

Vote Missouri!

ELECT YOUR ATTORNEY GENERAL



Dirty Water, Lemons and Bank Robbers

What do these things have in common? All three are matters that Missouri's attorney general takes

care of for Missourians. The attorney general is Missouri's chief legal official and is responsible for protecting Missourians from financial and physical harm. Here are some of the ways the general (as is appropriate to call the attorney general) provides protection:

- > A car that has all kinds of problems right after you buy it is called a lemon. If you and your parents buy a "lemon," the consumer division of the attorney general's office will help you.
- > If you do not want unwanted salespeople calling your home, the attorney general's office has a "no call" program you can sign up for and you will no longer get the calls. If the calls continue, the attorney general will make them stop.

- > If a business or a person is polluting the air, the waterways or the land, the environmental division of the attorney general's office will ask them to stop and will take them to court if they do not.

- > Once a person is convicted of a crime, the criminal division of the attorney general's office will make sure that the criminal stays in jail to serve the sentence.

HELP WANTED

Attorney General for the State of Missouri

He or she must be:

- 1 a resident of Missouri for one year before the election

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN MISSOURI, INCLUDING CURRENT CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE—
mo.gov and sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri.



Brought to you by this newspaper, The Missouri Bar and the Missouri Press Association

Attorney General Facts:

1. John Ashcroft, Missouri's attorney general from 1969-1977, later served as the U.S. attorney general.
2. John Danforth began his career in 1968 as the attorney general of Missouri and served three terms as a U.S. Senator from Missouri.
2. Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court was an assistant attorney general from 1974-77.
3. Attorney General Jay Nixon was the first attorney general from any state to argue that a state law on campaign finance reform was constitutional. The Court ruled in his favor and many think this led the way to national reforms in campaign financing.

LEARNING EXTENSIONS

- 1 For all grade levels, go to www.ago.mo.gov for more information about the attorney general's office.
- 2 Grades 4-6: Activity #1—What do you think is the most important job of the attorney general: making sure Missourians do not get cheated when they buy automobiles, making sure our water, air and land is not polluted, making sure criminals stay in jail, or making sure people trying to sell things do not call your house? Why?

ACTIVITY #2—The Missouri Constitution does not require that an attorney general be a lawyer. Do you think it should? What other qualifications do you think an attorney general should have?

- 3 Grades 7-12: ACTIVITY #1—The attorney general is responsible for enforcing Missouri's Sunshine Law. Research this law and discuss why this law is important in a democratic society.

ACTIVITY #2—Research Missouri's "no call" program. Why is this important protection for Missourians? Does it interfere with the callers' right to do business? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY #3—What environmental concerns do you have in your area that you wish the attorney general would investigate? Piles of old tires? A polluted stream? An odor from a factory?

MISSOURI STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:
GLE—SS3-A1, C, CA2, 3, 1.6 (for grades K-8)
CLE—SS2C, CA 2, 3, 1.6 (for grades 9-12)