

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Table 4.20
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	(a)	★	★	★	★	★	★	(c)	★	★
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)	(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)	★	★	★	(b)	★	★	(b)	(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)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Wyoming	A,B,C	★ (a)	★ (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)	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	...	★	★

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002, and state constitutions and statutes. Information indicated by an * is from *The Book of the States*, 2000-2001.

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.