

## **Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles**

The Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) is a statutorily created agency headed by Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Cabinet, consisting of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Charles Bronson; the State Treasurer, Tom Gallagher; and the Florida Attorney General, Charlie Crist.

### Head of the Agency:

Fred O. Dickinson  
Executive Director  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Neil Kirkman Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500  
(850) 487-3132

### Agency Clerk:

Various (Contact the General Counsel's office for specific details for the Division of Driver Licenses, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Florida Highway Patrol.)

### General Counsel:

Enoch J. (Jon) Whitney  
(850) 488-1606

### Hours of Operation:

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Physical/Mailing Address:

Neil Kirkman Bldg.  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

Jon was born in Jacksonville and raised in Tallahassee and Jacksonville. He received both his undergraduate and JD degrees from Florida State University, and was a member of the second class to graduate from the FSU College of Law. Jon began his career in state government during law school by working as a research assistant in the Florida Attorney General's Office. After being admitted to The Florida Bar in November 1970, he became an Assistant Attorney General and then became law clerk to the late Judge Sam Spector at the First District Court of Appeal. Upon rejoining the Attorney General's Office where he drafted opinions and handled criminal appellate litigation, Jon asked an important mentor in his life, Florida Supreme Court Justice Richard Ervin, how long he should remain in state government before moving to the private sector. Justice Ervin, having dedicated his career to public service in state government replied, "What's wrong with working for state government?" Jon worked for the Florida Attorney General for three years before joining DHSMV in 1974 and was appointed General Counsel in 1979. He became General Counsel for the Parole Commission in 1982, before being reappointed

General Counsel to DHSMV in 1986. Jon's public service has extended beyond the agency to include Florida Bar activities that have ranged from four terms on the Board of Governors, to six years, including Chair, on the Appellate Certification Committee. He feels very blessed to have had the opportunity, with his dedicated staff, to create a continuity in service to an agency rarely seen in state government.

Number of Lawyers on Staff: 9

Kinds of Cases: The DHSMV Office of General Counsel, with substantial participation by the Department of Legal Affairs, represents DHSMV in all administrative and judicial proceedings in federal and state courts, including review of driver license and motor vehicle and mobile home dealer and manufacturer license suspensions, revocations and final orders, Public Employees Relations Commission appeals, collective bargaining agent arbitrations, Administrative Procedure Act matters, forfeiture proceedings, complaints filed in circuit court, and appellate litigation. The office coordinates with the Division of Risk Management within the Department of Financial Services on negligence and civil rights claims, provides legal instruction for the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy, and handles legal inquiries from citizens and private attorneys.

APA Interaction: Substantial

Tip: Contact the individual division attorneys for perspective on how to best represent a client's interest in a matter under the Department's jurisdiction. In Tallahassee, the Florida Highway Patrol is represented by Judson Chapman, Sena Finklea, and Brian Pugh; the Division of Motor Vehicles is represented by Mike Alderman; and the Division of Driver Licenses is represented by Kathy Jimenez, all of whom can be reached at (850) 488-1606.