



The Office of  
**Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison**

helping people afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect • [www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us)

# **THE MINNESOTA AGO: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, & RECENT RESPONSES TO FEDERAL ACTION**



# Overview of MN Attorney General's Office

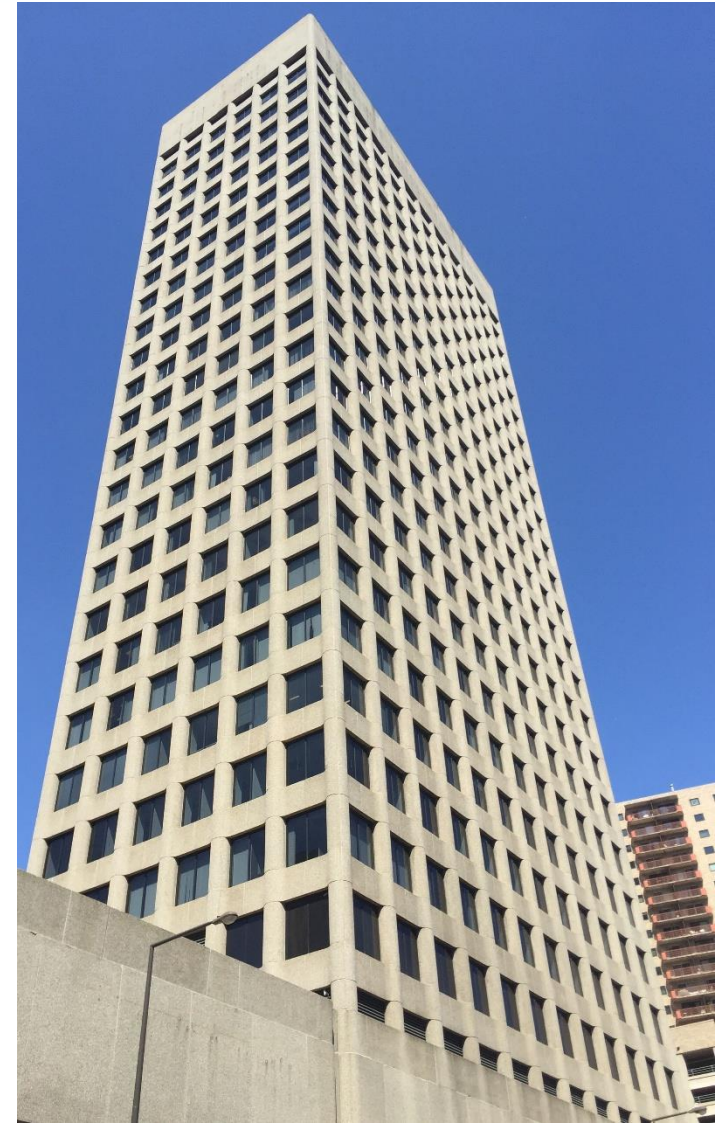
- The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the State of Minnesota.
- Mission: Helping Minnesotans live with safety, dignity and respect





# Overview of MN Attorney General's Office

- Approx. 450 employees, including 195 attorneys
- Represents over 100 state agencies, boards, and commissions, and represents the State of Minnesota in state and federal court and administrative hearings.
- The AGO enforces state consumer protection and antitrust laws, regulates charitable institutions, and advocates for people and small businesses in utilities matters.
- The Office also defends the constitutionality of state statutes. It may do so by directly representing State defendants in constitutional challenges or by intervening in or filing amicus curiae briefs in private litigation





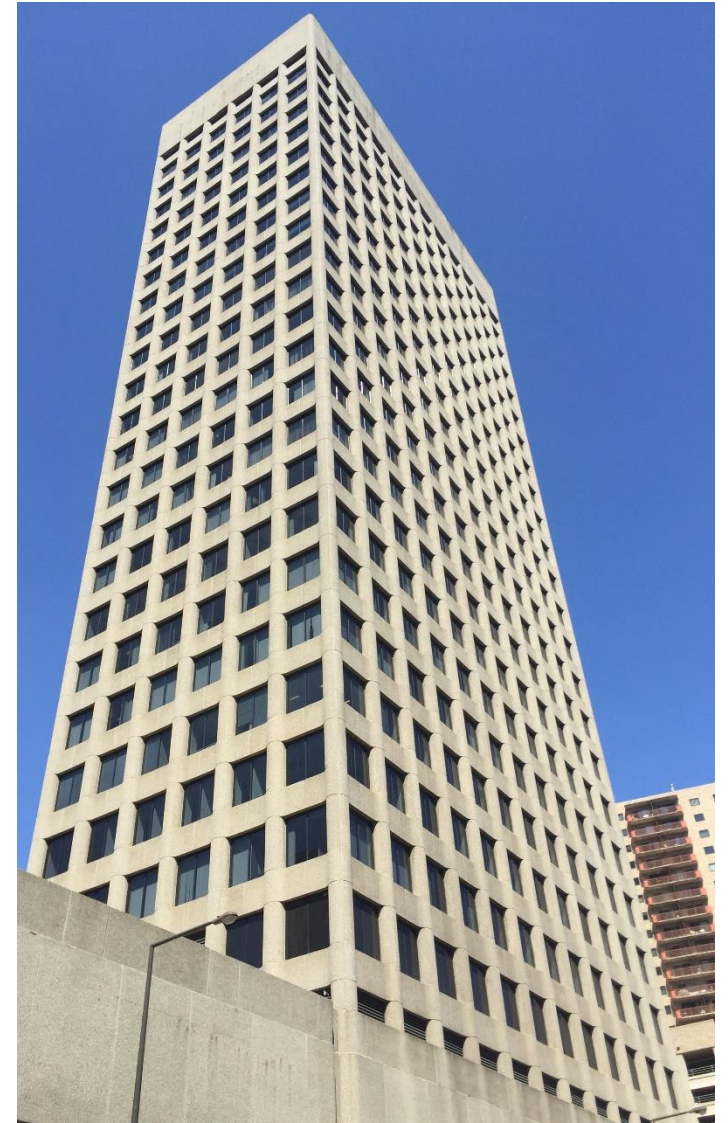
# [Some of] the Specialized Divisions at the MN AGO

- Torts, Employment, and Public Utilities
- Tax Litigation
- Health and Teacher Licensing
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Charities
- State Agencies
- Transportation
- Human Services
- Consumer Action
- Public Safety
- Medicaid Fraud
- Criminal
- Wage Theft
- Anti-trust
- Conviction Review Unit
- Rule of Law



# Consumer & Worker Protection Work

- Minnesota AGO has a team of consumer analysts who field calls from constituents who are having difficulties with businesses (and often mediate/obtain victories for them)—in 2024, resolved thousands of calls and arrived at settlements of more than \$14 million!
- Minnesota AGO also put out consumer alerts to constituents regarding common scams and frauds, and their rights under Minnesota law.
- Since 2019, the Minnesota AGO has also had statutory authority to pursue civil enforcement actions against employers who engage in wage theft.





# What kinds of Criminal Cases does MN AGO handle?

- **Medicaid cases:** By Minnesota law, the Minnesota AGO does not have independent authority to investigate or charge criminal cases except for Medicaid cases; Medicaid provider fraud is investigated and charged through the AGO's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)
- **Upon Request of a County Attorney:** When requested by a county attorney, the Attorney General may appear in court and prosecute criminal cases as they deem proper.
- **Upon Request of the Governor:** If the Governor makes a written request, the Attorney General is authorized to prosecute any person charged with an indictable offense.
- **Appeals:** Minnesota AGO handles the appeals for a number of county criminal cases



# Published Opinions by Minnesota AGO

The Attorney General's Office is authorized by statute to issue written legal opinions **only to constitutional executive officers, state agencies, bodies of the state legislature, and attorneys for local governments or pension funds.**

These opinions do not generally have legally binding effect as a court decision, but they can be helpful to inform the actions of local public officials. Some opinions are formally “published”, while others are not.



## What the Minnesota AGO does NOT do:

- Initiate prosecutions for non-Medicaid cases
- Provide legal advice to, or oversight of, counties, cities or townships.
- Represent individual Minnesotans, give them legal advice, or file lawsuits on their behalf
- Interpret statutes or rules for private citizens
- Get involved in immigration cases, or file habeus petitions
- Assist members of the public with general questions or concerns about federal agency programs (such as Social Security Administration, IRS, etc.)



## Rule of Law and Federal Accountability Work

- Between January 2025 and March 2026, the Minnesota AGO has been involved in 55+ lawsuits addressing a wide range of topics (illegal federal funding cuts to SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and other programs; unlawful executive orders impacting Minnesotans' rights; terms and conditions impacting federal funding to state programs; violations of administrative law; attacks on data privacy for Minnesotans' Medicaid, SNAP, and voter data ) and defending when DOJ has sued to challenge Minnesota law.
- This work includes the lawsuit filed on January 12, 2026 regarding the impacts of Operation Metro Surge (filed by co-plaintiffs Minnesota, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul)



# Operation Metro Surge Litigation

- Minnesota AGO, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul's lawsuit asserts constitutional claims, and claims under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA)
- Although the case emphasizes the collective and individual impacts of Operation Metro Surge, the lawsuit does not advance legal claims on behalf of individual people, and is not a class action.





# Role of the Minnesota AG “Federal Action Reporting Form” in Lawsuit against DHS

- Highlights/Successes
- Collaboration and referrals
- Considerations as the case moves to the next stage

**Incident Details**

Were you physically present during the incident? \*

Yes  
 No

Where did this happen? \*

Date \*

Date

Estimated Time \*

Hour Minutes

Did the incident include any of the following (check all that apply): \*

Racial profiling by federal law enforcement

Arrests by federal law enforcement

Warrantless entry or presence on private property

Use of physical force by federal law enforcement

Use of chemical irritants or less than lethal weapons

Arrests or retaliation against observers or protestors

Abandonment or damage of vehicles in public roadways

Business closures or other impacts related to federal action

Education impacts related to federal action

Healthcare access impacts related to federal action

Federal funding cuts

Federal grant terminations

Terms and conditions tied to federal program participation

Other



# Thank you!

Questions?