

Protecting Ohio's Families



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT
2011



From the Attorney General

Dear Ohioans,

Every activity of the Ohio Attorney General's Office — whether it's assisting the criminal justice community, advocating for consumers, or representing the interests of state offices and agencies — serves our overarching goal of protecting Ohio's families.

This report describes how we're meeting the responsibilities of the office and what we're doing to help keep Ohioans safe from crime, fraud, and abuse.

In 2011, we set priorities, realigned resources, and cooperated with other offices, agencies, and organizations while staying firmly focused on our core mission.

For example:

- To combat crime, we improved processes and added staff at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to make it more efficient, effective, and responsive. We worked aggressively to combat Ohio's prescription drug epidemic. And we created a new Economic Crimes Division within our Consumer Protection Section to catch and prosecute scammers and financial predators.

- To prevent fraud and punish those responsible for it, we took action against individuals and businesses that violate Ohio consumer laws and went after rogue health care providers who bilk public funds with bogus claims.
- To prevent abuse, we launched a Crimes Against Children initiative to protect Ohio children from sexual predators and renewed efforts to address human trafficking.

These and the many other initiatives described in this report represent the work of dedicated professionals in the Ohio Attorney General's Office. I am grateful for their commitment to serve, and I look forward to building on the progress we made in my first year as Ohio's Attorney General.



Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General



Fighting Crime

BCI steps up services to local agencies

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) is working to better serve local law enforcement by taking steps to reduce laboratory turnaround times, expanding its capacity to test sexual assault kits, and staffing a new office in Southeast Ohio.

Attorney General DeWine — who has committed to making BCI the premier crime lab in the country — redirected funding to add staff in key areas and undertake other advancements.

Reducing turnaround times

Additional staff, a streamlined workflow, and the validation of new robotics positioned BCI to reduce lab turnaround times for DNA testing.

DNA and Forensic Biology staffers participated in a weeklong assessment to analyze the bureau's testing procedures and identify efficiencies. They found dozens of redundancies and extra steps that can be eliminated to reduce future turnaround times.

Overall, the Laboratory Division worked 28,389 assignments for 790 law enforcement agencies and examined more than 105,280 pieces of evidence. Staff members also logged more than 1,700 hours giving expert courtroom testimony and presented 1,200 hours of internal and external training.

Under a new law requiring the collection of DNA from all felony arrestees, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Unit saw intake rise from about 2,700 samples per month to an average of about 4,600 beginning in July.

On the second day the law was in effect, police collected the DNA of a man arrested in Madison County on a felony abduction charge. When the profile was entered into CODIS, it matched previously unidentified DNA from the 2001 rape of a 14-year-old girl in Montgomery County, giving police a suspect in a decade-old cold case.

Establishing new presence in Southeast Ohio

In August, BCI opened an office in Athens to better serve Southeast Ohio counties with full-time polygraph and evidence intake services.

Within its first few months, the office worked more than 300 cases and took in about 900 pieces of evidence from 35 submitting agencies.

Expanding sexual assault kit testing

BCI increased its capacity to test sexual assault kits to reduce the number of untested kits in storage at law enforcement agencies and hospitals across Ohio and to increase offender DNA samples in the CODIS database. The move followed a recommendation from the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit Commission, which Attorney General DeWine formed to research problems associated with sexual assault kits and offer solutions.

To test old kits without delaying work on current cases, the Attorney General authorized the addition of four forensic scientists who will work exclusively on old kits. BCI estimates only about 50 percent of kits are submitted for testing for a variety of reasons.

In addition, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) ramped up sexual assault investigation training for law enforcement to emphasize interaction with victims, victim advocates, and medical personnel.

TO VIEW RESOURCES

To view the Recommended Policy on Submission of Sexual Assault Kits or see a list of Sexual Assault Kit Commission members, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SexualAssaultKitCommission.

Providing investigative support statewide

BCI's Investigations Division opened 1,370 criminal cases in 2011, conducting investigations for 424 law enforcement agencies in 86 of Ohio's 88 counties.

The division's Clandestine Drug Lab/Cannabis Suppression Unit seized nearly 350 methamphetamine labs.

Faced early in the year with the loss of federal funding to clean up after the highly hazardous meth labs it busts, BCI channeled other funds to continue that work. Meanwhile, BCI worked with state and federal partners to train its own agents and about 120 local law enforcement officers to neutralize most chemicals used in the top meth production method.

To aid in the cleanup of labs using other production methods, BCI laid the groundwork to launch Ohio's only methamphetamine waste pickup program by mid-2012.

The Investigations Division's Criminal Intelligence Unit processed 1,603 requests for assistance during the year, serving a total of 411 agencies in all 88 counties. Many requests supported investigations into serial crimes, drug trafficking, and theft in office.

In a new assignment, BCI was selected to provide law enforcement services at casinos set to open in Toledo and Cleveland in 2012. BCI formed a Casino Gaming Unit to handle the duties.



Boosting value of OHLEG

BCI's Identification Division maintains the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), a powerful Internet-based tool that gives local law enforcement access to criminal history records and other valuable information. More than 24,000 users conducted a total of 3.2 million OHLEG searches throughout the year.

Several new OHLEG features were added to the dozens already available. A database of security-threat group information allows law enforcement to gather data on specific gang members and to search for individuals by known tattoos. Another database helps officers quickly identify individuals who are involved in protection orders.

The Identification Division maintains one of the world's largest collections of criminal history records and serves as the central repository for Ohio arrest records. In 2011, it submitted 357,953 criminal arrest records to the FBI and entered 72,917 new criminal offender fingerprints into Ohio's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The division also conducted 788,455 civilian background checks.

Staff members completed the scanning of more than 280,000 palm prints from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to enhance the AFIS database's capability. BCI is providing its palm print data to the FBI for use in investigations nationwide.

The division also initiated a facial recognition project and began populating the comprehensive mug shot repository it relies upon. Through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, BCI began adding more than 25 million Bureau of Motor Vehicles images to the repository.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation at 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446).
- Visit the Ohio Attorney General's website at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BCI.
- Watch a video at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Videos.

BCI's Investigations, Laboratory, and Identification divisions all contributed to efforts that quickly solved a triple murder in Logan County in 2011. The investigation took agents to multiple sites in Bellefontaine, a landfill in Hamilton County, and Princeton, W.Va., where the man who later pleaded guilty to the crimes was apprehended.



BCI helps solve Logan County triple murder

Staff or resources from all three BCI divisions were mobilized to help solve a gruesome triple murder in Logan County in February 2011. Two months later, the man responsible pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated murder and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.

"They were there right from the get-go for us. They were very helpful in all aspects of the investigation," Logan County Sheriff Andrew Smith said of BCI staff members. "Whenever we expressed a need or asked if there was something they could do, they got it done."

'BCI is quickly able to assist and help make an investigation run seamlessly. It isn't a protracted, bureaucratic process.' — Logan County Sheriff Andrew Smith

BCI joined the case in the early stages of the investigation, when the probe focused on finding Tiffany Brown, a 26-year-old mother of two. The Investigation Division's Crime Scene Unit was called in to examine Brown's car. Once Bellefontaine police honed in on suspect Sammy Littleton II, special agents investigated at Littleton's house, which he shared with Brown's mother. They found Brown's body in the basement under a pile of construction materials.

Earlier that day, Littleton's truck was discovered in Logan County, about two miles from the home of an elderly couple who had sold Littleton his house. Dick and Gladis Russell were reported missing the following day, and an investigation at their house turned up a note pad with Littleton's name and phone number.

Littleton, who by then was charged with murder in Brown's death, had headed for Princeton, W.Va., where authorities found the Russells' car in a parking lot.

BCI Crime Scene investigators traveled to Princeton, examined the car, and collected blood and other evidence for processing by BCI's Laboratory Division. The lab's Latent Prints Unit matched fingerprints from lights on the car's trunk to Littleton, connecting him to the Russells' disappearance. The unit tied Littleton to Brown's murder through palm prints found on her body.

BCI investigators also conducted an extensive search of a Southwest Ohio landfill because they believed Littleton may have disposed of the Russells' bodies in a dumpster at a rest stop where their car was spotted.

Throughout the ordeal, the Criminal Intelligence Unit used the Attorney General's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, maintained by the Identification Division, to collect data on the individuals involved and keep investigators informed of breaking developments. BCI's Cyber Crimes Unit also assisted, analyzing the cell phones and computers of individuals involved.

Sheriff Smith noted BCI's approachability, saying he appreciates that he can pick up the phone and ask for help without red tape or complicated protocols.

"BCI is quickly able to assist and help make an investigation run seamlessly," Smith said. "It isn't a protracted, bureaucratic process."

Since its creation in 2005, Fugitive Safe Surrender has led about 11,000 Ohioans and 35,000 people nationwide to surrender to authorities and earn a chance at a fresh start.



Office oversees Fugitive Safe Surrender



Cleveland Police Officer Wayne Leon was conducting what appeared to be a routine traffic stop in June 2000 when the man he pulled over drew a weapon and shot him in the head. Leon died the next day. His killer, who remains on Ohio's death row, testified that he shot Leon to avoid being arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Determined to help prevent such senseless deaths if he could, Attorney General DeWine has long supported the Fugitive Safe Surrender program. While in the U.S. Senate, he was the lead sponsor of legislation authorizing federal funding for the program. When federal funding was withdrawn in 2011, the Attorney General stepped forward to assume oversight for Fugitive Safe Surrender in Ohio.

The U.S. Marshal Service launched the program in Cleveland in 2005, spurred by Leon's death and similar incidents. It gives individuals sought on outstanding warrants the opportunity to surrender peacefully, typically at a community church. In exchange, participating judges — who usually adjudicate cases on the spot — agree to give defendants consideration for turning themselves in.

Since its inception, Fugitive Safe Surrender has led nearly 11,000 Ohioans and more than 35,000 people nationwide to surrender to authorities and earn a chance at a fresh start.

The Attorney General's Office hopes to work with local officials and churches to conduct two to three Fugitive Safe Surrenders each year. While most previous events under the U.S. Marshal's oversight occurred in Northeast Ohio, the Attorney General plans to offer the program statewide.

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Contact the Attorney General's Fugitive Safe Surrender coordinator at 216-787-3275.
- Watch a video about the program at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/videos.

Task forces take on organized crime

Organized crime doesn't operate neatly within the borders of a particular city or state. That makes the work of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) all the more important.

OOCIC oversees task forces that provide a means for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute organized crime groups operating across multiple jurisdictions.

Throughout 2011, OOCIC staff met with existing task forces to assess whether they had accomplished their primary goals and solicited local agencies' suggestions concerning problems that could be addressed by new task forces. As a result of the evaluation process, various task forces were disbanded and others were formed to address changing law enforcement concerns.

The commission was involved in multiple prosecutions, and its work produced 284 arrests and 250 convictions.

In one case, a woman involved in the theft of more than \$450,000 in charitable contributions was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to felony theft, money laundering, tampering with records, and engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity. She had claimed to represent the United States Navy Veterans Association, a fraudulent group that collected donations on the pretense they would benefit Navy vets. Her accomplice, then known by the alias Bobby Thompson, remains at large.

In addition to its task force work, OOCIC operates a Forensic Audio Video Laboratory. Its services — which are available to all Ohio law enforcement agencies — include video and audio analysis and enhancement, court presentation videos, still prints from video, tape authentication, animation, and more.

The lab provided assistance to agencies in 47 counties in 2011, assisting in the investigation of 46 homicides, 71 burglaries, 22 robberies, 10 arson fires, and various other crimes.

In one case, the lab provided audio analysis of 911 calls made during a shooting rampage that left eight people dead in Copley Township. In another, the staff prepared evidence to convict the driver of a car involved in a high-speed chase that killed a Warren County deputy.



Safeguarding Children

Initiative targets people who prey on kids

Determined to catch and convict sex offenders who prey on kids, Attorney General DeWine launched a comprehensive Crimes Against Children Initiative that targets predators responsible for sexual abuse, child pornography, and related crimes.

Under the initiative:

- The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) created 15 new positions and dedicated existing staff to the Crimes Against Children Initiative.
- The Special Prosecutions Unit assigned two attorneys to help local prosecutors build cases against child predators.
- The office developed plans for a Rapid Response Team made up of victim advocates, special prosecutors, and BCI agents to help victims and jump-start investigations.
- BCI and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy expanded training on sexual predator investigations and made high-tech resources available to local agencies to catch offenders.
- The office launched a statewide campaign to raise public awareness of sex offenders wanted on outstanding warrants.

“These people are predisposed to prey on children,” Attorney General DeWine said in announcing the initiative. “They’re literally like sharks, and they’re going to hit just as fast as they can. We’re going to hit back.”

BCI staff will troll the Internet for predators, increase forensic analysis capabilities, and help local law enforcement serve arrest warrants. Through a related expansion of its Cyber Crimes Unit, BCI is working to speed up evidence processing to give local officials fuel to prosecute more cases.

The new Rapid Response Team, with expertise in all aspects of child sex abuse cases, will be available around the clock to assist with local investigations.

“These cases are urgent, and it is critical that exams and interviews happen immediately,” Attorney General DeWine said. “The reality is that in parts of this state, the services to do these kinds of things are not equally available. Our job is to step in and help where gaps exist.”

The initiative’s final component is a public awareness campaign that alerts Ohioans about the state’s most wanted child sex offenders.

At the close of 2011, Ohio had 19,050 registered sex offenders, 10,527 of whom committed offenses against children. More than 100 offenders who victimized children were sought on outstanding warrants for failing to register with authorities.

“During my time in this office, I will not relent,” Attorney General DeWine said. “We are going to find these child molesters and put them in jail.”

FOR ASSISTANCE

For more information on the initiative or assistance with cases or training, call:

- Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446)
- Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, 740-845-2700

Summits focus on better serving children



Concerned that Ohio’s child welfare system is failing many of its children, Attorney General DeWine is providing a forum for social workers, juvenile justice professionals, foster parents, former foster children, and others to examine how best to protect children and set them on a course to bright futures.

The Child Safety Summits, which began in December and are continuing across the state, are a first step in what Attorney General DeWine believes should be a comprehensive, holistic review of the state’s foster care system. By gathering key stakeholders region by region across the state, the Attorney General hopes to identify problems, clear roadblocks, and develop solutions that will better serve and protect Ohio children.

Between 2005 and 2009, 160 Ohio children — 85 percent of them under the age of 5 — died of abuse or neglect. More than a third had a prior history of being abused, and a fifth had an open child protective services case at the time of their death.

Attorney General DeWine also is concerned about the number of children who spend their entire childhood in the system without ever being adopted into safe, loving homes. Ohio has the 10th worst record among the 50 states, with 1,410 children aging out of foster care in fiscal 2011, in part because the rights of clearly unfit parents are given undue precedence.



While in the U.S. Senate, Attorney General DeWine fought to make the safety of children the highest priority in family reunification matters under the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act. Similarly, his Child Safety Summits accentuate that children's best interests must remain paramount in all child welfare system decisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Details on the Attorney General's Child Safety Summits and other initiatives involving children are available from the director of children's initiatives at 614-995-0328.

Commission battles human trafficking

Attorney General DeWine is using resources within his office to address the tragedy of human trafficking from a law enforcement perspective.

A form of modern-day slavery that by some estimates amounts to a \$32 billion a year international enterprise, human trafficking victimizes people of all ages and genders. Its impact on children is especially devastating.

A new study suggests nearly half of Ohio's human trafficking cases involve victims under 18 years old. Nationally, most girls engaged in sex trafficking are lured into the trade between the ages of 12 and 14. More than 100,000 U.S. children are thought to be involved in the sex trade, including about 1,000 from Ohio.

The Attorney General's goal is to raise greater awareness of the problem, leading to more tips to law enforcement and more traffickers behind bars. He is urging law enforcement and citizens alike to contact the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to report possible warning signs of human trafficking.



In August, Attorney General DeWine convened the Human Trafficking Commission, which includes elected and appointed officials; members of local, state, and federal law enforcement; and representatives of social service agencies and religious groups. Formed to continue work started by Ohio's Trafficking in Persons Study Commission, which had completed its statutory directives, the group identifies ways to help victims and investigate and prosecute traffickers.

TO REPORT SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING

- Law enforcement and members of the public are urged to report possible instances of human trafficking to BCI at 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446).
- For details on the work of the Human Trafficking Commission, contact the Attorney General's Office at 614-995-0328.



Battling the Opiate Epidemic



Office attacks problem on many fronts

Within a month of taking office, Attorney General DeWine directed his office's attention and resources to Ohio's opiate epidemic, which has cut a deadly path across the state in recent years.

He hired the Adams County prosecutor — who made impressive progress in that hard-hit Southern Ohio county — to co-lead his office's Special Prosecutions Unit and coordinate the opiate initiative, which focuses both on prescription painkillers and heroin.

Unintentional drug overdoses kill an average of four Ohioans each day, and since 2007 have exceeded car crashes as the state's leading cause of accidental death. In the decade ending in 2009, the death rate from overdoses jumped 335 percent, driven largely by the rampant abuse of prescription painkillers.

The epidemic has touched every region of the state and Ohioans of every age, gender, race, and income level. Southern Ohio has been hit especially hard. In 2010, an average of 67 doses of opiates was dispensed for every Ohio resident. The Scioto County total was nearly twice that: 9.7 million total doses — 123 for every man, woman, and child in the county.

Targeting those responsible

By year's end, the office had helped shut down more than a dozen pill mills — cash-only “pain clinics” often devoid of the most basic medical equipment — and was prosecuting six pill mill cases involving more than two dozen defendants. The last pill mill in Scioto County, which once had 12, was shut down in December.

Statewide, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) seized more than 53,000 prescription pills valued at about \$1.4 million, up from 10,131 pills worth \$348,000 the previous year.

The Special Prosecutions Unit won convictions against seven individuals for improperly prescribing, dispensing, or diverting prescription drugs and was engaged in 16 other investigations involving pill mills, doctors, pharmacists, and traffickers.

On behalf of the State Medical Board, the Health and Human Services Section prosecuted multiple cases against individuals for improperly prescribing controlled substances, leading to the revocation of 16 doctors' licenses. Representing the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, the office succeeded in efforts to revoke the licenses of six pharmacists for illegally distributing drugs.

Partnering for progress

The Attorney General's staff worked with legislators on a new law to strengthen the licensing of pain clinics and enhance the Ohio Automated Rx Review System to identify extensive prescription drug use. It also coordinated on legislation that added the active ingredient in so-called bath salts, an over-the-counter hallucinogen, and analog drugs — which underground chemists create by slightly altering a drug's chemical structure — to the list of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

In October, the office conducted an Interstate Prescription Drug Abuse Summit to coordinate efforts with officials in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Monthly teleconferences have kept communication lines open to share tactics and case information.

The Attorney General also helped secure High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area designations for Adams and Scioto counties in Southern Ohio, opening the door to federal funding and other resources.

Staff members collaborated with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to conduct two Drug Take Back Days, giving Ohioans the opportunity to safely dispose of nearly 40,000 pounds of unneeded or expired medications.

To assist at the grassroots level, the Attorney General hired a drug abuse awareness coordinator to work with communities on anti-drug efforts, including facilitating town meetings and the production of local videos.

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Law enforcement agencies seeking help with opiate investigations can contact the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446).
- Local officials wishing assistance in the prosecution of opiate cases can contact the Special Prosecutions Unit at 614-644-7233.
- Individuals can report those they suspect are improperly dispensing or prescribing prescription drugs by calling 855-BCI-OHIO (224-6446).
- Communities can request assistance with grassroots anti-drug efforts by contacting the Attorney General's drug abuse awareness coordinator at 614-644-5808.



Supporting Local Law Enforcement

OPOTA ramps up regional, online training

Sgt. Jeff Pritt of the Newark Police Department appreciates that the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) is making advanced training more convenient and cost-effective for local law enforcement agencies by taking courses on the road and offering them at no cost to local departments.

More than 120 regional training sessions were conducted in 2011, up from about 80 the previous year. Enrollment in the courses jumped nearly 1,000, totaling more than 4,300.

OPOTA works to keep the content of regional trainings relevant to a broad law enforcement audience. Topics addressed in 2011 included prescription drug abuse, tactical and legal considerations in traffic stops, awareness of distressed combat veteran issues, and basic crime scene investigation.

Attorney General DeWine's goal is to greatly increase the number of trainings available regionally and to schedule them within an hour's drive of most law enforcement agencies. Whenever possible, trainings are held at large venues close to major interstates and with free parking. Many are half-day sessions, which peace officers can fit into an eight-hour shift even with travel time added.

"As budgets for training shrink, online and regional trainings are going to be more valuable to departments," said Pritt, who has coordinated his agency's training for the past two years. "That's going to be the way to go in the future."

The approach is especially important in tough times, he said. The Newark department is down a few officers, which makes it vital to limit active officers' time off the street — even for training.

Pritt's department hosted two regional OPOTA trainings last winter. All 75 Newark officers attended as well as those from other Licking County agencies.

The academy also has revolutionized training delivery through the expansion of its free eOPOTA online courses, provided via secure Internet link through the Attorney General's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway. Sixty-five eOPOTA courses were available by the close of 2011, up about a dozen from the year before. More than 8,400 Ohio peace officers took the courses, completing 26,112 sessions.

In addition, about 8,700 peace officers took the 452 courses offered at OPOTA's London and Richfield training facilities during the year.

Through the Attorney General's annual Law Enforcement Conference, the office provides additional education and networking opportunities for Ohio peace officers. Nearly 800 officers attended the 2011 conference, where they selected from 33 workshops and heard from numerous conference speakers.

FOR DETAILS ON TRAINING

- OPOTA's London campus, 800-346-7682
- OPOTA's Richfield campus, 888-436-7282
- OPOTA's London campus, 740-845-2700
- Send general, training, or certification questions to askOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov
- Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTA

Commission updates basic curriculum

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) oversees OPOTA as well as the curricula of the public and private academies that provide peace officer basic training in Ohio. It also sets the curricula for parole, probation, and corrections officers; jailers; bailiffs; private security officers; and humane agents.

As part of the first-ever comprehensive review of Ohio's 45-year-old peace officer basic training curriculum, OPOTC released 58 updated lesson plans in 2011. The work is aimed at ensuring peace officers' training reflects best practices in law enforcement.

"The commission has made important additions and changes to the curriculum through the years, but this type of thorough review is long overdue," Attorney General DeWine said. "Research has led to huge advancements in law enforcement practices, and we want Ohio's method of training new peace officers to reflect them. Public safety and officers' lives depend on it."

In 2011, the commission and its staff oversaw 587 basic training school openings, issued 6,083 basic training certificates, and administered 2,730 final examinations.



The Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness seeks to address the problem of people with mental illness becoming trapped in the criminal justice system and to increase public safety.



Grants fund \$3.5 million in drug education

The Attorney General's Drug Use Prevention Grants provided more than \$3.5 million in funding to 201 local law enforcement agencies.

The grants, announced in June and provided in two semi-annual payments, support school-based programs that educate students about drug abuse and provide them with tools to make smart decisions. Law enforcement agencies can use the funding to cover up to 50 percent of the base pay of officers who work on prevention programs.

Grants announced in 2011 are supporting the efforts of 348 peace officers working with an estimated 366,773 students in 63 counties. Funding for the grants comes from drivers' license reinstatement fees collected from convicted drunken drivers.

Roundtables connect with local officials

Attorney General DeWine conducted six Law Enforcement Roundtables around the state in 2011 to keep the lines of communication open between his office and local criminal justice officials.

The sessions drew more than 400 attendees in all, representing law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, victim advocates, and others.

The discussions give the Attorney General and members of his staff — including representatives from BCI, OPOTA, OOCIC, and the Crime Victim, Health Care Fraud, and Consumer Protection sections — an opportunity to hear firsthand about local agencies' needs and recommendations. The feedback has helped those sections improve services, programming, and communications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Local officials who want more specifics on the Law Enforcement Roundtables can contact the Attorney General's Office at 614-728-7275.

Task force focuses on mental illness

Ohio's Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts evolved into the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, allowing the group to expand its focus to topics beyond the court system.

Attorney General DeWine approached Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton, who formed the committee in 2001, about taking the group's work to the next level. The two now co-chair the task force, which held its first meeting in December.

The task force's goal is to address the problem of people with mental illness becoming trapped in the criminal justice system and to increase public safety.

The Advisory Committee on Mental Illness had many successes, including helping to establish 37 mental health courts and promoting the training of 4,580 crisis intervention team law enforcement officers.

In a related step, the Attorney General provided a \$60,000 grant to the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill to design a curriculum to train law enforcement in responding to incidents involving people with mental illness.

Advisory group targets gun violence

Attorney General DeWine convened a Gun Crime Advisory Group in mid-2011 to develop recommendations for reducing the number of gun-related crimes in Ohio.

The group is considering approaches law enforcement, legislators, and prosecutors might pursue to address the problem and take guns out of the hands of violent repeat offenders. The panel includes prosecutors, law enforcement, and gun group advocacy representatives.

An Ohio State University researcher involved in the effort is compiling data on the types of individuals responsible for gun violence, the nature and locations of the crimes they commit, and the penalties imposed. That research will give the group valuable information to identify specific issues associated with gun violence and recommend solutions.



Assisting Crime Victims

Resources ease healing process

The lives of those affected by violent crime are difficult — sometimes impossible — to make whole again. The Attorney General’s Crime Victim Section helps many individuals begin to heal by providing resources to victims or family members who have suffered crime-related losses. The section also trains victim advocates and offers crime prevention education in Ohio communities.

The Attorney General’s Office oversees the Ohio Crime Victims Reparations Fund, which compensates victims of violent crimes and eligible family members for medical and counseling expenses, lost wages, and other eligible costs.

In 2011, the Compensation Unit took steps to ensure victims receive compensation checks more quickly, decreasing the average time to issue findings of fact by 9 percent. Meanwhile, the Economic Loss Unit logged an 18 percent drop in the number of monthly extension requests for preparing claims for attorneys. The section achieved these gains while reducing overall administrative costs 9 percent.

Total claims were down 8 percent in 2011, to 5,402, while new claims dropped 10 percent, to 3,695. In all, the section disbursed more than \$10.7 million in compensation, or an average of \$3,114 per claim, a slight increase from the year before.

Supporting the work of victim advocates

The section’s Grants Unit distributed 217 State Victim Assistance Act grants and 233 federal Victims of Crime Act grants in 2011. More than \$17.8 million in funding went to 269 victim services providers. Derived from court costs and fees, not tax dollars, the grants fund projects that assist victims of child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, and other violent crimes. For the first time, the unit used an online system to expedite the grant application process.

New grant recipients in 2011 included Providence House in Cleveland, where children whose families are in crisis can go for short-term housing; Second Chance Ministries of Toledo, which assists human trafficking victims; and Mental Health Services of Cleveland, which offers around-the-clock support and advocacy for children and others who have lost a loved one to homicide.

FOR ASSISTANCE

- Contact the Crime Victim Section at 800-582-2877 or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Victims.

Providing education and training

The education and training team worked with more than 40,000 Ohioans — from victim advocates, judges, and other criminal justice representatives to educators, parents, and students. Cyberbullying and Internet safety training alone reached nearly 32,000 individuals. Other trainings focused on domestic violence, missing persons, sexual assault, and forensic interviews of children who have experienced abuse.

The section’s Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance marked its 20th anniversary in 2011. One of the largest events of its kind in the nation, the conference provides victim advocates and others who work with crime victims an opportunity to hear the latest research and best practices from national speakers and knowledgeable presenters.

The conference attracted 1,065 attendees and included 35 workshops, several general sessions, and a multitude of networking opportunities. It also featured the first Ohio Elder Abuse Research Symposium, which drew 70 participants to help set Ohio’s elder abuse research agenda and discuss the scope of the problem.

In other highlights:

- The section hosted a National Judicial Institute on Elder Abuse to give Ohio judges an opportunity to hear from experts around the country about various aspects of elder abuse. The Attorney General’s Office also co-hosted an Ohio Summit on Aging with the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Office of the Governor, and the Ohio Association of Probate Judges to increase awareness and advocacy.
- Staff members worked with others in the criminal justice and health communities to update a state-wide Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Protocol and make it available online to help practitioners better serve sexual assault victims.
- The section raised awareness of the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program, a 24-hour telephone and Internet information resource providing the status of offenders in state or county custody. New registrations increased 7.5 percent from the year before, totaling 30,504, and VINE website searches jumped 14 percent, to 707,560.



Defending Consumers



Attorney General puts scammers on notice

For the past four years, Todd and Jessica Steinhaus of Coshocton posted thousands of Craigslist ads across the country advertising tickets to the World Series, NBA Finals, Super Bowl, and concerts featuring the likes of Katy Perry, Kenny Chesney, and Usher.

Their claims were false. But they were believable enough to dupe unsuspecting consumers in 36 states and Canada into sending money. Victims in such cities as Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles were scammed out of more than \$200,000.

A cooperative investigation led by the Ohio Attorney General's new Economic Crimes Division, part of the Consumer Protection Section, involved law enforcement around the state. In December, the two pleaded guilty to four felonies.

Theirs is an example of the cases being pursued by the Economic Crimes Division, which Attorney General DeWine formed in March to identify and help local authorities prosecute consumer fraud of a criminal nature. By year's end, the division had investigated dozens of cases and filed charges against nine individuals.

To build on that momentum, the Attorney General advocated for legislation that will give his office more authority to investigate crimes committed over the Internet and by telephone. The Ohio General Assembly passed the cyber fraud legislation in February.

The Consumer Protection Section also initiates civil action against businesses that violate Ohio's consumer protection laws and provides an informal dispute resolution service to help consumers, businesses, and nonprofits settle conflicts. In 2011, the section opened 292 investigations, filed 29 lawsuits, and won 41 judgments and Assurances of Voluntary Compliance.

TOP 10 COMPLAINTS OF 2011

The Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section fielded more than 31,000 consumer complaints from individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits during the year. Here are 2011's top complaint categories:

1. Motorized vehicles
2. Collections, credit reporting, or financial services
3. Internet or phone
4. Health and beauty
5. Household goods or property improvement
6. Professional services
7. Shopping, food, or beverages
8. Sweepstakes or prizes
9. Utilities
10. Mortgages

TO ACCESS RESOURCES

- To file a consumer complaint, call 800-282-0515 or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ConsumerComplaint.
- For updates on scams and consumer rights, sign up at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ConsumerAdvocate.
- To view complaints on file with the Consumer Protection Section, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SearchConsumerComplaint.
- For a guide to Ohio consumer laws, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BusinessGuide.

Probe leads to relief for Ohio homeowners

Attorney General DeWine's office played a key role in investigating unacceptable mortgage practices, foreclosure abuses, and fraud by the nation's five largest mortgage servicers, leading to a landmark settlement that provides much-needed relief to Ohio homeowners.

That work in 2011 — which involved a coalition of state attorneys general and federal agencies — led to a \$25 billion federal-state settlement agreement with mortgage servicers Ally/GMAC, Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo in early 2012.

After it came to light that mortgage servicers had used "robo-signing" practices in foreclosure proceedings across the country, all 50 state attorneys general called for an investigation.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office was part of the 14-state executive committee that looked into reports of false robo-signed affidavits in foreclosure proceedings. The probe broadened to other issues, such as lost paperwork, long delays, and missed deadlines for loan modifications. The efforts of the committee and its state banking and federal partners produced strong, detailed evidence that led to the multistate settlement.

Ohio's \$335 million share will help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure; bring badly needed reform to the mortgage servicing industry; ensure that foreclosures are lawfully conducted; and penalize the servicers for robo-signing and servicing misconduct.



New tool better informs potential donors

Ohioans have a new tool to help ensure that their charitable contributions are reaching those they intend to assist.

In conjunction with a new process requiring charities to fulfill their annual filing requirements online, the Attorney General's Charitable Law Section introduced an Online Charitable Registration Search. The tool allows potential donors to verify whether an organization is registered and in good standing with the Attorney General's Office. As organizations file online within the next year, contributors will be able to review financial reports and see how much of every dollar donated goes to charitable work.

The Charitable Law Section also conducted an outreach campaign — Operation Registration — to ensure that charities are aware of their filing requirements. The effort resulted in more than 4,000 new registrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Many resources for donors and charities are available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Charities.
- To verify whether a charity is registered with the Attorney General's Office, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CharitableSearch.
- Sign up for Nonprofit News, a newsletter of interest to those who lead or donate to nonprofit organizations, at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NonprofitNews.



Efforts safeguard consumer interests

The Attorney General's Antitrust Section enforces state and federal antitrust law to ensure a competitive marketplace. It also operates the Partnership for Competitive Purchasing program, which protects taxpayers from anti-competitive activity in public projects.

In 2011, Ohio joined the U.S. Department of Justice, six other states, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in challenging a proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. If completed as planned, the deal would have created the largest cellular phone company in the nation, leaving just three major cellular firms. Ohio and others objected because the move had the potential to raise consumers' cell phone service costs. AT&T ended its acquisition effort in December.

The Antitrust Section also is working with the Federal Trade Commission and 16 other states to review Express Scripts' proposed \$29.1 billion acquisition of Medco. Express Scripts is the nation's No. 1 pharmacy benefits manager in terms of prescription coverage and U.S. market share, while Medco is No. 3. Ohio is participating in the merger review in an effort to head off a potential increase in prescription drug costs.



Supporting Economic Growth

Ohio Attorney General DeWine pledged when he assumed office to help create a legal climate that encourages businesses to invest in their enterprises and create jobs for Ohioans. In 2011, he initiated a number of actions to make that goal a reality.

Standing against federal health care act

On his first day on the job, Attorney General DeWine acted to add Ohio to the roster of states challenging the constitutionality of the federal health care act.

The Attorney General believes the measure represents an enormous overreach that defies constitutional checks and balances on federal power. Beyond that, the act's new compliance regulations, employer mandates, and numerous indirect costs will affect employers' ability to grow, hire new employees, and even offer health insurance coverage to current employees.

Along with 25 other states, the National Federation of Independent Business, and private plaintiffs, Ohio prevailed at the District Court and Court of Appeals levels in having the act's "individual mandate" declared unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case and scheduled argument for March 2012.

Helping to move research to market

Attorney General DeWine is working to make the state more attractive for science and technology enterprises by clearing a path for private-sector companies to more easily collaborate with Ohio's public colleges and universities.

Partnering with the Ohio Board of Regents and the Inter-University Council of Ohio, the Attorney General's Business Counsel Section worked closely with the University System of Ohio's Research and Commercialization Task Force. The task force promotes the transfer of research and technology from higher education institutions to market, which fosters economic development and job creation.

Specifically, the Business Counsel Section helped a working group of the task force develop contract templates for Ohio's colleges and universities to use when collaborating with private industry to conduct research and commercialize the results. With assistance from the Attorney General's Office, the working group prepared templates for nondisclosure agreements, sponsored research agreements, master research agreements, and testing agreements — all of which were finalized with input from the business community.

Advocating for litigation reform

The Attorney General's Office joined insurance interests and the Ohio Hospital Association in supporting a key provision of the General Assembly's tort reform efforts.

In an amicus brief in *Havel v. Villa St. Joseph*, the Attorney General advocated for a civil defendant's right to split a tort trial into separate phases for liability and punitive damages. That ability is meant to guard against unfair awards. The Ohio Supreme Court agreed with the position urged by the Attorney General and upheld the constitutionality of the statutory tort reform provision.

In a U.S. Supreme Court case, the Attorney General filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiff in *American Electric Power v. Connecticut*, which focused on whether states and private parties can sue companies under federal law for allegedly contributing to global warming. In June, the court ruled unanimously in AEP's favor.

Assisting small businesses

The Consumer Protection Section works to protect small businesses and others from fraud, scams, deceptive behavior, and unfair business practices. The same dispute resolution services offered to consumers also are available to small businesses and nonprofits.

The section received more than 1,000 business-related complaints and adjusted or recovered more than \$147,000 on behalf of small businesses through dispute resolution in 2011.

Some examples of assistance the office provided to small businesses:

- A Central Ohio pet day care company paid almost \$3,000 for new floors that were improperly installed. The Consumer Protection Section intervened, and the floors were replaced.
- Several Ohio businesses were charged up to \$150 by an unauthorized credit card processor that claimed the businesses owed back taxes. The businesses' accounts were credited after the Attorney General's Office stepped in.

The section's Education Unit and the Attorney General's regional representatives reached out to inform business owners of Ohio consumer laws. Working with local chambers of commerce and independent businesses, staff conducted dozens of informational training sessions.

FOR ASSISTANCE

- To file a consumer complaint, call 800-282-0515 or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ConsumerComplaint.
- For a guide to Ohio consumer laws, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BusinessGuide.



Fighting Health Care Fraud

The Ohio Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Section helps ensure Medicaid and Workers' Compensation dollars go to heal the ill and injured rather than pad the pockets of profiteers.

In response to a dramatic rise in the number of cases referred to the section, Attorney General DeWine authorized a new investigative team that includes five agents, a chief auditor, a nurse investigator, and two attorneys.

As a whole, the Health Care Fraud Section — comprised of the Medicaid Fraud Unit and the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit — produced 221 indictments and 209 convictions and recovered more than \$48.7 million in 2011.

NO. 1 IN THE NATION

The Ohio Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit was named the No. 1 unit of its kind nationwide in 2011. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services chose the Ohio unit from among the country's 50 Medicaid Fraud Control Units for its work during the 2010 federal fiscal year.

The unit was recognized for its innovative, proactive approach to working with other state and federal Medicaid program partners. The selection committee noted the unit's work on global civil fraud cases with federal partners and the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

Targeting Medicaid fraud

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates Medicaid fraud and looks into allegations of patient abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities. In 2011, it tallied 135 indictments, 124 convictions, and more than \$46.7 million in recoveries.

Here's a look at some significant cases:

- An Ohio Medicaid managed care organization submitted false data to the state regarding certain assessment and case management services it was required, but failed, to provide for adults and children with special health care needs. In a February settlement, the organization agreed to pay \$26 million in restitution, penalties, and interest to the Ohio and federal Medicaid programs.
- A Columbus physician billed Medicaid and other insurers for psychological tests, hearing assessments, pulmonary stress tests, and other services he never provided to patients. He also collected cash payments from his private-pay patients and hid that income from the Internal Revenue Service. The physician was convicted of health care fraud and tax fraud. He was sentenced to one year of incarceration and ordered to pay more than \$590,000 in restitution and \$310,000 in back taxes.

- The business manager of an Urbana nursing home misappropriated checks that residents wrote for services and embezzled the Social Security checks of several others. The business manager pleaded guilty to aggravated theft and was sentenced to two years of incarceration and ordered to pay more than \$102,000 in restitution.

TO FILE A REPORT

- Call 614-466-0722 or 800-282-0515.
- Send a fax to 614-644-9973.
- Visit the Attorney General's Website at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportPatientAbuse or www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportMedicaidFraud.

Fighting Workers' Comp fraud

The Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit produced 86 indictments, 85 convictions, and more than \$2 million in recoveries in 2011.

Some significant cases:

- Although convicted of fraud and prohibited from treating Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation patients, a Cincinnati chiropractor submitted claims for reimbursement under his twin brother's provider number without his brother's knowledge and filed other claims under the provider numbers of two associates in exchange for compensation. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail and five years' community control and was ordered to pay \$223,416 in restitution. One associate was sentenced to four years in prison, with all but six months suspended on the condition he serve five years of community control, make \$104,351 in restitution, and pay a \$2,500 fine and \$5,000 in investigative costs. The other associate was placed on two years of community control and ordered to complete 20 hours of community service.
- A Cleveland trucking company owner failed to pay workers' compensation premiums and then altered certificates to give the impression his coverage was current. He received a six-month suspended jail sentence and was ordered to serve four years of community control and pay \$236,757 in restitution.



Representing Ohio

The Ohio Attorney General's Office represents the state of Ohio and its many agencies, offices, boards, and commissions in a variety of crucial legal matters. In 2011, the office won key cases that brought justice to criminal and civil defendants, preserved citizens' rights, and ensured Ohioans' interests and safety.

Winning at the highest levels

The Attorney General's Appeals Section, in collaboration with other sections, represents Ohio at the highest levels of the judicial system.

In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court issued unanimous summary reversals in two Ohio capital cases, deciding that the Attorney General's requests to hear the cases so clearly illustrated the facts that full briefings and arguments were unnecessary.

In *Bobby v. Mitts*, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily reversed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and reinstated a capital sentence for Harry Mitts. During a six-hour armed standoff in 1994, Mitts murdered a Garfield Heights police officer and another victim. The court agreed with the Attorney General that Ohio's jury instructions for capital sentencing were valid.

In another 9-0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated a Toledo killer's murder conviction in *Bobby v. Dixon*. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit had set aside the conviction, ruling that police violated *Miranda v. Arizona* when they obtained a confession from

Archie Dixon, who in 1993 attacked his former roommate and buried him alive. The Supreme Court agreed with the Attorney General that the questioning of Dixon and his confession were valid.

In a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, a three-judge panel initially set aside a defendant's murder conviction in *Montgomery v. Bobby*, saying prosecutors failed to tell the defendant that some witnesses thought they saw the victim alive four days after her disappearance. The Attorney General's Office persuaded the entire court of 16 judges to rehear the case, resulting in reinstatement of the conviction. The judges ruled that the purported sighting did not undermine the overwhelming evidence of the defendant's guilt.

In another Sixth Circuit case, the Attorney General's Office won a big victory for Ohio communities when the court upheld an Ohio law regulating adult bookstores, nude and semi-nude dance clubs, and other "sexually oriented businesses" in *84 Video/Newsstand Inc. v. Sartini*. The law restricts hours of operation, forbids dancers to touch patrons, and applies other limits designed to reduce the "secondary effects" that such businesses have on neighborhoods, such as increased crime and reduced property values. Some businesses claimed the law violated their free speech rights, but the court ruled the regulations were valid.

Working for Ohioans' interests

The Attorney General's Office had its best record ever before the Ohio Supreme Court in 2011, winning all or part of nine cases and losing only one. Here's a look at three cases:

- In *State ex rel. Merrill v. State of Ohio*, the court agreed with the Attorney General that the boundary of Lake Erie is where the water usually stands when free from disturbing causes and rejected lower court decisions saying the boundary line moved moment to moment. The ruling preserved the private property rights of landowners and the public's interest in the lake.
- Under Ohio law, Medicaid recipients need not give up their homes to pay medical bills. But when they die, in most cases the estates must use the value of the homes to repay taxpayers for the assistance. With its victory in *re Estate of Centorbi*, the Attorney General ensured the state is notified about estates so taxpayer money can be made available to help others.
- When a trial judge improperly revisited a decades-old sentence for child abuse and ordered convicts to be released, the Attorney General joined forces with the Lorain County prosecutor to persuade the Ohio Supreme Court in *State ex rel. DeWine v. Burge* that the trial judge had no power to do so. The sentences were restored.

The office also has an extensive amicus practice before the U.S. and Ohio Supreme Courts, preparing briefs to inform the courts how their decisions will affect the state and citizens who are not parties to cases. The amicus work covered a broad array of subjects in 2011, including tort reform, consumer protection, law enforcement concerns, and other topics.

The Attorney General's Office also is active in supporting county prosecutors as amicus in their cases before the Ohio Supreme Court to help clarify the law relating to criminal prosecutions and law enforcement. Attorneys also provide assistance as prosecutors prepare to argue cases before the Ohio Supreme Court and issue written opinions on questions of law for prosecutors and others.

The Appeals Section earned a Best Brief Award from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) in 2011. The association grants the awards to recognize high-quality written advocacy in the U.S. Supreme Court. NAAG presented the award for a brief in *Ortiz v. Jordan*, which dealt with procedural rules for certain lawsuits against government officials.

FOR ASSISTANCE

- Prosecutors wishing to arrange a moot court to prepare for Ohio Supreme Court cases can contact the Appeals Section at 614-728-7510.



Protecting Ohioans' civil rights

The Civil Rights Section prosecutes violations of Ohio's civil rights laws, handling cases involving discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and serving as legal counsel to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. In 2011, the commission secured more than \$540,000 on behalf of complainants. In one case, the Attorney General's Office and Ohio Civil Rights Commission reached a settlement with several Cleveland entities to make 107 apartments, 12 condominium units, all common areas, and routes to and from those areas fully accessible. The settlement substantially increases the availability of accessible housing options in downtown Cleveland.

Standing up for taxpayers

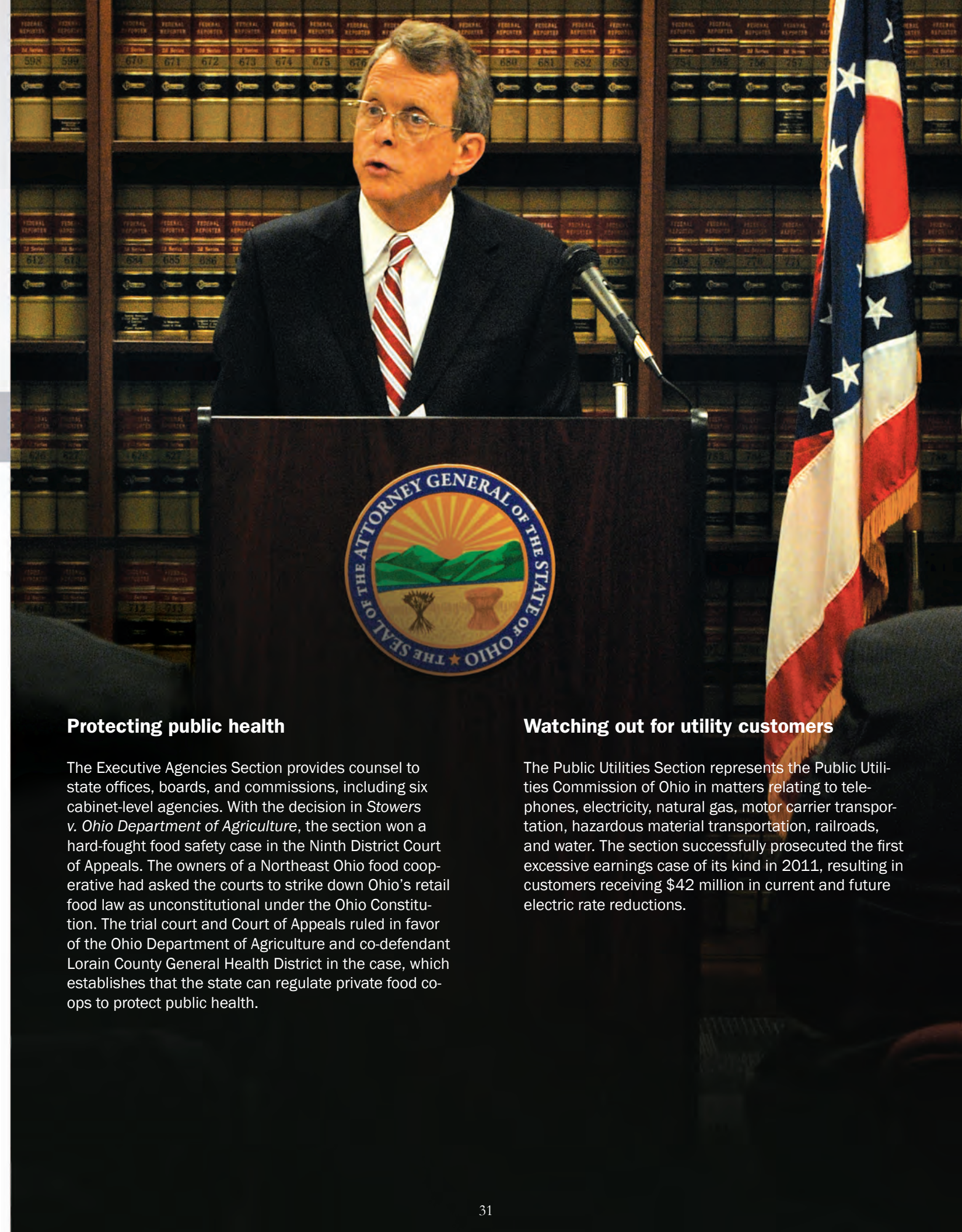
The Court of Claims Defense Section represents the state in the Ohio Court of Claims, Tenth District Court of Appeals, and Ohio Supreme Court. In a breach of contract case involving the Veterans' Glass City Skyway Bridge in Toledo, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) was sued for \$8 million. ODOT had refused to use cable that had cracked during storage in the construction of that bridge and instead purchased new cable from a different supplier. ODOT filed a counter claim against the original supplier, which was seeking the \$8 million. Under a settlement agreement, ODOT paid nothing and instead recovered \$7 million to cover the cost of replacing the cable.

Safeguarding the environment

The Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Section investigates and prosecutes those who break environmental laws and represents state agencies that safeguard Ohio's natural resources. In 2011, investigators and attorneys from the Environmental Enforcement Section assisted the U.S. Attorney's Office in successfully prosecuting the nation's largest steel foundry for intentional violations of its air pollution permit. The company was ordered to pay a \$660,000 fine — the largest single fine for air pollution violations in Ohio history — and donate \$165,000 to community projects.

Assisting with debt collection

The Attorney General's Office serves as the chief collection agent for all state agencies, boards, commissions, and universities. Under a change in state law that took effect in 2011, the Attorney General's Collections Enforcement Section can collect debt on behalf of local governments through a fully automated process. This new offering is being embraced by local officials across Ohio, who can pass along program fees to the debtor, making the program expense-free for local governments.



Protecting public health

The Executive Agencies Section provides counsel to state offices, boards, and commissions, including six cabinet-level agencies. With the decision in *Stowers v. Ohio Department of Agriculture*, the section won a hard-fought food safety case in the Ninth District Court of Appeals. The owners of a Northeast Ohio food cooperative had asked the courts to strike down Ohio's retail food law as unconstitutional under the Ohio Constitution. The trial court and Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and co-defendant Lorain County General Health District in the case, which establishes that the state can regulate private food co-ops to protect public health.

Watching out for utility customers

The Public Utilities Section represents the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in matters relating to telephones, electricity, natural gas, motor carrier transportation, hazardous material transportation, railroads, and water. The section successfully prosecuted the first excessive earnings case of its kind in 2011, resulting in customers receiving \$42 million in current and future electric rate reductions.

by the Numbers 2011

1,370

Investigations the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) conducted for 424 law enforcement agencies in 86 of Ohio's 88 counties

28,389

Laboratory assignments BCI handled for 790 local law enforcement agencies

\$1.4 million

Street value of the 53,000 prescription pills BCI seized



357,953 

Criminal arrest records BCI submitted to the FBI

99%

Office's success rate in defending against 477 suits brought by inmates who claimed their convictions or sentences were unconstitutional

40,000 pounds

Weight of unneeded or expired medications collected during two Drug Take Back Days

8,431

Law enforcement officers who took a total of 26,112 online courses through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA)

#1

Ranking the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services gave the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its work during the 2010 federal fiscal year

13,065 

Law enforcement officers taking OPOTA courses across the state and at the London and Richfield campuses

2,264

Contracts the office reviewed for state agencies, offices, boards, commissions, and institutions

\$3.5 million

Grant funding 201 local law enforcement agencies will receive to provide drug prevention education in Ohio schools

48

Opinions the office issued in response to questions from the Ohio House and Senate, state agencies and departments, county prosecutors, and township law directors

\$10.7 million

Compensation provided to 5,402 Ohio crime victims and family members



\$460.9 million

Amount the office collected in outstanding debt owed to the state of Ohio, up from \$411.3 million the year before

\$48.7 million

Amount the office recovered for Medicaid and Workers' Compensation fraud



650

Number of inquiries the Public Records Unit responded to from constituents, officeholders, the media, and others

31,000+

Number of consumer complaints the office handled for individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT
2011

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