



*Protecting Ohio's Families*

## Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine



*“Our mission to protect Ohio’s families has been at the root of every major task we have undertaken in the Ohio Attorney General’s Office for the past eight years.”*

*– Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine*

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# A letter from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

Dear Friends,

Looking back at the close of my second term as Ohio's Attorney General, I am pleased to report that my office has had a productive eight years. While working to protect Ohio's families, we have achieved many goals and stood firm against the challenges facing our state. My office helped troubled families to heal, promoted drug use prevention education, advocated for business interests, eased the burden for crime victims and their families, worked with communities and law enforcement agencies to fight the opioid epidemic, looked out for consumers, and delivered high-quality training and services to peace officers.

Among the highlights in 2018, my office:

- Finished analyzing 13,931 old rape kits as part of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative.
- Expanded Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma), a pilot program that offers specialized services to children who have suffered victimization due to their parents' drug use.
- Published a resource guide for school leaders to help fill the gaps in their districts' comprehensive drug use prevention strategies.
- Provided data security training to businesses through the CyberOhio Initiative.
- Unveiled the next phase of the scenario-based training village at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London.
- Released a video series and guidebook to aid educators and law enforcement in preparing for, and reacting to, potential violence at schools.

For more information on these efforts, refer to the following report, which highlights a sampling of the work of my office. In closing, I'd like to say that it has been my honor to serve as your Attorney General.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General

## Safeguarding Children

The Ohio Attorney General's Office protects children and strengthens families throughout the state by calling upon the resources of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and law enforcement in collaboration with parents, schools, and others. From his Crimes Against Children Initiative to his Ohio START program, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has kept his focus on improving the lives of children.

### Promoting school safety

In June, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced increased efforts by his Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to aid educators and law enforcement in preparing for, and reacting to, potential violence at schools. BCI made drones and pilots available to take free aerial photographs of school buildings to include in school safety plans. Also, the Attorney General's Office released a video series for administrators and teachers. "Active Shooter Response: An Educator's Guide" provides information on how educators and law enforcement can work together to keep schools safe. The videos are available at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SchoolSafety](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SchoolSafety).

- In August, Attorney General DeWine joined officials from the Toledo Lucas County Public Library for a back-to-school event featuring BCI Science School. Students from the Wayman D. Palmer Community YMCA performed experiments with help from Imagination Station. (See photo, Page 4.)

### Tracking down threats

In February, personnel from BCI's Cyber Crimes and Criminal Intelligence units helped law enforcement identify the online source of threats being made to schools. A 16-year-old was arrested on five counts of inducing panic and one count of making a terroristic threat. A county sheriff had asked for BCI's help after receiving calls from concerned parents.

### Did you know?

In September, the Attorney General's Office announced that it would be awarding \$12 million in grants to help enhance safety and security at more than 1,700 schools throughout Ohio.

19,623: The number of children who were reported missing and then recovered safely in Ohio last year, according to the "Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse Report"

### Hunting for evidence

BCI added an electronic detection K-9 to its investigative team in 2017. Reptar, a Labrador retriever and his handler, a BCI special agent, work to locate hidden electronic storage devices, particularly during searches for child pornography. While executing search warrants, Reptar sniffs for the chemicals found on storage media such as memory cards, computers, cellphones, and tablets. Suspects have been known to stash such devices in hidden compartments. Reptar, who is primarily working in the Attorney General's Crimes Against Children Unit, and his handler are available to offer free assistance to law enforcement agencies statewide on all types of cases. Reptar assisted in 22 search warrants during the first 11 months of 2018.

## Did you know?

Each year since 2014, the Attorney General's Office has recruited a Teen Ambassador Board of high school juniors and seniors from public, private, charter, home, and online schools. The board provides advice on teen-related issues.

## Protecting children

Attorney General DeWine's Crimes Against Children Initiative, started in 2011, focuses on identifying, arresting, and convicting those who prey on kids. The Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) formed a Crimes Against Children Unit, which receives assistance from other BCI units, and the Special Prosecutions and Crime Victim Services sections. The unit helps in a variety of investigations. Cases of note in 2018:

- In February, the Crimes Against Children Unit spearheaded a three-day "traveler" operation using undercover online techniques to catch predators seeking to engage in sexual conduct with children. Ten men were indicted on felony counts including attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. All of them pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison.
- In September, as a part of a multiagency effort, the Crimes Against Children Unit assisted in a sexual exploitation sting operation in Mahoning County. The operation successfully arrested and charged 12 men attempting to engage in sexual conduct with minors. The men were arrested on charges of importuning, attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, and possession of criminal tools.

## Assisting with kinship care

In 2017, Attorney General DeWine offered \$1 million from Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds to pay for the 30 Days to Family program, which enlists families, through child welfare agencies, to help children in need of kinship care because of their parents' drug use. A report released in August 2018 provided an update:

- The "30 Days to Family Interim Report" showed that the program worked with Allen, Clark, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Stark, Summit, Highland, Montgomery, and Hamilton counties after an evaluation of their needs, readiness, and capacity. The program worked with the counties to hire staff, provide training, and secure office space and other needs. At the time of the report, the program had helped 84 children.

34: The number of counties that will receive services under an expansion of the Ohio START program, which was made possible through grants from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

## Did you know?

The Ohio State University College of Social Work and the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University are conducting, free of charge, an evaluation of Ohio START.

## Helping heal troubled families

With the number of children in foster care increasing as a result of parental addiction, Attorney General DeWine announced in 2017 that his office was starting a pilot program, paid for with a federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, to provide targeted treatment for troubled families. Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) brings together child protective services, peer mentors, the courts, and behavioral health and treatment providers to work with families. Ohio START is supported by Casey Family Programs, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio, PhRMA, and the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio. Highlights from 2018:

- In May, Attorney General DeWine released the “Ohio START Interim Report,” which documents the progress of the program. Since Ohio START launched, pilot counties have:
  - Undergone more than 1,900 combined hours of training.
  - Employed 20 individuals in recovery as family peer mentors.
  - Identified dozens of families for Ohio START services. Served 47 families and more than 125 individuals through Ohio START.

## Battling Drug Abuse

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office tackles drug problems in the state by enforcing the laws, prosecuting the dealers, supporting prevention education for Ohioans, and providing community outreach. Through his office’s Recovery Ohio initiative, the Attorney General is pursuing a 12-point plan to combat the opioid crisis.

## Pursuing opioid distributors

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine filed a lawsuit in February against four prescription opioid distributors accusing them of engaging in unsafe distribution practices. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation; Cardinal Health Inc., and its subsidiaries; McKesson Corporation; and Miami-Luken Inc. were, according to the lawsuit, negligent and created a public nuisance by using unsafe distribution practices and by oversupplying the market with prescription opioids. The companies are accused of failing to fulfill their obligations to identify, investigate, report, and stop suspicious orders of controlled substances shipped to retail pharmacies. The lawsuit seeks injunctive relief, abatement of the nuisances, and damages.

## Providing guidance to schools

The Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education, a group created by the Attorney General, the Ohio House speaker, and the Ohio Senate president, in June released the committee’s Drug Use Prevention Education Resource Guide, an inventory of programs and a planning resource for school leaders to help fill the gaps in their districts’ comprehensive prevention strategies. The guide is a flexible document that can be regularly updated as new information becomes available. By using the manual, districts will be able to follow the lead of others and gather partners to further build their drug-education programs. To read the resource guide, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/DrugPreventionEducationResources](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/DrugPreventionEducationResources).

## Did you know?

The Attorney General's Drug Use Prevention grants support school-based programs such as Botvin LifeSkills, D.A.R.E. — Keepin' It Real, PALS — Prevention Through Alternative Learning Styles, I'm Special, Reach Out Now, and Stay on Track.

## Offering training about overdose cases

The Ohio Attorney General's Office offered, through an arrangement with the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI), a course for peace officers and prosecutors on the investigation and prosecution of cases resulting from fatal opioid overdoses. The daylong event took place in April at Southern State Community College.

## Did you know?

In August, Attorney General DeWine announced that 152 law enforcement agencies would receive more than \$3 million in additional grants to use for drug use prevention education in public schools through 2019.

## Saving lives with naloxone

Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Attorney General DeWine encourages first responders and others in a position to save lives to carry and administer the medication when necessary. To help with the cost and availability of naloxone:

- The Attorney General's Office extended an agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of naloxone, saying the company will provide a \$6 rebate for each naloxone syringe purchased by a nonfederal public entity until March 31, 2019. As of November 2018, the rebate had saved 133 agencies a total of \$840,792 for naloxone purchases. Those interested in applying for the Naloxone rebate should visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NaloxoneRebate](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NaloxoneRebate).

1,375: The number of law enforcement professionals who took a free online training course through eOPOTA during the first 11 months of 2018 on the use of the lifesaving drug naloxone

## Providing resources

The Attorney General's Office provides assistance and resources for communities dealing with drug problems. Contacts:

- Heroin Unit: [HeroinUnit@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:HeroinUnit@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)
- Prosecution assistance: 614-629-8340
- BCI Tip Line: 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)
- Law enforcement training: 740-845-2700

## Reaching out to communities

Attorney General DeWine's outreach specialists conducted presentations and promoted drug-awareness activities throughout the state and beyond during the first 11 months of 2018, including events in 54 Ohio counties. Other activities during that time include:

- In January, hundreds of professionals who work with victims and survivors of substance-use disorder gathered to participate in the Attorney General's "Ideas for Advocacy" event at the 4-H Center at The Ohio State University.
- Beginning in February, the Heroin Unit joined with Pastor Greg Delaney, Pastor Jerry O'Brien, and Darryl and Tracy Strawberry for eight Epidemic of Hope Conferences.
- In March, the Attorney General hosted "Ideas for Our Future: Addressing Childhood Trauma to Create Positive Outcomes." The conference, held in Mason, Ohio, drew about 700 attendees and focused on topics such as how trauma can change a child's brain development and how to help children overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- The Cincinnati Reds organization began working with the Ohio Attorney General's Heroin Unit, OneCity Against Heroin (Crossroads Church), Interact for Health, and other community partners to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic, and of resources available to the community, through monthly events and public service messages.

## Going after the traffickers

Attorney General DeWine's Heroin Unit – which combines the skills of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the Special Prosecutions Section, and drug abuse outreach specialists – was developed in 2013 to pursue traffickers and work with communities affected by the opioid epidemic. During the reporting period in 2018, special prosecutors with the unit directly handled 114 opioid-related criminal cases. A recent case of note:

- In June, the Fairfield-Hocking-Athens Major Crimes Unit and Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested 10 suspects in a methamphetamine trafficking organization believed to have been among the largest suppliers of the drug in Fairfield County. The suspects are facing more than 60 felony charges as a result of "Operation Crystal Clear," a five-month, collaborative investigation. Authorities with the Fairfield-Hocking-Athens Major Crimes Unit began investigating the trafficking ring in February after gathering evidence that two men – one from Pleasantville, the other from Lancaster – were distributing large amounts of meth in Fairfield County, Licking County, and nearby jurisdictions. Local investigators worked with BCI to trace the source to the alleged ringleader from Reynoldsburg. The investigation uncovered seven alleged co-conspirators. Authorities believe the meth was manufactured by Mexican drug cartels and transported to Ohio.

## Fighting organized crime

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) assists local law enforcement agencies in combating organized crime and corrupt activities through the creation of multijurisdictional task forces. The commission, which is chaired by the Ohio Attorney General, reviews criminal complaints and monitors current investigations. A case of note in 2018:



- In March, an investigation by the Toledo Bulk Cash Smuggling Task Force led to the interception of a package containing about 2 pounds of fentanyl and the arrest of three suspects. The package was shipped from a Lucas County post office and was on its way to Texas. Investigators also seized a pound of fentanyl and about \$8,500 in cash after serving a search warrant at a Lucas County hotel, where the suspects were staying.

4,835: The number of times that BCI's Chemistry Unit reported the presence of heroin in evidence between Jan. 1 and Nov. 26

## Table of 2018 OOCIC Task Forces' Narcotics Seizures

(Jan. 1, 2018, through Nov. 30, 2018)

Drug Seized	Amount Seized	Street Value
Heroin	115.8 pounds	\$5,257,320
Fentanyl	74.49 pounds	\$3,381,846
Cocaine	192.59 pounds	\$8,743,586
Methamphetamine	396.79 pounds	\$18,014,266
Marijuana	1,746.9 pounds	\$2,620,350
Opioid Pain Pills	17,264 pills	\$172,640
Other Prescriptions	42,229 pills	\$211,145
Miscellaneous Drug Seizures (Crack cocaine, steroids, MDMA, hash, THC, LSD, grabba, etc.)	N/A	\$8,217,652
Total Seizures	N/A	\$46,618,805

## Fighting Crime

The Ohio Attorney General's Office unites its resources to work with law enforcement agencies, individually and through task forces, to combat organized criminal enterprises and other threats to the safety of Ohioans. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has worked to make sure the labs and investigative units of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) are among the best in the nation.

### Seeking justice in Pike County

In November, four members of the Wagner family were arrested and charged with aggravated murder in connection with the 2016 slayings of eight members of the Rhoden family. Two others are facing charges related to the case. The victims were found shot to death in four homes in Pike County. After a request from the county sheriff, the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) sent staff to process the crime scenes. BCI's role grew throughout the investigation, which involved following up on about 1,100 tips; conducting 550 interviews; serving more than 200 subpoenas, search warrants, and court orders; and testing over 700 items. The cases are being prosecuted by the Pike County Prosecutor's Office with help from the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section.

### Using familial DNA to identify suspects

Attorney General DeWine in 2016 called for the use of familial DNA in cases where a sample has been recovered that is related to a critical or serial unsolved crime with a public safety component. A case in which the technique was used in 2018: In September, a suspect was identified and arrested in connection with sexual assaults on three women in parks and on bike trails in Mahoning, Portage, and Stark counties. The 37-year-old Pennsylvania man is facing charges of rape, felonious assault, aggravated assault, and kidnapping. By testing DNA evidence from the scenes, scientists were able to narrow the search for a suspect by identifying a relative of the man. After the test results were received, the man was arrested 14 hours later.

### Did you know?

When DNA found at the scene of a crime has no match in the state's database, it can be subjected to a familial DNA search. Such a search aims to identify any genetic near-matches from a relative.

### Solving a case from 1992

In January, a Washington County man was charged with the 1992 killing of Patsy Sparks, whose remains were found in a Noble County woods in 1994. The suspect is serving a 40-year sentence on separate kidnapping, robbery, and sexual assault charges. The Washington County Sheriff's Office cold case squad led the investigation with assistance from BCI.

Tips on any unsolved homicide can be submitted [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) or by calling 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446).

2,061: The number of cases in the Ohio Unsolved Homicides database, which is meant to bring visibility to unsolved cases and increase the number of tips

## Offering facial reconstructions

A forensic artist at BCI aided by 3D technology reconstructs the faces of unidentified decedents in hopes that the public can help identify them. BCI is offering facial reconstruction as a last resort when DNA and other leads don't produce results. Among the facial reconstructions finished for cases in 2018: The remains of a woman found on April 22, 1981.

To see Facial Reconstruction, a video about the process at BCI, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) and click on "Videos."

## Supporting families of the missing

In May, the Attorney General's Office and Battelle conducted an Ohio Missing Persons Day event for families of the missing to gather and talk to those who are working to find new leads in their cases. Family members were invited to provide DNA to help in their search for answers. Scientists with Battelle were on hand to discuss new technology. Clay facial reconstruction models created by a BCI forensic artist and based on unidentified remains were on display in an effort to identify the unknown individuals.

## Providing forensic lab services

BCI provides free, expert forensic laboratory services to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. From Jan. 1 to Nov. 26, BCI received 23,170 chemistry assignments, tested 47,642 DNA samples, and had 160,633 items submitted by Ohio law enforcement.

## Preparing future forensic scientists

The Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) continues to advance the study and practice of forensic science in Ohio. A few accomplishments in 2018 include:

- Two externally funded research grants were awarded to the center in the area of drug-detection methods.
- The Laura and John Arnold Foundation study focusing on statistical modeling of SAK processing was completed resulting in two peer-reviewed publications.

## Helping with prosecutions

Attorneys in the Ohio Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section can act, upon request of the appropriate local authority, as lead prosecutors in cases in which there is a conflict of interest. In addition, local prosecutors can call upon those in the section to serve as assistant prosecutors in cases where specialized knowledge is needed or if there is a lack of local resources to effectively prosecute a case. In the first 11 months of 2018, the section opened 134 criminal matters at the request of prosecutors or courts in half of Ohio's counties. The section had 10 trials during that time. Here are some recent cases of note:

- In May, former Niles Mayor Ralph Infante was sentenced to 10 years in prison after a public corruption trial in Trumbull County. He was also ordered to pay more than \$51,000 in restitution to the state and to the city of Niles. The case was prosecuted by the Special Prosecutions Section after an investigation by the Ohio Auditor of State's Public Integrity Unit. The Trumbull County Sheriff's Office and the Youngstown office of the FBI also provided assistance.
- In August, a Huron County man was sentenced to four years in prison for the theft of more than \$3 million in grain from 35 Ohio farmers. The defendant was also ordered to pay \$3.2 million in restitution as part of his sentence. The money, which has been paid in full, will reimburse the farmers, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Grain Indemnity Fund.

## Using task forces to stop corruption

Attorney General DeWine's Office oversees the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), which provides structure and support to law enforcement agencies that uncover organized criminal enterprises within their jurisdictions. A 2018 case of note from an OOCIC task force:

- The Central Ohio Organized Retail Crime and Counterfeit Checks Task Force worked with BCI forensic accountants on an investigation of a central Ohio pawn shop. Task force agents were able to show that more than \$1 million was made by the pawn shop through the sale of stolen products. The pawn shop owner pleaded guilty to one count of attempted engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity. Task force agents seized 1,300 items and \$750,000.

## Did you know?

Age-progression photos are created using software and artistry to show what a person would look like with the passage of time. BCI also offers age-regression photos, composite images, photo modifications, and post-mortem imaging to help solve cases.

## Bringing attention to old cases

BCI began offering age-progression photographs to help law enforcement with missing persons investigations in 2017. Such photos can bring older cases back into the public eye to generate new tips. The technique is performed by a forensic artist with the BCI Missing Persons Unit. A case of note from 2018:

- Elaine Johnson of Parma, who has been missing for 27 years, was featured in an age-progression photo released in July.

Family members of missing persons or law enforcement officials who are interested in learning more about the services BCI's Missing Persons Unit provides should call 855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446).

## Pursuing human traffickers

The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission — made up of elected officials, law enforcement, social service agencies, religious groups and schools — works to end modern-day slavery. The Ohio Attorney General's Office has three human trafficking task forces authorized through the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC): The Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, the Cuyahoga County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force. During the first 11 months of 2018, OOCIC reported 75 human trafficking victims were rescued, 173 potential victims were referred to services, and task forces received 402 tips. Recent human-trafficking cases of note:

- In March, a 28-year-old Canal Winchester man was indicted in connection with trafficking three victims. The Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force began investigating the case in 2017 after receiving a tip from a Franklin County deputy who recognized several indicators of sex trafficking. The investigation found that the suspect advertised his victims online for commercial sex and child pornography. The victims included a woman from Columbus, a woman from Georgia, and a juvenile from Youngstown.
- In March, four individuals accused of running a human trafficking ring in the Columbus area were arrested after an investigation by the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. For two years, almost a dozen women were trafficked through online ads, the investigation showed.
- In April, an undercover operation aimed at reducing demand for sex trafficking led to the arrests of eight men, including one suspect who investigators believe was attempting to recruit an undercover officer into the sex trade. The Warren Police Department and Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force placed ads online to which the suspects responded. The suspects allegedly exchanged messages with an undercover officer and arrived at a location in Warren expecting a sexual encounter-for-hire with an adult female.
- In August, a three-day undercover operation aimed at preventing child sexual exploitation and reducing demand for sex trafficking led to the arrests of 12 men, including an elementary school teacher. The investigation was led by the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force.
- In October, 104 charges were filed against five suspects allegedly involved in a human trafficking ring in Mahoning County. A tip in July about child pornography prompted an investigation led by the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force, which uncovered evidence of the exploitation of about 90 victims.

75: The number of human trafficking victims reported rescued in the first 11 months of 2018 by the task forces authorized through the OOCIC

To learn more about the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking).

## Looking out for high-risk youths

Attorney General DeWine announced in 2017 an effort to prevent the victimization of high-risk youths. The Missing Persons Unit analyzes records from the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, a central repository of information about the state's missing children, and pinpoints children who have run away multiple times in a short period of time or who have been reported missing from several communities. The unit also searches law enforcement databases and public sources, such as social media, to find out whether there are other indicators that those children could be vulnerable to traffickers. The analysts then contact law enforcement authorities in the communities where the children live and share the information with them so they can intervene before a trafficker gets a chance.

276: The number of potential high-risk juveniles identified by BCI's Missing Persons Unit as of November; the information was shared with 18 local law enforcement agencies

To learn more about the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons).

## Supporting Law Enforcement

The Ohio Attorney General's Office places an emphasis on making law enforcement training relevant, advanced, and accessible and provides technology, training, and expertise to law enforcement professionals through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC), and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

## Lending equipment for local training

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced the Scenario Training Equipment Program (STEP) in 2017. The OPOTA program delivers free, scenario-based training equipment to local law enforcement agencies. To borrow from a library of equipment, an agency has to send at least one instructor to attend OPOTA's Scenario Based Training Instructor course and submit a safety plan and scenario lesson plan. So far, 44 individuals have completed the instructor course.

658: The number of officers who have received training through the Scenario Training Equipment Program

## Looking for safe ways to detect opioids

Attorney General DeWine announced in September that the Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at Bowling Green State University is part of a team that is conducting a study that could help Ohio law enforcement officers to safely, quickly, and reliably field test drugs for the presence of opioids. As part of the Ohio Third Frontier's Opioid Technology Challenge, the team received a grant to develop paper test cards to be used by first responders, law enforcement officers, medical professionals, and crime scene investigators in the field to quickly detect opioids and cutting agents in drug samples. The center will conduct a study to validate the results of the test cards. Until a safe method is developed, local agencies are advised against field testing drugs.

## Did you know?

OPOTA provides education for criminal justice professionals through the Attorney General's annual Law Enforcement Conference. The October 2018 event drew 660 people to attend 30 workshops.

## Keeping lessons updated

OPOTC releases new basic training curricula twice a year to ensure that the training of peace officers and other public safety professionals meets local needs and puts officer safety at the forefront. In 2018, OPOTC issued 44 updated or new lesson plans. Most of the changes covered legal updates.

## Did you know?

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC), which is made up of 10 members appointed by the governor, issues recommendations to the Attorney General about matters pertaining to law enforcement training.

5,848: The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC), which is made up of 10 members appointed by the governor, issues recommendations to the Attorney General about matters pertaining to law enforcement training.

## Connecting with children

Ohio's Badges for Baseball program, sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, pairs local law enforcement officers with children to help build character and teach life lessons through an academic leadership program and the game of baseball. Since its launch in 2012, the Badges for Baseball program has reached young people ages 10 through 12 in Canton, Dayton, Hamilton, Lima, Lorain, Springfield, Toledo, Youngstown, and Zanesville. Activities of note in 2018:

- In June, 35 kids attended the Ripken Summer Camp in Baltimore, Md.
- In July, teams from throughout the state played in the Ohio Badges for Baseball Quickball Tournament in Columbus.
- In the fall, 75 kids visited Denison University for College Experience Day.

## Promoting crisis intervention

The Attorney General's Office supports the continued development of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in the state and participated in the creation of Ohio's CIT Strategic Plan. Since 2013, the Ohio Attorney General's Office has been awarding grants to law enforcement agencies to offset the cost of sending officers for CIT training and to provide an incentive for nonparticipating jurisdictions. In 2018, the Ohio Attorney General's Office awarded a grant of \$75,000 to the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI uses the funds to pay for training for law enforcement personnel throughout the state in responding to people with mental illness.

## Making courses accessible

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) offers courses in various formats and locations to meet the diverse training needs of law enforcement. Through regional courses, OPOTA conducted 195 trainings with a total enrollment of 2,927 officers during the first 10 months of 2018. The academy also provided 112 courses online through its free eOPOTA lineup, with 10,712 law enforcement officers and others completing 49,966 course sessions. OPOTA also offers a wide range of courses at its facilities, which include a campus in Richfield and a main campus and Tactical Training Center in London. During the reporting period, the 679 classes offered in London drew an enrollment of 10,053 students, while Richfield's 194 classes drew 3,581 students. In 2016, OPOTA added a webcast, which enables OPOTA to present courses to up to 3,000 students at a time. The service provides a training platform that is economical for agencies while still incorporating participation through interaction with an instructor. During the first 10 months of 2018, six courses were provided via webcast, training 986 individuals.

49,966: The number of free course sessions completed by eOPOTA users in the first 10 months of 2018

## Working to improve training

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine appointed an advisory group in 2014 to look at how Ohio trains its law enforcement officers and to make suggestions for improvement. In April 2015, the Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training completed its report. The document offered 29 recommendations regarding improving standards and included innovations to advance the law enforcement profession. The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) has been working to fulfill the recommendations. As of Nov. 29, 24 have been completed and two more are in progress.

## To learn more

To read advisory group reports and other publications, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) and click on "Publications."



## **Offering guidance about drone use**

The Ohio Attorney General's Advisory Group on Unmanned Aircraft Systems released in January a report including 14 recommendations and a model policy for use by law enforcement. Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or "drones" can be used by law enforcement for many investigative purposes, such as crime scene and traffic accident investigations, missing persons cases, SWAT operations, and active shooter incidents.

A copy of the report is available on the Ohio Attorney General's website, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov), under "Publications," and "Law Enforcement." In March, OPOTA began offering UAS courses, which drew 83 students during the first seven months of the year.

## **Providing data to law enforcement**

The Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) is a secure portal for the criminal justice community to conduct research on subjects and assets involved in investigations. As of Oct. 2, OHLEG had 32,008 active users, including officers, detectives, analysts, and others. OHLEG provides 17 databases in one free investigative tool, and it's accessible from any smartphone or computer.

- In May, OHLEG added a new feature to its records management system that provides an easy way for officers to report incidents involving use of force. The Use-of-Force Module is set up to collect the data needed for the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS).

## **Delivering firearms, driving courses**

OPOTA's Mobile Academy provides free training at an agency's doorstep. The firearms and driving courses use state-of-the-art simulators. During the first 10 months of 2018, the academy conducted 87 courses using the driving and judgmental use-of-force simulators, training 2,021 officers. OPOTA's portable training facilities were used to train 195 officers in building-clearing techniques during the same time period. The 48 mobile subject-control courses trained and refreshed 250 officers in force-on-force skills during that same time period.

## **Assisting Crime Victims**

The Ohio Attorney General's Office, through the Crime Victim Services Section, provides resources to help crime victims and their families rebuild their lives in the wake of tragic events. The office also offers workshops, funding, and resources for victim-service providers throughout the state. During his tenure, Attorney General DeWine has worked to expand services for crime victims.

## Testing sexual assault kits

In February, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced that forensic scientists with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) had finished analyzing the thousands of rape kits submitted by local law enforcement for DNA testing as part of Attorney General DeWine's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative. The testing concluded on Jan. 31, with 13,931 kits tested. A total of 8,617 DNA profiles have been uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) as a result of the testing, and 5,098 matches to offender DNA and/or DNA collected from the scenes of other crimes have occurred. Charges have been filed against hundreds of suspects.

## Compensating crime victims

The Ohio Attorney General's Office awards grants from the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund and/or the State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) fund to programs that help crime victims. Among awards in 2018:

- In October, Attorney General DeWine announced that he is awarding \$111.8 million to crime victim service providers throughout Ohio. Among the 400 programs funded are:
  - University Hospitals Health System for trauma informed crisis care and holistic case management services for children treated for violent assaults.
  - YMCA of Central Ohio to assist students who have experienced trauma from abuse, loss, or chronic stressors.

## Did you know?

In August, Attorney General Mike DeWine announced that an electronic tracking system will be developed to allow sexual assault survivors to monitor the progress of their evidence kits through the testing process.

## Gathering victim advocates

The Attorney General's 2018 Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance attracted about 1,300 victim advocates to Columbus for presentations and workshops focusing on the theme "Protecting Ohio's Families." During the conference: The Ohio Attorney General's Office hosted a symposium for law enforcement, victim advocates, and prosecutors focusing on strategies to investigate cold-case sexual assaults. The symposium was organized to help agencies make progress on the cases resulting from Attorney General DeWine's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative.

13,931: The number of old rape kits tested as part of Attorney General DeWine's Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative

## Protecting Consumers

The Consumer Protection Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office safeguards the public from fraud and unfair business practices. Each day, the section helps resolve consumer complaints, enforces consumer protection laws, assists those who have been harmed by identity theft, and works with county prosecutors and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute consumer-related crimes.

## Handling complaints

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Consumer Protection Section fielded 21,032 consumer complaints during the first 11 months of 2018. The top complaints were:

1. Motor vehicles
2. Professional services
3. Utilities, phone, Internet, or TV services
4. Shopping, food, or beverages
5. Home or property improvements
6. Collections, credit reporting, or financial services
7. Other
8. Identity theft

Visit <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Tipster> or call 800-282-0515 for help with a consumer issue.

## Assisting the public

The Attorney General's Constituent Services Section operates the Help Center, which the public can contact to file a complaint against a business or report tips on illegal gaming, health care fraud, or patient abuse. The Help Center also assists with public record requests and by providing educational materials. During the first 11 months of 2018, the Help Center fielded 82,262 phone calls, handled 12,657 online inquiries, and received 12,115 pieces of mail.

174: The number of non-English speakers who received assistance through the Help Center in the first 11 months of 2018

## Did you know?

Agents with the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) help local law enforcement agencies investigate crimes involving credit card skimmers, which are sometimes hidden on ATMs and gas pumps.

## Clearing up ID theft messes

The Attorney General established the Identity Theft Unit in 2012 to help victims clear up the trouble caused by such crime. Through the unit, individuals can seek assistance from advocates who work on the victim's behalf to contact credit reporting agencies, creditors, collectors, and other entities that may have inaccurate information. (A self-help option is also available.) During the first 11 months of 2018, the unit helped victims resolve \$220,315 in fraudulent charges. The unit also addressed 36 complaints from minors in foster care, who are vulnerable to this crime.

250: The number of people reached through consumer-rights events put on by the Education Unit of the Consumer Protection Section in 2018

## Settling disputes

The Consumer Protection Section's dispute resolution process — through which staff members help individuals, businesses, and nonprofits resolve disputed charges — resulted in more than \$3.3 million returned to, or adjusted for, consumers during the first 11 months of 2018. The average amount per consumer was \$1,315. Among those recently helped:

- In March, a consumer contacted the Ohio Attorney General's Office concerning the 2013 purchase of a composite fence. The consumer had purchased it from a business, and the fence was installed by one of the business's contract installers. The fencing had a 15-year warranty. Three and a half years after installation, the consumer reported that some posts had warped, many posts were cracking, and the composite material on many supporting crossbeams had cracked. The consumer contacted the local business, who referred the matter to the manufacturer. The manufacturer claimed the job was incorrectly installed by the business. After the Consumer Protection Section contacted the business about the complaint, the business provided the consumer with a refund of \$8,000.
- In September, a consumer contacted the Attorney General's Office for assistance in resolving a debt associated with a credit repair servicer. The consumer reported that she had been involved with the company for about four months when she voluntarily withdrew from the program as the company failed to provide her with the services requested. As a result of her withdrawal, the business charged her \$2,981. After the Consumer Protection Section became involved, the business and the consumer were able to settle the matter and the business provided the consumer with a refund of \$1,500.

## Investigating potential wrongdoing

During the first 11 months of 2018, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section opened 170 civil investigations; filed 41 lawsuits for unfair, deceptive, or unconscionable business practices; and obtained 37 judgments and compliance agreements. The Attorney General's Economic Crimes Unit (a division of the Consumer Protection Section) opened 519 criminal investigative matters; filed 13 indictments and obtained nine convictions. A few 2018 cases of note that were investigated and/or prosecuted recently by the Economic Crimes Unit include:

- In January, a Pennsylvania man was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution for stealing \$17,000 from an elderly Ross County man in an Internet scam. The scammer posted an ad online offering a backhoe for sale and talked the elderly man into wiring money to purchase it. The backhoe was never delivered.
- In March, a Hamilton man was indicted for allegedly stealing money from consumers after offering to install countertops for them. The suspect, who operated under the names Granite Designs and First Choice Tops, is accused of stealing about \$19,300 from four consumers in the Cincinnati area. Investigators say he provided homeowners with estimates for new granite countertop installations and collected checks for the materials but never completed any of the work.
- In April, a Monroe County woman was sentenced to 18 months in prison and ordered to pay \$641,908 in restitution for defrauding people in eastern Ohio and West Virginia. According to investigators, the woman lied to get the money. Then she wired the funds to other people, knowing the money would end up going to man she was communicating with online.

Among the civil cases:

- In May, the Attorney General filed suit against Discovery Tours Inc. for violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act. Discovery Tours contracted with Ohio school districts to provide travel services for students to participate in educational school trips to various U.S. cities. Parents of students participating in the trips paid money directly to Discovery Tours. In May, the business notified the schools and parents that the business had closed and upcoming trips were canceled. No refunds were provided. The Attorney General's lawsuit alleges that Discovery Tours failed to deliver the trips or provide refunds and continued to enter into consumer transactions while knowing that the business was in a precarious financial situation. The case is pending.
- A multistate investigation was conducted by the Ohio Attorney General, 49 other states, and the District of Columbia due to Uber's 2016 data breach of its driver information. In Ohio, the breach affected 12,275 Uber drivers. The investigation resulted in the filing of a lawsuit in September for violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act and Ohio's data breach law. A consent judgment was approved in October. It included a \$148 million payment to the states. Ohio's share of the payment was about \$5.6 million, some of which will be used to compensate drivers.

\$1,608,559: Through cases and investigations, the amount of money the Attorney General's Economic Crimes Unit generated in victim restitution orders in the first 11 months of 2018

519: The number of criminal investigative matters the Economic Crimes Unit opened in the first 11 months of 2018

## **Informing the public**

The Education Unit of the Consumer Protection section works to inform Ohioans about their rights as consumers and to warn them about scams. The unit conducts consumer protection presentations throughout the state to build collaboration and awareness in the fight against fraud and to help protect Ohioans. During the first 11 months of 2018, the unit conducted 250 educational events, reaching 10,825 attendees.

## **Raising awareness with videos**

Each year, the Ohio Attorney General's Office sponsors the Take Action Video Contest and announces winners during National Consumer Protection Week in March. The contest awards a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships to the top three teams or individuals who submit a 60-second video on one of three topics. This year's topics were the national Do-Not-Call Registry, dealing with unwanted robocalls, and using technology to stop unwanted robocalls. In 2018, the office received 66 contest entries from about 95 students from 18 high schools throughout Ohio.

95: The number of high school students who sent in entries for the 2018 Take Action Video Contest

## Explaining student loans

The Ohio Attorney General's Office developed a comprehensive online student loan center to help prospective, current, and former college students understand and manage student loans. The Attorney General's Student Loan Center, available at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/StudentLoans](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/StudentLoans), offers information and resources to explore careers, choose a school, apply for student loans, and repay loans. The Attorney General's Student Loan Center provides tips on how to reduce the cost of attending college. The site also offers two calculators to help students budget their expenses and plan their loan repayment.

## Keeping an eye on donations

The Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section – which regulates and provides oversight to Ohio charities to make sure that donations are not misappropriated and that proceeds are used for charitable purposes – provided training to 4,054 people about board governance best practices, bingo recordkeeping, wise giving, and related topics during the first 11 months of 2018. For information on charity-related trainings, call 614-466-3181.

## Issuing bingo licenses

During the first 11 months of 2018, the Charitable Law Section issued 3,482 bingo licenses to 1,710 charitable organizations. Additionally, the section issued licenses to 17 bingo manufacturers and 32 distributors. For more information on licensed organizations, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Business/Bingo-Operator/Bingo-Licensing-Information](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Business/Bingo-Operator/Bingo-Licensing-Information).

## Registering charities

The Ohio Attorney General's Office maintains an online charitable registration system, with information about specific charities. As of Nov. 29, there were 51,616 active charitable organizations in the system. The information is available to the public on the Attorney General's website, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov).

## Help us protect charities and donors

If you learn that a charity is misusing resources, or you know of fraudulent solicitations, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) or call 800-282-0515.

## Monitoring fundraisers

The Charitable Law Section also provides oversight of professional solicitors paid to raise funds for charitable organizations. Solicitors must be registered annually and provide notice of every Ohio fundraising campaign and the results. Information on solicitor campaigns can be found on the Attorney General's website. During the first 11 months of 2018, the section handled the registration of 106 professional solicitors. Cases of note in 2018:

- In February, the Attorney General's Office filed a lawsuit against a Massillon, Ohio, man who operated youth baseball leagues in connection with the misappropriation of more than \$25,000 in

charitable funds. In the lawsuit, filed in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, the Attorney General seeks restitution from the defendant and an order preventing him from incorporating, organizing, or serving in a fiduciary role for a nonprofit in Ohio. It also seeks to bring Massillon Youth Baseball into compliance with Ohio's charitable laws and to properly dissolve Massillon Little League.

- In February, the Attorney General's Office took legal action against a man accused of misusing more than \$168,000 in charitable funds from an Aurora, Ohio, nonprofit created to provide education about Amish culture. The defendant, who lives in Massachusetts, is accused of using the charity's money for personal expenses.
- In July, the Attorney General's Office announced a multistate action against a Florida-based nonprofit accused of misleading donors throughout the United States. Help the Vets reportedly collected more than \$11 million from donors in Ohio and other states between 2014 and 2016 but used less than 5 percent of it on charitable programming. Instead, the vast majority of funds went to its founder and paid fundraisers. Under the action, the organization will no longer be able to solicit donations, it will release its remaining funds to be distributed to other charities, and its founder will pay \$1.75 million to be used for charitable contributions.

## Supporting Economic Growth

The Ohio Attorney General's Office establishes a legal climate that encourages business growth and development; advocates for business interests in court; and reaches out to small businesses that need protection from fraud, scams, and unfair practices. Through summits and initiatives, the Attorney General works with industry leaders to stay on top of topics of importance to Ohio's economic growth.

### Protecting sensitive data

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's CyberOhio Initiative works to protect the sensitive data of Ohioans by strengthening businesses in the fight against cybercriminals. The initiative receives guidance from the CyberOhio Advisory Board, which is made up of business leaders and industry experts. Among the 2018 highlights:

- Gov. John Kasich signed Senate Bill 220, the Data Protection Act, into law in August. The Attorney General endorsed Senate Bill 220, which was recommended by the CyberOhio Advisory Board. The act urges businesses to voluntarily adopt strong cybersecurity practices to protect consumer data.

### Offering tools for economic development

Attorney General DeWine released an updated version of the Ohio Economic Development Manual in 2017. It provides an overview of Ohio laws, tax systems, funding sources, and agencies that play a role in economic development throughout the state. The free manual contains practical examples of how various economic development tools have been used in projects throughout Ohio. The manual is available at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EconomicDevelopment](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EconomicDevelopment).

270: The number of times the Ohio Economic Development Manual was downloaded in the first 11 months of 2018

## Did you know?

To expand Ohio's drug-free workforce, the Attorney General's Heroin Unit united with Working Partners and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to develop the "Employer Opioid Toolkit," a free resource available at [www.OhioChamber.com](http://www.OhioChamber.com).

## Providing cybersecurity training

The CyberOhio Initiative offered 34 presentations to more than 2,231 Ohioans during the first 11 months of 2018. Among the events:

- In March 2018, the second annual CyberOhio Business Summit drew 190 attendees to Cleveland. The event, conducted with Cleveland Marshall College of Law, featured cybersecurity experts from throughout the country who advised business owners on how to better protect their businesses and themselves from evolving cyberthreats.

\$38,568: The amount of money the Attorney General's Office helped small businesses and nonprofits recover or save through dispute resolution services

## Protecting Seniors

The Elder Justice Initiative — a collaborative effort among several sections of the Attorney General's Office — works with law enforcement, prosecutors, adult protective services, and communities to identify, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse cases; improve services for victims; and raise awareness about abuse.

## Building public awareness

Older adults are popular targets of criminals. To make the public aware of the threats, the Attorney General's Office conducted 55 trainings and presentations, reaching more than 4,670 attendees during the first 11 months of 2018. Recent events of note:

- In May, the Elder Justice Initiative, in partnership with local senior centers, hosted a public forum in Austintown.
- In June, the Elder Justice Initiative, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, hosted an Elder Abuse Awareness Day event.



## Talking about financial crimes

In September, the state expanded the list of professionals who are legally required to report suspected elder abuse. Among those added are financial services employees. Representatives from the Elder Justice Initiative have been working extensively with the financial industry to educate the new group of reporters. Among the efforts:

- They presented at the Ohio Credit Union League Regulatory Summit, which focused on early detection of elder abuse and reporting requirements.
- They presented “Combating Elder Financial Exploitation and Elder Crimes” at the 2018 Ohio Bankers League Bank Security Management Workshop, which addressed the complexity of elder financial crimes and the legal mechanisms available to respond.

## Did you know?

Representatives from the Elder Justice Initiative collaborate as guest instructors to provide advanced training courses on elder abuse criminal investigation at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in London and in Richfield.

## Pursuing justice for seniors

The Attorney General’s Elder Justice Initiative works to improve elderly victims’ access to criminal justice services and assist local law enforcement in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting elder abuse cases. A case of note from 2018:

- In April, a 33-year-old London, Ohio, woman was indicted on charges of forgery and theft after an investigation conducted as part of the initiative. She is accused of forging more than \$6,000 in checks belonging to an elderly man. The victim suffered from dementia. The case is being prosecuted by attorneys with the Special Prosecutions Section.

304: The number of matters concerning the well-being of Ohio’s senior citizens that the Elder Justice Initiative looked into during the first 11 months of 2018

## Fighting Health Care Fraud

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office identifies and prosecutes fraud in the health care industry through the Health Care Fraud Section. Within the section, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit protects the Ohio Medicaid Program, while the Workers’ Compensation Fraud Unit is responsible for prosecuting those who defraud the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation.

## Looking out for workers, taxpayers

The Workers’ Compensation Fraud Unit posted 38 indictments and 43 convictions and recovered over \$750,000 in workers’ compensation fraud cases during the first 11 months of 2018. A case of note in 2018:

- In May, a Parma Heights man was ordered to pay the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) \$193,574 in restitution after pleading guilty to one count of workers' compensation fraud, a fourth-degree felony. He was also ordered to serve two years of probation. Investigators discovered the man had been working for nearly seven years while collecting disability benefits.

## Providing workshops

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit offers presentations and workshops about the Medicaid program. In the first 11 months of 2018, the unit made 42 presentations, including appearances for the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units, the American Association of Professional Coders, the U.S. Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center, the National Association of Attorneys General Training and Research Institute, and the Emerging Trends in Fraud Conference.

To report possible Medicaid fraud or patient abuse in a care facility, call 800-282-0515 or visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportMedicaidFraud](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportMedicaidFraud) or [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportPatientAbuse](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportPatientAbuse).

## Did you know?

Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. The program is administered by states, according to federal requirements.

## Finding justice for wronged patients

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit posted 164 indictments and 140 convictions and recovered more than \$12 million in Medicaid fraud, patient abuse and neglect, and care facility misappropriation cases in the first 11 months of 2018. A case of note:

- In September, two nursing aides pleaded guilty to forgery and gross patient neglect and were sentenced to 60 days in jail and five years of probation for failing to check on a resident in their care at a nursing home in Putnam County and falsifying bed check documents. The resident exited the facility on a frigid night and died of hypothermia.

**\$12.4 million:** The amount of money recovered by the Ohio Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Section through restitution orders and settlements for Ohio during the first 11 months of 2018

## Representing Ohio

The Ohio Attorney General's Office defends the interests of Ohio's citizens and the many agencies, offices, boards, and commissions that are part of state government. This effort ranges from cases in county common pleas courts to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Defending Ohio in civil lawsuits

The Attorney General's Court of Claims Defense Section defends cases filed against the state in the Ohio Court of Claims, and briefs and argues appeals of those cases in the 10th District Court of Appeals and the

Ohio Supreme Court. The section's Construction Litigation Group also prosecutes defective design and construction claims. A recent case of note:

- In April, an Ashtabula County jury awarded \$1.6 million in favor of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (state) and Grand Valley Local School District to recover the cost to repair the faulty roof on the district's K-12 school building. In addition, a week before trial, a \$1.5 million settlement was reached with the architect.

## Providing legal counsel

The Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Section provides legal counsel and advice to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the Industrial Commission of Ohio. A case of note in 2018:

- *State ex rel. Klein v. Precision Excavating & Grading Co.*, Slip Opinion No. 2018-3890: In this case, the Ohio Supreme Court reversed a decision by the court of appeals. The court of appeals had held that the Industrial Commission of Ohio abused its discretion in determining a worker's eligibility for continued temporary total disability compensation. The Supreme Court agreed with the Attorney General's Office that the worker was not entitled to such compensation because his inability to return to his job was not related to his injury but caused by his desire to move to Florida. In reversing the decision, the Supreme Court overruled two of its own prior cases.

## Did you know?

In the first 11 months of 2018, the Workers' Compensation Section settled 2,002 cases. Also, as part of the section's internal alternative dispute program, 470 court cases were settled at section-initiated conferences, and the section won six cases in the Ohio Supreme Court.

## Protecting civil rights

The Civil Rights Section of the Attorney General's Office represents the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and prosecutes cases on the commission's behalf. Through litigation, the section obtained \$285,397 (excluding undisclosed amounts) for victims of discrimination in the first 11 months of 2018. A recent case of note:

- The section triumphed in an employment disability case in which a successfully performing employee was stripped of his seniority and demoted. The employer appealed through multiple levels, with the section prevailing each time. The section obtained all back pay with interest for the employee, who was also reinstated.

29: The number of free public presentations conducted during the first 11 months of 2018 by the Civil Rights Section to promote compliance with fair employment and fair housing laws

## Representing state agencies in court

The Attorney General's Employment Law Section provides legal advice and representation regarding various employment matters to state departments, agencies, bureaus, commissions, elected officials, and public colleges and universities. In 2018, the section prevailed in numerous cases brought against clients in

federal courts, state courts, and various administrative boards. The legal services provided by the section not only result in positive outcomes for the clients, but also save state resources by protecting the treasury against unsupported legal claims and reducing legal fees by avoiding the use of outside counsel. Of note in 2018:

- The section defended a state community college in a hotly contested federal jury trial concerning the First Amendment protected speech of a faculty member. Due to the trial team's efforts, the college was able to reach a favorable resolution while the jury was deliberating.
- The section provided legal advice and counsel to clients concerning sensitive workplace investigations of public officials.

## **Maintaining educational standards**

The Attorney General's Education Section handles litigation for the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The section works to revoke or suspend the licenses of educators whose actions fail to meet professional obligations to their students, school districts, and communities. Additionally, the section provides legal counsel to Ohio's universities, community colleges, and technical colleges. In the first 11 months of 2018, the section handled 113 administrative cases (including educator licensure cases), 94 court cases, and 59 cases before the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or U.S. Department of Education. A case of note in 2018:

- In August, Attorney General DeWine filed a lawsuit to recover public funds disbursed by the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), including claims against affiliated companies and officers of the defunct charter school. The lawsuit seeks to recover any funds improperly received by ECOT for students not properly documented in its 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 full-time equivalency (FTE) review conducted by the Ohio Department of Education, as well as funds improperly paid to companies under contracts alleged to violate Ohio law.

113: The number of administrative cases handled by the the Attorney General's Education Section during the first 11 months of 2018

## **Protecting the environment**

The Ohio Attorney General's Environmental Enforcement Section investigates and prosecutes those who violate environmental laws and represents state agencies that safeguard Ohio's natural resources. During the first 11 months of 2018, the section filed 45 cases in state and federal courts enforcing Ohio's environmental and natural resources laws. Also during that time, the section collected \$1,613,997 in fines and penalties. The section's combined judgments, settlements, and restitutions in the past year totaled \$3,032,825. A recent case of note:

- In March, the Attorney General filed suit against Monsanto over its manufacture and sale of PCBs. PCBs, one of a few chemicals ever banned by the U.S. EPA, are toxic to human and animal health and are known to cause cancer. Monsanto sold virtually all of the PCBs used by Ohio manufacturers, who used the PCBs in a wide range of products. PCBs escaped their intended applications to enter the air, soil, and water, where they are highly resistant to organic decomposition and remain in the sediment and other natural resources for a long time. The lawsuit alleges that the company knew its toxic PCBs posed grave environmental risks but failed to warn the Ohio manufacturers, general

public, consumers, or anyone else, and that Ohio suffered substantial injuries due to Monsanto's conduct. The Attorney General is seeking monetary damages, cleanup costs, and other measures to assess, investigate, monitor, analyze, and remove PCBs that have invaded Ohio's public natural resources.

\$153,152: The amount of fees collected by the Attorney General's Labor Relations Section from employers that did not comply with state wage laws during the first 11 months of 2018

## **Taking care of appeals**

The Appeals Section of the Attorney General's Office represents the state and its agencies on appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court. Headed by the state solicitor, the section determines the cases in which the state will seek review and the positions it will take. During this past term of the U.S. Supreme Court, the section handled three cases in that Court and was honored with a Best Brief Award from the National Association of Attorneys General for their advocacy in one of them. Recent cases of note:

- In January, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion in a case concerning where parties should sue to challenge federal regulations issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. In 2015, the federal EPA issued a rule expanding the lands covered by the act. A coalition of about 30 states, including Ohio, sued to challenge the rule in several federal district courts, but the federal government asserted that the suits could only be brought in federal circuit court. Ohio argued on behalf of the multistate coalition in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ultimately, the court unanimously agreed with Ohio's position that the challenges belong in federal district courts.
- In June, the Ohio Supreme Court issued a ruling about the separation of powers between the legislative and judicial branches. The Supreme Court unanimously agreed with Ohio that a common pleas court could not hold the General Assembly in contempt for legislating in response to a previous court ruling about red-light cameras. The Supreme Court reversed the lower court's order because it nullified a state law without first finding that law unconstitutional.

## **Ensuring reliable utilities**

The Attorney General's Public Utilities Section represents the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Power Siting Board in various legal matters. The section offers legal advice to the PUCO regarding its regulation of telephones, electricity, natural gas, motor carrier and hazardous material transportation, railroads, and water. The section advises the Ohio Power Siting Board, which reviews and approves plans for new energy facilities in Ohio. In 2018, the section:

- Helped secure more than \$1.5 billion in new utility investments through successful representation before the Ohio Power Siting Board.
- Successfully negotiated a major settlement to help a struggling electric utility to continue to reliably serve its customers and to allow customers to better manage their usage, enjoy new service offerings, and benefit from reduced rates.
- Advised and helped negotiate an important settlement involving an electric utility and numerous customer groups that will result in immediate and future customer rate reductions of about \$600 million.

- Successfully resolved, in tandem with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, nearly 90 percent of filed commercial motor vehicle cases making Ohio's highways safer.

To learn more about the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or the Ohio Power Siting Board, visit [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov) or [www.opsb.ohio.gov](http://www.opsb.ohio.gov).

## **Encouraging public sector legal careers**

The Attorney General's Public Service Mock Trial Competition offers law students practical insight into a public sector legal career. On Nov. 16, second- and third-year students from 10 Ohio law school teams took part in the sixth annual competition, presenting both sides of a gender discrimination and defamation case. Each team was coached by litigators from the Attorney General's Office and other public service offices from throughout the state. The 2018 winning team was from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

## **Upholding convictions**

The Attorney General's Criminal Justice Section is responsible for multiple types of litigation associated with the criminal justice system. The section is divided into three substantive units – Capital Crimes, Habeas, and Corrections – which work cooperatively to uphold criminal convictions and sentences issued by the state courts by defending inmate generated lawsuits against the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Parole Authority, and the Department of Youth Services. In the first 11 months of 2018:

- There were 300 habeas actions opened, and 179 closed, of which the unit won 178.
- There were 171 correction actions opened and 157 closed.
- There were 135 capital murder cases pending in federal court or awaiting execution.

## **Promoting competition in the marketplace**

The Ohio Attorney General's Antitrust Section promotes competition in the marketplace by enforcing state and federal antitrust laws. A case of note in 2018:

- More than 2,000 Ohioans received checks from the Antitrust Section's settlement with the maker of Provigil – a sleep disorder drug. Ohio led a coalition of 49 states in settling with the drugmaker, which took unlawful actions to keep lower priced generic versions of this important drug off the market. The state's share of the settlement was \$1.67 million, and Ohioans who were overcharged on their prescriptions received an average check of \$850.

## Year in Review 2018

Jan. 16: Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center present the “Ideas for Advocacy” conference to explore ways to help families dealing with addiction.

Feb. 23: The Attorney General announces that the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) has analyzed all 13,931 rape kits submitted by local law enforcement for DNA testing as part of his office’s Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative.

Feb. 26: The Attorney General files a lawsuit against four major prescription opioid distributors alleging that the drug companies engaged in unsafe distribution practices.

March 2: The Attorney General’s Office releases a resource card to help law enforcement agencies inform crime victims about their rights under Marsy’s Law.

March 5: As the operator of the Columbus Crew prepares to move the soccer team to Texas, the Attorney General and city of Columbus file a lawsuit to protect Ohio taxpayers’ interests.

May 14: The Attorney General’s 2018 Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance attracts about 1,300 victim advocates to Columbus for presentations and workshops focusing on the theme “Protecting Ohio’s Families.”

June 18: The Attorney General’s Office releases the *Drug Use Prevention Education Resource Guide* to help schools implement effective drug use prevention programming.

June 20: To promote school safety, the Attorney General announces that BCI is available to take aerial photos for district safety plans and his office releases a video series on preparing for, and reacting, during violent incidents.

Aug. 3: The Data Protection Act, a piece of legislation introduced as a result of the Attorney General’s CyberOhio Initiative, is signed into law.

Aug. 9: The Attorney General announces the development of a tracking system to give sexual assault survivors instant access to information about their rape kit evidence.

Oct. 25: During the Attorney General’s 2018 Law Enforcement Conference, Attorney General DeWine announces the addition of a house and garage to his office’s immersive law enforcement training village.

Nov. 13: The Attorney General, Pike County Sheriff, and Pike County Prosecutor announce the arrests of a husband, wife, and their two sons in connection with the slayings of eight people on April 22, 2016.



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# Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2018**

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Ohio Attorney General's Office  
30 E. Broad St., 17th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

800-282-0515



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