

Office of the Attorney General State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Creator: Pennsylvania. Office of the Attorney General

Title: Office of the Attorney General State Documents

Identifier: ATT-GEN

Date: 1981 - Present

Date: Majority of material found within 1895 - 1929

Date: Majority of material found within 2004 - Present

Physical Description: 207 Megabytes (35 PDF files)

Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Attorney General is the Commonwealth's chief legal and law enforcement officer, elected to a term of four years and barred from serving more than two successive terms. The Office of Attorney General is divided into three divisions: the Criminal Law Division, the Civil Law Division, and the Public Protection Division; each division is rendered administrative and logistic support by the Operations Division. The duties of the Attorney General's Office are: to furnish, upon request, legal advice concerning any matter or issue arising in connection with the exercise of the official powers or performance of the official duties of the Governor or a Commonwealth agency; to represent the Commonwealth and all Commonwealth agencies and, upon request, the Auditor General, State Treasurer, and Public Utility Commission in any legal action brought by or against the Commonwealth or its agencies; to represent the Commonwealth and its citizens in any action brought for violation of the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth, and to represent the Commonwealth in Charitable Trust matters; to collect, by suit or otherwise, all debts, taxes, and accounts due the Commonwealth which are referred to the Attorney General; to administer the provisions relating to consumer protection and to appoint the Advisory Committee; to review for form and legality all proposed rules and regulations of Commonwealth agencies; to review for form and legality all Commonwealth deeds, leases, and contracts to be executed by Commonwealth agencies; and to be the Commonwealth's chief law enforcement officer charged with the responsibility for the prosecution of organized crime and public corruption.

The publications of the Attorney General contain biennial reports, other reports, educational guides, and strategic plans. Selected topics from these publications include Attorney General official opinions, employee rights, fair labor rights, and mental health. The bulk of the current material is dated from 1895 to 1929, and from 2004 to present.

Biographical / Historical

The Office of the Attorney General was specifically named in the State Constitution of 1776. Today the Attorney General is an independent agency. Prior to January 20, 1981, the Attorney General was appointed by the Governor and headed the Department of Justice. In 1978, voters approved a constitutional amendment

establishing an elected Attorney General effective with the general election in 1980. The duties and responsibilities of the elected Attorney General were established by the Commonwealth Attorneys Act of 1980.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Pennsylvania Department of Justice (emerged from, in current independent agency form)

General

The Office of the Attorney General in its current independent status began in 1981. Records of the Office of the Attorney General prior to this date may be included in these publications, if the records are specifically of that office and not of a related agency such as the Department of Justice, an agency that formerly held control of the Office of the Attorney General in organizational hierarchy. If the record does function as a part of the larger agency rather than of the specific Office of the Attorney General, it may be included in the publications of that controlling agency.

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Office of the Attorney General at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class330>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Attorneys general's opinions--U.S. states
- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- State government publications