Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Meeting Wednesday, June 22, 2022

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South Carolina House of Representatives



Legislative Oversight Committee

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE The Honorable Chris Wooten, Chairman The Honorable Kimberly O. Johnson The Honorable Josiah Magnuson The Honorable John R. McCravy, III

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 10:30 a.m. Room 321, Blatt Building

Pursuant to Committee Rule 6.8, S.C. ETV shall be allowed access for internet streaming whenever technologically feasible.

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- II. Discussion of the study of the Attorney General's Office
- III. Adjournment

First Vice-Chair: Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.

Kambrell H. Garvin Rosalyn D. Henderson-Myers Max T. Hyde, Jr. Kimberly O. Johnson John R. McCravy, III Travis A. Moore Melissa Lackey Oremus Marvin R. Pendarvis John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV

Jennifer L. Dobson Research Director

Cathy A. Greer Administration Coordinator

Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

Post Office Box 11867 Columbia, South Carolina 29211 Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811 Room 228 Blatt Building Gil Gatch William M. "Bill" Hixon Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson Josiah Magnuson Timothy A. "Tim" McGinnis Adam M. Morgan Russell L. Ott Michael F. Rivers, Sr. Chris Wooten

Charles L. Appleby, IV Legal Counsel

Lewis Carter Research Analyst/Auditor

Riley E. McCullough Research Analyst

Law Enforcement and Criminal Subcommittee Tuesday, June 14, 2022 10:30 a.m. Blatt Room 321

Archived Video Available

I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (http://www.scstatehouse.gov) and clicking on Committee Postings and Reports, then under House Standing Committees click on Legislative Oversight. Then, click on Video Archives for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

I. The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Wooten on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, in Room 321 of the Blatt Building. The following members were present for all or a portion of the meeting: Representative Kimberly O. Johnson and Representative John R. McCravy, III.

Approval of Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.
- II. Representative McCravy makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2022, meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. McCravy's motion to approve the meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. K. Johnson	✓		
Rep. McCravy	✓		
Rep. Magnuson			✓ (NP)
Rep. Wooten	✓		

Administration of Oath

- I. Chair Wooten reminds all others placed under oath at prior meetings that they remain under oath.
- II. Chair Wooten places the following agency personnel under oath:
 - a. Don Zelenka, Deputy Attorney General (Criminal Division);
 - b. Megan Jameson, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General (Post-Conviction Relief);
 - c. Megan Burchstead, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General (General Prosecution);
 - d. Tracy Myers, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General (General Prosecution);
 - e. Kyle Senn, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General (Internet Crimes Against Children);
 - f. Heather Weiss, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General (Special Prosecution); and
 - g. Joshua Underwood, Director of Insurance Fraud Division, Department of Insurance.

Discussion of Attorney General's Office

I. Deputy Attorney General Barry Bernstein made brief remarks about the status of the study.

- II. Deputy Attorney General Don Zelenka made brief remarks pertaining to the history of the Criminal Division.
- III. Senior Assistant Attorney General Megan Jameson provided an overview of the Post-Conviction Relief Section.
- IV. Senior Assistant Attorney General Megan Burchstead, Deputy Attorney General Don Zelenka, and Senior Assistant Attorney General Tracy Myers provided an overview of the General Prosecution Section.
 - a. Department of Insurance, Insurance Fraud Division Director Joshua Underwood provided an explanation of insurance fraud prosecution since the Attorney General and Department of Insurance have entered an MOU for the Department of Insurance to prosecute these matters.
- V. Assistant Deputy Attorney General Kyle Senn provided an overview of the Internet Crimes Against Children Section.
- VI. Senior Deputy Attorney General Heather Weiss provided an overview of the Special Prosecution Section.
- VII. Subcommittee members ask questions relating to the following:
 - a. Employee compensation;
 - b. Caseloads;
 - c. Post conviction relief;
 - i. Statistics;
 - ii. Statute of limitations;
 - iii. Transcript retention;
 - iv. Impact of Covid-19;
 - v. Virtual hearings;
 - vi. Digitized records;
 - vii. Continuances;
 - viii. Recruitment and retention;
 - ix. Support staff;
 - d. General Prosecution;
 - i. Conflict referrals;
 - ii. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program fraud;
 - iii. Paycheck Protection Program fraud;
 - e. Internet Crimes Against Children;
 - i. Employee mental health assistance;
 - ii. Local task force participation;
 - iii. Type of cases;
 - iv. IP address;
 - v. Intent;
 - vi. Travel;
 - f. Special Prosecution;
 - i. Case management;

- ii. Conflicts;
- iii. Caseloads;
- iv. Human trafficking;v. Officer involved shooting;
- vi. Qualified immunity; and
- vii. Medicaid fraud referral from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Agency personnel respond to the questions.

Adjournment

I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

STUDY TIMELINE

The House Legislative Oversight Committee's (Committee) process for studying the Attorney General's Office (agency) includes actions by the full Committee; Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Subcommittee); the agency; and the public. Key dates and actions are listed below in Figure 1.

Legislative Oversight Committee Actions

- December 9, 2019 Holds Meeting #1 and prioritizes the agency for study
- January 15, 2020 Provides the agency notice about the oversight process
- February 28 April 1, 2020 Solicits input about the agency in the form of an online public survey
- April 8, 2021 Holds Meeting #2 to receive public testimony about the agency

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Actions

- March 8, 2022 Holds **Meeting #3** to discuss the agency's vision; mission; director responsibilities; organizational structure; history; and general information about finances and employees
- March 31, 2022 Holds **Meeting #4** with the Healthcare and Regulations Subcommittee to discuss the hiring of in-house counsel and outside counsel as it relates to the State Accident Fund and all state agencies.
- April 26, 2022 Holds **Meeting #5** to discuss the agency's Crime Victim Services division.
- May 25, 2022 Holds **Meeting #6** to discuss the agency's Crime Victim Compensation Section, Solicitor General and Opinions Section, and Tobacco Division.
- June 1, 2022 Holds **Meeting #7** to discuss the agency's Crime Victim Grants Section, Civil Litigation Section, Consumer Protection and Antitrust Section, and Securities and Money Services Section.
- June 8, 2022 Holds **Meeting #8** to discuss the agency's Sexual Violent Predator Section, Criminal Appeals Section, Capital Litigation Section, and State Grand Jury Section.
- June 14, 2022 Holds **Meeting #9 (TODAY)** to discuss the agency's Post Conviction Relief Section, General Prosecution Division, and Special Prosecution Division.

Attorney General's Office

- March 31, 2015 Submits its Annual Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report
- January 12, 2016 Submits its 2016 Annual Restructuring Report
- September 2016 Submits its 2015-16 Accountability Report
- September 2017 Submits its 2016-17 Accountability Report
- September 2018 Submits its 2017-18 Accountability Report
- September 2019 Submits its 2018-19 Accountability Report
- March 23, 2020 Submits its Program Evaluation Report
- September 2020 Submits its 2019-20 Accountability Report
- April 2021 Submits updated Program Evaluation Report

Public's Actions

- December 2019 Present Responds to Subcommittee's inquiries
- February 28 April 1, 2020 Provides input about the agency via an online public survey
- Ongoing Submits written comments on the Committee's webpage on the General Assembly's website (www.scstatehouse.gov)

Figure 1. Key dates in the study process.

AGENCY SNAPSHOT

Office of the Attorney General

Agency Mission

To serve the citizens of the State of South Carolina by providing legal representation of the highest quality to state government entities, by supporting the law enforcement communities and the legal and judicial branches through the legislative process, and by honorably and vigorously carrying out the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the Attorney General.

History

- 1776 The first State Constitution identifies the Attorney General (AG) and provides that the position is elected by the General Assembly
- 1868 Revised State Constitution provides for a general election of the AG
- 1929 State and US Supreme Courts affirm the authority of the AG as "the chief law enforcement officer"
- 1974 Criminal Appeals section is formed
- 1978 Post Conviction Relief actions primarily handled by the Office
- 1983 Opinions section is created
- 1992 AG statutorily responsible for litigation involving any state entity
- 1995 Capital and Collateral Litigation section is formed
- 2004 Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division is formed
- 2017 South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division is created

Current:

dentified by the agency

Challenges

- Providing competitive attorney salaries
- Retaining attorneys in the Post-Conviction Relief section
- Funding to implement the S.C. Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2016
- · Obtaining a seat on the Commission on Prosecution Coordination

Emerging:

Organizational Units

Criminal Litigation Division

Legal Services Division

Criminal Prosecution

Victim Services Division

Administration Division

Opinions Division

Division

Executive

• Raising the salary of the Attorney General which has been stagnant for over 28 years and is less than half that of a circuit solicitor

Resources

(FY 18-19)

Employees

275.2

authorized FTEs

Funding

\$78,758,364

appropriated and authorized

- · Lacking office space to accommodate the current size of the agency
- · Aging case management system that needs updating

Figure 2. Snapshot of the agency's major organizational units, fiscal year 2018-19 resources (employees and funding), successes, and challenges.¹

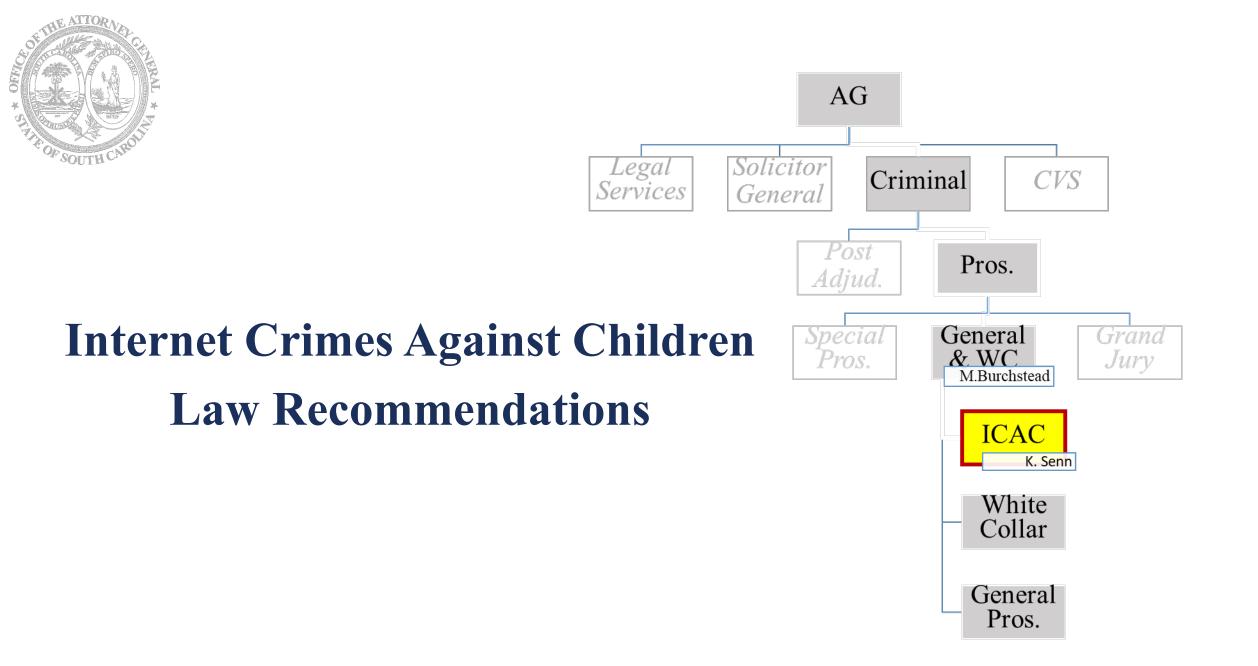
Successes

Identified by the agency

 Increasing efficiency and outreach of services to victims after separate state Crime Victim entities were merged into a single division of the AG.

 Creating regularly occurring selfevaluation practices.

 Upgrading technology hardware and desktop software AGENCY PRESENTATION – LAW RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AND SPECIAL PROSECUTION

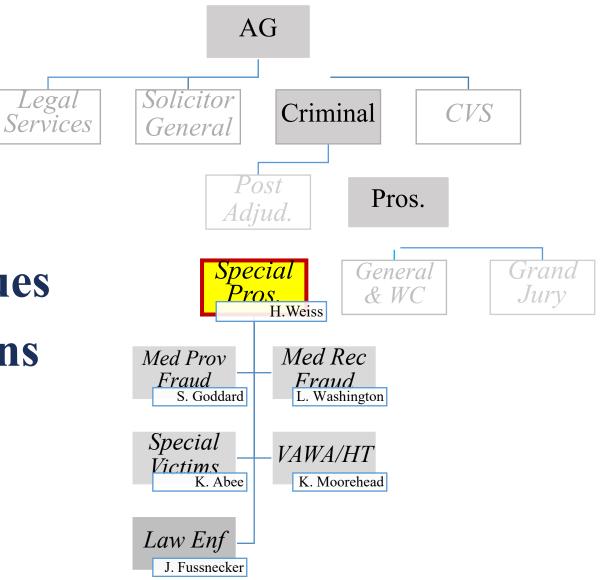


- <u>Law</u>: No current law applicable
- <u>Current Law</u>: No current law applicable
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Provide ICAC investigators at the Attorney General's Office the power to subpoena subscriber information from internet and electronic service providers.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: The current process of requiring orders and search warrants slows law enforcement down dramatically. With over 3000 cyber tips alone in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, each case requires law enforcement obtain an order or a search warrant from a circuit court judge
- Proposed Wording:

In addition, any judge of any court of record of the State may issue a search warrant to search for and seize electronic or digital data or information from any provider of electronic communication services or remote computing services as defined in the Stored Communications Act at 18 U.S.C. §2701 et seq., even if such data or information is not located in South Carolina to the same extent allowed under federal law pursuant to section 18 U.S.C. § 2703. This authority extends to any data or information stored in the United States and its Territories, and any data or information stored by any business located in the United States and its Territories.



Law Enforcement Issues Law Recommendations



- <u>Law</u>: New
- <u>Current Law</u>: Does not include advising law enforcement on legal issues during criminal investigation as a duty of a prosecutor
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Add language allowing prosecutors to give legal advice as part of their official duties for civil liability purposes.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: Prosecutors have absolute immunity for all actions that fall within their normal prosecution function. However, prosecutors assisting in the investigation of criminal matters do not have this immunity because investigation is not considered by the US Supreme Court as a normal prosecution function. If prosecutors are going to be expected either by law or policy to assist in the investigation of officer involved shootings or allegations of criminal activity on the part of law enforcement officers or any other criminal investigation then the absolute immunity should be extended to these actions.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Circuit Solicitors, Law enforcement

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 15-78-60 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"(41) counsel or advisory opinion of the Attorney General, Circuit Solicitor or authorized prosecutor of a Circuit Solicitor or Attorney General where the counsel or advisory opinion is requested by and provided to a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 23-23-10(E)(1) regarding and prior to the issuance of a warrant against or arrest of a person."

SECTION 2. Section 15-78-70 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"(f) For purposes of this chapter, any counsel or advisory opinion of the Attorney General, Circuit Solicitor or authorized prosecutor of a Circuit Solicitor or Attorney General requested by and provided to a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 23-23-10(E)(1) regarding and prior to the issuance of a warrant against or arrest of a person is conduct within the scope the official duties of the Attorney General, Circuit Solicitor or authorized prosecutor of a Circuit Solicitor or Attorney General, who is absolutely immune from suit for any tort claim arising out of such conduct. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit, modify or reduce the protections, immunities from suit or exemptions from liability of a Circuit Solicitor or authorized prosecutor of a Circuit Solicitor."

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

- <u>Law</u>: S.C. Code Section 59-63-350
- <u>Current Law</u>: Local law enforcement must call Attorney General's Office to tell about certain crimes occurring at school or at a school-sanctioned event
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Repeal the statute
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: This statute does not provide any action for the AG office. It is a requirement of law enforcement who already have enough requirements without sending us a notification. Other agencies get these reports and keep up with them.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: none

SECTION 59-63-350. Local law enforcement.

Local law enforcement officials are required to contact the Attorney General's "school safety phone line" when any felony, assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, crime involving a weapon, or drug offense is committed on school property or at a school-sanctioned or school-sponsored activity or any crime reported pursuant to Section 59-24-60.

HISTORY: 1996 Act No. 324, Section 1.

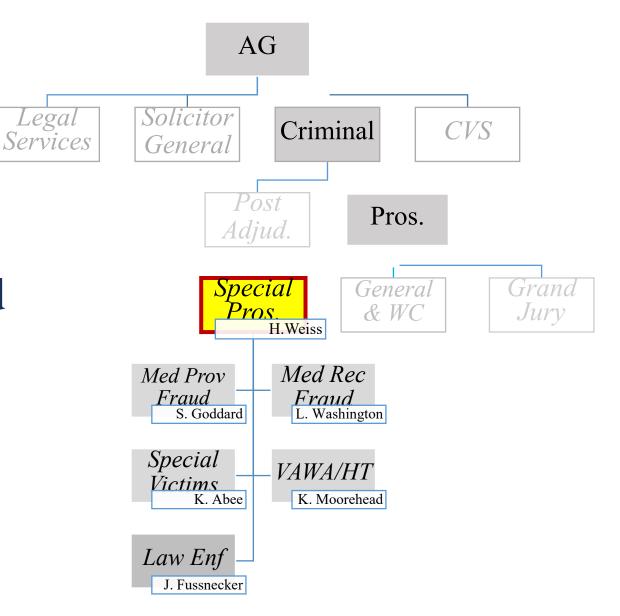
Editor's Note

2010 Act No. 273, Section 7.C, provides:

"Wherever in the 1976 Code of Laws reference is made to the common law offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, it means assault and battery with intent to kill, as contained in repealed Section 16-3-620, and, except for references in Section 16-1-60 and Section 17-25-45, wherever in the 1976 Code reference is made to assault and battery with intent to kill, it means attempted murder as defined in Section 16-3-29."



Medicaid Provider Fraud Law Recommendations



MFCU - Law Recommendations

Updated criminal health care fraud statute

- Tiered, similar to other property crimes
- Statute was enacted in 1994-needs to be updated to reflect current trends
- Only a misdemeanor for any \$\$ amount
- Investigative subpoena power (preindictment) – Request records from Medicaid providers to streamline investigations

State False Claims Act

- Increased need to generate our own cases
- No way of knowing when FCA cases filed in our own state

Addendum to Omnibus Adult Protection Act needed

- Nothing adequately addresses unauthorized recording of vulnerable adults
- Potential of posting/sharing these recordings to social media

- <u>Law</u>: No current law is applicable
- <u>Current Law</u>: No current law is applicable
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Concept recommendation. Establish a HHS-OIG (federal Health & Human Services-Office of the Inspector General) approved False Claims Act.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: Ratifying an HHS-OIG approved FCA would generate more cases and increase the opportunities to participate in national cases that are only open to states with FCA.
 - Increase the amount of state recoupment as states with FCA can participate in more global cases, receive a 10-percentagepoint increase in their share of any amounts recovered, and help fund MFCU without further state investment.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Private/public Healthcare providers; Dept. of Health & Human Services/Managed Care Organization; Law enforcement; Private businesses with government contracts

Limited recommendation for specific wording, but to be HHS-OIG compliant:

- The law must establish liability to the State for false or fraudulent claims described in 31 U.S.C. 3729 with respect to any expenditure described in section 1903(a) of the Act with respect to expenditures related to State Medicaid plans.
- 2. The law must contain provisions that are at least as effective in rewarding and facilitating qui tam actions for false or fraudulent claims as those described in 31 U.S.C. 3730-3732.
- 3. The law must contain a requirement for filing an action under seal for 60 days with review by the State Attorney General.
- 4. The law must contain a civil penalty that is not less than the amount of the civil penalty authorized under 31 U.S.C. 3729.

- <u>Law</u>: S.C. Code Section 43-7-60(A). False claim, statement, or representation by medical provider prohibited; violation is a misdemeanor; penalties.
- <u>Current Law</u>: Defines prohibited medical provider conduct and penalties.
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Modify to update (A)(1) to expand the definition of "provider", update (A)(2) to expand the definition of "false claim, statement, or representation" to include attempts, and remove "For purposes of this subsection, each false claim, representation, or statement constitutes a separate offense."
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: To allow the MFCU to accurately protect against providers who commit or attempt to commit fraud. Each claim constitutes a separate offense (ex. \$40 lab test); many defendants submit multiple fraudulent claims (ex. 1,000 fraudulent lab tests, totaling \$40,000)
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Private/public providers; SCDHHS/MCO

SECTION 43-7-60. False claim, statement, or representation by medical provider prohibited; violation is a misdemeanor; penalties.

(A) For purposes of this section:

 "provider" includes a person who provides goods, services, or assistance and who is entitled or claims to be entitled to receive reimbursement, payment, or benefits under the state's Medicaid program. "Provider" also includes a person acting as an employee, representative, or agent of the provider. <u>"Provider" also includes any person that provides goods, services, or assistance to Medicaid beneficiaries on behalf of any Managed Care or similar entity.</u>
 "false claim, statement, or representation" means a claim, statement, or representation made or presented, <u>or attempted to be made or presented</u>, in any form including, but not limited to, a claim, statement, or representation which is computer generated or transmitted or made, produced, or transmitted by an electronic means or device.

For purposes of this subsection, each false claim, representation, or statement constitutes a separate offense.

- Law: S.C. Code Section 43-35-10 Omnibus Adult Protection Act Definitions
- <u>Current Law</u>: Gives the definitions of terms used under the duties and procedures of Investigative Entities for Adult protection.
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Modify the definition of exploitation to include unauthorized video or photo recordation and add the definition of "Unauthorized video or photographic recordation" to the end of 43-35-10.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: To combat the increase of unauthorized video or photographic recordings of vulnerable adults in order to protect the privacy and dignity of all vulnerable adults.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Crime Victim Ombudsman, DSS, SLED, Local Law Enforcement

SECTION 43-35-10. Definitions.

(3) "Exploitation" means:

(a) causing or requiring a vulnerable adult to engage in activity or labor which is improper, unlawful, or against the reasonable and rational wishes of the vulnerable adult. Exploitation does not include requiring a vulnerable adult to participate in an activity or labor which is a part of a written plan of care or which is prescribed or authorized by a licensed physician attending the patient;

(b) an improper, unlawful, or unauthorized use of the funds, assets, property, power of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship of a vulnerable adult by a person for the profit or advantage of that person or another person; or (c) causing a vulnerable adult to purchase goods or services for the profit or advantage of the seller or another person through: (i) undue influence, (ii) harassment, (iii) duress, (iv) force, (v) coercion, or (vi) swindling by overreaching, cheating, or defrauding the vulnerable adult through cunning arts or devices that delude the vulnerable adult and cause him to lose money or other property.

(d) Exploitation also includes any unauthorized video or photographic recordation of any vulnerable adult, regardless of whether or not the vulnerable adult is aware of such recordation.

(4) "Facility" means a nursing care facility, community residential care facility, a psychiatric hospital, or any residential program operated or contracted for operation by the Department of Mental Health or the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

•••

(14) 'Unauthorized video or photographic recordation' means the recording of any vulnerable adult without their consent, or in the event the vulnerable adult cannot give consent, without the consent of the agent in charge of the vulnerable adult. Those employed in the care of a vulnerable adult are never authorized to record a vulnerable adult unless required so in the duty of their employment, to assist with the medical care of the vulnerable adult, or to comply with law enforcement.

- Law: S.C. Code Section 43-35-85. Penalties. Under the Adult Omnibus Protection Act.
- <u>Current Law</u>: Gives the criminal penalties for failing to report adult abuse when required to report and penalties for committing abuse.
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Modify so as to add provisions criminally penalizing the video or photographic recordation of vulnerable adults and to add provisions criminally penalizing the distribution, publication, or dissemination by any means of any photographic or video recordation of a vulnerable adult.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: To prevent the unauthorized video or photographic recordation of vulnerable adults in order to protect the privacy and dignity of all vulnerable adults.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Crime Victim Ombudsman, DSS, SLED, Local Law Enforcement

SECTION 43-35-85. Penalties.

(A) A person required to report under this chapter who knowingly and wilfully fails to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than twenty-five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year.

(B) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (E) and (F), a person who knowingly and wilfully abuses a vulnerable adult is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than five years.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (E) and (F), a person who knowingly and wilfully neglects a vulnerable adult is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than five years.

(D) A person who knowingly and wilfully exploits a vulnerable adult is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, and may be required by the court to make restitution.

(E) A person who knowingly and wilfully abuses or neglects a vulnerable adult resulting in great bodily injury is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than fifteen years.

(F) A person who knowingly and wilfully abuses or neglects a vulnerable adult resulting in death is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than thirty years.

SECTION 43-35-85. Penalties. (cont.)

(G) A person who threatens, intimidates, or attempts to intimidate a vulnerable adult subject of a report, a witness, or any other person cooperating with an investigation conducted pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than three years.

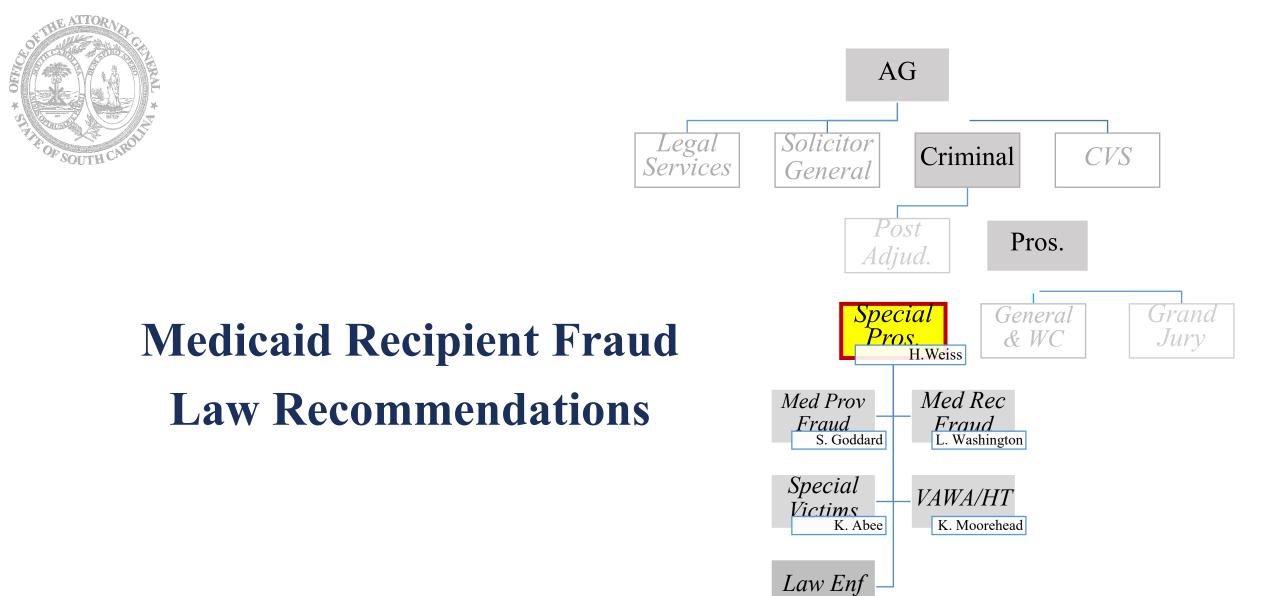
(H) A person who wilfully and knowingly obstructs or in any way impedes an investigation conducted pursuant to this chapter, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than three years.

(I) As used in this section, "great bodily injury" means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

(J) Notwithstanding section (D), any person who, without authorization, knowingly and willfully records by video or photographic means a vulnerable adult in violation of 43-35-10(3)(d), is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years."

(1) This is a lesser included offense to section (K).

(K) Any person who, without authorization, knowingly and willfully distributes, publishes, or disseminates by any means any photographic or video recordation of a vulnerable adult is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years.



J. Fussnecker

MRF - Law Recommendations

Amend False Statement (43-7-70) statute to make Medicaid fraud a property crime

- Gives it teeth with felony if appropriate
- Gives less egregious cases chance for expungement

Investigative Subpoena authority (43-7-90)

- Most custodians of evidence expect subpoena and subpoena is perceived to be less intimidating
- Financial cases would speed up process of obtaining evidence

- <u>Law</u>: S.C. Code Section 43-7-70. False statement or representation on application for assistance prohibited; violation is a misdemeanor; penalties.
- <u>Current Law</u>: Criminalizes Medicaid recipient fraud; sets penalty as a misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of 3 years and/or \$1,000 fine
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Keep the intent as is; re-write the section to base penalties on the amount of loss to the state
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: Would strengthen the penalty in cases with significant loss to the state; would enable prosecutors to negotiate charges to lowest amount when reasonable, thereby possibly rendering the conviction subject to expungement; would make the crime a property crime pursuant to § 16-1-57; would expand subsection (3) to clarify criminalization of using another person's Medicaid card
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: SCDHHS (victim agency)

SECTION 43-7-70. False statement or representation on application for assistance prohibited; violation is a misdemeanor; penalties.

(A)(1) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly and wilfully to make or cause to be made a false statement or representation of material fact on an application for assistance, goods, or services under the state's Medicaid program when the false statement or representation is made for the purpose of determining the person's entitlement to assistance, goods, or services.

(2) It is unlawful for any applicant, recipient, or other person acting on behalf of the applicant or recipient knowingly and wilfully to conceal or fail to disclose any material fact affecting the applicant's or recipient's initial or continued entitlement to receive assistance, goods, or services under the state's Medicaid program.

(3) It is unlawful for a person, <u>regardless of the person's eligibility</u> to receive benefits, services, or goods under the Medicaid program, to sell, lease, lend, or otherwise exchange rights, privileges, or benefits to another person, <u>or to use</u> the rights, privileges or benefits of another under the Medicaid program.

(B) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a:

(1) felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, if the value of the property or benefit is ten thousand dollars or more;

(2) misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, if the value of the property or benefit is more than two thousand dollars but less than ten thousand dollars;

(3) misdemeanor if the value of the property or benefit is two thousand dollars or less. Upon conviction, the person must be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

(C) A criminal action brought under this section may be filed in any county where the criminal act(s) occurred or in the county in which the agency of the State responsible for administering the state's Medicaid program is located.

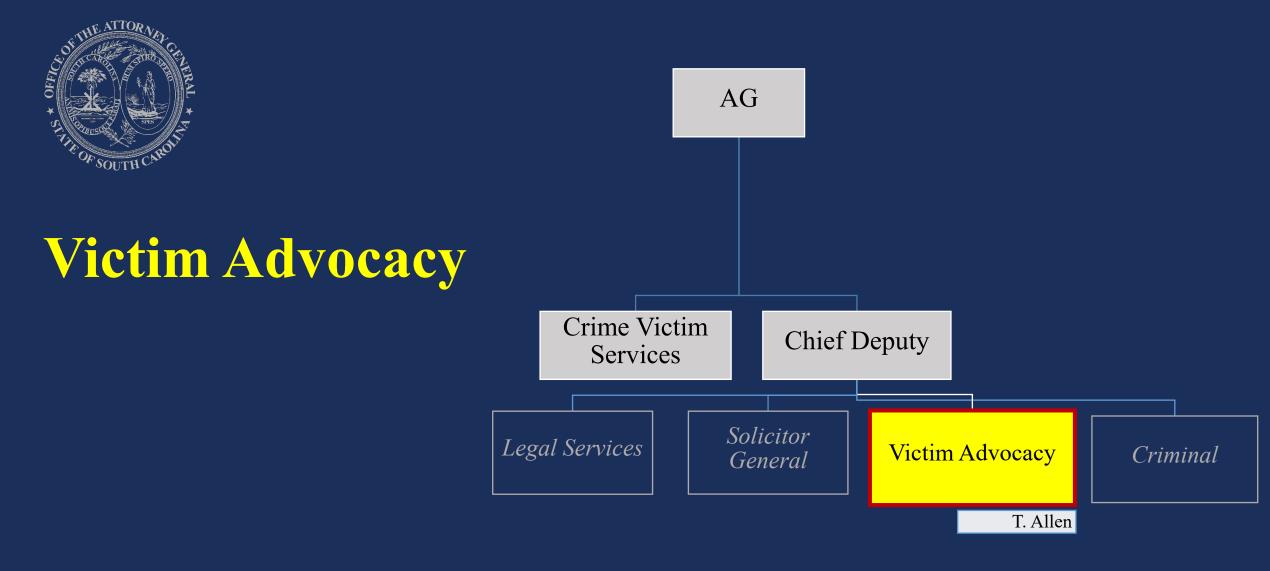
- Law: S.C. Code Section 43-7-90. Enforcement of Sections 43-7-60 to 43-7-80.
- <u>Current Law</u>: Provides the Attorney General authority and responsibility to investigate Medicaid fraud and enforce Medicaid fraud criminal statutes
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Modify the code section to provide Attorney General with authority to issue investigative subpoenas.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: The revision would assist the investigation of Medicaid fraud by removing certain investigative procedures used to obtain documentary and other evidence thereby rendering investigations more time and resource efficient
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: SCDHHS (victim agency); Local Magistrate Courts

SECTION 43-7-90. Enforcement of Sections 43-7-60 to 43-7-80.

The Attorney General has the authority and responsibility to investigate and initiate appropriate action for alleged or suspected violations of Sections 43-7-60 through 43-7-80. In conducting investigations pursuant to this Article, the Attorney General or his designee shall have the authority to issue subpoenas to any person or business compelling the production of records in any form, including electronic records or data, in the possession, custody, or control of the person to whom the subpoena is issued. In the event of noncompliance of a subpoena issued under this section, the Attorney General may petition the Circuit Court for an order compelling compliance with the subpoena.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 468, Section 1, eff July 14, 1994.

AGENCY PRESENTATION – VICTIM ADVOCACY



Personnel

Trisha Allen Director (Appeals, PCR Appeal, Prosecution, Death Penalty)

Marie Higgins Victim Advocate (SVP, Federal Habeas)

Laura Hutchinson Victim Advocate (PCR)

Vanessa Payton Victim Advocate (Prosecution – General & Special, SGJ, ICAC)

Ava Thomas Victim Advocacy Assistant

Open Position (open since February 2022) Victim Advocate (Prosecution – General & Special, SGJ, ICAC NOTE:

Advocates are not assigned to specific types of crimes to avoid burnout (e.g., white collar crimes, internet crimes against children, etc.)

Personnel

	Turnover	Leave unit during year	Exit Interviews or surveys conducted?	In unit at end of year	Employee satisfaction tracked?
2016-17	40%	2	Yes	5	No
2017-18	0%	0	No	5	Yes
2018-19	20%	1	Yes	5	No
2019-20	18%	1	No	6	No

Note: During FY 2017, one staff member accepted a position outside state government, and one staff member passed away. Due to the section's small staff size, the loss of two employees resulted in a significant turnover rate.



<u>Constitutionally and statutorily required</u> to notify crime victims of prosecution and post adjudication matters involving the Office of the S.C. Attorney General.

NOTES:

- Victim Advocacy Section is NOT part of Crime Victim Services Division.
- Victim Advocates are independent of prosecution and post-adjudication sections.

Overview

As each Solicitor has Victim Advocates, the division provides statewide advocacy in prosecutorial matters handled by the AG's Office.

Initial Prosecution

- Notifications of bond matters
- Status updates of plea negotiations, and trials
- Accompaniment to trial/plea hearings
- Assistance in filing compensation claims

Unlike the Solicitor advocates, the division provides statewide advocacy in post-adjudication matters.

Post-Adjudication

(If desired by Victim, it is a right victim can waive)

- Status updates in the following:
 - Criminal/direct appeals
 - Post-Conviction Relief (PCR) & PCR appeals
 - Federal habeas petitions and appeals
 - Sexually Violent Predator commitment process

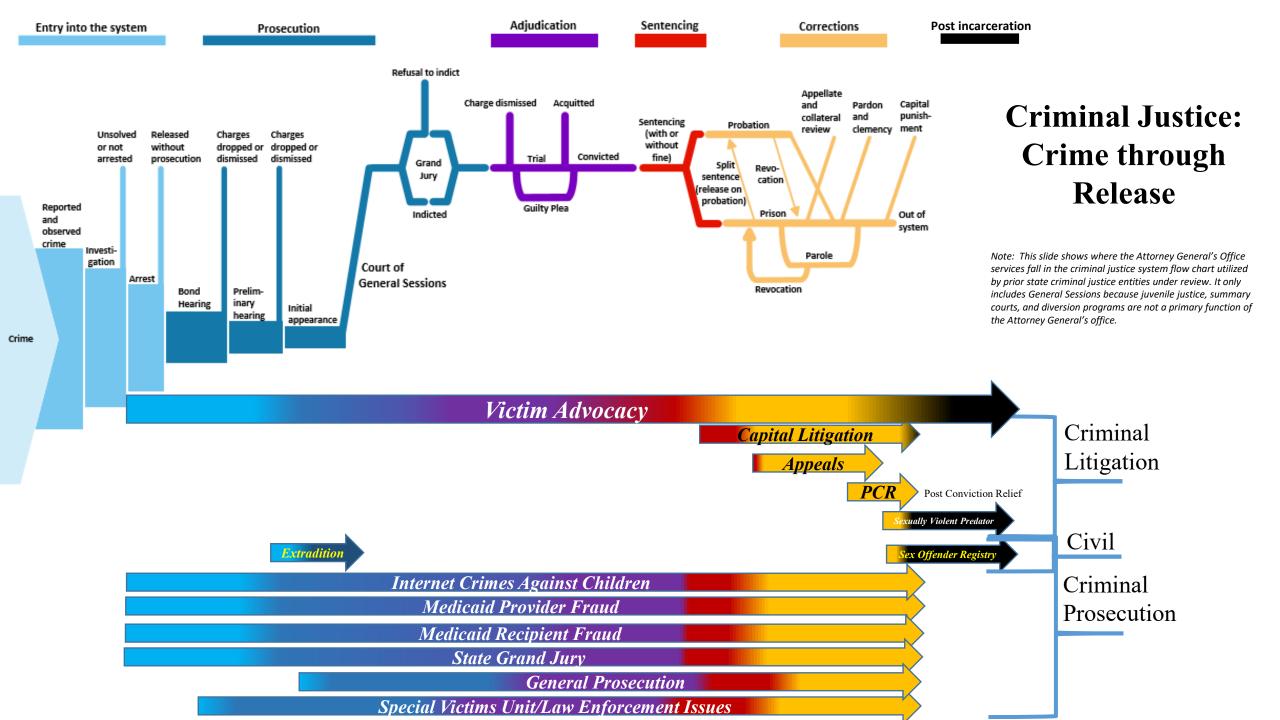
Sex Offender Registry

• Status updates to registry challenges filed in Civil Court



Additional constitutional and statutory responsibilities include:

- refer victims to the appropriate agency or resource for assistance necessary to mitigate the trauma,
- interpret legalese,
- explain the criminal justice process, and
- provide the social support victims need in a complicated criminal justice system.



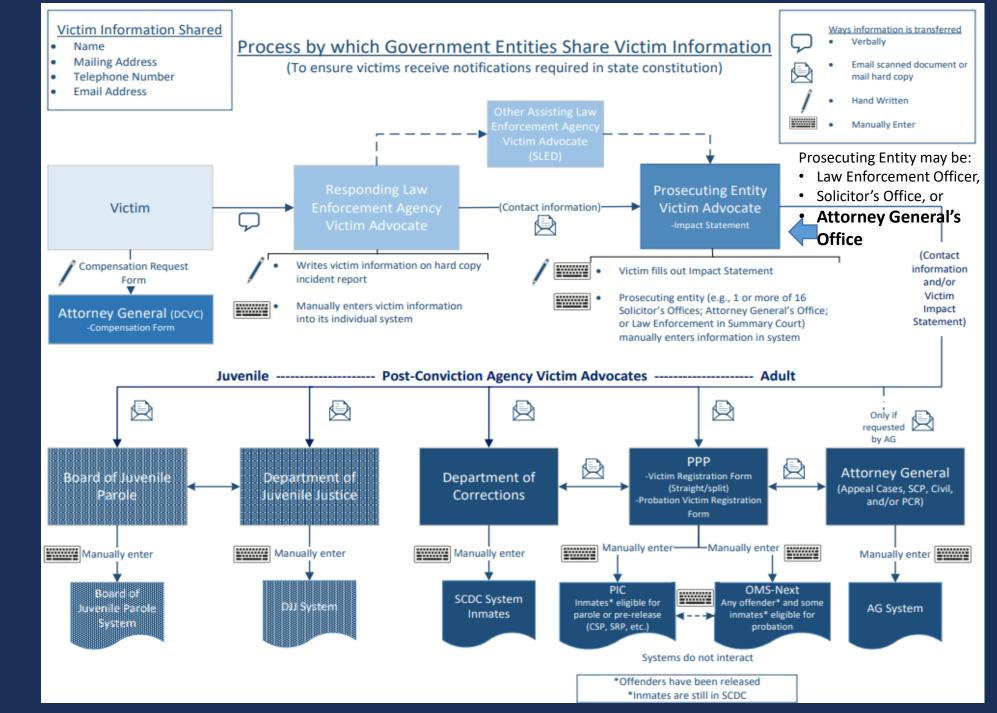
Who is a victim and how do we obtain their information?

An individual who

- suffers direct or threatened
- physical, psychological or financial harm
- as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime.

Victim also includes:

- victim's <u>spouse</u>, <u>parent</u> or <u>child</u> or
- the *lawful representative* of a victim who is
 - Deceased
 - a minor
 - Incompetent
 - physically or psychologically incapacitated



Opportunity to Increase Efficiency and Effectiveness

There is common information needed by victim advocates at each of the agencies (see S.C. Code Section 16-3-1555 and -1560)

Challenges occur because this information may change as the offender progresses through the criminal justice process.

Examples

- Victim contact information
- Victim statement
 - Statement about the impact the crime has on the individual at the time of the crime and impact the crime has had after time passes, may be different.

Note: AG's Office is working with PPP to implement the House Legislative **Oversight** Committee's recommendation to research the feasibility of a central system for victim information

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and postadjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Advise victims of their statutory and constitutional rights to ensure their rights

Advisement of Rights

Agency Service #191

Rights include but are not limited to:

- right to be treated with respect, fairness and dignity,
- right to submit a written or oral VIS in prosecutorial matters,
- right to apply for compensation through Division of Crime Victim Compensation,
- right to attend proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present,
- right to be heard in matters impacting sentence/release,
- right to receive case updates in prosecutorial (confer) and post-adjudication matters, and
- right to restitution,
- right to legal counsel for civil remedies.

Single Unit: Advisement of victims' rights		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> <u>of service</u>	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
Does law require it: Yes	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.40	\$35,715.66	0.18%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section 16-3-1505 thru -	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.37	\$26,644.05	0.04%
1515; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545 thru -1560; 16-3-2070; 17-28-50; 17-28-90; 17-28-100; 17-1-50;	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.49	\$26,514.49	0.04%
17-25-322; 17-22-80; 18 U.S.C. A	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.49	\$34,864.68	0.05%

Provide Notice

Agency Service #190

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and postadjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Provide victim notice of events in their case

Subject of notifications include but are not limited to:

- prosecutorial case
 - acceptance
 - motions and hearings
 - case resolution/outcome
- post-adjudication filings
 - motions and hearings
 - dispositions

Method of notification include:

- U.S. mail,
- email,
- phone conversations,
- in person meetings, and
- some text messages.

Single Unit: Victim Notifications		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> of service	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
Does law require it: Yes	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	2.56	\$173,246.49	0.88%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	2.43	\$146,500.51	0.25%
16-3-1505 thru -1515; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545 thru -1560; 16-3-2070; 17-	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	2.84	\$142,431.70	0.21%
28-50; 17-28-90; 17-28-100; 17-1-50; 17-25-322; 17-22-80; 18 U.S.C. A	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	2.84	\$182,325.87	0.24%

Explain the Process

Agency Service #193

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and post-adjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Provide explanations to familiarize the victim with procedures and prepare for possible outcomes.

Explanations include but are not limited to:

- discussing appellate and prosecutorial issues with the assistance of an attorney,
- mailing briefs upon request,
- discussing courtroom procedure and protocol,
- prosecutorial process (bond, prelim, plea negotiations, trials, etc.),
- expressing the importance of completing a Victim Impact Statement and it's use in post-adjudication agencies.

Single Unit: Educating victims of criminal		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> of service	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
Does law require it: Yes	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.96	\$72,320.88	0.37%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.90	\$57,008.80	0.10%
16-3-1505 thru -1515; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545 thru -1560; 16-3-2070; 17-	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.11	\$57,663.14	0.09%
28-50; 17-28-90; 17-28-100; 17-1-50; 17-25-322; 17-22-80; 18 U.S.C. A	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.11	\$76 <i>,</i> 085.36	0.10%

Accompany Victim to Hearings

Agency Service #192

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and post-adjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Offer/provide victim court accompaniment

Challenges include:

- Making a reasonable effort to provide victims/witnesses waiting areas separate from those of the defendant
- Traveling statewide for prosecution and PCR proceedings

Court accompaniment includes but is not limited to:

- prosecutorial hearings
 - bond,
 - motions,
 - plea,
 - trials;
- post-adjudication hearings
 - Appeal hearings SC Court of Appeals and SC Supreme Court
 - Post-Conviction Relief (PCR) hearings all counties
 - PCR appeal hearings SC Court of Appeals & Supreme Court,
 - Federal habeas matters US District Court, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals and US Supreme Court,
 - Sexually Violent Predator hearings all counties.

Single Unit: Victim court accompaniment		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> of service	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
Does law require it: Yes	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.14	\$73,461.20	0.37%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.05	\$61,634.38	0.10%
16-3-1505 thru -1515; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545 thru -1560; 16-3-2070; 17-	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.30	\$57,553.97	0.09%
28-50; 17-28-90; 17-28-100; 17-1-50; 17-25-322; 17-22-80; 18 U.S.C. A	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	1.30	\$76,204.71	0.10%

Intercede on behalf of Victim

Agency Service #195

Intercession includes but is not limited to:

- interceding or seeking special consideration from victim's employer, school, or landlord;
- advising the court if a victim or witnesses deserves special consideration (e.g., very young, elderly, handicapped or who have special needs).

Single Unit:		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> of service	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
Victim intercession	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.14	\$10,630.60	0.05%
Does law require it: Yes	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.14	\$7,414.09	0.01%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section 16-3-1505;	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.16	\$7,360.58	0.01%
16-3-1510; 16-3-1515; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545; 16-3-1550; 16-3-1555; 16-3-2070	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.16	\$11,416.48	0.01%

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and post-adjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Intercede on behalf of victim

Referral to Appropriate Services

Agency Service #194

Who: Victims involved in prosecutorial and post-adjudication matters handled by the AG Office

What: Refer to appropriate services; assist in completing compensation application and forwarding the application to Division of Crime Victim Compensation. Referral services include but are not limited to:

- victim services providers to mitigate trauma (both mental & medical services),
- options for civil remedies,
- advocacy agencies,
- social service agencies and
- state, county, or city agencies (Solicitor's Office, SCDC Victim Services, PPP Victim Services).

Single Unit: Victim referrals for		<u>Units</u> provided	<u>Cost</u> per unit	<u>Employee</u> equivalents	<u>Total Cost</u> of service	<u>% of total agency</u> <u>costs</u>
appropriate services	2016-17	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.37	\$23,367.00	0.12%
Does law require it: Yes	2017-18	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.39	\$22,797.55	0.04%
Assoc. Law(s): State Constitution Article 1 Section 24 Victims' Bill of Rights; Section 16-3-	2018-19	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.44	\$23,204.00	0.03%
1505; 16-3-1510; 16-3-1525; 16-3-1535; 16-3-1545; 16-3-1550; 16-3-1555; 16-3-2070	2019-20	Not provided	Insufficient data	0.44	\$36,676.34	0.05%

Crime Victim Served: What is a file or case?

]	PROSECUTION		VICTIM A	ADVOCACY
Law Enforcement Unknown	Solicitor's Office 1 case = 1 warrant	Attorney General's Office 1 case file = 1 Defendant Prosecuted	Court 1 case = 1 warrant	The same defend Be prosecuted	ant may Attorney General's
		APPEAL Attorney General's Office 1 case file = 1 Defendant's Appeal		And File an appeal	Office 1 case file = 1 Defendant (for everything)
		Attorney General's Office 1 case file = 1 Defendant's PCR Action	۱	And/Or File a PCR action	
				And/Or	

Federal Habeas, etc.

Crime Victims Served

Challenge in ability to quantify work performed:

The current database does not track the number of:

- notices provided to victims
- discussions advocates have with victims regarding their rights in cases involving the office
- hearings staff accompany victims
- case updates and explanations of the systems advocates provide to victims
- referrals provided to victims
- intercessions made on behalf of victims

The division uses the same computer file for an offender; therefore, the computer file is repeatedly opened and closed as the offender pursues different filings.

Crime Victims Served

The following are number of defendants who have been involved in the files of one or more of the AG's other sections (e.g., prosecution, appeals, PCR, SVP, etc.), in which there is a victim. Numbers do not reflect the number of cases opened and closed during the fiscal year, just as of the date noted.

<u>As of 8/5/17</u>: Cases open = 3,659

- Associated victims = 8,536*
 - Victim number listed was incorrect because one case with over a 1,000 victims was mistakenly not included

<u>8/10/18</u>: Cases open = 3,649

• Associated victims = 10,633

<u>8/1/19</u>: Cases open = 3,801

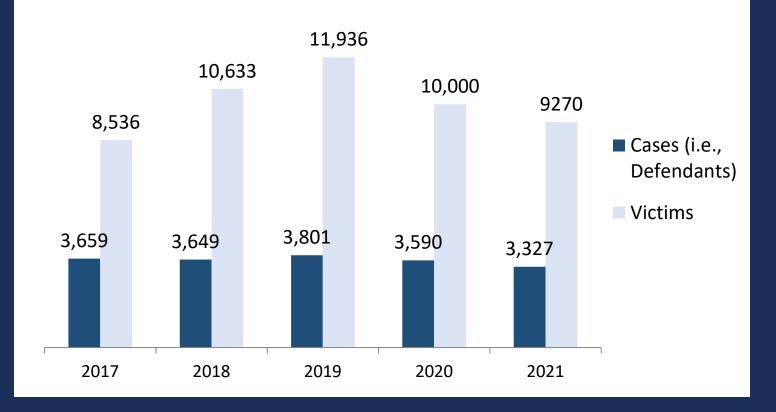
• Associated victims = 11,936

<u>8/1/20</u>: Cases open = 3,590

• *Approximate* victims = 10,000

<u>8/1/21</u>: Cases open = 3,327

• Associated victims = 9,270



Successes and Concerns

Successes

- Notification/Support in a large caseload with a small staff
- Qualified advocates with many years of experience
- Cross trained to handle the variety of cases
- Appellate Review Committee Inclusion
- Training of other advocates & professionals (Solicitor's Conference, Prosecution Coordination Commission training, Victim's Rights Week)

Concerns

- Increase in staff to maintain notification provided with dignity and respect / compliant with statutory & constitutional rights (Surge in movement after COVID closure and increase in other divisional staff)
- Need adequate database need ability to email notifications; need the ability to show amount of work product produced by staff
- Unknown impact with new Sex Offender Registry Law in relation to cases prosecuted by office and civil division
- Vicarious Trauma

AGENCY PRESENTATION – ADMINISTRATION

Overview of Divisions

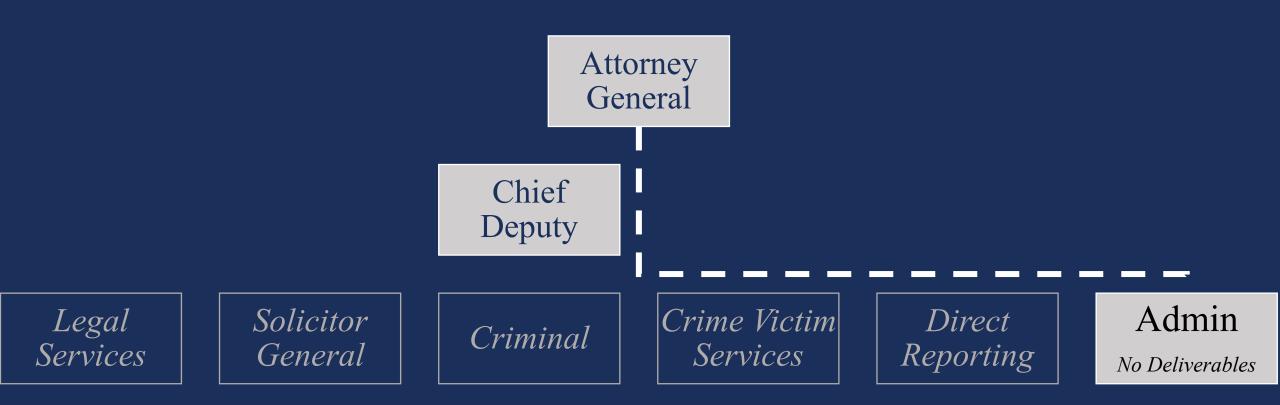
ADVENISTRATION



ADMINISTRATION

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Tammie Wilson *Director*





Divisions: Administration

Legal

Services

Alan Wilson *Attorney General*

Tammie Wilson *Director*

CVS

Administration:

The Administration Division provides support and essential services to the OAG operations.

The Administration Division includes Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Procurement, Records, Support and Receptionist Services.

Administration is a one-stop resource for other sections, with the Director as the primary logistics advisor to the Attorney General.

The AG grew by 25% with the addition of CVS July 2017, but did not increase administrative FTEs.

Solicitor

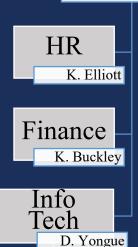
General

AG

Criminal

The AG has taken steps needed to ensure CVS is running properly. However, this has required:

• Placing some previous administrative responsibilities on division/section managers



Admin

T. Wilson

Procurement, Records, Receptionist and Support Services



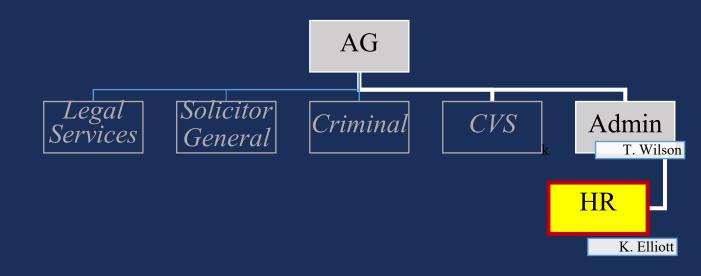
Human Resources

Alan Wilson *Attorney General*

Tammie Wilson *Director*

HR prepares and manages the recruitment of new employees, provides orientation, prepares payroll, administers benefits, implements EPMS program, manages classification system and other related HR functions.

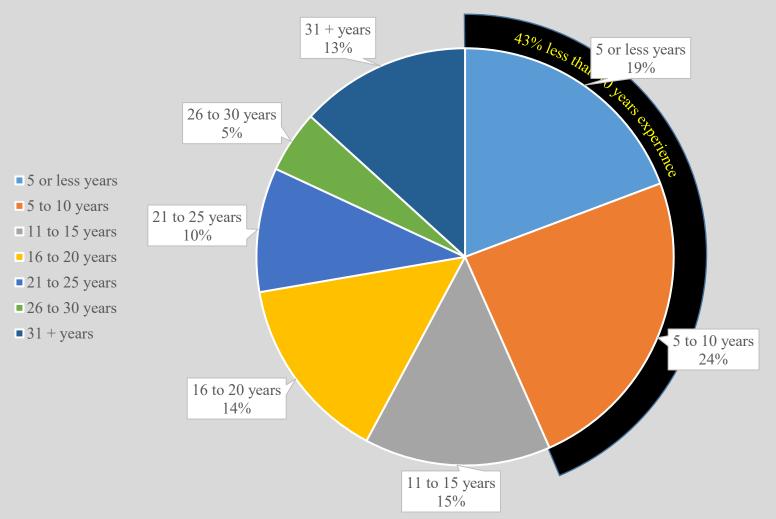
In addition, HR manages law clerk, intern, and externship programs, which provide first-hand exposure of working in a legal office. HR is comprised of only 3 FTEs yet has an outstanding record with annual audits and compliance with Human Resources policies and procedures. The HR department regularly receives positive remarks from employee surveys.



Attorney Information

Experience Practicing Law

Number of Years Since Bar Passage



Attorneys

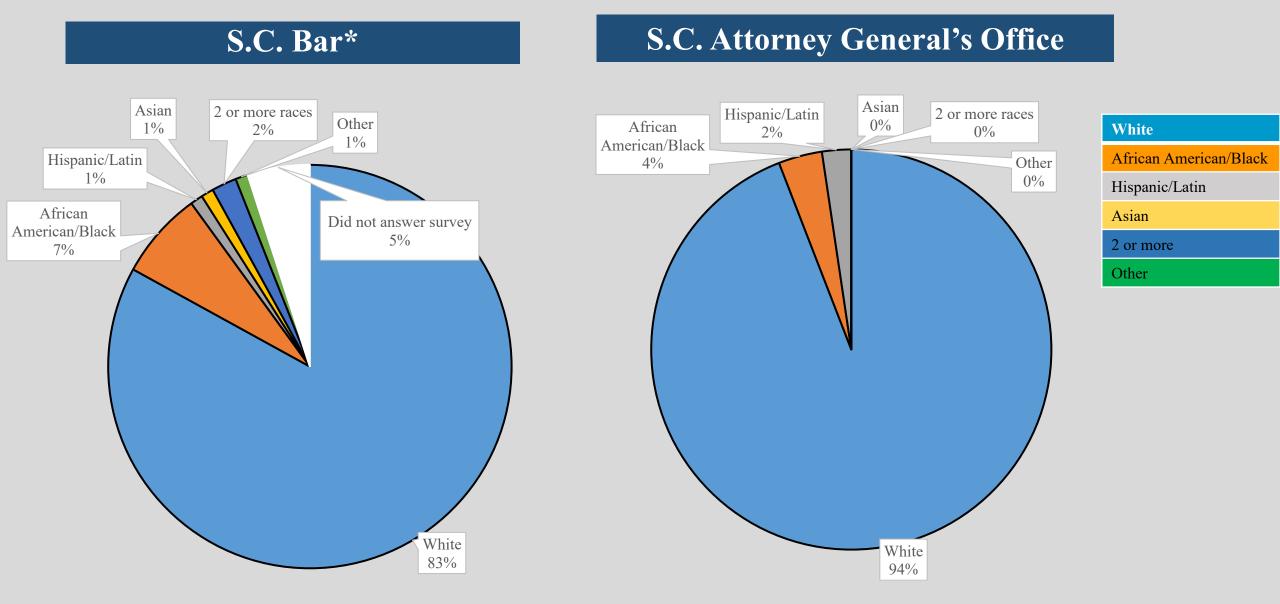
- 84 filled positions
- 12 vacant positions

Experience practicing law

- 43% with 10 years or less
- 18% with 26+ years

NOTE: Some of the years practicing may include time not at the AG's office.

Attorney Demographics (race)



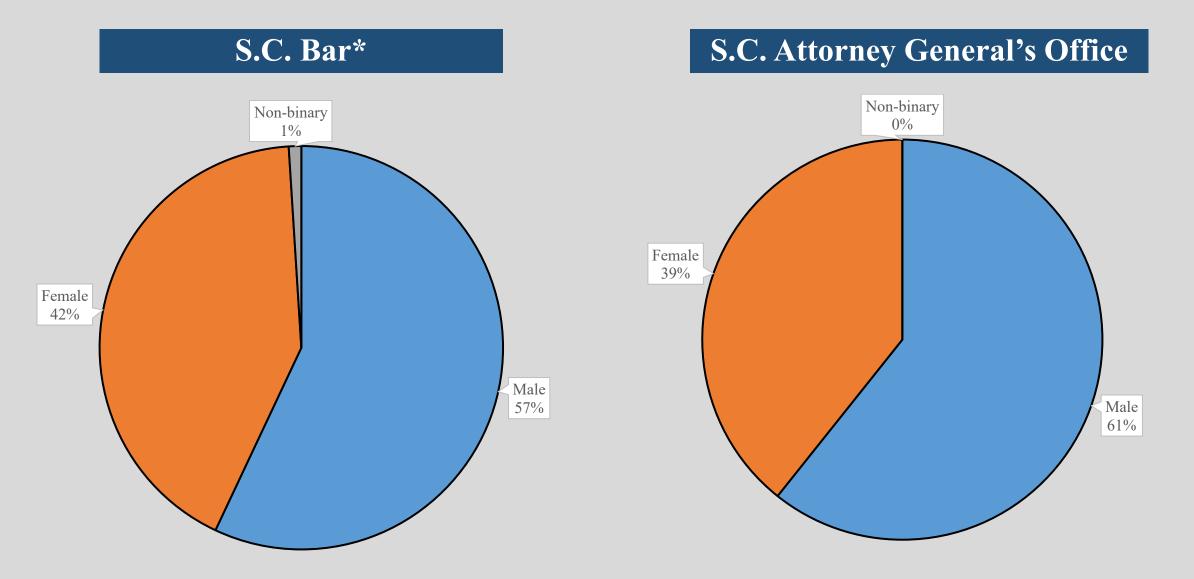
*Sources: www.scbar.org/media/filer public/aa/89/aa8902d8-e61d-455c-bb9b-d26a2f8a5733/summary report final oct21.pdf

Attorney Demographics (gender)

Male

Female

non-binary, gender fluid, transgender

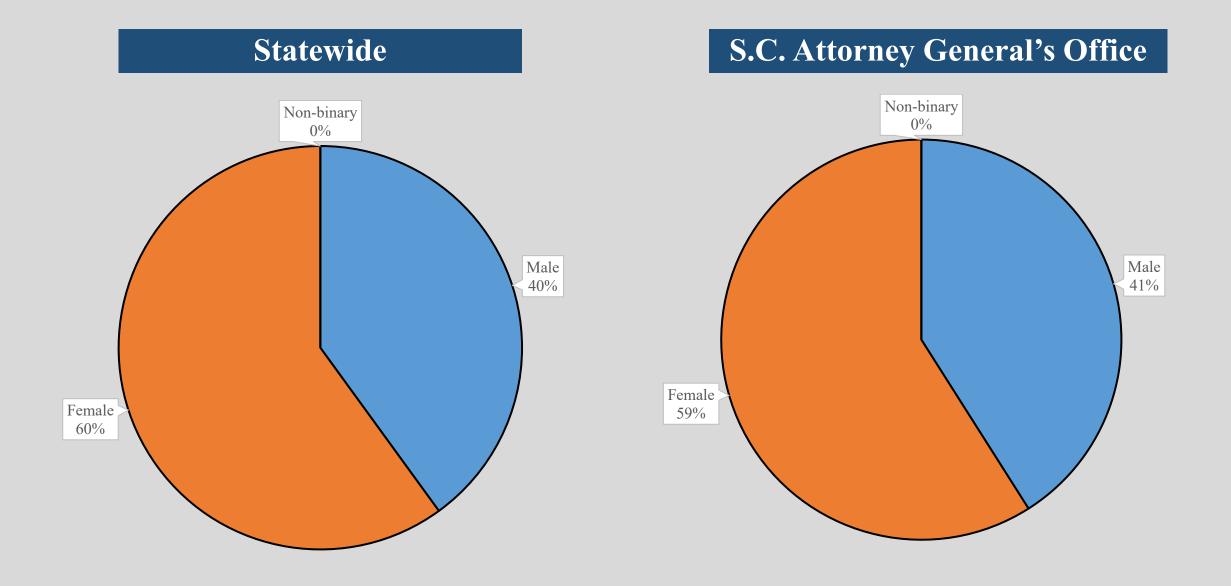


*Sources: www.scbar.org/media/filer public/aa/89/aa8902d8-e61d-455c-bb9b-d26a2f8a5733/summary report final oct21.pdf

Office-Wide Information

Office-Wide Demographics (gender)

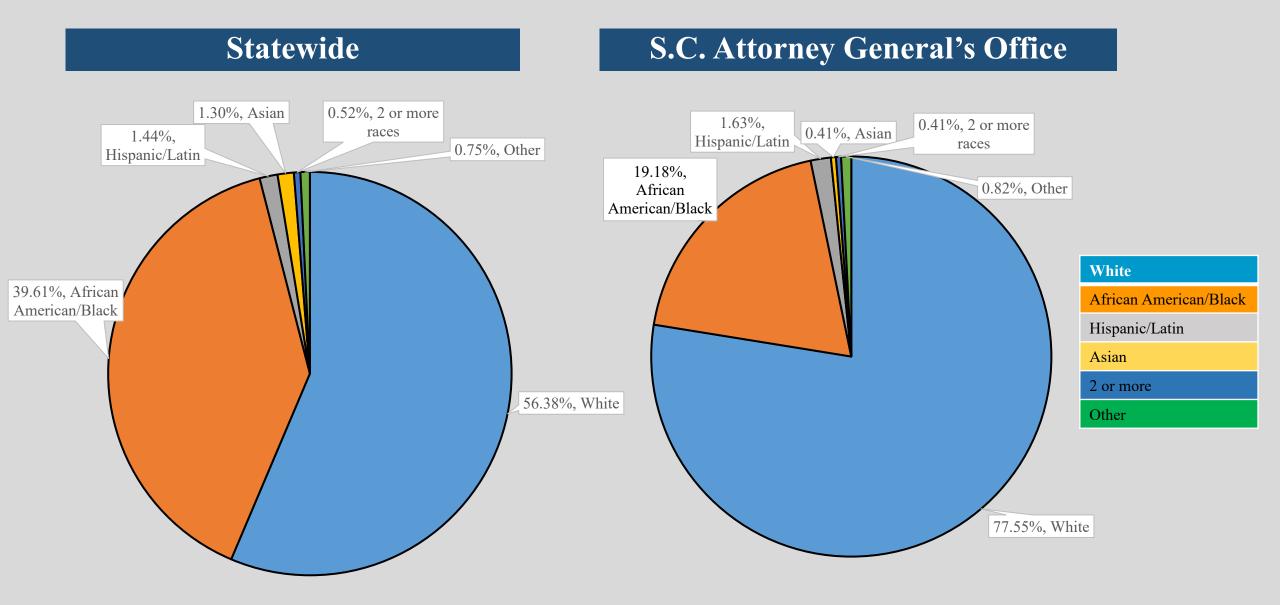
non-binary, gender fluid, transgender



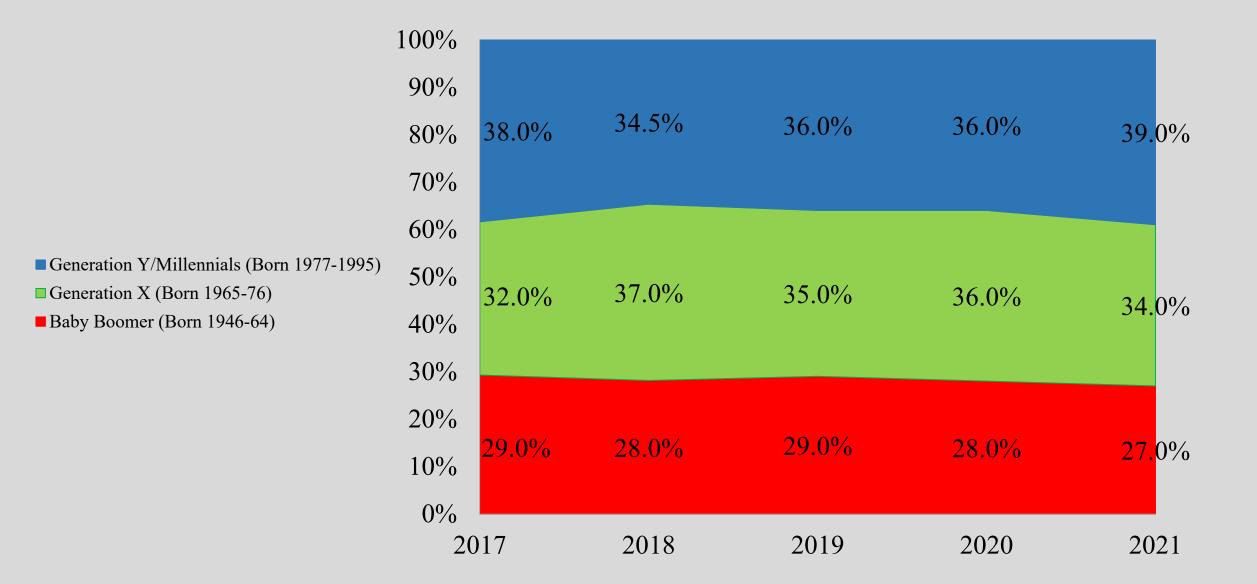
Male

Female

Office-Wide Demographics (race)

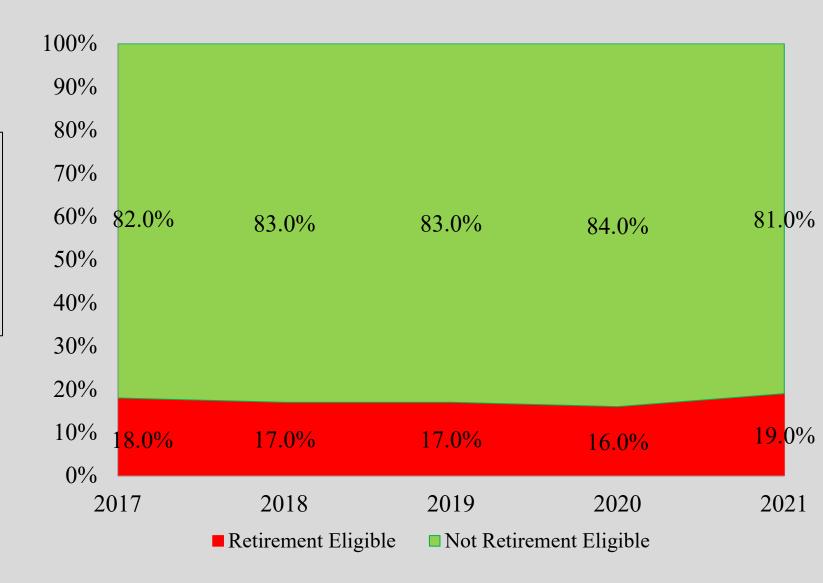


Employees by Generation

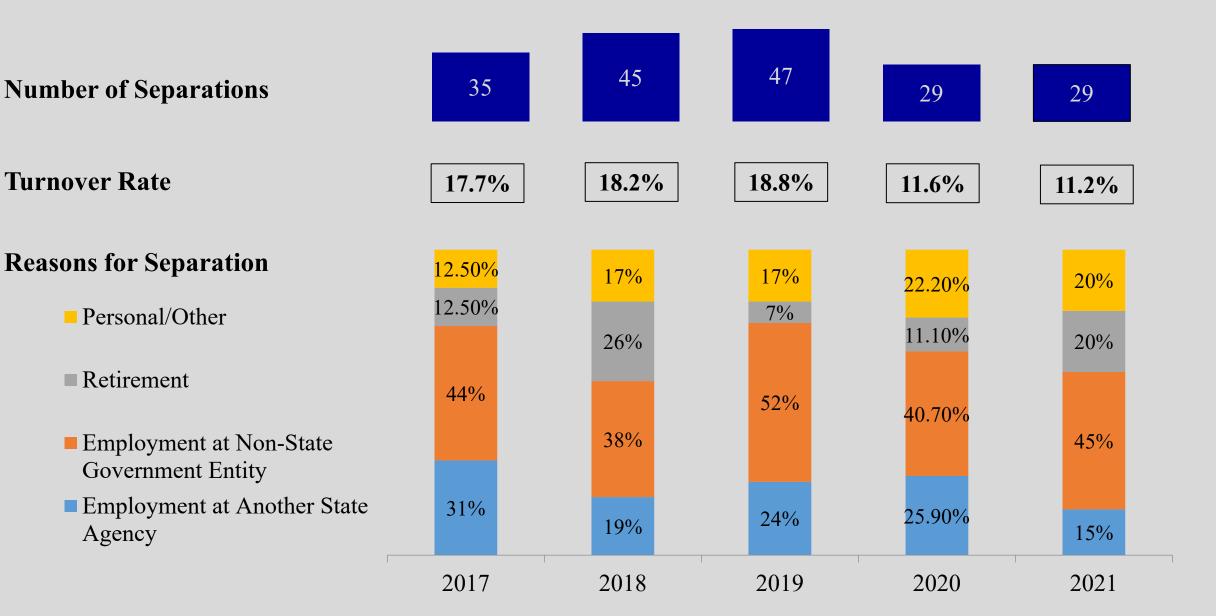


Retiree Workforce Rate

- June 2021 Retirement Eligible: 19%
- Projected Retirement Eligible in June 2026: 34%



Separations



June 30, 2021

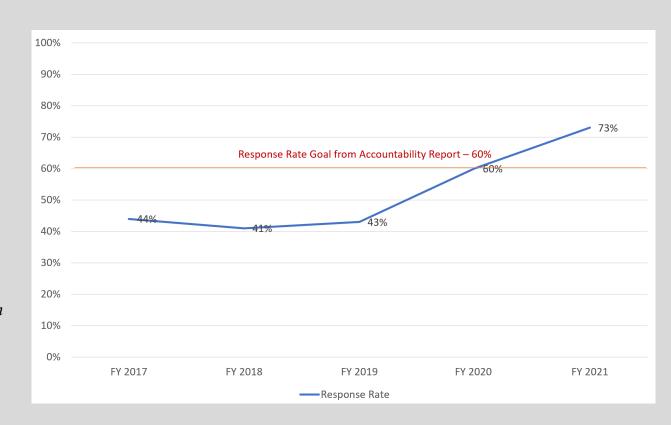
Exit Survey Information

Development of Exit Interview

Existing Exit survey in paper format

- 2017 Modified Exit Survey
- 2019 Last "paper" survey Change to digital tracking Increase open ended questions
- 2022 Added telecommuting question - Would the option to telecommute have changed your decision to seek and/or accept other employment?

- Does your new position offer the option to telecommute?



Exit Interview Response Rate

Present: Potential to rank reasons

Exit Information Trends and Responses

Trends

- Training
- Request for Alternate work schedule options
- More defined career path
- More defined salary plan

Responses

- Training
 - Leadership Development Program
 - Professional Development (non-attorney)
- Start time flexibility with manager approval
- Salary & Position Review
 - Supervisor's recommendation
 - Committee review
 - Must have successful EPMS rating

Leadership Development Program (2021-22 is first year of program)

- Initiated from Exit Information responses
- Collaboration
 - National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)/ Training & Research Institute Division (NAGTRI)
 - Department of Administration Training Division
- Class size limited to 24 participants
 - Initial class for senior managers
 - Follow-on class being formed, modifications being considered
 - Class approximately 1 year program
- Team Projects
 - Divided participants into 4 groups of 6 each
 - Each group is comprised of participants from different sections within the office
 - This year,
 - Two groups are studying and making recommendations for the office's mission, vision, and strategic initiatives
 - Two groups are studying and making recommendations for potential re-organization structure of the office

Leadership Development Program

(2021-22 is first year of program)

Required Optional		6 of 10 Required	
In-person training	Source	Online training (6 of ten required)	Source
Core Leadership Competencies		Working with Imposter Syndrome	
Myers Briggs Type Inventory		7 Strategies Reducing Stress & Anxiety	
Coaching	admin	Managing Vicarious Trauma and other	NAGTRI
Performance Management	admin	Mental Health Issues	
5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity		Better Lawyering through Mindfulness	
Supervisory Practices	admin	Series-1 Time Management	
Ethical Leadership	admin	Series-2 Generational Diversity	
Accountability Reporting	admin	Series-3 Resilience and Mindfulness	
Building Cultural Competencies		Series-4 Emotional Intelligence	
7 Habits of Highly Effective People	admin OFranklinCovey	Governing Ethical Issues in SC Gov't	admin
State Government- Human Resources	admin	Anti-Harassment	admin



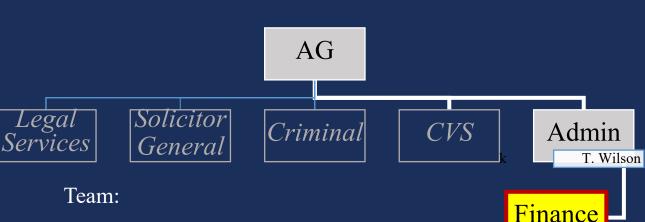
Finance

Alan Wilson *Attorney General*

Tammie Wilson Director

Finance operations adhere to State and Federal rules and regulations. Finance responsibilities include:

- Manages the agency's budget, cash, and all accounting transactions:
 - FY2020 Budget \$101,045,390
 - FY2019 Budget \$78,758,364
 - FY2018 Budget \$78,527,451 (CVS Transfer-nearly tripled budget)
 - FY2017 Budget \$27,740,697
- Manage financial operations of 8 direct grant programs:
 - 2 Federal CVS Grants (VOCA, VAWA) and 1 State (SVAP) Approx. \$19m-\$53m total
 - 142 CVS Sub-awards
 - 1 Federal Medicaid Provider Fraud Approx. \$2m
 - 1 Federal Internet Crimes Against Children Approx. \$900k
 - 3 Smaller Awards (other funds) \$50-\$100k
- Monitor CVS Compensation Budget for Claim Payments
- Prepares various financial reports including Accountability Report



Kimberly Buckley-Finance Director

Kelley Anderson-CVS Grants Manager transferred under Finance Jan 2020

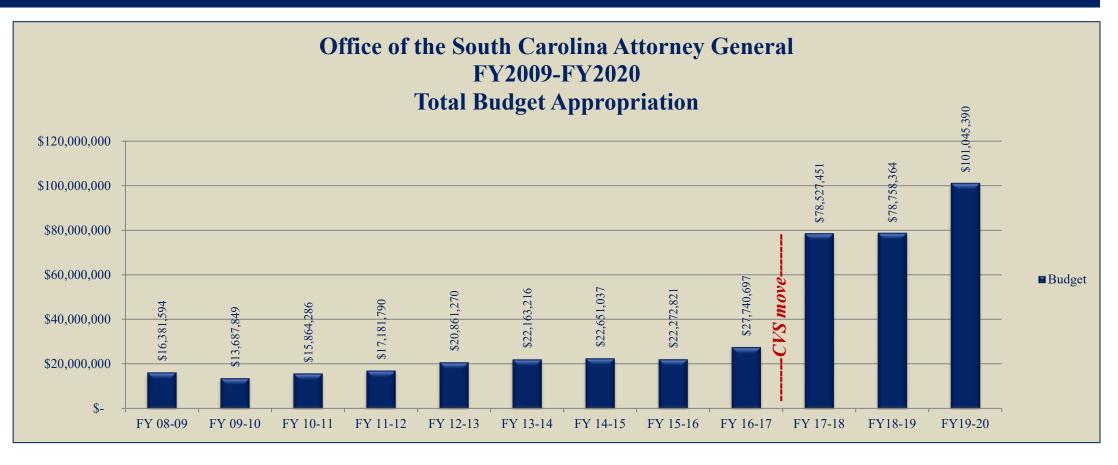
> • CVS Grants Fiscal Analysts: Lynne Medlin, Laura Barnes, Emily Merritt, Austin Elsenheimer

Keisha Brandyburg-DCVC Finance Manager Joan Potts-Accounting Supervisor Sandi Chamberlain-Grants Accountant

Madeline Ross-Fiscal Analyst

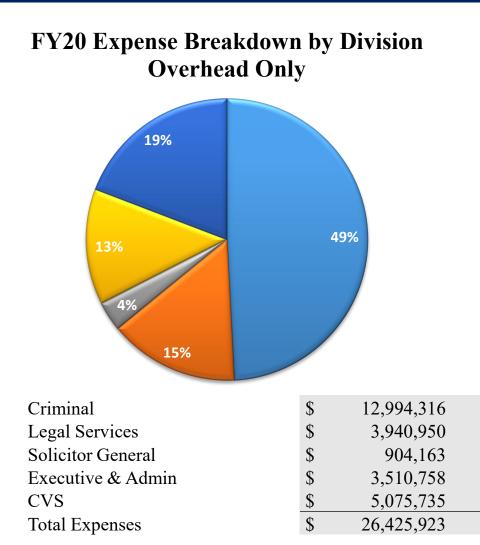
K. Buckley

Finance

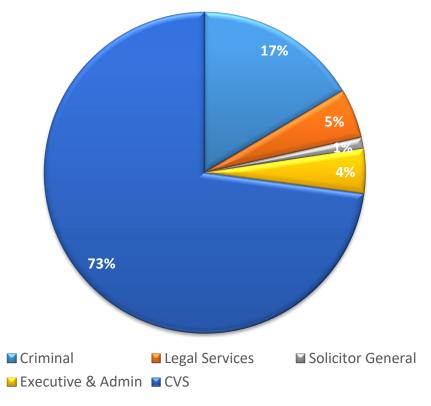


***** Total funds managed has increased 346% from FY2015 to FY2020.

Finance



FY20 Expense Breakdown by Division Total Expenses



Total Expenditures FY20 \$77,083,542



Finance: Successes

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Tammie Wilson Director

Crime Victim Subgrantee Community Relationship

<u>AG</u>

- Provided clear guidance on grant program operations by development of new comprehensive financial guide for subgrantees.
- All payments processed within 30 days or less.
- Improved grant administration for CVS subgrantees by implementing new procedures and lifting burdensome requirements.
- Acquisition of new grants management system.
- Improved cross-business area collaboration between grants financial team and programmatic team.

Prior to being at AG

As discussed during House Legislative Oversight study of a previous agency:

- Payments often exceeded 30 and even 60 or 90 days.
- Grant Programmatic and Financial relationship was strained.
- Often a negative view of CVS grants administration processes.
- Burdensome processes in place which often made it difficult for subgrantee reimbursements and grant administration.



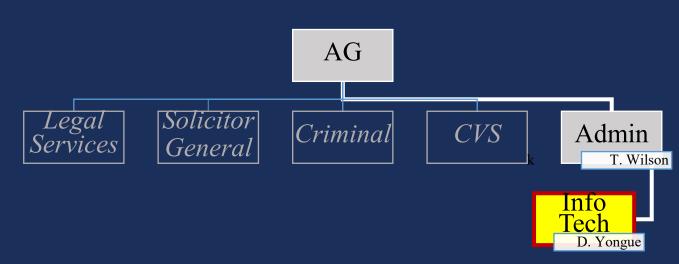
Information Technology

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Tammie Wilson Director

IT maintains the architecture, hardware, software and network of the Office while ensuring employees have full access to various operating systems. Additionally, IT maintains case management, document management, storage, remote access, while ensuring the security of systems.

Upgrading some IT capabilities has been a success (laptops, desktops, monitors). This focused on empowering staff with necessary resources. Many of the upgrades are a foundational for implementing new platforms.



Technology has a significant impact on work life, IT functions to ensure that employees have full access to ever changing tools for practicing law.

Evolving challenges include implementing platform systems. Increasing costs, and constant evolution of standards, maintaining security of systems and retaining talent remain a constant challenge.

IT Software v. Hardware v. Platform Systems

Hardware

- Computers
- Monitors
- Keyboards
- Speakers

Software

- What you install on your computer
- Programs (Word, Excel)

Platforms

- Type of software (Microsoft 365)
- Operating Systems (Windows 10)
- Document Management System
- Case Management System

IT Platform Systems (IQ Issues)

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	V	

Training and Certification

- IQ is inherited CVS Case Management System
- Utilizing CeBroker for service providers to submit and review certifications
- Still addressing remaining IQ concerns

CVS

Victim Compensation

- RFP produced and provided
- Timeframe not yet established for implementation

IT Platform Systems (Non-IQ)

CVS	All Legal Divisions:
Grants	Case Management Syste
RFP Posted	Currently on LawBase

- Procurement process completed
- Working with Selected Vendor **REI**:
 - Setup
 - Migration

Expected Completion October 2022

- ent System Currently on LawBase
- Posting new RFP for assessment and new way forward

IT COVID Response

- Upgraded software to enable the following:
 - Remotely log in and access work files
 - Procured Virtual Private Network (Pulse Secure)
 - Provide security for telecommute capability
 - Still being utilized
 - Conduct Virtual Meetings
 - Purchase licenses for virtual meetings
- Upgraded hardware to allow working outside the office
 - Upgrade desktop to laptop computing (Crime Victim Services Division)
 - Upgrade mobile hardware (some)



Receptionist and Support Services

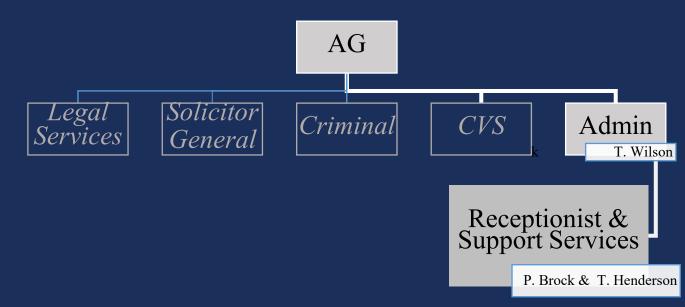
Alan Wilson Attorney General

Tammie Wilson Director

Receptionist Services serves as the voice and the face of the Attorney General's Office; greets and welcomes visitors to the Office.

Support Services assists with:

- printing and binding legal documents according to court requirements and other printing needs;
- handles deliveries,
- court errands,
- mail processing, and
- fleet request and other general operational needs.





Procurement and Records

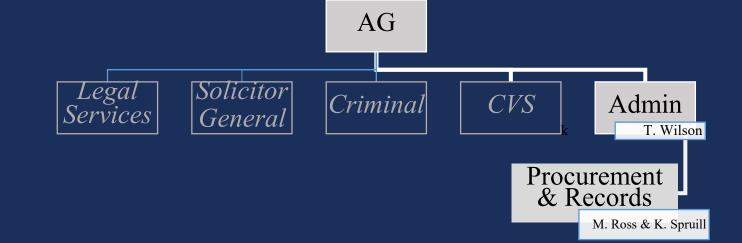
Alan Wilson *Attorney General*

Tammie Wilson Director

Procurement handles all purchasing, to include goods and services for the Office according to the S.C. Procurement Code and Regulations.

This includes:

- billing,
- inventory control,
- surplus property, and
- processing purchase orders.



Records works closely with S.C. Archives and History to facilitate the proper storage and retention of case files. Records maintains and manages case file records handled by the legal divisions.

AGENCY PRESENTATION – EMPLOYEE MORAL SURVEY

2018 NAAG Survey

(Staff Back-Brief)

Blind Survey: Protect anonymity Outside entity (NAAG) Secure (validity)

3 Survey Issues: Morale Internal Relations Administrative Support

ISSUES SURVEYED

- Morale • 3 Questions
- <u>Relationships</u>

• 5 Questions

- <u>Support Services</u>
 - 4 Questions

During LOC preparation, it was suggested that since there were references to a NAAG survey, we should include the survey. This is the survey presentation to staff finalized on 9/25/2018.

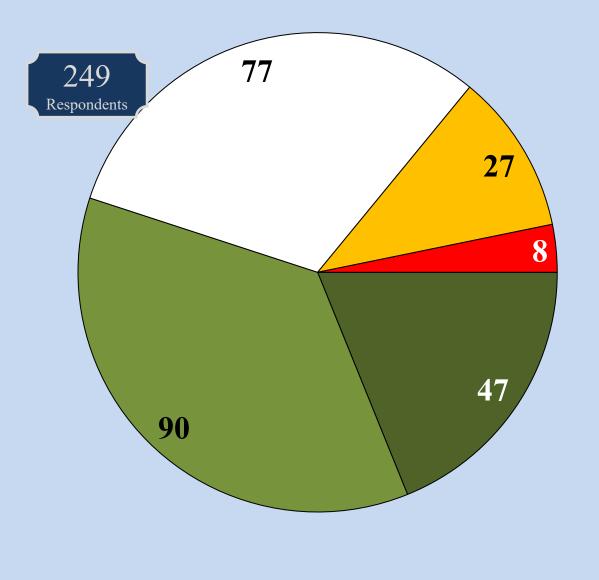
Changes made for LOC presentation:

- 1. Omitted by-section response
- Color of Average, Neutral, Acceptable, Same & Sometimes changed from yellow to white for resolution.
- 3. Formatting changes necessary from office Powerpoint upgrade

Data and results remain unchanged

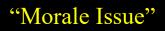
1. "Your" Morale at AGO

How would you characterize your morale at the Attorney General's Office?



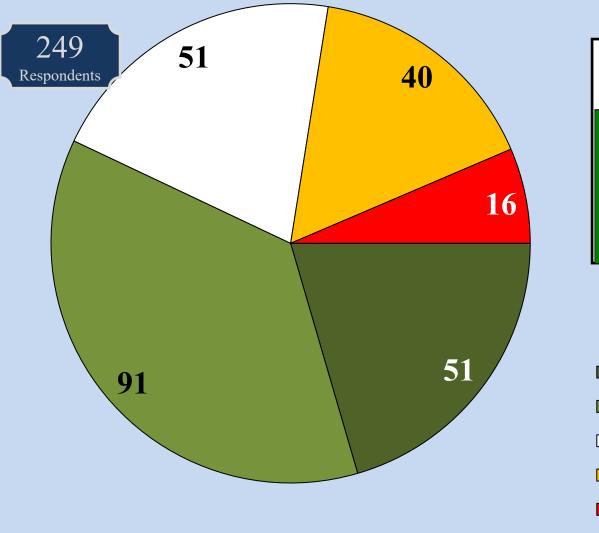
PositiveNeutralNegative	Percent	ages	
55%		31%	14%

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Below Average
- Poor



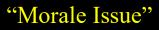
2. Morale within Division

How would you characterize your morale within your division?



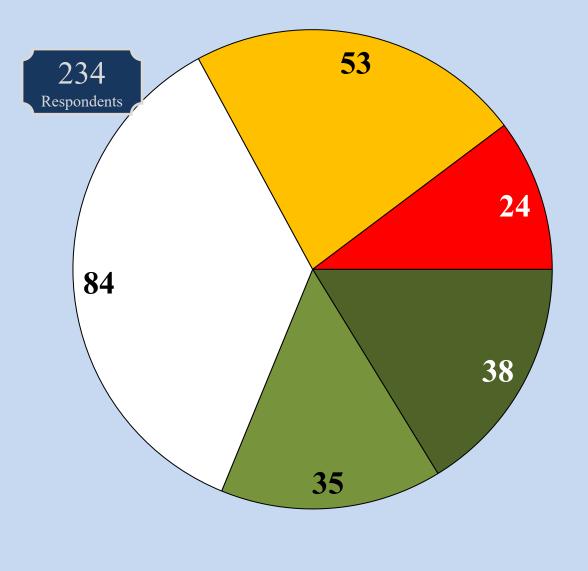
■Positive Perce	ntages	
Negative 57%	21%	22%

- Excellent
- Good
- \Box Average
- Below Average
- Poor



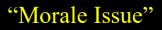
3. Morale Trend (Past Two Years)

How would you characterize your morale within your division?



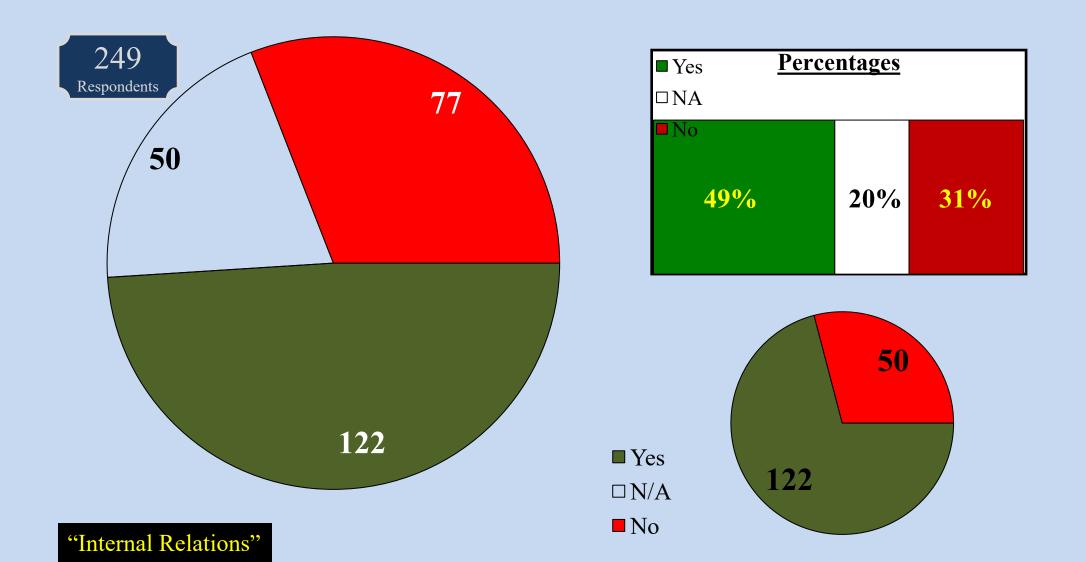
■ Increasing <u>Percentages</u>		
□ Same		
Decreasing		
31%	36%	33%

- Excellent
- Good
- \Box Average
- Below Average
- Poor



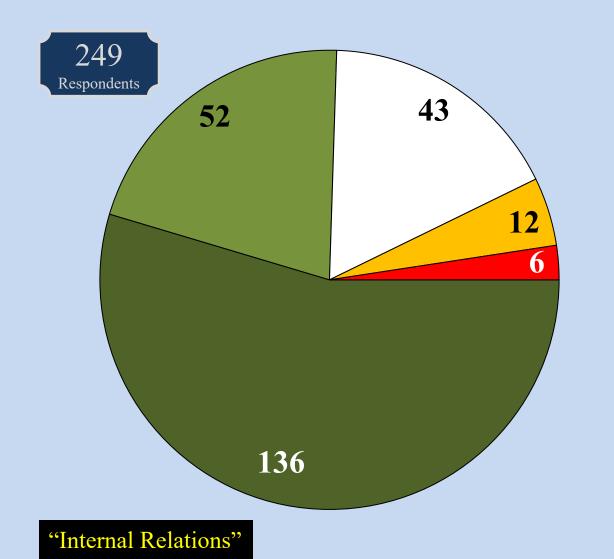
4. Executive Responsiveness

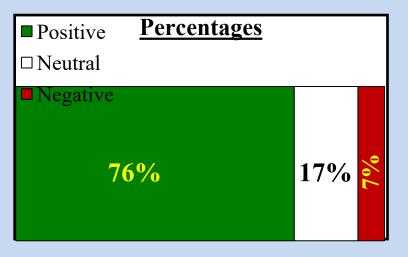
Do you feel that the Executive Office listens to your input?



5. Supervisor Responsiveness

Do you feel that your immediate supervisor listens to your input and even If the issue raised cannot be changed that your supervisor values your input?





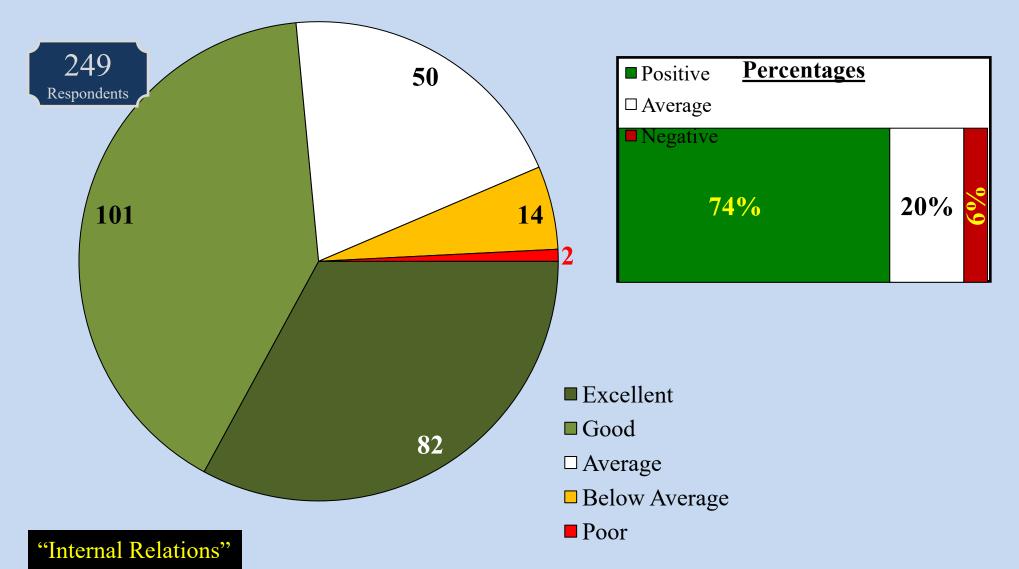
AlwaysOftenSometimes

Rarely

■ Never

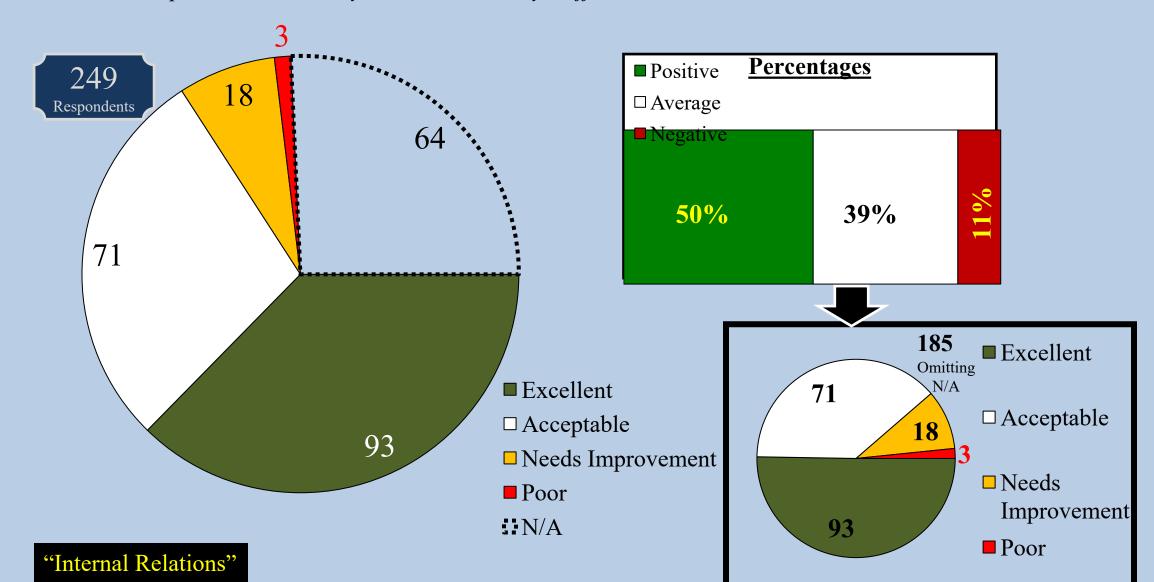
6. Staff Relationship in Division

How would you generally characterize the working relationships among staff in your division?



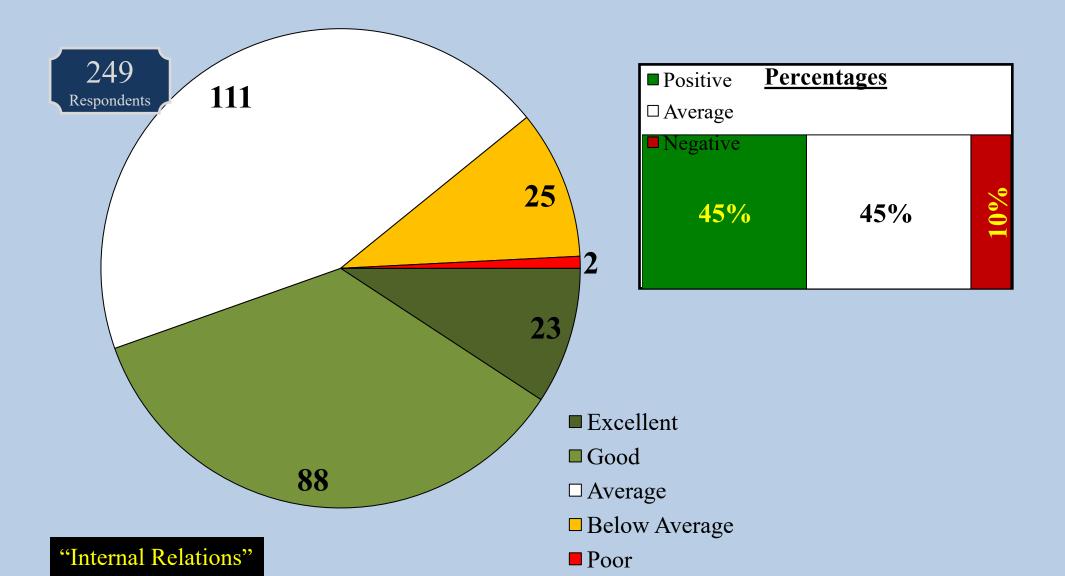
7. Attorneys and Staff Relations

If there are attorneys in your division, how would you characterize working relationships between attorneys and non-attorney staff in the division?



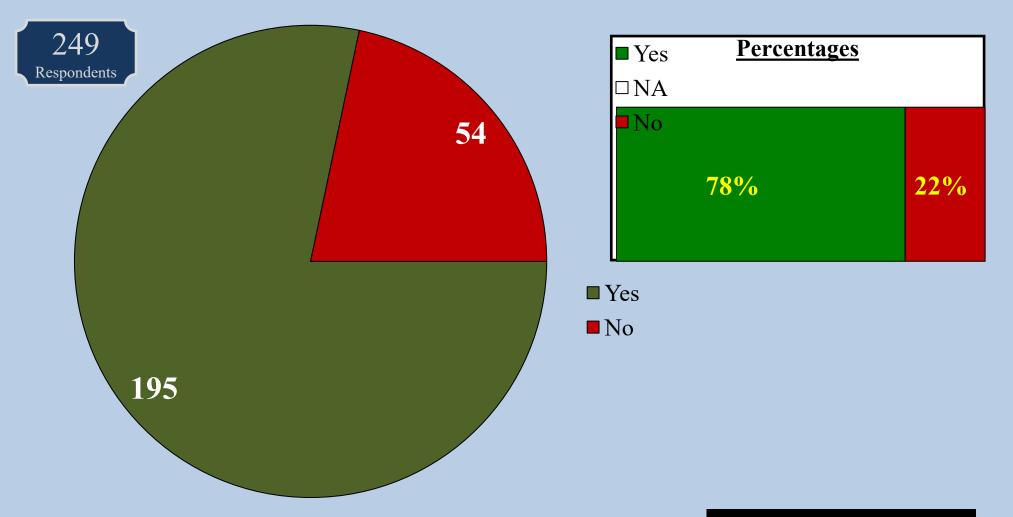
8. Interaction Among Divisions

How would you characterize the working relationships and interactions among divisions within the Attorneys General's office?



9. Employee Recognition

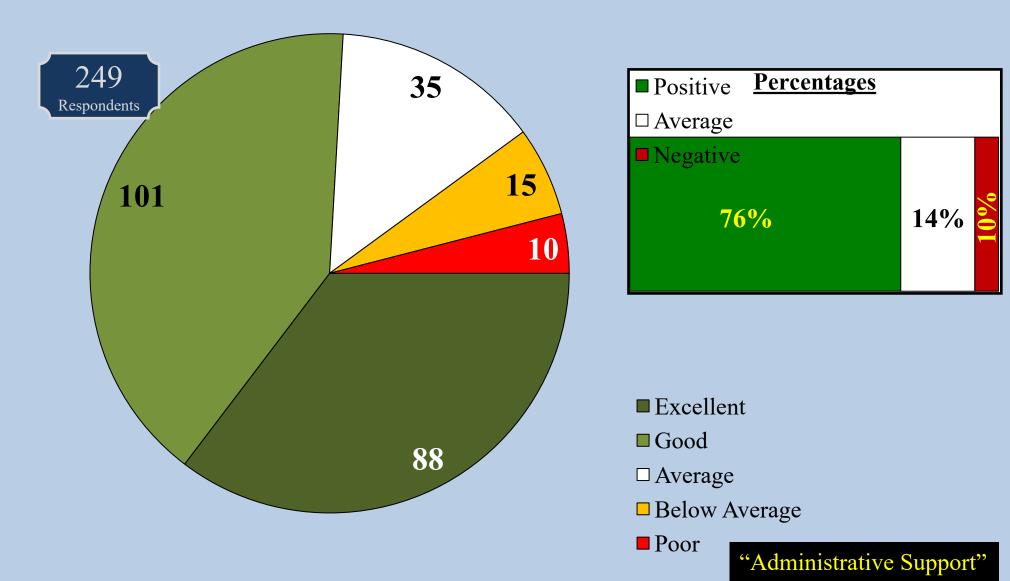
Do you believe that the office has adequate employee recognition programs, such as Quarterly Star Employee, annual Award of Excellence?



"Administrative Support"

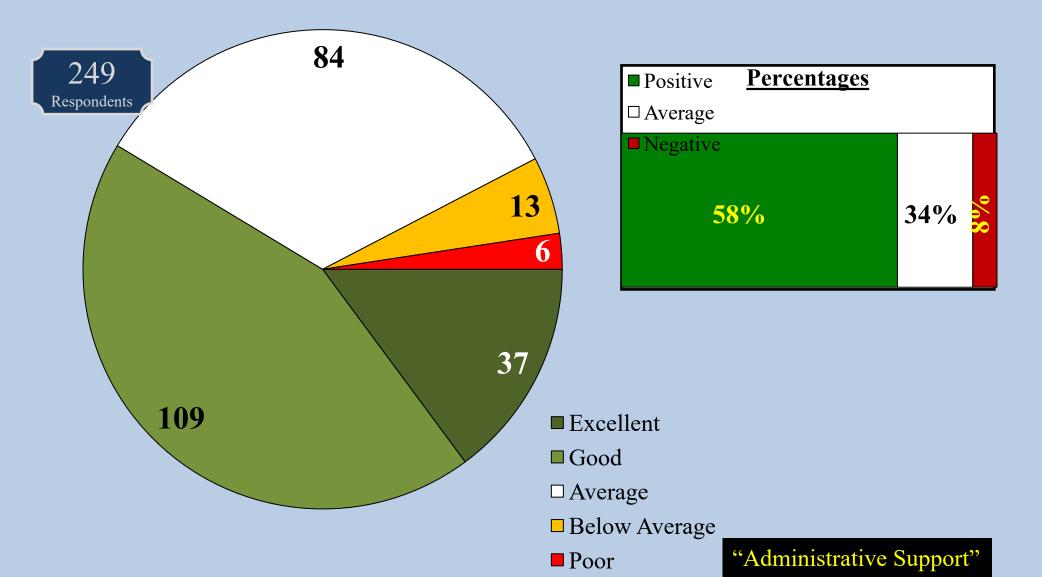
10. IT Satisfaction

Please rate your level of satisfaction with how well IT Support is able to resolve problems in a timely manner?



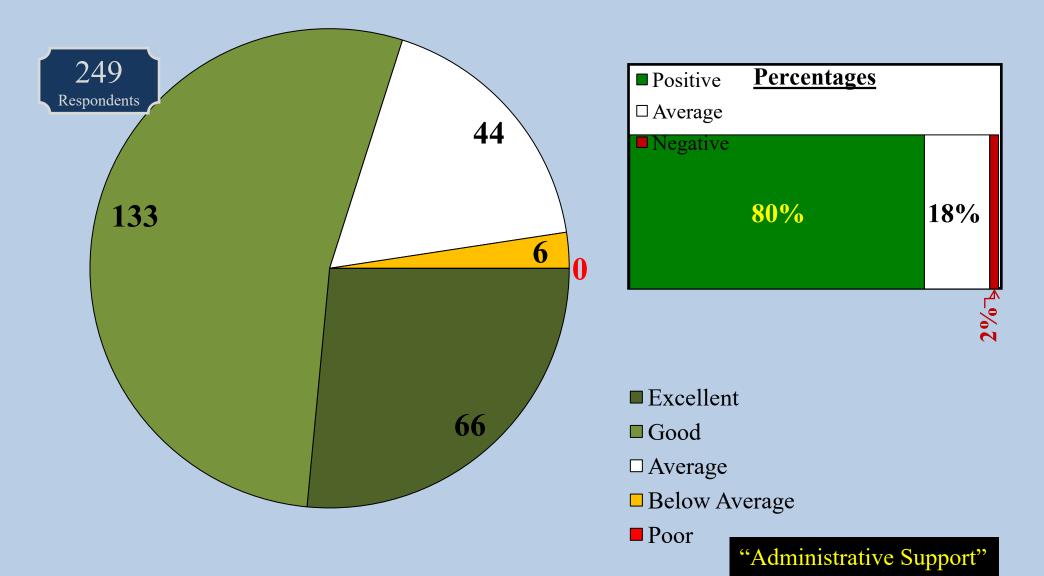
11. Training on Office Systems

How would you rate the training that has been provided on the use of the AG Office Systems?



12. Administration Services

Please rate the overall services offered by and received from the Administration Division: IT, HR, Finance, Support Services and purchasing.



Internal Communicating decisions within the office can be more effective.

• Pay Raise Decisions:

- Issue: Feedback as to process followed.
 - Response: Explained initially, but inadequate followed up.

• "Transparency" of Decisions:

- Issue: Not changing decisions, but explaining process
 - Response: Provide feedback of decisions process.
 - Response: Complete "transparency" violate privacy issues

• "Career Path" on Intranet

- Issue: While we established 2 years ago, not publicized
 - Response: Post information on intranets

For Further Review

• Office hours (Attorneys - 5:30 close)

- Issue since Condon administration (1995)
- Millennial issues ("flex-time", "make-up time", and "telecommute")
- Competition with other state agencies
- Previous NAAG review, did not act upon
 - Create managers working group to make recommendations

Sustaining initiatives

- "Leadership" training (differs from "management" training)
 - Work with NAAG for additional opportunities, Local program
- Higher expectations than prior administrations
 - Focus on sustaining initiatives

Specific Office Sections

- *Two sections identified potential issues*
 - Being reviewed & addressed within management avenues
 - NOTE: Specific comments identified sections, anonymity secure

Outside Resources

- "Cost of Living" salary increases
 Legislature dependent
 - - Continue annual attempts
- Parking
 - 9 month wait for deck, 1 year+ for underground
 - Construction temporary impact (not long term)
 - New USC apartments impact Assembly St. Parking
 - Reviewing interim relief options
- Elevators
 - New contractor may improve; not expected
- Inefficient but tenured employees
 EPMS change has improved since 2013; still limitations
- Multiple locations
 Dennis, Brown and 1201 Main
 - - Long term planning (TBD) to Dennis Building

AGENCY PRESENTATION – EXECUTIVE



Alan Wilson Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General

Executive Programs



V.A.L.O.R. Program:

The VALOR program coordinates legal resources for veterans and the military. A phone line provides assistance and referrals to lawyers who provide pro bono or discounted legal help for areas outside those provided by the military.

AG Programs

V.A.L.O.R.

Anderson

Yor

ichland

Charleston

The program provides legal clinics for simple legal issues like wills and powers of attorney. It does not compete with private practitioners and incorporates local volunteers for *pro bono* services. We coordinate with the SC Bar, county VSOs, and local veteran groups.

This also fulfills a criteria for BRAC considerations.

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Barry Bernstein Deputy AG

Tim Frisby VALOR coordinator



AG and Local Entity Partnerships



- 1. Good local coordinator
 - A. Publicity contacts, target clients
 - B. Coordination for appointments
 - C. Follow-up with volunteers
- 2. Location, location, location
 - A. Accessible
 - B. Comfortable
 - C. Space

3. Local Partners

- A. VSO
- B. Local Bar Pro Bono representative
- C. Veterans support group

Victory from Gloom

- Failed clinic in Sumter
 - Lack of local coordinator
 - Upstate Legislator sees advertising
 - Inquires why he can't have a clinic
- Local legislator
 - Initial coordinator for bar & facility
 - Engages county VSO for subsequent clinics

eteran and Armed Forces Legal Out-

Reach

South Carolina legal community's call to

- Clinics
 - 1st Clinic (pre-Covid) modestly successful
 - 2nd Clinic (post Covid) very successful
 - Solid foundation for annual clinics
 - VSO now engaged as permanent POC
 - Bar volunteers return as foundation
 - Same facility is permanent partner/location

Barry Bernstein

Deputy AG

AG Programs Constituent Services & Price Gouging

Constituent Services

Constituent Services handles incoming calls, emails, and other contacts. Overwhelmingly, most calls are for issues outside of the jurisdiction of the AG. However, our coordinator bends over backwards to find the right area of government for many overwhelmed by the bureaucracy.

Upon a Declaration of Emergency (DoE), the coordinator flips into being the center for price gouging complaints. Our normal price gouging circumstance is a hurricane, but floods and a pandemic raised this duty to a new level.

Price Gouging

"State law (SC §39-5-145) says that it is unlawful to "rent or sell or offer to rent or sell a commodity at an unconscionable price." The law remains in effect until the declaration expires or is terminated.

It's important to keep in mind that normal changes in the prices of goods and services are not considered price gouging.

The law says, 'A price increase that reflects the usual and customary seasonal fluctuation in the price of the subject essential commodity or the rental or lease of a dwelling unit or self-storage facility is not a violation of this section.'

Normal fluctuations in the market based on supply and demand are also not price gouging."



Price Gouging

SECTION 39-5-145. Price gouging during emergency; definitions; penalty; evidence of knowledge or intent.

(A)(5)(a) **"Unconscionable price"** means an amount charged which:

(i) represents a **gross disparity** between the price of the commodity or rental.... in the usual course of business during <u>the thirty days</u> immediately <u>before a</u> <u>declaration of a state of emergency</u>, and the increase in the amount charged is not attributable to additional costs incurred in connection.... market trends; or

(ii) **grossly exceeds the average price** at which the same or similar commodity... **readily obtainable** in the trade area during **the thirty days immediately before** a declaration of a state of emergency, and the increase in the amount charged is not attributable to additional costs incurred in connection withmarket trends. **SECTION 39-5-145.** Price gouging during emergency; definitions; penalty; evidence of knowledge or intent.

(B)(1) **<u>Upon a declaration of a state of emergency</u>** by the Governor, it is unlawful and a violation of this article... to:

(a) rent or sell or offer to rent or sell a commodity at an **<u>unconscionable price</u>** within the area for which the state of emergency is declared; or

(b) impose <u>unconscionable prices</u> for the rental or lease of a dwelling unit..... within the area for which the state of emergency is declared.

(2) This prohibition remains in effect until the declaration expires or is terminated.

(K) In addition to all other remedies provided in this article, a person who wilfully and knowingly violates this section is guilty of a <u>misdemeanor</u> and, upon conviction, must be punished by a fine of not more than <u>one thousand dollars</u> or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

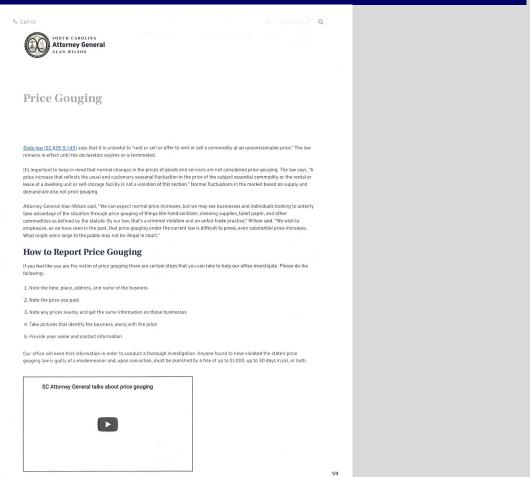


Price Gouging

AG Website (https://www.scag.gov/#)

Price Gouging Link

https://www.scag.gov/price-gouging/



Price Gouging Reporting Form

https://www.scag.gov/price-gouging/price-gouging-reporting-form/

Name	
First Last	
Your Address	
City	
Email	
Phone Number	
	
000 ×20 2002	
Price Gouging Information	
Commodity *	
Gas	
Bottled Water	
Hotel Rooms	
Other	
Name of Business *	
Street Address	
Jueer Address	
City *	
County	
Date *	
MM DD YYYY	
Time	
AM ~	
HH MM SS AM/PM	
Price Advertised/Charged *	
Prices Nearby (if available)	
Have you notified law enforcement?	
Yes	
□ No	
Do you have a receipt?	
Yes	
□ No	
Upload Photo Or Receipt	
Choose File No file chosen	
Consider the internet constent	
	Privacy - Terms



Price Gouging

AG Website (https://www.scag.gov/#)

Price gouging process:

- AG is the clearing house for complaints.
 - Previous only emails & phone calls (problem of anonymous generic complaints)
 - Improvements
 - AG video (on website and forwarded to news outlets
 - Access to form on website, requests substantive information & follow-up contact
- Summary determination of "meat on the bone".
- Substantive complaints forwarded to circuit solicitors
- Ongoing problems
 - Poor definition of "unconscionable price"
 - Actionable, substantive and follow-up information
 - Problem complaints
 - Overwhelming gas price complaints (nominal price change as in non DoE)
 - Convenience store prices for goods (comparing to Walmart)
 - Online shopping comparisons (unrelated to any local issues)
 - Non-standard Services (example: Tree removal)

LAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATION #1

- <u>Law</u>: §63-19-1430. Youth Mentor Act
- <u>Current Law</u>: This was a small program established several administrations ago, and became formalized as part of an omnibus bill establishing the Children's Code (Title 63).
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Delete this code section.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: Since its inception, it has become duplicative of existing programs. Other programs are grant based and have appropriate staff for such activities. It is better suited to local entities. There is no funding or separate FTEs, and it is ineffective at present and not suited for existing AG staff. At present, this program is dormant.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: None

LAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATION #42

- <u>Law</u>: §39-5-145(A).
- <u>Current Law</u>: There is some uncertainty as to the reasonable enforceability of the Price Gouging statute due to the extreme threshold of "unconscionable price."
- <u>Recommendation</u>: Amend the definition of "unconscionable price" within the definitions of the statute.
- <u>Basis for Recommendation</u>: A clarification of "unconscionable price" would give clear definition to the term for potential prosecution. An ability to clarify the term makes prosecution problematic, and defeats the intent of the statute.
- <u>Others Potentially Impacted</u>: Local law enforcement, solicitors.

Because of the multiple interests involved in legislation, this office is not focused on preferential language. This office is asking for clearer guidance as to legislative intent in a definition that allows for substantive prosecutorial review and the ability to enforce the statute. We are willing to work with the General Assembly to determine such a definition. We believe this is best achieved with a clear definition of "unconscionable price."



Alan Wilson Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General

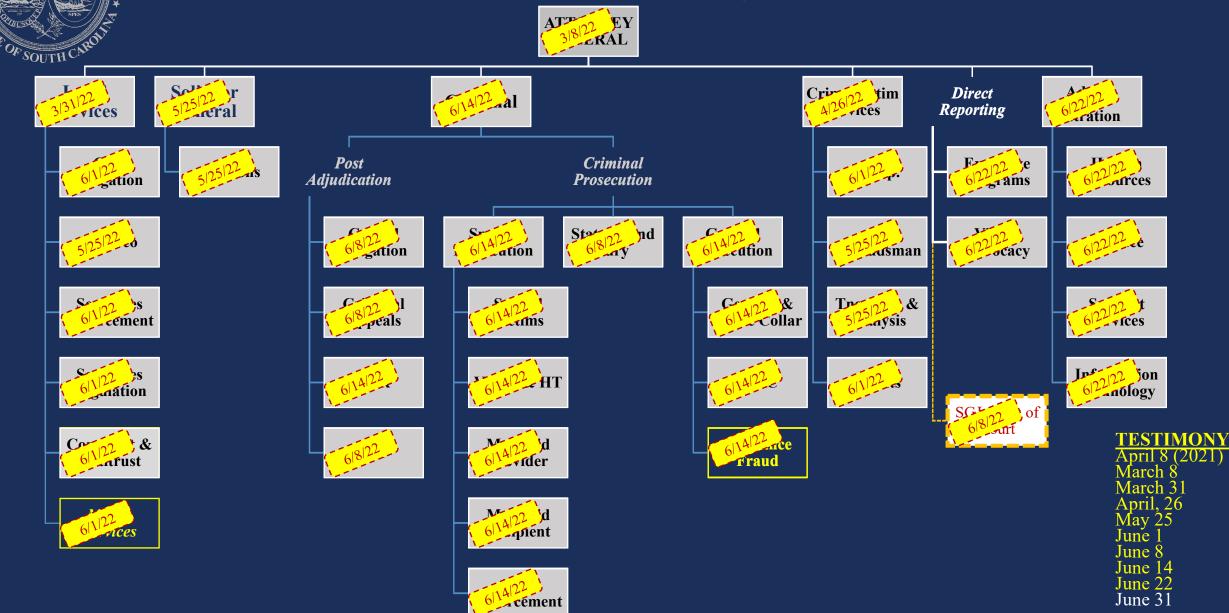
Sub-Committee Closing

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General

THE ATTORNA

OFFICE





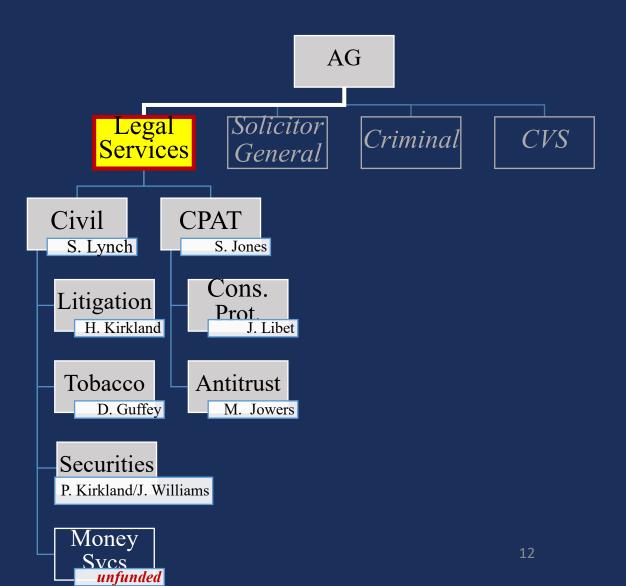
Divisions: LEGAL SERVICES

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Steve Lynch Deputy AG

LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION:

The division which handles all Civil Litigation matters (except PCR and SVP). Specialized areas such as Securities and Tobacco get little attention, but provide extraordinary services. CPAT handles large litigation cases through multiple resources. Combined, the Legal Services areas average recovering over \$150 million annually t the State.





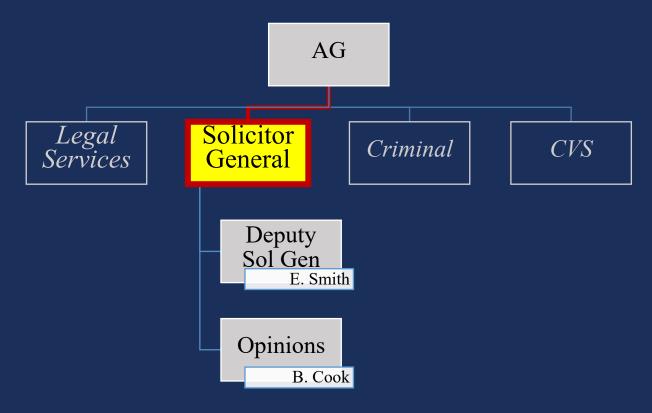
Divisions: SOLICITOR GENERAL

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Bob Cook Solicitor General

SOLICITOR GENERAL:

The Solicitor General title and division were created under AG Wilson. The smallest division of the office provides the oldest service in the office, legal opinions. The SG coordinates litigation so that our focus remains coordinated and consistent.





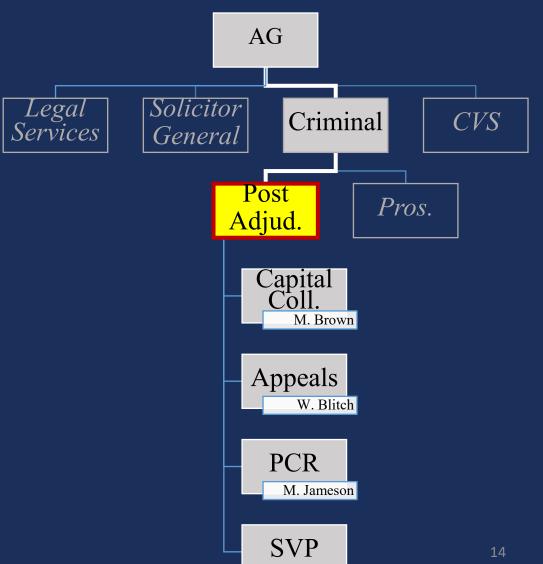
Divisions: CRIMINAL-Post Adjudication

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Don Zelenka Deputy AG

POST ADJUDICATION:

Post Adjudication is not a separate division, but is one of two areas of the criminal section. All post-trial criminal litigation falls within the purview of this area. Appeals, post conviction relief, federal habeaus corpus, and Sexually violent predator actions fall into this category.



D. Shupe



Divisions: CRIMINAL-Prosecution

Alan Wilson Attorney <u>General</u>

Don Zelenka Deputy AG

PROSECUTION:

Prosecution is the second area that falls under the criminal division. Conflicts of interest from the 16 circuit solicitors are commonly handled here. Special expertise in unique area of prosecution support efforts statewide in Medicaid fraud, Internet Crimes Against Children, Law Enforcement Issues, and Human Trafficking are prosecuted and supported here. The State Grand Jury is a unique investigative tools for prescribed cases that generally cross jurisdictional boundaries.





Divisions: Administration

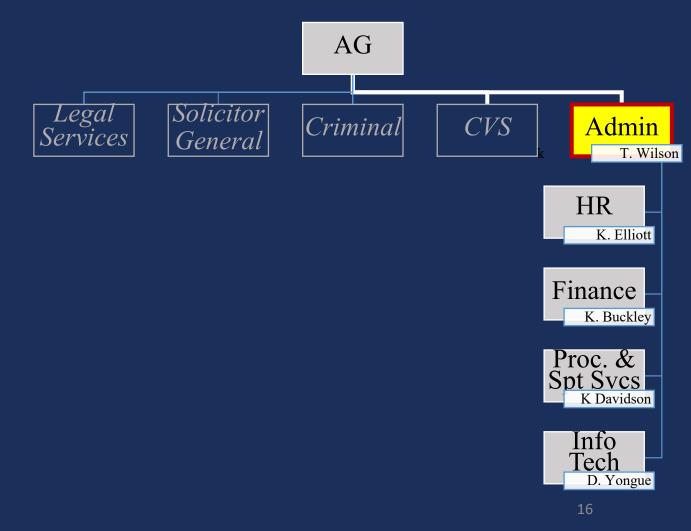
Alan Wilson Attorney General

Tammie Wilson Director

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division provides support and services essential to OAG operations. During AG Wilson's tenure, the areas of HR, Finance, and IT were consolidated with other support functions under one director for increased accountability. Administration is a one-stop resource for other sections, with the Director a the primary logistics advisor to the AG.

The OAG grew by 25% with the addition of CVS, but did not increase administrative FTEs. Administration remains challenged with meeting prior standards of excellence.





Divisions: Crime Victim Services (CVS)

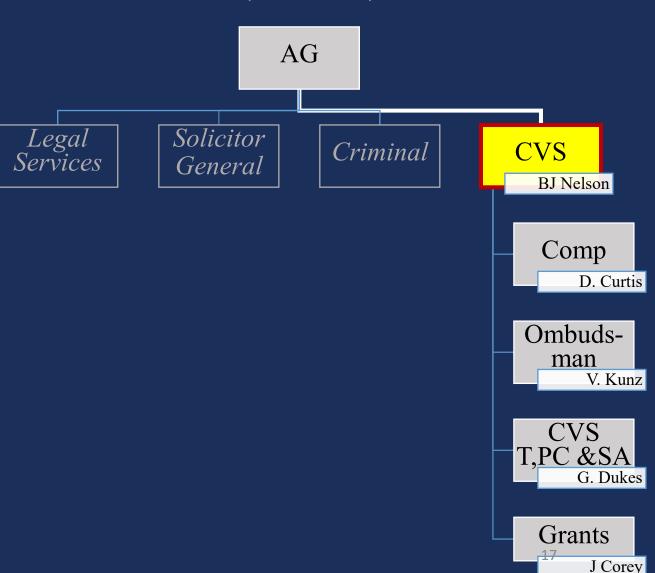
Alan Wilson Attorney General

BJ Nelson *Director*

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

The newest division of the office, Crime Victim Services in the state were consolidated and placed under the AG in the "South Carolina Crime Victim Services Act". This transition is in its 5th year and has continually made improvements to meet the expectations of the legislature.

2017 Act No. 96





Part XI: Successes, Challenges & Emerging Issues SUCCESSES

- SUCCESSES
- CHALLENGES
- EMERGING ISSUES



Presented LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Presented FISCAL STABILITY

Sented **FECHNOLOGY UPGRADE**

(HARDWARE & DESKTOP)

Alan Wilson

Attorney General



Part XI: Successes, Challenges & Emerging Issues CHALLENGES Alan Wilson Attorney General

Jeff Young *Chief Deputy*

- SUCCESSES
- CHALLENGES
 - Competitive Salaries
 - PCR Turnover
 - Money Services
 - Prosecution Coordination Comm.
- EMERGING ISSUES

Presented COMPETITIVE ATTORNEY SALARIES Presented POST CONVICTION RELIEF TURNOVER Presented MONEY SERVICES

4. COMMISSION ON PROSECUTION COORDINATION



Alan Wilson Attorney General

Part XI: Successes, Challenges & Emerging Issues CHALLENGES

Jeff Young *Chief Deputy*

<u>4: COMMISSION ON PROSECUTION COORDINATION</u>

ISSUE 1: Chief Prosecutor

As Chief Prosecutor, AG Should be on the Commission

In coordinating legislative intent towards crime, AG should be a member

The AG should have replaced the Director of DPS in 2016. DPS oversaw Crime Victim Compensation as reasoning **CV** Compensation is now under the AG.

Not on the Commission on Prosecution Coordination?

CONSTITUTIONAL <u>"Chief Prosecuting Officer"</u>

"The Attorney General shall be the chief prosecuting officer of the State with authority to supervise the prosecution of all criminal cases in courts of record." Article V, Section 24. (1972 (57) 3176; 1973 (58) 161; 1973 (58) 863; 1975 (59) 46; 1985 Act No. 9; 1989 Act No. 10; 1995 Act No. 35.)

COMMON LAW <u>"Chief Law Officer"</u>

"As the chief law officer of the State [the Attorney General].... maintain all such suits and proceedings as he deems necessary for the enforcement of the laws of the State, the preservation of order, and the protection of public rights." *State ex rel Daniel v. Broad River Power Co.*, 157 S.C. 1, 68, 153 S.E. 537, 560 (1929)

"Chief Prosecuting Officer" and "Chief Law Officer" not on the Commission on Prosecution Coordination?

"17th Solicitor"

- (1) Supervisory authority over the prosecution of criminal cases in SC;
- (2) Oversees the State Grand Jury and SGJ prosecution;
- (3) Represents the State in all criminal appeals (state and federal);(4) Primary Prosecution:
 - Internet crimes against children and sexual exploitation;
 - Medicaid Fraud (recipient fraud and provider);
 - Insurance Fraud

(6) All aspects of SC's Sexually Violent Predators statute;

- (7) Assists victims of crimes the State's Victims Bill of Rights;
- (8) Represents the State for Post Conviction Relief;
- (9) Coordinates cases for Solicitor conflict of interest

Uncoordinated Legislation 1990 -2006

SECTION 23-23-30.

Law Enforcement Training Counsel

<u>11 Members:</u>

(1) the Attorney General of South Carolina;

(2) the Chief of SLED;

(3) the Director of PPP;

- (4) the Director of the Department of Corrections;
- (5) the Director of the Department of Natural Resources;

(6) the Director of the DPS;

- (7) chief of police from a municipality < 10,000;
- (8) chief of police from a municipality > 10,000;
- (9) county sheriff from a county < 50,000;
- (10) county sheriff from a county > 50,000; and
- (11) one detention director.

2006 Act No. 317; 2014 Act No. 225

SECTION 1-7-910. (1990)

Commission on Prosecution Coordination

11 Members:

- (1) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee;
- (2) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee;

(3) the Chief of SLED;

(4) the Director of DPS;

- (5) a Director of a Circuit Pretrial Intervention Program;
- (6) a Circuit Victim-Witness Assistance Advocate;
- (7) Circuit Solicitor
- (8) Circuit Solicitor
- (9) Circuit Solicitor
- (10) Circuit Solicitor
- (11) Circuit Solicitor

1990 Act No. 485; 1996 Act No. 337



Part XI: Successes, Challenges & Emerging Issues EMERGING ISSUES

Alan Wilson Attorney General

Barry Bernstein Deputy AG

- SUCCESSES
- CHALLENGES
- EMERGING ISSUES





Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

Committee Mission

Determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated. Inform the public about state agencies.

Website:https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/
HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.phpPhone Number:803-212-6810Email Address:HCommLegOv@schouse.govLocation:Blatt Building, Room 228

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

*All meetings below begin at 10:30am in Blatt Room 321

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

END NOTES

¹ Visual Summary Figure 2 is compiled from information in the Attorney General's Office study materials available online under "Citizens' Interest," under "House Legislative Oversight Committee Postings and Reports," and then under "Attorney General's Office"

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyPHPFiles/AttorneyGeneral.php (accessed March 3, 2022).