

Oregon Department of Justice

Office of the Attorney General

ELLEN F. ROSENBLUM
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ABOUT THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) is led by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Udland. DOJ is Oregon's largest public law firm, serving state government and supporting safe and healthy communities throughout Oregon by providing essential justice services. DOJ was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1947, and today there are over 1,400 employees statewide. DOJ has an annual budget of \$717.9 million.

DOJ RESPONSIBILITIES:

2022 was a monumental year for Oregon, with DOJ finalizing more than \$1.4 billion in environmental and opioid related settlements alone. This includes a \$700 million settlement with Monsanto over PCB contamination in Oregon, and eight different multi-state agreements totaling \$701.5 million with companies that distributed, produced or sold opioids. All of the money will be used for environmental remediation and opioid abatement and education. More information on these settlements is here: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/2022update>.

In general, more than 350 laws give authority to the Oregon Attorney General and DOJ. In addition to serving as legal counsel to hundreds of state agencies, boards, and commissions, some of DOJ's responsibilities also include:

- Collecting and enforcing child support payments;
- Protecting children, seniors and consumers;
- Protecting our state's environment — including air, land, and water;
- Representing the state's interests when it is sued;
- Investigating and prosecuting criminal matters;
- Supporting crime victims and survivors;
- Responding to bias incidents and hate crimes;
- Supervising 23,000 registered charities in Oregon; and
- Drafting and defending ballot titles.

SERVING AS THE PEOPLE'S ATTORNEY

The Attorney General and DOJ advocate for and protect all Oregonians, especially our most vulnerable — including children, seniors, and immigrants. AG Rosenblum has especially prioritized consumer education, civil rights outreach, hate crimes, elder abuse, and human (sex and labor) trafficking.

PUBLIC POLICY

DOJ actively works with the Legislature to develop policy and enact legislation that benefits Oregonians and state government. DOJ's policy team also leads several task forces charged with developing major legislation, including the Attorney General's Labor Trafficking Task Force and the Attorney General's Consumer Privacy Task Force.

REPRESENTING THE STATE

As Oregon's chief law officer, the Attorney General represents the state in all court actions and legal proceedings (including appeals) in which the state is a party or has an interest, including cases involving elected and appointed state officials, and state agencies, boards, and commissions.

PROVIDING LEGAL OPINIONS

The Attorney General provides legal opinions about questions of law in which the state or public subdivision may have an interest. These can be requested by the Governor, a state agency official, or any member of the Legislature.

OFFICES AND DIVISIONS

DOJ is headquartered in the Justice Building in Salem, with an additional 22 offices around the state. DOJ is divided into nine divisions: Administrative Services, Attorney General's Office, General Counsel, Trial, Appellate, Civil Enforcement, Crime Victim and Survivor Services, Criminal Justice, and Child Support.

WORKING TOGETHER

We look forward to working with you! While the main points of contact will be DOJ's policy team (Kimberly McCullough and Kate Denison), the Attorney General or Deputy Attorney General can also meet at your request.

Contact:

Kate Denison, Deputy Legislative Director, 971-599-9851, kate.e.denison@doj.state.or.us

Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director, 503-931-0418, Kimberly.mccullough@doj.state.or.us

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DIVISIONS

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE (AGO)

The AGO, led by AG Rosenblum, is the central “hub” of DOJ. In addition to constituent services, all major policy and legal decisions pass through the AGO. In addition to the Attorney General and Deputy AG, the AGO includes a Communications Director, Legislative Director (and Deputy), Civil Rights Director, Consumer Education and Outreach Director, Budget Director, two Special Counsels to the AG, and three administrative professionals.

APPELLATE DIVISION

The Appellate Division represents the State of Oregon in all cases in the United States federal courts, Oregon Supreme Court and Oregon Court of Appeals. Lawyers in the division work on civil and administrative appeals such as tort claims, contract disputes and child welfare cases, defense of criminal convictions in direct criminal appeals, and defense of criminal convictions involving challenges to the validity of convictions of sentences after direct appeals are complete. The division also supports district attorneys throughout the state by providing advice and training on legal issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services Division provides coordination and policy direction for all administrative functions in the DOJ. Administrative Services delivers a broad range of critical services to DOJ and its employees, from human resources and information technology to financial services and building operations. The Division ensures that DOJ functions properly and is able to serve the people of Oregon each day.

DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT

The Division of Child Support administers the Oregon Child Support Program, the federal Title IV-D program for the state. After public schools, the Oregon Health Plan, and SNAP, the Oregon Child Support Program is the public program serving the most children. The program collects more than \$366 million in child support annually for Oregon families. This important anti-poverty program provides child support services to all parents, regardless of income, with services like locating absent parents, establishing parentage, initiating child and medical support orders, modifying and enforcing support orders, and receiving and distributing child and medical support payments. The federal government matches \$2 for every \$1 of state general fund, and in Oregon, \$3.96 is collected for every government dollar spent on compliance with child support. The Program operates in all 36 counties, with local branches around the state. In 19 counties, district attorneys also offer some child support services through contract with DOJ.

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Civil Enforcement Division is the Oregon DOJ's plaintiff's civil litigation arm, and regularly works with consumers around the state, in addition to working on multistate investigations. Consumers can file an online complaint 24/7 through the DOJ website. Those who file complaints work with consumer complaint specialists to informally resolve individual disputes with businesses, resulting in refunds, credits, repairs and other relief. The Hotline receives over 30,000 calls each year. There are five sections:

- **Charitable Activities:** Enforces laws regarding charitable trusts and solicitations and regulates charitable gaming activities, such as bingo and raffle operations.
- **Civil Recovery:** Obtains judgments, collects debts owed to state agencies, and provides legal services to the Division of Child Support.
- **Consumer Protection:** Investigates and prosecutes violations of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act (UTPA), commonly known as Oregon's consumer law. Attorneys regularly participate in joint and multistate investigations with other state and federal consumer protection agencies. Through settlements and litigation, the Section helps consumers, but also ensure companies comply with the law. For example, in 2022, Oregon co-led the largest national privacy settlement ever against Google for their location tracking practices.
- **Medicaid Fraud:** Handles cases involving physical or financial abuse/neglect of residents of Medicaid-funded facilities. This unit is part of a federally subsidized program to deter fraud committed by Medicaid health care service providers.
- **Child Advocacy:** Helps protect abused, neglected and abandoned children throughout Oregon. Child Advocacy attorneys provide a wide range of legal advice to DHS child welfare workers and often represent DHS in contested juvenile and circuit court hearings and help achieve safe and permanent placement for children.

CRIME VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES DIVISION

The Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) helps to compensate victims for crime-related costs, protects victims' rights and helps fund local victim service providers. Through trainings, advisory committees and partnerships, CVSSD helps shape best practices statewide and brings a diverse collection of voices to the issue of victim and survivors' rights. The division connects many different programs with a single goal: to serve victims and survivors effectively and compassionately.

CVSSD and its Trafficking Intervention Coordinator lead the coordinated statewide response to human trafficking in Oregon – both child and youth sex trafficking as well as labor trafficking. This work includes building partnerships between law enforcement, victim service providers, child welfare and public health to identify trafficking within their communities; providing training and education to these partners; and developing and supporting local services for survivors.

Direct victim service programs within CVSSD include:

- **The Appellate Advocacy Program**, supports victims whose cases are navigating direct appeal, PCR, federal habeas, and PSRB proceedings.
- **The Address Confidentiality Program**, supports hundreds of survivors of domestic, sexual, trafficking, and stalking violence to escape tracking by their abusers.
- **The Bias Response Hotline**, connects victims of hate crimes and bias incidents with trauma-informed, culturally, and linguistically responsive, victim-centered advocates who provide support, referrals, access to emergency financial assistance, and systems navigation. The program publishes [a monthly data dashboard](#) in coordination with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), disseminates [community-specific reports](#), issues a quarterly newsletter, conducts outreach and education events around the state, and provides training to culturally and population specific community agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates. In 2021, the Oregon legislature increased funding for the program, allowing DOJ to expand hotline services, including hiring five regionally located, bi-and multi-lingual hotline advocates; a bias resource prosecutor; create an emergency fund and expand counseling services for victims.
- **The Sanctuary Promise Program** opened on April 1, 2022, providing a trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically responsive, victim-oriented reporting mechanism for individuals who have been targeted in violation of Oregon’s Sanctuary Promise laws, which prohibit state and local law enforcement and government agencies from helping to enforce federal immigration laws and orders. Pursuant to statute, [violations data](#) is publicly available. DOJ hired its first sanctuary law violations investigator in December with investigations starting in January 2023.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION (CJ)

CJ provides investigative, analytical, prosecution and training support to Oregon’s district attorneys and law enforcement agencies. The division consists of three sections: District Attorney Assistance, Organized Crime, and the Analytical Criminal Information Services section. CJ also has five specialized resource prosecutors who work statewide, including prosecutors who focus on Bias Crimes, DUII, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Wildlife/Anti-Poaching, and Environmental Crimes.

GENERAL COUNSEL (GC) DIVISION

GC acts as the state's in-house counsel and provides a broad range of legal services to state agencies, boards and commissions, including day-to-day legal advice and representing state agencies in administrative hearings. The division is composed of the following sections: Business Activities, Business Transactions, Government Services, Health and Human Services, Labor and Employment, Natural Resources, and Tax and Finance.

TRIAL DIVISION

The division defends the state, its agencies, employees and officers in civil lawsuits brought in state and federal courts. The division is divided into three sections:

- **The Civil Litigation Section** handles a wide variety of cases in state and federal courts. These cases involve disputes over agency orders, tort claims, civil rights, employment and other civil cases involving the state.
- **The Criminal and Collateral Remedies Section** handles cases filed by a convicted person seeking a new trial or a re-sentencing from a trial court. This Section seeks to uphold the convictions won by a district attorney when a case reaches the state post-conviction and federal habeas corpus stage.
- **The Special Litigation Unit** defends state statutes and policies against constitutional challenges in state and federal courts. This unit also defends the state in complex litigation involving elections law, class action lawsuits and environmental cases.