

**AGENCY SNAPSHOTS***from previous page*

## Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

by Russell S. Kent

The Attorney General is a member of the Florida Cabinet and serves as the State's chief legal officer. The Attorney General is responsible for protecting Florida consumers from various types of misconduct. Additionally, the Attorney General pursues cases of Medicaid fraud, defends state agencies in civil litigation cases, and represents the State when criminals appeal their convictions in state or federal courts. Within the Attorney General's Office is the Office of State-wide Prosecution, which targets widespread criminal activities, including identity theft, drug trafficking, and gang activity. The Attorney General's Office also conducts various programs to assist victims of crime. Finally, the Attorney General defends the constitutionality of state statutes and issues formal legal opinions to certain public officials on issues of state law.

**Head of the Agency:**

Pam Bondi, Attorney General  
Department of Legal Affairs  
The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050  
(850) 414-3300  
<http://www.myfloridalegal.com>

A native of Tampa, Pam Bondi was sworn into office as Florida's 37th Attorney General on January 4, 2011. Attorney General Bondi is focused on protecting Floridians and upholding Florida's laws and the Constitution. A few of her top priorities are: defend-

ing Florida's constitutional rights against federal overreach; strengthening penalties to stop pill mills; aggressively investigating mortgage fraud and Medicaid fraud; and ensuring Florida is compensated for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Attorney General Bondi is a graduate of the University of Florida and Stetson Law School and served as a prosecutor for more than 18 years.

**Agency Clerk:**

Carol Howell  
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**Hours for Filings:**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday  
(except holidays)

**Number of lawyers on staff:**

Over 400 lawyers located throughout the state.

**Kinds of Cases / Responsibilities:**

- Protects Floridians by enforcing the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Florida Anti-trust Act, and other applicable laws.
- Prosecutes multi-circuit organized crime schemes.
- Serves as counsel to professional licensure and disciplinary boards.
- Mediates public access disputes and offers training on public record and Sunshine laws.

- Represents the state in criminal appeals.
- Provides services to victims of crimes.
- Houses various administrative commissions.
- Conducts Lemon Law cases.
- Promulgates administrative rules.
- Investigates and takes legal action against violations of state civil rights laws.
- Defends state agencies in civil litigation cases at DOAH and in trial or appellate courts.
- Safeguards taxpayer monies by investigating and bringing False Claims actions.
- Issues advisory legal opinions at the request of various public officials.

**Practice Tips:**

Pursuant to rule 2.516, the Office has established certain email boxes to be used when the assigned attorney has not designated another e-mail address. For more information, go to <http://myfloridalegal.com> and select "e-Service" under the "Legal Resources" menu bar.

Public records requests should be sent to the Office's Public Records Coordinator:

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The Capitol, PL-01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050  
(850) 245-0192  
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