

# Ohio's Attorney General

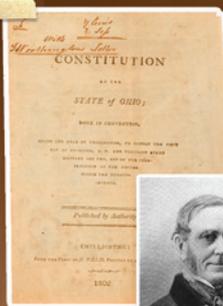
An essential force in our  
state — **then and now**



The Ohio Attorney General's Office has played a vital role in shaping Ohio's past and present. And the work it does today will help chart our state's future. The office has changed significantly since the state's first Attorney General was named in 1846. Today, the Attorney General oversees a complex organization with nearly 30 distinct sections and statutory responsibilities that help keep Ohio moving forward.



# The Ohio Attorney General's Place in History



**1803:** Ohio becomes the 17th state.

**1812–1815:** War of 1812

**Feb. 16, 1846:** The Ohio General Assembly creates the post of Attorney General, to be elected by legislators and commissioned by the Governor for a five-year term. The officeholder advises county prosecutors, compiles crime statistics, and collects late corporate taxes.

**Feb. 25, 1846:** Legislators name Henry Stanbery as Ohio's first official Attorney General. Two months later, he opens the Ohio Attorney General's Office in downtown Columbus.

**1846–1848:** Mexican-American War

**1851:** Ohio's second Constitution makes the position of Attorney General a statewide elected office.



**1860–1865:** American Civil War

**1861:** The Ohio Statehouse is completed.

**1862:** President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

**1888–1892:** Attorney General David Watson charges the Standard Oil Co. with using illegal trusts to create a monopoly in the oil market.



**1904:** Attorney General Wade Ellis compiles the office's formal opinions from 1846 to 1904.

**1904:** The Ohio General Assembly reorganizes the Attorney General's Office into its current structure.

**1910:** The Attorney General's Office creates a library as a resource for its staff.

**1914–1918:** World War I

**1917–1919:** Ohio enacts workers' compensation laws, giving the Attorney General the responsibility to collect premiums from employers and enforce claim awards. Changes in Ohio law also give the Attorney General the authority to collect nearly all state claims.

**1923–1927:** Attorney General Charles Crabbe authors several law enforcement measures to enforce Prohibition.



**1939–1945:** World War II

**1950–1953:** Korean War

**1955:** Attorney General C. William O'Neill's investigation into narcotics trafficking leads Ohio to develop a model narcotics control bill containing some of the strictest penalties in the country.



**1963:** The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) becomes part of the Attorney General's Office.

**1965–1973:** American involvement in Vietnam War

**1965:** The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) is established under the leadership of Attorney General William Saxbe.

**1974:** The Attorney General's headquarters moves to the Rhodes State Office Tower in downtown Columbus.

**1976:** The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) opens in London.

**1998:** The Attorney General's Office helps secure a 46-state settlement with the tobacco industry to recover states' tobacco-related health-care costs. The consumer settlement remains the largest in American history.

**2001:** The 9/11 terrorist attack

**2004:** Ohio's Concealed Carry Law becomes statute. The Attorney General's Office formalizes reciprocity agreements with 16 states with similar laws and successfully defends the law's constitutionality. OPOTC later reports that 45,497 permits were issued in the law's first year.

**2012:** The Ohio Attorney General's Office, in conjunction with the federal government and 48 other state attorneys general, announces a \$25 billion federal-state agreement with the nation's five largest mortgage servicers. Ohioans receive \$330 million in mortgage relief under the settlement.





# Today's Attorney General's Office

Ohioans of all kinds — families, taxpayers, consumers, veterans, crime victims, and more — are touched by the work of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



## Among its wide-ranging responsibilities, the office:

- Provides legal counsel to all state offices and agencies
- Serves the criminal justice community through crime-fighting services, peace officer training, and assistance to prosecutors
- Enforces laws that protect consumers, charitable donors, nursing home residents, and others
- Investigates and prosecutes those who break environmental laws and defraud government programs

## The office's sections include:

Antitrust  
Appeals  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Business Counsel  
Charitable Law  
Civil Rights  
Collections Enforcement  
Constitutional Offices  
Consumer Protection

Court of Claims Defense  
Crime Victim Services  
Criminal Justice  
Education  
Employment Law  
Environmental Enforcement  
Executive Agencies  
Health and Human Services  
Health Care Fraud

Labor Relations  
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy  
Opinions  
Public Utilities  
Taxation  
Transportation  
Workers' Compensation



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