

# Attorney General Bill Schuette



## Michigan Department of Attorney General



Fiscal Year 2018-19  
Michigan Legislature  
Budget Presentation

# Department of Attorney General Overview

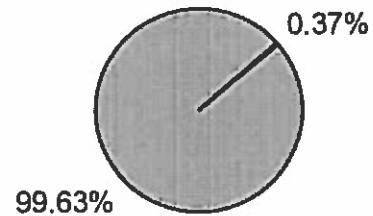


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- The Attorney General is a constitutional officer, chief law enforcement officer of the state, and head of the Department of Attorney General, a department within the executive branch of state government. The Attorney General's duties are prescribed by statute, court decisions, and tradition.
  - The Attorney General is the lawyer for the State of Michigan, the Governor, and the People. When public legal matters arise, he renders opinions on matters of law and provides legal counsel for each officer, department, board, and commission of state government. He provides legal representation in court actions and assists in the conduct of official hearings held by state agencies.
  - The Attorney General may intervene in any lawsuit, criminal or civil, when the interests of the People of the State of Michigan require. He advises and supervises prosecuting attorneys throughout the state. The Attorney General also possesses certain investigative powers, including the power to investigate allegations of election fraud and complaints for the removal of public officials. He may also request grand jury investigations of crime in the state. By virtue of his office, the Attorney General is a member of various state boards and commissions, including the State Administrative Board, State Employees' Retirement Board, Judges' Retirement Board, and the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.
  - The office is organized into five practice groups that oversee between three to six divisions. Each division represents certain state agencies, boards, or commissions or practices in specialized legal areas. As of January 1, 2018, our divisions maintain a litigation case load of approximately 19,200 cases and we anticipate an annualized active case load exceeding 38,000 cases for the coming year.
  - To assist in the myriad functions of the department, the Attorney General employs a staff of assistant attorneys general who must be members of the State Bar of Michigan and who are appointed under Michigan Civil Service Rules. In addition, the Attorney General employs secretaries, investigators, clerical personnel, and paralegals to assist in carrying out the mandate of the office. All of the legal work performed by the assistant attorneys general, including drafting of opinions and legal documents and representation of client agencies, is done in the name of the Attorney General and with his approval, or the approval of his designee.

The Department has been operating on approximately 1/3 of 1% of the total State General Fund budget.



Attorney General GF Expenditure % of Total State GF Expenditures



# Department of Attorney General - Line Item Appropriations

## Governor's Recommendation FY 2019



Line Item	Amount	Funding Source	Use
<b>1) Attorney General Operations</b>			
Attorney General	\$112,500	GF/GP	Funding for the Attorney General's salary
Unclassified Positions	\$792,100	GF/GP	Funding for five Executive positions.
Operations	\$91,155,200	\$32,443,400 - GF/GP \$30,386,400 - IDG \$21,493,000 - Restricted \$6,832,400 - Federal	All staff salaries, benefits, contractual services, supplies, materials, expert witnesses, travel, rent, worker's compensation, equipment, and other operation costs.
Child Support Enforcement	\$3,578,300	\$903,400 - GF/GP \$2,674,900 - Federal	Provides funding for the Attorney General's Child Support Division, which includes salaries, benefits, contractual services, supplies, materials, travel, rent, equipment, and other operation costs.
Information Technology Services and Projects	\$1,577,600	GF/GP	Provides funding for Department of Technology , Management and Budget related services.
Public Safety Initiative	\$906,200	GF/GP	Provides funding for special assistant attorneys general and one support staff to prosecute crimes within distressed cities.
Sexual Assault Law Enforcement	\$1,720,200	GF/GP	Provides funding for the Attorney General's sexual assault enforcement activities, which includes salaries and benefits for 5 FTEs, contractual services, supplies, materials, travel, equipment, and other operation costs.

# Department of Attorney General - Line Item Appropriations

## Governor's Recommendation FY 2019 (Continued)



Line Item	Amount	Funding Source	Use
2) Prosecuting Attorney Coordinating Council (PACC)*	\$2,186,800	\$1,651,400 - GF/GP \$414,200 - Restricted \$121,200 - Federal	Provides funding for the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council, which includes salaries, benefits, contractual services, supplies, materials, travel, rent, equipment, and other operation costs. Provides funding for scholarships for tuition, travel, and state prosecutors training.

\*Appropriated separately – Type I Agency.

# Value For Money

## AG's Office PROVIDES & PROTECTS REVENUE For The State

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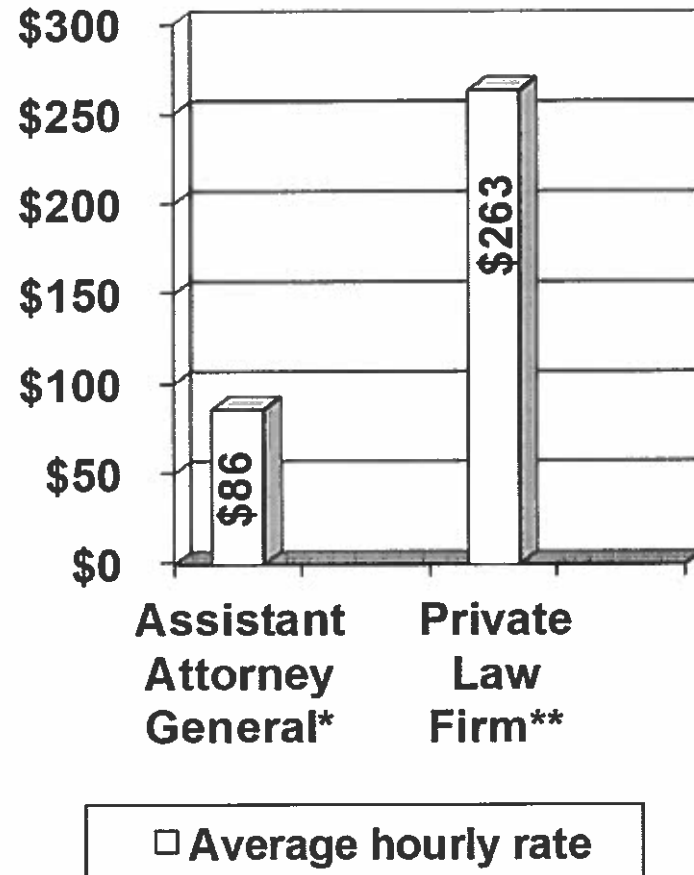


- The Attorney General's total appropriations used for FY 2017 was \$97,085,800. With that funding, the Department won **\$465,835,720** in awards payable to the State and Citizens in defense of lawsuits. The Department has averaged over \$460 million per year in awards payable to the State and Citizens during the past five fiscal years.
- The Department returned \$4.80 for each \$1 appropriated for FY 2017, and has averaged more than \$5 per year for every dollar appropriated during the past five fiscal years.

# Personnel Statistics – Measurement of Efficiency and Employee Dedication



- 85% of our budget is personnel related costs.
- In 2017, assistant attorneys general clocked over 56,500 excess hours.
- 56,500 excess hours are the equivalent of 28 additional attorneys with a resulting cost savings of \$5.0 million.
- Average hourly rate of staff attorneys\* is less than 1/3 of their private sector counterparts.



\* This figure includes salary and benefits

\*\* State Bar of Michigan; Economics of Law Practice Survey (2014)

# Department of Attorney General Spending Projections



## FY 2018 Projected Costs by Category

Category	Projected Costs	Percentage of Budget
Personnel-Related Costs	\$78,000,000	85%
Contractual Services, Expert Witness Fees, Supplies, and Maintenance	\$7,500,000	8%
Rent	\$3,600,000	4%
Information Technology	\$1,600,000	2%
Travel	\$700,000	1%
Equipment	\$400,000	Less than 1%

## FY 2019 Projected Costs by Category

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# Top Initiatives

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- MSU Investigation
- Sexual Assault Enforcement
- Drug Abuse Unit
- Flint Water Crisis
- OK2SAY - Student Safety
- Human Trafficking
- Child Support Enforcement
- Consumer Protection
- Public Safety

# Top Initiatives

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## MSU Investigation

Following a lengthy investigation, the Department of Attorney General brought charges against Larry Nassar in both Ingham and Eaton Counties. Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University doctor, pleaded guilty to 10 total counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct involving nine victims. In Ingham County, he was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison. In Eaton County, he was sentenced to 40 to 125 years in prison. The Department of Attorney General insisted that all victims be afforded the opportunity to give victim impact statements at his sentencing hearings in Ingham and Eaton Counties. In total, over 200 victims gave statements in both counties, an unprecedented event not only in our state but nationally. Overall, the Department of Attorney General is aware of more than 250 victims of Nassar for the abuse he inflicted over two decades. We expect that number to rise.

On January 19, 2018, the Board of Trustees for Michigan State University sent a letter to the Attorney General requesting that the Department undertake “a review of the events surrounding the Larry Nassar matter” concluding that “only a review by your office can resolve the questions in a way that the victims, their families, and the public will deem satisfactory and that will help all those affected by Nassar’s horrible crimes to heal.” On January 27, 2018, the Attorney General announced publicly that the Department had already begun in earnest its investigation; that the MSU investigation would be “priority one;” and that the Department would conduct a full, fair and complete investigation of what happened from the president’s office down.

To lead the Department’s investigation into MSU, the Attorney General has hired former, longtime Kent County Prosecutor, William Forsyth, to act as Special Independent Counsel. To assist Mr. Forsyth, the

# Top Initiatives

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## MSU Investigation (Continued)

Attorney General has also committed significant resources from within the Department including 9 attorneys (both civil and criminal), 7 investigators, and several administrative support staff. Additionally, Col. Etue has offered the full support of the Michigan State Police. Currently, 7 MSP detectives and an analyst have joined the MSU Investigatory Team. The Attorney General and the Michigan State Police are working together jointly to ensure a thorough and timely investigation into MSU. At the end of its investigation, the Attorney General has pledged to issue a public report detailing his team's findings and recommendations. Though early in the process, the Department of Attorney General is currently projecting anticipated costs of approximately \$1.3 million related to its investigation of MSU through fiscal year 2018.

The Governor's Budget Recommendation provided our department with a \$1,000,000 general fund supplemental appropriation for the current fiscal year. The supplemental appropriation was included in the substitute for House Bill 4321 which passed the House and Senate on March 1, 2018.



# Top Initiatives

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## Sexual Assault Enforcement

The Attorney General and Governor recommend continued law enforcement investigation and prosecution as well as services for those victimized by sexual violence.

### Sexual Assault Unit

The Attorney General created a Sexual Assault Unit within the Criminal Division in March 2012. The unit is staffed with one full-time Assistant Attorney General and one full-time Special Agent Investigator. The driving philosophy of the Sexual Assault Unit is to operate in a victim-centered, offender-focused, trauma-informed manner, focusing on how best we can serve our victims to promote healing and bring justice, even if those things may come years or decades later.

The Sexual Assault unit AAG also serves as the department's representative on the Michigan Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission, a legislatively created body. The AAG provides technical assistance to local prosecutors throughout the state related to sexual assault issues, and serves as a trainer for the Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Following the recent Nassar case, the AAG has received numerous national speaking engagement and training invitations from police and prosecutor groups. The AAG has also served as a subject matter expert on many working groups authorizing model policies and training materials and initiatives related to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault.

As a result of having an in-house sexual assault and domestic violence prosecutor, the Attorney General's office has been able to review, retain and prosecute a number of these complicated, multi-victim cases. The Sexual Assault Unit has worked on many high-profile and complex sexual assault cases during the last few years.

### Noteworthy Case (People v. Lawrence Nassar) -

In October 2016, the unit was assigned as the prosecuting authority in the Larry Nassar case. In that matter, over 250 victims reported being sexually assaulted by a sports medicine physician under the guise of medical treatment. The case garnered international attention during the three-week sentencing hearings held in two counties in January and February 2018. At those hearing over 200 women and girls came forward to give victim impact statements. There has never been a sentencing hearing like this in our nation's history. Victims were supported, empowered and believed, and as a result, their displays of bravery, pain and strength captivated the world. As a result of the hearing, congressional and many other investigations have begun into the United States Olympic Committee, the United States Gymnastics Association, the FBI, Michigan State University and other entities.



# Top Initiatives

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## Sexual Assault Enforcement (Continued)

The defendant was as a prominent national figure in the gymnastics community and at Michigan State University. Most of the cases involve complex medical issues as the victims allege they were sexually assaulted during the course of their treatment with the doctor, while the doctor has asserted he used legitimate medical techniques. The reported abuse spans over twenty years with most victims being teenagers at the time of the abuse. Almost all were delayed disclosure cases. Criminal charges were issued in November 2016 and February 2017. Multiple preliminary examinations with victim testimony were held in the summer of 2017. In November 2017, the Defendant pleaded guilty to 10 counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct. The Department of Attorney General insisted that any plea agreement allow for all victims of Nassar to participate and have a voice. As a result, the plea agreement authored and authorized by the Attorney General allowed for ALL victims of Nassar to give victim impact statements at his sentencing hearing.

### Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

In 2009, a year after the Detroit Police Crime Laboratory closed, approximately 11,300 untested sexual assault evidence kits (SAKs) were discovered. Those SAKs spanned many years, some sitting untouched for more than two decades. The Attorney General proposed using \$4 million from Michigan's Lawsuit Settlement Proceeds Fund to test the remaining 8,000 untested SAKs. That \$4 million was appropriated by the Legislature to the State Forensic Laboratory Fund in 2013 Public Act 102. With the reduced pricing, the \$4 million was sufficient to complete the testing of the 8,000 untested SAKs in May of 2015.

The Legislature continued to recognize the commitment of both Attorney General Schuette and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy to bringing justice and closure to Wayne County sexual assault victims, and to holding the perpetrators accountable. In June 2014, the Legislature made a \$3 million one-time appropriation to the Department of Attorney General and directed the Attorney General to prepare a work and spending plan for work related to prosecution resulting from testing all of the previously untested Wayne County SAKs. A Memorandum of Understanding detailing the work and spending plan between the Department of Attorney General, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the Detroit Police Department, and the Michigan State Police was executed in May 2015 and has been updated to ensure this objective is met.

The Wayne County sexual assault prosecution activities have been designated as a work project with an estimated ending date of September 30, 2018.

# Top Initiatives

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## Sexual Assault Enforcement (Continued)

The Legislature appropriated \$1.7 million in fiscal year 2016, 2017, and, again in fiscal year 2018 to fund the testing, investigations, and provision of victim services relative for previously untested SAKs. To accomplish this goal, the Department undertook a survey to identify untested SAKs in the possession of law-enforcement entities. The resulting inventory was used by the Department to prioritize investigations and prosecution of SAK test results returned in Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Genesee Counties. The Department has MOUs with three counties and one law-enforcement agency. Calhoun County has successfully prosecuted two offenders. Kalamazoo and Ingham Counties along with the Grand Rapids Police Department are reviewing cases for prosecution. Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties are providing community-based services to survivors.

The Department's priority remains investigation and prosecution. With the statute of limitations continuing to run, the Department does not believe it is prudent to delay activities once test results are returned. For that reason, the Department will continue to communicate with other counties after they receive their test results. It is expected that additional counties may request MOUs or the assistance of a trained sexual-assault investigator on the Department's staff.



# Top Initiatives

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## Drug Abuse Unit

In 2015, Governor Rick Snyder created The Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force to develop a plan to address prescription drug and opioid abuse. The committee's mission was to examine recent trends, evaluate strategic options, and develop a statewide action plan by fall 2015. Through data obtained from the Commission's work, there is a demonstrated need for a specialized statewide drug prosecution unit.

Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic. The increased availability of prescription drugs, coupled with general misperceptions regarding the safety of "doctor-prescribed" medications, has led to exponential growth of drug users and drug abusers. In Michigan, the number of drug overdose deaths – a majority of which are from prescription drugs – has tripled since 1999. The rise in heroin and methamphetamine use is closely related to the prescription drug epidemic. As efforts increase to address prescription drug abuse, addicts often turn to widely available and inexpensive illicit drugs.

Law enforcement must respond to this epidemic in order to save lives and protect communities. Local prosecutors do not always have the necessary resources to effectively combat this epidemic. As the state's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Attorney General is well positioned to prosecute complex drug cases as well as those that cross county lines.

The Attorney General drug unit is staffed with three attorneys, an investigator and one support staff that supplements the great work done by local authorities in prosecuting drug cases. Since October 1, 2016, the Drug Unit has taken in 52 cases. It has closed 21 of the cases, with 11 convictions. The remaining 10 closed cases were either not chargeable, or were dismissed by plea agreement or by motion. Currently, the unit has 31 open cases including 16 in litigation and 15 in the investigation phase.

# Top Initiatives



## Flint Water Crisis

The Attorney General has dual responsibilities to represent the people of Michigan and defend the State of Michigan when sued. Currently there are 90 active Flint Water lawsuits filed against the State of Michigan that are being defended by the Department of Attorney General. The Department anticipates additional lawsuits to be filed in the future. State defense funding of \$3,000,000 has been designated as a work project with an estimated ending date of September 30, 2020.

On January 25, 2016, Attorney General Schuette announced the use of Special Counsel to pursue an independent investigation into whether any State laws were violated in the Flint Water crisis. To date, Attorney General Schuette has filed 51 criminal charges against 15 current and former state and local officials and interviewed more than 200 witnesses. The independent investigation continues to be exhaustive and thorough with an anticipated cost of approximately \$11,200,000 through fiscal year 2019.





# Top Initiatives

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## OK2SAY - Student Safety Initiative

In December 2013, the Legislature passed the Student Safety Act . The act establishes OK2SAY, a state –wide student safety initiative that empowers students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement officials to share and respond to student safety threats.

In September of 2014, the initiative launched. Tips can be submitted 24/7 by text, mobile app, email, the OK2SAY website, and phone. Multimedia attachments (photo, video, audio, etc.) and links are encouraged. Students no longer fearing retaliation or being labeled a “snitch” because their identity is protected by law, filed 11,229 tips in the first 41 months.

To date 3,992 free OK2SAY seminars have been conducted with 477,088 students and parents in attendance. The mobile app has been downloaded 32,483 times.

The program encourages accountability by asking schools, law enforcement, and/or community mental health service program officials to complete an outcome report detailing the nature of the tip, the action taken in response, the outcome achieved, and suggestions for improvement. Initial indications suggest that in almost 46% of the incidents, outcome reports are being completed.

### Examples

- A student who was raped receives mental health services.
- School officials confiscate a knife and drugs.
- A student selling drugs at school receives a suspension.
- Law enforcement investigates a case involving a student being blackmailed to send nude photos.



# Top Initiatives

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## Human Trafficking

Every day in America, innocent people are forced into prostitution, domestic servitude and other forms of labor through Human Trafficking. Through force and intimidation, men, women and children are bound by the chains of modern day slavery. Forty percent of human trafficking cases involve sexual abuse of a child.

Attorney General Schuette recognized that Michigan citizens are not immune from this crime and started the State's first Human Trafficking Unit. Just in 2017, in a total of 21 presentations to almost 2000 people, Schuette's Human Trafficking Unit provided Human Trafficking training to approximately 285 Law Enforcement professionals, 200 Legal professionals, 900 medical professionals, 150 other professionals and about 330 members of the general public. The Human Trafficking Unit has arrested 21 individuals on human trafficking charges, secured 17 convictions, with cases against four defendants currently pending. The perpetrators of this crime in Michigan can no longer hide in the shadows.

Attorney General Schuette is recognized as a leader in this emerging area of criminal law. On the recommendation of the first Commission on Human Trafficking convened in 2013, the Legislature created the standing Michigan Human Trafficking Commission within the Department of Attorney General, whose members are appointed by the Governor to represent various groups and public officials .

The Michigan Human Trafficking Commission first convened in April of 2015 and set to work. The Commission has made significant progress over the last year, including:

- 1) Completing an expanded human trafficking video for medical professionals, produced in conjunction with the Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland County Medical Societies.
- 2) Reviewing state law and policy regarding human trafficking and making recommendations for legislative changes.
- 3) Completing a survey project aimed at law enforcement to help determine the true prevalence of human trafficking within the State of Michigan.



# Top Initiatives

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## Human Trafficking (Continued)

Attorney General Schuette is committed to the continued fight against this horrible crime in cooperation with The Michigan Human Trafficking Commission. Professionals, educators, students, and community members from around the state have joined these efforts. Attorney General Schuette, with the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission pledges to continue to support victims, conduct research, train front-line professionals, make recommendations to improve anti-trafficking laws, and raise public awareness.

### **Noteworthy Cases -**

#### ***People v. Woodall***

In January of 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette charged 19-year old Tremaine Woodall of Warren with two counts of Human Trafficking – Recruiting a Minor for Commercial Sexual Activity, and two counts of Pandering for sex trafficking a 17 year-old and attempting to sex traffic a 16-year old. The charges are a result of an anonymous tip received by the Southeast Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes (SEMTEC) task force regarding sex trafficking of a minor female. Also originally charged was another adult woman. However, when investigators discovered she was also a victim of human trafficking by Woodall, her case was resolved allowing her an opportunity at safe harbor from a conviction. In late 2017 Woodall, pled as charged and is currently serving a sentence of 2-20 years in prison.

#### ***People v Speed***

In early 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette charged Amber Speed, 40 of Lansing, with multiple 20-year felonies, including Minor Sex Trafficking, Pandering, Accepting the Earning of a Prostitute and Debt Bondage. Speed is alleged to have conducted an “escort” operation, posting advertisements for commercial sex for herself and at least three other girls and young women online. The alleged victims were minors when they were brought into the human trafficking ring. The victims were allegedly forced to turn over the money from the commercial sex acts to Speed who would then provide the victims with highly addictive drugs. Multiple instances of Speed allegedly trafficking minors is alleged to have occurred from 2009 through approximately 2014. Speed was convicted at trial and is currently awaiting sentencing.



# Top Initiatives

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## Human Trafficking (Noteworthy Cases - Continued)

### ***People v. Niblett, et. al.***

In July of 2017, in a joint prosecution with his new drug unit, Schuette charged Melvin Niblett, Corey Cooper, Maurice Rushton, and Jasmin McGinnis with running a drug and sex trafficking operation. Between September and October of 2016, law enforcement in Warren, Madison Heights and Southfield were aware that Niblett and his crew were running a drug and prostitution operation in Oakland and Macomb counties. While dozens of individuals were involved, Niblett is alleged to have been at the top of the operation. Niblett and two others were charged with human trafficking. They each pled guilty and in December of 2017 they were sentenced to prison: Niblett for 78 months - 20 years; Rushton for 19 months -10 years.

### ***People v McGough and Standfield***

In late 2017, Attorney General Schuette charged two men with sex trafficking a minor. An investigation into the actions of McGough and Standfield was initiated by the Warren Police Department after their alleged victim came forward in September 2017. The 17-year old alleged that McGough was trafficking her out of hotels in Macomb and Oakland County between April and September 2017. The victim alleged that she and her friend were recruited and encouraged to engage in commercial sex by Joseph McGough and his friend Robert Stanfield. McGough then took the victim from her hometown to the metro Detroit area where they stayed in hotels for her and he had engage in commercial sex. McGough allegedly took all earnings his victim made from performing commercial sex. His victim alleged she had to go on multiple "dates" a day. During a several week absence by McGough's, he had his friend Standfield assume control of the operation. This case is currently in district court awaiting preliminary examination.



# Top Initiatives

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## Child Support Enforcement

In Michigan, unpaid child support continues to be a major socio-economic problem with more than \$6.3 billion in support owed. Investigators in the Attorney General's Child Support Division identify parents throughout the State who have the ability to pay support to their children but refuse to do so.

The Attorney General's Child Support Division was created in 2003 to combat the problem of unpaid child support. Over the past fourteen years the division has seen impressive results as it fights to obtain compliance with child support orders. Since 2003, Attorney General Schuette's Child Support Division has collected more than \$243 million which has directly impacted the lives of 17,200 children.

The mission of the Child Support Division is to enforce child support orders by prosecuting those individuals who have a history of non-payment and have significant arrearages of at least \$10,000. The division focuses on those parents who have the ability to pay their court ordered obligation but fail to do so.

The division generates far more revenue than is appropriated and actually saves the State money. In many cases, money is owed to the State due to childbirth costs paid by Medicaid or when cash assistance has been paid to the custodial parent. When the division collects child support in these cases, the state-owed moneys are recovered and returned to the State. As a result, the Child Support Division collects more revenue each year than it costs to operate the division.

# Top Initiatives



## Consumer Protection

- Enforcement of more than 35 state statutes that protect consumers and charities.
- Received and replied to about 10,000 written consumer complaints and inquiries and 28,000 telephone calls from individuals and businesses in 2017.
- Consumer and State recoveries, including antitrust, of \$34 million in fiscal year 2017.
- Spearheads major educational initiatives, including OK2SAY & Michigan CSI training for more than 2,072,000 students and adults and over 4,900 Citizen Education seminars attended by over 107,300 consumers.
- Alerts consumers to scams, deceptive business practices, privacy threats, and emerging identity theft schemes.
- Registers or licenses on a yearly basis about 8,700 charities and professional fundraisers that solicit from the public; supervises charitable trusts and organizations.
- Leads consumer protection multistate activities, including the General Motors ignition switch multistate where a settlement was reached in October 2017. GM agreed to pay \$120 million to the participating States, including an enhanced executive committee payment to Michigan of \$4,291,165.45.
- Other 2017 multistates where Michigan is on the executive committee include the Volkswagen Emissions multistate which resulted in a payment of \$11,738,025.11 to Michigan and two that are still in the investigative stage, the Equifax Data Breach multistate and Midland Funding Debt Collection multistate.
- Conducted the first investigation ever under Michigan's new Solicitation of Deeds Act, MCL 445.1031. Following the investigation, First Documents, LLC, a California limited liability company, agreed to stop sending its deceptive mailings to Michigan consumers and paid the costs of the investigation.
- Engages in various enforcement actions and investigations under the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, including Take Me Away Tours, LLC, a travel agency which agreed to refund consumers and cease operating a travel or trip-planning business in the State of Michigan.
- Commenced a lawsuit against Family Fitness following receipt of hundreds of consumer complaints against this west-Michigan based entity that operates fourteen gyms. In December, the Kent County Circuit Court issued a preliminary injunction granting most of the requests made by the Attorney General in this ongoing effort to assist consumers.



# Top Initiatives

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## Consumer Protection (Continued)

- Investigates and enforces charitable trust laws against charities, professional fundraisers, and charitable trustees. Recent activity includes action against a deceptive Texas-based veterans charity and its professional fundraising, resulting in its dissolution, penalties of \$100k, and other relief; \$150k settlement with deceptive Florida-based Breast Cancer charity; and actions against two deceptive clothing donation bin operators operating in Michigan.
- Engages in multistate activity to combat national/international business and charity scams, including leading a multistate action of 24 states against Illinois-based VietNow, a deceptive Veterans charity, resulting in its dissolution and other relief; and cooperating in other ongoing multistate investigations of deceptive charities.

# Top Initiatives

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## Public Safety Initiative

One of the core duties of government is the protection of the public. Michigan has four of the most violent cities in America. The economic recovery we are currently witnessing in Michigan is assisted when we make our schools safer and reduce crime in our neighborhoods. Reducing crime improves our ability to attract and retain jobs and improves the quality of life for all Michigan citizens.

The Attorney General's Distressed Cities Initiative provides funding for Special Assistant Attorneys General to be imbedded with county prosecuting attorney's offices to assist in the prosecution of criminal matters. Currently, fourteen Special Assistant Attorneys General are reducing crime in Wayne County, Saginaw County, and Genesee County.

During 2017, these Special Assistant Attorneys General worked on an active felony caseload of 5,838 cases and also handled an active misdemeanor caseload of 20,408 cases.

The Governor's Budget Recommendation has provided our department an additional \$906,200 to continue our Public Safety initiative efforts.