

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



MIKE COX, ATTORNEY GENERAL

G. Mennen Williams Building
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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 constitution, statute, court decisions, and tradition. The Office of Attorney General predates statehood, having been established by an 1807 territorial act, and it has been preserved in every constitution of this state since then.

The attorney general is the lawyer for the state of Michigan. When public legal matters arise, he renders opinions on matters of law and provides legal counsel for the legislature and 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 is also the lawyer for the people of the state of Michigan and 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 Michigan. 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 Michigan.

By virtue of the office, the attorney general is a member of various state boards and commissions, including the State Administrative Board, the State Employees' Retirement Board, the Judges' Retirement Board, and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

While the attorney general is responsible for representing various state agencies and officials, there is no law that authorizes the attorney general to provide legal services to private individuals or to appear in court on their behalf.

To assist in the myriad functions of the department, the attorney general employs a staff of more than 250 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 has a staff of more than 100 investigators, secretaries, 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 is organized into five bureaus (Child and Family Services, Consumer and Environmental Protection, Criminal Justice, Economic Development and Oversight, and Governmental Affairs) and three administrative offices. Additionally, the department includes the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council, an autonomous entity.

The attorney general maintains offices in Lansing and Detroit in addition to branch offices in Escanaba, Grand Rapids, and Petoskey.



DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS



LINDA V. PARKER, DIRECTOR

Executive Office, Capitol Tower Building
110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
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The Department of Civil Rights is headed by the Civil Rights Commission. The eight-member commission was established by the Constitution of 1963. Members of the commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for four-year terms.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

	<i>Term expires</i>
MOHAMMED ABDRAHBOH, J.D. (Chair)	Dec. 31, 2007
MARK J. BERNSTEIN, J.D.	Dec. 31, 2008
KELVIN W. SCOTT, J.D. (Vice Chair)	Dec. 31, 2007
TARUN K. SHARMA, M.D.	Dec. 31, 2005
KAREN HENRY STOKES	Dec. 31, 2008
MATTHEW J. WESAW	Dec. 31, 2008
MICHAEL J. ZELLEY	Dec. 31, 2009

The **Civil Rights Commission** appoints the director of the department who develops and administers programs under its direction. The Department of Civil Rights, in implementing the mission of the commission, secures the full enjoyment of civil rights guaranteed by law and the constitution through the elimination of discrimination. This is accomplished through the investigation and resolution of complaints of discrimination; outreach and education programs designed to promote voluntary compliance with civil rights laws; mediation; referral; crisis intervention; anti-hate crime programming; and the dissemination of information which explains citizen rights and responsibilities provided in a legal framework. State law prohibits discrimination in the areas of employment, public accommodation, public service, education or housing on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, or genetic disposition.



Offices are located in Benton Harbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Saginaw, and Traverse City. The department offers the following service options:

Complaint Resolution	Information
Outreach and Education	Referral
Mediation	

The **Office of Public Information** prepares and distributes brochures, pamphlets, videos, and other materials on civil rights laws and programs.

The **Research Library** analyzes census data and emerging civil rights issues.

The Michigan Women's Commission was transferred to the Department of Civil Rights from the Department of Management and Budget by Executive Order No. 1991-29.

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Term expires

RANA ABBAS, Dearborn	July 15, 2008
EMMA BELL, Detroit (Chair)	July 15, 2008
RENEE FARHAT, Birmingham	July 15, 2008
GAIL GLEZEN, Sault Ste. Marie	July 15, 2007
SALLY SHAHEEN JOSEPH, Flint	July 15, 2007
PATRICIA LOWRIE, Okemos	July 15, 2007
EMILY MALLOY, Grand Rapids	July 15, 2009
ALEXANDRA MATISH, Ann Arbor	July 15, 2007
SHERYL MITCHELL, West Bloomfield	July 15, 2008
ROSA MORALES, Saginaw	July 15, 2008
BRENDA JONES QUICK, Traverse City	July 15, 2009
JUDY ROSENBERG, Birmingham	July 15, 2009
CHERYL B. SUGERMAN, Ann Arbor	July 15, 2007
MARY ALICE WILLIAMS, Grand Rapids	July 15, 2009
GLORIA WOODS, Bay City (Vice Chair)	July 15, 2009

ex officio

DEANNA HOPKINS, Department of Civil Service
NORENE LIND, Department of Labor and Economic Growth
JOCELYN VANDA, Department of Human Services
ROBERTA STANLEY, Department of Education

The **Michigan Women's Commission** was created by statute in 1968. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Michigan women. It consists of 15 members of the public appointed by the governor, who serve a three-year term, and ex officio representatives from the departments of Civil Service, Education, Human Services, and Labor and Economic Growth. There are also liaisons from state departments who regularly attend MWC meetings.

Under Public Act 1 of 1968, the Michigan Women's Commission is charged with studying and reviewing the status of women in Michigan, directing attention to critical issues facing women, recommending methods for overcoming discrimination, promoting methods for women to develop skills and continue their education and training, conducting surveys and creating advisory committees to study vital issues, and recognizing the accomplishments of women in Michigan. Judy Karandjeff is the executive director.

