

AGENCY SNAPSHOT:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

by Alyssa Cameron

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services safeguards the public and supports Florida's agricultural economy by ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products through the following: carrying out inspection and testing programs; protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices and providing consumer information; assisting Florida's farmers and agricultural industries with the production and promotion of agricultural products; and conserving and protecting the state's agricultural and natural resources by reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing public lands.

The Department's twelve divisions are as follows: Administration; Agricultural Environmental Services; Animal Industry; Aquaculture; Consumer Services; Florida Forest Service; Food Safety; Food; Nutrition and Wellness; Fruit and Vegetables; Licensing; Marketing and Development; and Plant Industry. The Department also has the offices of Agricultural Law Enforcement, Agricultural Water Policy, and Energy.

Head of the Agency:

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Floridians elected Adam Putnam to serve as Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture, and he took office on January 4, 2011. In this capacity, he is the head of the Department, a state agency with the mission of promoting Florida agriculture, fostering innovation in energy development, providing a safe and abundant food supply, managing the state forest resources, and safeguarding consumers. As a

member of Florida's Cabinet, Commissioner Putnam, with the Governor, Attorney General and Chief Financial Officer, oversees 13 boards, commissions and departments. Previously, Commissioner Putnam served five terms as Congressman for Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and two terms in the Florida House of Representatives.

Agency Clerk:

Paul Palmiotto
Mayo Building
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-617-7000

Hours for Filings:

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

General Counsel:

Lorena Holley
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-617-7700
lorena.holley@freshfromflorida.com

Prior to joining the Department in January 2011, Ms. Holley spent a number of years with the Florida Public Service Commission, most recently serving as a Senior Attorney with the Commission's Office of General Counsel Division of Appeals, Rules and Mediation. During her years at the PSC, Ms. Holley also served as a Chief Advisor to a Commissioner, advising on legal and policy issues related to the economic regulation of Florida's electric, gas, telecommunications, and water and wastewater utility industries. Ms. Holley also spent several years working for the law firm of Rutledge, Eceña, Purnell & Hoffman, P.A., and as a staff attorney with Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. She received her J.D. in 1999 from the Texas Tech

School of Law in Lubbock, Texas and is a member of The Florida Bar.

Number of lawyers on staff: 20

Kinds of Cases:

The Office of General Counsel ("OGC") provides legal services to all twelve divisions, the numerous offices of the Department, and the Commissioner of Agriculture in his official capacity as a member of the Florida Cabinet. Office of General Counsel attorneys have a variety of responsibilities and duties, including the drafting and enforcement of administrative actions, litigation of cases involving the Department, and state and federal civil and administrative appeals. The OGC routinely brings administrative and civil actions for the Division of Consumer Services, which is charged with regulating game promotions, health studios, traveling amusement companies, the sale of liquefied petroleum, motor vehicle repair, intrastate moving services, and sellers of travel. The OGC also supports the Division of Consumer Services in carrying out its charge of enforcing the Sale of Business Opportunities Act, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, the Dance Studio Act, the Florida Pawnbroking Act, and the Florida Telemarketing Act. Department attorneys provide counsel to and litigate before the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers. The Division of Licensing has in-house attorneys who assist in legal matters concerning the issuance of concealed weapon licenses and associated programs. The OGC regularly assists the Department with drafting and interpreting proposed legislation, provides statutory interpretation and legal counsel, and coordinates all Department rulemaking endeavors. In addition, the General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel work closely with the Commissioner, Chief of Staff, and members of the Capitol staff.