



BUILDING UPON A RECORD OF SUCCESS

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

IN 2002, I BEGAN MY SERVICE AS THE attorney general of Texas honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve fellow Texans. Over the past 12 years – by fostering a strong network of law enforcement, crime victim advocates and communities, we have made Texas a better place to live, work, and raise our families. I'm proud of what we have accomplished together in service to the people of Texas.

As the dedicated employees of the Attorney General's Office resolve in 2015 to continue their tradition of excellence at the agency, let's take a look back at some of the great accomplishments and special moments we've had since 2002. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Record-setting years for the Texas Child Support Division. Last year, for example, the Texas CSD gained a Number 1 national ranking in several categories, including: total collections – almost \$3.7 billion, beating the number two state by more than a billion dollars; collections per full-time employee – \$1.35 million, more than twice the national average; and cost effectiveness, also more than twice the national average.
- Earning national impact with our antitrust and consumer protection enforcement efforts – including a verdict against Apple for price fixing of e-books and a \$120 million national settlement to stop improper mortgage servicing packages.
- Expanding the Civil Medicaid Fraud Division to protect the taxpayer-funded

Texas Medicaid program and ensure its funds are available to benefit the Texans for whom they are intended. Since 2002, CMF's recoveries for the State of Texas have surpassed the \$500 million mark – while total recoveries for the state and federal governments now exceed \$1.1 billion.

- Furthering our commitment to transparency and open government, including establishing formal open records and open meetings training for all elected and appointed government officials; expanding civil and criminal enforcement efforts of the Public Information Act; and interpreting its new provisions on matters such as homeland security and pension fund investment information.
- Successfully defending religious liberties for all Texans by defeating constitutional challenges to the Texas Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Moment of Silence law; defending graduates' constitutional rights to freely express their religious beliefs during graduation ceremonies; leading a multistate coalition of attorneys general to defend the annual National Day of Prayer; defending the right of the U.S. President to include references to religion during the presidential inauguration; and defending the State's right to retain on the Capitol grounds a monument commemorating the Ten Commandments as a vital part of Texas's cultural and legal history.
- Leading the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and developing

resources to help Texas fight the scourge of this despicable crime: a guide for Texas education professionals to recognize and report instances of suspected human trafficking; and a human trafficking prevention manual for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, parole officers, social workers and other victim assistance professionals who can help further the task force's efforts to identify, investigate and prosecute human traffickers.

- Creating the Cyber Crimes Unit to protect children from online sexual exploitation and the Fugitive Unit to locate sex offenders who have violated the terms of their parole. Combined, the two law enforcement units have arrested more than 2,100 child sex predators – including DPS Top Ten Sex Offenders and DPS Top Ten Fugitives. The Fugitive Unit has also led successful law enforcement operations to locate and recover endangered children.
- Orchestrating the only successful efforts to prosecute Warren Steed Jeffs for the sexual assault of minor girls. Jeffs had evaded law enforcement in both Utah and Arizona, but our office had him extradited to Texas where he was sent to prison for life plus 20 years.
- Our Special Litigation Division's completion of a multi-million-dollar settlement of an environmental case against a polluter – the third highest amount assessed and recovered from a single facility in the history of the Texas Clean Air Act.

• Continued emphasis in our Consumer Protection Division to investigate and pursue litigation stemming from complaints brought to us by our Spanish-speaking population – resulting in the shutdown of almost 40 firms statewide that were not authorized to provide legal advice or document preparation services.

- Successfully arguing in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of the rights of Americans to possess their own firearms under the Second Amendment.

For the past 12 years, I have been proud to work at the side of the dedicated men and women of the Attorney General's Office and at law enforcement agencies across this great state. I am humbled and honored to have shared in their professionalism, talent, enthusiasm and commitment to public service.

The hallmark of the Attorney General's Office is the superior work done by each of its more than 4,000 hard-working, loyal employees – and I am certain our incoming attorney general will be able to count on the same professionalism that I have witnessed.

It is a wonderful honor to have been elected to represent Texas in a new role. Many opportunities lie ahead of us to make sure we exceed expectations so that future generations of Texans experience even greater opportunity tomorrow.

- December 2014