

Iowa Department of Justice

THE MISSION

The Iowa Department of Justice is responsible for one of the core functions of government: administering justice. It fulfills this mission by prosecuting crime; by representing state agencies and the official work of state officers and employees; by providing civil justice for defrauded Iowans; and by assisting victims of violent crime.

THE PEOPLE

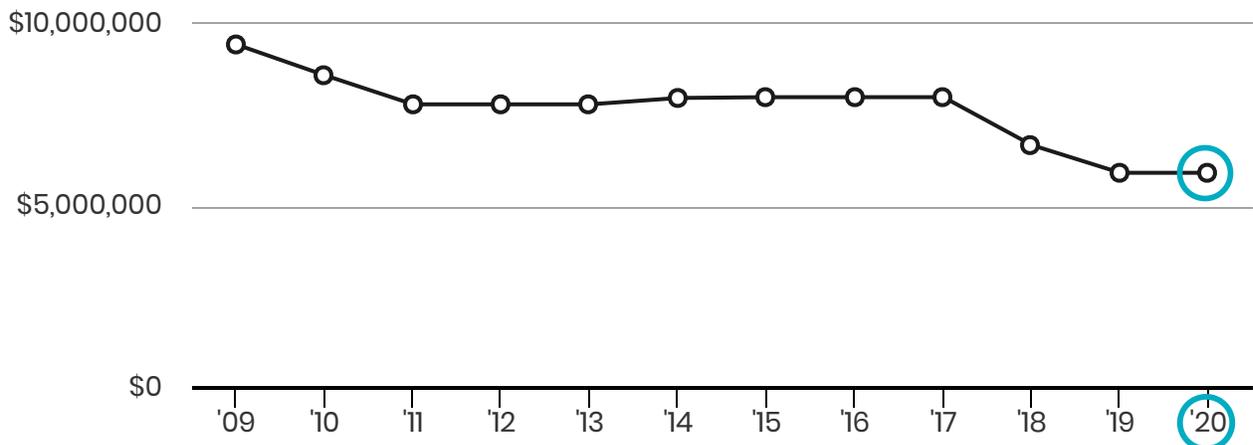
The Attorney General is an elected constitutional officer who leads the Department of Justice. The Department employs 241 attorneys, investigators, and support staff who serve all 99 counties.

THE BUDGET

Over the past decade, the Department's budget has been cut to the bone. While Department lawyers continue to provide excellent advice and representation on behalf of the State, the Department cannot withstand any additional reductions. Appropriations to the Department are spent almost entirely on personnel and additional cuts will have serious consequences to the citizens of Iowa, including victims of crime.

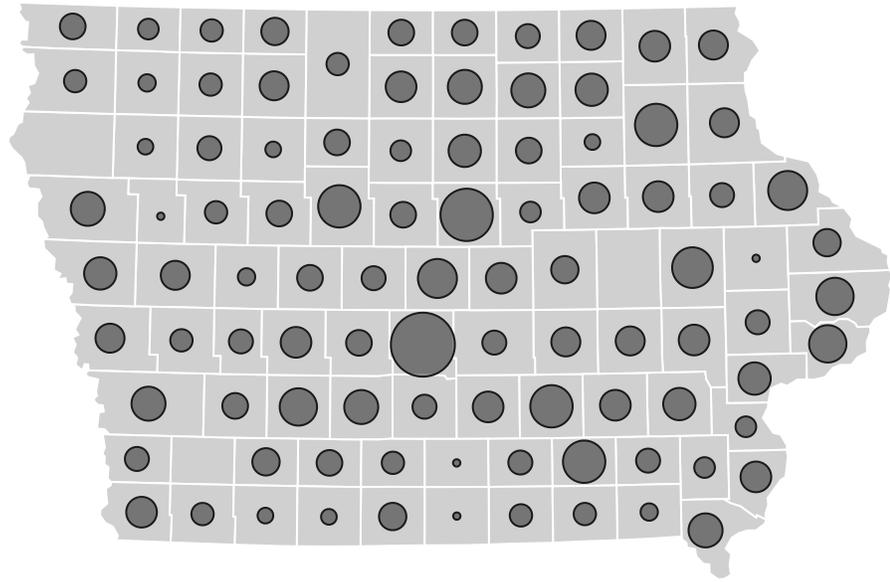
- As the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) noted in its 2018 budget brief, the Department "has little discretion in spending [appropriated money]": the Department "must spend it for its required purpose."
- General-fund dollars appropriated to the Department are used on core functions of government: representing the State and fighting crime.

37% Decrease in State Appropriations Since FY 2009



Statewide Criminal Prosecutions

Prosecution of Complex Felonies. Though most routine criminal cases are handled by local county attorneys, complex cases are frequently referred to the Department's area prosecutors. These veteran trial attorneys have specialized training and prosecute multiple Class A and Class B felonies to verdict each year, with a particular focus on homicides, crimes against children, and sexually violent predators.



In 2019:

- 31 cases tried to verdict in 25 counties
- 64 new cases opened
- 15 defendants charged with murder
- 20 defendants charged with an element of sexual abuse
- Cases pending in 42 counties



1285 cases filed across 97 counties from 2013 - 2019

(including Sexual Violent Predator Commitments)

Criminal Appeals

Protecting Criminal Convictions and Handling Statewide Appeals. The Department's Criminal Appeals Division represents the State in cases filed by offenders convicted in all 99 counties. These appellate prosecutors collectively write in the range of 530-650 briefs per year and argue dozens of cases before the Iowa Supreme Court, Iowa Court of Appeals, and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

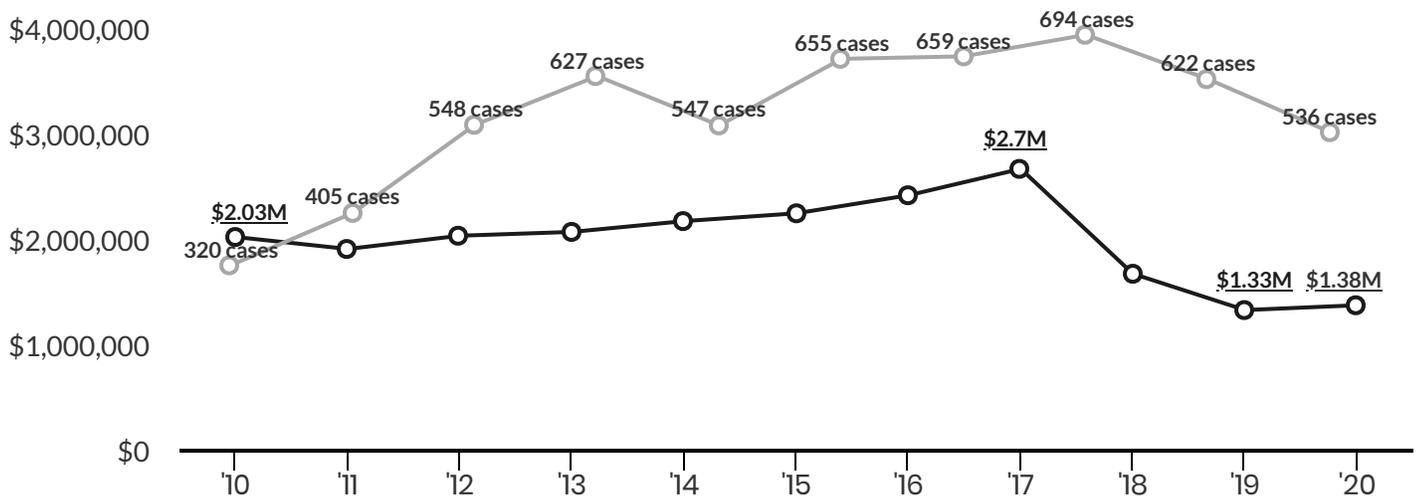


48% Decrease in State Appropriations Since SFY 2017



70% Increase in Number of Cases Since 2010

State Appropriations to Criminal Appeals & Number of Cases



Iowa Department of Justice

Representing the State

By law, the Department of Justice has a duty to represent the State in litigation. The Department's work in this area generally falls into three areas:

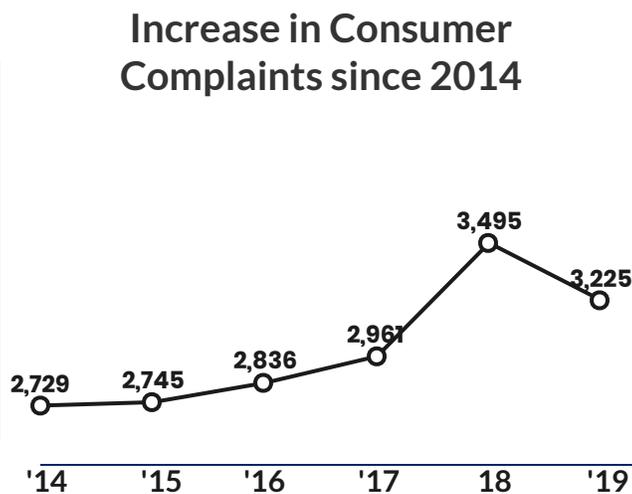
- 1 Defending State Agencies, Officers, and Employees.** These Department lawyers function like an in-house civil-defense law firm, representing the State of Iowa and state officers or employees who are sued in their official capacity.
 - The Department provides quality representation in cases that range from routine slip-and-fall matters in state-owned buildings, to complex cases that claim state actors discriminated against job applicants, to claims by prison inmates alleging denial of religious freedom.
 - The Department handles a growing number of increasingly complex employment cases. As the Iowa Supreme Court hands down new interpretations of employment law, the Department's workload expands. Furthermore, the Department continues to see a rise in jury awards.
- 2 Defending Legislation.** The Department also has a duty to defend lawfully enacted legislation and regularly does so in state and federal court. These cases frequently involve complicated issues of constitutional law and appellate litigation before the Iowa Supreme Court.
- 3 Advising State Agencies.** The Department's team of administrative-law and licensing attorneys provides daily advice to more than 200 state boards, commissions, agencies, and departments. These lawyers also prosecute cases before the boards and commissions, collect delinquent child support, and represent boards and commissions when agency decisions or rules are challenged in Iowa courts.

Consumer Protection

In years past, the consumer protection division was funded by state appropriations. Now it is funded primarily through the Consumer Education and Litigation Fund, which involves no taxpayer money, just money from consumer fraud judgments and settlements. This division handles an increasing load of complaints, difficult cases, and direct consumer education across the entire state. In 2019, the AG's Office received 22,074 phone calls and helped 307 consumers who stopped in for assistance. By targeting bad actors who defraud consumers for their own profit, the office serves consumers and the vast majority of businesses who follow the law and ensures a fair marketplace.

Consumer Stories

 The maker of the Miracle Scraper charged 280 Iowans \$19.97 for a plastic car scraper, and automatically enrolled members in a "VIP Auto Discount Club" that charged unknowing Iowans \$9.95 per month. The Attorney General's Office fought for Iowans, and Miracle Scraper was ordered to wholly reimburse every affected Iowan.

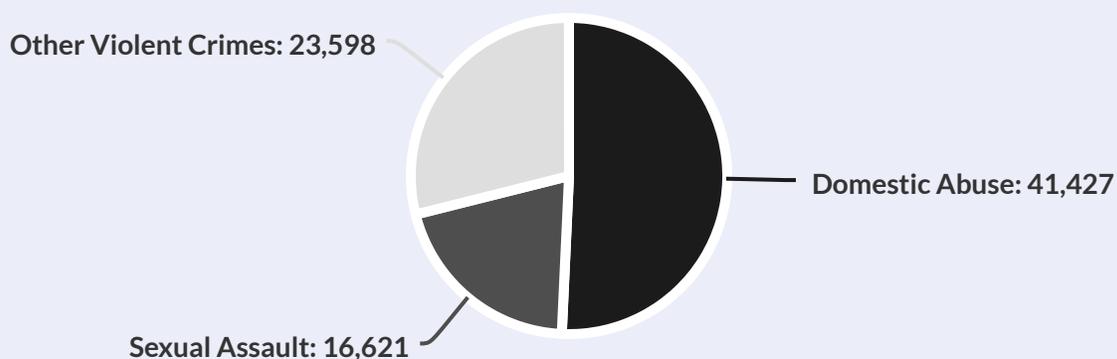


 A Florida company took \$51,000 from older Iowans after promising guaranteed income and grams of gold in a pyramid scheme. The Attorney General's Office made sure all affected Iowans were reimbursed.

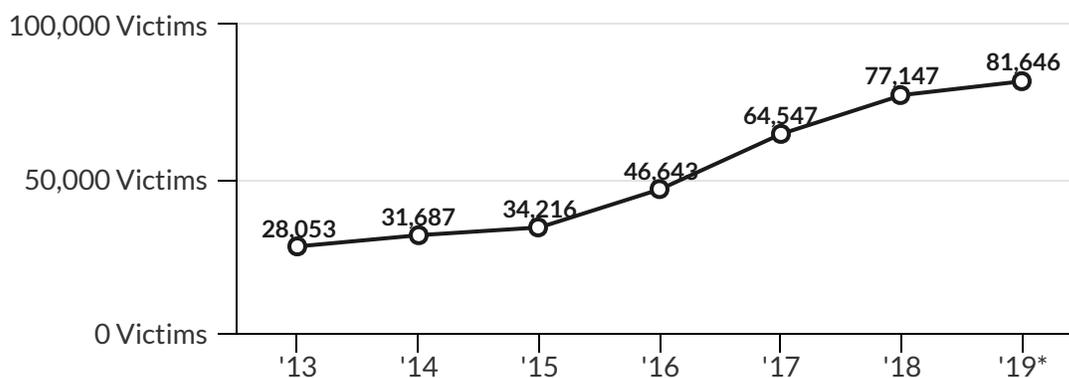
Iowa Department of Justice Crime Victim Assistance

The **Crime Victim Assistance Division** administers programs that directly benefit victims of violent crime. These programs assist victims with the financial burden resulting from injuries of crime, support local crime victim services, and hold offenders responsible for the effects of their crimes. In the General Fund budget, Victim Assistance Grants are listed as a separate line item. In FY 2019, that line item totaled \$5,016,708. The amount remains stationary at \$5,016,708 in FY 2020 (estimated) and in the Governor's budget request for FY 2021.

In FY 2019, victim service programs served 81,646 Iowans.



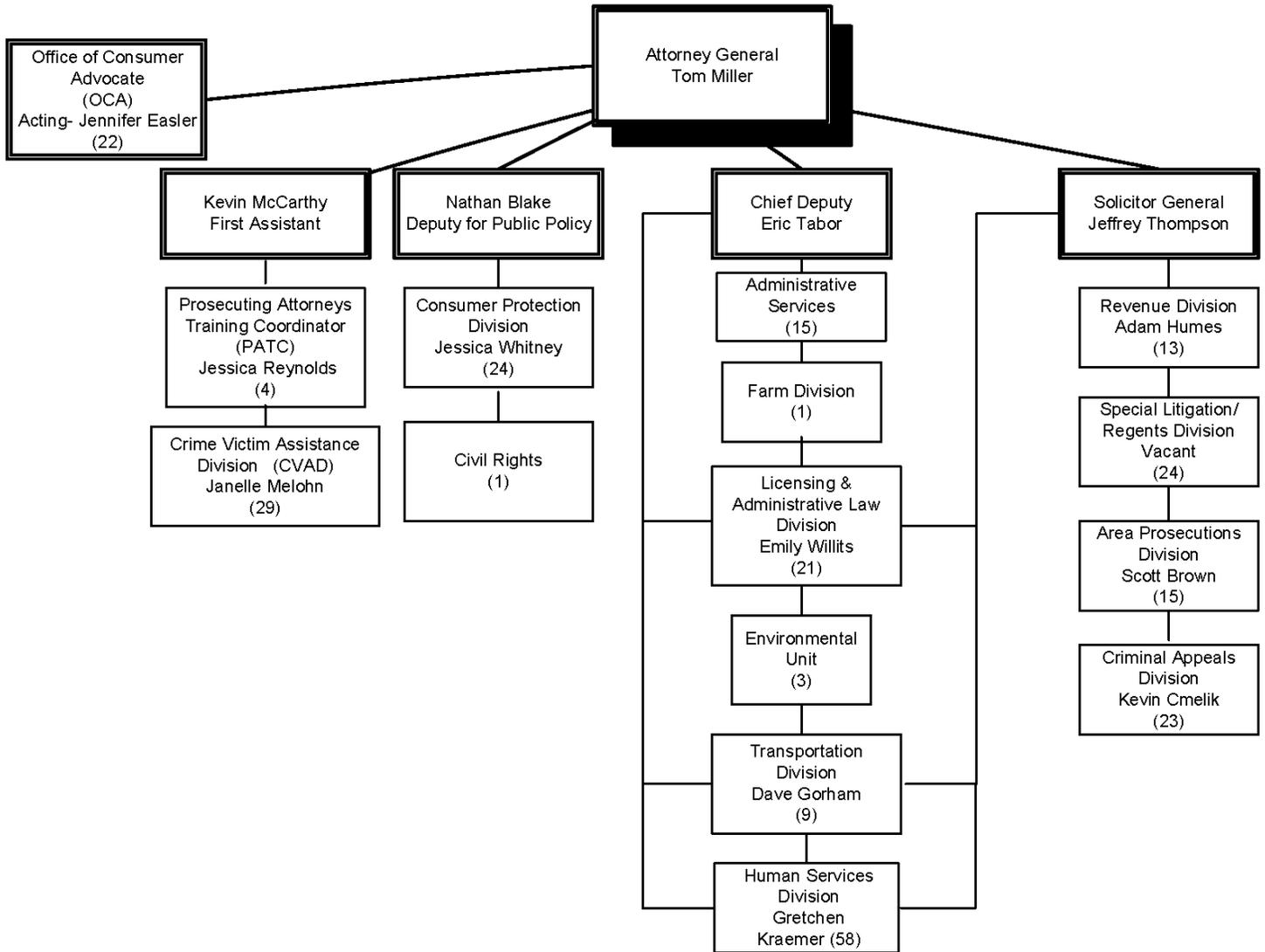
175% More Victims Served Since FY 2013



10,889 Iowans volunteered 282,898 hours to victim service programs in FY 2019, equivalent to 136 full-time staff.

* FY19 #'s cover a 15 month reporting period as funded programs switched to operate on the federal fiscal year July 2018-September 2019.

Iowa Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General



Department of Justice, Attorney General

		Actuals	Current Year Budget Estimate	Total Department Request	Total Governor's Recommended
		FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021
090SD - Attorney General					
0001 - General Fund					
112 - Justice, Department of					
B01	General Office A.G.	5,911,705	6,006,268	7,006,268	6,113,631
B10	Victim Assistance Grants	5,016,708	5,016,708	5,016,708	5,016,708
B11	Legal Services Poverty Grants	2,304,601	2,634,601	3,300,000	2,634,601
B12	Farm Mediation Services			300,000	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND 0001		13,233,014	13,657,577	15,622,976	13,764,940
0019 - Commerce Revolving Fund					
114 - Consumer Advocate					
B07	Consumer Advocate - Fund 0019	3,137,588	3,137,588	3,137,588	3,137,588
TOTAL COMMERCE REVOLVING FUND - 0019		3,137,588	3,137,588	3,137,588	3,137,588
0088 - Consumer Education Fund					
1B1	AG Prosecutions, Appeals, Chapter 669 Duties - Fd 0088	1,500,000	1,500,000	500,000	1,800,000
833	Consumer Fraud-Public Education & Enforcement	1,871,313	1,875,000	1,875,000	1,875,000
834	Older Iowans Consumer Fraud-Public Education & Investigation	124,754	125,000	125,000	125,000
B15	Farm Mediation Services - Fd 0088	300,000	300,000		300,000
TOTAL CONSUMER EDUCATION FUND - 0088		3,796,067	3,800,000	2,500,000	4,100,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		20,166,669	20,595,165	21,260,564	21,002,528
TOTAL FTEs		238.51	263.00	263.00	265.00