



The State Energy &
Environmental Impact Center
NYU School of Law

Clearing the Path for Climate Action: A Conversation with New State Attorneys General

Tuesday September 26, 2023, 3:00pm – 4:00pm EST

Speaker Bios

Kris Mayes

Arizona Attorney General

Kris Mayes is one of Arizona's strongest consumer advocates and an attorney who has distinguished herself as a fighter for the people in a lifetime of public service.

Born and raised on a tree farm in Prescott, Kris Mayes attended Arizona public schools with her brother and sister. Her mom was a teacher and her dad worked as a pharmacist.

Kris studied political science and journalism at Arizona State University and went to work as a reporter. She later earned a Masters of Public Administration from Columbia University and her law degree from ASU.

Kris served in a senior role with the Napolitano Administration in the early 2000's before being appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission. She went on to win two statewide elections and served as a Commissioner from 2003 - 2010 and was the Commission Chair from 2009 - 2010. Kris was admitted to the Arizona State Bar on January 10, 2005.

During Mayes' time on the Arizona Corporation Commission, her leadership helped create tens of thousands of high-paying jobs, saved Arizona consumers billions of dollars, and required utilities to produce more clean and efficient energy — including solar and wind. She also worked to preserve Arizona's water resources.

Prior to her election as Attorney General, Mayes worked as a professor at ASU's School of Global Sustainability and taught a course on energy law for the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU.

She is honored to serve as Arizona's 27th Attorney General, becoming the first mom and second woman ever to be elected to the office. She looks forward to continuing working on behalf of Arizonans as the top law enforcement official and consumer guardian in the state. A Lawyer for the People.



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Brian Frosh

Former Maryland Attorney General

Brian Frosh served as Maryland's 46th Attorney General from 2015 to 2023. During his two terms as Attorney General, Brian Frosh worked to ensure fairness, equality and justice for all Marylanders.

Under Brian's leadership, Maryland became the first state in the nation to issue guidance prohibiting discriminatory profiling by law-enforcement. The Office prepared an analysis on the state of marriage equality across the country that was prominently cited in the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage. Brian issued an opinion overruling all previous opinions of the Office that upheld racially discriminatory laws.

Brian focused on safeguarding vulnerable populations, including nursing home residents, people with disabilities, victims of lead-paint poisoning, low income families and members of minority groups who can be subjects of abuse.

He fought for economic justice and recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for Marylanders from predatory lenders, Wall Street banks, drug companies, for-profit colleges, tobacco companies and polluters. He shut down sham charities and obtained debt relief for thousands of Marylanders who had been subjected to deceptive practices.

Under Attorney General Frosh, the Office fought federal efforts to undermine the ACA, violate civil rights, favor predators over vulnerable consumers, undermine protections for clean air and clean water. It also brought suit to enforce the Emoluments Clauses of the Constitution – our nation's original anti-corruption law.

Brian created an Organized Crime Division that indicted and put behind bars hundreds of the most dangerous people in the state: violent gang members, murderers, drug traffickers, human traffickers, pill mill operators.

Brian served in the General Assembly of Maryland for 28 years:

- Senate of Maryland: 1995-2015; Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee: 2003-2015
- House of Delegates of Maryland: 1987-1995

During this time, he led efforts to pass gun safety legislation that is among the toughest and most effective in the nation. He increased protections for victims of domestic violence and expanded privacy protection for all Marylanders. His environmental initiatives include the ban on drilling for oil and gas in the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Recycling Act, and the Maryland Brownfields laws.



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Raised in Montgomery County, Brian graduated from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University and received his law degree from the Columbia University School of Law. Prior to being elected Attorney General, he had been an attorney in private practice since 1976. He lives in the Town of Somerset with his wife Marcy Masters Frosh. They have two daughters.