

FISCAL YEAR
2024

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



Citizen Centric Report Office of the Attorney General



Table of Contents

WHO WE ARE	1
OUR PROGRESS	2
OUR FINANCES	3
WHAT'S NEXT	4

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.

CONTACT US !

WEBSITE:
www.cnmioag.org

Civil Division: 237-7500
Criminal Division: 237-7600
Investigative Division: 237-7630
Victim Witness Advocacy Unit: 237-7602

CNMI Office of the
Attorney General
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

OUR PROGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In Criminal Case No. 23-0082, the Commonwealth, charged an individual with one count of Sexual Assault in the First Degree, one count Assault and Battery, and one count of Disturbing the Peace. After a three-and-a-half-day jury trial, the jury rendered a verdict of Guilty as to all charges.

In May 2023, the Office of the Attorney General established the Public Integrity Task Force. This task force collaborates with the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of the Public Auditor. This task force was created to investigate and prosecute white-collar crimes, government corruptions, and financial crimes. This partnership among the law enforcement agencies is vital to holding those accountable for waste and abuse of public funds and other criminal conduct.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals:

Successfully defended two police officers qualified immunity in a case where they made a lawful arrest of the suspect. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found that Plaintiff had not met their burden to show that the conduct complained about was unconstitutional.

From October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, the Attorney General Investigative Division has expanded its role in supporting and assisting multiple different agencies both local and federal. In a joint effort AGID has been a part of numerous operations 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.

- ❖ Submitted claims by the Commonwealth Utilities Commission to participate in settlements with 3M and DuPont relating to contamination from perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- ❖ Successfully defended a public land lease termination before the Department of Public Lands hearing officer for non-payment of rent and abandonment of the Rota Resort & Country Club property.

Airline Passenger Protection Partnership

An MOU between the Attorneys General for participating states and territories (including the CNMI) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) was executed which will expand the ability of the OAG and the DOT to hold airlines and ticket agents accountable and protect aviation consumers from unfair or deceptive practices. Our partnership will help ensure that airlines cooperate with our investigations and establishes a new fast-track system prioritizing misconduct cases when we uncover potentially unfair or deceptive practices in air transportation.

ACTIVITIES:

DIVISION/UNIT	FY2024
CIVIL DIVISION	
Agencies Served	35
Procurement Contract Review	651
Personnel Contract Review	941
Review of Legislation for the Governor	57
Review for Legislative Comments	71
Legal Services Request	581
Litigation	62
CNMI Supreme Court Active Cases	6
CRIMINAL DIVISION	
Criminal - Felony	79
Criminal - Misdemeanor	50
Juvenile	20
Traffic	3292
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL	
Complaints Investigated	5
Complaints Resolved	4
INVESTIGATION DIVISION	
Penal Summons - Served	52
Witness Summons - Served	69
Civil Documents - Served	21
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT	
Active Cases	169
Closed Cases	27
VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT	
Victims Served - Criminal & Traffic	282
Victims Served - Family Court	163


OUR FINANCES

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

BUDGET	FY2024
GENERAL FUNDS	\$2,881,300.00
Personnel	\$2,851,424.00
Operations	\$29,876.00
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$291,972.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,173,272.50
ADMINISTRATION COLLECTIONS	
Apostilles	\$113,600.00
Certifications	\$1,200.00
Notary Public	\$1,600.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$116,400.00
CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
Collected and distributed	\$463,350.53
Tax Rebate Offset	\$13,525.69
Attributable to Child Tax	\$7,180.00
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Offset	\$6,161.78
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$490,218.00

**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 www.cnmioag.org or contact our Investigative Division at 237-7630


HOTLINE

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 www.cnmioag.org 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

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE OAG

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2025:

- ❖ 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 237-7500 or email andrea_kaipat@cnmioag.org