

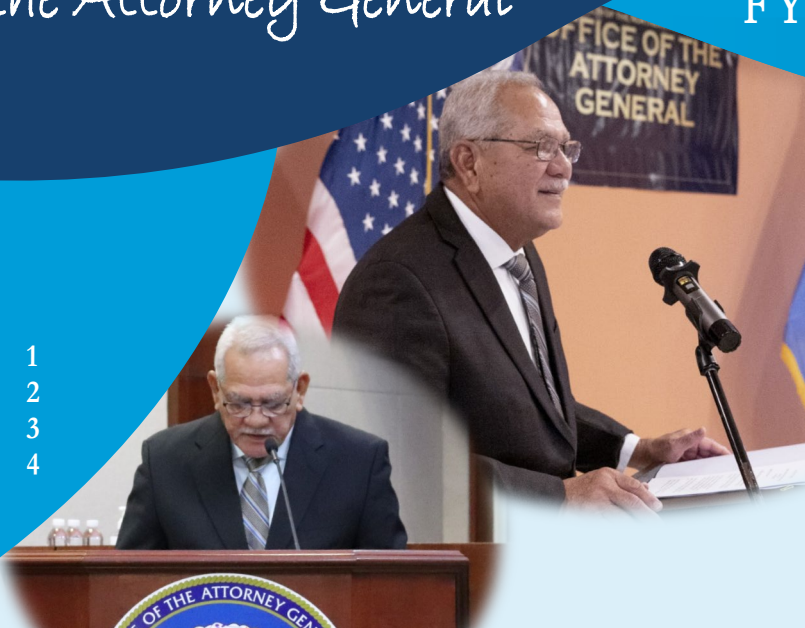
Citizen Centric Report Office of the Attorney General

FY' 2023



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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

Civil Division: 237-7500
Criminal Division: 237-7600

Investigative Division: 237-7630
Victim Witness Advocacy Unit: 237-7602

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

OUR PROGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ❖ Guilty verdict on all nine counts in sexual assault jury trial CR 21-0072-CE *Commonwealth v. Kaipat*.
- ❖ Attributed to the ruling in *Commonwealth v. Kaipat*, 2022 MP 9, where the Supreme Court reversed the lower court’s decision to suppress DNA evidence collected in a warrantless search.

United States Supreme Court cases:

Supported as amicus two cases in the United States Supreme Court:

- *United States v. Rahimi* (22-915) which seeks to limit access to guns for those under domestic violence protection orders.
- *Rudisill v. Mcdonough* (22-888) which seeks to allow veterans to utilize both the Montgomery and 9/11 GI benefits.

- ❖ Submitted comments in support of H.B. No. 22-39, HS1 To amend Title 6, Division 6, Chapter 5. Witnesses, by adding a new section 6503. Witness to Outcry of Abuse; and for other purposes, which was signed into law on January 31, 2023.
- ❖ Submitted comments in support of the proposed legislation H.B. 22-35, HD1, entitled: “To add a provision to prohibit convicted felons from possessing firearms and/or ammunition; and for other purposes.”

Proposed Legislation: drafted and updated proposed legislation for the following:

- Numerous Criminal Laws including a 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.

- ❖ Won an appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit resulting in reversal of the district court's order enjoining the Commonwealth Casino Commission from acting on the complaint seeking revocation of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC ("IPI") exclusive casino license and compelling the Commission to participate in arbitration.
- ❖ Obtained a judgment from the NMI Supreme Court upholding the Commonwealth Casino Commission's suspension of IPI's exclusive casino license for non-payment of its casino regulatory fee and non-compliance with other Commission orders.

The Anti-Corruption Task Force consisting of the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Public Auditor and headed by Special Prosecutor James Kingsman was established on May of 2023.

ACTIVITIES:

DIVISION/UNIT	FY2023
CIVIL DIVISION	
Agencies Served	35
Procurement Contract Review	646
Personnel Contract Review	1515
Review of Legislation for the Governor	44
Review for Legislative Comments	59
Legal Services Request	498
Litigation	65
Appeals	2
CRIMINAL DIVISION	
Criminal - Felony	170
Criminal - Misdemeanor	198
Juvenile	58
Traffic	5370
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL	
Complaints Investigated	9
Complaints Resolved	4
INVESTIGATION DIVISION	
Penal Summons - Served	93
Witness Summons - Served	106
Subpoena - Served	35
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT	
Active Cases	338
Closed Cases	12
VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT	
Victims Served - Criminal	449
Victims Served - Civil	164

OUR FINANCES

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

BUDGET	FY2023
GENERAL FUNDS	\$2,940,110.00
Personnel	\$2,910,234.00
Operations	\$29,876.00
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$268,216.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,208,326.00
ADMINISTRATION COLLECTIONS	
Apostilles	\$103,350.00
Certifications	\$5,550.00
Notary Public	\$2,250.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$111,150.00
CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	
Collected and Distributed	\$361,431.38
Tax Rebate Offset	\$32,961.51
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Offset	\$3,748.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$398,140.89

REPORT PUBLIC CORRUPTION

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

Consumer Complaints

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) promotes and protects the interests of the CNMI consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumer

Complaint forms may be obtained at www.cnmioag.org under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division in Capitol Hill, or via email by sending a request to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org

WHAT'S NEXT

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2024:

- ❖ 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.