



# Department of Law

## Department Overview House Finance Subcommittee

Kevin G. Clarkson  
Attorney General

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

1/22/2020



## **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



### **Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy**

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Jeff Waller
- Protects the Alaskan public interest in public utility and pipeline proceedings before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska



### **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

# Civil Division:

## Protecting Fiscal Integrity & Fostering Economic Development



### Natural Resources

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: Anne Nelson
- Represents the state's interests in statehood defense, natural resource management and development, and fish and game management



### Oil and Gas

- Chief Assistant Attorney General: John Ptacin
- provides legal advice to and represents the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Revenue
- Ensures that the state receives its appropriate share of royalties and taxes from the oil and gas industry, and other businesses operating in the state.



# Statehood Defense and Revenue Protection



# 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 the Governor and Lt. Governor's offices, the Division of Elections, and a wide variety of executive branch agencies, public corporations, and quasi-judicial boards and commissions



### **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
- Advises agencies on the management, sharing, retention, and disclosure of information



# 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).*

1/22/2020



## Ketchikan

12

Juneau

# 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?