AGO MISSION

"As an independent constitutional office, and legal counsel to state government, we serve the citizens of Washington with the highest standards of excellence, ethics and effectiveness."

AGO Quick Facts

- The AGO serves more than 230 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities, as well as the Governor and Legislature.
- The Attorney General manages the largest public law office in the state, with more than 1,200 employees and offices in 12 cities around the state: Bellingham, Port Angeles, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Wenatchee, Spokane, Yakima, Kennewick, Vancouver, and Pullman.

Main Office

www.atg.wa.gov

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360-753-6200

e-mail form:
wws2.wa.gov/ago/formhandler/ContactForm.asp

Consumer Protection

www.atg.wa.gov/consumer/

Statewide toll-free number:
1-800-551-4636

Statewide toll-free relay service:
1-800-833-6384

Antitrust Division

Office of the Attorney General
Antitrust Division
900 Fourth Ave. Suite 2000
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Public Counsel – utility regulation

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Provided courtesy of the Washington State Attorney General's Office

Rob McKenna
Attorney General

An Introduction to the Washington Office of Attorney General

Welcome to the Office of the Attorney General!

The Attorney General is the top legal officer for state government, elected by the public for a four-year term.

Attorney General Rob McKenna is Washington's 17th state Attorney General. He was sworn into office in January 2005 and is serving his first term.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) touches the lives of people all across Washington. As chief legal officer, the Attorney General leads a team of attorneys who represent state clients and the public interest as directed under state law.

What does the Attorney General's Office do?

- Represents the State of Washington before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and trial courts in all cases involving the state's interest.
- Defends in court state officers or employees ethically acting in their official capacities.
- Investigates and prosecutes persons accused of crimes at the request of the Governor or a county prosecutor.
- Advises the Governor, members of the Legislature, other state officers, and county prosecutors on legal issues.
- Gives formal written attorney general's opinions on constitutional or legal questions at the request of designated public officials.
- Protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act, enforcing laws against anti-competitive business practices.
- Represents the public interest in utility matters.
- Proposes legislation to further the public interest and provide clear, just and enforceable laws.

What does the Attorney General's Office NOT do?

- State law prohibits the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general and assistant attorneys general from engaging in the private practice of law. This means that they cannot represent private citizens in court, either to bring an action on behalf of an individual or to defend an individual. Any private citizen needing such representation should consult a private attorney.

If you do not already know an attorney in your area, referral services are available through the Washington State Bar Association website: www.wsba.org.

- The Attorney General's Office is not authorized to provide advice to private citizens on personal legal matters. While the office may answer questions of a general nature, most private issues require a detailed analysis of the law, and such services are outside the scope of the office's authority.
- The Attorney General's Office is not responsible for representing city, county or other local units of government.
- The Attorney General's Office does not launch investigations without a request from a county prosecutor or the Governor.