

# Citizen Centric Report

## Office of the Attorney General

FY' 2022



### DIVISIONS AND UNITS OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

- CIVIL DIVISION
- CRIMINAL DIVISION
- SOLICITOR DIVISION
- OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL
- ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
- ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
- CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT
- VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT
- GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



### Table of Contents

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

### MISSION

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

### WHO WE ARE

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

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

**CONTACT US:**  
 CNMI Office of the  
 Attorney General  
 Caller Box 10007  
 Saipan, MP 96950

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.cnmioag.org](http://www.cnmioag.org)

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

# OUR PROGRESS

## HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❖ Johnson & Johnson and Distributors National/Multistate Opioid Litigation. The Commonwealth executed two settlement agreements between the producers and distributors of opioid drugs. Over the next four years, the Commonwealth anticipates receiving settlement monies.
- ❖ Drafted and updated proposed legislation for the following: Contraband bill, Child outcry bill, Protection of abused children bill, Failure to appear bill, Possession of firearm by a felon bill, and a Habeas corpus bill.
- ❖ Provided a total of 496 responses to Legal Service Requests to different departments/agencies.
- ❖ Prevailed in Civil Service Commission appeals from terminations of executive branch employees who failed to comply with the Governor's Directive mandating COVID vaccination.
- ❖ Restructured and normalized Criminal Division's charge data such that it now meets FBI National Incident Based Reporting System and Uniform Crime Reporting criteria. Increased accuracy and relevance of data reporting by tracking charges filed instead of case types. Charges are now tracked to five levels of granularity.
- ❖ Favorable ruling in *Appleby v. DOC and BOP*. Case was remanded back to trial court where trial court Denied habeas relief to Defendant.
- ❖ The CNMI OAG authored and led a joint effort from the Attorneys General of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to advocate on behalf of the citizens of our respective territories who are users of recalled CPAP machines manufactured by Philips Respironics. The letter brought to Philips attention that their plan for replacement of recalled products was slow to include the citizens of our territories.
- ❖ Attorney General's Investigation Division opened a total of 24 new cases.

## ACTIVITIES:

DIVISION/UNIT	FY2022
<b>CIVIL DIVISION</b>	
Agencies Served	70
Procurement Contract Review	652
Personnel Contract Review	1193
Review of Legislation for the Governor	34
Review for Legislative Comments	34
Legal Services Request	496
Litigation	48
Appeals	2
<b>CRIMINAL DIVISION</b>	
Criminal - Felony	179
Criminal - Misdemeanor	297
Juvenile	11
Traffic	4978
<b>OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL</b>	
Complaints Received	10
Complaints Resolved	6
<b>INVESTIGATION DIVISION</b>	
Penal Summons - Served	99
Witness Summons - Served	133
Bench Warrants - Served	1
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b>	
Apostilles	1286
Certifications	67
Notary Public - New Applicants	13
<b>CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT</b>	
Active Cases	334
Closed Cases	4
<b>VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT</b>	
Victims Served - Criminal	588
Victims Served - Civil	142

# OUR FINANCES

## BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

BUDGET	FY2022
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$2,093,299.00</b>
Personnel	\$2,072,571.00
Operations	\$20,728.00
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$259,647.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,352,946.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION COLLECTIONS</b>	
Apostilles	\$64,300.00
Certifications	\$3,350.00
Notary Public	\$1,525.00
Commonwealth Register	\$160.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$69,335.00</b>
<b>CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS</b>	
Collected and Distributed	\$309,961.17
Tax Rebate Offset	\$8,651.63
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Offset	\$22,489.16
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$341,101.96</b>

### REPORT PUBLIC CORRUPTION

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



### Consumer Complaints

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) promotes and protects the interests of the CNMI consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumer Complaint forms may be obtained at [www.cnmioag.org](http://www.cnmioag.org) under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division in Capitol Hill, or via email by sending a request

## WHAT'S NEXT

### *KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2023:*

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

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

Andrea Manese at 237-7500 or email [andrea\\_manese@cnmioag.org](mailto:andrea_manese@cnmioag.org)