



COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020 / 2021

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# Edward E. Manibusan

Attorney General of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**T**his annual report combines two calendar years, 2020 and 2021. It took substantial manpower hours that we did not have to organize and ensure that the report accurately reflects the hard work and dedication of the attorneys and staff of the Office of the Attorney General.

These past two years have been challenging because of the pandemic and turnover in personnel. Notwithstanding the challenges, the OAG continued to provide substantial legal advice to the Executive Branch as well as provided comments on proposed legislation to the Legislative Branch of our government. Overall, the OAG's Civil and Criminal Division secured favorable decisions in court and negotiated settlements in cases on terms favorable to the Commonwealth.

As reflected in this report, the OAG's Criminal Division pursued and prosecuted those who violated our criminal laws and protected our citizens from unlawful criminal activities. The OAG worked on many different projects, coordinated and made regular contacts with law enforcement and investigators and generally worked to improve relationship with other agencies and the community.

The OAG, mindful of its constitutional duties will continue to work earnestly on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth. As the Chief Legal Officer of the Commonwealth, I will ensure that the OAG provide the best legal services and advise to our government and justice to the people of the Commonwealth.



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**Lillian A. Tenorio**  
Deputy Attorney General

Our team of attorneys and staff continued to work hard to protect the interest of the people of the Commonwealth. Overseeing the review of legal issues raised by our agency clients and closely scrutinizing legislation that would affect the livelihood of everyday residents of the Commonwealth, we have succeeded in weathering through the challenges and struggle of the second year of the pandemic.

This office continues to rely on the collaborative network of offices of the attorneys general providing us with information and resources on litigation matters, best management practices, and the development of national policies and protocol on public health and consumer protection matters. Keeping informed and adapting quickly and efficiently enabled us to fulfill our commitment to serve and protect interests of the people of the Commonwealth.



## Office of the Attorney General

### Divisions:

- 1 Civil Division
- 2 Criminal Division
- 3 Office of the Consumer Counsel
- 4 Solicitor's Division
- 5 Child Support Enforcement Unit (CSEU)
- 6 Attorney General Investigative Division (AGID)
- 7 Victim Witness Advocacy Unit (VWAU)
- 8 Administrative Services Division
- 9 Information Technology Unit
- 10 Grants Management and Public Information Office

# ADVISORY OPINIONS, LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS & OTHER LEGAL SERVICES

The Attorney General provides legal advice and analysis to the Governor on pending legislation and other legal matters. In order to improve the effectiveness of legislation that governs the CNMI Government, the OAG undertook a range of legislative reviews, and comments.

	2020	2021
Legislation Review- Governor	28	58
Legislative Comments	23	69
<b>Total:</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>127</b>

## Legal Services Request

	2020	2021
Department/Agencies	252	530
Governor	37	42
<b>Total:</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>572</b>

	2020	2021
Agencies Served	70	70
Procurement Contract Review	507	711
Personnel Contract Review	321	956
Communication- Dept/Agencies	304	375
Communication-Private Sector	8	53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>2165</b>

## Commonwealth Register:

	2020	2021
Emergency Regulations	4	4
Proposed Regulations	24	36
Adopted Regulations	28	33
Agency Orders	77	224
Legal Opinions	1	2
Subscribers	2	2
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$320.00</b>	<b>\$320.00</b>

## Notary Public Applicants:

	2020	2021
Total Notary Public	160	174
New	9	30
Renewed	47	57
Government NP	24	18
<b>Total NP Collection</b>	<b>\$1,400.00</b>	<b>\$2,275.00</b>

## Apostilles/Certifications Issued:

	2020	2020	2021	2021
Apostilles	213	\$10,650.00	200	\$10,000.00
Certifications	61	\$3,050.00	126	\$6,300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>\$13,700.00</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>\$16,300.00</b>

# John Lowrey

## Chief, Civil Division

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - APRIL 8, 2022



The Civil Division advises the Governor and the Commonwealth's executive branch, including all public corporations and autonomous agencies. It also represents the CNMI in all civil and administrative matters. Despite the disruptions brought on by COVID-19 and the associated state of emergency, the Civil Division has worked to meet the demands of reviewing legislation, regulations, policies, and contracts, in addition to providing legal representation to the executive branch's departments and agencies. Notable matters include:

- Defending the FY 20 budget process from attack by the Public School System, which alleged that it was not receiving its full constitutional apportionment, in *Ada v. Torres*, No. 20-0105. The matter has since been dismissed.
- Bringing five administrative enforcement actions before the Commonwealth Casino Commission alleging that Imperial Pacific International had failed to comply with its statutory and contractual obligations, since consolidated into *Yeom v. IPI*, No. 20-001, and *Yeom v. IPI*, No. 20-002.
- Securing a favorable decision from the Supreme Court on appeal from the dismissal of a case by the Superior Court for failure to properly serve the Commonwealth in conformance with the Rules of Civil Procedure in *Teregeyo v. CNMI*, No. 2019-SCC-0004-CIV.

The Civil Division has also negotiated settlements of tort and contract claims on terms favorable to the Commonwealth in FY 2020. These settlements included claims of negligent supervision, medical negligence, environmental matters, and trespass on public lands. On the national level, the Civil Division has continued its work on the multistate opioid crisis litigation, partnering with numerous other Attorneys General

across the United States to negotiate a proposed settlement with several pharmaceutical companies including Purdue Pharma LP, the maker of OxyContin.

The Civil Division has further assisted the Commonwealth in navigating the challenges brought by the COVID-19 state of emergency. Our attorneys have provided advice and training on how to handle the operational and personnel challenges associated with austerity, reviewed contracts associated with quarantine operations, and assisted agencies with negotiating the economic disruptions caused by the emergency. In some instances, the emergency has revealed opportunities for regulatory reform -- our attorneys have assisted with the ongoing revision of regulations for the BECQ, Cannabis Commission, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Lands, and Procurement & Supply Division of the Department of Finance during the state of emergency.

## Civil Case Statistics

<b>Civil Litigation- Superior Court</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
New	14	12
Active	34	38
Dispositions	4	9
<b>Supreme Court- Appellate Cases</b>		
New	1	2
Active	3	2
Oral Arguments	1	0
Dispositions	4	2
Pending Decision	1	-
<b>U.S. District Court Cases</b>		
New	2	3
Active	6	7
Disposed	2	3
<b>U.S. 9th Circuit Cases</b>		
New	0	-
Disposed	1	-



# Alison Nelson

Chief, Civil Division

APRIL 8, 2022 - PRESENT



# John Bradley

Chief, Criminal Division

JULY 22, 2019 - JULY 21, 2021

- Worked with Sexual Assault Response Team to have monthly case reviews of completed criminal cases involving child abuse or sexual assault, designed to review the investigation and prosecution and identify positive and negative aspects to improve overall teamwork.
- Met regularly with investigators of the Criminal Investigation Bureau to discuss legal issues and office policy in obtaining arrest warrants, interrogation and review of cases.
- Improved regular contact between investigators and prosecutors through on-call phone contact during after-hours and visits to office during work hours.
- Improved coordination with CHCC psychiatric support by coordinating with the Public Defender's Office and psychiatrists on the treatment of offenders with substantial mental health issues, reduced delays by reaching agreements on placing offenders quickly into treatment.
- At the invitation of Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, Chief Bradley presented at the 2020 POWER Act Virtual Seminar, "Justice and the Challenges of COVID-19", on the subject of "Challenges Facing Prosecutors During the Pandemic."
- Appeared and presented written and oral protest of parole of numerous offenders before the Board of Parole.

In the CNMI Supreme Court, the Criminal Division highlights the following:

- 2020 MP 3 (Appleby v. Villagomez): Dismissing appeal as Superior Court had subject matter jurisdiction to hear writ of habeas corpus and rule on merits, as Administrative Procedure Act does

not apply; declining to hold writ application is moot and remanding to Superior Court to decide on the issue. This case involves a challenge by a convicted murderer of a decision by the Parole Board to revoke his parole for commission of new crime.

- 2020 MP 20 (Commonwealth v. Aldan): Affirming conviction and sentence of defendant for sexual assault but removing restriction on parole eligibility. This case involved the use of DNA evidence and the need for proper application of a statistical database that includes islander samples.
- 2020 MP 16 (Commonwealth v. Delos Santos): Affirming conviction and sentence for sexual abuse of a minor after finding no colorable claims on appeal.
- 2020 MP 13: (Commonwealth v. Falig, Jr.): Denying motion for rehearing challenging a decision to affirm conviction and sentence, for drug possession and finding the judge properly applied individualized sentencing.
- 2020 MP 10 (Commonwealth v. Martin): Affirming conviction and sentence for robbery after finding the judge properly applied individualized sentencing.
- 2020 MP 11 (Commonwealth v. Sablan): Dismissing appeal of defendant convicted of murder because he had waived the right to appeal as part of the plea agreement.
- 2020 MP 22 (In re Commonwealth v. Superior Court): Granting writ of mandamus against

# CRIMINAL CASE STATISTICS

New Cases	2020	2021
<i>Criminal</i>		
Felony	121	145
Misdemeanor	230	263
Juvenile	21	15
Traffic	2981	3312

## Cases Received by Location

Saipan	3243	3568
Tinian	38	107
Rota	72	60

## By Offenses

Family Violence	178	185
General Crimes	89	104
Property Crimes	67	82
Drugs	14	15
Sexual Assault	20	31
Public Corruption	1	0
Firearms	0	1
Miscellaneous	0	2
Extradition	0	0
Prostitution	0	0
E-Citations	0	0
DFEMS	1	0
BECQ	0	2

New Cases	2020	2021
Traffic-Non Payable	205	262
Traffic- Payable	2776	3050
Stalking	-	2
Fish & Wildlife	-	1
COVID Task Force	-	1

Guilty Pleas	15	-
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## Bench Trials

Guilty	0	-
Acquittal	1	-
Pending	2	-

## Jury Trials

Guilty	0	-
Acquittal	0	0
Mistrial	1	-
Dismissal	0	-
Pending	241	-
Dismissals	6	-
Acquittals	0	-
Hung Jury	0	0
Off Calendar	2	-
Court Programs	2	-
Declined	106	-

Associate Judge Camacho for issuing unlawful order for discovery during preliminary hearing.

In the Superior Court the following the Criminal Division highlights the following:

- Civil Case 20-0143 (Reyes v. Villagomez): Writ of habeas corpus denied that alleged ineffective assistance of counsel
- Assisted in the implementation of the extension of electronic filing to Traffic citations.
- Participated in the committee review of the Supreme Court review of Rules of Criminal Procedure, chaired by Justice Inos



**Chester Hinds**  
Chief, Criminal Division  
AUGUST 15, 2021 - PRESENT



# Robby Glass

Chief, Solicitor Division

JULY 11, 2020 - PRESENT

The Solicitor Division is within the Office of the Attorney General. The Chief Solicitor is responsible for supervising and approving all appellate litigation for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and for ensuring consistency in legal positions taken by the Commonwealth. The Office of the Chief Solicitor is responsible for handling the appeals deemed most significant to the Commonwealth's interests and the development of federal and Commonwealth jurisprudence. Additionally, the Chief Solicitor provides legal review of pending legislation, handles litigation, advises both civil and criminal litigators, and advises various CNMI agencies. The Office of the Chief Solicitor also provides guidance to CNMI agencies through Attorney General opinions. The Chief Solicitor reviews potential issues in the Supreme Court of the United States, The Ninth Circuit, and the Commonwealth Supreme Court to see if the Commonwealth should intervene or appear as an amicus curiae.

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Reviewed 18 proposed bills and drafted or supervised the drafting of comments to the Legislature

Drafted and reviewed 8 criminal bills on topics such as bail reform, admissibility of child outcry statements, possession of firearms by felon, failure to appear in court, deadly weapon definitions, and possession of contraband in the jail

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## CNMI Supreme Court cases:

- Wrote, reviewed and edited 15 drafts of appellate filings.
- Filed briefs in *Commonwealth v. Kaipat and Rios v. Villagomez* and are awaiting decisions from the NMI Supreme Court.

## U.S. District Court cases:

- U.S. District Court dismissed with prejudice *Aguon v. Department of Corrections Officials* where the court sided with the DOC and found plaintiff Aguon was being less than truthful to the court surrounding the circumstances he alleges happened to him.
- Defended the autonomy of the Attorney General in defending employees of the Commonwealth alleged to have committed constitutional violations.

## Superior Court cases:

- *Acedbedo v. Commonwealth and DFEMS*, successfully defended case in which Judge found the nine terminated DFEMS personnel would likely not prevail on the merits of their claims in refusing to take the covid-19 vaccine as mandated by the Governor in his executive order. The court also found that the plaintiffs failed to exhaust their administrative remedies.
- *Saturno v. Commonwealth*: Favorably settled this tort case where it is alleged a DFEMS employee was at fault for an accident saving the Commonwealth the time and money litigating the case.



# Consumer Complaints

The Office of the Consumer Counsel (OCC) promotes and protects the interests of CNMI consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. Consumer Complaint forms may be obtained at [www.cnmioag.org](http://www.cnmioag.org) under the Consumer Protection section or in person at the Civil Division on Capital Hill, or via email by sending a request to [consumer\\_counsel@cnmioag.org](mailto:consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org). Complaint forms may be hand delivered to the Civil Division or submitted via email. Consumers may also contact the Attorney General Investigative Division Hotline at 237-7627.

## Office of the Consumer Counsel

The Office of the Consumer Counsel was created by the Consumer Protection Act of 1989, PL 6-46, to protect the consumers of the CNMI from unfair and deceptive business practices, to provide a mechanism for resolving disputes between merchants and consumers, and to provide civil and criminal remedies for violations of the consumer protection laws.

In 2021, consumers of the CNMI were still reeling from the difficulties posed by COVID-19. Fortunately, as the pandemic wore on and markets began to adjust to the difficulties posed by pandemic conditions, prices began to stabilize, and the situation improved for most CNMI consumers. Many challenges remain, and the Office remains committed to serving the consumers of the CNMI.

### Highlights from the Consumer Counsel:

#### ● Participation in Multi-State Litigation

The Office of the Consumer Counsel oversees the CNMI's participation in several ongoing multi-state litigations. The two cases primarily detailed to the Office of the Consumer Counsel due to their consumer protection implications are the Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and a nationwide lawsuit against opioid distributors Johnson & Johnson and others.

#### ● Coordinating with other Jurisdictions

In December of 2021, the CNMI took the lead during an international recall of Philips CPAP machines. Philips' plan to replace the recalled machines did not include the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. The CNMI led the effort to coordinate with these other territories and the US Food and Drug Administration in orchestrating a response to make sure that the safety of consumers is protected.

#### ● Commonwealth-wide Initiatives: Restarting the Joint Consumer Protection Task Force

During Typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, the Consumer Protection Task Force which, in consort with other agencies of the CNMI, detected, investigated, and took enforcement action against violations of the Consumer Protection Act. The Task Force was highly effective in protecting the consumers of the CNMI from price gouging and other predatory behaviors. In December 2021, the Office of the Consumer Counsel began discussions with the Attorney General's Investigative Division to restart that task force amongst reports of price gouging and predatory behaviors stemming from the Covid-19 Pandemic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

# Child Support Enforcement Unit



## MISSION

Our mission is to assist parents in obtaining the financial support necessary to raise their children. Our office assists parents by establishing paternity and enforcing child support and related orders issued by the court. Our goal is to collect and distribute support payments in a timely manner.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have been working with the Court in getting the Child Support Worksheets and Guidelines used in every case where Child Support is an issue. We have also begun annual reviews of outstanding child support balances in each case where the non-custodial parent resides in the CNMI. This has helped prevent the over-collection of child support in numerous cases and lets us know which cases need immediate attention as the child support arrears have increased. We were able to implement a protocol with the Court for the interception of PUA funds so that they could be applied towards outstanding child support arrears. Because of the effect of the Covid 19 pandemic on the economy, collecting child support has been more difficult in past years. More people are unemployed than ever before, and this is why recoupment of some PUA funds is so necessary for child support. We were still able to collect child support at the same level as the pre-pandemic period of 2019.

### Number of Child Support Cases

	2020	2021
Initiating	10	7
Responding	4	11
Active	330	340
Closed	8	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>367</b>

### Child Support Collections

	2020	2021
Collected/Distributed	\$363,678.53	\$301,767.42
Collections: Tax Rebate/Refund	\$34.00	\$29,410.83
Collections: Child Tax	\$7,033.16	\$2,583.53
Collections: Stimulus	\$87,420.25	\$5,009.53
Collections: DOL/FPUC/PUA	\$5,900.00	\$47,636.50
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$464,065.94</b>	<b>\$386,407.81</b>

### New Hire Directory:

	2020	2021
Prior to NH Law Passing	944	1101
Employees Currently Recorded	22,646	23,435

# Vicente Babauta

Chief, Investigative Division

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 - MAY 25, 2022



## A. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Attorney General Investigative Division is to safeguard and be faithful to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States of America to zealously, effectively, and indiscriminately enforce the law equally and impartially; to exemplify the finest law enforcement agency by providing the highest level of professionalism, standards, proficiency, loyalty, and commitment to the CNMI community; and to investigate and reduce crime by enhancing co-operations and partnerships with other law enforcement and stakeholder agencies.

## B. INTRODUCTION

### Background

The Office of the Attorney General Investigative Division (AGID) was statutorily established in May 2013, through the passage of PL 18-13 and PL 18-14, to investigate white-collar crimes and violations of all CNMI laws. Since the passage of PL 18-13 and PL

### AGID Jury & Bench Trials

CASE TYPE	2021	2020	TOTAL	
Jury Trials	1	-	1	
Bench Trials / Hearing	3	1	4	
Civil Jury Trial	1	-	1	
<b>AGID Documents</b>				
Penal Summons (TR & CSC)	126	92	128	119
Witness Summons (TR & CSC)	188	159	101	92
Child Support Documents	22	20	14	8
Civil Documents	3	3	27	27
Bench Warrants	33	14	10	15
Subpoenas	4	4	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>292</b>

18-14, AGID serves as the investigative arm of the Office of the Attorney General, conducting independent and multi-jurisdictional investigations in partnership with local and federal authorities. While created to investigate crimes involving public integrity, AGID has honed its law enforcement powers and has expanded its investigative focus encompassing the different ranges of crimes against persons, crimes against property, contraband offenses, to include continued augmentation of investigative efforts within the different divisions of the Office of the Attorney General; and has expanded its role in providing assistance to both local and federal agencies, and has expanded gathers and shares information with other law enforcement agencies.



## Ikluk Masayos

Acting Chief, Investigative Division

JUNE 2, 2022 - PRESENT

# Victim Witness Advocacy Unit



The Victim Witness Advocacy Unit (VWAU) in the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General was created by Public Law 10-81 and later amended by Public Law 16-52 as set forth in 6 CMC § 9102 to but not limited to:

- Preparation and dissemination of the Victims Bill of Rights;
- Provide information and resources to victims and witnesses about the Criminal Justice System and its processes;
- Provide victim and witness notifications;
- Establish a victims transportation program to ensure a victims access to all court appearances and assistance programs;
- Coordinate the flow of information between the Criminal Division of the Attorney General’s Office, the Department of Public Safety, the Public Defender’s Office, the Department of Youth Services, and any and all victim support agencies and organizations such as Karidat Social Services which provide services to victims of crime;
- Provide crisis intervention and safety planning to crime victims and witnesses;
- Provide court accompaniment and support;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information relating to the problems encountered by the victims of crime;
- Enlist the assistance of public and voluntary health, education, welfare, and rehabilitative agencies or groups in a concerted effort to aid persons who are victims of crime;
- Act as an advocate for the victims of crime to obtain aid and services from public or private health, education, welfare, or rehabilitative agencies or groups to treat persons who have been victims of crime;
- Provide assistance to victims in dealing with creditors and credit reporting agencies if a financial exigency has resulted from the crime for restitution; and and
- Work with prosecutors, investigators, probation officers,

parole officers, correction officers, direct service providers, coalition, and other non-profit entities in assisting crime victims and witnesses.

### Goals and Initiatives

- For additional personnel: Victim Advocate and Victim Witness Assistant;
- To improve and continue victim services;
- To continue collaboration with networking agencies;
- To expand resource materials;
- To expand virtual victim communication capabilities;
- To achieve professional growth;
- To continue community outreach efforts;
- Upgrade and maintain the use of VSTracking
- To continue operational and office funding sources
- Continue to secure federal funding

### Community Outreach Participation

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2021:  
Proclamation Signing Ceremony

	2021	2020
<b>Victims Served- Criminal Cases</b>		
Persons	433	362
Business	36	33
Government	28	33
<b>Victims Served- Juvenile Cases</b>		
Persons	20	15
Business	1	2
Government	1	0
<b>Victims Served- Civil</b>		
<b>Family Court</b>		
Cases Entertained	203	193
	57	66

# Tina Deleon Guerrero

Manager, Administrative Services Division



The Administrative Division provides administrative support to all Divisions under the Office of the Attorney General by performing a variety of administrative task. The Division plans, organizes, and implements the office’s programs, policies and objectives, in addition to coordinating office services such as sound fiscal management, records management, recruitment and training/professional development. It also reviews and recommends to management the technical and procedural needs of the office overall. The Division is further tasked with the management of grant awards as well as to research and produce grant proposals for submission, and is responsible for publishing the Commonwealth Register and registering of the Notaries Public. The Administrative Division is the primary hub for the evaluation and completion of all Human Resource functions of the office.

BUDGET & EXPENDITURES		
	2020	2021
General Funds	\$2,666,922.00	\$2,164,918.00
Personnel	\$2,595,176.00	\$2,085,276.00
Operations	\$ 71,746.00	\$ 79,642.00
Federal Funds	\$ 230,706.00	\$ 259,958.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,897,628.00</b>	<b>\$2,424,876.00</b>
Personnel		
Attorneys	24	24
Investigators	3	3
Support Staff	24	25
Victim Advocates	3	3
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>





**Edward Sablan**  
Manager, Information Technology  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 - JUNE 17, 2022

The Information Technology (IT) Unit manages and maintains the information systems and technologies for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The IT Unit's responsibilities include the management of computer and server systems, databases, network security, and physical security. The IT Unit provides technical support for hardware and software related problems that arise. In addition, the IT Unit coordinates office building maintenance and repairs when needed.

2021 brought interesting challenges to the IT Unit. Local funding was limited but the availability of ARPA funding gave leverage to purchase additional laptops, server, and networking equipment to improve our data and network infrastructure. This additional funding was also used to renew subscriptions for online services our office uses.

Additionally, the IT Unit initiated conversations with multiple software vendors to find a suitable case management system for both the Criminal and Civil Division offices. With a goal to move towards a new and improved system, the IT staff worked closely with management, staff, and attorneys to choose a platform that will best complement our operational needs. After reviewing different software platforms, two systems were chosen based on their capabilities and functionality. IT staff will be working with vendors in the coming year to set up and configure both systems and ensure proper training is conducted and available for all OAG staff.

As for training, IT staff attended seminars, webinars, and hands-on training on a range of technology related

topics to include cybersecurity, best practices, and software training for new systems implemented.

The IT Unit continually works hard to improve the office's information systems and technologies. Our plans for the upcoming year are to manage the new software systems that will be implemented and to coordinate user training for OAG staff. In addition, the IT Unit will continue to maintain the physical, network, and website security for the office as well as the upkeep of office computers, servers, and website. The IT Unit also plans to explore additional options and layers of security for its ongoing efforts against cyber threats. The IT Unit will seek to attend professional development training and avail of additional resources that will help improve the services our agency provides the public.



**William Rathburn**  
Manager, Information Technology  
JUNE 28, 2022 - PRESENT



# KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2022/2023

**OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
Calendar  
Year 2020 - 2021**

CNMI Office of the Attorney General  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950  
WEBSITE: [www.cnmioag.org](http://www.cnmioag.org)

Civil Division  
(670) 237-7500

Criminal Division  
(670) 237-7600

Investigative Division  
(670) 237-7627

Victim Witness Advocacy Unit  
(670) 237-7602

Grants/PIO  
(670) 237-7500

If you have any recommendations on what you would like to see included, please contact Andrea Manese at (670) 237-7500 or email at [andrea\\_manese@cnmioag.org](mailto:andrea_manese@cnmioag.org); Ashley Babauta, at (670) 237-7500 or email at [ashley\\_babauta@cnmioag.org](mailto:ashley_babauta@cnmioag.org)

- Continue to support all law enforcement through meeting and training by means of academy or in service;
- Focus on illegal business practices that hurt our consumers and other businesses;
- Continue to foster a non-partisan position on all matters brought to our attention;
- Continue to promote and ensure an open and transparent government;
- Continue to improve/strengthen the Criminal Code;
- Continue to work on new procurement regulations for the government and provide training to agencies;
- Continue to implement Consumer awareness programs and investigate consumer complaints;
- Continue to explore solutions to mental health issues in the criminal justice system;
- Continue to collaborate with DPS and DYS to address juvenile delinquency issues in the Commonwealth;
- Continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to expand resource activities to combat illegal drug and criminal activity in the CNMI;
- To increase child support collections and enforcements.