

A grayscale photograph of the Mississippi State Capitol building, featuring a large dome topped with an eagle. A semi-transparent red rectangle is overlaid on the left and center of the image, containing the title text.

WELCOME GUIDE

MISSISSIPPI ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Since taking office in January 2020, we have done a lot of work to restructure the Attorney General's Office to make it more responsive to the needs of Mississippians and to better promote our State's interests.

Nearly 300 dedicated public servants work at the Attorney General's Office. They are attorneys who work in State and federal courts to defend our State laws and prosecute criminals. They also draft official AGO opinions and advise State agencies to help all levels of government fulfill their public duties. They are trained law enforcement who investigate crimes and victim advocates who help crime victims navigate the complex criminal justice system.

Our AGO team helps to train prosecutors, law enforcement, judges, and other partners in criminal justice. And, we help to educate the public, empowering you to be a part of the solutions to some of our State's greatest challenges. We are members of your community and we look forward to opportunities to see you at local civic meetings and events and speak with you about how we can partner to advance Mississippi to our best future.

This brochure is meant to help you access some of our most important public programs and initiatives because this is your Attorney General's Office. We thank you for the opportunity to serve and look forward to working with you for Mississippi.

A white, cursive handwritten signature of Lynn Fitch is centered at the bottom of the page. The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last names clearly legible.



— REFERENCE —

Victim Assistance
Page 3

Human Trafficking
Page 4

Consumer Protection
Page 5

Opinions & Public Records
Page 6

Training
Page 7

Law Enforcement Resources
Page 8

★ VICTIM ASSISTANCE



The journey through the justice system can be traumatic, especially for victims of crime. BOVA offers victims and their loved ones a single point of contact they can turn to before and after their offender is sentenced.

The Bureau of Victim Assistance (BOVA) was established to provide statewide assistance to victims of crime.

The **Crime Victim Compensation Program** provides financial assistance to innocent victims of violent crime and their eligible family members. It helps to reduce the financial burden resulting from a violent crime by reimbursing eligible victims/family members for their crime-related expenses not covered by any other benefit source.

The new and improved **Victim Services Resource Directory** provides county-by-county information on shelters, counselors, and other service providers that can help victims transition to survivors with hope, dignity and peace. Our victim advocates work to establish ties with these providers to ensure a strong network of support when you need it most.

Domestic Violence resources are available to help victims of violence, their loved ones, and the court and law enforcement personnel who help them with Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) and more.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING ★



Human Trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar international criminal enterprise that robs its victims of their very humanity. And, it is here in Mississippi.

In addition to our investigators and prosecutors who work these crimes, we also train local law enforcement, administer a State fund for victim assistance, and empower Mississippians to spot trafficking and know how to report it.

Be The Solution is our statewide public awareness and education campaign that enlists everyday Mississippians to be extraordinary heroes for trafficking victims. Working with public and private, State and local partners, we are training truck drivers and school bus drivers about the signs of trafficking and the hotline for reporting tips. We are also educating the general public about these important tools for making Mississippi a bad place for human traffickers to do business.

The **Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund** was established by the Legislature in 2020 to help pool resources to support shelters and service providers who serve trafficking victims. It is funded through court-assessed fees, legislative appropriations, and donations.



BE THE
SOLUTION

★ CONSUMER PROTECTION




Being well-informed is your best defense against scammers and the AGO offers a variety of resources to help protect yourself against them. But even the most cautious consumer sometimes needs some assistance. Our team of consumer mediators may be able to help you when you feel you've reached a dead end.

When your most valuable asset – your identity – has been compromised, you may face a number of unexpected consequences, including impacts on your credit rating, losses from your bank accounts, and more. Contact us for an **Identity Theft Passport**, which can help to protect you while you recover. We have also compiled resources to help lead you through additional steps to guard your good name.

Robocalls are an invasion on your privacy, and scammers often use them to defraud Americans out of millions of dollars each year. You can add your number to the **Do Not Call List (donotcall.gov)**, but sometimes the calls still come and the AGO works with the Public Service Commission to enforce the laws meant to protect you from those unwanted calls.



OFFICIAL OPINIONS ★



The **Opinions and Policy Division** provides accurate, well-reasoned, and consistent opinions of the Attorney General to public officials and bodies on prospective questions of state law. Official opinions provide guidance to public bodies and may serve as an alternative to costly litigation.

We also review interlocal agreements entered into by public bodies, at both the local and state levels, to ensure such agreements comport with Mississippi law. We review complaints filed against counties or municipalities, pursuant to Section **45-9-53**, for erecting signage or enacting ordinances that unlawfully restrict concealed firearms possession.

Each year, our Opinions and Policy division answers questions from local officials and engages with them in public trainings and conferences to help them navigate State law and better serve you and your community.





The **Prosecutor and Law Enforcement Training Division** develops and implements programs and services that advance the effectiveness and professionalism of Mississippi prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and others who have an interest in enhancing Mississippi's criminal justice system.

PLETD serves as a liaison division for the Mississippi Prosecutors' Association and various State, Federal and local criminal justice agencies.

Through this division, the Attorney General's Office also administers the State's federal John R. Justice grant funding to encourage attorneys to serve the public interest as prosecutors or public defenders.





The Attorney General's Office seeks to be a strong partner to the men and women who serve Mississippi as first responders and law enforcement officers. In addition to the trainings we conduct each year, and the assistance our investigators provide to State, local, and federal law enforcement, we also run the **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force**, the **Cyber Fraud Task Force**, and **Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for Mississippi**.

The Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Disability Benefits Trust Fund helps career and volunteer law enforcement officers and fire fighters who are accidentally or intentionally injured in the line of duty and may be eligible to receive disability benefits.

This office also runs the State's **Domestic Violence Registry and Protection Order Registry** and offers special resources to law enforcement officers for response to domestic violence calls, including our pocket flip book.





Lynn Fitch

is Mississippi's 40th Attorney General and first ever woman Attorney General. Raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi, General Fitch earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Mississippi.

At 23, she began practicing law as a Special Assistant Attorney General and was later in private practice as a bond lawyer. She has over 35 years of legal experience in both private practice and public service.

Before becoming the State's chief legal officer, General Fitch served as Mississippi's elected State Treasurer for eight years, from January 2012 to January 2020. Prior to that she was selected by Governor Barbour to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB), and served as Deputy Executive Director at the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and as Counsel for the Mississippi House of Representatives Ways and Means and Local and Private Legislation Committees.

Since taking office, Attorney General Fitch has already served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and as Co-Chair of NAAG's Human Trafficking Committee.

She was selected as Outstanding Woman Lawyer of 2012, recognized as a Woman Trailblazer by the Mississippi Bar Association, honored as a Mississippi Business Journal Leader in Finance in 2016 and Leader in Law in 2010, and named a 2015 Honoree of the Women in Government Leadership Program by Governing Magazine. In 2017 and 2022, Lynn was named one of Mississippi's Top 50 Most Influential and was honored with the prestigious Susie Blue Buchanan award by the Mississippi Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee.

General Fitch has also been an active member of the boards of several charitable organizations, including First Responders of Mississippi, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Goodwill Industries, and the American Red Cross.



MISSION:

Serving as guardians of the rule of law in Mississippi.

VISION:

For all Mississippians, setting the bar in the pursuit of justice, forging partnerships to solve the State's most pressing challenges, and serving with excellence in investigation, enforcement, education, and advocacy.



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL



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