

AGO MISSION

“The Office of the Attorney General will provide excellent, independent, and ethical legal services to the State of Washington and protect the rights of its people.”



AGO QUICK FACTS

- The AGO serves roughly 200 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities, as well as the Governor and Legislature.
- The Attorney General manages the largest public law office in the state with more than 1,100 employees, including more than 500 attorneys, and offices in 13 cities around the state: Bellingham, Everett, Kennewick, Olympia, Port Angeles, Pullman, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Tumwater, Vancouver, Wenatchee, and Yakima.



Main Office

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Consumer Protection

www.atg.wa.gov/SafeguardingConsumers.aspx

Statewide toll-free number:
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Statewide toll-free Relay Service:
1-800-833-6384

Antitrust Division

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Provided courtesy of the Washington State Attorney General's Office

Bob Ferguson
Attorney General



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

WELCOME TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL!

The Attorney General is the top legal officer for state government, elected by the public for a four-year term.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson is Washington's 18th state Attorney General. He was first sworn into office in January 2013.

The Attorney General's Office impacts the lives of people all across Washington. As chief legal officer, the Attorney General leads a team of attorneys who represent state clients and the public interest as directed under state law.

Attorney General Ferguson's top priorities are:

- **Protecting consumers and seniors against fraud by cracking down on powerful interests that don't play by the rules;**
- **Keeping our communities safe and supporting law enforcement;**
- **Protecting our environment and taking on polluters; and**
- **Standing up for our veterans and advocating for our service men and women and their families.**



WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE?

The Attorney General's Office:

- Represents the State of Washington before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and trial courts in all the cases involving the state's interest and defends state officers or employees ethically acting in their official capacities.
- Pursues civil commitment of sexually violent predators to keep them out of our communities until they are no longer a threat.
- Investigates and prosecutes persons accused of crimes at the request of the Governor or a county prosecutor.
- Protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act, and enforcing laws against anti-competitive business practices.
- Advises the Governor, members of the Legislature, other state officers, and county prosecutors on legal issues.
- Gives formal written attorney general's opinions on constitutional or legal questions at the request of designated public officials.
- Represents the public interest in utility matters.
- Proposes legislation consistent with the policy goals and priorities of the office.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE?

- The Attorney General's Office is not authorized to represent city, county, or other local units of government.
- By law, the Attorney General's Office is prohibited from launching criminal investigations without a request from a county prosecutor or the Governor.
- The Attorney General's Office is not authorized to provide advice to private citizens on personal legal matters.

State law prohibits the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general, and assistant attorney generals from engaging in the private practice of law. This means that they cannot represent private citizens in court either to bring an action on behalf of an individual, or to defend an individual. Any private citizen needing such representation should consult a private attorney.

If you do not know an attorney in your area, the Washington State Bar has a searchable lawyer directory and other links to resources for the public, including information on access to free or reduced-fee legal help.

Visit www.wsba.org/The-Public