



**Statement of Brian L. Schwalb**  
**Attorney General for the District of Columbia**

**Before Chairperson Brooke Pinto,**  
**Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety**

**For**

**Office of the Attorney General FY27 Budget Oversight Hearing**

**April 22, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Pinto, members of the Committee, and DC residents. I am Attorney General Brian Schwalb, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify today regarding the Office of the Attorney General’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget. I am joined by Chief Deputy Seth Rosenthal, First Deputy Erin Cullen, Chief Administrative Officer Tarifah Coaxum, and Agency Fiscal Officer Natalie Mayers.

### **Introduction**

Let me start with this: I am well aware that the District is facing serious budgetary challenges and that every District agency, including the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), must help to meet those challenges. However, the cuts to OAG’s budget that the Mayor has proposed are not sustainable. They would eliminate 58 locally funded positions, 56 of them filled. That proposed staffing reduction, amounting to a massive 11.6% cut, would directly and immediately undermine the legal work OAG is doing to preserve public safety and pursue justice for victims of crime, defend District agencies in litigation, and enforce the laws the Council has passed to advance the public interest.

Every day, the lawyers and staff of OAG deliver the highest quality legal services to the District. We prosecute crime, protect children from abuse and neglect, and ensure single-parent families with limited means have the financial support they need. We go after slumlords and stand up for tenants, combat the financial exploitation of seniors, protect consumers from unfair, deceptive and monopolistic trade practices, protect our natural resources, and ensure workers get the wages and benefits they have earned while leveling the playing field for fair competition among businesses. We are the District’s last line of defense against attacks on the rule of law and Home Rule.<sup>1</sup> By severely depleting our most valuable asset—our human talent—the Mayor’s proposed cuts would diminish our capabilities and compromise the quantity and quality of the work we do.

Importantly, the proposed cuts would also end up costing far more than they would save. They would weaken our capacity to defend against civil lawsuits that annually seek hundreds of millions of dollars from the District, and at the same time undermine our ability to generate tens of millions more through affirmative enforcement litigation. OAG is a “net payer”: last year, we delivered six times more in savings and revenues than we spent—an over 600% return on investment. The proposed cuts would jeopardize our ability to continue to do so.

### **OAG’s Flat Budget Submission**

OAG is the only independent agency with an elected, as opposed to appointed, leader. Under Section 106 of the Attorney General Act of 2010, we are required to submit our proposed budget to the Mayor, and the Mayor is required to submit that budget to the Council along with her proposed District-wide budget. This year, contrary to what’s been represented, we followed the

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the attached testimonies submitted for our February 9, 2026, FY25 Performance Oversight hearings in front of the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety and the Committee on Youth Affairs for a more detailed accounting of the work of the Office of the Attorney General. Additional detail can be found in our written responses to the Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety and Committee on Youth Affairs in advance of our February 9, 2026, hearings. These responses and testimonies are assumed to be incorporated into the record for this hearing.

statutorily required process, submitting our budget to the Mayor on March 6. *See Attached Budget Submission.*

The budget we submitted was a flat budget of approximately \$106 million. Our submission included no increases in staffing. It also included no added goods or services, only modest cost adjustments that reflect rising year over year prices for essentials like rent, software subscriptions, and IT services. We took a hard look at the minimum we needed to operate, and we submitted a budget that provides just that, nothing more.

Indeed, over the past year, we have already cut as much as we can. We do not believe we can go further without substantially harming our operations. For this year's budget, as you will recall, we eliminated 12 full-time positions. And that was after cutting nearly \$2 million mid-year in the prior budget cycle. We have also implemented additional cost-cutting measures as this fiscal year has progressed. We have delayed backfilling essential positions for as long as possible to achieve greater vacancy savings. When we have backfilled positions, we have done so at lower salaries with less experienced personnel, betting on their rapid professional growth. We have significantly restricted outside training and professional development opportunities by curtailing agency-funded travel. And we have adopted a stringent expense policy, requiring all expense requests to be reviewed and pre-approved by our Chief Operating Officer.

### **The Mayor's Proposal**

Notwithstanding our carefully prepared budget submission, the Mayor proposed a budget for OAG that would reduce locally funded positions by 11.6%, from 499 to 441. All 58 positions targeted for elimination are paralegals and legal assistants. In particular, the Mayor proposes to eliminate *all* locally funded paralegal and legal assistant positions in the Civil Litigation Division, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Public Safety Division, and the Public Advocacy Division, as well as several additional paralegal and legal assistant positions in the Commercial Division and the Immediate Office. The chart below shows the 58 professional staff positions the Mayor proposes to eliminate:

Division	Affected Sections	Position Titles	Total FTEs	Total Amount Reduced
Civil Litigation	Civil Enforcement, Sections I-IV, Equity, Personnel/Labor Relations, Office of Division Deputy	Paralegals (15); Staff Assistants (9)	24	3,043,821.86
Commercial	Bankruptcy & Finance	Paralegals (1); Staff Assistants (1)	2	255,780.15
Immediate Office	Georgetown Paralegal Program	Paralegal (1)	1	75,273.34
Solicitor General	Solicitor General	Paralegals (1); Staff Assistants (1)	2	248,809.64
Public Advocacy	Antitrust & Nonprofit Enforcement, Civil Rights & Elder Justice, Housing & Environmental Justice, Consumer Protection, Office of Division Deputy	Paralegals (8); Staff Assistants (3)	11	1,363,824.57
Public Safety	Criminal, Domestic Violence & Special Victims, Juvenile, Mental Health, Office of Division Deputy	Paralegals (8); Staff Assistants (4); Clerical Assistant (1); Legal Assistant (3); Program Support Assistant (2)	18	2,019,839.01
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>58</b>	<b>7,007,348.57</b>

In addition to these proposed staffing cuts, the Mayor’s proposal removes over \$1 million for the domestic workers and workers’ rights grants that OAG has distributed and administered the past several years. The Mayor also sets OAG’s vacancy savings at \$3 million.

In total, the Mayor has proposed \$11 million in cuts to the local budget OAG submitted, reflecting an unprecedented overall reduction of 10.5%. The more modest 2.3% reduction reported in the Mayor’s Budget Book is based on the Budget Book’s use of the approved FY26 budget as its baseline, rather than OAG’s actual FY26 budget. Using the FY26 approved budget as the baseline unrealistically excludes actual OAG operating costs, including approximately \$9 million in legally mandated employee pay increases, District-wide increases in fringe benefits, and contractual increases for rent, software subscriptions, and IT services that we are obligated to pay. In contrast, the FY27 budget we submitted reflects our true and actual operating costs, resulting in a flat year over year budget of \$106 million.

### **The Devastating Impact of the Mayor’s Proposal**

No law office can operate without professional support staff. Yet under the Mayor’s proposed cuts, OAG would be expected to prosecute crime, defend the District, and bring affirmative enforcement actions without paralegals and legal assistants—support staff who perform crucial functions so attorneys can stay on task. That is like a hospital removing its nursing and support staff and expecting it to provide an acceptable level of patient care.

Eliminating paralegal and legal assistant positions wholesale would devastate OAG’s work and harm the District’s bottom line. Paralegals and legal assistants do not play peripheral roles. They are integral to every criminal and juvenile case we prosecute, every lawsuit we defend, every enforcement action we bring, and every investigation we conduct. If these crucial positions are eliminated, the work these professionals perform will not magically disappear. To the contrary, our

attorneys will have to absorb it, leaving them less time to devote to the lawyering work OAG and the District depend on them to do. The unavoidable result will be serious harm to OAG's prosecution, enforcement and defensive functions, with corresponding serious risk to public safety, the public interest and the District's financial condition. I will briefly explain why.

#### *The Mayor's Proposed Cuts Compromise Public Safety*

The Mayor's proposed budget eliminates every single locally funded administrative staff member—18 positions in total—from our Public Safety Division (PSD), which is responsible for prosecuting juvenile crimes and some adult misdemeanors. This is critical work that makes District residents safer. Last year alone, PSD prosecuted 1,140 juvenile cases and nearly 4,000 adult misdemeanors. We charge every serious offense when we have the evidence to prove the case in court. We don't shy away from hard cases. We make sure people face consequences for their actions and that victims of crime get justice.

To accomplish this, PSD paralegals and legal assistants take on mission critical tasks. They screen incoming cases, obtain evidence to support prosecutions, sift through hours of body worn camera footage, and compile and help produce timely discovery. Without their assistance, the quantity and quality of our prosecutions would suffer. Eliminating the 18 positions the Mayor has targeted would mean discovery might not get produced on time, filing deadlines might be missed, and cases might not even get charged in the first place, because at every stage, from investigation to disposition, attorneys might not have the capacity to sift through and identify critical information in a timely manner given the competing lawyering and legal support obligations they would be forced to juggle. Equally problematic, in charged cases, missed deadlines due to lack of critical support could trigger court-imposed sanctions, including extended trial dates, the release of respondents from secure detention, adverse evidentiary inferences at trial, and even outright dismissals.

In short, the Mayor's proposed cuts to essential PSD personnel would severely hamper our ability to prosecute criminal and juvenile cases, creating serious risks to public safety.

#### *The Mayor's Proposed Cuts Jeopardize Defense of the District*

OAG's Civil Litigation Division (CLD) is responsible for defending the District when it is sued. By reducing the District's exposure to liability, CLD saves the District hundreds of millions of dollars every year—\$348 million last year alone. And the workload of CLD, which boasts a 98% win rate, is only increasing. CLD attorneys handled 432 new defensive cases in Fiscal Year 2025, a more than 17% increase from the previous year, and now have over 1,000 open cases. Additional cases continue to pour in. Currently, CLD attorneys are each carrying between 25-30 complex cases. These are heavy, challenging dockets.

The Mayor's proposed budget would eliminate every single paralegal and legal assistant position from CLD—24 in total. This is untenable. CLD's professional staff prepare requests for expert witnesses, court reporters, transcripts, and trial resources; help prepare discovery requests and responses; help review and prepare outgoing discovery for production; help review incoming discovery; and play essential support roles in preparing and presenting cases for trial. If CLD's

professional staff positions are eliminated, CLD's 70 attorneys would have to assume all these responsibilities themselves, in addition to doing all the lawyering on their already heavy, expanding caseloads. The added administrative work would shrink their capacity to handle the volume of cases they currently do, inevitably diminishing the quality and quantity of their work. The District would win fewer cases and pay more in settlements, ultimately costing the District significantly more money than the targeted staff positions do. Worse yet, the outside burdens the proposed staffing cuts would impose on CLD attorneys could result in non-compliance with court rules and deadlines, which could trigger onerous sanctions, from monetary penalties up to adverse judgments and legal fee awards. That is precisely what happened when CLD was short-staffed and under-resourced in the past. We cannot go back to that time.

### *The Mayor's Proposed Cuts Undermine Legal Protections for District Residents*

OAG's Public Advocacy Division (PAD) upholds the public interest by fighting for District residents against bad actors across all eight Wards. PAD enforces District laws protecting tenants, workers, consumers, seniors, victims of discrimination, nonprofits, and the environment.

The elimination of all locally funded paralegal and legal assistant positions in PAD—11 in total—would severely impair PAD's work. These employees are PAD's operational backbone. Paralegals serve as the first point of contact for public tips and complaints involving consumer fraud, housing violations, civil rights abuses, elder exploitation, and workers' rights violations. They coordinate community outreach and public education. They also provide indispensable litigation support, including case file management, witness preparation, and exhibit preparation. Legal assistants are similarly essential. They manage PAD's day-to-day administrative needs, including expense requests for experts, court reporters, transcripts and trial resources, timekeeping, coordinating restitution payments to victims, and complaint intake.

Without paralegals and legal assistants, PAD attorneys would be forced to assume all of these responsibilities themselves. That would reduce their capacity to focus on the enforcement of laws the Council has enacted to protect the rights of District residents.

### **Conclusion**

In sum, the Mayor's proposed cuts to OAG's FY27 budget would interfere with OAG's ability to perform its work and deliver results for the District and its residents. In addition to creating serious long-term financial risks to the District, the Mayor's proposed budget puts the health and safety of District residents at risk.

My team and I are committed to working with you and your colleagues to develop, notwithstanding difficult financial challenges, a sound, rational FY27 budget for OAG, one that enables us to continue to use the law to make the District safer, stronger, and more affordable. We look forward to answering your questions.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BRIAN L. SCHWALB

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Fiscal year 2027 Annual Budget for the Office of the Attorney General

Dear Mayor Bowser:

In accordance with Section 106 of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia Clarification and Elected Term Amendment Act of 2010, D.C. Code § 1-301.86, I am enclosing for your inclusion in the annual budget of the District of Columbia estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary for the operation of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for Fiscal Year 2027 (Enclosed OAG Budget).

It is my sincere hope that, in developing your budget recommendations to the Council, you and the City Administrator will account for OAG's operational realities—including unavoidable year-over-year cost increases for essential goods and services as well as compensation that OAG personnel are required by law to receive. Rigid, across-the-board cuts to the Enclosed OAG Budget, for a variety of reasons, will have a severe, detrimental impact on OAG operations and will result in substantial harm to the District, District residents and the public interest.

As in years past, my office and I remain willing over the next several weeks to work with you and your team to try to reach common ground before you submit your proposed budget to the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Schwalb".

Brian L. Schwalb  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

Encl.



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET SUBMISSION**

**Brian L. Schwalb**  
**Attorney General for the District of Columbia**  
**March 6, 2026**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has entered its proposed budget into the Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) system. An export of the budget as entered can be found here:

<https://oagdc.box.com/s/nbhif9cyxum1y2w2zng6g4bdybd715c>

Additionally we are providing PDF versions of the relevant tables below.

# Table 2

Table 2\_Fund\_Budget

Appropriated Fund	Appropriated Fund Title	Fund Detail	Fund Detail Title	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Proposed Budget	Change	FY 2026 Approved FTEs	FY 2027 Proposed FTEs	FTE Change
1010	LOCAL FUND	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	97,135,993.38	105,976,782.21	8,840,788.83	498.95	498.41	-0.54
<b>1010 Total</b>				<b>97,135,993.38</b>	<b>105,976,782.21</b>	<b>8,840,788.83</b>	<b>498.95</b>	<b>498.41</b>	<b>-0.54</b>
1060	SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS		CHILD SPT - TANF/AFDC						
		1060035	COLLECTIONS	1,795,035.68	1,795,035.68	0.00	8.33	3.57	-4.76
		1060092	NUISANCE ABATEMENT - CB0	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		1060094	LITIGATION SUPPORT FUND	18,701,293.29	18,445,943.00	-255,350.29	51.31	53.52	2.21
		1060098	ATTORNEY GENERAL RESTITUTION FUND	2,100,000.00	3,500,000.00	1,400,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		1060414	VULNERABLE ADULT & ELDERLY EXPLOIT. FUND	25,000.00	27,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		1060415	TENANT RECEIVERSHIP ABATEMENT FUND	150,000.00	450,000.00	300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>1060 Total</b>				<b>22,779,328.97</b>	<b>24,226,478.68</b>	<b>1,447,149.71</b>	<b>59.64</b>	<b>57.09</b>	<b>-2.55</b>
4020	FEDERAL GRANT FUND - FPR	4020002	FEDERAL GRANTS	36,175,635.77	31,061,275.37	-5,114,360.40	144.74	132.74	-12.00
<b>4020 Total</b>				<b>36,175,635.77</b>	<b>31,061,275.37</b>	<b>-5,114,360.40</b>	<b>144.74</b>	<b>132.74</b>	<b>-12.00</b>
4040	PRIVATE GRANT FUND -FPR	4040002	PRIVATE GRANT FUND	125,000.00	0.00	-125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>4040 Total</b>				<b>125,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-125,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
4045	PRIVATE DONATIONS -FPR	4045001	PRIVATE DONATIONS	820,825.10	918,335.60	97,510.50	10.78	10.98	0.20
<b>4045 Total</b>				<b>820,825.10</b>	<b>918,335.60</b>	<b>97,510.50</b>	<b>10.78</b>	<b>10.98</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>157,036,783.22</b>	<b>162,182,871.86</b>	<b>5,146,088.64</b>	<b>714.11</b>	<b>699.22</b>	<b>-14.89</b>

# Table 3

Table 3\_Account Group\_Budget

Account Category Title	Account Group	Account Group Title	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Proposed Budget	Change
NON-PERSONNEL SERVICES	711100C	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	318,380.99	266,380.99	-52,000.00
	712100C	ENERGY COMM & BLDG RENTALS	15,590,037.90	15,745,954.76	155,916.86
	713100C	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	10,075,899.40	13,691,522.62	3,615,623.22
	713101C	SECURITY SERVICES	768,070.22	727,384.04	-40,686.18
	713200C	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	23,162,689.95	16,801,217.89	-6,361,472.06
	714100C	GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & GRANTS	2,668,735.87	2,142,353.89	-526,381.98
	717100C	PURCHASES EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY	3,796,198.69	3,901,617.39	105,418.70
	717200C	RENTALS EQUIPMENT & OTHER	27,809.47	27,809.47	0.00
<b>NON-PERSONNEL SERVICES Total</b>			<b>56,407,822.49</b>	<b>53,304,241.05</b>	<b>-3,103,581.44</b>
PERSONNEL SERVICES	701100C	CONTINUING FULL TIME	73,592,746.90	79,784,355.24	6,191,608.34
	701200C	CONTINUING FULL TIME - OTHERS	8,487,883.20	8,637,933.31	150,050.11
	701300C	ADDITIONAL GROSS PAY	1,281,560.18	1,312,772.89	31,212.71
	701400C	FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	17,266,770.45	19,064,290.65	1,797,520.20
	701500C	OVERTIME PAY	0.00	79,278.72	79,278.72
<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES Total</b>			<b>100,628,960.73</b>	<b>108,878,630.81</b>	<b>8,249,670.08</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>157,036,783.22</b>	<b>162,182,871.86</b>	<b>5,146,088.64</b>

# Table 4

Table 4\_Program\_Activity Budget

Program	Program Title	Activity Title	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Proposed Budget	Change	FY 2026 Approved FTEs	FY 2027 Proposed FTEs	FTE Change
AFO000	AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS	AGENCY ACCOUNTING SERVICES	391,909.32	410,609.15	18,699.83	3.00	3.00	0.00
		AGENCY BUDGETING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES	850,897.43	912,245.31	61,347.88	6.00	6.00	0.00
<b>AFO000 Total</b>			<b>1,242,806.75</b>	<b>1,322,854.46</b>	<b>80,047.71</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
AMP000	AGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES	1,946,765.47	1,929,936.30	-16,829.17	14.00	13.99	-0.01
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES	15,056,510.36	10,646,811.82	-4,409,698.54	15.97	16.52	0.55
		PROPERTY, ASSET, AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT	14,187,446.30	13,440,750.48	-746,695.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
		TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	257,218.00	257,218.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>AMP000 Total</b>			<b>31,447,940.13</b>	<b>26,274,716.60</b>	<b>-5,173,223.53</b>	<b>29.97</b>	<b>30.51</b>	<b>0.54</b>
GO0041	CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM	FISCAL SERVICES SECTION	9,098,168.34	6,656,671.20	-2,441,497.14	45.00	42.00	-3.00
		LEGAL AND INTEGRATED SERVICES SECTION	8,129,029.75	0.00	-8,129,029.75	57.50	0.00	-57.50
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - CHILD SUPPORT SERV	9,309,658.44	16,110,586.13	6,800,927.69	32.00	54.00	22.00
		SHARED SERVICES SECTION	5,855,766.16	9,540,828.30	3,685,062.14	49.00	74.00	25.00
<b>GO0041 Total</b>			<b>32,392,622.69</b>	<b>32,308,085.63</b>	<b>-84,537.06</b>	<b>183.50</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>-13.50</b>
GO0042	SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION	CUSTOMER SERVICE SECTION	605,184.51	631,720.80	26,536.29	5.00	5.01	0.01
		INVESTIGATIONS	905,957.98	982,172.37	76,214.39	7.10	7.10	0.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - SUPPORT SERVICES	838,861.98	861,137.25	22,275.27	5.00	4.99	-0.01
		OPERATIONS SECTION	1,105,572.78	1,184,463.70	78,890.92	8.00	8.00	0.00
<b>GO0042 Total</b>			<b>3,455,577.25</b>	<b>3,659,494.12</b>	<b>203,916.87</b>	<b>25.10</b>	<b>25.10</b>	<b>-0.00</b>
GO0082	CIVIL LITIGATION DIVISION	CIVIL ENFORCEMENT SECTION	2,077,515.62	2,011,454.86	-66,060.76	14.55	12.55	-2.00
		CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION I	1,285,162.90	1,473,351.80	188,188.90	9.00	9.00	0.00
		CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION II	1,329,142.52	1,401,486.03	72,343.51	9.00	9.00	0.00
		CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION III	968,581.56	1,374,125.11	405,543.55	7.00	9.00	2.00
		CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION IV	1,405,305.64	1,528,613.65	123,308.01	9.00	9.00	0.00
		CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION V	1,023,183.71	1,565,207.80	542,024.09	6.00	8.00	2.00
		EQUITY SECTION	2,238,847.46	2,606,357.28	367,509.82	14.00	15.00	1.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - CIVIL LITIGATION	2,659,436.84	2,325,346.87	-334,089.97	15.00	11.00	-4.00
		PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS SECTION	2,438,331.65	2,583,254.75	144,923.10	17.00	17.00	0.00
<b>GO0082 Total</b>			<b>15,425,507.90</b>	<b>16,869,198.15</b>	<b>1,443,690.25</b>	<b>100.55</b>	<b>99.55</b>	<b>-1.00</b>
GO0083	COMMERCIAL DIVISION	GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SECTION	1,772,052.22	2,152,863.89	380,811.67	10.00	11.00	1.00
		LAND ACQUISITION AND BANKRUPTCY SECTION	618,908.39	699,375.36	80,466.97	3.00	3.00	0.00
		LAND USE SECTION	281,450.96	0.00	-281,450.96	2.00	0.00	-2.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - COMMERCIAL	1,526,251.41	1,369,172.08	-157,079.33	6.96	5.96	-1.00
		TAX AND FINANCE SECTION	2,508,422.67	2,795,353.85	286,931.18	15.00	15.00	0.00
<b>GO0083 Total</b>			<b>6,707,085.65</b>	<b>7,016,765.18</b>	<b>309,679.53</b>	<b>36.96</b>	<b>34.96</b>	<b>-2.00</b>
GO0084	FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION	CHILD PROTECTION SECTION I	735,100.83	736,108.69	1,007.86	4.20	3.50	-0.70
		CHILD PROTECTION SECTION II	661,580.49	748,648.37	87,067.88	4.20	3.50	-0.70
		CHILD PROTECTION SECTION III	455,909.13	714,446.57	258,537.44	2.80	3.50	0.70
		CHILD PROTECTION SECTION IV	642,392.60	820,545.24	178,152.64	4.90	4.90	0.00
		CHILD PROTECTION SECTION V	117,095.38	169,139.40	52,044.02	0.70	0.70	0.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - FAMILY SERVICES	1,456,282.63	1,834,300.76	378,018.13	10.22	11.20	0.98
<b>GO0084 Total</b>			<b>4,068,361.06</b>	<b>5,023,189.03</b>	<b>954,827.97</b>	<b>27.02</b>	<b>27.30</b>	<b>0.28</b>
GO0085	LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION	LEGAL ADVICE SECTION	1,374,518.06	1,555,098.12	180,580.06	7.86	8.00	0.14
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - LEGAL COUNSEL	619,659.15	456,000.00	-163,659.15	3.00	2.00	-1.00
<b>GO0085 Total</b>			<b>1,994,177.21</b>	<b>2,011,098.12</b>	<b>16,920.91</b>	<b>10.86</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>-0.86</b>
GO0087	PUBLIC ADVOCACY DIVISION	ANTITRUST & NONPROFIT ENFORCEMENT SECTION	1,313,415.56	1,543,375.68	229,960.12	7.00	9.00	2.00

Table 4\_Program\_Activity Budget

Program	Program Title	Activity Title	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2027 Proposed Budget	Change	FY 2026 Approved FTEs	FY 2027 Proposed FTEs	FTE Change
		CIVIL RIGHTS AND ELDER JUSTICE SECTION	2,087,536.36	2,391,191.31	303,654.95	14.00	14.00	0.00
		HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SECTION	1,972,537.11	2,860,887.44	888,350.33	12.72	16.00	3.28
		OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION	4,874,934.02	6,704,291.25	1,829,357.23	18.00	19.00	1.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - PUBLIC ADVOCACY	3,805,543.79	4,047,550.47	242,006.68	20.00	18.00	-2.00
		WORKERS'RIGHTS AND ANTIFRAUD SECTION	1,742,154.71	2,232,145.44	489,990.73	12.73	14.73	2.00
<b>GO0087</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>15,796,121.55</b>	<b>19,779,441.59</b>	<b>3,983,320.04</b>	<b>84.45</b>	<b>90.73</b>	<b>6.28</b>
<b>GO0088</b>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION</b>	MENTAL HEALTH SECTION	1,700,406.32	1,944,632.89	244,226.57	11.00	11.00	0.00
		CRIMINAL SECTION	3,419,097.03	3,736,492.35	317,395.32	22.00	21.00	-1.00
		DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SPECIAL VICTIMS SECTION	2,094,259.21	1,800,004.24	-294,254.97	13.73	9.76	-3.97
		FRAUD AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION SECTION	0.00	393,292.92	393,292.92	0.00	2.00	2.00
		JUVENILE SECTION	3,317,959.26	5,326,434.79	2,008,475.53	23.00	34.00	11.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - PUBLIC SAFETY	4,258,255.82	3,062,924.71	-1,195,331.11	28.00	17.00	-11.00
		RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SECTION	1,493,625.14	2,110,274.11	616,648.97	12.00	15.00	3.00
<b>GO0088</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>16,283,602.78</b>	<b>18,374,056.01</b>	<b>2,090,453.23</b>	<b>109.73</b>	<b>109.76</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>GO0089</b>	<b>SOLICITOR GENERAL DIVISION</b>	APPELLATE SERVICES SECTION	3,276,523.79	3,476,700.41	200,176.62	19.00	19.00	0.00
		OFFICE OF THE DIVISION DEPUTY - SOLICITOR GENERAL	1,198,698.80	1,070,063.41	-128,635.39	5.93	5.00	-0.93
<b>GO0089</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>4,475,222.59</b>	<b>4,546,763.82</b>	<b>71,541.23</b>	<b>24.93</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>-0.93</b>
<b>GO0090</b>	<b>OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>	COMMUNICATION	484,054.51	542,575.31	58,520.80	4.00	4.00	0.00
		CURE THE STREETS	1,172,938.89	0.00	-1,172,938.89	2.00	0.00	-2.00
		IMMEDIATE OFFICE	20,573,494.57	22,820,984.69	2,247,490.12	54.04	53.81	-0.23
		LEGAL AFFAIRS SECTION	802,167.37	805,993.10	3,825.73	6.00	5.00	-1.00
		POLICY	715,102.32	827,656.05	112,553.73	6.00	5.50	-0.50
<b>GO0090</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>23,747,757.66</b>	<b>24,997,209.15</b>	<b>1,249,451.49</b>	<b>72.04</b>	<b>68.31</b>	<b>-3.73</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>157,036,783.22</b>	<b>162,182,871.86</b>	<b>5,146,088.64</b>	<b>714.11</b>	<b>699.22</b>	<b>-14.89</b>



**Statement of Brian L. Schwalb  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia**

**Before Chairperson Brooke Pinto,  
Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety**

**For**

**Office of the Attorney General FY25 Performance Oversight  
Hearing**

**February 9, 2026**

Chairwoman Pinto, Councilmembers, and DC residents. I am Brian Schwalb, and I have the honor of serving as the elected Attorney General for the District of Columbia. This past year, the District has faced unprecedented challenges with attacks on fundamental rights, core democratic principles, home rule, and the rule of law. For the first time in history, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) had to defend against efforts to illegally terminate hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding—funding that helps District residents access critical resources like food, housing, and healthcare. At the same time, OAG had to continue doing what we have always done: advance public safety through criminal and juvenile delinquency prosecutions; preserve taxpayer dollars through the defense of civil lawsuits; safeguard the health and welfare of District residents and the public interest through affirmative enforcement litigation; and provide reliable, sound legal guidance to District agencies. And, given last year’s mid-year budget cuts and steeply rising operating costs, we accomplished all of this additional work with fewer resources. Our dedicated attorneys and professional staff have risen to the challenge of doing more with less, continuing to deliver the professional services of the first-rate public law firm that the District and District residents deserve.

### **Return on Investment**

The Council’s investment in OAG continues to be a sound one. Last year, with a local budget of \$97.4 million, we generated recoveries and savings in excess of \$600 million—an over 600% return on investment. We secured tens of millions of dollars in judgments and settlements from affirmative enforcement actions we brought to protect tenants, workers, consumers, seniors, and the environment. We preserved hundreds of millions more in savings from our defensive litigation. On top of this, we also participated in 40 lawsuits that preserved the District’s access to hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funding.

Our results speak for themselves, and I’d like to highlight just a few of them here:

- We secured the largest housing conditions judgment in DC history: \$41 million against the owners and managers of Marbury Plaza for forcing more than 2,500 tenants living in Ward 8 to endure for years severe mold, water leaks, insect and rodent infestations, and a lack of heat and AC.
- We won a \$6.8 million judgment against a DC slumlord that operated properties in Wards 4 and 8 and who had amassed over 8,600 housing code and toxic lead violations.
- We recovered \$21 million from Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family in the nation’s largest opioid settlement to date. These funds will be contributed to the District’s Opioid Abatement Fund to address the impacts of the deadly opioid epidemic that Purdue and the Sacklers helped fuel.
- We recovered over \$316,000 from pharmaceutical manufacturer Gilead for defrauding DC’s Medicaid program by paying lavish kickbacks to healthcare providers who prescribed its HIV medications.

- We recovered over \$2.4 million from construction companies Brothers Mechanical, Christian Siding, and Diverse Masonry for misclassifying construction workers as independent contractors rather than as employees, depriving them of the overtime pay and paid sick leave they were legally entitled to.
- We secured \$3.95 million from Amazon to resolve allegations the company stole tips meant for Amazon Flex delivery drivers in DC.
- We required Washington Gas to take new measures to stop the ongoing pollution of the Anacostia River after the company failed to prevent toxic chemicals at its former East Station gas plant from contaminating the water and soil.
- Our Consumer Mediation Program, a free service that works to resolve issues between DC residents and landlords or businesses without going to court, responded to 9,000 complaints and returned nearly \$1.2 million to District residents who filed a consumer complaint.

In addition to our affirmative enforcement litigation, last year OAG successfully defended the District in court and in upholding our laws, saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that now can be used to fund police, fire and emergency services, schools, parks, libraries, public transit, and programs that support affordable housing and provide resources for small businesses. For example:

- Our Civil Litigation Division defended hundreds of lawsuits and prevented the District from incurring \$348 million in potential liability.
- Our Tax and Finance Section defended challenges to over \$52 billion in assessed property values, allowing the District to retain over \$162 million in real property taxes against claims for refund.
- Our Land Use and Bankruptcy Section secured nearly \$30 million in savings and collections in the eminent domain, affordable dwelling covenant enforcement, and bankruptcy cases it handled.

We also regularly advised DC agencies to help them operate more effectively, reduce their liability exposure, and save the District money. By way of example, last year, OAG:

- Responded to nearly 200 confidential requests for legal advice; and
- Reviewed approximately 760 bills and rulemakings for legal sufficiency.

In sum, last year – as in prior years – OAG continued to provide the District and District residents with exceptional legal service. I am very proud of the work my team was able to accomplish even in the face of budget cuts, rising costs, and steadily increasing workloads.

## **Stretching Our Dollars and Our Staff**

This past year saw new challenges for the District. OAG was required to rise to meet a unique moment—to pursue litigation unprecedented in both volume and importance. At the same time, we had to withstand budgetary contraction due to both the mid-year cuts we absorbed and the consistently increasing costs of the goods and services we rely on, from rent to litigation expenses to IT licensing agreements essential to the operation of any law office.

One new challenge, though a familiar one, was carrying a heavier burden defending the District in civil litigation. Our Civil Litigation Division, which boasts a 98% win rate, handled 432 new defensive cases in Fiscal Year 2025, which was a more than 17% increase from the previous year. New cases have poured in at such a rapid clip that, even with the funding for several additional attorneys that the Council provided two years ago in FY 2024, our line attorneys' caseloads have increased.

We also had to respond nimbly to new threats posed by the federal government. We successfully fought to retain local command and control over our police department, to defend our commonsense gun laws, to protect our tax base, to preserve crucial funding appropriated by Congress, and to defend the District against the illegal deployment of the National Guard to police our streets.

To take one example, in August of last year, when the federal government attempted a brazen takeover of our local police force, more than a dozen OAG attorneys and staff worked through the night in order to be able to file a complaint and injunction motion the next day. In that case, we argued that the President was abusing his authority under the Home Rule Act, infringing on the District's right to self-governance, and putting the safety of DC residents at risk. In my view, this was the gravest threat to Home Rule that DC had ever faced, and we succeeded in beating it back: our police chief remained in control of the Metropolitan Police Department under the direction of Mayor Bowser.

We have been able to accomplish this critical work because you, the Council, have prudently invested in our human resources. Nearly eighty percent (80%) of our budget supports people—human talent doing the work, human talent committed to providing first-rate legal services, protecting our most vulnerable communities, and returning more money to taxpayers than we spend. It is OAG's talented professionals who, in the face of increased workloads, increasing costs, and shrinking resources, have continued to deliver for the District and its residents, making, in my admittedly biased view, OAG the best public law firm in the country.

## **Building Safer, Stronger Communities**

I firmly believe that DC is the greatest city in the world. But too often, the abundant resources we have and the boundless opportunities we provide are not shared fairly among all Washingtonians. There are far too many people in our city who struggle to make ends meet. Every single day at the Office of the Attorney General, we are working to combat these inequities, using the law to make DC safer and more affordable for everyone.

As part of that essential work, OAG is committed to using every legal tool available to reduce violent crime across the District. As you know, OAG has limited prosecutorial authority. We are responsible for prosecuting most crimes committed by juveniles, as well as some adult misdemeanors. Adult felonies, which make up the vast majority of violent offenses, are prosecuted by the US Attorney for the District of Columbia, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Effective prosecution plays a critical role in driving down crime and making our communities safer. At OAG, we work to ensure that young people face swift consequences when they break the law, support victims of crime inside and outside the courtroom, and make proactive interventions to improve public safety in all our communities. Last year, of the cases brought to us by MPD, we prosecuted:

- Over 90% of juvenile homicides
- 84% of juvenile carjacking cases
- 83% of violent crime cases
- 85% of juvenile gun possession arrests.

These prosecution rates for violent juvenile crime exceed those in most other major urban jurisdictions across the country.

At the same time, we use our adult misdemeanor authority to hold dangerous drivers accountable. Last fiscal year, we prosecuted the overwhelming majority of DUIs (98%) and reckless driving cases (90%).

While prosecution is essential to driving down crime, it is, by definition, a reactive crime reduction strategy—it takes place *after* a crime has already occurred. Therefore, to make DC safer, we need both prosecution *and* prevention. That is, we must continue to take proactive measures to stop crime from happening in the first place.

Last year, OAG continued to commit substantial resources to achieving this objective. For example, OAG:

- Ran ATTEND, a program that is helping ensure kids show up to school consistently by working with families at 11 schools to improve their children’s attendance.
- Funded Leaders of Tomorrow, a \$1.5 million public-private violence prevention grant program that supported high-impact local nonprofits that provide mentorship, academic support, health services, and employment opportunities for DC youth and families.
- Addressed criminal activity at properties with a pattern of illegal drug, firearm, or prostitution activities by enforcing the Nuisance Abatement Act.
- Sought Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) to remove firearms and ammunition from those who pose a danger to themselves or others.

- Partnered with the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) and MPD to shut down illegal cannabis shops operating in DC, closing 100 illegal, unlicensed shops in 2025 alone.
- Exercised our civil enforcement authority under the STEER Act to hold dangerous drivers accountable. To date, we have brought cases against 25 drivers who had amassed violations totaling \$1.5 million in tickets.

OAG also works with victims of violent crime to help provide them with critical resources so they can regain a sense of normalcy in their lives. OAG's victim witness specialists provide or refer victims to vital support services, including mental health counseling, housing, medical care, and legal assistance. We also help victims and their families obtain financial compensation for any crime-related expenses through the Crime Victims Compensation Program.

Through its work inside and outside the courtroom to preserve public safety, OAG helped contribute to the District's 29% reduction in violent crime and over 50% reduction in traffic deaths in 2025. Although this represents significant progress, we still have more work to do to ensure that all District residents are safe and feel safe in their neighborhoods and on our streets.

### **Conclusion**

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the oversight process—a critical aspect of good government that helps ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. I can say with confidence that OAG continues to provide an excellent return on investment for the District, and I appreciate this Committee's continuing support in helping to build and sustain an independent AG office that all of us can rely on and be proud of.

Together with my colleagues, Chief Deputy Attorney General Seth Rosenthal and First Deputy Attorney General Erin Cullen, I look forward to answering your questions.



**Statement of Brian L. Schwalb  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia**

**Before Chairperson Zachary Parker,  
Committee on Youth Affairs**

**For**

**Office of the Attorney General FY25 Performance Oversight  
Hearing**

**February 9, 2026**

## **Introduction**

Chairman Parker, members of the Committee, and District residents. I am Brian Schwalb, and for the past 3-plus years, I have had the privilege of serving as the elected Attorney General for the District of Columbia. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the work that my office does to support District children, youth, and families, and to protect and promote public safety in the District for everyone who lives, works, and visits here.

Public safety has been and remains a top priority for my office—every District resident, worker, and visitor should be safe and feel safe in our City. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is tasked with the responsibility of advancing public safety in myriad ways—from holding young people accountable when they break the law to keeping our streets safe from dangerous drivers to tackling dangerous housing conditions and financial exploitation. We are committed to using every legal tool available across all of our operating divisions to advance a comprehensive approach to public safety.

### **An Agency-Wide Approach to Public Safety**

Before talking about some of the specific work, it's important to share a few points about the unique role OAG plays in the District's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

As you know, in DC, OAG is responsible for prosecuting crimes committed by young people—youth younger than 18—as well as some adult misdemeanors. Adult felonies, which make up the vast majority of violent offenses committed in the District, as well as most adult misdemeanor offenses, are prosecuted by the federally-appointed US Attorney for the District of Columbia (USAO). Under current law, USAO also has the sole authority to charge 16-and-17 year olds as adults for the most serious violent offenses. It bears repeating—the vast majority of crime in the District is committed by adults, not juveniles. Therefore, OAG's prosecutions are a small sliver of the overall pie. We take our prosecutorial responsibilities very seriously, and we also believe that our role to protect public safety extends beyond our traditional prosecution work. Our responsibility to contribute to keeping DC safe is an agency-wide responsibility. Effective policing and prosecution play a critical role in driving down crime and making our communities safer. But prosecution, by definition, takes place after a crime has already occurred. In order to truly make DC safer, now and in the long run, we must focus on stopping crime before it happens.

To advance that objective, in addition to prosecutions, OAG also:

- Partners with the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) and MPD to shut down illegal cannabis shops operating in DC—closing 100 illegal shops in 2025.
- Seeks Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), under DC's "red flag" laws, to remove firearms and ammunition from those who pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Addresses criminal activity at properties with a pattern of illegal drug, firearm, or prostitution activities through enforcement of the Nuisance Abatement Act.

- Holds dangerous drivers accountable by prosecuting the overwhelming majority of DUIs (97%) and reckless driving cases (93%).
- Uses the authority the Council created under the STEER Act to go after reckless out-of-District drivers who have racked up thousands of unpaid traffic citations. To date, OAG has brought STEER Act cases against 25 drivers who collectively owe over \$1.5 million in traffic citations.
- Addresses the underlying drivers of crime—poverty, housing instability, economic exploitation, and pollution—by using our civil authority to protect DC residents’ pocketbooks, defend the rights of workers, protect consumers and seniors, provide safe and affordable housing, and safeguard our environment.

For more details on our public safety approach, I have attached our detailed testimony submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety for our FY 2025 performance oversight hearing later today.

### **Holding Young People Accountable While Supporting Victims**

Young people must face consequences when they break the law, and OAG prosecutes every serious violent offense when we have sufficient admissible evidence to do so. We don’t shy away from hard cases. We don’t divert serious offenses. We work every single day to ensure that victims get justice and that youth who have committed crimes face swift and certain consequences.

Successfully prosecuting a juvenile delinquency case requires a significantly higher evidentiary standard (“proof beyond a reasonable doubt”) than making an arrest (“probable cause”). As a result, not all arrests lead to prosecutions. After juveniles are arrested, OAG works with our partners at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to find and interview witnesses, gather forensic evidence, review video surveillance footage, and otherwise prepare the factual and legal bases necessary to advance a case through the family court system.

Effective prosecution, particularly in the juvenile justice system, depends on ensuring that youth who commit criminal acts face swift and certain consequences. We know that effective prosecution plays a critical role in driving down crime and making our communities safer. In Fiscal Year 2025, my office prosecuted 1,080 cases involving crimes committed by juveniles, including:

- 83% of violent crime cases brought to us by MPD, including:
- Over 90% of homicides,
- 84% of carjacking cases, and
- 85% of juvenile gun possession cases.

OAG also devotes significant resources to helping victims of crime: OAG’s Victim Witness Specialists work with victims, witnesses of violent crimes, and those injured in traffic offenses to help them regain a sense of normalcy in their lives. Trained specialists provide victims with referrals to critical resources, including mental health counseling, housing, medical support,

domestic violence supports, and legal assistance. They also help victims and their families obtain financial compensation for any crime-related expenses through the Crime Victims Compensation Program.

We also offer victims of crime an opportunity for healing through our Restorative Justice program, which helps both victims find closure and young people who have committed a crime learn to take further accountability for their conduct through a direct, facilitated dialogue with the person they have hurt. Restorative Justice is a victim-centered approach to addressing crime and conflict, one that only occurs when the victim of a crime wishes to engage in it, and one which provides the victim and the young person who caused harm a chance to engage in a guided conversation about what happened, how everyone was affected, and what needs to happen to resolve the matter so that it never happens again.

We all know that public safety cannot be fully measured with crime rates and data. One crime, one victim, is one too many, and there is still so much work to do in order to make sure that every single District resident in every single neighborhood feels safe. Nevertheless, we are proud to have played a role in steadily driving crime down since it spiked in July 2023. As you know, given last year's overall 29% decrease in violent crime, which follows the previous year's drop of 35%, the District is now back to the lowest violent crime rate in over three decades.

We know that this Committee appreciates that prosecution is just one piece of an effective public safety strategy. The District must continue to address other systemic issues that directly impact public safety like overcrowding in facilities, availability of critical rehabilitation services, and data transparency so that we better understand what gaps exist and how to address them. As Attorney General, I want to thank you, Chairman, for advancing legislation designed to tackle the overcrowding at Youth Services Center, ensuring that DYRS complies with the ROAD Act's mandates, and for introducing legislation to ensure the better collection of data.

### **Supporting Kids and Families**

At OAG, we also believe that promoting healthy child development and supporting families is critical to promoting overall public safety. The attorneys and professionals in our Public Safety Division (PSD) and Family Services Division (FSD) see firsthand the systemic inequities that persist in DC and that, unfortunately, often interfere with ensuring that youth have the opportunity to grow up into healthy, independent, and hopeful adults. So many families struggle with the lack of affordable, safe, and stable housing, the lack of access to health care services, including mental health treatment, the lack of healthy food and high-quality school time and out of school time educational opportunities. This is why my office this past year championed statutory reform of the neglect code so that it is clear that poverty does not equate to neglect. Again, Chairman Parker, we are thankful for your fierce support in advancing that change.

We need to ensure families have access to supportive services in a time of need or crisis. We need to expand the opportunities for kids to interact with positive adult role models and peers. This past year, my office partnered with CFSA and local advocates—Children's Law Center and the DC Family and Youth Initiative—on SOUL so that youth in foster care over the age of 16 have a 5<sup>th</sup> permanency option available to them. This innovative option was created by youth with lived

experience and we appreciate the Chairman’s support of this important step in making sure our child welfare system adapts to the needs of all the youth it serves, including older youth getting ready to emerge from or “age out of” the system. While OAG cannot directly fix all these longstanding problems, we do look for ways to promote healthy families and positive youth development—because we know that creating healthy, hopeful families and kids is a critical part of any comprehensive public safety strategy. That is why two years ago I asked the Council for funding to expand FSD’s footprint at CFSA to include in-home cases, that is, cases before a child is removed from a home and placed into foster care. With funding support from Council, we were able to create Child Protection Section V so that we can intervene more downstream and identify families in need before they become court involved.

I’d like to highlight just some of the work our divisions did last year to keep us safe and promote healthy, hopeful young people:

- OAG’s Child Support Services Division, through the fathering court program and our Alternative Solutions Center, worked with more than 700 parents. By fiscal year end, 128 of the active program participants were employed. This has had a meaningful impact not only on the non-custodial parents’ financial ability to make child support payments, but also in promoting the health and well-being of the community as a whole.
- We also worked on recently introduced legislative reforms to our child support enforcement laws to ensure that 100% of child support dollars go to families and kids in need, as opposed to recouping governmental costs incurred as part of a cost-recovery system. DC’s most vulnerable kids should get every dollar of child support available to them, and we know that even modest increases in financial support will help improve health, education, and public safety outcomes for children and families, as well as the District overall.
- FSD continued its work to support families, placing 147 children from the foster care system into safe, loving, and permanent homes through family reunification, adoption, permanent legal guardianship, or custody arrangements.
- This past summer, as we have done in prior years, OAG was proud to host 21 DC students in our High School Advisory Council program. HSAC is an intensive six-week, paid program that brings DC students together to research and ultimately make policy recommendations to my leadership team and me. Too often, we adults make decisions that impact young people without making sure we listen to young people and solicit their views. HSAC provides an opportunity for high school students to engage their government in a meaningful way, giving young people a seat at the table in making decisions about critical issues that directly affect them.
- In November, OAG honored 28 youth and emerging adults from across the District at our 2025 Right Direction Awards. These annual awards celebrate the resilience, leadership, and achievements of young people in DC, as well as exceptional adults who support and empower our youth.

- OAG’s ATTEND Truancy Prevention Program continued last year to operate in 10 District schools—working to combat truancy and keep kids in school by addressing the underlying causes of chronic absenteeism. ATTEND mediates cases between parents and the school in a neutral environment and links the parents to appropriate community-based services that help them overcome barriers to regular school attendance. In FY 2025 and the first quarter of FY 2026, over 230 families have been referred to ATTEND.

### **Conclusion**

I am proud of all that OAG accomplished in FY 2025. I am proud of the comprehensive work we strive to undertake, using every path available to us to improve public safety, to hold kids accountable, and to support strong, healthy families. There is still so much work to be done, and we look forward to our continuing collaboration with the Council and this Committee in delivering for District youth and families.

I am here with First Deputy Attorney General Erin Cullen, and we both look forward to answering your questions.