



ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG

2025: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Friends,

There's been no shortage of pressures on Connecticut families this year. Whether it is the unprecedented illegality of the federal government, the stress of unaffordable energy bills, housing and basic needs, harm caused by manipulative and addictive social media, or bad actors who have defrauded and deceived, this has been a challenging year for us all.

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to thank all 323 attorneys, paraprofessionals and support staff here in the Office of the Attorney General who have worked tirelessly to protect and defend our state. Every year, the Office of the Attorney General generates more revenue than any other state agency barring Revenue Services tax collections, and this year we brought in nearly 11 times our operating cost. That does not begin to address the hundreds of millions of dollars protected from Donald Trump's irrational and illegal attacks on our funding, millions upon millions of dollars saved by the diligent work of our defensive teams and the unquantifiable contributions of our child protection attorneys in court every day on behalf of our state's most vulnerable youth. I am honored and grateful to lead this excellent team. I wanted to share with you a few highlights from this past year here in the Office of the Attorney General.



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Donald Trump is Flooding the Zone, the Office of the Attorney General is Flooding it Right Back

Since Donald Trump returned to the White House on January 20, we have seen an onslaught of government overreach and rampant illegality that has caused severe harm to Connecticut families, our state and our democracy. **We have sued this president 45 times this year alone.** To those who say we're overreacting because we've yet to see widespread destruction of Connecticut programs and jobs—that's because we are the firewall. There is one reason that Trump has yet to completely dismantle our state, and that is because we are suing, we are succeeding, and we're not going to stop. When he moved to ban birthright citizenship on day one, we sued on day two, and we are blocking him. When he moved to freeze trillions of dollars in federal funding for police, for Head Start, for Medicaid and more on day seven, we sued on day eight, and we blocked him. We are winning at every level of our ongoing fight to end

Donald Trump's irrational and erratic tariff war that is jacking up costs for all of us. When Donald Trump tried to eviscerate research into cures for cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's and preventable newborn deaths, we sued and we blocked him. When Donald Trump tried to impose arbitrary and unlawful immigration conditions on billions of dollars for law enforcement, disaster relief, highways, for victims of crime and more, we sued and we blocked him. As he has advanced his cruel, dangerous and hurtful agenda to separate families, to weaponize hunger and freeze food assistance, to deploy American troops on American soil against the American people, to bully and intimidate doctors, teachers, and attorneys, to gut access to affordable healthcare, to reproductive care, to gender-affirming care, **we have sued, we are succeeding and we will never give up, never surrender, and never back down when it comes to protecting Connecticut families.**



Driving Down Costs for CT Families

Connecticut families are getting slammed right now by unaffordable costs. Whether it's skyrocketing rent, soaring utility bills, grocery bills, impossibly expensive health care and insurance, the Office of the Attorney General is using every legal tool we've got to try to drive down costs and relieve this pressure. When Eversource tried to jam through the sale of Aquarion Water to a new nonprofit that would have doubled bills and ended public oversight of water utility rates, we fought back and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority rejected the deal. When Eversource sought a \$193 million rate hike for Yankee Gas customers, we combed through every page of their bloated application and PURA cut their demand by more than half. As United Illuminating continues its epic corporate meltdown, relentless legal attacks and repeated rate hike demands, we're fighting back at every turn.

In my seven years as Attorney General, this work has saved ratepayers upwards of \$700 million dollars. **We're going to keep fighting to ensure Connecticut families don't pay a penny more than absolutely necessary.**

This year, we took on the largest landlords in the country who were rigging the market with unfair and anticompetitive pricing algorithms. We expanded our complaint against Altice/Optimum Online over \$39.1 million in bait-and-switch junk fees. We secured restitution for music fans who lost out due to the abrupt cancellation of Capulet Fest, for customers of used car dealer Carvana who incurred fines and penalties due to the company's chaos and delays, and for Stone Academy nursing students deprived of a promised education by the failed for-profit nursing school. Whenever consumers are ripped off in Connecticut, we're going to keep **using every ounce of our law enforcement authority to hold bad actors accountable.**



President of the National Association of Attorneys General

I was proud to be named a 2025 Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine, which stated “Connecticut’s AG Is a Fighter Who Punches Way Above His Weight. Democratic Attorney General William Tong has earned bipartisan admiration from his peers even as he takes on the Trump administration and major corporate interests.”

Earlier this month, I began my term as President of the National Association of Attorneys General, following a unanimous bipartisan vote from attorneys general across the country. From Big Tech to Big Pharma, this role ensures Connecticut will be front and center in leading the strategy and outcome for all of the major multistate legal actions and efforts. Over the course of the coming year, I’m going to lead attorneys general in focusing on how we can harness our authority to drive down costs for American families. At a time when so many levels of government are paralyzed by partisan dysfunction, I’m honored to lead the most effective and productive governing coalition in our country today.

There are days and fights where attorneys general vehemently disagree, and everyone knows by now that I do not pull my punches. But the ability of attorneys general to continue to work together despite our differences is invaluable right now. Attorneys general remain one of the last public institutions in which Democrats and Republicans work together every day to deliver for American families. As we take on some of the biggest corporations and powerful forces on behalf of American families. We cannot do that divided.



Keeping Connecticut Families Safe

While the Office of the Attorney General does not have criminal authority, we use every ounce of our civil law enforcement powers to keep Connecticut families safe. This past year, we helped secure new legislation to strengthen civil enforcement against gun industry bad actors. In our first action since that law was enacted, I sent a letter to Ruger regarding its semi-automatic pistols that can be easily converted using machine gun conversion devices into illegal fully automatic weapons.

We also notched major wins against the gun industry in our defense of Connecticut's commonsense gun safety laws, including a decision from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the denial of preliminary injunctions sought by gun industry plaintiffs in two suits challenging Connecticut's post-Sandy Hook assault weapons ban, as well as a dismissal in federal district court of a separate gun industry challenge to the ban on handguns in state parks and forests. We will not back down, and we are going to fight with everything we've got to keep these weapons of war off our streets, out of our schools, our parks, and away from our families.

In another legislative win, we successfully sought legislation to crack down on extreme reckless driving. This new legislation subjects those who exceed 100 mph to the temporary forfeiture of their vehicles after a prior conviction. Those who ignore our laws and imperil our safety must be held accountable.

We are continuing our crackdown on illegal, untested and unsafe cannabis products. Earlier this year, we secured a \$4.93 million judgment against an East Haven smoke shop following persistent illegal cannabis sales, the largest civil penalty ever imposed in Connecticut for illegal cannabis sales.

We're also taking on bad actors peddling bootleg weight loss drugs and e-cigarettes. No generic GLP-1 weight loss injections exist, and anyone advertising or offering these are deceiving patients and exposing them to potentially unsafe drugs. We're working closely with states across the country to stop the illegal import of flavored nicotine products from overseas. We're going to keep doing everything we can to shutoff the supply and distribution of these illegal products.



Protecting Taxpayer Dollars from Fraud and Abuse

This past year alone, we recovered more than \$6.6 million for the state through our Medicaid fraud work. An ongoing joint civil investigation with our federal law enforcement partners into kickbacks paid by dentists to third-party patient recruiting companies resulted in three more settlements in 2025 that recovered over \$972,000.

Other investigations concluded with a \$1.2 million settlement with Genco Lab over medically unnecessary urine drug tests, a \$1.7 settlement with Enzo Biochem, Inc. for overbilling for testing services, and a \$455,598.31 settlement with APRN Dayna Giordano for causing Medicaid to pay for injectable specialty drugs she failed to administer to patients.

We also joined a \$97.8 million multistate settlement with Walgreens over unlawful billing for uncollected prescriptions, a \$59 million multistate settlement with Pfizer-owned BioHaven over illegal kickbacks paid to doctors to encourage prescriptions, and \$202 million multistate settlement with Gilead Sciences over illegal kickbacks for HIV medications, among several others.

We will continue to work closely with our state and federal partners to **aggressively protect the integrity of our public healthcare programs.**

Accountability for the Addiction Industry

Last month, the bankruptcy court approved the \$7.4 billion settlement between 55 attorneys general, Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler Family. Connecticut was part of the bipartisan team of states leading the negotiation of this settlement. There is no amount of money, no amount of justice that will ever make whole the lives lost, and families destroyed by the Sackler Family and Purdue Pharma's craven pursuit of profit. But this settlement is a \$7.4 billion promise to every victim, every family and every community that

we will never stop fighting for them, and that we will use every opportunity from this settlement to save lives through treatment and prevention, as well as direct support to victims and their families. Connecticut will receive up to \$64 million from this settlement.

Also this year, we reached \$720 million in settlements with eight different drugmakers that manufactured opioid pills and worsened the nationwide opioid crisis. Connecticut will receive up to \$8.4 million from that multistate settlement.



Leading on Climate and our Environment as Washington Fails to Act

With leaders in Washington unable and unwilling to act to protect our climate, our public health and our environment, Connecticut is taking **aggressive action to hold the fossil fuel industry and major polluters accountable.**

We secured a complete victory over ExxonMobil's motion to strike our consumer protection case against the company for decades of deceit regarding climate change. ExxonMobil amassed billions of dollars in profits from a decades-long campaign of lies, and we sued to uncover and expose their lies and to hold them accountable for the harm they have caused. This decision moves this case one step closer to trial. We're also continuing our fight against the numerous chemical companies who knowingly contaminated our water and natural resources with toxic PFAS forever chemicals that

pose severe harm to human health. We remain focused on the plastics industry and the growing threat it poses to our health and environment.

As the Trump Administration seeks to eviscerate and rollback federal environmental protections and defund investments in clean and affordable renewable energy, we're fighting back at every step. We are joining with our multistate partners to challenge these illegal actions to ensure that the public health, welfare, and the environment are protected. When Trump tried to stop work on the fully approved and nearly complete Revolution Wind project, we immediately sued, and workers are now back on the job and the project is back on track to deliver affordable, American-made clean energy to Connecticut homes.



Protecting your Privacy and Pushing Back on Big Tech

Connecticut residents have had the right to access, correct, and delete personal data stored and collected by businesses for over two years now. This year, new protections have expanded the right to opt-out of the sale of personal data and targeted advertising. Connecticut residents can now automatically send an opt-out preference signal, like the [Global Privacy Control](#), from their browser or device, and businesses must honor your choice. I urge everyone to [take advantage of this right](#) to control your data.

Underscoring the importance of protecting your personal data were the numerous actions this year regarding data breaches. Connecticut, California and New York reached a \$5.1 million settlement with educational technology company Illuminate Education after a data breach exposed the personal information of millions of students, including 28,610 students in six school districts here in Connecticut. This was the first settlement ever under Connecticut's Student Data Privacy Law. Our fight to protect genetic information collected by 23andMe continues after the company collected and failed to safeguard the most sensitive genetic data imaginable from millions of Americans.

This year, some of the worst attacks on privacy and data security came from our own government, including the efforts of unelected billionaire Elon Musk and the lawless tech bros of DOGE to gain access to our private government records. The Trump Administration has also demanded access to SNAP records and even Medicaid records to aid in his deportation agenda. We have sued and we have court orders blocking these invasive and unlawful government overreaches.

Our case against Meta and our investigation into TikTok over harmful features that purposely addict youth are active and ongoing. And we will return to the legislature in 2026 to seek legislation to protect youth from harmful and addictive algorithms. We have pushed back on efforts in Washington to restrict states' abilities to pass commonsense AI regulations to fill the vacuum left by federal inaction. We expect to remain very active in this emerging area in the coming year.

Looking Ahead

We close this year and enter the next **confident, affirmative, and strong**, with a commitment to do all that we can each and every day to improve the lives and futures of Connecticut families.

In the coming year, whether you are getting the runaround from your insurance company, stuck with a junk fee, or targeted by robocall scam, we are here to help. You can file a complaint with our office at ct.gov/agcomplaints, or you can reach our Elder Justice Hotline at 1-860-808-5555.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WILLIAM TONG".

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