# Cítízen Centríc Report Office of the Attorney General

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Físcal Year 2025

### MISSION:

The Office of the Attorney General provides legal counsel and representation to Commonwealth government and its agencies on many issues vital to the people's interest. These issues include the protection of children from abuse and neglect, preservation of the environment, protecting the Commonwealth's financial assets, the protection of consumers, and public safety.

#### WHO WE ARE:

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is constitutionally created pursuant to the NMI Constitution, ART. 11I, § 11, as an independent agency within the Executive Branch. The Office of the Attorney General is headed by an Attorney General elected to a four-year term. The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Officer of the Commonwealth Government and is responsible for:

- Providing legal advice to the Governor and Executive
   Departments including public corporations and autonomous agencies;
  - Representing the Commonwealth in all legal matters and;
    - Prosecuting violations of commonwealth law.



DIVISIONS AND UNITS OF
THE OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL:

CIVIL DIVISION
CRIMINAL DIVISION
SOLICITOR DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER
COUNSEL

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Civil Division: 237-7500 Criminal Division: 237-7600 Investigative Division: 237-7630 tim Witness Advocacy Unit: 237-760 CNMI Office of the Attorney General Caller Box 10007 Saivan, MP 96950

<u>WEBSITE:</u> www.cnmioag.org

# OUR PROGRESS

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The office of the Attorney General represented the Commonwealth in IPI's ongoing bankruptcy action, resulting in the collection of a sizable payment on the Commonwealth's secured claim for outstanding taxes and dismissal of numerous lawsuits against the Commonwealth and Commonwealth employees.

The Passage of House Bill No. 24-1, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors raises the age of consent, clarifies definitions, and adds a new section prohibiting sexual contact with school officials and a new voyeurism.

#### Criminal Cases:

- Secured a guilty verdict in *Commonwealth v. Nick Masga Reyes* & *Chuilian Fu* as to both Defendants, on charges of Misconduct in Public Office, Conspiracy to Commit Theft by Deception, and Theft by Deception.
- Secured a guilty verdict in *Commonwealth v. Calvin Tagabuel* on charges of Aggravated Assault & Battery.

The Opioid Proceeds Council currently operates at the Office of the Attorney General; it serves as the designated authority to manage, distribute, and oversee the use of opioid settlement funds received through the OAG. The OPC has conducted multiple outreaches on Saipan, Tinian, & Rota regarding their notice of funding opportunity of \$600,000.00 to be awarded in FY 2026 to support funding evidence-based interventions, prevention strategies, and recovery support services.

The Attorney General Investigative Division continues to support and assist multiple agencies; in an effort to combat consumer complaints, and other criminal cases that include misuse of food stamps, misconduct in government office, to include theft and theft by deception reports.

#### NMI Supreme Court Case:

Commonwealth v. Torres- The NMI Supreme Court found the Superior Court erred in disqualifying the entire OAG from prosecuting former Governor Ralph Torres for his alleged theft and misconduct in office stemming from his purchase of more than \$20,000 worth of first-class airplane tickets for himself and his wife on numerous occasions.

## ACTIVITIES:

DIVISION/UNIT	FY2025
CIVIL DIVISION	
Agencies Served	35
Procurement Contract Review	704
Personnel Contract Review	930
Review of Legislation for the Governor	92
Review for Legislative Comments	111
Legal Services Request	811
Litigation	76
CNMI Supreme Court Active Cases	6
CRIMINAL DIVISION	
Criminal - Felony	180
Criminal - Misdemeanor	109
Juvenile	12
Traffic	2037
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL	
Complaints Investigated	9
Complaints Resolved	2
INVESTIGATION DIVISION	
Penal Summons - Served	85
Witness Summons - Served	245
Civil Documents - Served	13
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT	
Active Cases	145
Closed Cases	27
VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT	
Victims Served - Criminal & Traffic	301
Victims Served - Family Court	182

# **OUR FINANCES**

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:	FY2025
GENERAL FUNDS	\$2,674,352.00
Personnel	\$2,647,873.00
Operations	\$26,479.00
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$75,263.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,749,615.00
ADMINISTRATION COLLECTIONS	
Apostilles	\$30,800.00
Certifications	\$300.00
Notary Public	\$1,975.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$33,075.00
CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
Collected and distributed	\$278,710.00
Tax Rebate Offset	\$9,937.54
Attributable to Child Tax	\$0.00
Distributed & Attributable to Earned Income	\$2,578.00
Tax Credit	
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$291,225.54

# REPORT PUBLIC CORRUPTION

Public Corruption is a breach of trust by local officials or government employees, who undermine our Commonwealth's overall safety, the public trust, and confidence in our local government. If anyone has any information about wrongdoings by a public official or government employee, please submit a tip online at <a href="https://www.cnmioag.org">www.cnmioag.org</a> or contact our Investigative Division at 237-7630



## **Consumer Complaints**

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) promotes and protects the interests of the CNMI consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumer Complaint forms may be obtained at <a href="www.cnmioag.org">www.cnmioag.org</a> under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division in Capitol Hill, or via email by sending a request to consumer\_counsel@cnmioag.org

## **KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2026:**

- Continue to provide legal advice and guidance to the Executive Branch, Departments and Agencies and to represent the Commonwealth in the trial court, and on matters currently on appeal.
- Focus on illegal business practices that hurt our consumers and other business; implement consumer awareness programs, and investigate consumer complaints.
- Continue to promote and ensure an open and transparent government.
- Continue to improve/strengthen the Criminal Code.
- Continue to work on new procurement regulations for the government and provide training to agencies.
- Continue to implement Consumer awareness programs and investigate consumer complaints.
- Continue to explore solutions to mental health issues in the criminal justice system.
- Continue to collaborate with DPS and DYS to address juvenile delinquency issues in the Commonwealth.
- ❖ Continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to expand resource activities. to combat illegal drug and criminal activity in the CNMI.
- ❖ To increase child support collections and enforcements.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you like this report? Would you like to see other information? Please let us know by contacting

Andrea M. Kaipat at 670-237-7500 or email andrea\_kaipat@cnmioag.org