

The Role and Practice of the State Attorney General  
University of Chicago Law School  
Spring 2021  
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**Learning Outcomes:**

- Be familiar with the general approaches to the study of law and legal reasoning.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and understand key concepts in substantive law, legal theory, and procedure.
- Have the ability to write a competent legal analysis.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct legal research.
- Demonstrate communication skills, including oral advocacy.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the rules of professional ethics.
- Demonstrate professionalism consistent with the legal profession's values and standards.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of law and the contributions that other disciplines can make to the study of law.

**Grading:** Students will be graded based on class participation and a final paper of 20-25 pages.

**Week 1 – Introduction to the Office of the State Attorney General**

- I. Authority and Role of the Attorney General and Structure of the Office**
- II. Independence of the State Attorney General**

**Week 2 – The Relationship between State Attorneys General and Other State Government Actors and the Ethics of Client Representation**

**Week 3 – State Attorneys General and U.S. Supreme Court Practice**

**Week 4 – State Attorneys General and Consumer Protection**

**Week 5 – The Relationship between State Attorneys General and the Federal Government**

- I. Attorneys General in Opposition to the Federal Government**
- II. Attorneys General Cooperating with the Federal Government**
- II. Federal-State Preemption**

**Week 6 – State Attorneys General and Criminal Jurisdiction, Justice Reform, and Prosecuting Corruption**

**Week 7 – State Attorneys General and Immigration and Diversity**

**Week 8 – State Attorneys General and Environmental Protection**