

Protecting Ohio's Families



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT
2013



INSIDE

Fighting Crime	2
Safeguarding Children	8
Battling Drug Abuse	14
Supporting Local Law Enforcement	20
Assisting Crime Victims	24
Protecting Consumers	26
Supporting Economic Growth	32
Fighting Health Care Fraud	34
Representing Ohio	36
By the Numbers	40



From the **Attorney General**

Dear Friends,

My office took its mission of protecting Ohio's families to new heights in 2013, and the work is having a profound and positive impact on families, children, elderly residents, crime victims, law enforcement, consumers, and many others.

Here are some of the important gains we made during the year:

- We helped bring long-overdue justice to rape victims by analyzing thousands of sexual assault kits that have gone untested for many years. Nearly a third of the kits tested so far have resulted in a DNA hit to a known individual or an investigative lead for law enforcement. Several rapists have already been convicted, and dozens more have been indicted as investigations began to take shape.
- Through our "Ohio Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Initiative," we identified, arrested, and prosecuted criminals who prey on children. Investigators worked cases in more than half of Ohio's 88 counties, and victim advocates and prosecutors provided support and justice for young victims.
- We developed training and tools to help educators and support staff protect Ohio's children during the school day and brought more than 100 schools into compliance with state requirements for safety plans

and other information that first responders need in crisis situations.

- We formed a new Heroin Unit to catch more traffickers and support communities fighting the state's heroin epidemic. We also launched a series of local forums across the state to spur conversations about the problem and how to solve it.
- We helped mend communities devastated by the foreclosure crisis through legal assistance to vulnerable families and funding to remove blighted homes from affected neighborhoods. A portion of our state's share of the national mortgage settlement is also helping Boys and Girls Clubs extend services to youngsters in more areas.

The Attorney General's Office works every day to protect Ohio families. I am proud of these efforts and the dedicated staff members who carry them out.



Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General



Protecting Ohio's Families

Fighting Crime

One-third of the 2,546 sexual assault kits tested under an Attorney General's Office initiative **identified a DNA source** or gave law enforcement an investigative lead by the end of 2013.

Rape kit testing yields 837 DNA hits

Like many states, Ohio had a large number of sexual assault kits that had never been tested for DNA evidence. In late 2011, at the recommendation of a task force he formed to study the problem, Attorney General DeWine urged law enforcement agencies to submit old kits for free lab analysis if they believed a crime had occurred.

The call led 111 agencies to submit a total of 5,215 kits by the close of 2013. Of the 2,546 kits tested by the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) laboratory, 837 — nearly 33 percent — resulted in the identification of the DNA source or an investigative lead. The evidence pointed to more than 100 serial rapists.

"The sooner we get the kits tested, the fewer opportunities these predators will have to commit additional crimes. They have already been on the streets way too long, and we owe it to the victims to do everything we can to help," Attorney General DeWine said. "The investigative information that can be gathered from testing these kits could be crucial not only in solving these rapes, but other crimes as well."

In Cleveland, the source of nearly half of the kits submitted, more than 50 indictments were returned by late 2013. In one case, a man was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for multiple rapes and two homicides he

committed in the early 1990s. The case was spurred in part by the identification of his DNA in a 1993 rape kit submitted under the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Sexual Assault Kit Initiative."

"It is very exciting to bring justice to these victims, and we could not do it without the assistance of the Attorney General's Office," said Brian McDonough, lead prosecutor in Cuyahoga County's cold-case sexual assaults. "The collaboration has been excellent."

The Attorney General authorized the hiring of 10 additional scientists to assist with the testing. Other BCI staff members devote some or all of their time to the initiative, including special agents who investigate cases. Other sections of the office help with prosecuting cases, responding to victims, and training law enforcement and victim advocates.

Agencies urged to submit kits

Law enforcement agencies wishing to submit untested kits or in need of more information about the initiative should call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**.

Lab maintains fast turnaround times



BCI's Laboratory Division — which operates facilities in London, Richfield, and Bowling Green — maintained excellent turnaround times in 2013 while increasing its caseload and taking on new initiatives.

The lab analyzed 169,736 pieces of evidence for Ohio law enforcement, up from 161,680 items the year before. The number of items examined has jumped 81 percent in the past three years. For the case against Ariel Castro of Cleveland — who abducted, raped, and held captive three women for more than a decade — the lab examined more than 170 items and tested 300 samples for DNA.

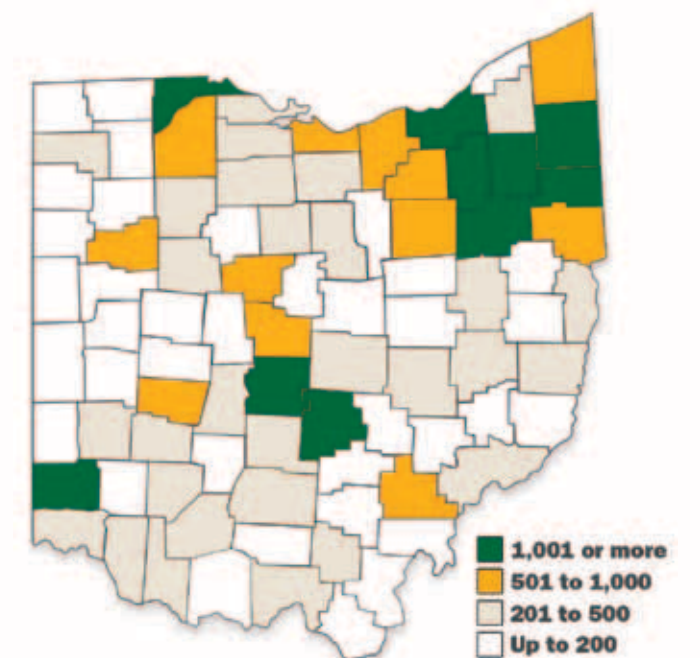
Although DNA assignments increased 40 percent in 2013, from 5,398 to 7,577, the lab had an average evidence turnaround time of 25.42 days at year's end.

The state DNA database grew to 572,245 profiles, helping law enforcement identify suspects and link crimes. DNA hits averaged 225 per month, up from 167 hits per month the year before. At year's end, the BCI staff was adding samples to the database in an average of 14.9 days.

Turnaround times for drug analysis stood at 26.6 days at the close of the year despite a 13 percent increase in the Chemistry Unit's drug cases in 2013.

BCI lab submissions by county in 2013

Law enforcement in 87 of Ohio's 88 counties used BCI laboratory services in 2013. Submissions have risen more than 61 percent in the past three years, jumping from 26,225 in 2010 to 42,267 in 2013.





BCI agents aid in more than 1,600 investigations across state

BCI's Investigations Division assisted with cases in 87 of Ohio's 88 counties during the year, partnering with 468 law enforcement agencies on more than 1,600 investigations.

Special agents with the Crime Scene Unit assisted in a serial murder investigation in East Cleveland, where the bodies of three women were discovered in garbage bags in three separate locations in July. The owner of a garage where one of the bodies was found had fled the area and was arrested after a standoff with police. Agents spent a week processing the suspect's apartment, several cars, and the area near his residence, collecting nearly 100 pieces of evidence. The suspect was indicted on 14 counts, and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office is seeking the death penalty.

In another case, agents assisted in the investigation of a double homicide in Ottawa in which two brothers, ages 14 and 17, were killed while sleeping in their family's mobile home. Both victims were shot, and one was also strangled. One body was moved to a crawl space under their residence, while the other was dumped in a ditch outside of town. BCI agents processed those two scenes as well as a car, collecting more than 60 pieces of evidence. The suspect, a 17-year-old male who lived with the brothers, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated murder. He was sentenced in November to life in prison with no chance of parole for 60 years.

Dive team assists local law enforcement



BCI's Forensic Dive Team conducted eight dive operations and consulted in two other investigations during the year. The team, formed in 2012, helps local law enforcement locate human remains as well as weapons and other evidence to aid in investigations.

The team consists of eight divers and five support team members, all of whom assist part-time. All members are certified as public safety divers, and in July they gained certification as underwater criminal investigators. The team operates out of a mobile command post, ensuring the latest equipment and technology can be deployed throughout Ohio.

In one 2013 case, divers assisted the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting. Deputies had come under fire while responding to a neighbor dispute. They returned shots, wounding a suspect. Crucial evidence was believed to be located in a nearby retention pond. Using a search pattern and underwater metal detector in the zero-visibility water, divers recovered two bullets, two buckshot pellets, and a cartridge case.

Teens, others held accountable in rape and subsequent events

In a case that drew international attention, the Attorney General's Office prosecuted two Steubenville teens following the rape of a highly intoxicated 16-year-old girl at an alcohol-fueled party in 2012.

A judge found the teens delinquent on three charges each, the equivalent of guilty verdicts. BCI played a key role in investigating the case and analyzed 1.2 million text messages and phone calls as well as photos and videos widely exchanged in the crime's aftermath. The Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section prosecuted the case.

Following the verdicts, the Attorney General requested that a grand jury consider whether charges should be filed against others in connection with the crime. It returned indictments against six individuals, including school district leaders and other current or former employees. Charges included failure to report child abuse, tampering with evidence, perjury, and allowing underage drinking. As of January 2014, one case had been resolved through a plea agreement, and the others were pending.

Office partners with county prosecutors

The Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section handles major felony cases such as homicides, sex offenses against children, white-collar crime, and public corruption. Assistant attorneys general work alongside county prosecutors or take the lead if a prosecutor has a conflict of interest or seeks assistance.

Demand for the office's help with prosecutions prompted Attorney General DeWine to increase the number of attorney positions from six to 13. The section was involved in cases in more than 50 Ohio counties in 2013.

Special Prosecutions helped prosecute the heinous Craigslist murder case in which three men were killed and another was wounded in 2011 after they pursued phony online ads for jobs. The 53-year-old mastermind of the plot was sentenced to death in April, and his 17-year-old accomplice was sentenced earlier to life in prison without parole. Multiple BCI units assisted with the investigation.



Office breaks ground on new BCI facility

Attorney General DeWine's office broke ground in July on a new Northwest Ohio office for BCI on the Bowling Green State University campus. The \$11.9 million facility, which will serve law enforcement and prosecutors in a 22-county area, is expected to open in late 2014. Totaling about 30,000 square feet, the state-of-the-art facility will provide a wide range of laboratory and investigative services. Its location on a major university campus is a win-win for BCI and BGSU, providing opportunities for prospective scientists and the potential for collaboration on research endeavors and technology.

Symposiums spotlight unsolved homicides

BCI's Special Investigations and Criminal Intelligence units conducted four Unsolved Homicide Symposiums to highlight the resources BCI can bring to cold-case homicides and provide a forum for nearly 160 investigators to brainstorm ideas.

Attorney General DeWine launched the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Unsolved Homicides Initiative" in 2012 to help solve more of the state's estimated 5,000 cold-case homicides. Agencies are encouraged to add information on their unsolved homicides to a statewide database on the Attorney General's website, increasing the likelihood of tips. The number of cases in the database jumped from 166 at the start of the initiative to more than 1,800 at the close of 2013.

BCI assistance available

BCI is available to assist with unsolved homicides and missing person cases throughout Ohio. For information, call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)** or visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LawEnforcement**.

LINK Program brings families closure

The Attorney General's LINK Program helped bring closure in 2013 to five families whose loved ones had been missing for several years. Short for Linking Individuals Not Known, LINK helps match unidentified remains with DNA submitted by relatives of missing individuals.

Twenty-three individuals have been identified since the Attorney General's Office instituted the program in 1999. One of the most recent involved a 35-year-old Youngstown woman missing since 1996. The woman was identified after DNA submitted by her daughter, who was 18 when her mother disappeared, was linked with DNA the Mahoning County Coroner's Office submitted in 2006.

Steps enhance law enforcement resources

The Attorney General's Office took several steps in 2013 to enhance the security and usability of the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), already considered one of best statewide law enforcement information systems in the nation.

BCI maintains this powerful Internet-based tool, used by law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals to access criminal history records and other valuable information. The system's more than 27,000 users conducted nearly 4 million OHLEG searches during the year.

An advisory group formed by Attorney General DeWine and co-chaired by former Ohio Supreme Court Justices Yvette McGee Brown and Evelyn Lundberg Stratton suggested ways to improve the system following the introduction of facial recognition technology. Projects were initiated to meet the recommendations, and standing committees were named to provide ongoing oversight.

Background checks top 1 million

BCI's Identification Division processed 1,046,503 civilian background checks in 2013, topping 1 million for the first time in any given year. The year before, the staff conducted 811,573 background checks.

Following passage of a new state law limiting what can be reported, BCI developed a process to more efficiently process background checks. Despite the more extensive process the law requires, the technological solutions BCI developed allow it to process background checks as quickly as it did before the law took effect.

The division also serves as the central repository for Ohio's criminal history records, and in 2013 it submitted 275,758 criminal arrest records to the FBI. It also processed 294,872 new criminal offender prints for Ohio's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), bringing the total on file to nearly 2.28 million. The AFIS palm print database grew to 628,572 prints with the addition of 132,856 prints, giving law enforcement more options for solving crime.

BCI passes reviews with flying colors



The Attorney General's commitment to the external review and accreditation of BCI helps it meet the highest possible standards for law enforcement operations.

BCI laboratories in London, Richfield, and Bowling Green received international accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board in spring 2013. Successful completion of the two-year accreditation process means the labs meet some of the most stringent requirements worldwide for testing methods, staff qualifications, work environments, training processes, and more.

In August, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) reaccredited BCI under its new Gold Standard Assessment program. The accreditation is available to agencies that show a commitment to the accreditation process and request an increased level of outside scrutiny as a means for self-improvement.

For going beyond the basic requirements of accreditation and achieving an outstanding on-site assessment, BCI earned Accreditation with Excellence. It also received the Advanced Accreditation designation for complying with all applicable CALEA standards and the Meritorious Award for maintaining 15 years or more of accredited status.



Protecting Ohio's Families

Safeguarding Children

*The Attorney General's Office has developed tools, training, and other **resources** to help keep Ohio's nearly 2 million K-12 students **safe** in school.*

Office pursues criminals who prey on kids

Through the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Initiative," people who prey on children through sexual and other forms of abuse, child pornography, solicitation, and other crimes are identified, arrested, and prosecuted. Launched in 2011, the initiative is carried out by BCI's Crimes Against Children and Cyber Crimes units, the Special Prosecutions Section, and the Crime Victim Services Section.

BCI agents troll the Internet for predators, lead and assist with investigations, and make high-tech resources and training available to local law enforcement. In 2013, the unit worked 125 cases in 47 Ohio counties; 83 cases dealt with the online distribution of child pornography and 16 cases involved rape. The unit executed 30 search warrants and made 22 arrests.

In one case, a Northeast Ohio woman pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 27 years in prison after taking pornographic images of her 9- and 15-year-old daughters and forwarding them to a man now awaiting trial on child pornography charges. A Crimes Against Children investigator traced child pornography to a specific IP address, and BCI executed a search warrant after determining a suspect's location. A forensic exam of items seized identified two children as possibly being from the area. Investigators determined the children lived in a neighboring county and that their mother had a relationship with the suspect. They located the children, and their mother admitted to taking the photos and sending them to the suspect.

In another case, a former Marion County sheriff's deputy was convicted on four counts involving the rape of a 5-year-old girl he was babysitting. He was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for the crimes, which occurred over a 14-month period. BCI and Special Prosecutions investigated and prosecuted the case.

Special prosecutors lend expertise

The AG's special prosecutors regularly handle child rape cases, including those involving delayed disclosure, and can help local prosecutors in many ways, from consulting on cases to serving as assistant or lead prosecutors.

The Rapid Response Team of the "Ohio Attorney General's Crimes Against Children Initiative" is available to immediately respond when help is needed with cases involving child victims anywhere in Ohio. The team includes a BCI special agent, a victim advocate, and an on-call prosecutor.

For help fighting crimes against children

The "Ohio Attorney General's Office Crimes Against Children Initiative" helps local law enforcement and prosecutors investigate and prosecute those who commit crimes against children. For assistance, call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)** or email **CAC@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.

Symposium encourages collaboration on cases involving child victims

To pool intelligence and encourage collaboration among agencies across the state, the Ohio Attorney General's Office conducted a symposium for those who investigate Internet crimes against children. The second annual Pursuing Online Child Predators Symposium was expanded to a full day, drawing 68 law enforcement officers and prosecutors. In addition to benefiting from presentations and discussions, participants heard from an internationally recognized forensic psychiatrist and expert on pedophilia, child pornography, and sexual assault.

The Attorney General's Office also offered several free trainings to enhance law enforcement efforts to catch and prosecute child predators. Two hundred officers took a one-day course, Investigating Crimes Against Children, offered in five locations around the state. A two-day course, Interdiction for the Protection of Children, was presented to 169 officers in two locations to help patrol officers recognize and act on indications of missing children and child exploitation.



Efforts bolster sex offender monitoring

The Attorney General's Office assists local law enforcement in monitoring Ohio's more than 19,000 convicted sex offenders.

County sheriffs benefited from two new tools introduced in 2013. A smart phone application allows investigators to search for convicted offenders' addresses within a quarter-mile radius. This is especially helpful in sexual assault or missing person cases. In addition, investigators who conduct on-site compliance checks can use the app to upload the status of non-compliant sex offenders to a state database. The other tool expedites sheriffs' registration of convicted sex offenders, enabling offenders to update their information online before reporting in person within five days to confirm the data.

Other efforts are aimed at locating sex offenders who fail to register. Through one program, the Attorney General's Office reimburses local jurisdictions up to \$3,000 to extradite non-compliant sex offenders who have fled their county or the state. The program helped cover the

To submit a tip

To submit a tip about an unregistered sex offender or related concern, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LETips.

cost of returning 19 sex offenders to their jurisdictions in 2013. Through another program, agents with BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit work with local officials to locate non-compliant offenders. In 2013, operations were conducted in Knox, Lake, Mahoning, and Perry counties.

The Attorney General's Office also publicizes warrants for non-compliant sex offenders who have been convicted of committing crimes against children. The office provides the media with details and photographs of wanted sex offenders. Several arrests have resulted from tips generated by the coverage.

Work targets traffickers, helps victims

Attorney General DeWine is on the front lines of Ohio's fight against human trafficking, a horrendous crime that affects some of the most vulnerable members of society, including many children. A study of U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking task force cases shows that 83 percent of sex trafficking victims identified in the United States were U.S. citizens, and the average age they were first used for commercial sex was 12 to 14. After drug dealing, trafficking of humans is tied with arms dealing as the second-largest criminal industry in the world, generating about \$32 billion each year, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, authorized through the Attorney General's Organized Crime Investigations Commission, includes officers and agents from BCI, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Attorney's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Columbus and Powell police departments, and Delaware County Prosecutor's Office. In 2013, the task force secured seven convictions and provided victim-centered enforcement throughout Central Ohio, offering assistance to more than 100 potential victims and referring 57 to social services.

The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission — comprised of elected and appointed officials and representatives of law enforcement, social service agencies, religious groups, and schools — works to end trafficking and help victims. In 2013, the commission focused on drafting and securing passage of the End Demand Act, a law aimed at more effectively prosecuting traffickers who prey on children and increasing penalties for soliciting sex with minors. The Ohio House of Representatives passed the bill unanimously and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

Ohio's Safe Harbor Law, passed in 2012, imposed tougher penalties on traffickers and increased law enforcement training requirements. The Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy took the lead on training efforts, providing officers with options for online and classroom-based courses. In 2013, law

enforcement officers completed 10,496 online training sessions, and more than 100 officers attended classroom courses. In December, the Attorney General's Office briefed prosecutors on the law during an Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association conference.

Attorney General DeWine also released a report highlighting the first human trafficking statistics from local law enforcement. In 2013, agencies reported 30 trafficking in persons investigations, leading to 16 arrests and nine prosecutions. Local agencies identified 22 female sex trafficking victims, including three victims ages 16 or 17, seven victims ages 18 to 20, and one male sex trafficking victim. The Attorney General notes that many cases are still being prosecuted under older statutes with lower penalties, such as promoting prostitution or compelling prostitution, and urged prosecutors and law enforcement to begin bringing cases under the new, tougher trafficking in persons law.

Resources to fight human trafficking

For online training and other resources to address human trafficking, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/HumanTrafficking.



Attorney General prioritizes school safety

Ensuring children are safe in school is among the most important responsibilities of Ohio communities — one that requires the attention, cooperation, and communication of many partners. To assist, the Attorney General provides a wide range of resources for schools and other local entities as well as training for educators and law enforcement.

Attorney General DeWine formed a School Safety Task Force in late 2012 in response to the escalating number of school shootings. Made up of public safety officials, school personnel, mental health professionals, and others, the task force issued a comprehensive set of recommendations for addressing school safety plans, emergency operations, training, and local partnerships.

Under Ohio law, all schools are required to file safety plans and building floor plans with the Attorney General's Office. Safety plans must be updated every three years, and floor plans must be submitted whenever significant construction or renovation occurs. The Attorney General makes the plans available to emergency responders through his office's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, a secure, online resource for law enforcement.

To help schools meet these safety requirements, the Attorney General's task force developed a school safety/emergency operations plan template, a model school floor plan, and a safety guide. The materials were widely distributed to all public school districts, private schools, and education-related associations throughout the state.

The office also worked with the Ohio Department of Education to enable schools to upload their school safety plans through its Web portal, simplifying the process.

At year's end, 96.7 percent of the 4,429 schools required to submit plans were in compliance. Of the remaining schools, 84 had not updated their plan within the past three years and 60 had not submitted an emergency operations plan, a floor plan, or both.

Because teachers and other school personnel are the true first responders to school crises, Attorney General DeWine launched a major effort to train them in the most effective responses. The Attorney General's Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy conducted 90 trainings throughout the state in 2013, reaching 13,000 educators and law enforcement officers.

The three-hour training covered ways to identify potential problems in advance and steps to take during an incident. The training — School Shootings: How to be Aware, Prepare, and be a First Responder in a Crisis — was also provided on DVD to all Ohio school districts.

'We're here for an academic purpose, but kids need to feel safe in school. For education to take place, you have to have that foundation.'

— Amanda Clearcreek Superintendent Dave Gaul, whose district had 150 teachers, administrators, cooks, bus drivers, and custodians attend the AG's school safety training



Grants broaden Boys and Girls Clubs' impact



Attorney General DeWine's office helped expand the reach of Boys and Girls Clubs to 16 new sites through a \$4.35 million grant to the groups' state organization in 2013.

"I've seen first-hand how Boys and Girls Clubs provide young people with a safe and supportive place to learn and grow, and I am pleased that we can provide funding to help expand them in Ohio," the Attorney General said. "We want this grant to encourage additional investments by others of time, talent, and resources in Boys and Girls Clubs."

The funding will help the Ohio Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs create 13 new clubhouses to serve disadvantaged

youth in Clermont, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Lorain, Marion, Stark, and Summit counties. It will also allow for new Boys and Girls Club sites in Marietta, West Chester, and Wooster.

The grants were funded by a portion of the National Mortgage Settlement reached by the nation's attorneys general in 2012. Attorney General DeWine chose to allocate part of Ohio's share to Boys and Girls Clubs that help kids whose families and communities were torn apart by the foreclosure crisis.

A *Cleveland Plain Dealer* editorial commended the move, saying, "Predatory lending ripped the fabric of neighborhoods across Ohio, and this money can help the clubs mend it for some of the state's highest-risk youngsters."



Protecting Ohio's Families
Battling Drug Abuse

Opiates make up an increasing share of the evidence law enforcement agencies submit to BCI's Chemistry Unit to test. The unit's heroin cases jumped from **1,936** five years ago to **4,908** in 2013, an increase of **153** percent.

The drug problems confronting Ohio are diverse and complex, leading Attorney General DeWine's office to approach them from many angles and with a wide range of tools. Several sections of the office carry out this work, which furthers the efforts of local law enforcement, prosecutors, and communities.

Attorney General forms Heroin Unit

Attorney General DeWine established a new Heroin Unit in 2013 to provide Ohio communities with law enforcement, legal, and outreach assistance to combat the state's opiate problem.

Like many states, Ohio has seen a spike in heroin trafficking and abuse. As legislative and enforcement action curtailed the supply of prescription opiates, many addicts in cities, suburbs, and small towns across the state turned to heroin, also an opiate.

The Attorney General's Office worked with county coroners in 2013 to quantify the impact of heroin abuse on Ohio families. Although many coroners did not separately track heroin-related deaths in the past, the available statistics are startling. Overdoses involving heroin jumped from 315 to 725 from 2010 to 2012, according to the

available data. Scioto County also tracks deaths indirectly related to heroin, such as suicides and shootings. If its findings hold true across the state, Ohio's heroin-related death toll could be twice as high.

"Over and over sheriffs and police and coroners tell me how bad it is," Attorney General DeWine said in announcing the new Heroin Unit. "The fact is, many different segments — law enforcement, coroners, judges, treatment professionals, community groups, doctors, educators — will have to break down the silos and work together to solve this problem."

The Heroin Unit draws from new and existing resources, including:

- BCI investigative and laboratory services
- Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission assistance
- Prosecution support
- Outreach and education services

"These new efforts will not be the full solution to Ohio's heroin problem. But by providing what services we can, we hope to save lives and prevent addiction," Attorney General DeWine said.

Heroin Unit Resources

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

- Prosecution assistance: **614-629-8340**
- BCI Tip Line: **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**
- Education and outreach: **614-644-5808**
- Research: **614-466-4320**
- Grant advice: **614-466-6963**
- Victim assistance: **614-466-8245**
- Legislative information: **614-728-2279**
- Law enforcement training: **740-845-2696**
- Prescription drug drop boxes: **614-728-6069**

Actions take aim at synthetic drug sales

The Attorney General's Office helped local law enforcement and prosecutors bring 14 civil lawsuits to crack down on the sale of synthetic drugs, which have been widely sold over and under the counter in convenience stores, carry-outs, smoke shops, and other retail outlets.

These illegal drugs are marketed as synthetic marijuana, herbal incense, bath salts, and other products and sold for \$25 to \$45 per pack. They pose serious threats to users as well as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and others who come in contact with them, causing extreme agitation, paranoia, hallucinations, and suicidal behavior.

The lawsuits can hold retailers who sell the drugs and their employees and landlords accountable for creating a public nuisance and violating consumer laws that prohibit fraudulent advertising and labeling. The Attorney General also partners with the Ohio Pharmacy Board to ban new versions of synthetic drugs as they are identified.



Targeting improper prescribing

The Attorney General's Health and Human Services Section brings cases before the Ohio State Medical Board to revoke or suspend the licenses of doctors who improperly prescribe controlled substances. In 2013, the section had 44 doctors' licenses revoked and 32 doctors' licenses suspended for improper prescribing.



Forums cite need for holistic approach to state's heroin epidemic

The Attorney General launched a series of 10 community forums focusing on the heroin epidemic in 2013, allowing him to raise awareness of the problem, identify trends and resources around the state, and bring communities together to address the issue.

“Despite major efforts to fight the heroin epidemic on the state, local, and national level, the problem is not going away, and people are continuing to die,” Attorney General DeWine said, speaking to about 80 people at the first meeting in Portsmouth. “We have to fight this at the grassroots level – community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood. We have to get mad and say, ‘Enough is enough.’”

Here are the main takeaways from the first few forums:

- Addiction takes a huge toll on communities in the form of lost lives, devastated children and families, increased crime, crowded court dockets and prisons, and diverted resources.
- All facets of a community must be engaged in addressing the opiate epidemic, and communications must be strong within areas and across the state.

- Recovery from opiate addiction is possible, although it is a long, uphill battle and relapse is common because of the drugs' strong pull. Significant efforts need to be made to remove the stigma and shame associated with addiction.
- While treatment services remain limited in Ohio, medication-assisted treatment programs are showing great promise when combined with other tactics.
- Community members support the availability of Naloxone, which can reverse an opiate overdose and save lives.
- Overprescribing of pain medications remains a problem, necessitating legislative action, education, and expanded use of a statewide prescription tracking system by doctors.
- Prevention and education should begin when children are very young and continue regularly.

OPOTA offers new heroin course

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy laid the groundwork for a free regional course for law enforcement officers that covers the extent of the heroin problem, user demographics, trafficking and use in schools, investigative strategies, and prevention programs. The course is among several OPOTA offers on drug-related issues. Course descriptions and registration information for OPOTA courses can be found at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/OPOTA.

Expanding outreach helps communities

Recognizing the importance of communities' work in battling drug abuse, Attorney General DeWine announced plans to expand his office's outreach efforts. Two staff members will be added to help the office's drug abuse awareness coordinator work with communities on local strategies.

In 2013, the office assisted two community groups – Cole's Warriors in Clark County and Portsmouth SOLACE in Scioto County – in producing videos to raise awareness of opiate abuse. Featuring local teens and parents, these and earlier videos have been shown to tens of thousands of students and parents throughout the state. Programs incorporating best practices have been built around the videos to provide a broader prevention approach.

The office also works on prevention plans with numerous communities across the state, bringing together

key individuals to identify goals, strategies, and tactics specific to each location. Presentations in 2013 reached thousands of students and parents as well as audiences in a unique position to help curtail drug abuse, such as school nurses and coaches.

\$3.7 million allocated for education

The Attorney General's Drug Use Prevention Grants provided \$3.7 million in funding to 182 local law enforcement agencies in 2012-13, including 15 new grant recipients. The funds supported the efforts of 312 Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and school resource officers who worked with nearly 421,000 students.

Grants support school-based programs that educate students about drug abuse and give them tools to make smart decisions. The program also provided D.A.R.E. workbooks to officers at no cost and supported the school resource officer basic training program. More than 100 individuals were trained as new school resource officers at OPOTA's London and Richfield campuses during the 2012-13 program year.

Resources to fight drugs

Several resources and links are available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/DrugAbuse. For additional information on outreach efforts, call **614-644-5808**.



BCI, OOCIC hone in on traffickers

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) are pivotal in the Attorney General’s crackdown on drug traffickers.

BCI’s Narcotics Unit works with local law enforcement to investigate drug activity ranging from street-level trafficking to complex, multijurisdictional conspiracies. In one case, a Dayton-area trafficker was sentenced to 12 years in prison for heroin and cocaine trafficking after a BCI informant and undercover officers from the RANGE Task Force conducted several covert purchases. Searches of two residences turned up large quantities of heroin, cocaine, and weapons, leading to the dealer’s prosecution and conviction.

Another BCI unit focuses on methamphetamine labs and marijuana-growing operations. Agents coordinated the response to a record 953 meth labs throughout Ohio in 2013, exceeding the previous record of 607 set the year before. They also conducted 110 training sessions to raise awareness of the prevalence of meth, particularly the growth of volatile one-pot labs that meth “cooks” make in 2-liter bottles or similar containers. To aid in the safe disposal of meth lab waste, BCI worked with federal and state partners to establish a meth container program in Ohio. Five secure containers are located around the state to allow certified responders to safely dispose of the hazardous waste.

OOCIC coordinates the investigation of organized crime in Ohio through multiagency task forces, several of which focus on drug trafficking. A task force in Central Ohio is operated in conjunction with the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. In one recent case, investigators arrested four Mexican nationals and recovered 33 kilos of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$3.3 million from a Columbus apartment. In another case, task force members seized two chairs being shipped from Columbus to California. Inside was \$462,000 in suspected drug proceeds.



Keeping drugs out of the wrong hands

Ohioans disposed of 8,658 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs at 67 drop boxes provided to local law enforcement agencies by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Ohio Department of Health, and Drug Free Action Alliance in the program’s first year. Distribution of the secure containers began in fall 2012. For a list of drop boxes, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/DrugAbuse and click on In This Section.



**2013 OOCIC TASK FORCES’
DRUG SEIZURES**

Drug	Amount Seized	Street Value
Heroin	32.96 pounds	\$1,496,754
Marijuana	2,949.51 pounds	\$7,373,790
Cocaine	97.46 pounds	\$4,424,752
Oxycodone	8,322 pills	\$217,394
Methamphetamine	11.49 pounds	\$521,890
Crack cocaine	.62 pound	\$28,460
Other prescriptions	1,880 pills	\$7,720
Khat	704 bundles	\$52,800
Synthetic marijuana	64.55 pounds	\$293,100
Grabba	30 pounds	\$1,500
Other/misc.		\$1,300
Total drug value		\$14,419,461
U.S. currency seized		\$5,276,817



Protecting Ohio's Families

Supporting Law Enforcement

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy offered **773** courses in 2013, drawing an enrollment of **20,251** law enforcement and support personnel.

AG launches Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

Strategies that produced drastic reductions in gun-related crime in cities around the country form the foundation for the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Safe Neighborhoods Initiative," which Attorney General DeWine launched in May. Four cities — Akron, Lima, Steubenville, and Warren — were already participating by January 2014.

The initiative assists communities experiencing a high level of gun violence by focusing on the most violent offenders, typically a small group of individuals responsible for most crime. Research conducted for the Attorney General's Office shows less than 1 percent of the Ohio population commits 57 percent of all violent crime.

Through Safe Neighborhoods, law enforcement, community and church leaders, social service providers, and affected families work together to convey expectations and consequences related to gun violence. It also offers help to offenders, spells out tough penalties for homicides and shootings, and follows through with crackdowns in areas where violence continues.



'I wake up every morning wondering why. I pray that something can be done, and I'm here to help in any way that I can.'

— Veronica Greene, who lost her 24-year-old son to gun violence in 2011

OPOTA sets national benchmark



The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy became the first public safety training agency in the nation to undergo the new Gold Standard Assessment and earn Accreditation with Excellence from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The status, granted in August 2013, demonstrates OPOTA's ability to serve as a model for compliance, policy development, and record maintenance.

An internationally recognized accreditor, CALEA provides programs designed to improve the delivery of public safety services and recognize professional excellence. Its teams assess member organizations every three years through site visits, facility and record reviews, and a public information session.

"(OPOTA) embraces the philosophy of customer service, focusing its attention on partnerships with the law enforcement community it serves," the CALEA assessment team wrote. "The agency recognizes that police budgets are challenging for departments in these tough economic times, and it seeks to identify solutions in many different dimensions."

Academy works to meet agencies' constantly evolving needs

OPOTA constantly introduces new courses in varied formats and locations to meet the diverse training needs of Ohio's busy and budget-conscious law enforcement agencies. But whether in a classroom, simulator, portable training facility, or online, the academy provides first-rate instruction at little or no cost to local departments.

Through its Mobile Academy, OPOTA conducted 166 regional trainings with a total enrollment of 5,339 officers in 2013. The academy also provided 84 courses online through its free eOPOTA lineup, with law enforcement officers and others completing 40,034 course sessions.

OPOTA continues to offer a wide range of courses at its own modern facilities, which include a campus in Richfield and a main campus and Tactical Training Center in London. In 2013, the 313 classes offered in London drew an enrollment of 4,807 students, while Richfield's 120 classes were attended by 4,010 students.

The academy also provides education for peace officers and other criminal justice professionals through the Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference. Nearly 900 people attended October's 20th annual conference, where they chose from 30 workshops and heard from numerous experts. The 2013 conference focused in large part on officer safety and wellness.

Commission oversees peace officer training and compliance statewide

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission helps the Attorney General shape training and compliance standards for more than 30,000 peace officers from nearly 1,000 agencies. In 2013, the commission and its staff oversaw 706 basic academy openings, issued 2,367 basic training certificates, and administered 2,157 state certification exams.

The commission also authorized four hours of continuing professional training (CPT) for peace officers and troopers. The CPTs, which are required in 2014, are the first authorized since 2010.

In addition, the commission provides direction and curricula for peace officer basic training academies and sets the curricula for parole, probation, and corrections officers; jailers; bailiffs; private security officers; and humane agents. Staff updated 89 lesson plans covering 421 hours of instruction for peace officers, corrections staff, and others in public safety or private security.

Resources for law enforcement

Many services and tools for law enforcement can be found at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement.



Badges for Baseball a home run

Ohio's Badges for Baseball program expanded into three more communities in 2013, the second year of the endeavor that pairs kids with local law enforcement officers to learn baseball fundamentals along with leadership, respect, communications, and other life skills.

Sponsored by the Attorney General and Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, Ohio's Badges for Baseball program has reached 825 kids ages 10 through 12 in its first two seasons. Six communities — Canton, Dayton, Lima, Lorain, Youngstown, and Zanesville — have taken part.

"The kids love, love, love Quickball (a form of baseball the program includes)," said Mollie Crooks of Zanesville's Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, a program partner. "We have received such positive feedback from the staff and law enforcement mentors involved. The youth have responded to mentors and peers alike with more kind, calm, and respectful behavior. We truly appreciate the Badges for Baseball experience."

In addition to taking part in regular programming, 15 youth from Ohio's participating cities attended the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation Overnight Camp in Aberdeen, Md., in June. The kids, many of whom had never been on an airplane, spent a week playing ball and participating in team-building and personal-challenge activities.

Grants boost local efforts to address mental health issues

Individuals with mental illness often cycle in and out of the criminal justice system because of circumstances beyond their control. To address the problem, Attorney General DeWine and former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton spearhead the Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness.

The task force and its subcommittees work to raise awareness and develop innovative ideas to prevent this "revolving door effect." In 2013, the Attorney General awarded nearly \$500,000 in grants to six pilot programs aimed at assisting those with mental illness, including veterans, youth, seniors, and homeless individuals.

With its grant, the Ohio Veterans' Home trained staff members and some residents in nonviolent crisis intervention to help residents who jeopardize themselves and fellow residents. Another grant recipient, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, is establishing a pilot housing program in Hamilton County in cooperation with mental health courts.

The Attorney General also provided \$56,000 to the Ohio affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness for Crisis Intervention Team training. The 40-hour course helps law enforcement officers identify and respond to individuals with mental illness in crisis. The funds supported training for hundreds of officers in 2013.



OPOTA takes innovation on the road

Many of OPOTA's firearms and driving courses utilize 14 new, state-of-the-art simulators. Introduced in 2012, the driving simulators are housed in climate-controlled trailers that can be parked near local departments, while the firearms simulators can be set up quickly in local facilities. In 2013, the academy conducted 172 courses using the simulators, training more than 6,000 officers.

Instructors use provided schemes or build their own to focus on answering high-risk calls, conducting pursuits, clearing intersections, and enhancing other skills. The firearms simulators feature more than 425 scenarios, scenario-authoring software, and a library of firearms drills and exercises.

One of OPOTA's newest regional offerings takes place in portable facilities designed to build officers' skills in responding to active shooter incidents, clearing buildings, conducting building searches, and other responsibilities of the job. OPOTA takes the 24-square-foot structures on the road or sets them up at its London or Richfield campuses to offer the free courses.

Made of aluminum framework and plastic walls, each portable facility can be configured to form hallways, rooms, and intersections. For large-scale exercises, two or more units can be combined. In many cases, officers can train with their own department-issued

"I found that both simulators offered great training for all involved. The OPOTA staff members who came with the simulators were very professional and offered great input on the scenario-based training. I would like to thank you for making this happen for those of us at the local level who do not have funding to buy training aids like this on our own."

— Ontario Police Chief Rodney Smith in an email to the Attorney General

weapons, which OPOTA can outfit with a special bolt for simulations. And unlike abandoned buildings sometimes used for such trainings, the portable facilities provide a safe, controlled environment.

"The portable unit and training were top-notch," Officer Matt Ream of the Lancaster Police Department said after his agency participated in the first training. "It allows you to prepare for situations you hope you never have to face. You get the realism without the danger."

To learn more

Law enforcement can arrange for firearms, driving, and subject control courses in their area by sending an email to AskOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.



Protecting Ohio's Families
Assisting Crime Victims

The Attorney General awarded more than **\$17.7 million** in state and federal grants to Ohio **victim advocacy** groups in 2013-14.

The Attorney General's Office helps victims and their families rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violent crime. Crime Victim Services provides compensation to cover many eligible costs as well as programming, funding, and training for victims and victim service providers.

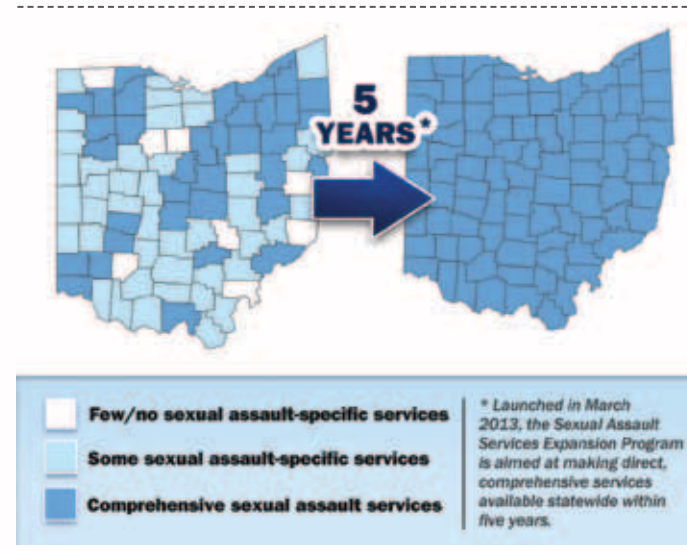
Fund compensates victims

The Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Fund can help victims and their families cover medical expenses, lost wages, funeral costs, and similar expenditures. Since it was created in 1976, the fund has paid out more than \$341 million, including \$8.8 million in 2013. Total claims reached 5,447, while new claims stood at 4,532 for the year.

Grants expand sexual assault services

Attorney General DeWine unveiled plans in 2013 to address gaps in Ohio's sexual assault response capabilities after a survey by his staff found only 36 counties offered direct, comprehensive services and eight had few or no services.

The office awarded \$195,000 in grants to hire Sexual Assault Response Network coordinators and establish 24-hour hotlines for Crawford, Wyandot, Meigs, and Perry counties. As a result, victims there now have access to emergency rape crisis services. Future grants will address needs in other counties, with the goal of making direct, comprehensive services available statewide within five years.



Attorney General DeWine has increased funding for local sexual assault programs 27 percent in the past three years. In 2013, his office led 10 trainings to improve sexual assault response, and staff members guided several counties in developing protocols for responding to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents.

The Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) program covers the cost of patients' medical exams after sexual assaults. In 2013, the SAFE program reimbursed medical facilities for 5,825 exams at a cost of more than \$3.1 million.

Funding supports service providers' work

The Attorney General administers state and federal grants to victim service providers, including domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, victim/witness assistance programs, advocacy organizations for child victims, and similar government and nonprofit agencies.

These State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) and federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants are derived from court costs and fees. During the 2013-14 funding year, 276 providers received 202 SVAA and 236 VOCA grants totaling more than \$17.7 million.

Newly funded agencies included child advocacy centers in Belmont, Guernsey, Hancock, Montgomery, and Tuscarawas counties. The centers allow advocates, law enforcement, nurses, and other professionals to come together to assist families and abused children.



Keeping Ohioans informed of offenders' status

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is an automated service that allows Ohioans to track the status of offenders in state or county custody. The Attorney General's Office and Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association make Ohio's VINE program possible. To register, visit www.vinelink.com or call **800-770-0192**.

Training advances efforts of advocates

Crime Victim Services provides expert training programs and assists in the development of policies to protect Ohio's most vulnerable victims of crime, including children and elderly residents. In 2013, the unit trained more than 1,200 criminal justice professionals and victim advocates on child and elder abuse issues.

The Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance is one of the nation's largest training events on crime victim advocacy. More than 1,000 victim advocates and criminal justice professionals attended the 2013 conference, which featured nationally recognized speakers and 33 workshops.

An Anti-Bullying Symposium held in conjunction with the conference brought together leaders from the education, health, and justice systems to address this important issue in Ohio. Participants helped create an action-oriented plan to serve as a blueprint for assisting youth at risk of being bullied.



Protecting Ohio's Families

Protecting Consumers

The Attorney General's staff fielded **26,422** consumer complaints from individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits in 2013.

To protect families, the Attorney General takes an aggressive stand against fraud and unfair business practices and a service-oriented approach with consumers. The office helps resolve consumer complaints, joins with state and federal partners to enforce consumer and antitrust laws, and safeguards Ohioans' charitable contributions.

Investigations protect consumer interests

The Consumer Protection Section opened 257 investigations in 2013. It initiated 55 lawsuits for unfair, deceptive, or unconscionable business practices and obtained 51 judgments and assurances of voluntary compliance totaling more than \$6 million in restitution, civil penalties, costs, and other relief.

In one case, Ohio earned nearly \$1.7 million in a multistate settlement that the Attorney General's Office helped forge with Toyota. At issue: when the company became aware of a sudden unattended acceleration problem, how quickly it disclosed the issue to consumers, whether ads misrepresented vehicles' safety, and if Toyota resold vehicles without proper disclosures. In all, Toyota paid \$29 million to states participating in the settlement.

Another case involved Google's placement of third-party cookies on Safari Web browsers, circumventing Safari's default privacy settings and allowing advertisers to gather information about consumers, including their Internet habits.

Google discontinued this in early 2012 after media reports about the practice. In an agreement with Ohio and 36 other states, Google pledged not to override cookie-blocking settings without consumer consent, not to misrepresent how consumers can use Google products, and to improve information it provides about cookies. Ohio received more than \$716,000 of the \$17 million settlement.

In an Erie County case, a used car dealership had failed to deliver titles to consumers who purchased vehicles from the business. The affected consumers were reimbursed by the Attorney General's Title Defect Recision (TDR) Fund, and the AG filed suit against the operators for violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act and the TDR law. The litigation concluded in a default judgment that ordered the business to reimburse the TDR Fund \$37,455 and pay a \$25,000 civil penalty.

Resources for consumers

The Attorney General's Office provides a wide range of resources and information for consumers. To file a consumer complaint, research past complaints, request a consumer awareness workshop, and find other resources, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Consumer.

Attorney General cracks down on scammers

Attorney General DeWine's office secured guilty pleas from the two ringleaders of a national telemarketing scam that bilked more than \$2 million from thousands of victims in 41 states over a five-year span. Eighteen defendants pleaded guilty in the case, in which land owners — many of them elderly — were led to believe their property was worth up to 15 times its assessed value. They were convinced to pay fees as high as \$16,000 to facilitate land sales.

The case was the biggest to date for the Consumer Protection Section's Economic Crimes Unit, which Attorney General DeWine formed in 2011 to help county prosecutors and local law enforcement root out economic crime. By the close of 2013, unit investigations had led to 83 indictments and 56 convictions.

With the assistance of local partners, the unit gained indictments in 2013 against 18 contractors accused of taking money for home-improvement services and delivering no services, materials, or refunds.

One such case involved a group of six relatives and friends who stole more than \$130,000 from elderly homeowners in four Central Ohio counties on the pretense of providing home improvements. They often approached the same

residents repeatedly, asking that a second check be written because they had lost the first check or destroyed it because it was written for the wrong amount. They pledged they had not cashed the first check, when in fact they had. All pleaded guilty by early 2014 and received sentences ranging from community control to seven years in prison. Two of the scammers previously served time for a similar hoax, but went back to their old ways after getting out of prison.

In another case, an individual was indicted for stealing more than \$160,000 from 42 victims across Ohio through his roofing repair company. After receiving the consumers' insurance checks, the owner never returned to their homes to perform the work. In addition to the criminal case, the Attorney General filed a civil action for failure to deliver the goods and services promised as well as failure to provide consumers with proper notice of cancellation rights.

Another individual was indicted for stealing more than \$139,000 from 35 victims in a storm-chasing scam in Lawrence County. The Attorney General's Office also filed a civil action against the home improvement company, alleging the individual and his company performed shoddy roofing work and in some instances failed to deliver the goods and services promised.



Services help repair identity theft fallout

The effects of identity theft can linger for years, causing damage to victims' credit reports and financial lives. The Attorney General's Office helps victims repair the damage and move forward.

In 2013, the Consumer Protection Section's Identity Theft Unit received 578 complaints and helped victims eliminate \$253,187 in fraudulent charges. Eight complaints were resolved for minors in foster care, who are particularly vulnerable to this crime.

Through the traditional assistance program, advocates work on behalf of victims to contact credit reporting agencies, creditors, collectors, and other entities that may have information resulting from fraudulent circumstances. This option is ideal for people who do not feel comfortable attempting to rectify the effects of identity theft on their own.

Under a self-help option, the office provides identity theft victims with a step-by-step guide to resolve problems. It includes contact information and sample letters to dispute information on credit reports and address other problems. A consumer advocate is available to assist as needed.

The office also provides identity theft education at its various workshops and fraud forums.

Activities raise consumers' awareness

The Consumer Protection Section's Education Unit works to inform Ohioans about their rights as consumers and to warn them about scams.

To build collaboration and awareness in the fight against fraud, the office continued its series of Community Fraud Forums, providing an opportunity for consumers, law enforcement, and caregivers to learn more about scams and work in tandem to address them.

In addition, the staff conducted more than 200 workshops and set up information tables at various events. Target audiences include older Ohioans, job seekers, small businesses, and students.



'Action!'

Teams or individuals from 62 high schools submitted 247 videos to raise awareness of Internet safety through the Attorney General's fifth annual Take Action Video Contest. The contest awarded a total of \$5,000 in college scholarships to the top three teams or individuals who submit a 60-second video on Internet safety. View the videos at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TakeActionContest.

Dispute resolution service aids thousands

Through an informal dispute resolution service, complaint specialists with the Attorney General's Office assisted 8,372 individuals, businesses, and nonprofits in resolving differences with businesses in 2013. They were able to get their money back, receive goods or services they paid for, or reach some other favorable agreement. In all, nearly \$1.9 million was returned or adjusted for consumers who participated in the process.

In one instance, a Kettering man contacted the Consumer Protection Section after being double charged \$2,699 for travel services and having no luck dealing with the company on his own. The Attorney General's Office contacted the Wilmington, Del., travel company, which said the consumer should receive a refund check within two weeks. When the check didn't arrive, the AG's office contacted the business again, and the check was in the consumer's mailbox a week later.

A consumer from Flushing in Eastern Ohio paid a discount gold broker in Encino, Calif., more than \$16,000 for gold coins and waited eight months for them to arrive before contacting the Attorney General's Office. Within two months, the consumer received the coins. "Thank you for all of your assistance," he said by email. "Without your assistance, we feel the outcome would not have been the same."

Top 10 consumer complaints

Staff members fielded 26,422 consumer complaints in 2013. Complaint specialists contact the businesses involved to address the complaints and, if necessary, work to bring them into compliance with Ohio law.

The year's top 10 complaint-generating areas were:

1. Motor vehicles
2. Collections, credit reporting, or financial services
3. Do Not Call violations
4. Internet, phone, or TV services
5. Household goods or property improvement
6. Professional services
7. Shopping, food, or beverages
8. Health and beauty
9. Sweepstakes or prizes
10. Mortgages

Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ConsumerComplaint or call 800-282-0515 if the Attorney General's Office can assist you with a consumer issue.



Investigations, legislation tighten reins on Internet cafés across the state

Internet cafés have been a concern since they began appearing around Ohio about 2009. Attorney General DeWine and others contended these sweepstakes parlors took large amounts of money from consumers by exploiting loopholes in Ohio law. Operators claimed the casino-style games were sweepstakes, not slot machines.

With the Attorney General’s support, Ohio legislators took action in 2013 to place restrictions on the number of machines cafés could have, ban cash and gift card prizes, and limit prizes to merchandise worth less than \$10. It also required cafés that chose to remain open to register with the Attorney General.

No cafés had registered by the close of 2013, and several have reportedly closed or converted their machines to legal skill games.



Report suspicious activity

The Attorney General’s BCI and Charitable Law Section assist law enforcement throughout Ohio in investigating café operations. To report an enterprise that may be operating outside the scope of the new law, call **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**.



Submit a bid-rigging tip

The office introduced a Bid-Rigging Hotline for Ohioans to anonymously report suspected bid-rigging, price-fixing, or other anti-competitive schemes. Call **800-282-0515** or visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportBidRigging** to help combat vendor misconduct that affects Ohio’s economy. For additional resources, visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Antitrust**.

Actions preserve competition

The Attorney General’s Antitrust Section enforces state and federal antitrust laws to ensure a competitive marketplace and protects taxpayers from anti-competitive activity that can raise prices to consumers and government entities alike.

In 2013, Attorney General DeWine, along with the Department of Justice and other state attorneys general, took Apple Inc. to court based on allegations that the company played a key role in a conspiracy that raised the price of electronic books to consumers. In July, the federal judge presiding over the case found Apple liable for antitrust violations. A second trial in 2014 will determine the damages Apple will pay.

Work helps safeguard donor contributions

Donors deserve to know their contributions benefit legitimate causes, and the Attorney General’s Charitable Law Section works to make that happen. Efforts to raise visibility of wise giving decisions and proper charity oversight led to a 27 percent increase in investigations into fraudulent activities and misleading solicitations in 2013. The office launched 734 investigations, up from 577 the year before.

A court ordered The American Breast Cancer Federation, The American Veterans Federation, and their founder to pay nearly \$978,000 in damages, restitution, and other costs after finding the organizations did little to help breast cancer patients and nothing to aid veterans. The Attorney General filed suit against the two groups and several defendants for multiple violations of Ohio law. The court ruled that both charities were fraudulent and ordered them to dissolve. The Attorney General will distribute proceeds from the case to legitimate charities that help breast cancer and veterans’ causes.

In another case involving Ohioans’ desire to support veterans, a man was convicted a second time for soliciting money for Ohio Veterans Source, a fraudulent charity. He was sentenced to two and a half years in prison, with no chance of early release, and ordered to pay restitution of more than \$2,000. The man was convicted in 2006 for running the same scam and served 18 months in prison, but picked up where he left off following his release and probation.

‘Bobby Thompson’ sentenced to 28 years

John Donald Cody, known for years under the stolen identity of Bobby Thompson, was sentenced in December 2013 to 28 years in prison on 23 counts, including engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, identity fraud, and complicity to money laundering and theft.

The Attorney General’s Charitable Law Section and Bureau of Criminal Investigation spent several years investigating Cody, and an attorney with the Attorney General’s Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission handled the prosecution. A jury in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court deliberated just three hours before returning its guilty verdicts.

Cody was accused of bilking nearly \$2 million from Ohioans who thought they were donating to military veterans. Nationwide, Cody’s fraudulent U.S. Navy Veterans Association is believed to have scammed residents of 41 states out of tens of millions of dollars.

“After weeks of testimony by dozens of prosecution witnesses, the defense rested without calling anyone to the stand,” Attorney General Mike DeWine pointed out when the trial concluded. “There is no defense for the scam that John Donald Cody pulled on Americans in the name of our country’s veterans.”



Protecting Ohio's Families

Supporting Economic Growth

Staff members fielded more than **1,000 consumer complaints** from small businesses and nonprofits in 2013.

Efforts help communities, families rebound

The mortgage foreclosure crisis crippled many Ohio cities under the blight of deteriorating properties. To help communities reverse the decline and renew economic vitality, Attorney General DeWine initiated the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Moving Ohio Forward Program."

The \$75 million grant program, which helps pay for the demolition of problem properties, is funded through a settlement the nation's attorneys general reached with the five largest mortgage services related to unacceptable practices. The grant program is helping hard-hit neighborhoods heal.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has reimbursed almost \$40 million in demolition expenses, and counties have contributed approximately \$24 million for demolition work. The average cost per demolition is \$7,912.



All Ohio counties on board

All 88 Ohio counties are participating in the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Moving Ohio Forward Program," and by the end of 2013, nearly 8,000 units had been demolished.

The mortgage settlement also provided Ohioans with \$366 million in consumer relief. Nearly 9,600 borrowers in the state received an average of \$38,100 through mortgage loan modifications or debt forgiveness. More than 2,700 borrowers obtained an average interest rate reduction of 2.95 percent on their mortgages, exceeding the national average reduction of 2.25 percent. About 32,500 borrowers who were foreclosed on between 2008 and 2011 received cash payments.

Attorney General DeWine also provided more than \$18 million in grants to programs that enhance safety and serve families and youth under the mortgage settlement. He designated \$4.35 million for Boys and Girls Clubs, which help children whose families and communities were affected by the foreclosure crisis.

Ohio's Legal Aid Societies are sharing a grant of \$4 million to assist families with foreclosure issues. During a one-year period ending in August 2013, the societies assisted nearly 12,000 families through the grants, including 4,893 seniors, 3,324 disabled residents, 1,319 veterans, and 791 victims of domestic violence. More than 750 children were able to remain in their homes. The societies reported saving 577 homes from foreclosure, preserving \$1.6 million in home value. The agencies have until December 2014 to disburse the funds.

An Iraq War veteran's family of six from Lima was among those assisted by the program. The veteran returned home with post-traumatic stress syndrome and physical challenges that made it difficult for him to maintain regular employment. Advocates of Basic Legal Equality obtained mortgage payment assistance until VA and Social Security benefits arrived, allowing family members to remain in their own home.

Also assisted was a mother of four whose home was placed in foreclosure after her marriage dissolved because of her husband's abuse of her children. She sought help from the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, which assisted her in gaining a divorce and the title to her family's home.

Policy aimed at detecting illegal activity

Attorney General DeWine's office adopted a self-disclosure policy that offers leniency to businesses and charities that report their own potential violations of antitrust, consumer protection, or charitable laws. The goal is to encourage the early detection and correction of illegal activity that adversely affects Ohio's economy.

If a business is granted leniency under the policy, the Attorney General's Office will not prosecute the company or seek additional monetary penalties beyond restitution to injured

Ohioans. Self-reporting businesses must agree to cooperate with any Attorney General's Office investigation into the wrongdoing and provide a complete and candid account of the unlawful activity and those involved.

Services benefit small businesses

The Attorney General's Office helps protect small businesses and others from fraud, scams, deceptive behavior, and unfair business practices. The same dispute resolution services offered to consumers are also available to small businesses and nonprofits. In 2013, the office received 1,071 complaints and helped adjust, recover, or save almost \$161,000 for small businesses.

The Attorney General's staff also helps inform businesses about Ohio's consumer protection laws and delivers dozens of presentations to small business groups throughout the state to help them understand the laws.

Resources for businesses

A business guide and other resources are at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Business.



Protecting Ohio's Families

Fighting Health Care Fraud

The Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Section posted a record year with **225** convictions — exceeding the previous year's record **218** convictions — and logged **\$75.5 million** in recoveries.

Medicaid fraud indictments lead nation

Attorney General DeWine's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ranked first in criminal indictments among all units nationwide in federal fiscal year 2012. News of the top ranking came in 2013, a record year in other respects as well. The unit processed 974 complaints, exceeding the record of 756 set in 2011, and gained 146 indictments. Convictions totaled 149, topping a record of 135 set the year before. Recoveries totaled \$73.4 million.

Significant 2013 Medicaid fraud cases include:

- In a multistate agreement, Johnson & Johnson and subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. agreed to pay \$2.2 billion in restitution, penalties, and interest to settle allegations of promoting certain prescription drugs for unapproved purposes and paying kickbacks to physicians and the nation's largest long-term care provider. The Ohio Medicaid program will receive \$52.8 million.
- A bookkeeper for two nursing homes was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$175,924 after pleading guilty to theft and health care fraud charges. He embezzled patient funds and, because the patients then had no money to offset the cost of their care, Medicaid was left to pay the bills.

Initiative holds facilities accountable

Attorney General Mike DeWine launched a new initiative to pursue nursing home operators who abuse and neglect patients in their care. While most Ohio facilities provide excellent care, these efforts — carried out by a new team of Health Care Fraud agents and prosecutors — focus on the few nursing homes with a long record of poor performance.

As a result, one such facility, a Zanesville nursing home, is currently prohibited from serving patients whose expenses are paid by Medicare and Medicaid. This affected most of the facility's patients, who relocated to other nursing homes with the help of the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Aging.

To report fraud and abuse

To report possible Medicaid fraud or patient abuse in a care facility, call **800-282-0515** or visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportMedicaidFraud** or **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportPatientAbuse**.

Steps help protect homebound Ohioans

The Attorney General helped enhance the protection of Ohioans who receive in-home care through Medicaid by advocating for a new criminal background check process for caregivers. Currently, the caregivers for elderly, ill, or disabled Ohioans must undergo a criminal background check when hired and every five years thereafter, meaning a disqualifying conviction could go undetected for several years.

The Attorney General's Office also helped secure a \$2.1 million federal grant that, along with \$700,000 in state funds, will improve the background check process.

The funds will extend use of the Attorney General's Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database Information Exchange to in-home caregivers. Long used by law enforcement and school systems, this RAPBACK system monitors criminal databases to alert employers to staff members' disqualifying convictions. The grant will allow BCI, which operates RAPBACK, to integrate other databases and ultimately extend the sources checked to state licensure and neighboring states' databases.

Workers' compensation recoveries rise

The Attorney General's Office gained 102 indictments and 76 convictions in workers' compensation fraud cases in 2013, and its \$2.1 million in recoveries topped the previous year's total of \$1.8 million.

Here are details of some significant cases:

- A chiropractor fraudulently billed the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) for overseeing therapeutic exercises intended to take 15 minutes with each patient. Instead, he routinely spent less than one minute with patients and oversaw no exercises. To hide the fraud and justify his billing, he drafted deceptive treatment notes claiming the exercises had occurred. Following a one-week trial, he was found guilty of workers' compensation fraud, theft, and tampering with records. He was ordered to make restitution of \$11,066, cover \$71,367 in investigation costs, and serve six months of community control.
- An injured worker received total disability benefits from BWC while working as a janitor under a false name to conceal his fraud. The worker pleaded guilty to workers' compensation fraud and theft. He received a suspended sentence of 18 months in jail and was ordered to pay \$105,169 in restitution and \$3,692 in investigative costs and serve five years of community control.



Protecting Ohio's Families

Representing Ohio

The Attorney General's work to collect debts owed to state government offices resulted in the **recovery of \$448,673,741** in 2013. This is the first time an Ohio AG has recovered more than \$1 billion in the first three years of a term.

The Attorney General's Office protects the interests of Ohio citizens at all levels of our legal system, from county common pleas courts to the U.S. and Ohio Supreme Courts. Its attorneys represent the state and its many agencies, offices, boards, and commissions in a wide array of legal matters.

Office defends wild animal law

The Attorney General defended the constitutionality of a new law that protects Ohioans by requiring owners of dangerous wild animals to register and microchip the animals and to obtain permits to help ensure they are properly housed and cared for. Facilities accredited by the Zoological Association of America (including many Ohio zoos), wildlife rehabilitation facilities, and other specified entities are exempt from the permitting process. A small number of animal owners filed suit, claiming the law violated their constitutional rights. They argued that the law coerced them into joining an accrediting organization, in violation of their right to free association under the First Amendment, and that the microchip requirement and restrictions on animal possession amounted to the government taking private property without compensation, in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Following a trial, the U.S. District Court found the law constitutional in all respects.

Collections at historically high levels

The work of the Attorney General's Office to collect debts owed to Ohio government agencies resulted in the recovery of more than \$1.3 billion from 2011 through 2013, marking the first time an Ohio AG has recovered more than \$1 billion for taxpayer-funded agencies in the first three years of a term. The office is the official collector of debt for state government entities and public colleges and universities. Collections in 2013 totaled \$448,673,741. The figure includes \$1.5 million collected for local government offices under a program implemented in 2012.

Work holds Wall Street accountable

Securities fraud and other forms of deceptive banking and investment practices continue to plague Wall Street. This fraud undermines investor confidence in our markets and harms Ohio's pension funds and investors around the world. Attorney General DeWine continues Ohio's lead role in major securities fraud actions that have resulted in settlements for investors, including one of the four largest settlements in securities fraud litigation history.

Court reinstates murderer's sentence

The Attorney General's Appeals Section persuaded a federal appeals court, in a special 17-judge procedure, to reinstate a murderer's death sentence after a three-judge panel threw it out. The man and some companions had robbed and shot a couple in their home, killing the woman. He later accused the state of arguing in separate criminal trials that two different suspects, he and his companion, had fired the fatal shots when only one could have done so. Although the three-judge panel agreed, the full court agreed with the Attorney General that the prosecutor had presented all available evidence in both trials and that the man deserved a capital sentence whether he was the shooter or an aider and abettor.

Work ensures teachers meet obligations

The Attorney General's Education Section works to revoke or suspend the licenses of educators whose actions fail to meet professional obligations to their students, school districts, and communities. In 2013, the section pursued cases against educators who abused special needs children, had sexual contact with students, brought handguns onto school property, drank alcohol on school property or reported to work intoxicated, bullied students in the classroom, misappropriated funds, committed testing violations, or engaged in criminal conduct.

AG protects Ohioans' civil rights

In its work to protect Ohioans' civil rights, the Attorney General's Office secured approximately \$250,000 in settlements and more than \$100,000 in judgments and conducted 15 trainings on Ohio's laws against discrimination. In one case, the Civil Rights Section obtained a \$55,000 judgment against a landlord who posted a sign at an apartment swimming pool in Cincinnati stating, "Public swimming pool, white only." A resident of the apartment complex moved out to prevent further humiliation after the landlord accused his 10-year-old biracial daughter of making the pool water cloudy because of products she supposedly used on her hair.

To arrange civil rights training

The Attorney General's Office conducts free training for employers, human resources professionals, landlords, condominium associations, and small businesses throughout Ohio to promote compliance with fair employment and fair housing laws. To arrange for training, call **614-466-7900**. For additional resources related to civil rights laws or issues, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CivilRights.



Ruling opens door to better 911 services

The Attorney General's Public Utilities Section successfully defended a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ruling that will increase the availability of next-generation 911 emergency response service for Ohioans. A federal court decision in the case allows a 911 service provider to compete in areas where another company has had a monopoly. This will promote innovation and allow for new services and benefits, including expanded access for people with disabilities, enhanced information for first responders, and increased network reliability.

Work paves way for highway projects

The Attorney General's Transportation Section assisted the Ohio Department of Transportation in acquiring the right of way for several important highway construction or improvement projects in 2013. The work helped facilitate the I-71/670 Columbus Crossroads Project, the Nelsonville Bypass, and the Portsmouth Bypass, allowing those multimillion-dollar construction projects to proceed on schedule and providing much-needed highway improvements for drivers.

Efforts safeguard Ohioans, 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 2013, the section used three different tools to protect Ohioans from asbestos exposure. In partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Attorney General investigated and prosecuted two individuals in the illegal dumping of asbestos in a residential neighborhood of Toledo. They were found guilty of four criminal violations of the Clean Air Act. The defendant who planned the crime received a one-year jail sentence for each count, a \$2,000 fine, and two years of supervised release, while the other was given a suspended jail term and fine and two years of supervised release. In Steubenville, the Attorney General won an \$850,000 civil penalty against a business and its owner for unsafely removing and illegally handling large quantities of asbestos during an industrial demolition. Also, in Marion, the office obtained a preliminary injunction requiring the removal of thousands of tons of asbestos from an abandoned site in Marion and the construction of a fence to protect children who live nearby.



Competition encourages public service

The Attorney General's Office hosted its first Public Service Mock Trial Competition to encourage Ohio law school students to consider careers in public service. About 35 second- and third-year students from seven Ohio law schools took part in the two-day competition, presenting both sides of mock cases involving telemarketing fraud. The Attorney General's Court of Claims Defense Section organized the competition, arranging for judges and the state solicitor to judge the contest and fellow staff members, prosecutors, city solicitors, and law directors from across the state to coach participating students on a weekly basis over the course of several months. The program gave public-sector employers the opportunity to see potential job applicants in action and provided participants with an exceptional learning and networking opportunity.

by the Numbers 2013

\$448,673,741



Amount the office collected in outstanding debt owed to the state, marking the first time an Attorney General has recovered more than \$1 billion during the first three years of a term

7, 13, and 158

The number of AMBER, Endangered Missing Child, and Endangered Missing Adult alerts the AG's Missing Persons Unit helped issue

1,046,503



Number of civilian background checks BCI processed, topping 1 million for the first time

99.5%

Attorney General's success rate in defending cases brought by inmates claiming their convictions or sentences were unconstitutional

144,977



Inquiries fielded by the Attorney General's Help Center, which can be reached at ...

- 800-282-0515
- www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Contact (online chat)
- Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, 30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

1,465

Public records requests the office handled throughout the year

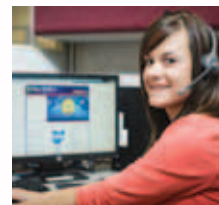


33%

The percentage of sexual assault kits BCI tested that identified a DNA source or provided an investigative lead as of Dec. 31, 2013

1,815

Contracts the office reviewed for internal and external clients



26,422

Consumer complaints the office fielded



277

Number of investigations conducted by Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission task forces, which were responsible for 395 indictments, 620 arrests, and 262 convictions statewide

2.95%

Average interest rate reduction that more than 2,700 Ohio borrowers received by refinancing mortgages through the "Ohio Attorney General's Office Moving Ohio Forward" program, exceeding the national average rate reduction of 2.25 percent

45



Official opinions the Attorney General issued in response to questions from the Ohio General Assembly, state agencies and departments, county prosecutors, and township law directors

225

Record number of convictions in health care fraud cases, 12 more than the previous high

1,621



Number of public officials and citizens who attended the office's 24 Sunshine Law trainings, which promote government transparency

FOR ASSISTANCE

The Ohio Attorney General's most frequently requested services:

Reach our Help Center

800-282-0515

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Contact

File a consumer complaint

800-282-0515

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/FileAComplaint

Submit a law enforcement tip

855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/LETips

Report a scam

800-282-0515

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ReportAScam

Pay a debt to the state

877-607-6400

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/PayOnline



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

ANNUAL REPORT
2013

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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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