

## Thomas W. Corbett, Jr. to Speak in April 2005



Tom Corbett took the oath as Pennsylvania's 25th Attorney General on January 18, 2005. His return to the Office of Attorney General continues a distinguished career serving the citizens of the Commonwealth, making a significant impact on the lives of Pennsylvanians through his work on issues of criminal justice, victims' rights and drug and alcohol prevention and rehabilitation.

During his inauguration remarks, Tom Corbett laid out a plan to protect Pennsylvania families, vigorously fight illegal drug trafficking, expand efforts to identify and intercept child sexual predators, provide additional protection to the Commonwealth's seniors and protect the environment.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett has been a key advisor to and appointee of two U.S. Presidents and the Governor of Pennsylvania, serving in a number of roles from U.S. Attorney to Attorney General of Pennsylvania. His career began as an Assistant District Attorney in Allegheny County, where he focused in the prosecution of rape and homicide cases.

In 1980, Tom Corbett was hired as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Pennsylvania, specializing in prosecuting organized crime and drug cases. He was named as one of the first members of President Ronald Reagan's National Drug Task Force.

In November of 1983, Tom Corbett entered private practice with the Pittsburgh law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Hasley and DiSalle, but in 1989 he once again answered the call to public service when President George H. W. Bush appointed Corbett to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, serving until August 1993.

Following a brief return to private practice, Tom Corbett was asked in 1994 to provide criminal law and policy expertise to the gubernatorial campaign of then-Congressman Tom Ridge. Following that election, Governor Ridge asked Corbett to fill several key roles in service to the Commonwealth, including the planning of the Governor's successful special session on crime. Tom Corbett was also appointed to chair the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency where he took an ongoing leadership role in shaping criminal justice policy and worked to improve drug and alcohol prevention and rehabilitation programs across the state.

In 1995, Governor Ridge asked Tom Corbett to take on his most visible and challenging assignment yet, completing the term of former Attorney General Ernie Preate. During his tenure, he re-established public trust and integrity and restored morale among employees in the Office of Attorney General. In addition, he created the Insurance Fraud Section and reformed the statewide Drug Task Force, which resulted in more efficient and successful prosecutions of drug crimes in Pennsylvania.

In 1997, Tom Corbett again returned to private practice, eventually forming his own law firm, Thomas Corbett and Associates, which specializes in consultation and government relations and is currently developing a course in criminal justice policy for Duquesne University School of Law.

A lifelong Pennsylvania resident, Tom Corbett served his country as a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 28th Infantry Division from 1971 until 1984, rising from private to captain. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania, he taught civics and history in Pine Grove Area High School in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. In 1975, he received his law degree from St. Mary's University Law School in San Antonio, Texas.

Tom Corbett and his wife of 31 years, Susan Manbeck Corbett, are the proud parents of two children, Tommy and Katherine. Tommy is an architect in Pittsburgh and Katherine is a third year student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.