



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative Jacqueline Parker (R-15)**  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## House Committee on Executive Oversight Initiates Review of Attorney General Mayes

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – The House Ad Hoc Committee on Executive Oversight (CEO) held its first public meeting on Thursday. Chairwoman Jacqueline Parker and the Committee members wasted no time learning about the scope of the Arizona Attorney General’s powers and duties under the state constitution and state law.

Chairwoman Parker set the tone by affirming the Committee’s commitment to uphold the highest standards of legislative oversight and professionalism. In contrast, Committee Democrats put on a disappointing display of partisanship by refusing to attend the meeting and to constructively engage.

Video of the meeting is posted online here: <https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?eventID=2024041004>

Committee business was highlighted with a presentation by former Justice Andrew Gould, a distinguished retired jurist on the Arizona Supreme Court and former prosecutor, which educated members on the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the Arizona Attorney General, including the duty to defend state laws. Justice Gould also explained that, unlike other states where Attorney Generals have common law authority, Arizona’s Attorney General’s authority is limited by statute.

Additionally, the committee reviewed outstanding public records requests it has directed at Attorney General Mayes, addressing two serious allegations. The first records request (<https://bit.ly/49rMyeU>) concerns the legal proceedings in *State v. Cochise County*—a lawsuit General Mayes lost last year. Chairwoman Parker expressed alarm at the judge’s comments during a hearing that criticized General Mayes for using her court filings to launch an irrelevant, partisan attack on elected county officials. The second records request (<https://bit.ly/49moGJU>) addresses the Attorney General’s recent unfounded attacks on the agricultural industry, her threats to file a public nuisance lawsuit against Arizona’s farmers, and her use of public town hall events and resources to make campaign speeches.

**“We have given General Mayes a standing invitation to speak to the Committee,”** said CEO Chairwoman Parker. **“I’m puzzled she decided, instead, to hold a press conference at the Capitol while we were voting on bills and before the Committee even convened to hear from retired Justice Gould about basic statutory functions of the Attorney General’s Office. General Mayes should apologize to Mr. Gould for her unwarranted, disparaging comments. He made perfectly clear at the hearing that the Committee solicited his testimony as a legal expert and refrained from opining on any of the questionable actions General Mayes has taken while in office. Mr. Gould spent his entire career**

**-serving the people of Arizona as a prosecutor and jurist on the state supreme court. Arizonans deserve more from their chief legal officer.”**

The Committee will announce details about the next meeting soon.

*Jacqueline Parker is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 15, which includes East Mesa, Queen Creek, and San Tan Valley. She serves as Chairwoman of the House Municipal Oversight and Elections Committee. Follow her on X/Twitter at @electjacqparker.*

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