****

**New York State Office**

**of the Attorney General**

**Albany Bureaus**

**Division of Appeals & Opinions**

The Division of Appeals and Opinions operates under the direction of the Solicitor General, who, by statute, is appointed by the Attorney General. The Division is responsible for preparing and arguing civil and criminal appeals in both state and federal courts. The Division determines which cases are to be appealed and determines which legal arguments will be advanced on behalf of the State of New York. The Division also provides advice and counsel to the Attorney General and to Attorneys throughout the Office.

Further, the Division provides formal opinions to Executive Branch departments and agencies, public authorities, the Office of Court Administration and the State's public university system; renders informal advisory opinions to municipal attorneys to assist local governments; and issues opinions on proposed state constitutional amendments to the Legislature.

**Division of Criminal Justice**

***Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau***

The Attorney General's unique statewide criminal jurisdiction enables the Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau to address criminal conduct throughout New York State, including complex financial crimes which cross county lines.  The Bureau includes attorneys, investigators, auditors and analysts who conduct in-depth, long-term criminal investigations and prosecute cases from charging through conviction. The Bureau's main offices are located in New York City, with additional offices in Albany, Buffalo, and Syracuse

The Bureau focuses primarily on cases involving bank and financial institution fraud, securities and investment fraud, money laundering, tax crimes, mortgage fraud, investment schemes, and insurance fraud.  The Bureau's Financial Intelligence Section initiates investigations into illicit financial activities and tracks the flow of suspicious funds by reviewing banking, regulatory, law enforcement, and open-source data to identify trends that will enhance the investigation and prosecution of financial crime schemes. The Section also has collaborative relationships with private sector financial institutions and other law enforcement agencies, such as HIFCA, NYPD, HSI, and the U.S. Secret Service, and strengthens the Attorney General’s ability to investigate and prosecute financial crimes.

In addition to complex financial schemes, the Bureau investigates and prosecutes a wide variety of cases, including consumer fraud schemes, public benefits fraud, embezzlement, unlicensed practice of a profession, environmental crimes and homicides, based on referrals from New York State agencies.  Some of those State agencies include: the Department of Taxation and Finance, the Office of the Comptroller, the Education Department, the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Police, the Department of State and the Department of Financial Services.

The Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crimes Bureau include the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit ("AIFU") and the Crime Proceeds Strike Force ("CPSF").

***Medicaid Fraud Control Unit***

In his first weeks in office, Attorney General Schneiderman launched a new initiative – at no cost to taxpayers – to bolster his office's award-winning Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (“MFCU”) with dozens of additional prosecutors, investigators and auditors.

The MFCU, the largest unit within the Attorney General’s Criminal Division, is the centerpiece of New York’s effort to investigate, penalize, and prosecute individuals and companies responsible for improper or fraudulent Medicaid billing schemes. A revenue-generating agency that recovers taxpayer money through successful fraud prosecutions, the MFCU utilizes a team-based approach to identify and investigate frauds committed by hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, doctors, dentists, nurses, and other health care entities billing the Medicaid Program.

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit targets, among other things, large-scale frauds involving overbilling, kickbacks, substandard drugs and medical equipment, and “Medicaid mills” run by organized criminals. It also handles numerous cases in order to safeguard elderly and disabled New Yorkers from abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other health care facilities.

Attorney General Schneiderman’s new enhancement to the MFCU - the addition of dozens of new prosecutors, investigators, and auditors devoted to cracking down on Medicaid fraud – is funded by using money the agency itself recovers, as well as a federal program which will provide the unit with 3:1 matching funds. Through the federal program, Schneiderman will receive enough funds to vastly bolster the capabilities of the MFCU, without costing state taxpayers a dime.  In previous years, there has been a direct relationship between the number of prosecutors in the MFCU and the number of Medicaid fraud recoveries the unit has obtained, meaning the enhanced unit could recover millions more to the taxpayers of New York State.

**Division of Economic Justice**

In previous years, there has been a direct relationship between the number of prosecutors in the MFCU and the number of Medicaid fraud recoveries the unit has obtained, meaning the enhanced unit could recover millions more to the taxpayers of New York State.

***Public Integrity Bureau***

The Public Integrity Bureau (“PIB”) investigates and seeks to vindicate the public's interest in honest government. When government actors, or private individuals acting in concert with them, engage in corruption, fraud or illegal behavior in the course of their public duties, the PIB may investigate or take enforcement action to restore the public's interest in honest government and the integrity of government officials at the state and local level. Specifically, PIB handles complex investigations into government corruption, fraud and abuse of authority. Although PIB is part of the Criminal Division, PIB brings cases pursuant to both civil and criminal authority. The Bureau can also issue reports about its investigations and findings.

Attorney General Schneiderman has made cracking down on corruption and restoring the public’s trust in government a top priority for the Office. In 2011, the Attorney General launched a groundbreaking initiative expanding his office’s authority to investigate public corruption involving taxpayer funds by partnering with the state Comptroller. In addition, the Attorney General designated public integrity officers in every region of the state to give New Yorkers a place to go to report complaints of government corruption without the fear of local politics influencing the outcome.

***Bureau of Consumer Frauds & Protection***

The Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection, part of the Economic Justice Division, prosecutes businesses and individuals engaged in fraudulent, misleading, deceptive or illegal trade practices.

In addition to litigating, the Bureau mediates thousands of complaints each year from individual consumers. A large percentage of these complaints are resolved satisfactorily through the mediation process. As part of its mission, the Bureau provides information to consumers and seeks to ensure a fair and vigorous market place. The Bureau also drafts legislation and conducts studies and writes reports on emerging consumer problems and issues.

Division also provides advice and counsel to the Attorney General and to Attorneys throughout the Office.

**Division of Social Justice**

***Charities Bureau***

The Attorney General's Charities Bureau is responsible for supervising charitable organizations to protect donors and beneficiaries of those charities from unscrupulous practices in the solicitation and management of charitable assets. The Charities Bureau also supervises the activity of foundations and other charities to ensure that their funds and other property devoted to charitable purposes are properly used, and protects the public interest in charitable gifts and bequests contained in wills and trust agreements. The Bureau also maintains a registry of charities and fundraising professionals.

***Environmental Protection Bureau***

Enforcing a zero tolerance policy against any environmental threats in New York that imperil the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on, Attorney General Schneiderman is committed to ensuring that the Environmental Protection Bureau continues to be a national leader on the environment.

The Environmental Protection Bureau plays a central role in protecting New York's environment and public health. With a staff that includes some 40 lawyers and 10 scientists, the Bureau vigorously enforces both the State's and Nation's environmental laws. It also represents the State of New York in legal matters related to the environment.

Attorney General Schneiderman has made environmental protection a centerpiece of his administration, tackling a wide range of critical issues such as climate change, nuclear power plant safety, air and water pollution, energy efficiency, hazardous waste, and safe and healthy communities.

The Attorney General's accomplishments include:

* Successfully defending New York State's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative -- a multi-state effort to reduce emissions of pollution that contribute to climate change -- against challenges by out-of-state political interests.
* Winning a landmark ruling against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for sanctioning long-term storage of radioactive waste at nuclear power plants without fully assessing the related public health, safety and environmental hazards.
* Leading a coalition of states in legal action that directly led to the federal EPA's adoption of national air standards for harmful particulate matter -- commonly referred to as "soot" pollution -- that better protect public health.
* Dedicating $4 million in settlement funds to local efforts to improve water quality in the Bronx River, $200,000 to assist farmers to combat water pollution in Lake Champlain, and $400,000 to fund projects aimed at restoring lakes and streams in the Adirondacks still suffering the damages of acid rain pollution.
* Leading a coalition of states in reaching an agreement with the federal Department of Energy that established a timetable for updating long-overdue energy efficiency standards for four common commercial appliances.
* Successfully defending New York State's ability to hold polluters responsible for the cleanup of hazardous waste in communities.
* Dedicating $2.2 million in settlement funds to expand his office's highly-successful Buffalo Green and Healthy Homes Initiative to help more of New York's neediest families lower their energy bills, and eliminate serious health and safety hazards in their homes.

***Health Care Bureau***

The Health Care Bureau safeguards the rights of health care consumers statewide through investigation of and enforcement actions against insurers, providers, drug companies and other individuals and entities that engage in fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or illegal practices in the health care market.  The Bureau’s Health Care toll-free Helpline, 1-800-428-9071, provides information and assistance to thousands of New Yorkers annually, including resolution of individual consumer health-related complaints, making sure consumers and patients get access to the health care they are entitled to. The Health Care Bureau also educates New Yorkers about the rights and protections they have available to them under the Managed Care Bill of Rights and other health and consumer protection laws. In addition, the Bureau advocates for legislation and policy initiatives to enhance the rights of health care consumers and their ability to access quality, affordable care in New York State.

How the Health Care Bureau Helps New Yorkers

* Challenge health insurers that won’t cover provider costs
* Navigate the complex health care system
* Target health care organizations that have fraudulent, misleading or deceptive practices
* Provide outreach to educate New Yorkers about their health care rights
* Advocate for laws, regulations and policies that enhance the rights of health care consumer

**Division of State Counsel**

***Civil Recoveries Bureau***

The mission of the Civil Recoveries Bureau is to recoup money owed to State agencies through affirmative litigation. The Bureau's work is carried out by ten units, five of which are based in Albany and include the General Recoveries Unit, Mental Hygiene Unit, Oil Spill Unit, Student Recoveries Unit and the Bankruptcy Unit. The remaining five units are based at or near the State hospitals including Roswell Park Cancer Institute Corp., SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital, SUNY Stony Brook University Hospital, SUNY University Hospital of Brooklyn and the Helen Hayes Hospital. The Bureau also recovers the cost of care at the State's four Veterans Homes in Montrose, Batavia, Oxford and St. Albans, through our Helen Hayes Hospital office.

***Claims Bureau***

The Claims Bureau is responsible for defending the State against actions falling primarily into three categories: tort and medical malpractice claims for personal injury or property damage alleged to have been caused by the State or its employees; litigation involving disputes in connection with State contracts; and court actions contesting the amount of money the State is to pay in the condemnation of private property for public use.

***Litigation Bureau***

The Litigation Bureaus (one in New York City and one in Albany) represent the State and its officers and agencies in state and federal courts in actions involving almost every substantive area of the law. The Bureaus protect the public interest by defending constitutional challenges to state statutes, regulations, policies and practices and by bringing actions to enforce state laws and regulations.

The Bureaus' major clients include the Departments of State, Health, Taxation and Finance, Insurance, Civil Service, Education, Corrections and Community Supervision, Banking, Motor Vehicles, Housing and Community Renewal, as well as the Offices of Mental Health, People with Developmental Disabilities, Children and Family Services and Temporary and Disability Assistance, the State's major educational institutions, the State Police and the State judiciary.

***Real Property Bureau***

The Real Property Bureau provides legal assistance to State agencies and authorities in connection with the acquisition and disposition of real property. The office investigates titles, clears liens, prepares deeds and various closing documents, and facilitates the closing of title. In addition to purchases and dispositions, the Bureau handles all of the State's eminent domain transactions by reviewing and certifying title, clearing liens, preparing closing papers, and certifying payment. The Bureau also represents the State in court proceedings involving disputes over the State's title to lands acquired for public use.

***Sex Offender Management Bureau***

**For the most current list of available job openings and to apply, please visit www.ag.ny.gov/job-postings.**

**If you have questions about a position or the application process, please contact the Legal Recruitment Bureau at recruitment@ag.ny.gov or 212-416-8080**

On April 13, 2007, the Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act (SOMTA) went into effect to enhance public safety by providing for the civil management of recidivistic sex offenders upon the expiration of their criminal sentence. SOMTA provides for management of these offenders in a secure treatment facility in the custody of the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for the most dangerous offenders; or through a regimen of strict and intensive supervision and treatment (SIST), for those offenders the courts have found appropriate to be managed in the community, under close supervision by the New York State Division of Parole. As part of SOMTA, Article 10 was added to the New York Mental Hygiene Law (MHL), which establishes the procedural provisions for the civil management of sex offenders.

The Sex Offender Management Bureau (SOMB) was created by the Attorney General to represent the state of New York in all Article 10 litigation. SOMB works in concert with the Article 10 partners, the Office of Sex Offender Management within the Division of Criminal Justice Services, NYS Department of Community and Correctional Services, NYS Office of Mental Health, and the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities to develop state wide protocols to further the goals of Article 10 in ensuring public safety.