those engaged in illicit drug trafficking should be on notice that my office, along with our law enforcement partners, will find you and bring you to justice,”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES





PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Attorney General's Office is taking an aggressive approach to preserving and protecting Arizona's water and natural environment for the next generation. Whether it's pushing for stronger groundwater protections for rural Arizonans, or going after big water polluters – Attorney General Mayes understands the need to protect our most precious natural resource – water.

SAFEGUARDING GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES

Since the beginning of her administration, Attorney General Mayes has called for stricter oversight of Arizona's most precious natural resource – water. She is especially concerned about rural Arizonans whose wells have been dewatered due to the lack of Active Management Areas (AMAs) and Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs) that exist in other parts of the state. Over-pumping of groundwater has also caused land subsidence and structural damage in many of these areas.

The Attorney General has spoken out against the decision by the prior administration to allow foreign corporations to lease State-owned land, drill deep wells, and then pump unlimited amounts of groundwater – for free. These megafarms are essentially exporting Arizona's water by growing alfalfa, which is then used to feed cattle in Saudi Arabia and other places. The Arizona Attorney General's Office worked closely with Governor Hobbs' administration on this issue, including conducting site inspections of several Arizona State Land Department lessees. In October 2023, Governor Hobbs decided to terminate and not renew Fondomonte's Arizona State Land leases in Butler Valley.

In April 2023, Attorney General Mayes discovered discrepancies in two pending applications for new deep-water wells on State Trust land, leased to Saudi-owned Fondomonte. The two wells would have each pumped 3,000 gallons of water per minute – totaling 6,000 gallons of water a minute that would have been used to grow alfalfa for Saudi Arabian cattle. Had these wells been permitted, just three minutes of use would equal the amount of water used by an average Phoenix family of four in an entire month, approximately 17,000 gallons. After Attorney General Mayes brought the issue to the attention of the Arizona State Land Department and Arizona Department of Water Resources, the drill permits were revoked.

HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

What is PFAS? Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as "PFAS" or toxic "forever chemicals," are in a wide range of consumer products and firefighting foams. These man-made chemicals contaminated the environment and drinking water.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: 3M AND DUPONT

Attorney General Mayes filed suit against manufacturers of products PFAST, a class of man-made chemical compounds causing widespread pollution of the State's groundwater. Defendants include 3M and DuPont, among others. These companies have known for decades that so-called 'forever chemicals' would contaminate water supplies for generations to come but chose to sell their products anyway. The failure by these polluters to inform the state about the risks associated with these chemicals has harmed our environment and the health of Arizonans – so the Attorney General is holding them accountable.



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

In April, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled the 1864 law on the books in Arizona could be enforced, potentially allowing abortion in Arizona to become illegal. The Attorney General immediately filed a motion to reconsider and emphasized that as long as she was in power, no woman or doctor will be prosecuted under the law. Immediately, the AGO began clarifying the status of the abortion law with hospitals and medical providers. Attorney General Mayes met with more than 40 representatives, including Chief Medical Officers, from hospitals and clinics around the state to better understand the current and impending issues they face. She held an additional meeting, attended by more than 25 abortion care providers, emergency room physicians, IVF specialists, OB/GYNs and others who work in the reproductive health field. The Attorney General eventually won a stay from the Arizona supreme Court, that delayed the decision going into effect long enough for the Legislature to pass a repeal of the ban and the governor to sign it into law.

“As your Attorney General you have my word that I won’t ever stop fighting for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy for the people of Arizona,”

- ATTORNEY GENERAL MAYES



ENFORCING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

With the passage of Proposition 139 in November, voters have spoken loudly and clearly in support of protecting a woman’s right to make decisions about her own body without government interference. The right to abortion is now enshrined in Arizona’s constitution. Because of this initiative, laws like the 15-week and 20-week abortion bans, which broadly restrict access before viability, are clearly unconstitutional. Many other restrictions that were designed to make it harder for women to access abortion care are likely unconstitutional now too. The AGO continues to work with health care providers and the courts to ensure clarity regarding Arizona’s abortion laws that now protect freedom, privacy, and the rights of all Arizonans.



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.

2,815
ALLEGATIONS OF
DISCRIMINATION
INVESTIGATED

~\$1.6m
IN MONETARY
DAMAGES FOR
VICTIMS

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

The Attorney General’s Office filed an Arizona Civil Rights Act lawsuit to protect two teenage employees from their employer’s sexual harassment. In this lawsuit, the State alleged that the employer subjected its employees to a hostile work environment based on sex and quid pro quo sexual harassment. Employers with one or more employees, violate the Arizona Civil Rights Act when they engage in unlawful sexual harassment or retaliation against their employees.

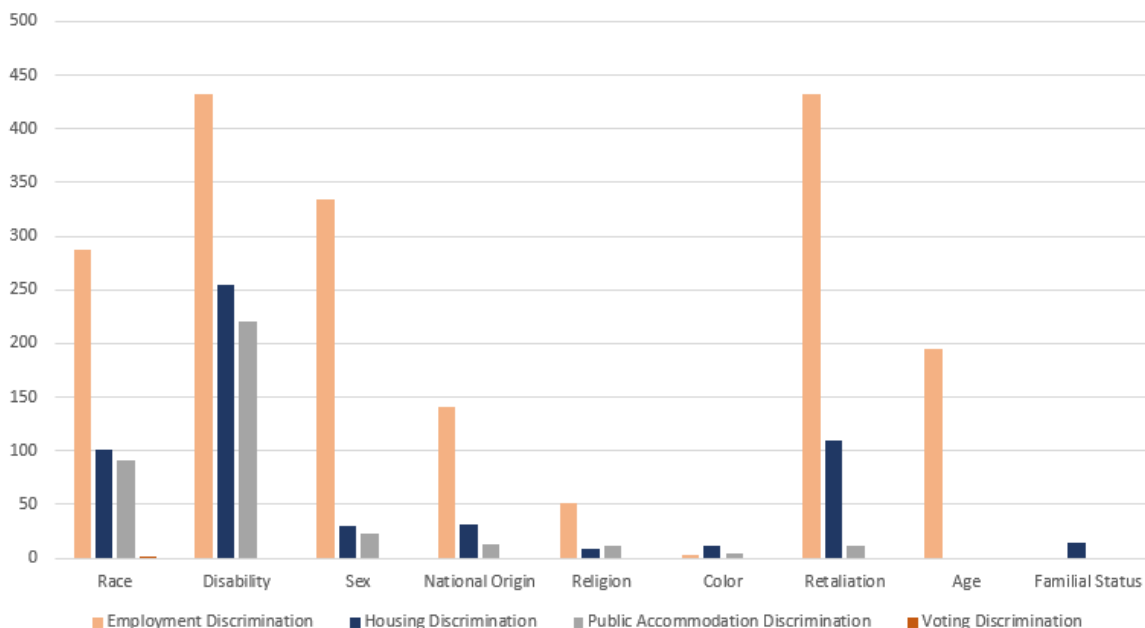
PUBLIC ACCOMODATION

The Attorney General’s Office filed a lawsuit against an inpatient behavioral health facility to enforce the Arizonans with Disabilities Act and protect individuals with hearing-based disabilities from unlawful discrimination. The State alleged that Defendants discriminated against their patient, who is hard of hearing, by failing to provide her with effective communication during her month-long inpatient residential treatment at Defendants’ facility; isolating her; and providing her with unequal and lesser services than other patients without disabilities.

FAIR HOUSING

The Attorney General’s Office protected housing for Arizonans through joint housing litigation by its consumer protection and civil rights sections and outreach to communities and housing stakeholders.

ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION





STOPPING CRIMINALS IN THEIR TRACKS

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

3,060
CASES
OPENED

1,357
DEFENDANTS
CHARGED

\$14.5 M
RESTITUTION TO
VICTIMS

1,380
CASES
RESOLVED

COMBATING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME

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



CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. KEMP, ET AL.

Target learned that a group of individuals were stealing new televisions from Target locations using a scheme that involved swapping serial numbers, so they could later sell the stolen televisions through their business, Absolute Electronics. In total, the group obtained \$37,961 in fraudulent funds to Target. All defendants were convicted, sentenced and ordered to pay full restitution to Target.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. IANCU FACLIA, ET AL



The ORT Task Force identified a 30-person criminal syndicate that was stealing items from retailers along with cloning EBT cards in California, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Illinois, and Florida. The investigation recovered over 1,300 cloned EBT and bank cards, along with approximately \$60,000 in recovered baby formula, 7,200 cans of Red Bull, and numerous skimming devices. It is estimated that approximately 2,700 victims lost over \$1.2 million in stolen SNAP benefits to this syndicate as well. Many defendants have pled and been sentenced to prison.



ENFORCING TOBACCO LAWS

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

1,969
TOBACCO
INSPECTIONS

374
TOBACCO
CITATIONS

OPERATION COUNTER STRIKE

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



STAMPING OUT FRAUD

The Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program attracts fraud and abuse that the AGO investigates and prosecutes in order to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE V. BOWERS AND HEWITT

The Attorney General is prosecuting two out of state residents of multiple felony counts including conspiracy, fraud, and forgery. Johnny Lee Bowers and Ashley Meredith Hewitt, a.k.a. Ashley Hopkins, allegedly submitted applications to Arizona’s ESA program for children, both real and fictitious, with false, forged, or fraudulent documentation (i.e. birth certificates, utility bills, and/or lease agreements.) They submitted applications for 50 children, 43 of whom did not exist. They applied as parents under their own names as well as under the names of made-up "ghost" parents. In total, the defendants received about \$110,000 from the ESA Program and used the money for their own personal living expenses. Their prosecution is ongoing.



PROTECTING ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY

The Attorney General announced a criminal investigation in the fake elector scheme upon taking office in order to protect Arizona elections and U.S. democracy. A state grand jury, made up of everyday, regular Arizonans, handed down 18 felony indictments. These indictments were issued by an independent grand jury composed of ordinary Arizonans who carefully reviewed the evidence and found that there was sufficient cause to charge the defendants with the alleged crimes. These 18 individuals, had they succeeded, would have deprived Arizona’s voters of their right to have their votes counted for their chosen president in the 2020 election. It effectively would have made their right to vote meaningless. The AGO will remain focused on ensuring that the defendants are held accountable under the law, and will continue to pursue this case with the commitment and integrity that Arizonans deserve.

SERVING VICTIMS

The Attorney General’s Office is committed to a system of justice that ensures that those who do harm to others are held responsible. But equally important is a justice system that remembers, respects, and includes victims. The victims’ services team is tasked with providing accessible and supportive assistance for crime victims of cases the office is investigating and prosecuting.

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

6,664
VICTIMS
SERVED

“Thanks to you and the team for contacting me regarding each step of the case and offering services. The advocate program has been a relief- I have reached out and each time questions were answered and felt, as a victim, that questions and communications matter. In appreciation of your service.”

-VICTIM, TRIAL





REPRESENTING THE STATE ON APPEAL

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

REVIEWING ARIZONA'S CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PROTOCOLS AND PROCESSES

The Attorney General's Office, which is responsible for handling appeals in all felony criminal cases in the state—including all capital cases—worked to defend convictions and sentences in nearly 300 criminal cases this year. That included two cases argued by attorneys from the Office in the United States Supreme Court, one of which was a capital case in which the Office successfully obtained reversal of a lower-court ruling that would have vacated a death sentence. And after a comprehensive review of Arizona's execution protocols, the Attorney General announced that she will resume the seeking of execution warrants, starting with inmate Aaron Gunches.

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:

- Sued to prevent the Food and Drug Administration from reversing its approval of a proven-safe abortion medication;
- Defended against challenges to ballot initiatives lawfully passed by the people pursuant to their power under the Arizona Constitution;
- Sued the federal government to fight a decision by the IRS that harms Arizona taxpayers;
- Pushed back on utility regulators' attempts to increase rates; and
- Defended against challenges to Arizona's judicial retention election system.

PROVIDING LEGAL CLARITY THROUGH ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

The Attorney General's Office received requests from state legislators, state officials, and county attorneys to provide legal opinions to clarify important areas of law. Attorney General Mayes issued fifteen opinions clarifying, among other things:

- The meaning of "medical emergency" in a statute regulating abortion care;
- The legality of selling products containing Delta-8 and other hemp-synthesized intoxicants;
- The impact of Arizona's 2021 Amended Tribal-State Gaming Compact on historical horse-race betting;
- Whether campaign funds may be used to pay for caregiving expenses incurred as a direct result of campaign activity or holding public office; and
- A county's authority to impose regulations on vacation and short-term rentals.

ENSURING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The Attorney General's Office also receives and investigates complaints concerning potential violations of laws related to government accountability, including open meeting law, election laws, campaign finance law, and laws governing the proper use of public funds. The Office completed more than sixty government accountability investigations, some of which involved allegations spanning numerous years. In addition, the Office streamlined its intake complaint process to help minimize backlogs, as well as organized and implemented a coordinated election-day response which resulted in a significantly lower number of complaints received in connection with the 2024 general election compared to prior elections.



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.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Protective Services Section (PSS) provides legal advice and representation to DCS. The primary objective of each case is to safely reunify families or, if reunification is not possible, find safe, permanent caregivers for each child. The path to permanency requires intense and frequent litigation. Attorneys participated in about 44,589 hearings.

6,150 CASES IMPACTING
9,966 ARIZONA CHILDREN

Attorneys in the Civil and Criminal Litigation and Advice Section (CLA) provide legal advice to DES and DCS and represent the agencies in administrative, civil, and criminal proceedings. In the majority of proceedings, members of the public have the opportunity to appeal adverse public benefit determinations or challenge their proposed placement on certain registries. For DES’s Adult Protective Services (APS) alone, CLA reviewed 460 files proposing the placement of alleged perpetrators on the APS Registry in 2024. CLA also advises and represents DES and DCS regarding matters arising from their respective business operations, including but not limited to employment law matters, contracts and procurement, public records law, agency policies, proposed rule changes, proposed legislation, and facilities management. Finally, those who defraud the State through DES public benefits programs are prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office. In FY24, CLA recouped \$1.1 million in public benefits prior to sentencing and secured \$1.8 million in criminal restitution orders.

SERVING ARIZONA FAMILIES

The Child Support Services Section (CSS) provides legal advice and representation to DES’s Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) to ensure that children receive financial support from both parents. In CSS, a team of 37 attorneys and 80 legal staff work in 11 regional units across the state, handling state-involved child support matters in every county in Arizona. Through our work, CSS helps both to reimburse public funds and to increase parental involvement with their children, by way of financial support.

\$1.98M
PAST-DUE
CHILD
SUPPORT
COLLECTED

Establishing and helping to maintain a financial framework for parents living separately is at the core of CSS’s practice. Each CSS attorney, supported by a paralegal and a legal secretary, is responsible for managing a caseload of judicial actions to establish paternity and to establish, modify, and enforce child support orders. In the span of about ten months, CSS attorneys evaluated approximately 6,689 DCSS cases to file the appropriate judicial action. At least two full days a week, CSS attorneys appear at evidentiary hearings and, where possible, attempt to facilitate child support agreements among DCSS, the custodial parent, and the noncustodial parent. CSS attorneys appeared at approximately 10,318.00 hearings in the past year, in addition to responding to multiple requests for legal advice from DCSS on a daily basis.

UNDERSTANDING LITIGANTS TO BETTER SERVE CLIENTS

The entire CFPD team comes together once a year for a continuing legal education (CLE) conference. All three sections awarded recognition to attorneys and staff, and attorneys and paralegals were educated on the ethical considerations of agency representation and trauma informed practices and leadership litigation techniques.



REPRESENTING STATE AGENCIES

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

SERVING ARIZONANS

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

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environmental Enforcement Section (EES) represents the State in civil enforcement actions for violations of Arizona’s environmental protection laws. The Attorney General’s Office successfully defended ADEQ before the Supreme Court of Arizona in a case of first impression in Arizona defining what constitutes a “new source” under the Clean Water Act.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS:

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE V. STATE

The Attorney General’s Office successfully defended ADEQ before the Supreme Court of Arizona in a case of first impression in Arizona defining what constitutes a “new source” under the Clean Water Act.

STATE V. SUPERSTITION CRUSHING, LLC.

On July 26, the Attorney General’s Office obtained a consent judgment requiring Superstition Crushing, LLC to pay \$190,000 in civil penalties to the State of Arizona for violating its Clean Air Act permits.

STATE V. MISTRAS GROUP, LLC.

On October 21, the Attorney General’s Office obtained preliminary injunctive relief against Mistras Group, LLC in civil litigation alleging that chromic acid had leaked or spilled from the company’s chrome plating facility into the environment.

DEFENDING ARIZONA’S SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Education Unit represents the Arizona’s K-12 state education entities including the State Board of Education, State Board for Charter Schools, State Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and the School Facilities Oversight Board. The Attorney General’s Office provided advice on over 200 matters interpreting statutes and regulations, student and public records, Arizona’s Open Meeting Law, and educator discipline. The State Board’s educator discipline program has increased significantly this year with over 1,000 open investigations and over 150 cases set for hearing this year.



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’ licensing statutes and rules. The Attorney General’s Office may file an action to prevent unlicensed facilities from operating, or if a licensed health care institution violates laws, the office may file action to suspend or revoke a license and more. The Health Unit handled over 100 licensing enforcement actions this year and provides advise to ADHS on open investigations of licensed facilities and other matters.

LICENSING

The Licensing & Enforcement Section (LES) represents 30 state professional licensing and regulatory boards and agencies. The LES attorneys serve as general counsel and provide representation in administrative disciplinary and license denial hearings. The attorneys also represent the boards and agencies in the Superior Court, the Court of Appeals and the Arizona Supreme Court in judicial review actions, special actions, and injunctive proceedings. The LES attorneys also provide legal advice to the boards and agencies regarding their governing statutes and rules and provide legal assistance with respect to their compliance with the open meeting and public records laws. In FY24 the LES provided representation in over 400 cases and more than 24,000 hours of legal services to their client agencies.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: BELLAPIANTA V. ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

The case of Maya Bellapianta v. Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board serves as a representative example of the type of cases the LES undertakes to help ensure their clients are protecting the public’s health, safety and welfare. In that case, Dr. Bellapianta challenged the Board’s authority to require a licensee who is under investigation to undergo any combination of a medical, physical, or mental examination that the Board finds necessary to determine the licensee’s condition. The Arizona Court of Appeals affirmed the Board’s authority holding that the Board issued the interim order in order to determine Dr. Bellapianta’s ability to safely and competently practice veterinary medicine and that the interim order requiring her to undergo these types of evaluations is an investigatory tool to aid the Board in that determination. Most licensing boards have similar authority. They consider interim orders for competency evaluations an essential tool in their efforts to keep the public safe and out of harm’s way.



NATURAL RESOURCES

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

CASE HIGHLIGHT: STATE TRUST LAND

The Attorney General’s Office assisted the Arizona State Land Department in completing auctions of state trust land that will yield hundreds of millions of dollars for deposit into the state land trust or directly to public schools and universities. Attorneys assisted in the planning and auction of: several sites throughout the Phoenix-area for semiconductor industry suppliers; and several significant alternative energy generation and transmission sites.

CASE HIGHLIGHT: INDIAN WATER AND LAND AGREEMENTS

NRS represented the Arizona State Land Department (“ASLD”) in the negotiation of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement which settled outstanding Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe water rights claims to the Colorado River, the Little Colorado River, and local groundwater sources and provides certainty to other users and communities in Northeastern Arizona. NRS also represented ASLD in the implementation of the 1996 Hopi-Navajo Land Settlement Act which will allow the Hopi to add up to 110,000 acres of land to the Hopi Reservation in areas south and west of Winslow, Arizona.

PUBLIC LAW

The Public Law Section’s diverse client agencies include those involved in financial and occupational regulation, liquor regulation, agriculture and natural resources, military affairs, economics, and promotions. Public Law Section (PLS) provides legal advice on a variety of matters that arise in the daily operation of state government such as public records, contract, open meetings, and administrative law questions. PLS frequently represents client agencies in administrative tribunals, as well as in state and federal court. PLS also provides independent legal advice to boards and commissions that require assistance from an attorney other than their regularly assigned attorney, most often when a board conducts a hearing or considers a recommended decision in a case. As an independent advisor, PLS frequently assists health profession and occupational licensing boards.

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 State Appellate Court and works closely with the SGO on those matters.



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) 2024, 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 I-10 Broadway Curve widening.

TRN's MVD Unit won \$133,900 of related civil penalties and settlements arising from vehicle dealer licensing cases; brought suspension and cancellation proceedings against 23 Authorized Third Party MVDs who were not performing to minimum standards; litigating 17 cases in superior court quieting titles and upholding DUI driver license suspensions, and defending four of ADOT's Executive Hearing Office decisions in the court of appeals.

DPS attorneys completed 1,207 legal opinions concerning the publication of offenders on the DPS Sex Offender Web Page.

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE STATE EMPLOYMENT MANAGEMENT

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

LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

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



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KRIS

MAYES

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024

ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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