



Department of Justice

THOMAS J. MILLER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

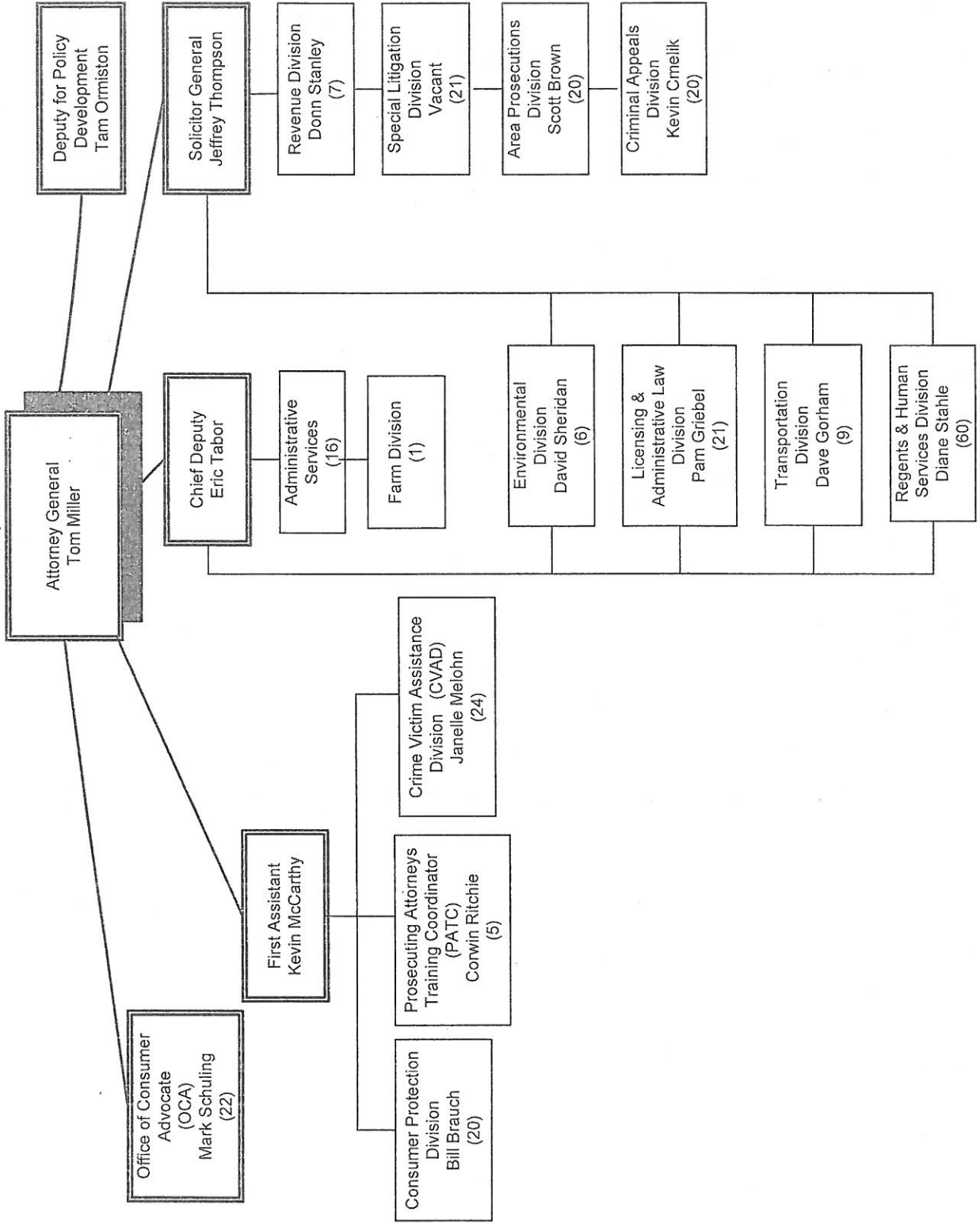
ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
HOOVER BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319  
TELEPHONE: 515-281-5164  
FACSIMILE: 515-281-4902

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM MILLER  
PRESENTATION TO  
JUSTICE SYSTEMS  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
February 17, 2015

# Department of Justice

## Iowa Attorney General's Office

February 2015



# Requests for General Fund Appropriations

## Office of the Attorney General

The Department respectfully requests the Legislature to approve a status quo budget for the Office of Attorney General ("Office") for FY16 and FY17, with one exception.

The exception is an additional **\$150,000** for both FY16 and FY17 to help the Office address the pernicious crime of **human trafficking**. The Office has been battling human trafficking through legislation, education, investigation, and prosecution. There are two critical needs to further enhance the Office's efforts. *First*, when stings are conducted to arrest human traffickers and to assist their victims, local law enforcement agencies are asked to assist, which oftentimes results in the need to pay overtime to officers working through the night. *Second*, there is a need for additional training for law enforcement officers, regulatory employees, and county attorneys to understand and recognize how human trafficking is conducted and how to aid victims.

The Department is requesting \$100,000 for FY16 and FY17 to grant to local law enforcement agencies to pay overtime to assist in human trafficking investigations and arrests. Additionally, the Department is requesting \$50,000 for FY16 and FY17 to provide the training described above.

The total request for the Office for FY16 and FY17 is **\$8,139,905**.

## Legal Services

The Department administers a state grant program that funds civil legal services for indigent Iowans. Due to substantial cuts in federal funding, reductions in other revenues, and increased costs, Iowa Legal Aid is unable to provide needed services to thousands of eligible individuals.

The Legislature appropriated \$2,400,000 for legal services for FY15. The Department is respectfully requesting the Legislature to approve a \$500,000 increase for legal services over the next two fiscal years - - **\$2,650,000** for FY16 and **\$2,900,000** for FY17.

## Crime Victim Assistance Grants

The Department administers a grant program that funds local domestic abuse, sexual abuse and shelter-based programs. The Legislature appropriated \$6,734,400 for victim

assistance grants for FY15. The Department respectfully requests the Legislature to approve a status quo budget for victim services for FY16 and FY17 - \$6,734,400.

Maintenance of a status quo budget is critical to support the modernization of victim services which the Department has initiated over the last 18 months. The Department's Crime Victim Assistance Division, with assistance from the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault and many others, has worked to modernize Iowa's system of victim service provision by taking what has been learned from victims, best practices of past and present models, and Iowa specific and national service statistics. The goal is to establish a system that is cost effective, sustainable and client-focused.

Early evaluation of the modernization efforts demonstrates significant improvement in the delivery of victim services. There was a sizable increase in the number of crime victims served in FY14 compared to FY13. The number of domestic abuse victims served increased 15% and the number of sexual abuse victims served increased 24%. These increases can be attributed to (1) a more equitable distribution of funds across service categories, (2) separating service types and elimination of "dual" programs, and (3) increased number of victim service advocates. The staff of victim service programs has increased 29%.