

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

**Table 2.20
ATTORNEYS GENERAL: DUTIES TO ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES
AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

State or other jurisdiction	Serves as counsel for state	Appears for state in criminal appeals	Duties to administrative agencies								
			Issues official advice	Interprets statutes or regulations	Conducts litigation:		Prepares or reviews legal documents	Represents the public before the agency	Involved in rule-making	Reviews rules for legality	
					On behalf of agency	Against agency					
Alabama	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	(b)	(b)	★
Alaska	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Arizona	A,B,C	(a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Arkansas	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	...	...	★
California	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	...
Colorado	A,B,C	(b)	★	★	★	★	★	★	(e)	★	★
Connecticut	A,B,C	(b)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	(b)	★	★
Delaware	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Florida*	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	(b)	★	...
Georgia	A,B,C	(b,c)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Hawaii	A,B,C	(b,c)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Idaho*	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
Illinois	A,B,C	(b,c)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	...
Indiana*	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
Iowa	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	(f)	(f)	★
Kansas	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★ (a)
Kentucky	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	(e)	(b)	(b)
Louisiana	A,B,C	(c)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	...
Maine*	A,B,C	(d)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	(b)	★	★
Maryland	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	★	★	★
Massachusetts	A,B,C	(b,c,d)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Michigan	A,B,C	(b,c,d)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	...
Minnesota	A,B,C	(c,d)	★	★	★	(a)	★	★	★	★	★
Mississippi	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Missouri	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	...
Montana	A,B,C (b)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	★	...	(b)	(b)
Nebraska	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Nevada	A,B,C	★ (d)	★	★	★	★	...	★	(b)	★	★
New Hampshire	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
New Jersey	A,B,C	★ (d)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
New Mexico	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
New York	A,B,C	(b)	...	★	★	(b)	★	★	(b)	...	...
North Carolina	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	★
North Dakota	A,B,C	(b)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Ohio	A,B,C	(b)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...
Oklahoma	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	(b)	★	★
Oregon*	A,B,C	★	(a)	★	★	★	(b)	★	...	...	★
Pennsylvania*	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Rhode Island	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
South Carolina	A,B,C	★ (d)	(a)	★	★	(b)	★	★	...	...	★
South Dakota	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	...
Tennessee	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	...	★	(f)	(f)	...
Texas	A,B,C	(c)	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★
Utah	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	★
Vermont	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Virginia	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★ (g)	★	★
Washington	A,B,C	(c,g)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★ (b)	★	...
West Virginia	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	(g)	★	★	★	...	...
Wisconsin	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	(b)	★	★	(b)	(b)	...
Wyoming	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
American Samoa*	A,B,C	★ (a)	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
Guam	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	(d)	★	★	(b)	★	★
No. Mariana Islands	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
Puerto Rico	A,B,C	★	★	★	★	★	...	★	...	...	★
U.S. Virgin Islands*	A,B,C (h)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	★

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2000, except as noted by * where information is from *The Book of the States 1998-99*.

Key:

- A — Defend state law when challenged on federal constitutional grounds.
- B — Conduct litigation on behalf of state in federal and other states' courts.
- C — Prosecute actions against another state in U.S. Supreme Court.
- ★ — Has authority in area.
- ... — Does not have authority in area.
- (a) Attorney general has exclusive jurisdiction.

- (b) In certain cases only.
- (c) When assisting local prosecutor in the appeal.
- (d) Can appear on own discretion.
- (e) Public Service Commission only.
- (f) Consumer Advocate Division represents the public in utility rate making hearings and rule making proceedings.
- (g) If authorized by the governor.
- (h) Except in cases in which the U.S. Attorney is representing the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands.