



ROBERT E. COOPER, JR.
Attorney General and Reporter

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER

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Robert E. Cooper, Jr., *Attorney General and Reporter*

The Office of Attorney General and Reporter is established by Article VI, Section 5 of the Tennessee Constitution. The attorney general is appointed by the justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court for an eight-year term.

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the state. Through his staff, he represents the officers and agencies of the state in civil litigation before state and federal courts and the Claims Commission. The attorney general prosecutes all criminal cases in the appellate courts and exercises original prosecutorial powers in limited areas. He also has the authority to institute ouster proceedings of public officials and civil actions for antitrust violations, consumer fraud, and environmental enforcement. In addition to courtroom duties, the attorney general provides legal advice to state departments and agencies and the General Assembly. Formal opinions of the attorney general on legal issues are rendered to state officials upon request. The attorney general also approves all administrative regulations and leases as to form and legality. Finally, in the exercise of his reporter function, the attorney general reports the opinions of the Tennessee Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The attorney general is assisted by a chief deputy, solicitor general, and chief policy deputy. The chief deputy coordinates and supervises the work of the office, including review of substantive work and general management of the office. The solicitor general reviews opinions before submission to the attorney general and supervises and coordinates the appellate work of the office. The chief policy deputy supervises special projects, oversees legislative matters and external communications, and coordinates multistate policy initiatives with the National Association of Attorneys General.

The office of the attorney general is divided into seventeen divisions.

Robert E. Cooper, Jr.

Attorney General and Reporter

Born January 19, 1957, Chattanooga, TN; Presbyterian; B.A., magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University, 1979; J.D., Yale University, 1983; Reporter, Raleigh (N.C.) Times, 1979-1980; law clerk for U.S. District Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer, Washington, D.C., 1983-1984; private practice, Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC, Nashville, TN, 1984-2003; Vanderbilt University Law School, Adjunct Professor since 1998; Legal Counsel to Governor Phil Bredesen, 2003-2006; Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, Member 2002-2006, Assistant Bar Examiner, 1994-2001; Charter Revision Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Member 2000-2006, Chair 2002-2006; Member of Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Foundation, Nashville Bar Foundation, National Association of Attorneys General, Southern Region of Attorneys General; appointed Attorney General and Reporter, November 2006.

Administrative Division: Ruth A. Thompson, Deputy. The Administrative Division is the internal support division of the office. Its responsibilities include hiring, budget and fiscal matters, purchasing, information systems, library services, personnel, facilities management, and records management.

Antitrust Division. The Antitrust Division enforces state and federal antitrust laws and false claims acts, with a particular focus on health care fraud. The division also oversees the operation of nonprofit corporations within the state.

Bankruptcy Division: Kathryn Behm Celauro, Deputy. The Bankruptcy Division represents state agencies in bankruptcy courts across the country. Specifically, it represents the state's interest by filing proofs of claims and administrative claims in bankruptcy cases where a state entity is owed a debt.

Civil Litigation and State Services Division: Kevin Steiling, Deputy. This division represents the state's various educational agencies and institutions and deals with state purchasing and personnel matters. It represents the state in employment and construction litigation along with reviewing state contracts.

Civil Rights and Claims Division: Kimberly J. Dean, Deputy. This division defends tort and workers' compensation actions filed against all departments and agencies of state government. The division also defends state employees of various departments sued in civil rights actions for money damages.

Consumer Advocate and Protection Division: Cynthia E. Kinser (Mills), Deputy. This division consists of two teams: Consumer Advocate and Consumer Protection. The Consumer Protection team protects consumers and businesses from unfair and deceptive trade practices and enforces the Unauthorized Practice of Law statute. The Consumer Advocate team represents the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services.

Criminal Justice Division: Amy L. Tarkington, Deputy. The Criminal Justice Division handles all direct and post-conviction appeals from criminal judgments. The division defends criminal judgments in habeas corpus proceedings in both the trial and appellate courts. The division also handles capital cases on appellate review in both the state and federal courts.

Environmental Division: Barry Turner, Deputy. This division enforces civil environmental protection laws regarding clean air, clean water, hazardous waste, and other areas. The division also gives advice to and reviews regulations for the Department of Environment and Conservation and represents the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Financial Division: Gina J. Barham, Deputy. The Financial Division provides legal services for much of the State's business-related activities such as investments of the State Treasury and the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. The division represents a number of agencies handling issues of government financing, banking, and insurance regulation.

General Civil Division: Dianne Stamey Dycus, Deputy. The General Civil Division handles a wide variety of civil matters representing a number of state departments, boards and agencies including the Departments of Children's Services, Human Services, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Labor and Workforce Development, Agriculture, Tourism, Veterans Affairs, and Military.

Health Care Division: Linda A. Ross, Deputy. The Health Care Division primarily provides legal advice and representation to the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Health and its health-related boards such as the Board of Dentistry, the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Nursing, and the Board of Optometry along with the Health Services Development Agency.

Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division: Michael A. Meyer, Deputy. This division handles criminal prosecution enforcement cases such as securities fraud and environmental law violations in addition to assisting the state's district attorneys in similar prosecutions. The division also handles some civil enforcement matters such as forfeitures.

Office of the Solicitor General: Michael E. Moore, Solicitor General. This office oversees all appellate litigation practice in the Tennessee Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, the United State Supreme Court, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The office also oversees all formal opinions issued by the Attorney General.

Real Property and Transportation Division: Larry Teague, Deputy. This division represents the state of Tennessee in land acquisition for all purposes. Most of the work performed by the division involves the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In addition to Nashville, the Real Property Division has regional offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Jackson.

Special Litigation Division: Steven A. Hart, Special Counsel. Collections Unit: Vincent Williams, Deputy. This division handles special litigation, assists other divisions in litigation matters, and represents the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance. The Collections Unit collects penalties and other debts owed to state departments and agencies.

Tax Division: Charles L. Lewis, Deputy. The Tax Division represents a wide variety of agencies including the Department of Revenue, the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Board of Law Examiners, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, and many of the regulatory boards of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Tobacco Enforcement Division: John H. Sinclair, Jr., Deputy. The Tobacco Enforcement Division enforces the provisions of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement and handles other tobacco-related matters.

Michael E. Moore

Solicitor General

Born February 8, 1950, in Leominster, MA.; A.B., (summa cum laude with high distinction), Dartmouth College, 1972; J.D., Stanford University, 1975; private practice, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, Nashville, TN, 1979-85, 1987-93; Director of Law for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1985-87; appointed Solicitor General, December 1993.





Lucy Honey Haynes

Chief Deputy Attorney General

Native of Lincoln County, Tennessee; B.S., Middle Tennessee State University, 1969; J. D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1972; staff attorney, Legal Services of Nashville, 1973-74; private practice, Dyersburg, TN, 1974-1981; staff attorney, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, TN Department of Labor, 1981-1987; Managing Attorney, Attorney General's Office, 1987-1992; Deputy Director of Law for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1992-1993; Deputy Attorney General, 1993-1997; Associate Chief Deputy 1997-2007; appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General, January 2008.



Lawrence Harrington

Chief Policy Deputy

Native of Jackson, Tennessee; B.A., Middle Tennessee State University, 1974; J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, 1979; law clerk, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, 1981-82; U.S. Congressman, Senator Al Gore and DSCC, 1982-1990; private practice, 1991-1995; Board of Executive Directors, Inter-American Development Bank/Inter-American Investment Corporation, 1995-2001; U.S. Treasury Exceptional Service Award, 2001; Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, 2002; private practice/consulting, 2002-2004; Representative, Inter-American Development Bank, 2004-2008; adjunct professor, Belmont University MBA program, 2008; appointed Chief Policy Deputy, March 2008.



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Chief of Staff



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**Kathryn Behm
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Deputy



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Linda A. Ross
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