

Annual REPORT



**OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MISSION:

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



**EDWARD
MANIBUSAN**
ATTORNEY GENERAL

This report is published to inform you of the activities of the Office of the Attorney General in 2019. As mandated by the CNMI Constitution, the Attorney General performed remarkably notwithstanding the challenges in meeting the demands of the government for legal services. It is important to publish this report at a time when the Commonwealth is in the middle of a public health crises. We have gone through many crises. I am confident that our Commonwealth will endure this event again but only by working hard and with an eye dedicated to the rule of law.

The year 2019 was highlighted by the work we put together assisting the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency with contract review and consultation in the aftermath of Typhoon Yutu. Our office reviewed over 800 contracts involving emergency power generation,

emergency equipment rentals, temporary shelters and many others. With a minimum number of attorneys in both Civil and Criminal Divisions, the office strived to meet the demands for legal services, reviewing legislation, proposed rules and regulations, consulting with Executive Branch departments and agencies, and executing non-emergency contracts including representing and appearing in our courts in criminal and civil matters. The year 2019 was also highlighted by a number of favorable decisions from our Supreme and Superior Courts in both Criminal and Civil cases. All of the activities and excellent performance by the office in 2019 were done because of the shared vision of all of the employees and staff of the Office of the Attorney General. This report is therefore dedicated to them for their work, commitment and dedication to the people of the Commonwealth.

THE OFFICE AT A GLANCE



The CNMI Office of the Attorney General is:

- The Chief Legal Officer for the CNMI
- Represents the Commonwealth in all legal matters
- Advises Executive Departments, Autonomous Agencies, and Public Corporations
- Takes Legal Action on behalf of its citizens
- Prosecutes violations of law

There are five (5) Divisions within the OAG, including:

- Civil Division
- Criminal Division
- Office of Consumer Counsel
- Administrative Services Division
- Attorney General Investigative Division
- Child Support Enforcement Unit
- Victim Witness Advocacy Unit
- Information Technology Unit

GOALS

- Combat graft and corruption, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, drugs and violence crimes;
- Build and improve relationships/partnerships, enforcement of laws and to promote proper training;
- Ensure criminal cases are thoroughly investigated and reviewed before charges are filed;
- Ensure the safety and security of the people of the Commonwealth;
- Work in partnership with the Executive Branch, Legislature, Courts, Law Enforcement Agencies such as Customs, Police, Fish & Wildlife, Probation, Parole, and Federal counterparts;
- Increase enforcement of consumer protection laws



**LILLIAN A.
TENORIO**
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

In the year 2019, the Office worked closely with the administration to address fiscal issues in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu and the work to be done in moving forward disaster relief and recovery programs. The civil litigation team continued to defend the Commonwealth in lawsuits and resolve matters brought by claimants. The Office also joined in several key multidistrict (and multistate) litigation matters relating to the presence of firefighting chemicals in the public water system, generic drug pricing, and opioid addiction. Legal services and counsel to agency clients continue to emphasize compliance with the rule of law and conducting government operations in a transparent and open manner.

A snapshot of the work in 2019 follows:

1. Legal review of bills before the Governor:

Reviewed an estimated 35 bills and prepared 35 corresponding legal letters to the Governor.

2. Legal letters and memoranda on non-legislation Legal Services Requests (LSR) submitted by the Governor:

Issued a legal opinion on borrowing from the Marianas Public Land Trust for disaster relief and recovery expenses.

3. Comments on Proposed Bills before the House of Representatives and Senate: Reviewed and prepared comments of over 75 bills submitted by the Legislature for comment.

4. Litigation matters: Assisted in the supervision of litigation activities.

5. Tobacco Master Settlement Enforcement:

- Continued to work jointly with the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Division of Customs, and the Division of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control in enforcing the terms of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

6. Land Compensation Claims Review: Reviewed 37 land compensation claims submitted by the Department of Public Lands for payment.

7. Agency Representation and Services:

- Served as counsel for the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Commonwealth Development Authority; attended board meetings, and prepared legal letters responding to LSRs, and provided legal assistance to legal inquiries from management on administration issues.
- Provided work on matters relating to the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Casino Commission, and the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission.



**CHRISTOPHER
TIMMONS**
CHIEF, CIVIL DIVISION

The Civil Division represents the executive branch of the Commonwealth, including all public corporations and autonomous agencies on all civil and administrative matters. With fewer than 10 attorneys at times, the Civil Division has strived to meet demand to review legislation, proposed regulations, policies and contracts, and provide legal representation to the executive branch departments and agencies. The Civil Division began 2019 with 25 active cases in the NMI Superior Court, 8 cases in the United States District Court, and 4 cases in the NMI Supreme Court. At the end of 2019 there are 22 active cases before the NMI Superior Court, 7 active cases before the United States District Court, 4 active cases before the NMI Supreme Court, and 2 active cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

In 2019 the Civil Division resolved important civil matters including:

- A favorable decision from the NMI Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Government Liability Act which protects government employees from tort liability for negligent actions occurring within the scope of their employment. *See Elameto v. Ramsey*, 2018 MP 15.
- A favorable decision from the NMI Supreme Court invalidating the “Free Trade Zone Laws” which transferred authority and control over certain public lands to the mayors of Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands because the constitution clearly requires the executive branch to manage them. *See Teregeyo v. San Nicolas*, 2018 MP 17.

- A favorable decision from the NMI Superior Court dismissing a complaint for failure to serve the Commonwealth in conformance with the NMI Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Anna S. Teregeyo v. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Order of Dismissal March 13, 2019)*.
- A favorable decision from the U.S. District Court dismissing a case brought by a physician seeking admitting privileges at CHC. In this case the court held that physicians have no property or liberty interest in renewal of admitting privileges and thus have no claim under 42 U.S.C. §1983. *See Ramsey v. Muna et. al.* 14-CV-00021 Order Granting Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss (D.NMI December 21, 2018).

Additionally, during 2019 the Civil Division negotiated settlements with plaintiffs who brought tort claims against the Commonwealth in the following categories: Medical Malpractice (4), Procurement (1), Civil Rights (3). The Civil Division also negotiated a settlement in the Luta Mermaid matter for full repayment of public funds wrongly received.

The Civil Division brought suits to enforce Commonwealth Law and uphold the NMI Commonwealth Constitution including:

- Suit against developer who amended permit application to reduce development activity and avoid regulatory requirements only to later build in excess of originally proposed activity.

- Suits against multiple developers for building and/or occupying structures without building permits and/or occupancy permits.

2019 was a challenging year for all with regard to tropical storm activity. The Civil Division assisted the Governor's Authorized Representative and Special Assistant for Emergency Management and Homeland Security in connection with Declarations of Major Disaster and Significant Emergency for Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu and supported the procurement and contracting activities with respect to the related recovery efforts. In total over 800 contracts were reviewed in this context. Additionally, we have ensured that merchants were aware of the price freeze put in effect to protect consumers following these devastating natural disasters.

On a national level, the Civil Division is currently fully engaged in the following activities:

- Generic Drug Overcharges: The Commonwealth through the Attorney General has joined 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam in the multi-district litigation against several generic pharmaceutical companies for illegal price fixing resulting in millions of dollars of overcharges to the states and territories.
- Tobacco Master Settlement: The Civil Division is in discussion with major tobacco companies to settle several years of disputed payments under the Master Settlement Agreement.
- Water Contamination: The Civil Division is engaged and are working with specialized outside counsel to pursue litigation against manufacturers of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), chemicals found in non-stick cookware, fabric coatings, and firefighting foam, which have made their way into our groundwater and put the public at risk.

CIVIL DIVISION STATISTICS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CIVIL LITIGATION					
New Cases	23	16	12	2	15
Active Cases	77	49	23	34	31
Dispositions	29	24	12	2	17
Wardships	--	12	13	23	24

APPELLATE CASES

New Cases	7	14	9	9	5
Active Cases	19	28	15	18	7
Oral Arguments	14	12	7	14	2
Dispositions	14	3	1	--	2

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Initiating Cases	15	9	5	6	12
Responding Cases	12	25	15	4	7
Active Cases	438	510	476	331	328
Closed Cases	--	1	1	61	16



OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

The Office of Consumer Counsel enforces the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). The Office has investigated complaints of price gouging and sale of defective, counterfeit, or expired items and other violations of the CPA. In 2019, the Office received 23 complaints, 17 of which were resolved.

The Office works in collaboration with other government enforcement agencies to ensure a safe, fair and sustainable consumer market. The Consumer counsel leads the Joint Consumer Protection Task Force, which monitors retail establishments and provides community education and outreach about compliance with consumer protection laws and fair trade practices. The goal is to encourage responsible business practices and fair competition, focusing on health, safety, and economic security of the consumer that will lead to lower prices and better consumer choices.

The Office of Consumer Counsel strives to provide the highest level of training for attorneys and investigators on consumer issues sponsored by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). The training included:

- The 2019 NAAG Consumer Protection Conference

- The 2019 NAAG/National Association of State Charity Officials (NASCO) Conference
- NAGTRI National Charities training
- Consumer Protection Spring Conference
- NAGTRI National Anatomy of a Complex Consumer Protection Case

The Office oversees the multi-district litigation involving generic drug price-fixing, opioid, addiction, Facebook, AFFF chemical contamination, and the continued monitoring of compliance with the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.



Photo Credit: Saipan Tribune

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

The Office of the Consumer Counsel (OCC) promotes and protects the interests of CNMI consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumer Complaint forms may be obtained at www.cnmioag.org under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division on Capital Hill, or via email by sending a request to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. Complaint forms may be hand delivered to the Civil Division or submitted via email. Consumers may also contact the Attorney General Investigative Division Hotline at 237-7627.



MISSION:

Mission of the Child Support Enforcement Division:

Every child needs the financial and emotional support of both parents. Our mission is to assist parents in obtaining the financial support necessary to raise their children. Our office assists parents by establishing paternity and enforcing child support and related orders issued by the court. Our goal is to collect and distribute support payments in a timely manner.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2019:

- As the only jurisdiction in the United States with no established child support guide lines, the CNMI Office of the Attorney General enlisted the services of an economist from the Center for Policy Research (CPR) in Denver, Colorado. With the assistance of CPR and the feedback of members from the CNMI Bar Association, the CNMI Judiciary, and various public agencies, the OAG's Child Support Enforcement Unit were able to produce work sheets and child support tables specifically tailored to the CNMI. The guidelines and worksheets, along with proposed rules for implementation were submitted and favorably received by the Court. The adoption of the guidelines are pending with the Court.
- Increase in child support collection by over 12%.

CASE LOAD ACTIVITY:

Number of child support cases:

	2017	2018	2019
Initiating	5	6	12
Responding	5	4	7
Active	476	331	328
Closed	1	61	16
Total:	487	402	363

Child Support Collections:

	2017	2018	2019
Child support collected & distributed	\$299,661.02	\$320,942.80	\$368,426.44
Child support distributed & attributable to tax rebate offsets:	\$15,150.90	\$25,848.12	\$21,667.85
Total:	\$314,811.92	\$346,790.92	\$390,094.29

New Hire Directory:

	2018	2019
Number of new hires reported by employers from January – December 2019:	2,210	2,309
Total number of employees in New Hire database:	18,539	22,175

GOALS FOR 2020:

- Become eligible for Federal IV-D funding for child support collection.
- Increase child support collections
- Strengthen compliance with the requirements of Public Law 20-60 New Hire law



**JOHN
BRADLEY**
CHIEF, CRIMINAL DIVISION

Led by a Chief Prosecutor who oversees a team of highly trained and skilled assistant prosecutors, administrative staff, and the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit, the Criminal Division is dedicated to making the community safe by holding the guilty accountable, respecting the rights of the accused, and preserving the dignity of victims and their families. The division also partners with other government agencies, community groups, public officials and business leaders to reduce crime and raise public awareness about certain criminal behaviors. Additionally, the division proactively tackles crime motivated by substance abuse and drug addiction through participation in the Drug Court program.

The Criminal Division highlights the following in 2019:

- Hired a new Chief Prosecutor
- Successfully protested the parole of a convicted murderer

- Completed an Office Manual, describing the structure and duties of the Criminal Division
- Restarted the use of E-Citations for the Traffic Division of DPS through a committee-based effort to resolve various technical problems
- Chief of Criminal Division met with government officials to introduce himself and establish working relationship with relevant organizations
- Successfully handled an extradition case on behalf of the state of Nevada, seeking an arrest and return of a Chinese national for check fraud. The Defendant posted a \$350,000 cash bail with the state of Nevada and was deported back to China



CRIMINAL DIVISION CASE LOAD ACTIVITY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New Cases					
Criminal					
Felony	118	128	125	105	152
Misdemeanor	102	112	47	90	215
Juvenile	99	16	16	25	8
Traffic	2,778	3,021	6,314	4,428	5,460
Cases Received by Location:					
Saipan	2,013	3,112	6,082	4,331	5,402
Rota	16	70	297	200	141
Tinian	34	95	123	117	292
Criminal Cases by Offenses					
Crimes Against Persons					
Family Violence	74	77	48	73	114
General Crimes	40	24	17	51	121
Property Crimes	57	49	30	47	90
Drugs	25	44	49	12	28
Sexual Assault	12	25	17	15	11
Public Corruption	7	5	2	3	3
Firearms	1	0	4	2	3
Customs	1	1	2	1	3
Miscellaneous	3	16	2	14	3
Extradition	0	0	1	1	1
Prostitution	-	-	-	1	0
E-Citations (NEW)	-	-	-	-	67
DFEMS (NEW)	-	-	-	-	93
BECQ (NEW)	-	-	-	-	9
Case Status					
Convictions					
Guilty Pleas	110	122	64	31	71
Bench Trials					
Guilty	-	-	2	1	2
Acquittal	6	2	1	4	0
Jury Trials					
Guilty	5	2	3	1	0
Acquittal	-	-	1	0	0
Dismissal	-	-	1	0	0
Pending	82	85	96	166	133
Dismissals	20	20	11	21	8
Hung Jury	0	1	0	0	0
Off Calendar	-	-	-	2	3
Court Program	-	-	-	2	7
Declined (NEW)	-	-	-	-	144

Criminal Division Highlights in the CNMI Supreme Court:

- 2019 MP 1 (*Commonwealth v. Aguon*): Superior court abused its discretion in finding prosecutor misconduct because there was no bad faith on the part of the prosecutor by staying within the proper boundaries of questioning and rehabilitating a witness.
- 2019 MP 6 (*Commonwealth v. Reyes*): Superior court properly imposed a 30-year sentence on Defendant for conviction on three counts of sexual abuse of a minor.
- 2019 MP 7 (*Commonwealth v. Borja*): Superior court properly restricted Defendant's parole eligibility.
- 2018-SCC-0014-CRM (*Commonwealth v. King*): Defendant voluntarily dismissed appeal after Commonwealth moved for dismissal based on appellate waivers.
- 2018-SCC-0013-CRM (*Commonwealth v. Sheng*): Court granted the Commonwealth Motion to Dismiss appeal due to lack of jurisdiction as Defendant has not been sentenced in the lower court as required for finality.
- 2019-SCC-0016-CRM (*Commonwealth v. Castro*): Court granted the Commonwealth's Motion to Dismiss due to lack of jurisdiction as the order being appealed was not final as required.
- 2019 MP 9 (*Commonwealth v. Tian*): Court held that evidence was sufficient for conviction and declined to create against manifest weight standard of review.

Criminal Division Highlights in the CNMI Superior Court:

- Criminal Case No. 18-0097 (*Commonwealth v. Inos*): Court declined to dismiss as it had jurisdiction once a case was filed, and dismissal would be a waste of time when the Commonwealth could refile the charges.
- Criminal Case No. 16-0040 (*Commonwealth v. Epina*): Court quashed subpoenas served on our office for our prosecutor and victim advocate as lacking specificity.

- Traffic Case No. 17-00451 & Traffic Case No. 17-02425 (*Commonwealth v. Nimwes*): Court declined to transfer DUI case to Juvenile Court as Defendant was 17 and the charge was not one over which Juvenile Court had jurisdiction.
- Traffic Case No. 17-04719: Court declined to transfer DUI case to Juvenile Court as Defendant was 16 and the charge was not one over which Juvenile Court had jurisdiction.
- Criminal Case No. 18-0096 (*Commonwealth v. Agulto*): Court denied Defendant's Motion to Suppress as the stop and search was reasonable under the 4th Amendment.
- Criminal Case No. 18-0099 (*Commonwealth v. Hattori*): Court 1) Denied Defendant's motion to dismiss and found the CNMI sex offender registry is not unconstitutional; 2) Denied, after in camera inspection, Defendant's request for victim advocate interview notes; 3) Denied Defendant's Motion to exclude child witness testimony as Defendant failed to show any suggestive or coercive interview techniques.
- Criminal Case No. 18-0088 (*Commonwealth v. Atalig, et. al.*): Court held that Defendant had to make a showing beyond mere speculation to trigger a *Henthorn* review requiring disclosure of personnel records; Court also ordered the Commonwealth to preserve rough field notes for Brady purposes, but that Defendant is not entitled to the notes unless they can show materiality.
- Juvenile Case No. 19-0004 (*In the Matter of TM, et. al.*): The Court denied Juvenile's motion to dismiss as Defendant did waive their right to an attorney, and the parents expressly waived the right to be present during questioning; Juvenile was not held more than 24 hours in accordance with law.





LAWRENCE PANGELINAN

CHIEF, INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

The Mission of the Attorney General's Investigative Division is to safeguard and be faithful to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States of America to zealously, effectively and indiscriminately enforce the law equally and impartially; to exemplify the finest law enforcement agency by providing the highest level of professionalism, standards, proficiency, loyalty, and commitment to the CNMI community; and to investigate and reduce crime by enhancing co-operations and partnerships with other law enforcement and stakeholder agencies.

This year, the Division highlights the following activities:

- The Attorney General Investigative Division has expanded its role in supporting and assisting multiple agencies, both local and federal. In a joint effort, the AGID has been a part of numerous operations to combat consumer complaints, and other criminal cases that include misuse of food stamps, misconduct in government office, to include theft and theft by deception cases. The AGID's assistance was also requested by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Food and Drug Administration Enforcement unit, along with local Customs and Quarantine agencies to conduct joint inspections of containers.

Establishing a good working relationship with multiple agencies enables the AGID to be well-versed and informed, as it increases the chances of receiving key intelligence that may be vital in conducting their investigations.

- The Attorney General Investigative Division continued to work with the Consumer Protection Task Force, which is comprised of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Finance and the Division of Sanitation under the Department of Public Health. The Task Force has focused on consumer complaints involving the sale of expired goods and price gouging with local stores, markets, or supermarkets.

- The Attorney General Investigative Division Investigators attended trainings locally. The trainings included the National Threat Assessment training, Active Shooter training, and the Food and Drug Administration training.

- The Criminal Justice Planning Agency approved and awarded a sub-grant amount of \$20,000.00 to the AGID. The funding procured new desktop computers, an all-in-one network printer, and tactical gear and equipment for the Investigators.

AGID Jury & Bench Trials		
CASE TYPE	TOTAL	
Jury Trials	6	
Bench Trials / Hearing	2	
AGID Documents Served		
Documents	Received	Served
Penal Summons	102	80
Witness Summons	41	36
Child Support Documents	8	6
Traffic Documents	18	19
Civil Documents	23	18
Bench Warrants	8	6
Subpoenas	7	7
Criminal Documents	2	2
TOTAL	209	174



ATTORNEY GENERAL CRIMINAL DIVISION



VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT

The Victim Witness Advocacy Unit is headed by the Victim Witness Coordinator. Under the supervision of the Chief of the Criminal Division, the Unit provides and disseminates information between and among the Criminal Division, the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Public Defender, the Division of Youth Services, victim support organizations and agencies; and serves as an advocate for victims of crime to obtain aid and services for health, education, counseling, and rehabilitation from public and private agencies.

Accomplished Highlights

1. Secured VOCA and VAWA federal funding;
2. Continued technological communication capabilities;
3. Continued transportation services for victims;



4. Continued services for victim of crimes in criminal cases and temporary restraining orders in family court cases;
5. Continued community awareness and outreach during SAAM and DVAM; and
6. Achieved professional growth through training and summits

Outreach Activities

1. Sexual Assault Awareness month community outreach
2. Domestic Violence Awareness month community outreach

Trainings & Summits

1. Customer Service Training
2. Project Catalyst II: Advocate Training
3. 2019 Pacific Regional Summit
4. 24th International Summit on Violence, Abuse, & Trauma Across the Lifespan

Presentations

1. Family Violence Taskforce: "Community Justice Workshop"

Total Number of Victims Served:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Criminal Cases | 492 |
| 2. Civil cases | 260 |



**TINA S.
DELEON GUERRERO**
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division provides administrative support to all Divisions under the Office of the Attorney General by performing a variety of administrative task. The Division plans, organizes, and implements the office's programs, policies and objectives, in addition to coordinating office services such as sound fiscal management, records management, recruitment and training/ professional development. It also reviews and recommends to management the technical and procedural needs of the office overall. The Division is further tasked with the management of grant awards as well as to research and produce grant proposals for submission, and is responsible for publishing the Commonwealth Register and registering of the Notaries Public. The Administrative Division is the primary hub for the evaluation and completion of all Human Resource functions of the office.

BUDGET & EXPENDITURES					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
General Funds	\$2,303,763.00	\$2,700,000.00	\$2,877,918.00	\$2,818,015.00	\$2,666,922.00
Personnel	\$2,199,320.00	\$2,485,225.00	\$2,487,183.00	\$2,592,199.00	\$2,595,176.00
Operations	\$ 104,433.00	\$ 214,775.00	\$ 390,735.00	\$ 225,816.00	\$ 71,746.00
Federal Funds	\$ 171,300.00	\$ 199,335.00	\$ 217,700.00	\$ 254,865.00	\$ 268,267.00
Total Expenditures	\$2,475,053.00	\$2,899,335.00	\$3,095,618.00	\$3,072,880.00	\$2,935,189.00
Personnel					
Attorneys	20	22	24	22	24
Investigators	3	4	4	4	3
Support Staff	19	21	22	24	24
Victim Advocates	5	4	5	4	3
Total Personnel	47	51	55	54	54

SERVICES					
Publication of Rules and Regulations in the Commonwealth Register					
Emergency Regulations	5	3	5	0	3
Proposed Regulations	20	19	31	28	28
Adopted Regulations	22	12	35	29	33
Subscribers	8	5	4	4	3
Agency Orders (NEW)	-	-	-	-	222
Total Registry Collection	\$1,280	\$800	\$640	\$640	\$480
Apostilles & Certifications Issued					
Apostilles	167	149	191	199	221
Certifications	257	534	670	787	406
Apostilles & Certifications Collections					
Apostilles	\$ 8,350.00	\$ 7,450.00	\$10,450.00	\$ 9,950.00	\$11,050.00
Certifications	\$12,850.00	\$26,700.00	\$33,250.00	\$39,350.00	\$20,300.00
Total Collection	\$21,200.00	\$34,150.00	\$43,700.00	\$49,300.00	\$31,350.00
Notary Public Applicants & Authentication					
Notary Public – New	25	31	31	22	38
Notary Public – Renewed	55	32	74	41	49
Notary Public – Current	74	86	50	85	79
Notary Public – Total	154	149	155	148	166
Notary Public Collections					
Total Collection	-	\$1,575.00	\$2,625.00	\$1,575.00	\$2,175.00



**EDWARD
SABLAN**
MANAGER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) Unit manages and maintains the information systems and technologies for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The responsibilities of the IT Unit include the management of computer and server systems, databases, network security, and physical security. The IT Unit provides technical support for hardware and software related problems that arise, and also coordinates office building maintenance and repairs when needed.

A major accomplishment in 2019 was improving the efficiency and reliability of the Criminal Division's case management system. The IT staff worked closely with vendor to customize the software environment which provided better overall user capabilities and auditing.

In coordination with the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) IT section, the OAG's IT staff was able to secure connections to the electronic citation program being used by DPS Traffic Section called E-Citation. This access provides electronic data sharing between DPS and OAG which at the same time reduces paper consumption.

Another accomplishment for the year were the upgrades of the OAG's computer systems. All older computer operating systems software were upgraded to the latest versions ahead of the End-of-Life dates set by the software manufacturer. The required upgrades made available critical patches which are vital for continued protection from online threats and malware.

The IT staff attended multiple cybersecurity training events which enhanced the team's knowledge and understanding of current and emerging threats. As a result, the IT Unit heightened its security services for better protection from threats.

The Information Technology Unit continually works hard to improve the office's information systems and technologies. Plans for the upcoming year are to continue to improve the office's network and physical security systems as well as the office website. The IT staff will seek to attend professional development training and avail of additional resources that will help the Unit improve the services it provides the agency.





2019 CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING

- NAGTRI Executive Assistants Seminar
- NADCP Annual Training Conference
- DATIA Annual Conference
- NAGTRI National Charities 101 Training
- NAAG Consumer Protection Spring Training
- CWAG Annual Conference of Western Attorneys General Meeting
- NAGTRI National Training on Representation of State Agencies
- 31st Annual Crimes Against Children Conference
- 24th International Summit on Violence, Abuse & Trauma Across the Lifespan
- NAAG Seventh Triennial Conference and 2019 Tobacco Seminar
- NAGTRI Public Information Office Seminar
- NAGTRI National Core Competencies for First Line and Mid-Line Managers Training
- NAAG/NASCO Conference
- Pacific Region Summit, Lifting our Voices to Safe, Healthy and Violence-Free, Family Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
- Consumer Protection Conference
- NAAG Capital Forum
- NAAG Meeting with DOJ, DOT and DOI
- Customer Service Training
- Project Catalyst II: Advocate Training
- Pacific Regional Summit
- National Threat Assessment Training
- Active Shooter Training
- FDA Import/Export and Produce Safety Training



REPORT PUBLIC CORRUPTION

Public Corruption is
undermine our Com
local government. I
or government emp
Investigative Division

Attorney General





is a breach of trust by government officials or employees, who
Commonwealth's overall safety, the public trust, and confidence in our
if anyone has any information about wrongdoings by a public official
employee, please submit a tip online at www.cnmioag.org or contact our
Hotline at 237-7627.

Investigative Division Hotline: 237-7627



KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2020

- Continue to support all law enforcement through meeting and training by means of academy or in service;
- Focus on illegal business practices that hurt our consumers and other businesses;
- Continue to foster a non-partisan position on all matters brought to our attention;
- Continue to work towards the completion of the CNMI's first Child Support Guidelines;
- Continue to promote and ensure an open and transparent government;
- Continue to improve/strengthen the Criminal Code;
- Continue to work on new procurement regulations for the government and provide training to agencies;
- Continue to implement Consumer awareness programs and investigate consumer complaints;
- Continue to explore solutions to mental health issues in the criminal justice system;
- Continue to collaborate with DPS and DYS to address juvenile delinquency issues in the Commonwealth;
- Continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to expand resource activities to combat illegal drug and criminal activity in the CNMI

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT Calendar Year 2019

CNMI Office of the Attorney General
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
WEBSITE: www.cnmioag.org

Civil Division	(670) 237-7500
Criminal Division	(670) 237-7600
Investigative Division	(670) 237-7630
Victim Witness Advocacy Unit	(670) 237-7602

If you have any recommendations on what you would like to see included, please contact Carla T. Hocog, Public Information Officer, at (670) 237-7500 or email at carla_hocog@cnmioag.org