



Department of Law

Department Overview

House Finance Subcommittee

Cori Mills
Deputy Attorney General
Civil

John Skidmore
Deputy Attorney General
Criminal

Amber LeBlanc
Administrative Services Director



MISSION

The Alaska Department of Law

- **Provides legal services to state government**
- **Prosecutes crime**

for the protection and benefit of Alaska's citizens

Management Team



Deputy Attorney General

John Skidmore
Criminal Division



Attorney General

Treg Taylor



Deputy Attorney General

Cori Mills
Civil Division



Director

Angie Kemp
Criminal Division



Director

Amber LeBlanc
Administrative Services Division



Director

Stacie Kraly
Civil Division



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 of Alaska, and
- Promoting good governance

Civil Division: Protecting Alaskans

Commercial and Fair Business

- Represents and advises independent regulating professional licensing, public utilities, alcohol and marijuana sales, and assists the Child Support Services Division in recovery of child support

Human Services

- Protects vulnerable adults and provides advice and representation to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)

Opinions, Appeals and Ethics

- Defends the state in federal and state appellate courts including Child in Need of Aid (CINA) appeals

Child Protection

- 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

- Protects the Alaskan public interest in public utility and pipeline proceedings before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Special Litigation

- 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

- Advises and represents the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources
- Represents the state's interests in statehood defense, natural resource management and development, and fish and game management

Oil and Gas

- 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

Civil Division:

Protecting Fiscal Integrity & Fostering Economic Development

Environmental Law

- Represents the state's interest in clean water and air matters, and in hazardous waste discharge cases, including cleanup cost recovery

Transportation

- 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

- 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

- Provides advice and representation to the Governor and Lt. Governor's offices, the Division of Elections, and the departments of Administration, Labor and Workforce Development, and Military and Veteran's Affairs

Legislation and Regulations

- Oversees all legislative drafting, coordinates review of proposed and enacted legislation and oversees regulations projects for all state agencies

Information and Project Support

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

Public Corporations and Government Services

- Provides legal advice and representation to unique state entities such as public corporations, retirement systems, state health plans, and the Department of Education and Early Development

Primary General Fund Uses

Statehood Defense and Revenue Protection

1/26/2022

Hatchery Net Pens



Chugach State Park



RS2477 Field Work



Independence Gold Mine



Photos courtesy of Law – Natural Resources

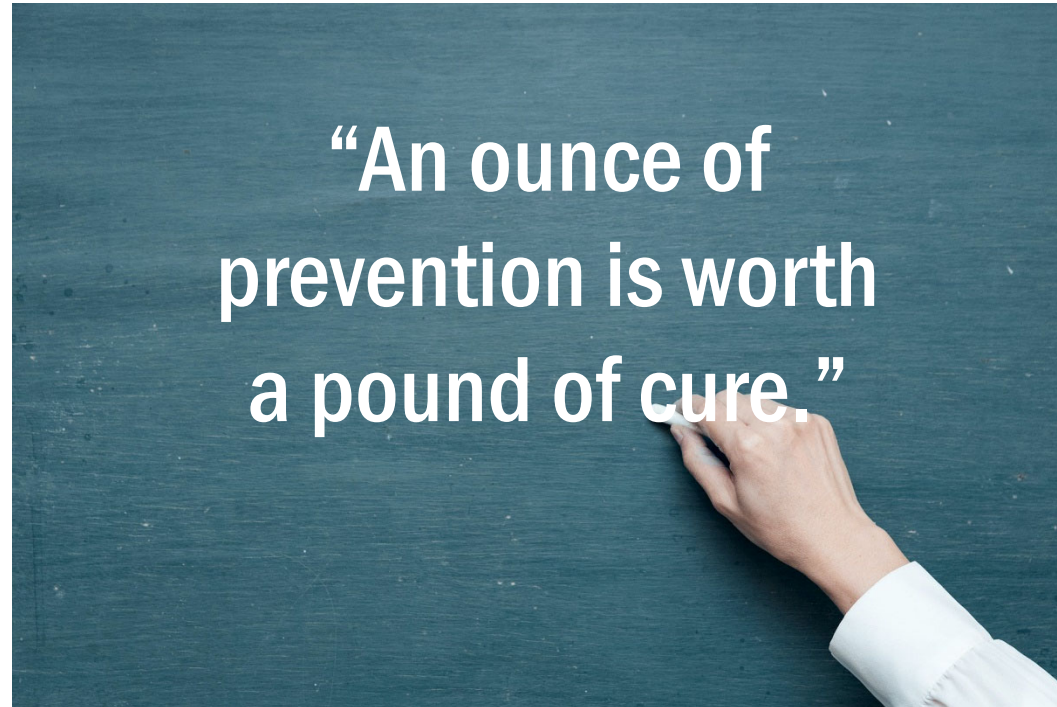
Child Protection

- In FY21, the average caseload per attorney was 60 to 110 cases. Variables include location and severity.
- Attorneys have been conducting virtual hearings using a secure Zoom license since November 2020.
- COVID-19 created a significant backlog of cases because of trial suspension but most cases have been proceeding on schedule since early 2021.
- A sizeable increase in contested trials and hearings has put a strain on resources.



Photo by [Michał Parzuchowski](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Good Governance



Employment

Legislation

Governor

Elections

Ethics

Lt. Governor



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 state cases.

What we do not do

- Prosecute federal crimes
- Prosecute municipal crimes
- Investigate criminal conduct



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: Core Services

- Investigation Assistance
- 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.

Criminal Division

1/26/2022

Statewide Services

- 9 District Attorney Offices
- 4 satellite offices (Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, Dillingham, and Sitka)
- Criminal Appeals
- Special Prosecutions
- Central Office



Appeals

Tamara DeLucia



Special Prosecutions

Jenna Gruenstein



Nome

John Earthman



Fairbanks

Joe Dallaire



Bethel

Christopher Knowles



Palmer

Tom Hoffer



Anchorage

Brittany Dunlop



Kenai

Scot Leaders



Kodiak

Gustaf Olson



Juneau

Angela Kemp



Ketchikan

Kristian Pickrell

Department of Law

Recruitment and Retention

Criminal Division Statewide Snapshot

Vacant Positions:

- Attorneys: 21
- Victim/Witness Paralegals: 1
- Other staff: 10

Positions in Active Recruitment:

- Attorneys: 12
- Victim/Witness Paralegals: 1
- Other staff: 8

Civil Division Statewide Snapshot

Vacant Positions:

- Attorneys: 15
- Paralegals: 0
- Other staff: 9

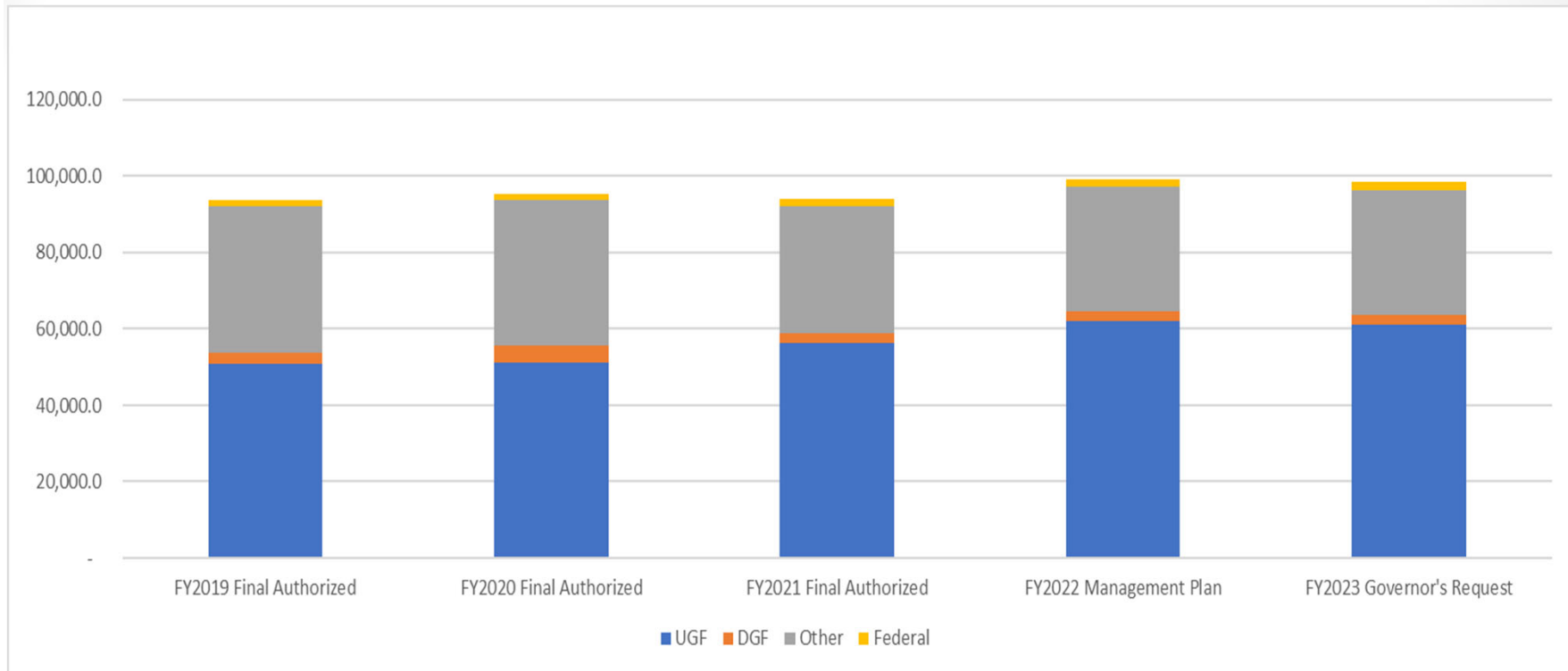
Positions in Active Recruitment:

- Attorneys: 18*
- Paralegals: 1*
- Other staff: 7

* = There are currently more active recruitments for attorneys and paralegals than vacancies due to several incumbents who have given early notice for a future separation from service.

Department of Law FY2019-FY2023 Operating Budget Comparison

(amounts shown in thousands)



FY2019 Final Authorized	FY2020 Final Authorized	FY2021 Final Authorized	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor's Request	Difference Between FY2019 and FY2023	% Difference Between FY2019 and FY2023
50,903.0	51,228.6	56,164.7	61,953.2	61,026.5	10,123.5	19.9%
2,882.2	4,510.4	2,691.5	2,776.5	2,746.7	(135.5)	-4.7%
38,406.4	37,823.0	33,215.9	32,488.3	32,651.4	(5,755.0)	-15.0%
1,498.5	1,768.7	2,026.4	2,035.5	2,056.2	557.7	37.2%
93,690.1	95,330.7	94,098.5	99,253.5	98,480.8	4,790.7	5.1%

FY2023 Department of Law Operating Budget Changes

(amounts shown in thousands)

1/26/2022

- Fully-Fund Criminal Prosecutors and Staff Added in FY2022: \$749.8
 - The FY2022 Governor's budget included 19 new prosecutors and support permanent full-time positions for the Criminal Division. The Legislature accepted this proposal but only appropriated 75% of the required funds. The Governor's FY2023 budget includes the remaining 25% in order to support these full-time positions year-round.
- Expand Statehood Defense: \$4,000.0
 - The State of Alaska faces significant challenges from the federal government on a variety of issues, most notably to Alaska's independent stewardship over its lands and waterways. These challenges require swift and robust response, and a multi-year appropriation for statehood defense was approved in the FY2022 budget. The FY2023 Governor's budget includes a new \$4 million multi-year appropriation to strengthen the state's response to these federal encroachments.

Thank you

Any questions?