# Tour the Attorney General's Office

Office of New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer

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As New York State's Chief Legal Officer, the Attorney General defends and protects the people of New York. In the Attorney General's office there are over 500 attorneys and over 1,800 employees, including forensic accountants, legal assistants, scientists, investigators and support staff. The Attorney General has offices across New York State, including Albany, our state capital.

Criminal Division | Division of Public Advocacy | Division of State Counsel Divisions of Appeals and Options | Other Bureaus | Previous NYS Attorneys General

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#### **REGIONAL OFFICES**

These Offices fall under the direction of the Deputy Attorney General of Regional Offices and are entrusted with the handling of the Office of the Attorney General in the local jurisdictions. Each Regional Office handles a full complement of cases as they present themselves on the local fronts, although certain Offices have tended to develop concentrations in a certain spectrum of cases (i.e., mental health work or consumer fraud complaints) based upon the needs of the community. Each Regional Office is headed by an Assistant Attorney General in Charge. The Assistant Attorney General in Charge works directly with the Deputy Attorney General on all Regional Office administrative matters. The Assistant Attorney General in Charge consults with the Deputy Attorney General of the other Divisions, (i.e., Appeals and Opinions, Public Advocacy, State Counsel and Criminal) on all case specific legal matters. A large percentage of the cases and matters that are the daily business of the Attorney General's Office arise in the local jurisdictions. The separation of labor between the Division for the Regional Offices and the "case-specific" Divisions (Public Advocacy, State Counsel, Appeals and Opinions and Criminal), allows for an interlocking relationship between the Divisions, avoids duplication of effort and time, and best serves the diverse

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needs of each Regional Office as a local branch of the Office of the Attorney General.

#### **<u>CRIMINAL DIVISION</u>**

120 Broadway New York, New York 10271

The Criminal Division, is comprised of the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Organized Crime Task Force.

#### **<u>DIVISION OF PUBLIC ADVOCACY</u>**

The Attorney General is the principal public official in the State of New York with the authority to defend and protect the public interest in our courts. As part of the mission, the Attorney General seeks to enforce the public interest by civil investigations and lawsuits through the Public Advocacy Division which is headed by a Deputy Attorney General who in turn supervises the seven Bureaus.

#### **DIVISION OF STATE COUNSEL**

Justice Bldg. Albany, New York 12224 (518) 473-0648

As the chief legal officer of the State, the Attorney General is called upon to represent in litigation the State and its agencies, the Governor and other State officials, and the Legislature. The Division of State Counsel defends thousands of suits each year in every area of state government. Headed by the Deputy Attorney General, the Division of State Counsel includes nearly two-thirds of the Department's Attorneys in bureaus based in Albany and New York City and in the Department's 12 Regional offices.

## **DIVISION OF APPEALS AND OPINIONS**

Solictor General OAG The Capitol, Albany, New York (518) 474-7330

The Division is physically located in Albany and New York City. Headed by the Solicitor General, it is responsible for the handling of appellate litigation in both state and federal courts, often in the highest courts of the State or nation. The Division determines which cases are to be appealed and the arguments to be advanced on behalf of the State of New York. The Division also prepares opinions, both formal and informal, interpreting state laws for state agencies and municipalities. Additionally, the Division is responsible for the several law libraries of the Office of the Attorney General.

#### **OTHER BUREAUS...**

## CHARITIES BUREAU

120 Broadway New York, New York 10271 (212) 416-8400

New Yorkers donate over \$10 billion to charity every year. The Attorney General's Charities Bureau is responsible for supervising charitable

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organizations to insure that donors and beneficiaries of those charities are protected from unscrupulous practices in the solicitation and management of charitable assets. The Bureau also supervises the activity of foundations and other charities to insure that their funds and other property devoted to charitable purposes are properly used. The Trusts and Estates Section protects the interest of the public as ultimate beneficiaries of religious gifts and bequests contained in wills, trust agreements, deeds and corporate charters. The Bureau is also responsible for monitoring charitable registrations as mandated by law.

#### HEALTHCARE BUREAU

146 State Street 3rd Floor - Room 303 Albany, New York 12207 (518) 474-8376

The Health Care Bureau advocates on behalf of consumers and providers who are experiencing difficulty in dealing with managed care organizations. The Bureau fields complaints from members of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and health care providers, and monitors the impact of managed care upon the public. In addition, the Bureau reviews and prepares legislation to help provide high quality, low cost health care in New York State.

## **INTERNET BUREAU**

120 Broadway New York, New York 10271 (212) 416-8433

The Internet Bureau is the first unit of its kind in the nation. Its mission is to coordinate statewide the investigation and prosecution of civil law enforcement actions involving computers, online services, and the Internet, as well as child pornography and other crimes being committed through the use of the Internet. The Bureau fields complaints and responds to inquiries by other Bureaus. The Bureau also reviews and prepares legislation where current laws appear inadequate to address the development of the Internet into the marketplace of the 21st century.

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU 146 State Street 3rd Floor - Room 301 Albany, New York 12207 (518) 486-3000

The Bureau of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for the preparation of the Attorney General's Legislative Program and its submission to the State Senate and Assembly, as well as the coordination of all significant communications between the Attorney General's Office and the New York State Legislature, Congress and other public officials. The Bureau also provides legislative information and service to every bureau, division and office within the Attorney General's office, working with Assistant Attorneys General and staff to identify and seek to remedy statutory weaknesses which adversely affect the public interest and the success of litigation brought or defended by the State, as well as providing information on pending legislation and new laws, state and federal, relevant to any subject area affected by the work of the Attorney General's office. The Bureau is also responsible for reviewing and providing comments on legislation passed by the Legislature and

pending before the Governor, and responding to legislative and case inquiries from local, state and federal officials and governmental bodies and members of the public.

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