

This is the biennial report of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. It is an overview of the department's organizational structure and highlights major program initiatives from 2009-11. The department's website at [www.doj.state.wi.us](http://www.doj.state.wi.us) has more detailed information on specific programs and is updated regularly. We encourage interested parties to view our website for more information about the work of the Department of Justice.

## **Department of Justice**

### **Biennial Report**

**2009-2011**

## **ORGANIZATION**

**The Department of Justice (DOJ)** provides legal advice and representation, criminal investigations, and various law enforcement services for the state. It represents the state in civil cases and handles criminal cases that reach the Wisconsin Court of Appeals or the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It also represents the state in criminal cases on appeal in federal courts and participates with other states in federal cases that are important to Wisconsin. The department provides legal representation in lower courts when expressly authorized by law or requested by the governor, either house of the legislature, or a state agency head. It also represents state agencies in court reviews of their administrative decisions. The Department consists of four divisions and one office. The Division of Criminal Investigation, Division of Law Enforcement Services, Division of Legal Services, Division of Management Services and the Office of Crime Victim Services.

The Department is supervised by the attorney general, a constitutional officer who is elected on a partisan ballot to a 4-year term. The attorney general appoints the deputy attorney general, the executive assistant, the department's division administrators, and the director of the Office of Crime Victim Services. With the exception of the administrator of the Division of Criminal Investigation, which is a classified position, all of these positions serve at the pleasure of the attorney general.

The **Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI)** investigates crimes that are statewide in nature or importance. DCI special agents work closely with local officials to investigate and prosecute crimes involving arson, financial crimes, illegal gaming, computer crimes, drug trafficking, government corruption, and crimes against children. Upon request, the Division assists local law enforcement agencies in cases involving homicides and multi-jurisdictional theft or fraud. The Division also performs special investigations requested by the Governor or the Legislature. The Division structure is organized into the Eastern and Western Regions of Operation each overseen by a Director of Operations. Within these regions, there are field offices, supervised by Special Agents in Charge, where agents conduct investigative operations according to specialized investigative assignments. In

addition to the investigations conducted under management of the Operational Regions, DCI also manages several statewide investigative programs that conduct independent investigations and also work to support the investigative efforts of local law enforcement. Among these is the State Fire Marshall's Office which conducts arson investigations through the efforts of Special Agents who reside in each field office. A Gaming Investigation Program conducts investigations statewide. DCI staffs a Technical Services Unit, (supporting the need for specialized methods to provide technical surveillance solutions), the Criminal Analytical Services Unit, and the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children and Adults as well as the Wisconsin Statewide Information Center. The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Unit has agents assigned in each field office who work both independently and in concert with over 160 local ICAC Task Force Affiliate agencies. The DCI Computer Forensic Unit specializes in the recovery of digital evidence received in DCI cases as well as from local law enforcement agencies. This unit is attached to the ICAC Program although digital evidence is processed from all types of investigations.

The **Division of Law Enforcement Services (DLES)** provides technical assistance and training to state and local law enforcement agencies and officers. It maintains central fingerprint identification records, criminal history information for use by state and local police agencies, and TIME System (Transaction Information for the Management of Enforcement). Three state crime laboratories analyze physical evidence for law enforcement officials and prosecutors. The Division ensures that the minimum recruitment and training qualifications established by the Law Enforcement Standards Board are met by all state and local police officers. The Division includes the Crime Information Bureau, the Training and Standards Bureau and the State Crime Laboratory, which has facilities in Madison, Milwaukee, and Wausau.

The **Division of Legal Services (DLS)** provides legal representation and advice to the Governor, Legislature, other state officers and agencies, district attorneys and county corporation counsels. It defends state agencies and employees in lawsuits, represents the state in all felony appeals and litigation brought by prison inmates, initiates criminal prosecution of economic crimes, prosecutes violations of state laws related to Medicaid fraud and abuse and drafts Attorney General opinions. The Division enforces state environmental laws and handles matters related to employment, public records, Indian law and fair housing. At the request of district attorneys, the Division provides special prosecutors in complex homicide, drug and white collar crime cases. The Division includes the following specialized legal units: Civil Litigation; Criminal Appeals; Criminal Litigation, Antitrust, Consumer Protection, and Public Integrity; Employment; Environmental Protection; State Programs, Administration & Revenue (SPAR); and Medicaid Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit.

**Division of Management Services (DMS)** provides operational support to the Department. It prepares the agency's budget, manages personnel and training issues, performs accounting and fiscal control, oversees Departmental facilities and provides information technology services. The Division includes the Bureau of

Budget and Finance, the Bureau of Human Resource Services, and the Bureau of Computing Services.

**Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS)** provides assistance to crime victims and witnesses. It compensates crime victims for medical and related expenses which they incur as the result of a crime, provides funding to counties for services to victims and witnesses and administers federal funds which go to local victim service providers.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Concealed Carry**- ACT 35 authorized DOJ to implement a concealed carry licensing system effective November 1, 2011. As of December 31, 2011, 65,921 license applications have been received and 38,761 licenses have been issued.

**Crime Alert Network** - Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen created the Wisconsin Crime Alert Network to allow law enforcement agencies to send out crime alert bulletins to businesses and the public about crimes which may affect them. As of December, 2011, there are 119 paid subscribers. There are also 1321 law enforcement users - 571 are signed up to receive alerts and 750 are trained to send alerts.

**DNA Analysis**-An additional six DNA analyst positions were added to address increasing caseloads and to prevent backlogs. A total of 5,575 cases came in for DNA analysis system wide for 2011, an average of 472 cases per month.

**Handgun Hotline**-Calls to the Handgun Hotline set a record in 2011 with 88,895 calls received. This represented a 59.7% increase over the call volume in 2010.

**Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)**- DOJ continued to increase the number of local law enforcement ICAC task force affiliates across the state and as of December 31, 2011 have 174 agencies participating. Additional staffing resources were requested in the biennial budget process and provided by the Legislature and Governor. These additional special agent, criminal analyst and operations positions will expand DOJ's ability to take more sexual predators off the street.

**Open Meetings & Public Records Seminars** -Once again the DOJ held free Public Records and Open Meetings seminars in various locations throughout the state to educate Wisconsin residents, officials and members of the media and to promote compliance with state laws. For the first time, a webinar session was conducted and more than 200 people attended this year's live Public Records and Open Meetings webinar by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on October 20, 2011. A webinar is an interactive audio-visual presentation viewed live over the Internet from the participant's personal computer.