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 Melinda L. Gibbons, *Personnel Officer*
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SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION
 Nancy C. Pinn, *Administrator* 576-6580

FISCAL OFFICE
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 Charlene M. Cromwell, *Facilities Manager*
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CENTRAL FILES
 Fran Thurlow, *Records Manager* . . 576-6490

LIBRARY
 Natalie Ellis, *Librarian* 576-6400

ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

The office of Attorney General was established by the Constitution of 1776 (sec. 48). In 1817, the office was abolished by Constitutional amendment (Chapter 247, Acts of 1816, ratified 1817). The General Assembly in 1818 recreated the office by statute (Chapter 146, Acts of 1817). By 1851, the Attorney General's duties were fulfilled by the State's Attorney (Const. 1851, Art. V, sec. 3). The office of Attorney General was reestablished by the Constitution of 1864 (Art. V, sec. 1).

The Attorney General is elected by the people for a term of four years (Const., Art. V, sec. 1). There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms which an Attorney General may serve. The Attorney General must be a citizen of the State and a qualified voter who has resided and practiced law in Maryland for at least ten years prior to election. The date on which the Attorney General takes office is not specified by law but customarily occurs on December 20 following the election. The Attorney General receives an annual salary of \$100,000. The Attorney General heads the Office of the Attorney General, formerly known as the State Law Department, which was established in 1916 (Chapter 560, Acts of 1916).

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Judiciary, and to all departments, boards, and 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 Circuit Courts and District Court of Maryland, the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Circuit Courts and the United States District Courts. 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 Baltimore City. 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 enforcement of the State Securities Act, and for the Division of Consumer Protection and the Antitrust Division. It also directs the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit which investigates and prosecutes provider fraud.