

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, the General Assembly, and to all departments, boards, or commissions of the State, except the Human Relations and Public Service Commissions, whose counsel is appointed by the Governor, and the State Ethics Commission, which appoints its own counsel. The Attorney General and assistants represent the State in all matters in which the interests of the State are involved. This includes litigation in the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, the District Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States. The Attorney General's Office represents the Clerks of Court, the Registers of Wills, the Sheriffs, and the State's Attorneys of the counties and of the City of Baltimore. The Office does not represent the charter or noncharter counties, the County Boards of Education, the Boards of Supervisors of Elections (except in Baltimore City), or such other boards or officials of the counties that employ their own counsel. The Attorney General may render an opinion on any legal subject or matter upon the request of the Governor, the General Assembly (or either House thereof), or any department or agency of the State.

The administrative rules and regulations promulgated by any State officer or agency must be submitted to the Attorney General for review before they may become effective. The Office is responsible for the enforcement of the State Securities Act and for the Division of Consumer Protection and the Antitrust Division. It also directs a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which investigates and prosecutes provider fraud.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

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ANTITRUST DIVISION

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Within the Civil Division are the Assistant Attorneys General who are assigned to litigation, opinions and advice, and administration. Other Assistant Attorneys General in the Division, in addition to their responsibilities for special legal projects, serve as counsel to State agencies, boards and commissions.

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The Antitrust Division was created in 1972 and is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (Chapter 357, Acts of 1972). The Division is concerned with enforcing the Maryland Antitrust Act, which governs restraints of trade, unfair competition, monopolies, and other acts or practices that restrain or tend to restrain trade and commerce within the State. The Act calls for both civil and criminal enforcement of its provisions and permits the Attorney General to cooperate with officials of the federal government and the several states in the enforcement of the antitrust laws (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 11-201 through 11-213).

CIVIL DIVISION

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The Asbestos Litigation Unit is within the Civil Division.

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