



Office of the Utah Attorney General
2025 Annual Report

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THE OFFICE OF THE UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL

MISSION AND VISION

Under the leadership of Attorney General Derek Brown, the Office of the Utah Attorney General (OAG) serves as counselors, protectors, and stewards. We act as guardians of justice, defending the constitutions of both the U.S. and Utah, protecting residents, and preserving the resources that make Utah special.

We are committed to practicing law at the highest level and setting the standard for excellence. Our aim is to be the most reputable law firm in Utah and the most impactful attorney general's office in the nation.

MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWN

The Office of the Utah Attorney General is committed to defending state laws, managing taxpayer funds responsibly, and providing exceptional legal representation. This past year, we demonstrated that commitment. We defended in court key laws such as the flavored vape ban, secured over \$600 million in opioid-related recoveries, and more than doubled prosecutions by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Beyond the courtroom, we embraced innovation by expanding digital tools and training staff, building a flexible, transparent office prepared for future challenges. Every ruling and recovery reflects our dedication to wise counsel, faithful protection, and responsible stewardship. Thank you for your trust as we continue to keep Utah strong and set the standard for legal excellence.

WHO WE ARE

Counselors

As **counselors**, we provide state leaders and agencies with clear and strategic legal counsel, empowering them to act with confidence and fidelity to our laws and constitution.



Protectors

As **protectors**, we safeguard the rights, safety, and well-being of all Utahns as we uphold the rule of law and remain steadfast in our commitment to justice.



Stewards

As **stewards**, we honor the public's trust and are caretakers of this institution that must be preserved for generations to come.

HIGHLIGHTS

Record breaking opioid accountability

To date, Utah will recover more than \$600 million in total opioid settlement funds, including \$55 million from Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family. The office worked with the Utah Department of Commerce to hold major manufacturers, distributors, advertisers, and pharmacies accountable for their role in the opioid crisis.

Major criminal networks dismantled

Statewide strike forces shut down organized retail theft rings, narcotics operations, and financial crime networks, leading to dozens of arrests and millions in recovered losses—sending a clear message that Utah is not a safe haven for criminal enterprises.

Utah's laws defended

The Office of the Utah Attorney General successfully defended Utah statutes against high-profile constitutional challenges, securing multiple courtroom victories that preserved state authority, protected legislative intent, and kept Utah's laws fully in force.

U.S. Supreme Court win for Utah

In a decisive 8–0 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with Utah that local courts—not distant federal venues—should decide local Clean Air Act disputes, protecting Utah communities' ability to resolve Utah issues close to home.

OUR IMPACT ON UTAHNS

Saved Utah families millions of dollars

Our office recovered record-breaking funds through tax collection, saving Utah taxpayers money. We also protected Utahns from excessive utility rate hikes through targeted litigation.

Preserved access to public lands and water

Legal victories protecting roads, water rights, hunting access, and state park lands ensured that Utahns can continue to enjoy and rely on their public lands, outdoor spaces, and natural resources—now and for generations to come.

Brought justice to victims of crime

Through statewide investigations and fraud prosecutions, millions of dollars were recovered for victims, hospitals, taxpayers, and public assistance programs. By arresting and prosecuting criminals, we make Utah neighborhoods safer.

Hard-earned tax dollars protected in court

Through decisive victories in civil appeals, the Office of the Utah Attorney General preserved valid convictions, upheld state laws, and protected Utah taxpayers from costly judgments—ensuring that public resources remain focused on public needs.

UTAH MULTISTATE LAWSUITS, AMICUS BRIEFS, AND LETTERS

Utah is a **leader on the national stage** in protecting kids online and defending state sovereignty. Under Attorney General Brown's remarkable leadership, Utah has **elevated its profile** by leading and joining important multistate coalitions.

United States v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Utah led a powerful seven-state coalition before the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Texas as it challenged a federal license allowing spent nuclear fuel storage within its borders. Utah's brief forcefully argued that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—an unelected and politically unaccountable agency—had strayed beyond its statutory authority and unlawfully encroached on states' sovereign powers. The case underscores **Utah's continued leadership in defending federalism** and holding federal agencies accountable to the law.

Coalitions defending social media laws

Utah took the **national lead** in two landmark Eleventh Circuit cases—Computer & Communications Industry Association v. Uthmeier and NetChoice v. Georgia—rallying a 27-state coalition in CCIA and a 32-state coalition in NetChoice to defend state laws **safeguarding children from the harms of excessive social media use**. These multistate efforts backed Florida's and Georgia's youth-protection statutes against industry challenges, reinforcing states' authority to regulate in the interest of child safety.

Challenges to climate superfund laws

Utah joined a multistate coalition in two high-profile federal lawsuits—*Chamber of Commerce v. Moore* in Vermont and *West Virginia v. James* in New York—pushing back against novel “climate superfund” laws that seek to retroactively impose massive liability on energy-producing companies for decades of lawful activity. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, the cases challenge state efforts that threaten economic stability and exceed traditional limits on regulatory authority. **Utah’s participation reflects its continued leadership in defending fair process, lawful regulation, and the integrity of the nation’s energy economy.**

Defending Second Amendment rights

Utah joined more than a dozen states in *Silencer Shop Foundation v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*, a case before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The states are challenging the constitutionality of the National Firearms Act as applied to firearms no longer subject to a federal tax. The coalition argues that without a valid taxing basis, the federal government lacks constitutional authority to regulate these items under the NFA. Utah’s involvement reinforces a core constitutional principle: **the federal government must rely on its enumerated powers when regulating firearms—or any other activity.**

Utah urges Big Tech to combat deepfakes

Utah spearheaded a national coalition demanding that major payment and technology companies—including Visa, Mastercard, PayPal, Google, and Apple—**take immediate action to cut off financial support for the spread of nonconsensual deepfake pornography.** The coalition warned that AI-generated intimate imagery is devastating victims, overwhelmingly targeting women and minors, and enabling large-scale exploitation through unchecked digital marketplaces. Utah’s leadership **helped push for aggressive enforcement of platform policies** to prevent tech companies from becoming financial pipelines for abuse.

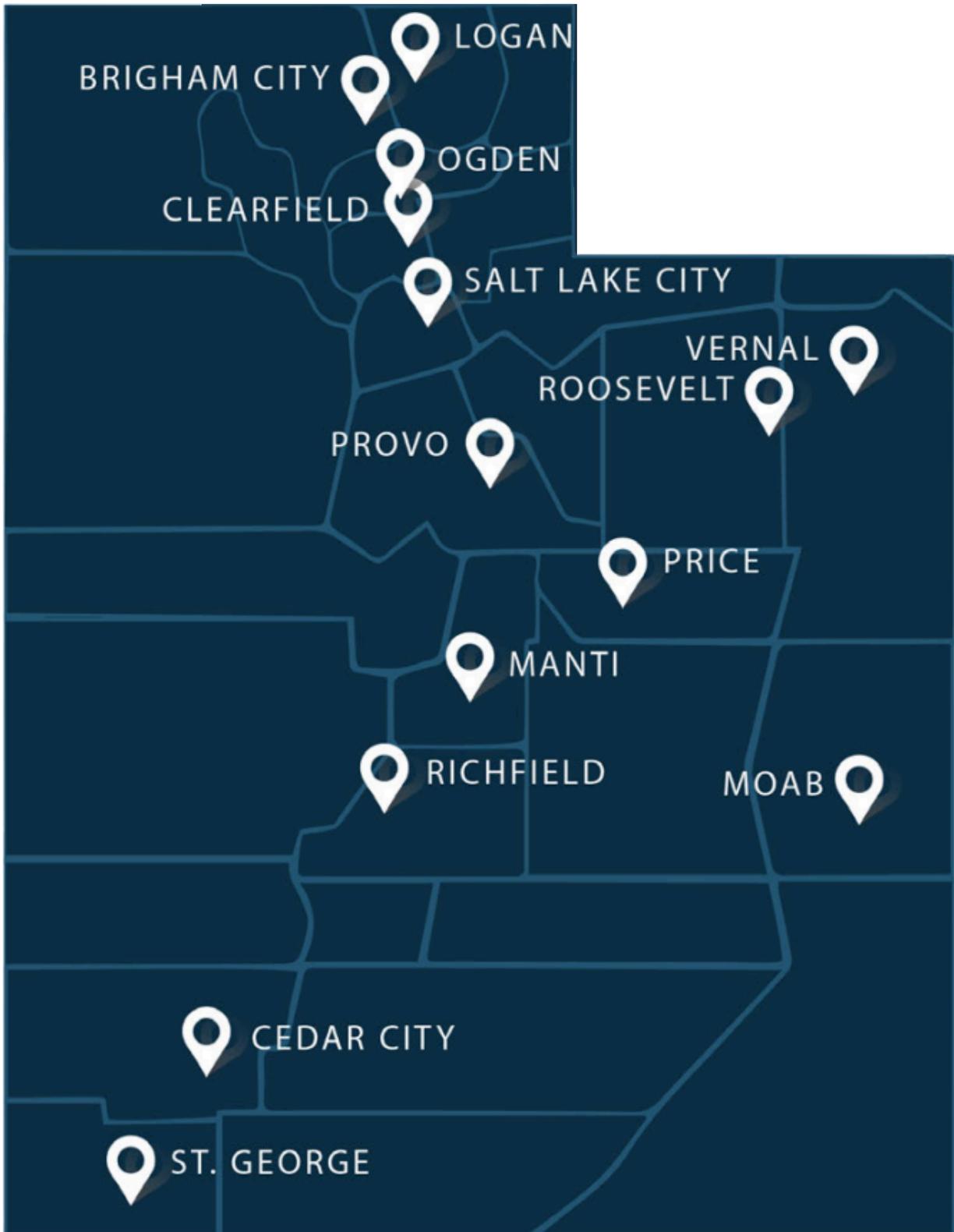
Utah leads opposition to Congress’ AI moratorium

Utah led 36 attorneys general in urging the U.S. Congress to reject a proposed moratorium that would block states from enforcing and expanding AI safeguards. The coalition reiterated that states are **laboratories of democracy** and **proven leaders** that need the flexibility to respond to AI.

Utah calls on DOJ to shut down offshore gaming

Utah led a multistate coalition calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to take aggressive action against the surge of illegal offshore gambling targeting Americans. The coalition encouraged the DOJ to coordinate with financial institutions **to block unlawful transactions and dismantle the financial infrastructure** supporting this illegal activity.

OUR LOCATIONS





INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS



THE UTAH OPIOID TASK FORCE

The Utah Opioid Task Force serves as a vital coalition of federal, state, and local leaders, stakeholders, subject matter experts, and community leaders working in all our communities to prevent and address the opioid crisis.

IN 2024

Utah continued to grapple with the devastating impact of opioid addiction. The latest data from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services paints a sobering picture:

591 Utahns died as a result of a drug overdose

49 Utahns died from a drug overdose each month last year on average

27% of Utah overdose deaths involved at least one prescription opioid



These numbers are more than just statistics. They represent Utah families shattered, communities mourning, and lives cut short. The task force remains committed to ending the epidemic.

LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OPIOID CRISIS



The Office has been at the **forefront of national and state-level negotiations and litigation** against opioid manufacturers and distributors responsible for fueling the opioid crisis. Working alongside the Utah Department of Commerce, the OAG has taken aggressive legal action to hold companies accountable.



Our attorneys traveled across the country on behalf of Utah families to **negotiate a settlement with Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family, and eight other manufacturers** to hold them accountable for helping unleash the scourge of opioids across the country.



Working in partnership with other attorneys general and the Utah Department of Commerce, this year we secured **a landmark \$7.4 billion nationwide settlement** with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family. Utah will receive **\$55 million**.

2025 MILESTONES

\$7.4 B

nationwide

\$55 M for Utah
2025 settlement with Purdue
Pharma and Sacklers

\$720 M

nationwide

\$6 M for Utah
2025 settlement with eight
opioid manufacturers

More than

\$600 M total

in funds ordered to go to Utah from
when we started our litigation to
December 1, 2025

Utah @EASE



Utah@EASE, the state's premier pro bono legal referral program for veterans and service members, had a record breaking year in 2025.

The program has an **all-time high number of volunteer attorneys** and has seen more inquiries this year than before.

The OAG and the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs lead Utah@EASE in partnership with the Utah State Bar. It is a public-private partnership offering pro bono referrals for legal assistance and representation to current military members and veterans who received an honorable or general discharge.

- Utah@EASE offers legal referrals for Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, landlord, debt, consumer fraud, predatory lending, immigration, and wills.
- Criminal, family, and personal injury matters, among other issues, are **not covered**.

Utah@EASE IMPACT



205

supported



291

inquiries



76

volunteers

Utah@EASE works closely with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Justice Outreach office, to ensure that veterans who contact their offices seeking Utah@EASE services are referred to us.

Our office is proud to co-lead this program and offer crucial services to veterans and servicemembers.



SafeUT

SafeUT continues to be a lifeline for Utah youth and a model nationwide for crisis intervention and school safety.



Visit SafeUT



safeut.org



The SafeUT smartphone app allows students to start a conversation with a licensed mental health professional about concerns they may have, including bullying, violence, grief, loss, and feelings of self-harm. The app is staffed by master's-level crisis counselors at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute **24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**

Our office is proud to work with state partners including the Utah Legislature to provide this vital service for Utah's youth.

SafeUT does not just respond to crises, it helps prevent them. All chats are **confidential** to ensure students may receive the help they need without fear or stigma.

Through proactive outreach and anonymous tip reporting, SafeUT helps identify concerns early and connect students to help before situations escalate. The app strengthens school safety and supports student well-being across Utah.

SafeUT Impact in 2025

24,716 chats

342 emergency interventions

1.9 M people with app access



**SAFEUT HELPS YOUTH FIND HOPE
IN THEIR HARDEST MOMENTS**

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Attorney General's Student Advisory Council is an initiative that inspires civic engagement, gives youth leaders a voice in shaping the future, and encourages education outside the classroom.

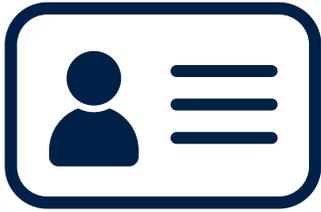


The Council brings together 53 high school students for engaging seminars and roundtables with state leaders, including the Attorney General, legislators, prosecutors, and policy experts.

Members represent communities from across Utah, including **Davis, Juab, Rich, Salt Lake, San Juan, Sevier, Summit, Utah, and Washington** Counties.

The Council meets monthly and students have the opportunity to **share their perspectives on pressing issues** such as online safety, substance abuse, youth crime, and public safety.

Past cohorts have provided valuable feedback on initiatives like L.E.T.S. Stay Safe, the SafeUT app, and on several pieces of proposed legislation.



WHITE COLLAR CRIME OFFENDER REGISTRY

The White Collar Crime Offender Registry is the **first website of its kind in America**: a single database where consumers, families, and businesses can look up convicted white-collar offenders and protect themselves and vulnerable family members from fraud.

371

offenders

This innovative registry, developed by our office in cooperation with the Utah Department of Commerce, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, serves as a powerful tool for consumers to make informed choices.

102,645

views

The registry is fully searchable and users can locate offenders by either scrolling through photos and names or searching by keywords.



utfraud.org

Fraud is a serious crime and every single year, over 100 people are convicted of white-collar crimes. These crimes are often complex and involve high dollar amounts—this means investigations are complicated and it can take years before criminals are brought to justice.



APPELLATE DEPARTMENT

44 attorneys, 7 support staff



CONSTITUTIONAL DEFENSE AND SPECIAL LITIGATION

Defending Utah's laws, upholding the constitutions.

The Constitutional Defense and Special Litigation (CDSL) stands at the frontlines of constitutional challenges and leads the charge in defending Utah's laws and litigating cases that shape the future of our state.

BY THE NUMBERS

35

cases defended during the reporting period

16

24d notices

16

agency and county consulting

9

12i notices

39

legislative bills consultations

WHAT CDSL DOES



Defend Utah's Laws

CDSL serves as the state's primary defender of laws facing constitutional challenges



Lead High-Impact Litigation

From election law to the public trust doctrine, CDSL takes the lead on complex cases that shape Utah's legal landscape.



Prevent Litigation Before It Starts

Through proactive work with legislators and agencies, CDSL reduces legal risk while ensuring the state can meet its policy goals

Victories for Utah in the courtroom

Between **successfully defending Utah’s ban on flavored vapes** to **leading the charge to protect the state’s law prohibiting elective abortion**, CDSL continues to vigorously advocate for the state. Currently, the team is leading the charge to ensure Utah’s elected officials—not courts or special interest groups—retain the authority to carefully manage the state’s natural resources, including the Great Salt Lake.

Disability Law Center v. State of Utah

Outcome: Case dismissed

CDSL defended S.B. 199, a law that creates an easier path for caregivers of adults with severe disabilities to obtain guardianship rights. Judges and individuals involved in these proceedings have told us how **much easier and more efficient** this law has made the guardianship process.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Cox

Outcome: Case dismissed

Our CDSL team successfully defeated a challenge from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in court. SUWA sued Utah to block the state from asking the U.S. Supreme Court if the federal government can indefinitely hold onto public lands without having a purpose for those lands. The judge dismissed their case, handing Utah another victory.

Thanks to the incredible work of our division's attorneys Keith Barlow, Jason Dupree, Anikka Hoidal, Lance Sorenson, Jorden Truman, and Division Director David Wolf, and with unwavering support from our paralegal Asia Reid, CDSL continues to represent the state and its executive agencies, elected officials, and employees, **providing the best advocacy possible.**

With precision, dedication, and resolve, our team defends the constitutional foundations of Utah government and the interests of its people.



Roe et al. v. UHSAA et al.

Outcome: Case dismissed

CDSL successfully fulfilled its charge to defend H.B. 11, a law that ensures **fair competition** in girls' high school sports.

AbbVie v. Brown

Case ongoing

Our team has mounted a powerful defense of S.B. 69 after the law was challenged by major pharmaceutical companies. Our work **protects expanded access to discounted medications for rural hospitals and clinics**, making health care more accessible and affordable for rural Utah families.

Medina et al. v. Allen et al.

Outcome: Case dismissed

CDSL **successfully defended Utah's bail reform procedures.** A group of plaintiffs filed a lawsuit claiming that Utah's bail reform law was unconstitutional. Due to the team's efforts, the judge dismissed the case.

Utah wins U.S. Supreme Court Case Against the EPA

Utah secured a **major victory** before the U.S. Supreme Court this year in an ongoing case challenging the Biden-era Environmental Protection Agency's overreach.

In *Oklahoma v. EPA*, the court ruled 8-0 in our favor and agreed with our argument that local courts should hear cases about local issues under the Clean Air Act. Our Solicitor General **Stanford Purser** and Assistant Attorney General **Marina Thomas** were instrumental parts of the winning legal team.

Utah is proud to have played a leading role in securing this important victory and looks forward to resolving the underlying issue.



CIVIL APPEALS

Providing Utah with top-tier appellate representation.

The Civil Appeals Division provides the state, its agencies, and its officers and employees with high-quality legal representation in state and federal appellate courts.

BY THE NUMBERS

64

briefs and other substantive filings

13

briefs and other substantive pleadings supervised

15

oral arguments, including those supervised

14

mediations, settlements, dismissals

WHAT CIVIL APPEALS DOES



Defend Utah's Laws

When constitutional challenges to Utah laws make it to appellate courts, Civil Appeals steps in and mounts a strong defense of Utah policies.



Represent the state in appeals courts

Civil Appeals represents state agencies and officers in a wide range of appellate matters, covering everything from taxes to water rights.

Victories for Utah in the courtroom

This year, our Civil Appeals team **protected Utah energy policies** and **advocated for Utah's authority to safeguard its resources**. Also, in a highly watched case, our team is standing up for Utah families by defending the Legislature's right to pass laws that shield children from the dangers of social media.

Natalie R. v. State

Outcome: Case dismissed

Civil Appeals defeated a challenge to the state's energy policies. A group of minors filed a lawsuit against Utah through their guardians and the Utah Supreme Court dismissed the case.

Water Horse Resources, LLC v. Wilhelmsen

Outcome: Case won

Utah and several water districts successfully defended the denial of a Colorado company's bid to divert Green River water. Our attorneys went in front of the Utah Supreme Court and advocated for the state's authority to safeguard its natural resources.

Tischmak v. Tax Commission

Outcome: Case won

Our Civil Appeals attorneys successfully defeated a challenge to a state income tax law. A taxpayer sued the state over a law that considers someone a resident of the state for state income tax purposes if that person's spouse is a resident student enrolled in a state higher education institution.

Hoskins v. Withers

Outcome: Case declined

Our Civil Appeals team filed a compelling brief opposing review of a challenge to Utah's DNA and traffic stop laws. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case after our strong defense of Utah's public safety policies.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

Upholding convictions, protecting justice.

The Criminal Appeals Division represents Utah in felony criminal appeals, ensuring that just convictions and sentences are upheld in appellate courts. The team safeguards the integrity of the justice system by expertly defending just trial outcomes.

BY THE NUMBERS

225

number of briefs filed

75

agency or county consultations

WHAT CRIMINAL APPEALS DOES

Defend Just Convictions



Criminal Appeals ensures that courts uphold just convictions and sentences.

Consult with Prosecutors



Our team assists local prosecutors with appeals and consults with prosecutors around the state on complex legal questions.

This year, Criminal Appeals has **soared in productivity** thanks to the Legislature appropriating new funding for more attorneys. The team hired six extraordinary attorneys and the impact has been profound. Not only did Criminal Appeals **file 40% more briefs than the year before**, the energy of the team has never been better and they expect to be **even more productive** next year.

Keeping Utah communities safe

Across multiple high-stakes appeals, our attorneys secured critical victories that reinstated dismissed charges, upheld convictions, and preserved the state’s ability to aggressively prosecute sexual violence, child exploitation, and human trafficking.

State v. Wilcox

Outcome: Charges reinstated

After a court dismissed charges of aggravated child abuse against a high school tennis coach who placed a sixteen-year-old girl in a strangulation hold, our attorneys **successfully argued before the Utah Supreme Court that the charges should be reinstated.**

State v. Labrum

Outcome: Charges refiled

We successfully advocated for the prosecution’s ability to refile rape charges after they acquired additional evidence that pointed toward lack of consent.

State v. Lightel

Outcome: Claims rejected

An offender who possessed several images clearly depicting child rape claimed that his offenses did not “involve force or coercion” and that he should not have to register for life as a sex offender. Our attorneys **decisively won the case and the court agreed that his claims should be rejected** and that his possession of these materials indicate that he poses “a lifetime risk to society.”

State v. Andrus

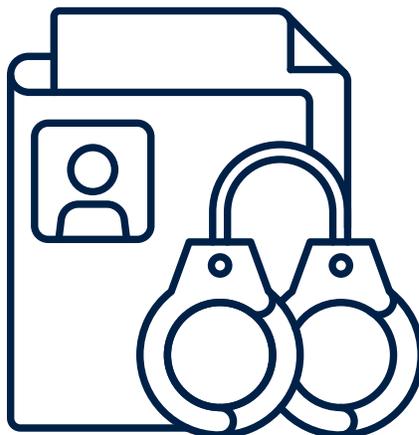
Outcome: Conviction upheld

Our attorneys expertly defended the conviction of a defendant for human trafficking of a child, sexual exploitation of a minor, and other offenses.

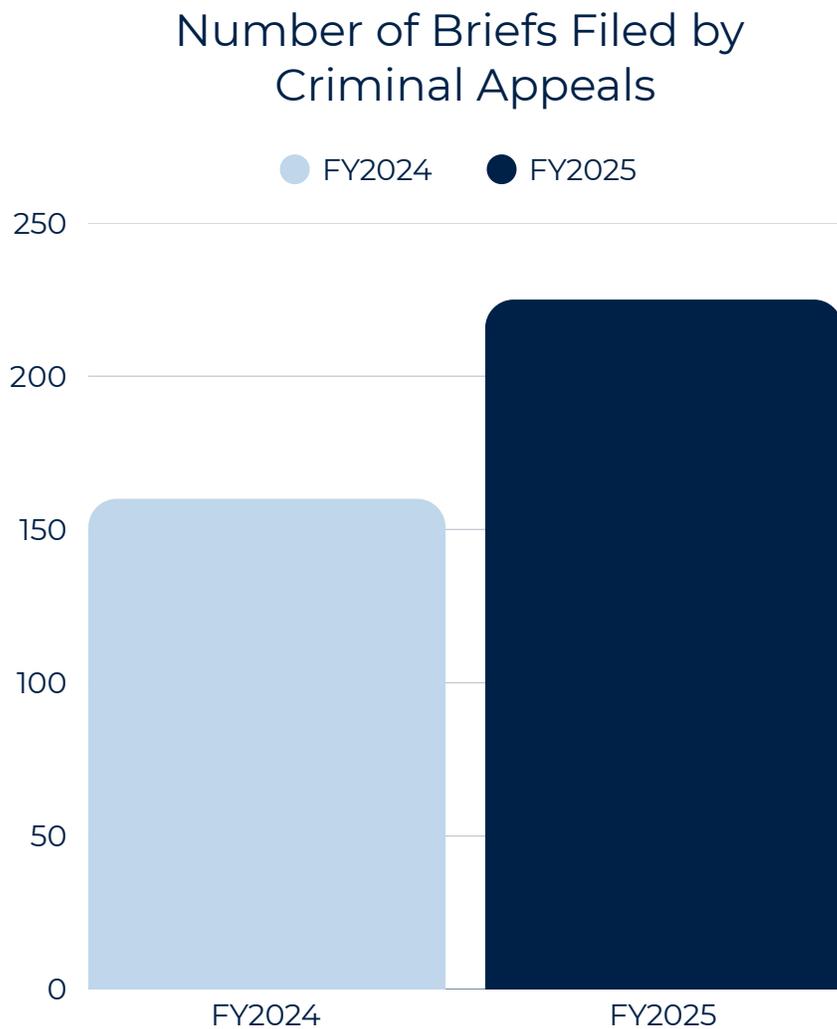
State v. Simpson

Outcome: Conviction upheld

At the trial of a man charged with rape, the prosecution introduced evidence that he sexually assaulted two other women under similar circumstances. The jury convicted him and the court of appeals affirmed the conviction. Our successful arguments in the case **ensure the state will continue to have the necessary tools to appropriately prosecute serial rapists and sex offenders.**



2025: A record year of productivity for Criminal Appeals



2025 was a crucial turning point for the Criminal Appeals Division. The Division has long been considered one of the most respected groups of attorneys currently practicing before Utah's appellate courts. Members of the Division are **recognized as statewide experts in nearly every aspect of criminal law and procedure.**

Our high-caliber team dealt with an unprecedented surge of cases that doubled Criminal

Appeals' workload, occurring simultaneously with the retirement of multiple veteran attorneys. Last year, the Legislature appropriated substantial new funding to help address these issues.

Criminal Appeals worked carefully and diligently to find the best possible candidates to fill these positions. The Division hired **several former judicial clerks, a senior felony prosecutor with more than a decade's trial experience, an experienced civil appellate specialist, and an appellate prosecutor from Arizona who was previously recognized as Arizona's Appellate Prosecutor of the Year.**



CIVIL DEPARTMENT

206 attorneys, 102 support staff



STATE AGENCY COUNSEL

Providing the State of Utah with strategic legal advice

The State Agency Counsel acts as legal counsel for over one hundred departments, offices, boards and commissions agencies, and programs. Our attorneys work closely with state leaders to solve complex problems and avoid legal pitfalls.

BY THE NUMBERS

9,820

total issues and cases handled

\$19.5 M

in funds collected for Office of State Debt Collection

88

issues handled by the Civil Review Committee

WHAT STATE AGENCY COUNSEL DOES



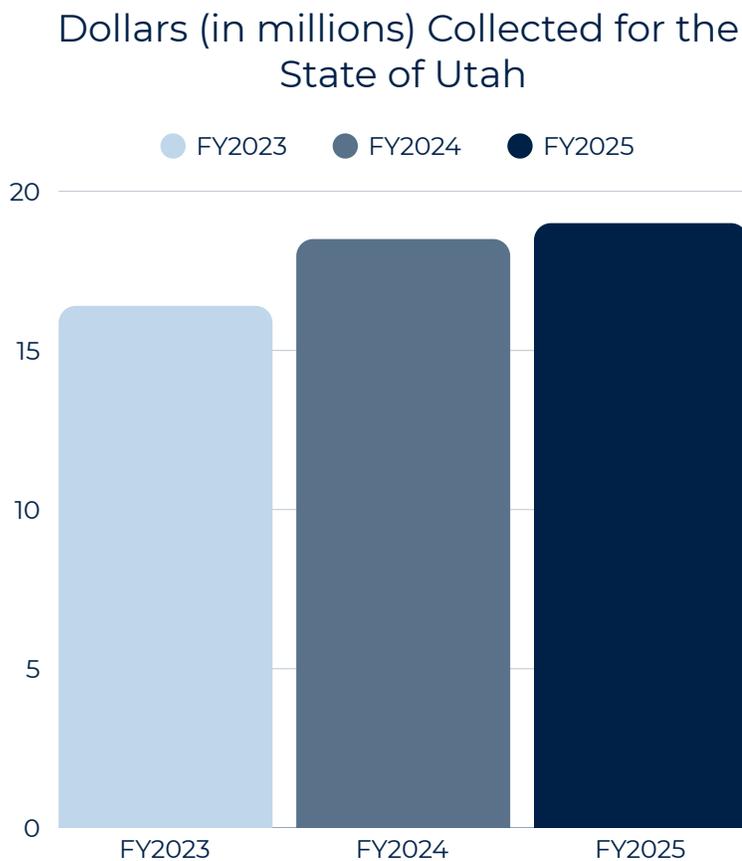
Provides Legal Counsel

Attorneys in the State Agency Counsel Division work with leaders across the state to advise about risk, avoid legal pitfalls, and prevent lawsuits from ever happening.

Doing more with less. State Agency Counsel restructured its operations this year to **enhance efficiency** and **reduce costs** while continuing to deliver exceptional legal representation to the State of Utah.

2025: Breaking Records in Dollars Collected for the State of Utah

An independent analysis showed that the high amount we collected allowed the Labor Commission to reduce the general assessment rate for all Utah employers from 0.5% to 0.45% for the Uninsured Employers' Fund.



The Government Operations and Labor (GOAL) Section, consisting of Tim Deans, Jonathan Jensen, Sharla Weaver, Louise Lee, and Amber Lindsey, continued its back-to-back yearly track record of collecting *even more money*.

This year, they collected **\$19.5 million** on behalf of state agencies, the state general fund, and victims of crime—\$1 million **more** than the previous year.

That's not all. This year, the GOAL team also **broke records in collecting money from employers who cheated the system.** When Utah workers are injured in industrial accidents and their employers do not contribute to the Workers Compensation Program, our GOAL team of Rick Rathbun, Phoenix Gatrell, Natalie Prystash, Mindy Fowler, Jeff Buckner, and Samuel McHenry works with the Utah Labor Commission to **prosecute cases, obtain judgments, and collect the penalties.** This year, our team collected **\$1.5 million** from uninsured employers—that's \$200,000 more than last year.

Advising Utah agencies and officials

Between obtaining more than **\$1.3 million** in awards for victims of crime to providing **high-quality representation to state agencies and officials**, State Agency Counsel had yet another year of **saving taxpayers money, collecting funds for Utah, and solving complex problems.**

More compensation for victims of crime

The Corrections Section, representing the Utah Office for Victims of Crime, Bethany Warr, Jessica Atkinson, and Matt Anderson, **secured \$1.39 million in victim compensation awards this year**, surpassing the \$1 million awarded last year.

Promoting energy development

As Utah pursues an “all of the above” approach to energy development, our team is **working hard to make that legally possible**. Government Operations attorney Michael Kelley completed the documentation for a research nuclear reactor at the San Rafael Energy Lab.

Expanding services

Government operations attorney Michael Kelley assisted in the opening of two new Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services stores in Salt Lake City and Marriott-Slaterville, with a third location scheduled to open in Roy in December 2025. These efforts strengthened statewide access while maintaining regulatory compliance.

Supporting the Utah Department of Corrections

Since summer 2025, Corrections Section attorneys have secured significant victories in inmate and institutional litigation. Chris Fournier **prevailed in two inmate cases**, Robert Steed **resolved a multitude of inmate complaints**, and Matt Anderson **diplomatically managed several sensitive matters at the state prison**. Blaine Hansen and Jacob Franklin expertly handled many government records requests that came into the Utah Department of Corrections.

The Corrections Section also ensured statewide compliance across sentencing, the sex offender registry, and state and federal laws. Blaine Hansen and Amber Nielsen strengthened litigation hold procedures. Notably, Fournier and Amanda Montague, supported by Zarah Borja, **prevailed in a yearslong constitutional case** affirming the Department's authority over inmate property limits.

Capital case support

Our attorneys guided the Utah Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Parole through complex capital litigation, high-volume records requests, and sensitive court proceedings. Their work **ensured compliance** with Utah's capital punishment process and protected the State from significant liability.

Representing the Board of Pardons and Parole

Jann Farris represented Adult Probation and Parole in numerous parole revocation proceedings before the Board of Pardons and Parole. These actions **supported public safety** and **upheld the integrity of Utah's parole system**.

EDUCATION

Providing legal counsel to Utah's public higher education system

The Education Division provides expert legal counsel to Utah's systems of public education and institutions of higher learning. Our team focuses primarily on reviewing state and federal legislation and regulation for compliance as well as defending the institutions.

BY THE NUMBERS

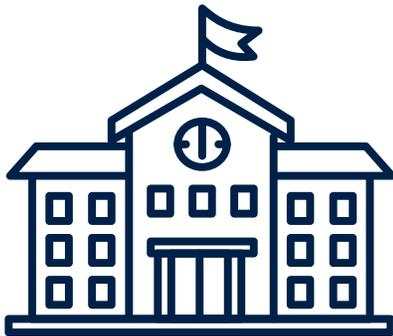
850

number of consultations
(approximate)

150

number of rules drafted and
reviewed (approximate)

WHAT EDUCATION DOES



Advise Utah schools

Our Education Division provides legal counsel to state higher education institutions including the State Board of Regents, the University of Utah, Utah State University, the State Board of Education, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and other entities.

This year, the Education Division collected **\$12 million** for past due accounts with university hospitals and clinics.

Higher Education Section

The Higher Education team guided Utah's colleges and universities through major legislative and regulatory changes, including implementation of H.B. 261 (Equal Opportunity Initiatives) and H.B. 257 (Sex-Based Designations for Privacy, Anti-bullying, and Women's Opportunities). Attorneys also advised institutions on significant updates to federal Title IX regulations to ensure continued compliance and institutional stability.

The section **monitored and advised** on the *House v. NCAA* settlement and successfully represented clients in multiple GRAMA appeals before the Government Records Office. In addition, the team **provided critical legal support** to Utah Valley University following the tragic on-campus shooting, helping leadership respond lawfully and decisively during a time of crisis.

Public Education and Technology Section

The Public Education and Technology team assisted technical colleges with drafting updated anti-hazing policies in response to new Clery Act requirements and provided statewide legal training to more than 150 staff across eight technical colleges on GRAMA, FERPA, Employment Law, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The team also **delivered key litigation and records support** by preparing a Utah State Board of Education staff member for a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition in the Meta litigation and conducting a large-scale GRAMA document review involving more than 14,000 records.

LITIGATION

Defending the State of Utah against lawsuits

The Litigation Division defends the State of Utah and its insured entities in high-stakes lawsuits seeking monetary damages, thereby protecting public resources across the state. Our experienced attorneys handle employment, civil rights, and tort matters.

BY THE NUMBERS

271

new cases this year

232

cases closed

34

training hours provided to state agencies and entities

WHAT LITIGATION DOES



Defend Utah in lawsuits

When an entity sues Utah and seeks money damages against state entities, our Litigation team defends the state.



Early Intervention in Civil Rights and Employment

Our team advises state agencies and entities on employment and civil rights matters before issues arise to avoid exposure.

Our Litigation Division also provides **crucial training to state agencies, actively participates in professional legal organizations, and offers assistance** at the request of state entities.

Chouinard v. UTA

Outcome: Won at trial

A passenger who was injured while moving through a UTA bus claimed the driver was negligent for departing the stop before she was seated and sought approximately \$250,000 in damages. At trial, our attorneys successfully challenged the plaintiff’s asserted “industry standard” and presented expert testimony and Utah law establishing that passengers assume the ordinary risks of public transit. The jury **agreed and returned a defense verdict**, finding UTA was not at fault.

Wood v. UDC et al.

Outcome: Case dismissed

After victims sued multiple state agencies over crimes committed by probationers and parolees—alleging constitutional violations under a “state-created danger” theory—our attorneys prevailed in showing that no clearly established law supported the federal claims. The court **dismissed all constitutional claims with prejudice**, and the plaintiffs ultimately abandoned their appeal.

Root v. University of Utah

Outcome: Case dismissed

After a sexual assault occurred at a private, off-campus residence, a student filed Title IX claims against multiple higher-education institutions. Our attorneys successfully argued that the universities had no legal control over the location or circumstances of the assault and therefore bore no Title IX liability. The court **dismissed the initial claims** against Utah Valley University and the Utah System of Higher Education and later **granted summary judgment in favor of the University of Utah**.

Early intervention in employment and civil rights matters

The Litigation Division plays a critical role in helping state agencies resolve employment and civil rights issues before they escalate into lawsuits. Our attorneys provide proactive, strategic guidance to agencies navigating employee discipline, termination, and complex civil rights concerns, reducing risk and protecting public resources. By addressing issues early, we help agencies, school districts, charter schools, and higher education institutions reach sound, lawful resolutions and avoid costly litigation.

Providing trainings

Division attorneys regularly provide high-impact training to state agencies, universities, and school districts on key compliance areas including Title VII, Title IX, whistleblower protections, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, our attorneys are **sought-after presenters** for continuing legal education throughout Utah and across the country, sharing their expertise on constitutional law, the First Amendment, qualified immunity, and appellate developments. These trainings strengthen institutional compliance and elevate legal practice statewide.

Participating in professional activities

Attorneys in the Litigation Division actively contribute to the legal profession through leadership, mentorship, and service in statewide and national legal organizations. By serving on bar committees, advisory groups, and executive boards, our attorneys help shape the development of the law while enhancing the reputation and visibility of public service attorneys. This deep engagement reflects the Division's **commitment not only to outstanding advocacy**, but also to the growth and integrity of the legal profession itself.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Protecting Utah's greatest treasures

The Natural Resources Division provides essential legal counsel and services to the state agencies entrusted with safeguarding, developing, and stewarding Utah's lands, water, infrastructure, agricultural resources, and natural heritage.

BY THE NUMBERS

246

major legal projects

176

administrative actions

WHAT NATURAL RESOURCES DOES



Represents Department of Natural Resources

Our Natural Resources Division is tasked with representing the Department of Natural Resources. The Division has a wide range of responsibilities from protecting Utah's interstate water allocations to advancing the state's agricultural interests.

The Natural Resources Division goes to court so everyday Utahns can **maintain access to their public lands** and the state can **keep an appropriate water supply for our communities.**

Safeguarding Utah's natural resources

The Natural Resources Division takes stewarding our public lands, water, and resources seriously. This year, the Division had several key victories that expanded access to public resources for all Utahns.

Through litigation and strategic advocacy, our team upholds Utah's state sovereignty and promotes lawful public access to the State's natural resources.

Securing rights-of-way for key roads

In the long-running Bellwether Case, the State of Utah and its county partners **have secured legal title to most of the contested R.S. 2477 rights-of-way in Kane and Garfield Counties**. These rulings affirm critical public access routes across federal lands and reinforce Utah's authority to manage historic rights-of-way. Litigation remains ongoing on the issue of scope, but the State's position has been strongly upheld to date.

Expanding state stewardship

The Division of State Parks worked at a rapid pace with federal partners to successfully transfer federal parcels in three state parks to state management. This achievement gives **Utah greater autonomy over these lands** and enhances the visitor experience through more responsive, locally driven management.

Protecting public access outdoors

The Division of Outdoor Recreation made major progress expanding its recreation easement program, **ensuring that lands purchased with grant funding remain permanently open for public use.** Our office continues to support this effort to protect long-term recreational access for Utah families and outdoor enthusiasts.

Strengthening Utah's energy future

Our team advised and supported the Office of Energy Development as the agency advanced several high-impact initiatives, including new energy research partnerships, expansion of the San Rafael Energy Lab, and the launch of the Utah Energy Research Board and Utah Nuclear Consortium. Ongoing negotiations regarding the Intermountain Power Plant and emerging reactor technology **underscore Utah's growing role as a national leader in energy innovation.**

Securing the public hunting access

Our attorneys helped the Division of Wildlife Resources **secure public and hunter access to key lands** in the Book Cliffs through successful negotiations with the Ute Tribe and provided emergency relief during wildfire-related hunt closures.



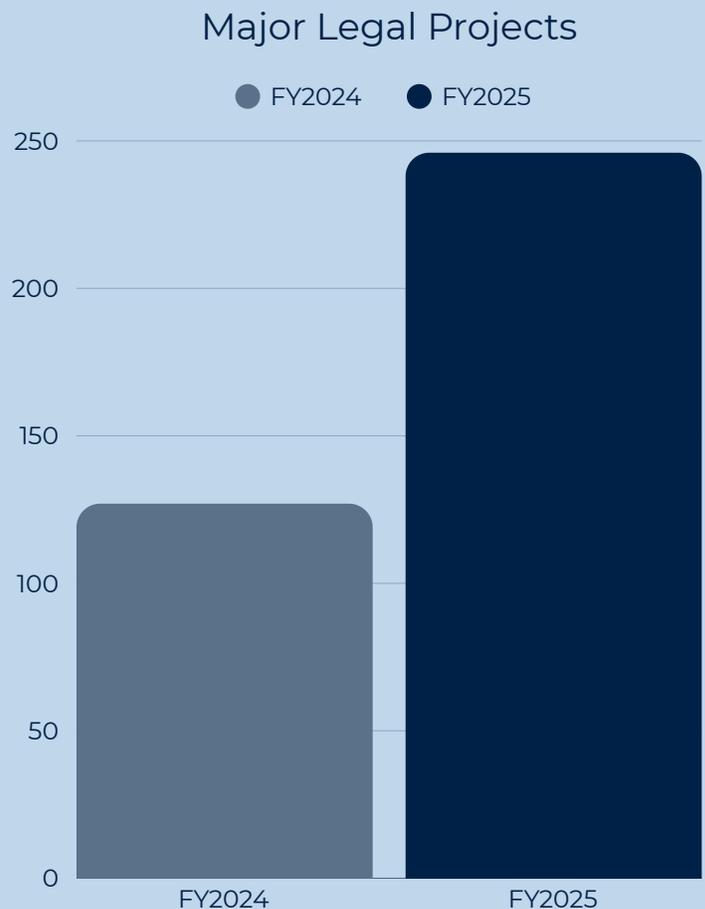
Strengthening water certainty

The Division of Water Rights **achieved significant courtroom victories** this year, successfully defeating multiple late and improper objections to claimed water rights across several subdivisions. These wins cleared the path for new interlocutory decrees, opened new areas for adjudication, and protected the integrity of Utah’s water system. Collectively, this work **strengthens long-term water certainty for communities, agriculture, and industry statewide.**

Natural Resources takes on more major legal projects

The Natural Resources Division has taken on more major legal projects (contracts, rules, negotiations, settlements) in 2025 than in 2024. This year’s load was 246 compared to 127, **an increase of 99 projects, or 93.7%.**

This dramatic increase reflects both the expanding scope of Natural Resources’ work and the growing demand for complex legal support across multiple agencies. Despite the surge, the team delivered results efficiently, ensuring that critical projects **moved forward in support of Utah’s land, water, and energy priorities.**



ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES

Protecting people, preserving places.

The Environment, Health, and Human Services Division provides legal representation to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

WHAT ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES DOES



Provide Legal Advice to Utah's Health Agencies

The Health and Human Services Section provides legal counsel and representation to ensure the safety, health, and dignity of Utahns by **supporting public health initiatives, safeguarding vulnerable populations, and upholding regulatory compliance** across a wide range of human services programs.



Offer Legal Support to Utah's Environmental Agencies

The Environment Section defends Utah's sovereign interests in environmental regulation, ensuring lawful stewardship and **protecting the state's rights against federal overreach.**

Environment

Our attorneys deliver strategic legal counsel to **support Utah’s sovereign authority** in implementing complex environmental programs—**ensuring local control**, regulatory compliance, and **effective enforcement and resource management**.

BY THE NUMBERS

107

major projects

54

settlements

119

enforcement actions

24

appeals

3,032

agency reviews

575

contracts and grants

Our environment attorneys take legal action to protect Utah’s most beautiful and iconic treasures

This year, Utah attorneys worked with state partners to establish new limits on salinity in discharges tied to mineral extraction, protecting the Great Salt Lake’s fragile balance.

These rules help ensure long-term conservation while supporting responsible economic activity.

Protecting Utah ratepayers from costly EPA mandates

Utah successfully challenged the EPA's rushed ozone reclassification of the Northern Wasatch Front and Uinta Basin, securing court-ordered stays and forcing federal reconsideration. These victories protected grid stability and **avoided more than \$7 million in immediate compliance costs to the state.** The cases safeguard both Utah's air quality strategy and affordable energy for residents.

Delivering \$35 million for clean air and cleaner vehicles

Utah **secured nearly \$35.2 million** from the Volkswagen Clean Air Act settlement to fund electric vehicle infrastructure and replace diesel trucks and buses statewide. These funds are now driving real-world emissions reductions in communities across Utah. The projects improve air quality while modernizing public fleets without burdening taxpayers.

Investing \$250 million to improve air quality and create jobs

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, Utah received nearly \$250 million in federal grants to reduce emissions, expand clean transportation, and support rooftop solar and energy efficiency. Attorneys helped structure the contracts and safeguards to ensure these funds are deployed responsibly. This represents **one of the largest single investments in Utah's environmental and public health infrastructure.**



Recovering over \$640,000 for water contamination violations

Utah **recovered more than \$643,000 in penalties from polluters** who contaminated groundwater and surface waters across the state. These enforcement actions hold violators accountable while protecting drinking water, recreation, and agriculture. Criminal environmental cases are also being actively prosecuted to deter future violations.

Strengthening drinking water safety without raising taxes

Utah secured new fee authority for its Drinking Water program, allowing it to sustainably fund oversight **without relying almost entirely on federal grants**. At the same time, the State strengthened enforcement tools and compliance programs to **protect public water systems**. This ensures long-term water safety while easing pressure on taxpayers.

Challenging federal overreach on small nuclear reactors

Utah joined a multistate lawsuit challenging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's authority to license certain small nuclear reactors beyond what federal law authorizes. The case is currently stayed while the NRC considers rule revisions and possible exemptions.

Assisted with major statewide permitting

Attorneys assisted with renewal and modification of major statewide general permits governing animal feeding operations and municipal stormwater systems. These efforts included extensive public comment response and legislative compliance.

Health and Human Services

Our attorneys delivered high-impact legal support across public health, Medicaid, licensing, privacy, and regulatory programs—advancing critical initiatives while protecting patients, families, and taxpayer resources.

BY THE NUMBERS

376

matters of litigation

365

hearings

442

board meetings/standing committees

110

compliance (NOVs and orders)

159

matters with representation

58

permitting matters

Utah’s health system holds some of the most sensitive personal information in the state, **making strong privacy protections essential**. This year, attorneys helped **implement major updates to state and federal health data privacy laws**, guiding agencies through audits and new HIPAA requirements while strengthening safeguards. The result is **stronger protection for patient information** and greater public trust in Utah’s health systems.

Defending Utah's landmark vaping protections

Following landmark legislation creating Utah's electronic cigarette registry, nicotine cap, and flavor ban, attorneys helped build and implement the regulatory framework governing lawful product sales. When industry groups challenged the law in federal court, Utah successfully defended the statute and prevailed against efforts to block implementation. The case is now on appeal, with Utah's first-in-the-nation regulatory system firmly in place.

Expanding and protecting care for vulnerable Utahns

This year, legal counsel supported the Division of Services for People with Disabilities in updating critical rules that expand in-home care options and allow families to be compensated for caring for loved ones with disabilities. The team also streamlined administrative hearing processes and safeguarded access to special education services without disrupting authorized habilitative care.

Strategically increasing competency restoration options

After negotiations, attorneys finalized a multi-agency agreement allowing Utah State Hospital to provide court-ordered competency restoration services within the Salt Lake County Jail. The agreement improves bed availability at the main hospital, ensures HIPAA-compliant records management, enhances law-enforcement training, and creates long-term operational flexibility. Legislative updates to competency statutes further streamlined court procedures and protected medical professionals' licensing and ethical standards.

Strengthening Utah's health data privacy

Attorneys helped the Department of Health and Human Services implement the Government Data Privacy Act by updating privacy notices, contracts, and data-sharing practices, while also guiding the Department through one of the state's first formal privacy audits. At the federal level, the team ensured statewide compliance with new HIPAA reproductive health privacy requirements.

Protecting health dollars

After the launch of Utah's new Medicaid claims system, attorneys represented the state in a surge of high-dollar provider appeals seeking payment for late-filed claims. The legal team negotiated compliant resolutions that protected funding, ensured regulatory integrity, and avoided costly litigation. This work stabilized the transition to the new system while safeguarding millions in public health dollars.

HIGHWAYS AND UTILITIES

Keeping Utah moving.

The Highways and Utilities Division provides critical legal support to Utah’s transportation, utilities, and public safety agencies, helping keep roads moving, rates fair, and communities safe.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.187 B

at issue in public utilities

442

new matters

\$53,615,264

in controversy (UDOT)

WHAT HIGHWAYS AND UTILITIES DOES



Provide legal support for transportation and utilities

The main task of the Highways & Utilities Division is to provide legal support for Utah’s transportation, utility, and public safety systems—**ensuring that infrastructure projects move forward lawfully**, public utilities charge fair rates, and critical services operate safely and efficiently.

Saving taxpayers and ratepayers money

Despite a highly competitive hiring market, the Highways and Utilities Division has worked through prolonged vacancies and recent departures. Thanks to the dedication and flexibility of our team, attorneys have stepped up seamlessly to ensure **uninterrupted service and results for our clients.**

Rocky Mountain Power rate case

Outcome: Successfully defended ratepayers

Assistant Attorneys General Trisha Schmid, Patrick Grecu, and Robert Moore successfully defended Utah ratepayers in a major utility rate case where Rocky Mountain Power sought a \$667 million increase. After months of hearings and extensive testimony, the Public Service Commission approved only an \$87 million increase—**limiting the impact on average households to about \$4.31 per month.** Rocky Mountain Power has since filed an appeal.

UDOT v. Toquerville Enterprises

Outcome: Saved taxpayers money

In this eminent domain case involving construction of the Southern Parkway in Washington County, the property owner sought \$10.7 million in damages. After a four-day jury trial, UDOT, represented by William Christensen and Barbara Ochoa, secured a verdict of \$2.5 million—**saving taxpayers more than \$8 million.**

Wasatch Transportation v. UDOT

Outcome: Saved taxpayers money

This breach-of-contract case stemmed from funding for rural transit bus routes between Richfield, Moab, and Salt Lake City. After a seven-day trial handled by Bill Christensen and Dawn Emery, our attorneys **successfully persuaded the jury** to render a verdict well below the plaintiff's "ask," saving taxpayers over \approx \$1.9 million from the plaintiffs' pre-trial demand.

TAX, TRANSIT, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Keep Utah's transit and financial systems moving.

The Tax, Transit, and Financial Services Division provides expert legal counsel to Utah's financial and infrastructure agencies—supporting fair tax administration, safeguarding funds, and ensuring the smooth operation of statewide transit systems.

BY THE NUMBERS

102

auditing appeals

75

UTA matters handled

319

insurance department matters handled

WHAT TAX, TRANSIT, AND FINANCIAL SERVICES DOES



Protect taxpayer funds and fairness

We safeguard public resources and promote fairness through expert legal counsel in tax and financial matters.



Guidance for operation of transit systems

Our team provides legal guidance that keeps Utah's transit systems running smoothly, efficiently, and in compliance with state and federal law.

Protecting public dollars

Together, these teams protect public dollars, strengthen consumer and market integrity, and provide the legal foundation that keeps Utah's transportation and financial systems running smoothly.

Keeping Utah moving with strong transit law support

The Transit Section provides legal counsel to the Utah Transit Authority across major projects, federal grants, public safety, labor, procurement, and transit-oriented development. In FY 2025, attorneys guided UTA through major changes to the Utah Public Transit District Act, **led a full policy and procedure rewrite, and resolved complex federal regulatory issues—supporting safe, reliable transit statewide.**

Protecting consumers and powering public investment

The Financial Services Section safeguards Utah's financial systems by advising the Utah Insurance Department, the Department of Financial Institutions, and the State Treasurer. In FY 2025, attorneys helped revoke insurance licenses from companies and agents who violated state law and defrauded customers, while also supporting the State Treasurer in issuing bonds that **secured critical funding for charter schools across Utah.**

Safeguarding state revenue and defending tax fairness

The Property Tax & Auditing Sections advise the Utah State Tax Commission, defending Utah's tax system and ensuring lawful compliance. In FY 2025, attorneys **handled high-stakes litigation involving millions of dollars**, supported enforcement of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and represented the Commission in bankruptcy, collections, and motor-vehicle matters—**protecting taxpayers and strengthening Utah's financial integrity.**

CHILD PROTECTION

On the frontlines of protecting Utah’s most vulnerable children.

Working side-by-side with Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DFCS), our attorneys act swiftly and carefully when a child is in danger, ensuring that every decision to intervene is supported by clear evidence, sound law, and a deep respect for families and due process.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,288

total number of juvenile court cases

83

appeals

15,094

total number of hearings attended
across the state

91.33

average case load per attorney

Division attorneys present evidence of abuse and neglect in court, provide ongoing legal counsel to DCFS, and enforce court orders designed to protect children and support family rehabilitation.

When families are unable or unwilling to resolve conditions of abuse or neglect, the Division takes **decisive legal action** to secure supervision, services, or permanent safe placements—always guided by one goal: protecting children while working toward the strongest possible outcomes for families.

CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Safeguarding financial stability for Utah children.

The Child and Family Support Division plays a critical role in securing financial stability for Utah children by representing the Office of Recovery Services in court. Through its work establishing parentage, setting fair child support orders, and enforcing existing obligations, the Division ensures that children receive the financial support they deserve while protecting the integrity of public assistance programs.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,433

division caseload

12.25

average number of appearances
per attorney each month

2,496

number of court appearances statewide

202

average case load per attorney

Division attorneys also work diligently to **modify support orders** when circumstances change and **to recover child support** assigned to the State for families who have received public benefits. This work not only strengthens families and promotes parental responsibility, but also ensures that support is paid by those legally responsible for providing it.



CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

38 attorneys, 91 support staff



JUSTICE

Prosecuting crimes, protecting Utahns.

The Justice Division combats Utah's most serious crimes from child exploitation to murder while leading statewide efforts to protect victims, strengthen communities, and train attorneys how to prosecute.

WHAT JUSTICE DOES

Handles complex matters



Our attorneys handle complex matters including aggravated felonies, public corruption, drug trafficking, and serious and violent felony crime.

Assist in local prosecutions



Our team is proud to coordinate with local, state, and federal partners to prosecute high-profile and complex cases.

Our Justice Division has **five prosecutorial sections** that work together with various task forces and investigative units to **prosecute criminal activity** and **help victims of crime**. This Division also runs Victim Services and the Utah Prosecution Council.

VICTIM SERVICES

Victim support is at the heart of the Office of the Utah Attorney General's fight against crime, with dedicated Victim Coordinators ensuring hundreds of victims each year **receive guidance, protection of their rights, and compassionate support throughout investigations, prosecutions, and appeals.**

These coordinators also provide assistance to potential victims, victims on cases not prosecuted, and members of the general public.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,930

victims and witnesses

401

active cases

Victim Service Coordinators collaborate with statewide partners

Victim Service Coordinators participate in and collaborate with **a variety of agencies and programs across the state** including but not limited to: Statewide Advocate Victim Organization, Utah Office for Victims of Crime, Children's Justice Center, Utah Domestic Violation Coalition, Utah Victim Services Commission, Trauma Informed Utah, Internet Crimes Against Children Advisory Boards, and Police Departments.

INSURANCE FRAUD

Insurance fraud drives up costs for Utah families and businesses.

This kind of fraud occurs through false applications, inflated claims, or when a person intentionally omits critical facts. Our team **holds offenders accountable from all walks of life.**

BY THE NUMBERS

1,693

referrals

105

insurance fraud
incidents

87

defendants
sentenced

\$221,477

restitution ordered

Our attorneys have prosecuted doctors, lawyers, chiropractors, car salesmen, insurance agents, and other people in positions of trust. Anyone who seeks to benefit from insurance with inflated or false claims of loss or injury commits insurance fraud. Our office **filed charges against more than one hundred different defendants.**

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

The Utah Internet Crimes Against Children task force aggressively investigates and prosecutes online crimes of exploitation across the state. Through **close collaboration** with local, state, and federal partners, the task force pursues justice for Utah children.

BY THE NUMBERS

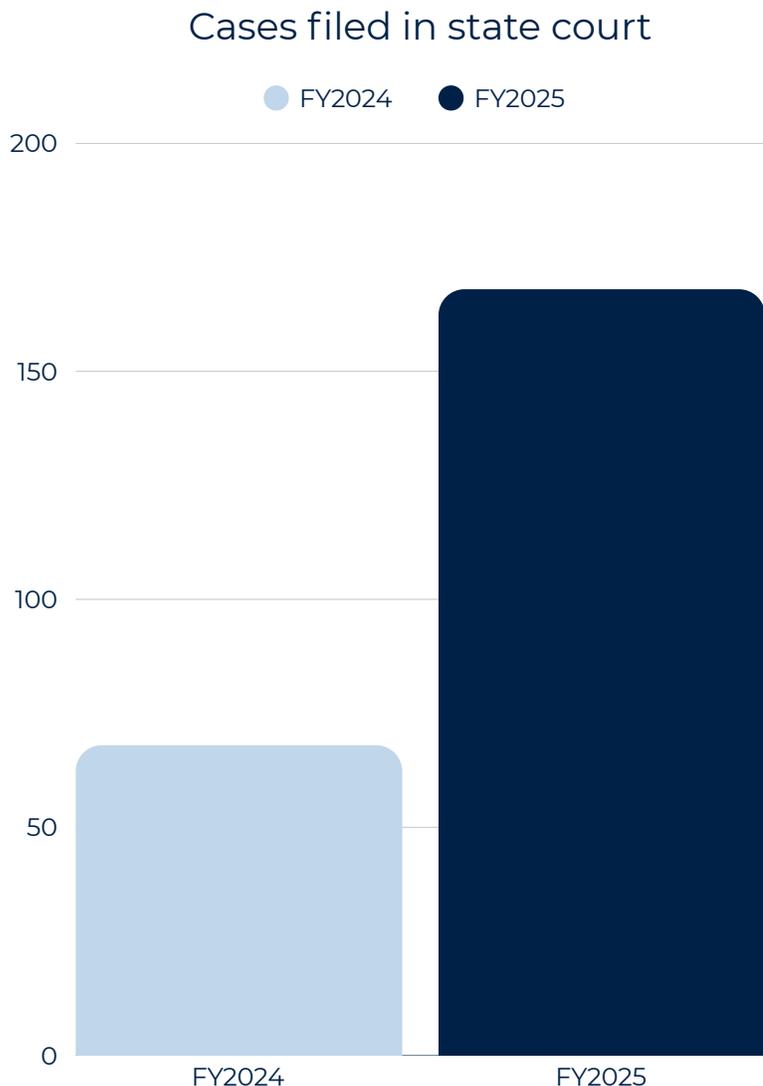
179
new cases open

64
convictions

At the core of the Utah ICAC mission is close, hands-on support for state and local law enforcement and prosecutors as they investigate and prosecute cases involving the enticement of minors, child sexual abuse material, and other Internet-facilitated crimes against children. ICAC serves as **an integral resource in information sharing, network, and case prosecution** for local, statewide, and federal law enforcement agencies.

The task force **maximizes effectiveness** and **delivers strong protection** for Utah children in every part of the state by providing training to affiliates across the state.

2025: ICAC files 100 more cases in state court than previous year



In 2025, the Utah OAG ICAC Task Force significantly expanded its enforcement impact, **filing 168 cases in state court—100 more cases than the 68 filed in 2024.** Our team also filed more cases in federal court this year. This dramatic increase reflects a sharpened focus on online child exploitation, stronger investigative partnerships, and a sustained commitment to aggressively pursuing offenders who target children through digital platforms head-on.

BY THE NUMBERS

293

search warrants issued

26

sentenced to prison

34

sentenced to jail

58

placed on sex offender registry

State v. Brent Johnson

After a teenage girl reported discovering a hidden camera in her bathroom in January 2024, investigators uncovered previously unknown evidence of child sexual abuse involving a different victim from more than a decade earlier. Law enforcement connected the defendant to the abuse through forensic analysis of digital evidence, leading to three charges of aggravated sexual abuse of a child. A jury found the defendant, the 15-year-old girl's stepfather, guilty on all counts following trial in October 2025. He now faces multiple consecutive prison sentences, in addition to federal penalties, **resulting in a likely life sentence.** The prosecution brought long-delayed justice to the victim and also supported accountability for abuse connected to another survivor in a separate state.

State v. Lauren Clark

In 2023, an 8-year-old child disclosed repeated sexual abuse by a family member, leading to multiple felony charges in Juab County. Due to staffing limitations, the Office of the Attorney General assumed prosecution of the case, which resulted in two convictions for aggravated sexual abuse of a child in 2025 and consecutive 15-year-to-life prison sentences. After the defendant's arrest, a second child victim came forward with similar allegations, resulting in an additional felony charge. That case resolved by guilty plea on the first day of trial, preventing the child from having to testify. Together, the cases **ensured accountability while prioritizing the safety and well-being of the victims.**

VICTIM AGENCY PROSECUTION SECTION

The Victim Agency Prosecution Section represents the State of Utah in criminal prosecutions referred by state agencies. The section has three units: **Criminal Nonsupport, Public Assistance and Unemployment Fraud, and Motor Vehicle Enforcement.**

CRIMINAL NONSUPPORT

In partnership with the Office of Recovery Services, this unit works to ensure parents meet their legal responsibility to support their children. By holding non-paying parents accountable when court-ordered obligations are intentionally ignored, the unit **helps secure the financial resources children need to thrive.** Through both proactive enforcement and compliance efforts, the team **strengthens families**, promotes stability, and **protects the well-being of Utah's children.**

BY THE NUMBERS

335

cases

929

victims

56

new cases filed

\$1.8 M

amount of child support collected

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD

In collaboration with the Department of Workforce Services, our team works to protect vital public benefit programs by identifying, investigating, and prosecuting fraud involving SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, and unemployment insurance. Their efforts **safeguard taxpayer dollars, ensure assistance reaches those who truly qualify, and preserve the long-term integrity of essential safety-net programs** that serve Utah's most vulnerable populations.



MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

Working alongside the Motor Vehicle Division of the Utah State Tax Commission, this unit **combats fraud involving vehicle titles and registrations, VIN tampering, illegal vehicle sales, odometer fraud, and related offenses.** By holding offenders accountable, Motor Vehicle Enforcement protects consumers, strengthens public trust in Utah's vehicle regulatory system, and **ensures fair, lawful vehicle transactions statewide.**



SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS

The Special Prosecutions Unit is an elite team of highly experienced prosecutors who handle **Utah's most complex and serious criminal cases**, including public corruption, major fraud, organized crime, violent felonies, and crimes involving weapons, narcotics, and sexual exploitation.

BY THE NUMBERS

153

cases filed in state court

65

cases closed

Working closely with local law enforcement, the OAG Special Investigations Unit, and prosecutors statewide, SPU ensures a **consistent, high-level prosecutorial approach across jurisdictions**. This unit is dedicated to delivering justice while minimizing the trauma to victims and families through fairness, professionalism, and strong collaboration.

Our team also advises and assists other jurisdictions with complex cases. This helps the state have a **more consistent prosecutorial approach**.

Election fraud cases

Our office handled multiple instances of election fraud with fraudulent signature gathering violations. These matters required coordinated investigation both at the state and local level. These cases resulted in convictions in multiple counties.

Prosecuted two defendants who stripped copper from power substations

The Special Prosecutions Unit successfully obtained convictions against two co-defendants who stripped copper from multiple power substations in 2024. This crime is especially concerning as it poses a direct threat to critical infrastructure. The defendants were charged with repeatedly breaking into secure power substations in Box Elder and Juab Counties and removing ground wires.

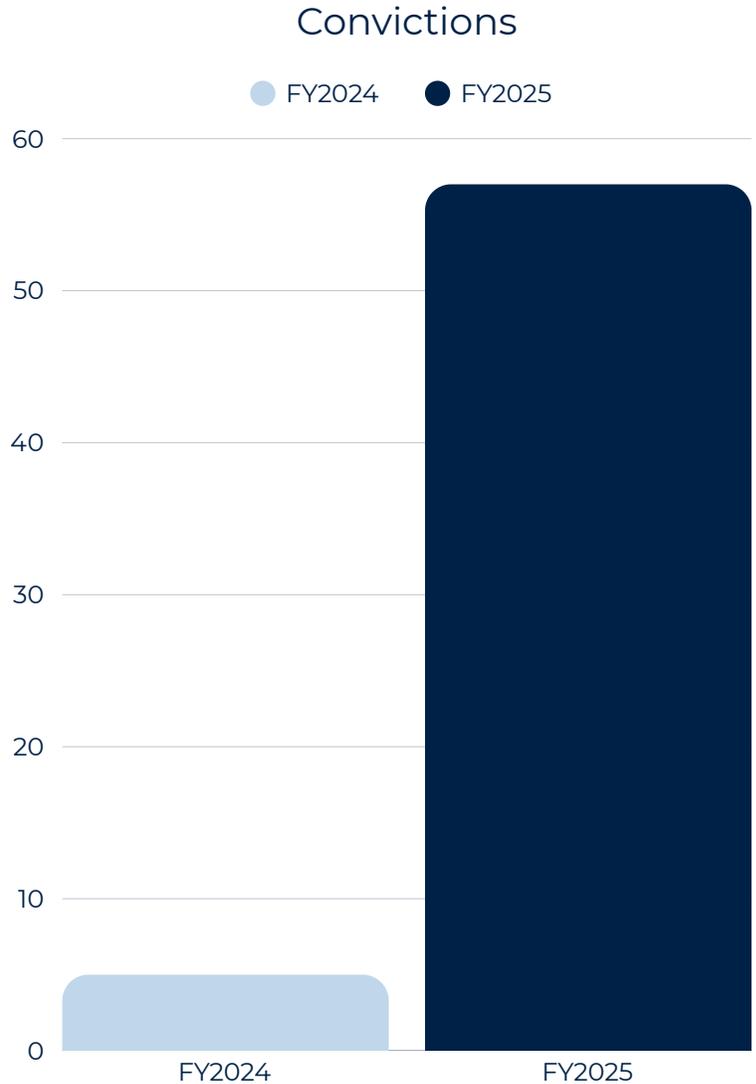
The total cost to repair the facilities is at a minimum \$84,000, and the damage to the substations threatened significant danger to the community. The defendants entered guilty pleas to multiple second and third-degree felonies. These convictions have already resulted in prison sentences and Orders to pay full restitution joint and severally.

Assisted county prosecutors

Our team also assisted counties with conflict prosecution and provided support in multiple homicide cases. San Juan County had two murders, including one with two counts of aggravated murder, cases that resulted in convictions this year with OAG assistance to the local prosecutor.

2025: Special Prosecutions sees surge of convictions

The Special Prosecutions Unit saw **52 more convictions** in 2025 than in 2024. This unit also filed more cases in federal court than the year before, **141 this year**, and 88 the year before. In addition to staying on top of its busy case load, Special Prosecutions conducted multiple trainings this year and assisted county prosecutors with complex cases.



The Special Prosecutions Unit saw **\$1,308,375** in restitution ordered, **\$465,670** in restitution collected, and **\$111,286** in asset forfeiture collected. Our team is committed to prosecuting complex crimes and seeking justice for victims.

SECURE

The Strategic Enforcement to Combat Unlawful Racketeering and Exploitation (SECURE) Section brings together elite prosecutors, investigators, and support staff to dismantle large-scale criminal enterprises that threaten public safety, including human trafficking, organized fraud, and racketeering.

BY THE NUMBERS

137

cases generated by
SECURE
investigators

219

court appearances

78

search warrants
reviewed

26

cases closed

Working in close partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement—including the U.S. Attorney’s Office, ICE, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and police departments across Utah—SECURE **delivers coordinated, high-impact prosecutions that protect Utah communities.** SECURE also plays a critical role in the Utah Trafficking in Persons Task Force and **leads statewide training and prevention efforts to stay ahead of evolving criminal networks.**

State v. Jordan Jensen

Outcome: Conviction

Utah secured a guilty plea against Jordan Jensen for Pattern of Unlawful Activity and Benefitting from Human Trafficking. Jensen exploited foreign workers by confiscating passports, threatening deportation, and withholding wages. The case resulted in **a suspended prison sentence, a lengthy probation term, and up to \$300,000 in restitution for victims**, ensuring accountability and financial recovery for those harmed.

State v. William Makuei

Outcome: Conviction

This case represented **years of persistence by prosecutors in pursuit of justice for a young victim**. Makuei was charged in 2017 with Rape of a Child after sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl, resulting in pregnancy. DNA evidence later confirmed Makuei as the biological father, but the case faced extensive legal delays due to defense challenges. In September 2025, SECURE prosecutors successfully brought the case to trial, where a central issue was the victim's age at the time of the offense.

After brief deliberations, the jury **unanimously found Makuei guilty**, affirming the victim's testimony and the strength of the evidence. He was immediately remanded into custody and received a mandatory 25-years-to-life prison sentence, permanently removing a dangerous offender from the community and delivering long-awaited justice to the victim and her family.

State v. Portillo and Gallardo

Outcome: Conviction

In this disturbing aggravated human-trafficking case, husband-and-wife co-defendants orchestrated the illegal entry of vulnerable victims into the United States using “coyote” smuggling networks. Once in Utah, the victims were forced to work under strict supervision using fictitious Social Security numbers while the defendants seized complete control of their earnings and identification documents. Prosecutors later uncovered evidence that the defendants also sexually exploited the victims, resulting in amended charges that included multiple rape offenses. **Through extensive multi-agency investigation and victim-centered prosecution, both Mendez Portillo and Figueroa Gallardo ultimately pled guilty to two counts of Labor Trafficking.** They await sentencing in December 2025 and face significant prison exposure.

United States v. Wilder Alexis Flores Salguero

Outcome: Case ongoing

This case stemmed from a long-term investigation tied to the broader “Fruti Bari” money-laundering operation. In August 2025, agents executed a controlled buy-bust operation after the defendant agreed to sell approximately 40,000 fentanyl pills to a confidential source. Flores Salguero was arrested at the transaction site with the full quantity of lethal narcotics inside his vehicle. A subsequent residential search uncovered additional fentanyl packaged for distribution, cocaine, and a Glock 43 handgun located in his bedroom.

The defendant admitted to intent to distribute the fentanyl and possession of the firearm, as well as unlawful presence in the United States. **This operation disrupted a high-volume fentanyl distribution channel and removed tens of thousands of potentially fatal doses from Utah streets.**

United States v. Evar Hashim

Outcome: Case ongoing

In June 2025, a multi-agency investigation uncovered an active interstate cocaine trafficking operation supplying narcotics into Utah. Using intelligence from a confidential source, agents tracked Hashim's travel from Utah to Los Angeles and back, confirming his movements through phone and GPS data. During a coordinated traffic stop by the Utah Highway Patrol, a K-9 alert led to the discovery of approximately 10 pounds of cocaine hidden in the vehicle's trunk.

Following his arrest, Hashim admitted to routinely transporting large quantities of drugs from California into Utah for distribution and acknowledged cartel involvement. **The seizure prevented a significant volume of cocaine from reaching Utah communities and dismantled an active drug pipeline into the state.**

United States v. Jeanette Roias

Outcome: Case ongoing

In October 2025, Utah Highway Patrol troopers conducted a traffic stop that quickly evolved into a major narcotics interdiction. During the stop, troopers observed indicators of criminal activity, including recently altered window tint and suspicious behavior from the driver, who was unable to explain her travel plans or rental vehicle arrangements.

Upon detecting the odor of marijuana and conducting a lawful search, troopers discovered approximately 14 pounds of methamphetamine concealed inside a backpack in the vehicle. The seizure **eliminated a massive amount of dangerous narcotics destined for distribution in Utah** and demonstrated the critical role **proactive highway enforcement plays in disrupting drug trafficking networks.**

FELONY REVIEW SECTION

Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 67-5-1(2), the Office of the Utah Attorney General accepts select cases for independent review after they have been investigated, screened, and declined for prosecution by a district or county attorney.

BY THE NUMBERS

2

cases filed

30

cases open

11

cases closed without
criminal filing

14

cases referred for
review

Victims, or their legal representatives, **may submit a request for review to the OAG Justice Division for further consideration of their particular case.** Each request is promptly evaluated to determine whether it meets the statutory criteria under the law. If the criteria are satisfied, the victim or representative is contacted to proceed with the next steps in the review process.

UTAH PROSECUTION COUNCIL

Utah Prosecution Council is the state's central hub for high-quality, continuing legal education for prosecutors and serves as a critical connector between prosecutors, law enforcement, state agencies, and victim advocates.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,517

individuals trained

23

regional events

11

conferences

302

cadets taught

The Utah Prosecution Council (UPC) is a statutorily created entity that brings together leadership from across Utah's prosecution and public safety community, including the Attorney General, elected prosecutors, city attorneys, and statewide public safety partners. UPC is the state's **central hub for high-quality, continuing legal education for prosecutors** and serves as a critical connector between prosecutors, law enforcement, state agencies, and victim advocates.

Training across the state

UPC hosts a robust slate of annual conferences and specialized courses to keep Utah prosecutors and justice partners at the forefront of the law. Signature trainings include the Spring Caselaw and Legislative Update, Fall Prosecutor Training, Advanced Trial Skills, Executive Conferences for county and district attorneys, and multiple association conferences for prosecutors and prosecutorial assistants.

UPC also **offers targeted instruction** in areas such as domestic violence, DUI, mental health, adult sex crimes, and white-collar crime, and regularly teaches courses for POST-certified law enforcement officers. Beyond training, UPC staff serve in leadership roles on numerous state and national boards and commissions focused on victim services, trauma-informed justice, sexual assault response, and criminal justice policy. UPC also administers the John R. Justice Federal Student Loan Repayment Program, **helping eligible prosecutors and public defenders manage educational debt** and strengthening long-term retention within Utah's justice system.

Trauma-informed training

In addition to its broad training mission, UPC is statutorily mandated to **provide trauma-informed training for law enforcement officers who investigate sexual assault and sexual abuse**. UPC staff and faculty travel throughout the state several times each year to deliver this vital instruction, strengthening investigations, supporting victims, and improving outcomes across Utah's criminal justice system.

INVESTIGATIONS

Identifying and apprehending suspects in crimes.

The Investigations Division protects Utahns by uncovering complex criminal activity from fraud and corruption to online child exploitation. The Division works hand-in-hand with prosecutors to bring offenders to justice.

WHAT INVESTIGATIONS DOES



Investigate crimes

Our investigators use cutting edge techniques to investigate major felony crimes to make Utah a safer place to live for all.



Assist local authorities

Our team is proud to coordinate with local, state, and federal partners to investigate crimes and identify and apprehend suspects.

Our Investigations Division **investigates** complex white-collar and financial crimes, public corruption, general fraud, child abuse and exploitation, cybercrime, internet fraud, identity theft, as well as significant street crime including homicide, aggravated assault, and sex crimes. Our team **assists local authorities** when they reach out and request our involvement.

CASE STRIKE FORCE

Created by the Utah Legislature through H.B. 461, the CASE (Crimes Against the State Economy) Strike Force is a joint effort between the Office of the Utah Attorney General and the Utah Department of Public Safety focused on **protecting Utah's economy from organized and high-impact crime**. This elite team of investigators, prosecutors, and support staff works in close partnership with federal, state, and local agencies across Utah and the region.

BY THE NUMBERS

46

cases investigated

52

arrests

\$96,168

amount recovered
and returned to
retail victims

\$42,474

restitution ordered to
retail victims

The CASE Strike Force targets crimes such as organized retail theft, cargo theft, porch piracy, gambling, and catalytic converter theft through **coordinated investigations and prosecutions**. Our team members also collaborate closely with private industry and national retail organizations and are recognized nationwide as experts in this field. Their work **protects businesses, consumers, and the economic security of communities across Utah**.

Stopping a multistate retail theft crew

The CASE Strike Force intercepted a traveling organized retail theft crew stealing high-value fragrances from major retailers across multiple states. After responding to a real-time alert, investigators **recovered more than \$22,000 in stolen merchandise and charged the suspects with conspiracy**, pattern of unlawful activity, and other felonies. The strike force shut down a regional theft operation operating out of Las Vegas.

Taking down a critical infrastructure metal theft ring

CASE investigators dismantled a five-person copper theft ring targeting PacifiCorp electrical substations—crimes that posed life-threatening risks and could have disrupted power across hundreds of miles of transmission lines. All five suspects were **charged with multiple felonies, including first-degree felony destruction of critical infrastructure**. The operation protected both public safety and Utah’s power grid.

Recovering \$25,000 in stolen tools from a fugitive fence

After receiving intelligence from its embedded Home Depot investigator, CASE located and arrested a fugitive operating a large-scale stolen tool fencing operation. Investigators recovered \$25,000 in brand-new stolen merchandise being sold through online platforms. The arrest disrupted a major retail theft distribution pipeline.

Catching a serial skip-scanning thief across state lines

CASE built a case against a suspect who stole \$24,000 in merchandise through skip scanning **across nine stores and seven Utah counties**. Working across state lines, investigators located and arrested the suspect in Pennsylvania. He pled guilty and was ordered to repay the full amount in restitution.

Setting the national standard in organized retail crime enforcement

Home Depot's national leadership visited Utah to study the CASE Strike Force model after recognizing it as **the most successful organized retail crime task force in the country**. Utah is the only state consistently meeting Home Depot's asset protection benchmarks, with documented shrink reductions for more than five years.

UTAH TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TASK FORCE

The Utah Trafficking in Persons Task Force (UTIP), hosted and coordinated by the Office of the Utah Attorney General, investigates and prosecutes traffickers while uniting a broad coalition of partners.

Our Statewide Enforcement to Combat Unlawful Racketeering and Exploitation (SECURE) Strike Force strengthens this work through coordinated statewide enforcement focused on dismantling criminal enterprises and protecting victims.

BY THE NUMBERS

162
cases opened

49
arrests

Disrupting illegal narcotics distribution

In July 2025, the SECURE Strike Force dismantled a controlled-substance distribution operation involving undocumented residents through undercover buys and coordinated search warrants. The operation led to the seizure of illegal narcotics and cash, and the arrest of a suspect.

Investigating potential labor trafficking

In September 2025, the SECURE Strike Force, working alongside the Utah Department of Public Safety, launched a labor trafficking investigation after two young girls were discovered inside a refrigerated truck following a traffic accident. The investigation remains ongoing as authorities work to determine the circumstances surrounding the case and ensure the safety of potential victims.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit leads our office's most complex and high-impact criminal investigations, including multi-jurisdictional fraud, public corruption, officer-involved incidents, and conflict cases.

BY THE NUMBERS

54

cases opened

23

arrests

The Office of the Utah Attorney uncovered **a nearly \$1 million cryptocurrency fraud scheme** in which James Miller falsely portrayed himself as a successful investor to solicit large sums of money from friends, family, and women he met through church and social media. Investigators determined that Miller used deception, false promises, and fabricated emergencies to obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars, funneling the funds into fraudulent crypto schemes.

Our office charged Miller with multiple felony counts of Securities Fraud, Communications Fraud, and Money Laundering after documenting \$412,500 in verified victim losses at the time of filing. Miller has since **pled guilty to multiple felonies and is awaiting sentencing**, bringing accountability to a case of significant financial exploitation and abuse of trust.

STATE TRUST LANDS UNIT

Two SIU agents are dedicated exclusively to investigating criminal activity involving the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), ensuring focused enforcement on Utah's trust lands. These investigations have included staged protests, illegal seed gathering, unlawful timber cutting, and illegal mining, with the position fully funded by SITLA.

BY THE NUMBERS

21

active cases

10

arrests/filed charges

Protecting Utah's land and livestock from an illegal mining waste dump

Two individuals were charged after illegally dumping thousands of gallons of mining waste into a Rich County cattle pond rather than disposing of it at a licensed Wyoming facility - **choosing pollution over proper disposal** at a licensed facility in Wyoming. On-site testing by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality confirmed the contamination. The case reflects Utah's commitment to holding environmental offenders accountable. A pretrial is scheduled for December.

Imposter posing as federal agent charged

Investigators charged a St. George man with impersonating a federal officer after he entered the State Trust Lands building claiming to represent Homeland Security Investigations. The individual falsely asserted he was investigating land sales and even attempted to influence land negotiations through fraudulent communications. Investigators quickly identified the suspect, and he now faces charges in Washington Justice Court, with a hearing set for December 4, 2025.

COOPERATIVE DISABILITY INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Utah's Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit (CDIU) was ranked number 1 in the country in 2025. As of April 1, 2025, Utah's CDIU ranked number 1 out of 50 CDI Units around the country. As of that date, the unit had about \$3.7M in Social Security Association (SSA) Program Savings and \$1.6M in SSA Fraud Loss investigated.

BY THE NUMBERS

126

cases completed

\$11,969,367

total savings

\$9,081,121

in SSA program savings

\$2,888,246

in fraud loss investigated

The results of our CDIU's excellent work reflect the dedication of our investigators'. They work hard to **protect taxpayer dollars and ensure benefits go to those who need them.**



MEDICAID FRAUD AND PATIENT ABUSE

Prosecuting Medicaid fraud and patient abuse

The Medicaid Fraud and Patient Abuse Division aggressively investigates and prosecutes Medicaid fraud committed by health care workers— from falsified billing submitted by local providers to national fraud committed by pharmaceutical companies and other large, multi-state providers. The Division also strives to protect vulnerable individuals by aggressively investigating and prosecuting abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

BY THE NUMBERS

62

cases opened

\$1,884,920

restitution ordered in
criminal cases

10

convictions

WHAT MEDICAID FRAUD DOES



Prosecutes Medicaid Fraud

Our team tackles fraud at the local and state level when providers bill Medicaid for services that were never delivered.



Prosecutes Patient Abuse and Neglect

Our skilled team investigates and prosecutes patient abuse, neglect, and exploitation, striving to protect some of the most vulnerable individuals in our state.

Justice for a vulnerable life lost

In a tragic case involving the death of a vulnerable adult at an intermediate care facility, both the Administrator and Director of Nursing entered pleas in abeyance for aggravated abuse. Their failures—including ignoring suicide protocols and improperly administering critical schizophrenia medication—directly contributed to the loss of life. The case **underscores the Division’s unwavering commitment to accountability** in the care of Utah’s most vulnerable.

Stopping predators who target the elderly

A Washington County HVAC technician pled guilty to financially exploiting an 85-year-old vulnerable adult by selling thousands of dollars in unnecessary and substandard services. The resulting investigation **uncovered a broader pattern of HVAC fraud targeting vulnerable Utahns** and sparked a new partnership with the Utah Division of Consumer Protection to stop these schemes statewide.

Exposing multimillion dollar fraud scheme

Two Sanpete County women were convicted for operating a massive Medicaid fraud scheme tied to substance abuse treatment services that were never properly provided. Investigators **uncovered nearly \$13 million in improper Medicaid payments**, exposing both financial fraud and patient neglect. More charges remain pending as the Division continues its pursuit of full accountability.

Ending identity theft scheme

An individual who stole the identity of a deceased man to fraudulently obtain Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, HUD, and CARES Act benefits was convicted in federal court. The defendant was ordered to pay **more than \$105,000 in restitution**, reinforcing the Division's role in safeguarding both state and federal public funds.

Hospital pays \$3 million to settle fraud claims

A Utah hospital paid **more than \$3 million** to resolve allegations of billing for complex emergency services when only basic services were need and provided. Nearly \$854,000 of that amount was tied directly to Utah Medicaid funds, returning critical resources to taxpayers and strengthening oversight across health care programs.

MORTGAGE AND FINANCIAL FRAUD

Stopping fraud, restoring losses.

The Mortgage and Financial Fraud Division is Utah's frontline criminal unit dedicated to aggressively investigating and prosecuting complex financial crimes.

BY THE NUMBERS

10

new criminal cases opened

\$7,560,640

restitution ordered upon conviction

34

new victims identified for restitution

WHAT MORTGAGE AND FINANCIAL FRAUD DOES



Safeguard financial integrity

Our team ensures that financial criminals are held accountable and advocates for victims to receive restitution.



Combat fraud

By prosecuting complex financial crimes and schemes, our unit restores confidence in Utah's financial systems.

Securing restitution for victims of crime

Our team aggressively pursued complex financial crimes from large-scale real estate schemes to cyber fraud and tax evasion.

Our attorneys delivered real results: convictions, prison sentences, and restitution for victims.

State v. Anissa Elkins Brown

Outcome: Conviction

Anissa Elkins Brown was convicted after a three-day bench trial for diverting client funds through forged invoices while working at a travel agency, along with theft from a second employer. She was ordered to **serve 30 days in jail, placed on probation, and required to pay \$31,000 in restitution to her victims.** The case highlights the Division's commitment to protecting consumers from internal financial abuse.

State v. Carry Woodland

Outcome: Guilty plea

While already on probation for tax offenses, Carry Woodland filed false tax returns and attempted to intimidate court officials with fabricated grand jury documents. He pled guilty to tax evasion and failure to render a proper return, and **paid more than \$97,000 in total restitution**, fully satisfying both cases.

State v. Ryan Goodrich

Outcome: Guilty plea

A licensed title agent, Ryan Goodrich orchestrated a sweeping fraud scheme that defrauded Utah homebuyers, sellers, and lenders out of more than \$9 million over two years. He was sentenced to **two consecutive prison terms totaling up to 30 years, with more than \$6.5 million in restitution still owed to 22 victims**. The court emphasized the profound personal and financial harm caused by his betrayal of trust involving families' homes and livelihoods.

State v. Jonathan Mendez

Outcome: Guilty plea

Jonathan Mendez helped facilitate a **business email compromise scheme that moved nearly \$650,000 in stolen funds, spending and sharing with his likely unidentified co-conspirator more than \$363,000**. He was sentenced to prison and ordered to pay \$363,932.65 in restitution for his role in the cyber-enabled theft.

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER PROGRAM

Where healing starts.

Children's Justice Centers streamline investigations, support recovery, and strengthen prosecutions by placing the child victim at the center of every decision. This coordinated, multidisciplinary approach improves outcomes for children and holds offenders accountable more effectively.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,643

new cases

18,535

individuals served

98.1%

caregivers agreed the CJC provided resources to support them and their children

WHAT CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER PROGRAM DOES



Promotes a central location for services

The Children's Justice Center Program promotes the development, growth, and continuation of Children's Justice Centers throughout the state. These centers provide a home-like setting for children to receive services.

With every interview, exam, and partnership, Children's Justice Centers help **transform fear into hope** and guide families toward stability and healing.

Improved Children's Justice Centers facilities

Following a major legislative investment in 2023 and significant investments from counties and private donors, five Children's Justice Centers across Utah launched new facilities or made significant renovations in FY25 to better serve vulnerable children and families. From expanded medical rooms to trauma-informed design and increased privacy, these projects reflect strong partnerships with counties, school districts, municipalities, and local donors. Together, the new centers **significantly enhance access, safety, and quality** of care in communities statewide.

Forensic interview specialists lead child interviews

Through strong state-county collaboration and legislative funding, forensic interview specialists are now fully integrated into Children's Justice Centers across Utah. These experts conduct 75% of all forensic interviews, serve as court witnesses, and provide critical support to prosecutors and investigators. This shift has improved consistency, **reduced trauma for children**, and strengthened case outcomes.

Trauma screening models advance child safety

Utah's Children's Justice Centers are leading the way in adopting the Care Process Model, a trauma screening tool developed in partnership with the University of Utah and Primary Children's Center for Safe and Healthy Families. With one in two children screening high for trauma symptoms and two in five at elevated suicide risk, the model has become a vital tool for informed safety planning. Utah is **now collaborating with national partners to expand this life-saving screening nationwide**.

Strengthened protections for Utah children

In response to an alarming rise in extreme child abuse cases, the Legislature passed S.B. 24, sponsored by Senator Don Ipson and championed by CJs and medical and legal partners. The law formally defines child torture in Utah statute and establishes it as a first-degree felony with mandatory prison time. This historic reform **delivers stronger accountability** and enhanced protection for the state's most vulnerable children.

Delivered training across the state

In FY25, the Program **delivered comprehensive, specialized training to hundreds of professionals** across Utah, including law enforcement, judges, advocates, and forensic interviewers. Topics ranged from child sexual exploitation and forensic interviewing to victim advocacy, multidisciplinary coordination, and emerging investigative practices.





PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

20 attorneys, 6 support staff



ANTITRUST AND DATA PRIVACY

Protecting Utahns' privacy, championing competition.

The Antitrust and Data Privacy Division enforces fair and competitive market practices and protects Utahns from fraudulent and unauthorized use of their personal information.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$2,270,879

antitrust and data breach
recovery

7

materially assist other
agencies

54

antitrust cases and
advanced investigations

WHAT ANTITRUST AND DATA PRIVACY DOES



Enforce antitrust laws

When companies engage in anticompetitive conduct that hurts Utahns, our office stands at the frontlines to hold them accountable.



Protect Utahns' data

Our team protects consumers from the consequences of data breaches that compromise their personal information.

The Antitrust Data Privacy Division has an active caseload of **103 matters, including investigations.** The team works closely with other state attorneys general and the Utah Division of Consumer Protection to protect Utahns.

Protecting Utah's consumers

This year, the Antitrust and Data Privacy Division has continued to litigate **three massive antitrust enforcement actions against Google**, including one led by Utah. These cases are among the most significant antitrust cases in nation. In addition to enforcing antitrust laws, our team has continued to recover hundreds of thousands in settlements for data breaches.

Utah v. Google

Case ongoing

Utah spearheaded a major multistate lawsuit challenging Google's anticompetitive conduct in the Google Play Store, particularly its control over payment processing and app distribution. Thanks to this leadership and coordinated enforcement, Utah and its partner states secured **a landmark \$700 million settlement**, delivering stronger competition, fairer markets, and real benefits for consumers nationwide.

Connecticut v. Teva

Case ongoing

Our antitrust team is continuing its work on the **largest price fixing case in U.S. history**: generics pharmaceutical antitrust litigation. The lawsuit targets a vast, years-long conspiracy among drug manufacturers to artificially inflate the prices of essential generic medications, driving up costs for families, health plans, and state programs. This year, Utah and its state partners settled with Apotex, one of the defendants in this case, for a total of **\$39.1 million**. Utah also settled with Sandoz, securing **\$1.52 million for the state**.

Data Breach cases

Outcome: Cases settled

The state successfully represented Utah consumers in many high-profile data breach investigations and obtained hundreds of thousands in settlements. Utah obtained a recovery of **\$594,551** against Marriott.

When 23andMe declared bankruptcy earlier this year, our team moved quickly to ensure Utahns' most personal information was protected. We **successfully advocated for crucial data privacy protections** during the bankruptcy and sale process.

Since July 1, 2023, companies that suffer breaches impacting 500 or more Utah residents have been required to report the breach to our division. This change has led to much greater transparency about data breaches that affect Utahns and to more actions taken by our team to reduce the risk of Utahns being targeted for identity theft and fraud.

United States et al. v. Agri Stats

Case ongoing

In coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice and state partners, the Division is pursuing enforcement action to halt the collection and dissemination of sensitive, nonpublic data among competing poultry and pork processors. This type of information sharing can distort competition and contribute to higher prices for consumers—especially concerning during a period of rising grocery costs. The Division remains committed to stopping anticompetitive practices that threaten fair markets and to protecting Utah families at the checkout line.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Standing guard for every Utah consumer.

The Commercial Enforcement Division safeguards Utahns by enforcing laws against deceptive practices, fraud, and abuse to ensure a fair, free, and competitive marketplace.

BY THE NUMBERS

10

multistate
investigations closed

41

lien recovery cases
closed

3

multistate
investigations open

\$90.4M

in settlement funds
ordered to go to Utah

WHAT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT DOES



Enforce Utah laws

Our team enforces state laws to protect the public and combats fraud through strategic litigation.



Prosecute Deceptive Practices

The Commercial Enforcement Division actively investigates and prosecutes deceptive practices that harm Utahns.

Delivering justice for Utah consumers

The Commercial Enforcement Division has three sections: Securities and Real Estate, Consumer Protection, and Professional Licensing. These three sections represent divisions in the Utah Department of Commerce and work closely with them to protect Utah consumers from fraud and deception.

Division of Securities v. LucisDollar

Outcome: Case settled

Utah's first cryptocurrency enforcement action resulted in a settlement requiring **\$85,000 in fines and full restitution** after LucisDollar initial coin offering (ICO) marketers fraudulently raised \$380,000 from around 240 investors.

Division of Professional Licensing v. Action HVAC

Case ongoing

Utah **initiated civil and administrative enforcement actions** against Action HVAC for allegedly exploiting vulnerable adults when selling and performing electrical, plumbing, and HVAC services in Utah. Trial for the case is set for the middle of 2026.

Division of Securities v. Mine Shaft Brewing

Outcome: Restitution

Our team recovered **\$1.7 million in restitution** and around **\$100,000 in fines** in a major fraud case that deceived more than 100 investors with false promises of a Park City brewery and beverage venture.

Division of Consumer Protection v. Real Estate Workshop

Outcome: Case won

Utah obtained a **\$42.5 million judgment** against a company that lured thousands of consumers into purchasing expensive training packages on the promise they'd earn thousands of dollars in passive real estate investing.

Utah v. Snap Inc.

Case ongoing

Our attorneys filed a lawsuit against Snapchat for recklessly addicting children to the app and rolling out an experimental AI chatbot to minors without adequate safety assurances. Utah was the **first state to challenge the deployment of this untested AI bot.**

Utah v. Ticketmaster

Case ongoing

Utah teamed up with the FTC and eight other states to file a lawsuit against **Ticketmaster and Live Nation for hiding fees and misrepresenting ticket prices.**

Utah and FTC v. Kars-R-Us

Outcome: Case won

We successfully negotiated a **federal consent judgment against Kars-R-Us and its operators for operating a nationwide charity fraud scheme generating over \$45.5 million** in revenue through misrepresentations to donors.

Division of Consumer Protection v. Pornhub

Outcome: Case won

Utah secured a landmark online-safety victory, obtaining a judgment of up to **\$15 million** against the companies behind Pornhub.com for misrepresenting their moderation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and non-consensual content. The court also imposed more than **50 pages of injunctive relief**, requiring sweeping safety reforms, strict screening and removal protocols, and independent oversight. This order sets a new national standard for protecting children and holding online platforms accountable.

Utah v. Eli Lilly

Case ongoing

Our attorneys, working closely with the Division of Consumer Protection, **continue pursuing litigation against drug manufacturers and PBMs accused of inflating insulin prices.** Other states recently defeated motions to dismiss in similar cases and are now in discovery. Utah is expected to follow shortly, bolstering the multistate effort to hold these companies accountable.

Utah v. Express Scripts

Case ongoing

Utah filed a second major action against pharmacy benefit managers—this time targeting their alleged role in fueling the opioid epidemic. The lawsuit asserts that two of the nation’s largest PBMs, Express Scripts and OptumRx, helped facilitate the oversupply of opioids in exchange for payments and incentives from drug manufacturers. The case is currently in a jurisdictional dispute, with **discovery set to follow** once that issue is resolved.

Division of Consumer Protection v. Meta

Case ongoing

Utah's first lawsuit against a social media platform for deceptive and unconscionable practices targeting minors **continues to advance**. Fact discovery against Meta closed in November 2025, and the case is on track for a trial-readiness announcement in early 2026. The suit seeks to hold Meta accountable for designing platforms that knowingly expose children to addictive features and harmful content.

Division of Consumer Protection v. TikTok

Case ongoing

Utah's consolidated cases against TikTok—both of which survived motions to dismiss—are now in fact discovery. The lawsuits allege that TikTok misled parents and children about the safety of its platform and deployed features that contribute to addiction, mental-health harms, and exploitation of minors. Since Utah first led the charge in 2023, **more than twenty other states have followed with similar actions**, strengthening a nationwide effort to protect kids online.

In re Emergency Proceedings

In 2025, our team assisted the Utah Division of Professional Licensing with six different emergency proceedings. In one case, we received evidence that a school mental health counselor searched for sexually explicit scenarios with kids as young as 12-years-old on ChatGPT as well as looking up how to kill people and dispose of bodies. Two other cases involved registered nurses facing severe professional and criminal violations, including threats to state employees and domestic violence charges. All matters are actively moving forward and our team is committed to pursuing justice.

