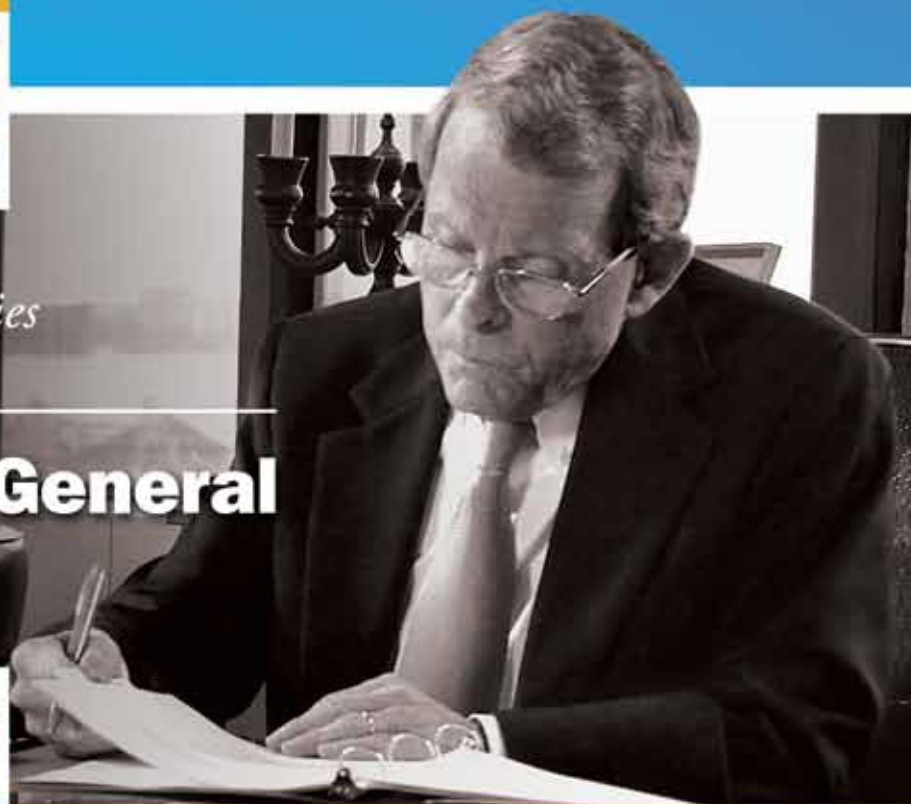




Protecting Ohio's Families

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine



“Every day in the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, we are working to protect Ohio’s families. Everything we do here comes under that.”

— Attorney General Mike DeWine

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Dear Friends,

My office remains dedicated to our mission of protecting Ohio's families. Our efforts have helped protect children and seniors, brought greater assistance to crime victims, offered resources to communities fighting heroin addiction, kept consumers apprised of pitfalls, and assisted law enforcement partners to bring criminals to justice.

Among the highlights of the past year:

- **The Ohio Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative:** As of Dec. 31, 2015, 247 law enforcement agencies had submitted 11,800 kits to be tested as part of the initiative. Forensic scientists with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) have completed testing on a total of 9,531 of the kits, resulting in 3,486 hits in the Combined DNA Index System.
- **The "Taking Back Our Communities: Combating the Opiate Epidemic" conferences:** The conferences in Chillicothe, Wooster and Mason provided the faith-based community, law enforcement and others with insight and resources to share in their neighborhoods to assist those affected by drug addiction.
- **The Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training report:** We asked an advisory group to look at how Ohio

trains its law enforcement officers. In April 2015, the group completed its report and offered recommendations. The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission is making changes in response to the report.

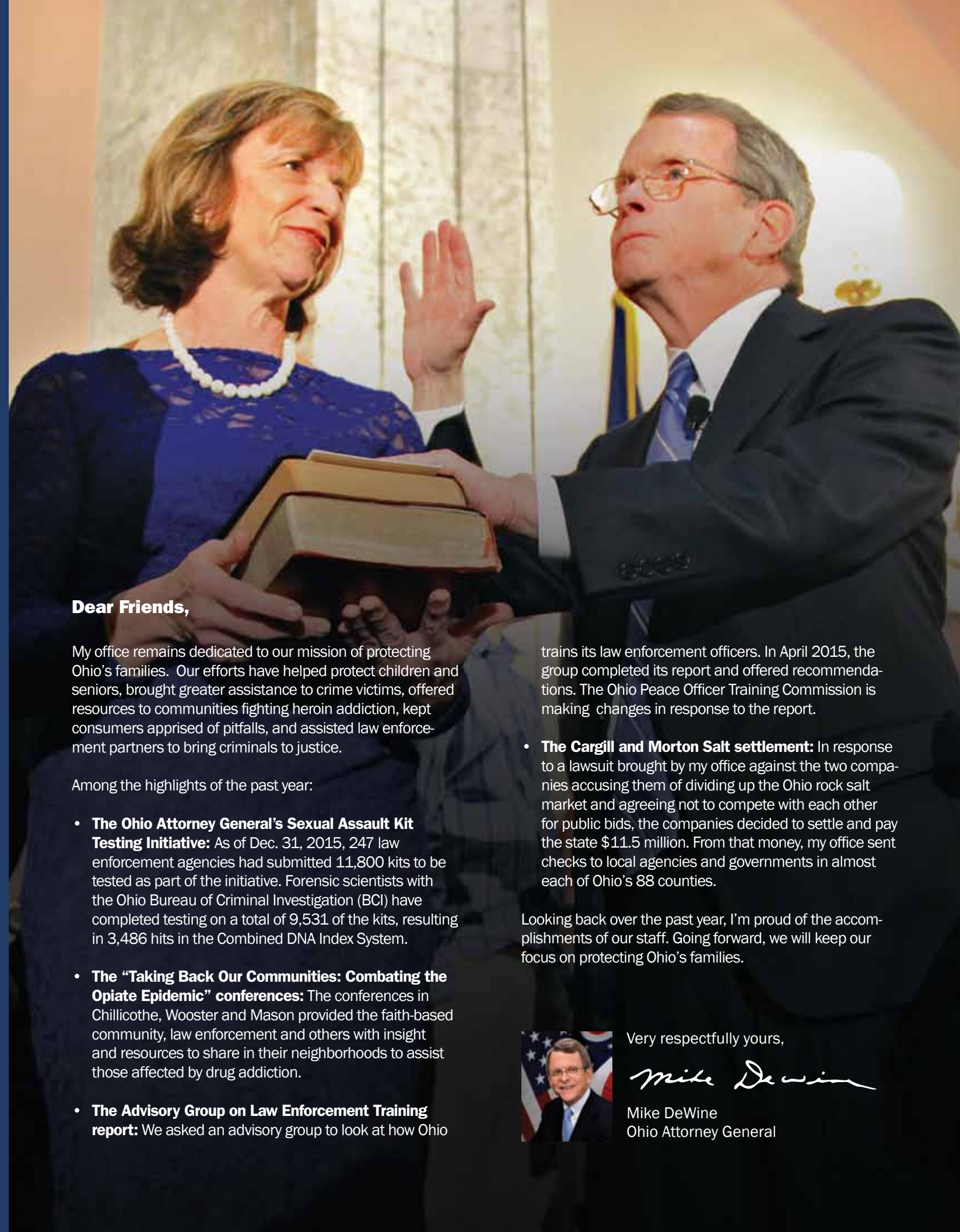
- **The Cargill and Morton Salt settlement:** In response to a lawsuit brought by my office against the two companies accusing them of dividing up the Ohio rock salt market and agreeing not to compete with each other for public bids, the companies decided to settle and pay the state \$11.5 million. From that money, my office sent checks to local agencies and governments in almost each of Ohio's 88 counties.

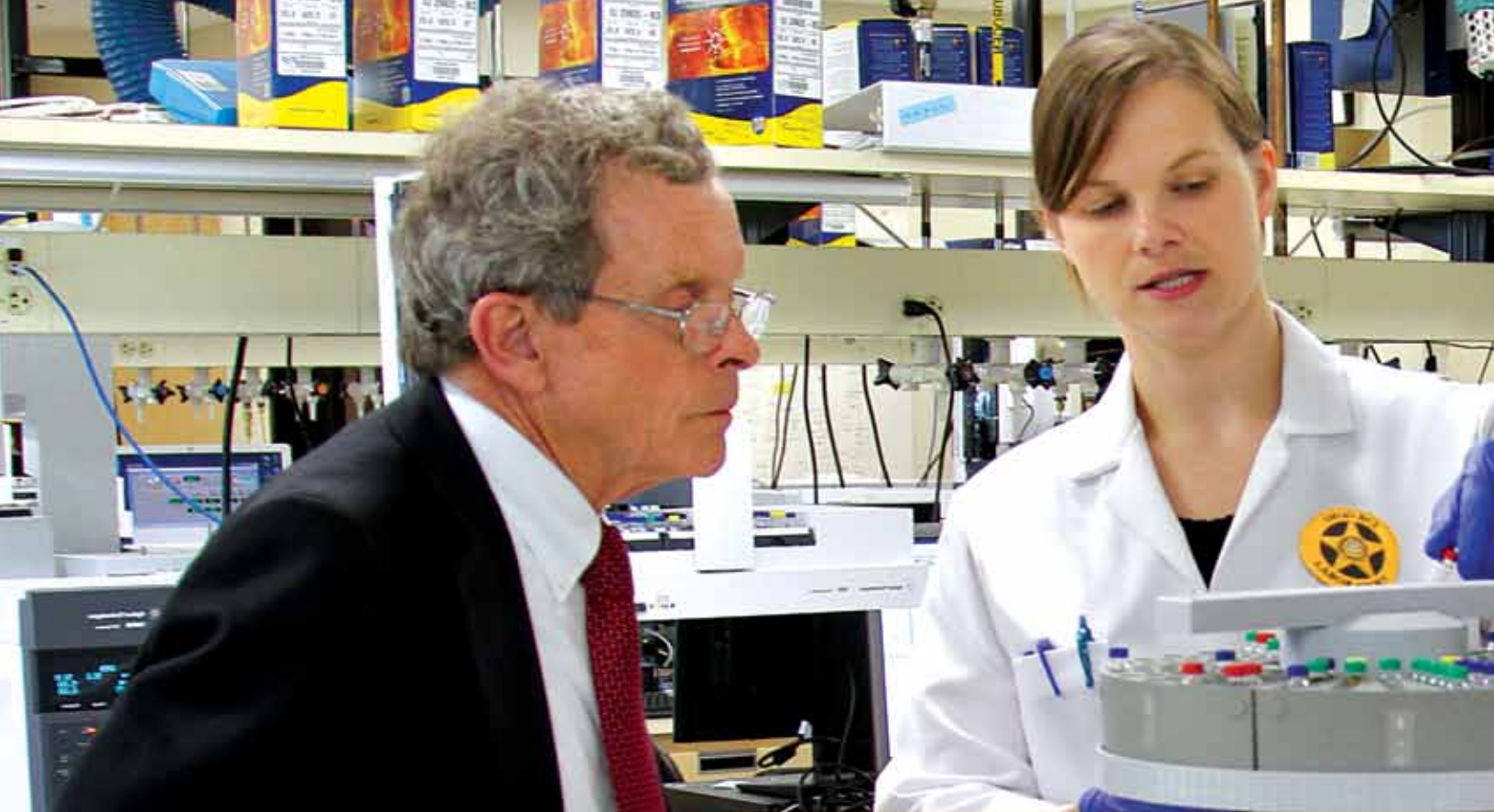
Looking back over the past year, I'm proud of the accomplishments of our staff. Going forward, we will keep our focus on protecting Ohio's families.



Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General





Above: A forensic chemist at BCI showing Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine how a gas chromatograph flame ionization detector is used in drug analysis



FIGHTING CRIME

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine started his career in public service as a Greene County prosecutor, where he saw first-hand the damage caused by criminals. Today, his office helps fight crime on many fronts. Since becoming Attorney General in 2011, DeWine has worked to make the labs and investigative units of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) among the best in the nation. Meanwhile, throughout the state, members of the Attorney General's various task forces work with law enforcement to combat organized criminal enterprises.

Operating another Safe Surrender

In October, the Ohio Attorney General conducted his sixth Fugitive Safe Surrender Program in Canton. During the four-day event, 432 individuals – some from as far away as Texas – turned themselves in and 369 warrants were cleared. “The program provides an opportunity for individuals with nonviolent warrants to come forward and take responsibility,” said Attorney General Mike DeWine. “During each program, we hear stories about people who have been on the run for years. Many of the individuals who participated in the program cleared up their warrants and can start a new life.” The program doesn't provide amnesty, but judges often give favorable consideration to those who voluntarily surrender. The Attorney General has conducted the Ohio Fugitive Safe Surrender Program, which was initially started by the U.S. Marshals Service, since 2011. More than 2,000 people have surrendered during previous events.

Preparing future forensic scientists



The Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) celebrated its first year. The innovative collaboration created by the Attorney General and BGSU is beginning to develop leaders who will revolutionize the profession of forensic science.

In 2015, the center:

- Developed forensic science undergraduate and graduate academic programs.
- Established a Forensic Science Department at BGSU.
- Provided on-campus and online training and development opportunities for forensic practitioners.
- Facilitated and funded practical forensic science projects.
- Identified houses to use for forensic investigation scenarios for academic and professional training.



Keeping agencies connected



BCI maintains the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), an electronic information network that allows law enforcement agencies to share data on criminal histories, evidence submissions, missing children, gangs, protection orders and many other topics. The OHLEG search engine received an upgrade in 2015. It has a new look, faster results and enhancements including a simplified search. The OHLEG system has more than 24,000 users who, during 2015, conducted more than 3.5 million searches.



Protecting Ohio's Families

DID YOU KNOW?

BCI has deployed five 3D laser scanners throughout the state to help investigators better document complex crime scenes. Each scanner, which sits on a tripod and rotates 360 degrees, takes millions of precise laser measurements and hundreds of digital photographs. The result is a video that guides viewers, including investigators, prosecutors and jurors, through a crime scene.



1,662

The number of new investigations opened by BCI in 2015



A forensic scientist at BCI reviewing documents from a sexual assault kit

Testing rape kits

After taking office, the Attorney General learned that thousands of sexual assault kits that had never been submitted for DNA testing – some associated with crimes going back decades – were still on the evidence shelves of law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Late in 2011, the Attorney General acted upon the recommendation of a task force formed to study the problem and urged law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio to send their previously untested kits to BCI for free lab analysis if they believed a crime had occurred.

By Dec. 31, 2015, 247 law enforcement agencies had answered his call and submitted 11,800 kits for testing. Of the 9,531 kits processed as part of Attorney General DeWine’s Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Testing Initiative, 3,486 produced hits to DNA already in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). In March, Senate Bill 316 took effect requiring law enforcement agencies to submit certain old, violent crime evidence for laboratory DNA analysis before March 23, 2016. The law also states that kits from any new cases must be submitted for DNA analysis within 30 days.

Meanwhile, Gov. John Kasich signed House Bill 6 to extend the statute of limitations for prosecution of sexual assault cases to 25 years. If DNA evidence links a suspect to an attack after 25 years have passed, five years are added for possible prosecution after the DNA link is made. In September, BCI was awarded a \$2 million grant from the District Attorney of New York to pay for the testing of sexual assault kits. The grant will be distributed as a quarterly reimbursement for qualifying kits tested during the next two years.

Two notable cases from 2015:

- An ongoing investigation by BCI agents working on the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force used DNA evidence to identify two suspects in a series of robberies and sexual assaults. The crimes involve at least four rape victims and two robbery victims.
- A BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit analyst assigned to the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force assisted on a case featuring a suspect accused of raping three women during a 14-year period. The analyst was able to locate the suspect through research. A link analysis provided an overview of the rapes, along with a reference map that visualized the pickup and assault locations. The suspect has been charged and is awaiting trial.



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)**.

Getting results to local law enforcement

BCI’s Laboratory Division, which operates facilities in London, Richfield and Bowling Green, had excellent turn-around times in 2015 while accommodating an increased workload of 38 new submitting agencies. The lab analyzed 207,830 pieces of evidence for Ohio law enforcement in 2015. Overall, the lab completed 38,522 cases and assisted 961 law enforcement agencies during 2015.

- In May, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) conducted visits at all three BCI labs and found that they are conforming to the accreditation requirements of the ASCLD/LAB International program.
- In April, an FBI auditor completed a National DNA Index System (NDIS) assessment for the London laboratories

that handle the DNA database and casework. The assessment reviewed compliance with the Federal DNA Identification Act and the NDIS operational procedures. DNA profiles submitted to CODIS were also reviewed. The evaluation found the labs working perfectly and needing no changes.



BCI’s Identification Division entered 279,618 criminal offender prints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) – 62,904 were new and 216,714 were repeat offenders. The Identification Division also processed 1,415,305 civilian background checks.



In 2015, it took BCI an average of **23.96** days to return DNA results to law enforcement agencies.

A forensic scientist making a notation on an evidence packet at BCI

Fighting human trafficking

The Attorney General's Office continues its fight against human trafficking, which affects some of the most vulnerable members of society, including many children. In September, Attorney General DeWine joined government and human rights officials, including Cindy McCain, the McCain Institute for International Leadership's Human Trafficking Advisory Council chairwoman, for a discussion on child sex trafficking in the United States. "Our Children are Not for Sale" was part of a series of regional conferences conducted by the McCain Institute to address efforts to combat child sex trafficking at the local, state, and federal levels.



The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission — made up of elected and appointed officials and representatives of law enforcement, social service agencies, religious groups and schools — works to end trafficking and help victims. The commission expanded its membership in 2015 to include business leaders from throughout the state and developed a continuing legal education program titled "Using the Law to Fight Human Trafficking."

In 2015, local law enforcement agencies reported more potential human trafficking investigations and arrests than ever: 102 investigations leading to 104 arrests and 33 successful criminal convictions. Among the 2015 cases of note:

- In October, the owners of several central Ohio massage parlors were sent to prison after being convicted on multiple charges related to human trafficking. The case was investigated by members of the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. The case came to light after area residents submitted tips to law enforcement that workers at the massage parlors were living at the businesses and selling sex. Investigators found that the owners were bringing women in from China with promises of jobs and then forcing them into slavery.
- In November, a 38-year-old northeastern Ohio man was sentenced to more than 27 years in federal prison after an investigation by the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force showed that he had been harboring a 17-year-old girl in a motel room in Whitehall and taking sexually explicit photos of her to post on the Internet. The victim said she had been in a relationship with the man since she was 15. The jury convicted the man of production of child pornography.

Combating organized crime

Attorney General DeWine oversees the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) which provides support to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that uncover organized criminal enterprises within their jurisdictions. The commission combats these criminal enterprises primarily by establishing task forces. Some cases of note from 2015:

- In June, OOCIC's "Operation Safety Net" resulted in federal charges against eight individuals, including a teacher, in Dayton. Six were accused of conspiracy to possess drugs with intent to distribute. Two others were accused of forging prescriptions for painkillers. According to investigators, the suspects purchased dozens of forged painkiller prescriptions for Oxycodone, Percocet and Vicodin and then sold them on the streets for a profit.
- On Aug. 12, detectives from OOCIC and the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) intercepted and delivered a karaoke machine containing more than 13 pounds of cocaine to an address in Columbus. The parcel was accepted and search warrants were executed. During the searches, detectives recovered a similar package containing another 13 pounds of cocaine. Two arrests were made.
- On Nov. 16, the Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force arrested a man who had been deported three times and seized 20 pounds of heroin with a \$1 million street value and about \$300,000 in cash. Authorities also seized five handguns and paraphernalia used in processing and packaging illegal drugs and illicit drug proceeds. The man had been keeping heroin and drug money in houses in Harrison Township, Dayton and Shelby County. Federal, state and local drug agents served search warrants at the homes, resulting in the seizure of the drugs, \$150,000 in cash, weapons and paraphernalia.



In 2015, task forces associated with the OOCIC seized illegal and prescription drugs with a street value of more than **\$28 million**; seized more than **\$4.4 million** in U.S. currency; served **592** search warrants; arrested **800** suspects on **2,205** felony counts; and seized **216** firearms.



Tackling complex cases

The Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Section's attorneys 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 2015, the section opened more than 505 cases in 67 counties. Here are a few cases of note from the past 12 months:

- In Athens County, Sheriff Patrick Kelly was convicted of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, perjury and theft in office (regarding misuse of county funds). He was sentenced to seven years in prison.
- In Union County, a Marysville man was convicted by a jury in May of rape, sexual battery and gross sexual imposition after abusing young girls in his care. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.
- A 54-year-old Wapakoneta man was convicted on 43 charges of sexual battery, rape and gross sexual imposition. The charges stemmed from abuse of a child about 20 years ago. In October, he received four life sentences plus 145 years. His ex-wife, who was also involved in the sexual abuse, was sentenced to 15 years.



Left: Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with Cindy McCain at the "Our Children Are Not For Sale" Conference, where DeWine took part in a panel discussion about efforts to combat child sex trafficking



Warning of e-cigarette use

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has a long record of protecting Ohio children from underage tobacco use, cautioned the public about the risks of e-cigarette use among children and young adults. Electronic cigarettes, battery-operated devices that heat liquid nicotine and other chemicals into a vapor that is inhaled by the user, are being made to appeal to children and look like common items found in kids' backpacks. During a news conference in August, DeWine and Dr. Peter Shields of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute displayed the devices in kid-enticing designs and showed nicotine liquid packaged to look like candy. DeWine led a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general in urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate e-cigarettes and related products in the same way other tobacco-product advertising is regulated. He also has urged companies selling the products to act in a responsible manner, including limiting youth exposure to e-cigarette marketing.

Listening to teens



In August 2014, the Attorney General's Office put together a Teen Ambassador Board of juniors and seniors from public, private, charter, home

schools and online schools throughout Ohio. In 2015, members of the board continued to advise the office on issues relating to teens. More than 150 students now serve on the board, representing more than 110 different schools in 44 counties. During the 2015 Law Enforcement Conference in October, members of the board took part in "What Are They Thinking? A Guide to Working With Teens and Understanding Social Media," a workshop for peace officers.

In honor of Right to Read Week, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine reading to a second-grade class at Devonshire Elementary School in Columbus

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Attorney General DeWine's Crimes Against Children Unit worked **178** cases in **52** counties; helped **81** local law enforcement agencies; processed **84** requests for assistance; executed **63** search warrants; and made **35** arrests in 2015.



The Ohio Attorney General's Office maintains Web pages devoted to Ohio's missing children. To read about, see photos of, or offer tips about missing children, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov and search for "Missing Children."



Responding to children who have special needs

In December, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), along with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Autism Speaks, conducted a workshop to prepare instructors to train law enforcement and first responders with essential strategies to understand and be prepared to respond effectively and safely to situations that involve individuals with autism. The workshop provided a full curriculum for instructors to present to their respective agencies to increase knowledge of autism. More than 50 instructors attended the workshops.



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

To coincide with National Missing Children's Day in May, the Attorney General's Office published its 2014 Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse Report, which documents that 18,097 children were reported missing in Ohio in 2014, and 17,826 were recovered safely. The Ohio Missing Person's Unit was developed to better coordinate and convey information about services related to missing children and adults. The unit operates the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse and is part of BCI.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with students at the Carpe Diem Aiken school in Cincinnati

Remembering missing children



Fifth-graders from throughout Ohio participated in the 2015 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice.

In Ohio, the AMBER Alert Steering Committee and the Attorney General's Missing Persons Unit coordinate the program. The theme, "Bring Our Missing Children Home," creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement and child advocates to talk about the issue of missing children and to promote child safety. Each year, the Ohio winners are honored during the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance.



Working together to protect kids



The Attorney General's Crimes Against Children Initiative, started in 2011, focuses on identifying, arresting and convicting people who prey on children. The 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. In 2015, the Crimes Against Children Unit assisted 81 law enforcement agencies in 178 cases. The unit helps in a variety of investigations including child sexual abuse, child pornography, online enticement and human trafficking. A few cases of note in 2015:

- On Jan 16, 2015, the Campbell Police Department asked BCI to assist with an investigation involving a high school teacher who was suspected of having an inappropriate relationship with a student. Interviews confirmed that a sexual relationship had occurred with that student and two former students. Social media and cellphones showed the teacher had received child pornography and sent nude photos to the students. On Oct. 15, the teacher pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual battery and one count of both illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material or performance and disseminating material harmful to juveniles. She was sentenced to four years in prison.

- On Oct. 3, agents from the Crimes Against Children Unit, supported by other BCI units, were asked to assist with the case of a 2-year-old who had gone missing in North Bloomfield. Special agents and analysts assisted with interviews, background investigations and searches of residences and surrounding properties. On Oct. 5, the child was found alive in a nearby field.
- Agents from the Crimes Against Children Unit responded to a request to assist the Uhrichsville Police Department with an investigation involving a coach suspected of having an inappropriate relationship with a female student. After numerous interviews, he was indicted on March 30 in the Tuscarawas County Common Plea Court. In September, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three and a half years in prison.
- In Madison County, the Crimes Against Children Unit was asked to conduct an online undercover investigation into the transmission and distribution of images and videos of suspected child exploitation. Undercover operations yielded 20 files of suspected child sexual exploitation. Investigative efforts revealed the subscriber information came back to a man who then confessed that he had downloaded the child pornography. On June 2, he was sentenced to five years of probation and is now a Tier II sex offender.



Drug abuse resistance education

362,000

The approximate number of students who participated in a drug abuse resistance education program in 2015



From left: Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, State Solicitor Eric Murphy and Deputy Solicitor Sam Peterson, with the award

Preserving Ohio's abuse-reporting system

The Appeals Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office was recognized in June for its work on the U.S. Supreme Court case Ohio v. Clark, which involved a Sixth Amendment challenge that threatened to undermine the child abuse reporting system. In the end, the court unanimously agreed with Ohio's position, preserving the state's strong reporting system and its ability to effectively protect children from abuse.

The legal team's brief asked the court to overturn another court's ruling, which had thrown out a child-abuse conviction.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously agreed with Ohio's position, which was argued by Matthew Meyer of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office.



**60
MINUTES**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine being interviewed by 60 Minutes correspondent Bill Whitaker at BCI in London for a segment about Ohio's heroin epidemic



BATTLING DRUG ABUSE

Ohio has been hard hit by the opiate epidemic. The state's overdose death rate from heroin and opiate pain medications soared to a record high in 2015. No county, suburb or city is immune to drug abuse. The Ohio Attorney General's Office confronts the problem from multiple perspectives and with many resources. A collaborative approach — with several sections of the office working to support and actively assist communities, schools and law enforcement in practical ways — has increased awareness and helped save lives.

Gathering support against drugs



The Attorney General's Heroin Unit, developed in 2013 to go after opiate traffickers and to work with communities affected by the opiate epidemic, prosecuted more than 150 heroin-related criminal cases in fiscal year 2015. The unit combines the skills of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the Special Prosecutions Section and drug abuse outreach specialists.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's outreach specialists conducted community meetings and other presentations throughout the state in 2015. The community meeting attendees learned more about the epidemic and developed an action plan to combat it. After the meetings, the outreach team produced tailored plans to share existing services, effective strategies and collaborative solutions with communities.

Getting the word out about naloxone

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that reverses the effects of an opiate overdose. Naloxone, administered an estimated 74,000 times in Ohio between 2003 and 2012, with 17,000 of those doses in the past two years, is widely used. Its availability and use are essential in saving lives.

- The Attorney General's Office provides online training for peace officers on the emergency administration of naloxone. The training is available through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG). A public version of the training is available on the Attorney General's website.
- The BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit in Richfield assisted the Attorney General's Heroin Unit by processing location data provided by Ohio Emergency Medical Services and mapping more than 17,000 incidents in which naloxone was administered throughout the state during the past two years. The Heroin Unit shared the information with law enforcement to show areas of high drug overdose occurrences for potential increased police focus.



Supporting prevention education

To educate students about drug abuse and give them the tools to make smart decisions, the Attorney General's Drug Use Prevention grants provided about **\$3 million** in funding to **157** local law enforcement agencies, including eight new grant recipients. The funds support school-based programs and helped **265** Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and school resource officers work with almost **362,000** students during the 2014-2015 program year.

Providing resources

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

- Heroin Unit: **614-644-5808**
- Prosecution assistance: **614-629-8340**
- BCI Tip Line: **855-BCI-OHIO (855-224-6446)**
- Law enforcement training: **740-845-2696**



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

Marin's Story: The Battle Against Heroin, a video produced by the Attorney General's Office about a young woman's addiction and the toll it took on her family, has been viewed millions of times. To see it, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine speaking at a community drug conference in Mason, Ohio, to try to encourage grassroots efforts to curb heroin use

Targeting opiates



In 2015, the Attorney General spearheaded efforts to provide awareness about the drug epidemic and establish different methods for those suffering from addiction to obtain help.

- The “Taking Back Our Communities: Combating the Opiate Epidemic” conferences in Chillicothe, Wooster and Mason provided the faith-based community, law enforcement and other community members with valuable insight and resources to share in their areas to assist those affected by drug addiction. Guest speakers and expert panelists offered details on current drug trends in Ohio; shared information about the signs of addiction; and provided information about local resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services.
- In Lucas County, the Attorney General’s Office partnered with the sheriff’s and prosecutor’s offices and the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board to establish the Drug Abuse Response Team (DART). Working beyond their role as first responders, the DART officers and victim advocates intervene in situations involving opiate overdoses and/or abuse with victims and their families. Upon contact, the team provides an overdose survivor with information on recovery and mental-health resources. This year, DART encountered an estimated 700 individuals and family members. For more information about DART, contact the Lucas County Sheriff’s Office at **419-213-4960**.

Arranging for rebates

Naloxone is cost-prohibitive for many communities and agencies. In order to help make it more readily accessible, the Attorney General, on March 2, 2015, entered into an agreement with the drug’s manufacturer, Amphastar Pharmaceuticals Inc. Amphastar agreed to provide a \$6 rebate for each naloxone syringe purchased by non-federal, Ohio government agencies, including Project DAWN community programs and law enforcement, county and local government agencies. Only Amphastar-manufactured naloxone syringes bought between March 2, 2015, and March 1, 2016, are eligible for rebates. In 2015, throughout Ohio, the Attorney General’s office provided communities with \$91,272 in rebates, helping to save money and save lives.



DID YOU KNOW?

Naloxone (also known by the trade name Narcan) is an antidote used to reverse an opioid overdose. It has been used by medical personnel for decades to save lives. In 2014, House Bill 170 passed allowing peace officers to carry and administer naloxone. In July, House Bill 4 made it available without a prescription.

Seizing drugs, money

The Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC) assists local law enforcement agencies in combating organized crime and corrupt activities. The OOCIC is made up of members of the law enforcement community and is led by the Attorney General. Any person can file a complaint with the commission requesting the investigation of organized crime or corrupt activities. Complaints filed with the OOCIC are confidential. In 2015, authorities working in OOCIC task forces throughout the state seized more than \$28 million worth of drugs, more than \$4.4 million in U.S. currency and 216 firearms.



422

The number of convictions made in 2015 by Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission task forces

Working to shut down operations

BCI’s Northwest Special Operations Unit, which supports local, state and federal law enforcement agencies including the Toledo Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) task force, the Defiance County Multi-Area Narcotics (MAN) Unit and the Toledo Police Department’s Heroin Unit, made significant drug and currency seizures in 2015. Among the highlights:

- In February, agents initiated an investigation into a heroin-trafficking organization. The investigation ended in September with the seizure of heroin, crystal meth and the federal indictments of 18 suspects from throughout the United States.
- In September, agents concluded an investigation of an organization involved in the trafficking of heroin and cocaine. Agents seized drugs and \$300,000. Thirty-seven suspects were arrested. The Ohio Attorney General’s Special Prosecutions Section assisted in the case.

BCI’s Southeast Special Operations Unit has agents dedicated to DEA task forces in Columbus and Delaware County, and with the Parcel Interdiction Unit of the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force. The Southeast Special Operations Unit made significant drug and currency seizures in 2015. Among the highlights:

- Agents conducted an investigation of a Mexican organization that was suspected of trafficking meth and heroin in central Ohio. During the investigation, agents seized meth with a street value of more than \$1 million, heroin with a street value of \$22,700, two firearms and \$11,606. Four arrests were made.

2015 OOCIC TASK FORCES’

NARCOTICS SEIZURES



Drug Seized	Amount Seized	Street Value
Heroin	130.9 pounds	\$5,942,860
Cocaine	269.23 pounds	\$12,223,042
Methamphetamine	19.51 pounds	\$885,754
Marijuana	4,345.33 pounds	\$6,517,995
Opioid Pain Pills	6,194 pills	\$154,850
Other prescriptions	3,756 pills	\$18,780
Crack Cocaine	1.43 pounds	\$64,922
Miscellaneous Drug Seizures (Grabba, THC, Hash GHB, MDMA, Synthetics)		\$2,775,049

TOTAL DRUG VALUE.....\$28,583,252



Casting a wide net

For several weeks during the summer, various task forces involved with BCI took part in a statewide drug enforcement effort. The Ohio Task Force Commanders’ Association organized the effort, which involved more than 400 law enforcement officers. The goal of “Operation OTFCA” was to target those trafficking drugs such as heroin, prescription drugs and cocaine in Ohio’s communities.

As part of the operation, 108 search warrants were served and 409 people were arrested on 920 charges. Of the charges, 224 were heroin-related, 140 involved cocaine offenses, 110 related to prescription drugs, 82 involved marijuana and 51 involved methamphetamine.



Above: Attorney General Mike DeWine greeting a Cleveland Metropolitan School District security officer at the Ginn Academy



SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Ohio Attorney General's Office supports law enforcement by offering technology, training and expertise through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

In 2015, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and its staff issued **7,417** basic training certificates, and administered **3,111** state certification exams.

Increasing police training

In October, Attorney General DeWine set new peace officer and trooper Continued Professional Training (CPT) reimbursement requirements for 2016.

The new critical subject CPT requirements follow recommendations made by the Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training.

Peace officers and troopers will be required to complete 11 hours of CPT in 2016, up from four hours in 2015. Officers can take any training, approved by OPOTA, on any general law enforcement subjects to meet the 11 hours required by law. However, to be reimbursed, officers must take training on the critical subjects of:

- Community-police relations with a suggested focus on implicit bias, procedural justice, and Blue Courage (4 hours).

- Crisis de-escalation with a required focus on mental illness (2 hours).
- Constitutional use of force (2 hours).
- Human Trafficking Update (1 hour).

As an option to fulfill the reimbursement requirements, those topics are being combined in the new course "Policing in the 21st Century." The human trafficking update course, which is also a required critical subject for reimbursement, will be available through eOPOTA. The remaining two hours of required training may be about general law enforcement topics.

Resources for law enforcement

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



Striving to reduce line-of-duty deaths



In May, deputies, officers and troopers gathered at the Statehouse for an event to recognize a training initiative to reduce law enforcement line-of-duty deaths nationwide to less than 100.

The Attorney General continues to support the Below 100 campaign, which reminds officers to use seat belts, slow down, wear body armor, concentrate on what is important at the moment and remember that complacency kills.

Since 2014, officers throughout Ohio have been receiving the training.



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

In May, Information Technology Services workers from the Ohio Attorney General's Office handed out new computers, monitors and scanners to each of the state's 88 sheriff's offices to be used for loading information about sex offenders into the OffenderWatch system. The equipment was provided free to law enforcement thanks to a federal grant. OffenderWatch is a national database and community-notification system used to keep track of sex offenders. It can be viewed by the public on the websites of sheriff's departments.



Officers from the Dayton Police Department playing ball with children at a Badges for Baseball clinic featuring Cal Ripken Jr. (far right photo)



Uniting kids and police

New players continued to step up to the plate for Ohio's Badges for Baseball program in 2015. Sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, the program pairs local law enforcement and children to help build character and teach critical life lessons through an academic leadership program and the game of baseball. The program, in its fourth year, also provides additional events for the kids, including a baseball clinic, College Experience Day and a weeklong summer camp in Maryland. In July, the Attorney General, Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. and officers from the Dayton Police Department participated in a baseball clinic. About 75 children, ages 10 to 14, picked up playing tips from the Baltimore Orioles great during the event at the Boys and Girls Club of Dayton. The annual summer camp in Baltimore hosted 24 kids and six mentors from Ohio. "The Badges for Baseball program has helped the kids grow in their relationship with local law enforcement and has helped law enforcement have a better understanding of our kids," said Germaine McAlpine, executive director of the Youngstown Boys & Girls Club. Since its inception in Ohio, the Badges for Baseball program has reached 2,358 children ages 10 through 12 in Canton, Dayton, Hamilton, Lima, Lorain, Springfield, Youngstown and Zanesville.

To learn more

Law enforcement can arrange for on-site firearms, driving and subject control courses. Send an email to AskOPOTA@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Providing quality instruction



The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) continues to introduce new courses in varied formats and locations to meet the diverse training needs of Ohio's law enforcement agencies. 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 146 regional trainings with a total enrollment of 4,296 officers in 2015. The academy also provided 93 courses online through its free eOPOTA offerings, with about 18,000 law enforcement officers and others completing 84,476 course sessions.

OPOTA offers a wide range of courses at its modern facilities, including a campus in Richfield and a main campus and Tactical Training Center in London. In 2015, the 936 classes offered in London drew an enrollment of 4,953 students, while Richfield's 253 classes were attended by 2,482 students.

The academy also provides education through the Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference.

Improving standards

In December 2014, the Attorney General asked an outside group to review the state's system for peace officer training. He appointed an advisory group of 16 people with diverse personal and professional backgrounds 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 recommendations regarding improving standards for those interested in entering an academy, basic training and certification, continuing education, and also included innovations to improve the law enforcement profession. In November, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) issued an update on progress made toward fulfilling the recommendations. OPOTC has made changes in response to many of the recommendations and is working toward resolution on the others.



The changes made as of the November review:

- Applicants for peace officer training are required to have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- OPOTC set an order of topics to be taught in basic training. The change will be mandatory on July 1.
- From now on, curriculum content is to be taught in its entirety.
- The minimum number of hours for basic training has been raised from 605 to 653.
- More community-police relations training, including implicit bias and procedural justice, has been added to basic training. Blue Courage, a training that focuses on resilience, positive attitude and sound judgment, is also among the additions.
- A mental-health panel will take part in basic training.
- An additional 50 hours of scenario-basic training has been added to basic training.
- Advanced training on legal updates, community-police relationships, and mental health have been made critical subjects of Continuing Professional Training.

Shaping training, compliance criteria

In 2015, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) celebrated its 50th year. The commission helps shape training and compliance standards for 31,469 peace officers from 957 agencies as well as corrections, private security, probation and parole officers, and humane agents and bailiffs. In 2015, the commission and its staff issued 7,417 basic training certificates, and administered 3,111 state certification exams. In addition, the commission provides direction and curricula for peace officer basic training academies and sets the curricula for corrections, private security, probation and parole officers, and humane agents.



38,522

Cases that the BCI lab completed in 2015 (It assisted 961 law enforcement agencies.)

Grant update



The Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness — which Attorney General DeWine co-chairs with Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, retired, of the Ohio Supreme Court — has worked on a broad range of projects to increase public safety and reduce the number of individuals with mental illness trapped in the criminal justice system. In June, the task force reported on the status of programs that received grants from the Attorney General's Office from a settlement as a result of a bankruptcy discharge of Richland Hospital in Mansfield.

Ohio Housing Finance Agency.....	\$215,250
Ohio Department of Youth Services.....	\$82,500
Veterans Courts Peer Mentoring Program.....	\$31,000
Ohio Department of Veterans Services.....	\$21,238
Mercer County Sheriff's Office.....	\$25,000
Hancock County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.....	\$25,000



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and other volunteers assembling toiletry kits of personal-care items to be donated to domestic violence shelters



ASSISTING CRIME VICTIMS

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

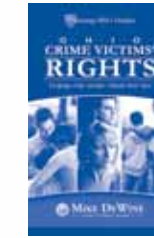


"Having a safe place for survivors to stay in Logan County gives these individuals and families one more opportunity to help them on their road to safety." — Jeannie Dempster, CEO of Consolidated Care Inc., after finding out that the agency would be able to provide a domestic violence shelter with grant money awarded through the Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative

Helping colleges respond to sexual assaults

The Attorney General announced three initiatives to help Ohio's colleges and universities better respond to sexual assaults. First, his office dedicated \$3 million in competitive grants to allow campuses to strengthen their victim advocacy programs. Also, the Attorney General prepared a model Memorandum of Understanding for law enforcement, prosecutors and victim services providers. The plan defines each party's role when a sexual assault is reported, which is important since, in many cases, law enforcement investigations and campus disciplinary proceedings begin simultaneously. Finally, throughout the year, the Attorney General's Office offered seven Campus Sexual Assault Investigation training sessions to update law enforcement and others about federal laws, victim advocacy, forensic exams, evidence collection and constitutional issues. The sessions drew 597 attendees. The office also provided a workshop on campus sexual assault during the Ohio Attorney General's 2015 Law Enforcement Conference in October.

Compensating victims



The Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Fund can help victims and their families cover medical bills, lost wages, funeral costs and similar expenses. Since it was created in 1976, the fund has paid out more than **\$355 million**, including **\$6.9 million** in 2015.

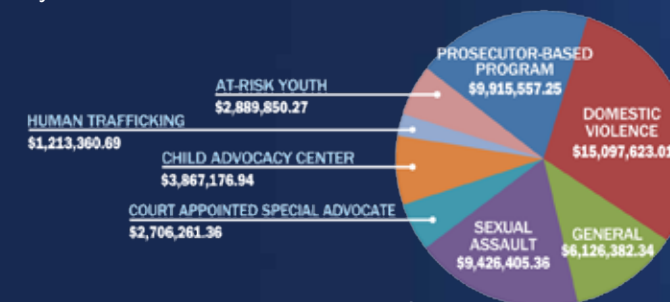
Seeking insight from professionals

In September, the Attorney General assigned a panel of 15 professionals to advise his office on ways to further assist victims of crime who have special needs. The Advisory Committee on Crime Victims With Disabilities includes advocates for people with disabilities, mental-health and addiction specialists, and law enforcement representatives.



Expanding services

In October, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine started a statewide initiative to expand crime victim services. The "Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative" gave more than \$51 million to 307 crime victim service providers. The money comes from fines paid by federal offenders.



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is an automated service that enables Ohioans to track the status of offenders in state or county custody. In 2015, new registrations reached 50,855, and telephone site searches totaled 290,852. Greater use of smartphones moved more inquiries to email and VINEmobile: During 2015, the VINE email attracted 68,681 clients, and VINEmobile app received 66,046 inquiries, or about 5,504 per month.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine visiting with diners at Tom's Ice Cream Bowl in Zanesville

PROTECTING SENIORS

To protect Ohio's senior citizens, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine launched an Elder Justice Initiative in 2014 to increase the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse cases and improve victims' access to services. The initiative is a collaborative effort among several sections of the Attorney General's Office, including the Crime Victim Services, Consumer Protection, Health Care Fraud, and Special Prosecutions sections, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). The team helps local communities with investigations, forensic analysis, case presentation and prosecution, and training and technical assistance.



Investigating exploitation

A 2009 study by the MetLife Mature Market Institute, the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University reported that financial abuse accounts for 30 to 50 percent of all forms of elder abuse. In 2015, the Elder Justice Initiative received 570 requests for assistance; the majority of complaints involved the financial exploitation of victims 60 years or older. Among the cases in 2015:

- In May, after an investigation conducted as part of the Elder Justice Initiative, two Marietta residents were charged with theft from the elderly and receiving stolen property. The two are accused of stealing more than \$128,000 from a 71-year-old woman. BCI agents began investigating after a call to the Elder Justice Initiative tip line.
- A couple were indicted in July after being accused of improperly spending more than a million dollars belonging to an elderly relative. The indictments followed an investigation conducted as part of the Elder Justice Initiative.

Raising awareness



Cases involving abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation of older vulnerable adults are often overlooked. The Administration on Aging summarized a series of research studies on the incidence and prevalence of elder abuse and concluded that while data from state agencies show an increase in the reporting of cases, an overwhelming number of elder abuse cases go undetected each year.

Working to combat this, the Attorney General and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio launched a billboard campaign in May aimed at raising awareness about elder abuse. The effort resulted in the association donating space on more than 200 billboards throughout Ohio for an advertisement urging those who suspect a friend or loved one is being abused to report their suspicions to local authorities or the Attorney General's Office.



Supporting stronger Adult Protective Services laws

The Attorney General announced his support for House Bill 24, the Ohio Elder Justice Act. The bill was introduced on Jan. 29, 2015, and passed the Ohio House of Representatives on March 17, 2015. It is pending in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. It would strengthen Adult Protective Services laws by improving the response to elder abuse incidents and by encouraging the reporting of such cases. The Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission provided many of the recommendations included in the legislation. If signed into law, House Bill 24 would place the commission in statute to increase awareness and improve education on elder abuse; improve policy, funding and programming related to such abuse; and identify ways to coordinate statewide efforts to address the issue.



Protecting Ohio's Families

Each one of us has a responsibility to keep vulnerable elders safe from harm. If you know an elder that you suspect has been a victim of abuse or financial exploitation, contact local authorities or the Attorney General's Elder Justice Initiative at **800-282-0515**.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Attorney General's Office provides training about elder abuse for the public, as well as law enforcement officers, social workers, medical providers and others. The goals of the training are to enhance efforts in holding offenders accountable and to assist victims.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with consumers who received help from his office after having trouble getting inaccuracies removed from their credit reports



PROTECTING CONSUMERS

To protect consumers, the Attorney General's Office fights fraud, helps resolve consumer complaints, enforces consumer protection laws, assists people who have been harmed by identity theft, and investigates and prosecutes cases.

Anyone who suspects a scam should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at **1-800-282-0515** or **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.

Looking out for consumer interests

In 2015, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section opened 243 investigations; filed 40 lawsuits for unfair, deceptive or unconscionable business practices; and obtained 58 judgments and compliance agreements. Some 2015 cases of note:

- Following a multistate effort led by Attorney General Mike DeWine's office, the three major credit reporting agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — agreed to make significant changes to their business practices creating stronger protections for consumers. Under a settlement announced in May, the agencies agreed to impose higher standards for data furnishers (providers of credit reporting information), to limit direct-to-consumer marketing, to give added protections to consumers who dispute credit reporting information, and to limit the type of information that can be added to a credit report.



- The Attorney General's Office secured a settlement with a buy-here-pay-here used car dealership to resolve allegations that it targeted low-income consumers, sold vehicles at inflated prices and illegally repossessed vehicles.
- The Ohio Attorney General's Office joined other state attorneys general and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to reach a settlement with Chase Bank over its credit-card debt collection practices.



Cracking down on scammers

The Attorney General's Economic Crimes Unit helps county prosecutors and local law enforcement investigate and prosecute economic crimes. The investigations have led to 129 indictments and 101 convictions since the unit was created in 2011, with 12 indictments and seven convictions in 2015.

- The unit's biggest case in 2015 involved a scam that targeted car dealerships and financial institutions. The Economic Crimes Unit worked with local law enforcement to build a case against a Cincinnati man accused of using false information to rip off \$800,000.



Protecting Ohio's Families

2015 TAKE ACTION VIDEO CONTEST



DID YOU KNOW?

In September, the Attorney General announced the seventh annual Take Action Video Contest. To enter the contest, high school students had to produce and submit a 60-second video on identity theft, cybersecurity or student loans. College scholarships will be awarded to the top three individuals or teams. The winners will be announced in March during National Consumer Protection Week. The winner will receive \$2,500, second-place \$1,500, and third-place \$1,000.



Seeking the right to ‘freeze’ a child’s credit

In 2015 the Attorney General announced support for Ohio House Bill 317, which would allow parents or guardians to “freeze” a child’s credit record to help stop identity thieves from opening accounts in the child’s name. The bill was introduced in September by Rep. Ron Maag (R-Lebanon).

The legislation would allow a parent or guardian to apply a security freeze (or “credit freeze”) to a minor’s name, which would help ensure that credit is not inappropriately granted in that name. Currently in Ohio, children generally can’t take advantage of the protections a security freeze provides because they don’t have an existing credit record to freeze. Under the bill, if a minor doesn’t have a credit report when a security freeze is requested, the credit reporting agencies would create a “credit record” for the minor and then apply the freeze to that record.

The Attorney General’s Identity Theft Unit worked with Representative Maag in the development of the bill.

Repairing damage of identity theft



Identity theft damage can linger for years, causing victims’ credit reports and financial lives to suffer. The Attorney General’s Identity Theft Unit helps victims repair the damage and move forward. Under

the unit’s traditional assistance program, advocates work with credit-reporting agencies, creditors, collectors and other agencies on the victim’s behalf. Under the self-help option, the office provides identity theft victims with a step-by-step guide explaining how to resolve problems. A consumer advocate is available to assist as needed.

In 2015, the unit received 1,676 complaints and helped victims eliminate more than \$658,000 in fraudulent charges. The unit also resolved 20 complaints for minors in foster care, a group particularly vulnerable to this crime. Since its inception in 2012, the Identity Theft Unit has cleared more than \$1 million in fraudulent charges for victims of identity theft.

- In a case involving identity theft, a couple from Ashtabula County discovered 12 accounts opened using their identifiers. The Identity Theft Unit was able to address each of the accounts and resolved more than \$35,000 in disputed debt. Additional accounts surfaced months later, and those were also successfully addressed.



\$2.4 million

The amount returned to consumers, businesses, and nonprofits through the Attorney General’s informal dispute resolution service in 2015



DID YOU KNOW?

The Education Unit of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Section informs Ohioans about their rights as consumers and warns them about scams. In 2015, the staff conducted more than **230** educational events, reaching more than **15,000** Ohioans.

Handling dispute resolutions

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Section fielded more than 27,000 consumer complaints in 2015, and complaint specialists worked with individuals, businesses, and nonprofits in resolving differences through an informal dispute resolution service. Many participants were able to get their money back, receive goods or services they paid for, or reach some other favorable agreement. More than \$2.4 million was returned or adjusted.

- In a case involving a Franklin County resident, the consumer prepaid for an underground propane tank that was supposed to be in stock and delivered in two weeks. When the company had not responded after two weeks and several attempts by the consumer, the consumer filed a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office. The Consumer Protection Section contacted the company about the complaint, and they apologized and refunded the consumer’s \$4,337.
- In another case, a consumer had purchased what he thought was a round-trip ticket to Manila online from a supplier. Unfortunately, the supplier was not a real business. The consumer was persuaded to purchase his tickets using Green Dot cards in the amount of \$995. Once the consumer realized he had been scammed, he contacted the Attorney General’s Office. The consumer was distraught. Typically, the consumer would not be able to retrieve his money in this type of situation. However, the Consumer Protection Section contacted Green Dot and was able to arrange for the consumer to retrieve his money.

Top consumer complaints



Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Consumer Protection Section fielded 27,000 complaints from individuals, small businesses and nonprofits in 2015. The top complaint categories in 2015:

The year’s top complaint-generating areas were:

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

Visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ConsumerComplaint or call **800-282-0515** for help with a consumer issue.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine attending the Farm Science Review, an annual agricultural exposition near London that hosts 600 commercial exhibitors



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, a supporter of the Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council, at the group's Statehouse Day event

Watching over charities

In 2015, the Attorney General's Charitable Law Section, which oversees Ohio charities to make sure that donations are not misappropriated and that proceeds are used for charitable purposes, collected fees and payments, including:



- Payments on Settlements and Assurances of Discontinuance: **\$497,676.95**
- Bingo Fees: **\$2,546,594.38**

Most charitable organizations and other groups that solicit Ohioans for support must file annually under provisions of the Ohio Charitable Trust Act and the Ohio Charitable Organizations (Solicitation) Act. The Charitable Law Section has 40,337 organizations in its charitable registration database and issued 2,722 bingo licenses in 2015. Also during the past year, the section staff trained 2,100 people from charitable organizations on topics such as board governance, fundraising and bingo recordkeeping. As of Dec. 31, there were 121 professional solicitors registered in Ohio with 678 campaigns underway. The section logged 944 complaints in 2015.

Protecting Ohioans' charitable giving

Most Ohio charities abide by the law and use donations properly. However, that is not always the case.

- In January 2015, the Attorney General and the Ohio Department of Commerce reached a settlement with northwest Ohio residents who were accused of using their charity to solicit funds for an alleged international pyramid scheme. Under the agreement, the two agreed not to hold a position with a charitable organization and



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 or call **800-282-0515**.

not to sell securities in Ohio. They also agreed to dissolve their charity and to turn over charitable assets to the Ohio Attorney General's Office to be used for charitable purposes.

- In February, the Attorney General reached a settlement with a Massachusetts-based business that allegedly solicited Ohioans for charitable donations while misleading consumers into thinking the calls were coming from a charity, versus a business. The professional solicitor agreed to pay \$105,000 and to comply with Ohio's charitable laws when contacting Ohioans for donations.
- In April, a Columbus woman who misused donations meant for veterans was ordered to pay \$418,000 and barred from ever holding a position in any charity in Ohio. The decision, made by a magistrate with the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, came after the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the woman for violations of Ohio's charitable laws. She had started a local chapter of a national organization that helps veterans and their families but used the donations for personal purchases.
- In May, the Attorney General, along with law enforcement partners throughout the country and the Federal Trade Commission, filed a federal lawsuit against four cancer charities and their operators for allegedly bilking more than \$187 million from consumers throughout the country. Two of the four charities agreed to dissolve. Litigation continues against the two others.

Raising awareness

In 2015, the Attorney General put out timely warnings about scams including:

- **Grant scams** - A caller says the consumer has won a federal grant and must send money to cover costs.
- **Spoofed phone calls** - A call comes in from what looks like a local phone or a phone number that's familiar to the consumer, which turns out to be a scam.
- **Imposter scams** - A scammer poses as a government or law enforcement official and demands payment for debt.
- **Grandparent scams** - A caller claims to be a grandchild in urgent need of cash and asks for money to be wired right away.
- **Storm chaser scams** - A contractor accepts insurance money to fix damaged homes but never does the work.
- **Computer repair scams** - A caller tells consumers that their computers are infected with a virus and offer to make repairs, but instead take the consumer's money or personal information.



Ending harassment

Debt collection scams are common and particularly upsetting to consumers. In 2015:

- Attorney General Mike DeWine filed a lawsuit against operators of a debt-collection service accused of threatening, harassing and misleading consumers. The debt collectors drew more than 130 complaints to the Attorney General's Office. Consumers said the collectors used obscene language, threats of jail time and other misrepresentations, and they also failed to produce proof of the debts. The Attorney General filed the lawsuit accusing the defendants of violating Ohio's Consumer Sales Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. "Consumers need to know that they don't have to take this kind of abuse," DeWine said.
- In November, the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against another debt collector, accusing the company of impersonating government and law enforcement agencies to frighten consumers into paying. An investigation showed that the company spoofed consumers' caller IDs to falsely display the real phone numbers of the government agencies.

Consumers who suspect unfair or deceptive debt collection practices should call the Attorney General's Office at **800-282-0515**.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine at Henny Penny, a manufacturer of food equipment, based in Eaton

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Ohio Attorney General's Office helps support economic growth by working to ensure that the state's legal climate promotes job growth for Ohioans. In 2015, the Attorney General's Office advocated for business interests in court, protected small businesses from fraud, scams and unfair practices, and published a manual explaining the legal framework for economic development.



"(The Ohio Economic Development Manual) is preventative medicine for jobs. Instead of so many times when we see things go awry and the Attorney General's Office has to get involved after the fact, I think this is a manual that's going to help steer the folks in the right direction before they go in the wrong one."
 — Rick Platt, president and CEO of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

Fostering economic development



To help current and prospective business owners, local governments, and economic development practitioners better understand the legal landscape of economic development in Ohio in 2015, the Attorney General's Office created the *Ohio Economic Development Manual*. The manual is meant to be a resource for anyone with questions about the legal framework for economic development in the state and for those who are looking for innovative ways to use economic development tools to retain established businesses and attract new ones. The manual contains practical examples of how various economic development tools have been used in projects throughout Ohio.

The *Ohio Economic Development Manual* is available free online at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EconomicDevelopment.

Sticking up for merchants, consumers

The Attorney General's Office led 17 states in litigating a successful case, brought along with the U.S. Department of Justice, against American Express. The case, resolved in February, involved fees that merchants have to pay credit-card companies when they accept credit-card payments from consumers. For years, the major credit companies prohibited merchants from telling consumers about those fees and from offering discounts to consumers who used certain credit-card brands over others. A federal judge ruled that the restrictions American Express placed on merchants violated antitrust laws, reducing competition among credit-card companies and leading to higher prices for merchants and in turn for consumers. The judge also ruled that increased competition among credit-card companies would lead to lower prices for merchants, allowing merchants to pass on those savings to consumers.



Looking out for small businesses

Just as it works to protect consumers, 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 2015, the office received 921 complaints and helped adjust, recover, or save \$59,649.30 for small businesses and nonprofits. The Attorney General's Office also published updates to several guidebooks for small-business owners in 2015 including *A Charity Guide for Businesses*, *Fair Employment Guide for Business Owners* and *Fair Housing Guide for Landlords*.

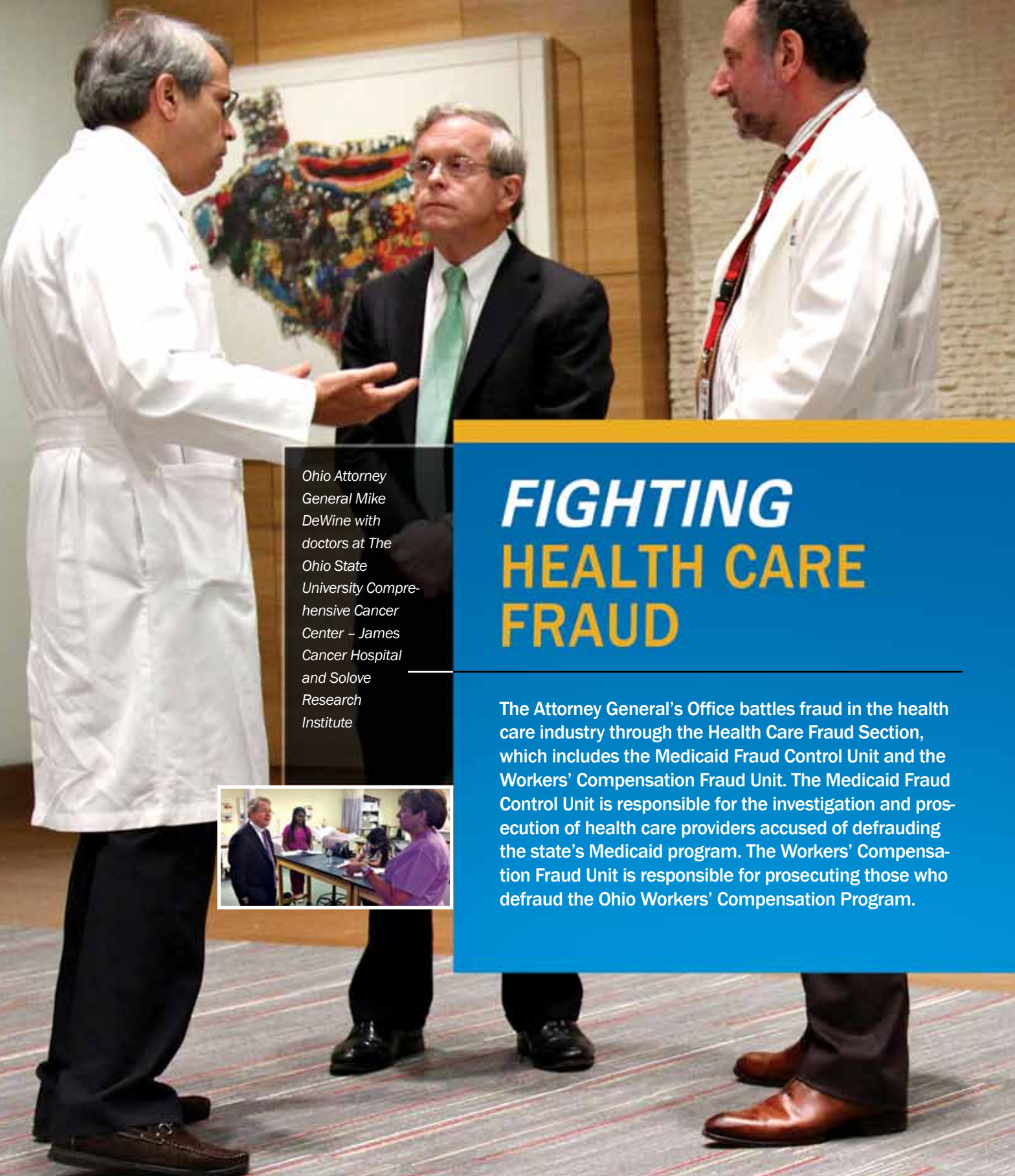


Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

In February, the Attorney General issued the final report on the work of "The Ohio Attorney General's Moving Ohio Forward" Demolition Grant Program. It showed that the program, paid for with \$75 million from the National Mortgage Settlement, helped remove more than 14,000 abandoned and blighted housing units throughout Ohio. The cleanup removed safety hazards and successfully repurposed the land to improve the neighborhoods. Each of Ohio's 88 counties received an allocation based on the number of foreclosures between 2008 and 2011.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with doctors at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute



FIGHTING HEALTH CARE FRAUD

The Attorney General's Office battles fraud in the health care industry through the Health Care Fraud Section, which includes the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of health care providers accused of defrauding the state's Medicaid program. The Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit is responsible for prosecuting those who defraud the Ohio Workers' Compensation Program.

Looking out for workers, taxpayers

The Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit processed 116 complaints, posting 79 indictments and securing 91 convictions. Recoveries totaled more than \$1.3 million. A few 2015 workers' compensation fraud cases:

- In June, a Cuyahoga County doctor was sentenced to serve 51 months in prison for crimes associated with running a "pill mill." The doctor pleaded guilty in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court to one count of workers' compensation fraud, one count of tampering with records, and two counts of drug trafficking.
- In September, an injured worker from Franklin County received a suspended sentence and probation for defrauding the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The worker pleaded guilty to one count of workers' compensation fraud and was ordered to pay more than \$83,000.

Investigating wrongdoing



The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, part of the Health Care Fraud Section, ranked first in criminal convictions and second in criminal indictments in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' fiscal year 2015 survey. In the past year, the Health Care Fraud Section recovered more than \$34 million and was responsible for 230 indictments and 235 convictions.

Providing workshops

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit offers presentations and workshops for health care providers, law enforcement agencies, Medicaid advocates and others. In 2015, the unit made 35 such outreach and training presentations.



Examining Medicaid complaints

In 2015, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit received **1,289** complaints. Of those, **738** were related to allegations of Medicaid provider fraud, and **551** were related to allegations of abuse, neglect or misappropriation in Ohio care facilities. It posted **151** indictments and **144** convictions and recovered more than **\$32.7 million** in Medicaid fraud, patient abuse and neglect, and care facility misappropriation cases in that time period.

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.



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

The Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Section provides legal counsel and advice to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) and the Industrial Commission of Ohio (ICO). The section also represents those agencies in court.



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine providing budget testimony at the Statehouse

REPRESENTING OHIO

The 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.



130,933

The number of phone inquiries received in 2015 by the Ohio Attorney General's Constituent Services Section

- Attorney General DeWine filed for an injunction on behalf of the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to force the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to dredge Cleveland Harbor in a way that critical portions of it would not become unnavigable, would not dump dredged toxic material in Lake Erie, would not harm Cleveland businesses that rely on commercial shipping, and would not impose an economic burden on Ohio taxpayers. The state was concerned that the Corps' plan would increase levels of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the lake that could enter the food chain. In May, a federal judge granted the state's preliminary injunction against the Corps and required them to dredge the entire channel without dumping the material into the lake.
- Attorney General DeWine joined attorneys general and regulators from 26 other states to file a legal challenge to the "Power Plan" rule imposed by the Obama administration. The rule would dramatically increase Ohioans' electric rates and affect coal power producers, likely causing job

losses in the coal industry. States have alleged that the rule is illegal for many reasons and especially because the U.S. EPA lacks the authority under the Clean Air Act to force states to restructure their electric grids by requiring them to use less coal-fired energy and build costly and less reliable wind and solar facilities.



In June, the Attorney General, joined by two other states, filed a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. EPA over

new regulations defining "waters of the United States." DeWine said the rule violates the Clean Water Act by displacing the primary responsibility of the states to plan the use of land and water resources and by claiming federal jurisdiction far beyond the "navigable waters" specified by the act.



Offering insight into public service

The Attorney General's Public Service Mock Trial Competition offers law students practical insight into a public sector legal career. In October, second- and third-year students from seven Ohio law schools took part in the third annual two-day competition, presenting both sides of a mock a telemarketing fraud case. Each team was coached by litigators from the Attorney General's Office and other public service offices from throughout the state. The 2015 winning team was from Capital University Law School in Columbus.

For more information

Call the Ohio Attorney General's Office at **800-282-0515** or visit **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov**.



Protecting Ohio's Families



DID YOU KNOW?

The Attorney General's Labor Relations Section represents the Ohio Department of Commerce's Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration and the State Employment Relations Board.

Pursuing anti-competitive activity

The Ohio Attorney General's Antitrust Section promotes competition in the marketplace by enforcing state and federal antitrust laws. The section also provides free assistance to public entities in Ohio to detect possible anti-competitive activity. Ohio public entities can sign up for the Attorney General's Partnership for Competitive Purchasing to take advantage of this assistance. As a part of these efforts to keep competition healthy in Ohio, in 2015:

- The Attorney General returned millions of dollars to local communities in Ohio after reaching an antitrust settlement with Morton Salt Inc. and Cargill Inc. over allegations that the companies conspired with each other, causing state and local governments to pay higher prices on rock salt used to treat icy roads. Under the settlement, Morton and Cargill paid a combined \$11.5 million, most of which was distributed to local government entities throughout Ohio and to the Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio Turnpike Commission.

Collecting debts



The Ohio Attorney General's Office is the agency required to collect debt for state government entities and public colleges and universities. It also has agreements with more than 116 Ohio political subdivisions to collect debt on their behalf. The work of the Attorney General's Office to collect debts owed to Ohio government agencies resulted in the recovery of \$447,561,196 in 2015.

A case of note in 2015:

- On behalf of the Ohio Development Services Agency and the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, the Attorney General's Office reached a settlement for \$6.2 million with a manufacturing company for unpaid loans. The settlement and payment to the state resolved collections actions for loans owed to the two agencies. The \$6.2 million dollar payment was a significant recovery of taxpayer funds.



The Attorney General's Public Utilities Section plays a role in highway safety.

Keeping highways safe

The Attorney General's Public Utilities Section successfully litigated 95 percent of contested cases and settled numerous others, placing unsafe drivers and unfit commercial motor vehicles out of service, improving safety on Ohio's highways and securing civil forfeitures totaling tens of thousands of dollars.

In one case, the section successfully litigated and later defended before the Ohio Supreme Court a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) decision that cited a driver for drug possession while operating a commercial motor vehicle. To litigate the case, section attorneys coordinated with and sponsored the testimony of multiple Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers who tracked the driver's movements in the sky and on the ground to make the stop that yielded the drugs.

Providing counsel

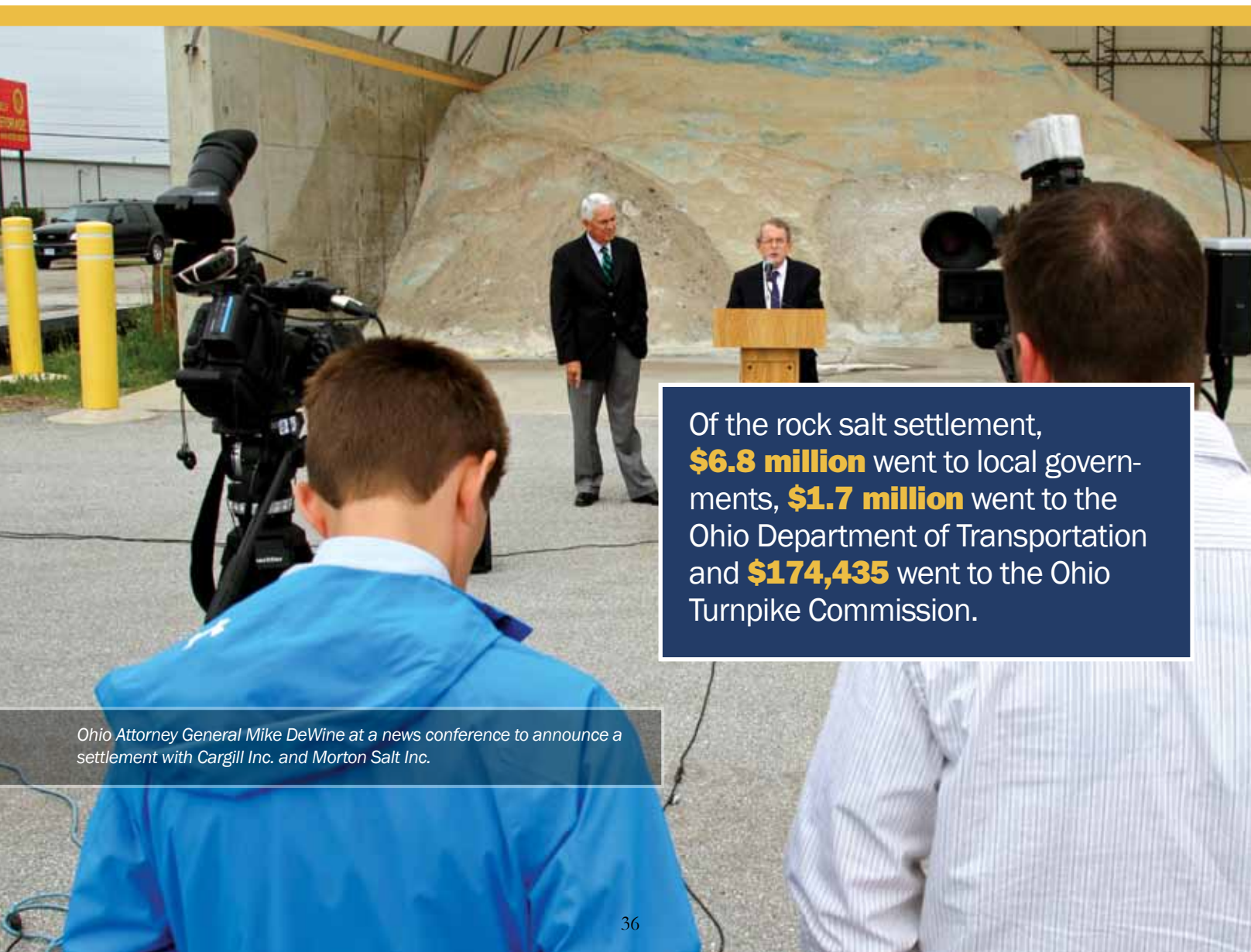
The Attorney General's Executive Agencies Section provides counsel to more than 80 state boards and departments. In 2015, the section successfully represented these clients as plaintiffs and defendants in various administrative, state and federal court proceedings. The section opened 2,978 matters, of which 420 were administrative-related, and closed 1,037 of them. The section includes the Tobacco Enforcement Unit, the Workers' Compensation Defense Unit and the Business Counsel Unit. In 2015, the Workers' Compensation Defense Unit addressed 563 Industrial Commission hearings and appeals. The Business Counsel Unit reviewed and approved 1,837 contracts.

Defending Ohio



The Ohio Attorney General's Court of Claims Defense Section represents and defends the state of Ohio in civil lawsuits filed in the Ohio Court of Claims. In 2015:

- The section secured a \$3.8 million recovery for the state in a case involving a building company that had installed a faulty roof on an Ohio Department of Transportation building. The company had appealed an earlier jury decision finding in favor of the state, but the court of appeals issued an across-the-board win for the state.
- The Court of Claims Defense Section negotiated a \$610,000 settlement for the University of Cincinnati in a case involving the university's purchase of a boiler intended to be a backup heat source in residence halls. Despite more than a year and a half of installation work, the boiler never worked properly. During remediation efforts, the boiler company sued the university, and the university sued the boiler company. Both suits were dismissed as a result of the settlement, and the university was able to recover what it had paid for the boiler.



Of the rock salt settlement, **\$6.8 million** went to local governments, **\$1.7 million** went to the Ohio Department of Transportation and **\$174,435** went to the Ohio Turnpike Commission.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine at a news conference to announce a settlement with Cargill Inc. and Morton Salt Inc.

Arranging civil-rights training

The Civil Rights Section of the Attorney General's Office represents the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and 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.



In 2015, assistant attorneys general with the Civil Rights Section conducted more than 25 fair housing and fair employment trainings, reaching about 200 landlords, employers, and other staff. The section also obtained \$381,084 in damages for victims of discrimination.

- In one case, the Civil Rights Section prevailed in an appeal of an employment discrimination case against a major retailer. The complainant, who is African-American, was repeatedly singled out for verbal abuse by his supervisor and eventually terminated. The court affirmed a \$99,000 judgment against the company for racial discrimination and ordered the retailer to offer the man his job back.
- The section achieved a successful outcome in a housing discrimination case where a landlord called a reference for a potential tenant and asked about the tenant's race. The section obtained \$9,000 for the complainant.
- The section prevailed in a housing discrimination case where a landlord refused to rent apartments to at least two single moms.

Additional resources

For more information about civil rights laws or issues, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CivilRights.

Providing opinions

As the chief law officer of the state, the Ohio Attorney General provides legal opinions upon request to designated state and local public officials and government agencies. In 2015, the Attorney General offered 38 opinions on a range of topics. For example:

- The Lawrence County Prosecutor asked whether a judge with a debilitating nerve disease could use a rubber stamp, rather than a pen, to sign court documents. In April, the Attorney General said it was his opinion that under the Americans With Disabilities Act, a rubber stamp facsimile signature is a "reasonable accommodation."
- In June, the Attorney General offered a 22-page opinion to answer questions by the Auditor of State about changes in health insurance coverage for township officers and employees brought about by the federal Affordable Care Act.

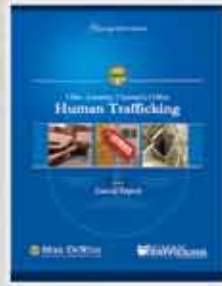


- Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine with some of his family in the Statehouse Rotunda

Year in review

2015



Jan. 26:

The Attorney General's Office released the Human Trafficking Commission's 2014 report during Human Trafficking Awareness Month.



March 16:

The Attorney General's Office released the 2015 edition of the *Ohio Sunshine Laws: An Open Government Resource Manual*.



Feb 17:

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine requested from the manufacturer — and later received — rebates for public entities that purchase the opioid-reversal drug naloxone.

May 7:

At the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London, hundreds of law enforcement officers and their families gathered to pay their respects to those who have died in the line of duty, including Officer Justin R. Winebrenner of the Akron Police Department.



May 4:

The 2015 Two Days in May Conference on Crime Victim Assistance kicked off with the theme "Advancing Advocacy to Serve All Crime Victims."



June 10:

To help Ohio's colleges and universities better respond to sexual assaults, the Attorney General announced that his office would be offering grants to strengthen victim advocacy programs, preparing resources for schools to develop agreements with law enforcement, prosecutors and victim service providers, and offering campus sexual assault investigation training.



Oct 7:

The Attorney General announced that his office is awarding more than \$51 million in grants to 307 crime victim service providers throughout Ohio as part of the new "Ohio Attorney General's Expanding Services and Empowering Victims Initiative."



Oct 8-9:

The Ohio Attorney General's Law Enforcement Conference drew 710 attendees to 30 workshops.



Dec 15:

The Attorney General's Office issued its 2015 *Ohio Economic Development Manual*.



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
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