



# Department of Law

Department Overview  
House Finance Subcommittee

Ed Sniffen  
Chief of Staff



# MISSION

## The Alaska Department of Law

- Provides legal services to state government
- Prosecutes crime

for the protection and benefit of Alaska's citizens



# Civil Division Core Services

- Protecting Alaskans' safety and financial well-being
- Fostering conditions for responsible development of our natural resources
- Protecting the fiscal integrity of the State, and
- Promoting good governance

# Civil Division: Protecting Alaskans



## **Commercial and Fair Business**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Rebecca Cain
- Represents the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and several boards and commissions.



## **Human Services**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Stacie Kraly
- Protects vulnerable adults and provides advice and representation to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)



## **Opinions, Appeals and Ethics**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Dario Borghesan
- Defends the state in federal and state appellate courts including Child in Need of Aid (CINA) appeals



## **Child Protection**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Carla Erickson
- Represents the Office of Children's Services (OCS) in all CINA proceedings

# Civil Division:

## Protecting Fiscal Integrity & Fostering Economic Development



### Natural Resources

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Seth Beausang
- Represents the state's interests in statehood defense, natural resource management, and securing taxes and royalties owed to the state



### Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: John Ptacin
- Protects the state's fiscal interests in pipeline tariff proceedings before the FERC and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), and protects Alaskan consumer interests in public utility proceedings before the RCA



### Special Litigation

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Margaret Paton-Walsh
- Handles high-profile, expedited and complex litigation, including constitutional challenges and elections matters
- Enforces Alaska antitrust and consumer protection laws

# Statehood Defense and Revenue Protection

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge



Trans-Alaska Pipeline



# Civil Division:

## Protecting Fiscal Integrity & Fostering Economic Development



### **Environmental Law**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Steve Mulder
- Represents the state's interest in clean water and air matters, and in hazardous waste discharge cases, including cleanup cost recovery



### **Transportation**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Jeff Stark
- Represents the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities on the construction and operation of public facilities, and major development projects across the state



### **Torts and Workers' Compensation**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Patti Shake
- Provides advice and defense to state agencies and employees in tort suits, and defends the state as an employer in workers' compensation claims

# Civil Division:

## Promoting Good Governance



### **Labor and State Affairs**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Janell Hafner
- Provides advice and representation to a wide variety of executive and quasi state agencies



### **Legislation and Regulations**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Susan Pollard
- Oversees all legislative drafting, coordinates review of proposed legislation and oversees regulations projects for all state agencies



### **Information and Project Support**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Alan Birnbaum
- Provides advice to the Office of Information Technology and the State Security Office to ensure the security of state data systems, and oversees Public Records Act responses





# Criminal Division

## Mission

The mission of the Criminal Division is to seek justice, promote public safety, and further public respect for government through prompt, effective, and compassionate prosecution of cases. The Criminal Division will prosecute cases in a manner that advocates for the interests of the public including victims, respects the law enforcement agencies, responsibly stewards public resources, and holds offenders accountable while at the same time protecting the constitutional and legal rights of the accused.



# Criminal Division

## The Duty of a Prosecutor

- The primary duty of a lawyer engaged in public prosecution is not to convict, but to see that justice is done.

*-Canons of professional ethics: Canon 5. American Bar Association (1908).*

- The prosecutor may prosecute with earnestness and vigor – indeed he should do so. But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.

*-Justice George Southerland, Berger v. United States, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935).*

# Criminal Division



**Nome**  
John A. Earthman



**Fairbanks**  
Gregory M. Olson



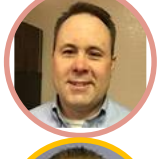
**Bethel**  
Steve B. Wallace



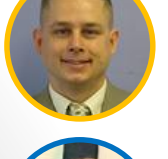
**Palmer**  
Roman J. Kalytiak



**Anchorage**  
John Novak



**Kenai**  
Scot H. Leaders



**Kodiak**  
Gustaf W. Olson



**Juneau**  
Angela D. Kemp



**Appeals**  
Tamara DeLucia



**Special Prosecutions**  
Paul Miovas



**Ketchikan**  
Ben Hofmeister

# Criminal Division: Core Services

- Investigation Assistance
- Informal Referral
- Formal Referral
- Screening
- Pretrial Litigation
- Pretrial Resolution
- Trial
- Post-Trial Litigation



It is the duty and obligation of the District Attorney to ensure that every citizen's constitutional rights are safeguarded at every step of the criminal prosecution.

# Thank you

Any questions?