



# 1996 Annual Report of The Attorney General of the United States

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# Foreword

## To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled:

*This Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the Department of Justice in 1996, reflecting the dedication and expertise of the Department's employees and their commitment to the principles of justice and fair treatment for all Americans. In Fiscal Year 1996, we continued to break new ground, working collaboratively on projects and programs internally and with other Federal agencies. Our combined efforts helped make America safer and provided a better environment for all Americans through support of anti-crime legislative initiatives, partnerships with community law enforcement, greater border security, continued protection of civil and environmental rights, and new ways of doing business that make the Department more efficient and productive.*

*Marshaling our law enforcement resources to make America safe remained a top priority in 1996. The Department directed its investigative and prosecutorial resources toward violent crime committed by small groups and gangs. Aggressive programs and initiatives targeting the crime and violence brought on by drugs and gangs hit their mark. We also worked effectively to dismantle drug trafficking organizations both at home and abroad, to keep drugs from infiltrating our borders and communities.*

*Again in 1996, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services exceeded all expectations by awarding grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to add or redeploy nearly 24,000 police officers and sheriffs' deputies, for a new total of 52,000. In just over 2 years, we have passed the halfway point to the President's goal of 100,000 cops on the beat by the year 2000.*

*Legislation enacted in 1996 continued to enhance new programs to stop violence against women, construct prisons and institute drug treatment programs, and address the problems of family, youth, and gun violence.*

*The Department also worked to effect solutions to the problem of illegal immigration. Through several joint-agency initiatives, the Immigration and Naturalization Service expanded efforts to install advanced technologies at U.S. borders that quickly identify criminal aliens and other illegal crossers, and dramatically reduce the time enforcement officers spend on paperwork and on legal crossers.*

*As part of our comprehensive program under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Department entered a series of landmark settlement agreements that will serve as models for ADA compliance throughout the country. We also continued to defend Indian rights and advance environmental justice and international environmental protection.*

*In 1997, we will continue our commitment to the American people to wisely use our resources to further the goal of making America a safe, free, and just society.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Janet Reno*

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# Introduction

## The Department of Justice

As the Nation's chief law enforcement officer, the Attorney General enforces Federal laws and contributes to the fair and efficient administration of the Federal justice system. In carrying out this mission, the Attorney General directs the activities of the more than 108,487 attorneys, law enforcement professionals, and other employees of the United States Department of Justice (the Department). This annual report summarizes the major accomplishments of the Department during 1996.<sup>1</sup>

The responsibilities of the Department are wide-ranging. They include detecting, apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating criminal offenders; upholding the civil rights of all Americans; enforcing laws to protect the environment; ensuring healthy competition of business in our free enterprise system; safeguarding the consumer from fraudulent activity; carrying out the immigration laws of the United States; and representing the American people in all legal matters involving the U.S. Government. As shown on the following organizational chart, these responsibilities are discharged by the components of the Department. Among these components are the major law enforcement agencies—the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the United States Marshals Service (USMS), the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP)—and the litigating components (the legal Divisions and the U.S. Attorneys).

Although the Department is headquartered in Washington, D.C., most of its work takes place outside of Washington. As a result, most of its employees are located in any of about 2,600 installations of the Department around the country (ranging from a one- or two-person border station to a large Division office in a major city), or in one of more than 100 overseas offices.

Overall, the Department of Justice had a budget of over \$16 billion in 1996, an 18.7-percent increase over last year's budget of \$13.8 billion. This increase was largely due to the Department receiving targeted increases in the Office of Justice Programs' block grants and grants for the Violent Crime Reduction Program.

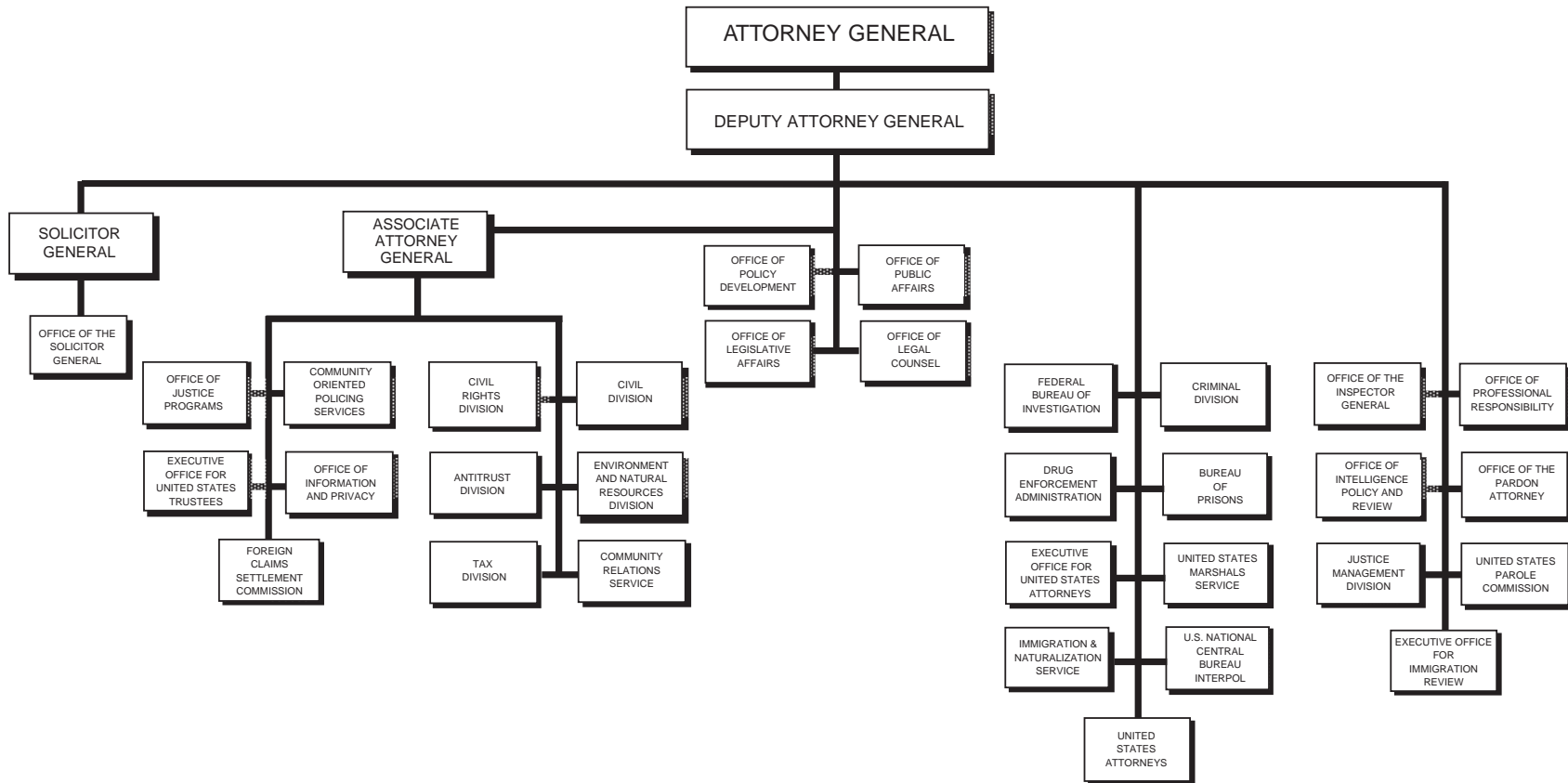
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<sup>1</sup> This report covers Fiscal Year (FY) 1996, which began on October 1, 1995, and ended on September 30, 1996. All references to years indicate Fiscal Years unless otherwise noted.





# U.S. Department of Justice







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# Highlights of 1996 Accomplishments

## *Making America Safe*

- Supported anti-crime legislation that addressed gun violence, methamphetamine use, computer crime, child pornography, youth crime, and other priority areas. Worked to protect key anti-crime initiatives, including the Brady Law, the assault weapons ban, and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.
- Prepared the prosecution of the two men charged with the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City; provided legal support and helped coordinate the Unabomb investigation and the activities of the Unabomb trial team; and successfully concluded an 81-day standoff with the leaders of the Freeman, who surrendered on June 13, 1996.
- Supported the April 1996 enactment of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act to further strengthen the battle against terrorism by giving the Government authority to exclude or deport suspected foreign terrorists, to prevent fundraising on behalf of terrorist organizations, and to exercise jurisdiction over terrorist crimes that occur in this country but are planned overseas.
- Maintained an 86-percent successful conviction rate for defendants prosecuted for violent crime.
- Successfully prosecuted cases under the Violence Against Women Act, which established new Federal offenses where an abuser crosses State lines to violate a protection order or to injure, harass, or intimidate a spouse or intimate partner.
- Initiated investigations focusing on Mexican and other drug trafficking organizations, through Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, which continued to achieve significant successes, including the conviction of drug kingpin Juan Garcia Abrego.
- Expanded cooperation with other governments to fight drug trafficking on a global basis. Greater cooperation with key countries such as Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Thailand resulted in arrests of international traffickers and enhanced intelligence-driven interdiction efforts.



- Developed a marijuana strategy that seeks to disrupt, dismantle, and destroy the major trafficking organizations responsible for the production, transportation, and distribution of marijuana destined for or grown in the United States.
- Under the Criminal Offender Anti-Drug Act, began implementing Operation Drug TEST (Testing Effective Sanctions and Treatment). This law was enacted to require States receiving Federal grant money for prison construction to adopt a comprehensive policy of drug testing and intervention for convicted offenders while they are in prison and on post-conviction release. In the Federal system, 25 judicial districts will participate in a pilot program in which all criminal defendants will be tested for drug use either before or immediately after their first appearance in court.
- Continued FBI's investigation into the criminal enterprises of La Cosa Nostra (LCN) families throughout the United States, winning Federal grand jury indictments of 17 LCN members, including the entire family hierarchy operating in Detroit, Michigan. Also convicted Yvacheslav Kirillovich Ivankov—a Russian “thief-in-law” leading an international criminal organization in the United States—on extortion and conspiracy. Ivankov was considered by U.S. and Russian law enforcement officials to be the single most powerful Russian crime figure residing in the United States.
- Handled a myriad of white collar crime prosecutions, netting judgments and settlements in cases involving civil fraud, bankruptcy fraud, consumer fraud, and computer crimes. New legislation was drafted to broaden Federal jurisdiction over computer-related offenses that attack the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information systems and their data. The Department also waged successful efforts against financial institution defrauders, yielding forfeitures of billions of dollars.
- Created a computer-based assessment system to assess potential risk to facilities and individuals covered under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which gave the Federal Government protective responsibilities for reproductive health care facilities.

### *Supporting Law Enforcement in the Community*

- Awarded grants to increase the number of officers on the streets to 52,000, surpassing the halfway mark towards the President's goal of 100,000 cops on the beat by the year 2000—and in just over 2 years. Under COPS MORE (Making Officer Redeployment Effective), the equivalent of more than 7,000 offi-



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cers was funded in 1996, greatly expanding community policing practices and programs.

- Assisted State and local law enforcement jurisdictions nationwide through the deployment of Mobile Enforcement Teams designed to identify, prosecute, and incarcerate members of violent drug gangs.
- Prevented tens of thousands of people—including convicted felons, fugitives from justice, and persons subject to certain domestic violence restraining orders—from purchasing handguns under the 1996 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.
- Awarded more than \$2.6 million to 586 county governments in 13 States to enhance security in and around churches, hire part-time law enforcement officers to increase patrols, and pay overtime to existing police officers to prevent church arson.
- Worked with Congress to pass amendments to child pornography laws that make it a crime to disseminate, receive, or possess computer-created child pornographic images. Instituted the Innocent Images Project—a multi-agency task force led by the FBI and the first national project to focus on combatting the use of computers to traffic in child pornography.

### *Securing America's Borders*

- Completed 67,094 docket-based removals of illegal aliens—a 33-percent increase over the year before.
- Identified 3,700 criminal aliens along the southwest border through the INS' automated biometric identification system "IDENT."
- Implemented special operations strategies in the southwest region that resulted in a dramatic decline not only in the number of apprehensions in the targeted areas, but often in local community crime rate statistics as well. Deployed approximately 1,000 new INS Border Patrol agents to the southwest border, increasing by 17 percent the number of dedicated border control hours.
- Instituted Project SENTRI—Secure Electronic Network for Travelers' Rapid Inspection—as a Justice Performance Review Reinvention Laboratory at Otay Mesa, California, and reduced the average waiting time to cross the border there from 45 to 3 minutes. The success of the SENTRI lab will lead to similar technology for other sites along the border. SENTRI was recognized with the Vice President's Hammer Award.



- Completed over 4,000 investigations involving employers suspected of illegal employment practices, and initiated 88 criminal cases against such employers and 383 criminal cases against fraud merchants linked to illegal employment. The result was more than \$12 million in fines and the removal of more than 16,000 illegal workers, creating the same number of job opportunities.

### *Making the Legal System Work for All Americans*

- Witnessed historic levels in the Crime Victims Fund, which supports thousands of programs for crime victims with fines paid by Federal criminal offenders.
- Continued to open up the mainstream of American life to people with disabilities by entering a series of landmark settlement agreements that serve as national models for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Continued to enforce the constitutional right of women to gain admission to formerly male-only publicly funded colleges and universities.
- Played the lead role in developing the Executive Order for Civil Justice Reform, which requires agencies to use clear language and legal standards when writing legislative proposals and regulations, and recommends the use of alternative dispute resolution and settlement conferences to resolve civil claims involving the Government.

### *Enforcing the Nation's Environmental and Antitrust Laws*

- Successfully defended many Federal programs designed to protect human health and the environment: defeated constitutional challenges to Clean Air Act provisions that require stricter air pollution controls for the most polluted areas of the country; defended the Environmental Protection Agency's effluent limitations for the offshore oil and gas industry; opposed proposed amendments to lower water quality standards; and opposed legislative proposals that would have weakened enforcement of the Endangered Species Act.
- Obtained 95 settlements and judgments in civil enforcement of the Superfund cleanup statute, requiring defendants to reimburse the Government \$384 million for cleanup costs—an all-time record.



- Continued to work closely with Federal land management agencies to develop ecosystem approaches to protecting Federal lands; protected Yellowstone National Park from environmental risks posed by the New World Mine; and effected an agreement to prevent logging of the largest privately held redwood grove in the world.
- Filed major criminal cases in a wide range of industries, including commercial explosives, residential doors, and disposable plastic dinnerware, securing \$26.8 million in criminal antitrust fines.
- Promoted competition in managed health plans, filing a lawsuit against Delta Dental of Rhode Island to challenge its use of a “most favored nation” clause that raises barriers to competition and discourages dentists from charging lower prices.

### *Making the Department More Efficient and More Responsive*

- Undertook extensive reviews, per the Regulation Reduction Initiative, to find extraneous, obsolete, or confusing regulations; exceeded Government-wide targets, reducing the number of directives by 53 percent and the number of pages by 56 percent.
- Revolutionized the traditionally time consuming and predominantly manual task of booking arrestees by piloting a new computerized process known as the Joint Automated Booking Station (JABS) Laboratory. JABS facilitates the electronic collection, storage, and sharing of offender information, and is presently being tested and refined in South Florida. With JABS, bookings are done in one-fourth the time, and require only one set of digitized prints.
- Collected over \$1.6 billion in civil and criminal debts during 1996, or 1.6 times the amount of the 1996 U.S. Attorneys’ operating budget nationwide. Over \$1 billion was collected in civil matters and cases during the year. Collections from criminal defendants sentenced to pay fines, restitutions, or special assessments as part of their convictions exceeded \$600 million.

