

NATIONAL STATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL PROGRAM:
CONSUMER PROTECTION
REPORT

APRIL 2016



CONSUMER PROTECTION REPORT: April 1-30, 2016

This newsletter is a monthly circulation that describes consumer protection activity announced by state attorneys general. This information was gathered solely from attorney general press releases. It makes no effort to prioritize or analyze the impact of any of these cases and initiatives.

The following press releases are organized by state and multistate activity. In addition, certain Medicaid fraud cases that touch on consumer protection and advocacy initiatives have been included.

If an office would like their activity to be included in subsequent newsletters, please notify attorneygeneral@law.columbia.edu.

To sign up for the monthly consumer protection report, please click on the link below and enter your contact information.

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The National State Attorneys General Program at Columbia Law School is a legal research, education, and policy center that examines the implications of the jurisprudence of state attorneys general. Working closely with attorneys general, academics, and other members of the legal community, the program is active in the development and dissemination of legal information used by state prosecutors in carrying out their civil and criminal responsibilities.

For more information about the National State Attorneys General Program and resources, please visit our website www.stateag.org.

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CONSUMER PROTECTION CASES, SETTLEMENTS AND ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

ALABAMA

April 29, 2016

Attorney General Announces Settlement with Fantasy Sports Companies to Cease Their Operations in Alabama

Attorney General Luther Strange today announced that DraftKings and FanDuel have each entered into a settlement with the State of Alabama to cease operations in the state effective May 2, 2016.

“I am pleased to report that fantasy sports operators DraftKings and FanDuel have complied with my order that they halt paid contests within the State of Alabama,” said Attorney General Strange.

After Attorney General Strange sent cease and desist letters to DraftKings and FanDuel on April 5, both companies have agreed to block access from Alabama IP addresses to their contest web sites.

<http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-827>

ARIZONA

April 28, 2016

Attorney General Mark Brnovich Announces Four Arrested & Indicted in Craigslist Employment Scam Targeting College Students

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced a State Grand Jury indicted four individuals in connection with a Craigslist employment and credit improvement scam. Twelve victims have been identified. Most of the victims were in their twenties and looking for part-time work while going to school.

This morning, AZAG Special Agents arrested Brothers Aaron Blodgett and Matthew Blodgett, and their associates Zoran Vuckovic and Damir Karadascevic. The defendants allegedly posted “help wanted ads” on Craigslist for clerical and administrative jobs. Those who responded to the ads were interviewed and told they needed better credit to get the job. Some victims were

told they needed better credit scores because all employees were considered investors in the company.

<https://www.azag.gov/press-release/craigslist-employment-scam>

April 4, 2016

Attorney General Mark Brnovich Announces Scottsdale Man Indicted for High-Limit Credit Card Scheme Advertised on Craigslist

Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced a State Grand Jury indicted Andrew James May on six felony counts for his involvement in an alleged credit card scheme. May is accused of scamming customers into paying thousands of dollars in processing fees for high-limit credit cards and failing to deliver the credit cards to customers. The indictment charges May with one count of Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices, one count of Theft, and four counts of Criminal Impersonation.

In 2014, the Scottsdale Police Department began an investigation into May after a Scottsdale business owner came forward claiming May had not delivered the high-limit credit cards the business owner paid for. May allegedly advertised on Craigslist claiming he could underwrite Visa credit cards with \$100,000 limits for approximately \$1,000 in processing fees. According to victims who claim to have suffered a loss of \$11,250, May collected the processing fees but failed to deliver the credit cards. Visa and Compass credit cards claim they have never had any affiliation with May and they do not allow third parties to underwrite credit cards.

<https://www.azag.gov/press-release/scottsdale-man-indicted-high-limit-credit-card-scheme-advertised-craigslist>

CALIFORNIA

April 1, 2016

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Files Suit Against Morgan Stanley Over False Claims and

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today filed a lawsuit against investment bank Morgan Stanley for misrepresentations about complex investments such as residential mortgage-backed securities, in which large pools of home loans

were packaged together and sold to investors. These misrepresentations contributed to the global financial crisis and to major losses by investors including California's public pension funds, which are responsible for the retirement security of California peace officers, firefighters, teachers, and other public employees.

The complaint, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, alleges that Morgan Stanley violated the False Claims Act, the California Securities Law and other state laws by concealing or understating the risks of intricate investments involving large numbers of underlying loans or other assets. In addition to residential mortgage-backed securities, the complaint also focuses on "structured investment vehicle" investments, which involved not just packages of residential mortgage loans but also other types of debt of individuals and corporations.

<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-files-suit-against-morgan-stanley-over-false>

FLORIDA

April 1, 2016

Attorney General Pam Bondi Announces Agreement Reached with Legal Publishing Company

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office today announced an agreement with Juris Publishing, Inc. and Jurisnet, LLC regarding the legal publishing companies' use of negative option marketing in advertising, selling and distributing print, electronic and CD publications. The assurance of voluntary compliance resolves allegations that the companies placed consumers in automatic shipment and automatic subscription renewal plans without consumer consent or without clearly and conspicuously disclosing the terms of these plans.

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/6888DA0CC6921C4485257F880052FBAC>

HAWAII

April 22, 2016

Attorney General Doug Chin Announces Unlicensed Contractor Charged With Felonies

Christopher Vaenuku was charged yesterday with two counts of Unlicensed Contractor Fraud in the First Degree and one count of Unlicensed Contractor Fraud in the Second Degree, announced Attorney General Doug Chin.

In 2011 and 2012, Vaenuku allegedly agreed to do work on three homes in the Kapolei area that require specific contractor's licenses when he had none. The work allegedly was never completed and homeowners did not get their money back.

<http://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/News-Release-2016-20.pdf>

IOWA

April 6, 2016

Attorney General Tom Miller Announces New Jersey Seller of Purported Lottery Winning Systems Will Pay Refunds and Stop Targeting Iowans

Attorney General alleges consumer fraud in seller's mailing: "How I WIN \$20,000 Every Month from The Lottery"

The owner of a New Jersey-based company that sells supposed systems for winning lotteries and other money-making schemes will permanently stop targeting Iowans through an agreement with Attorney General Tom Miller, who alleges the schemes are deceptive.

Success Publishers LLC, which also does business as Market Force, Wintrack, and Win-Track.com, and its owner, John F. Abate, of Millstone Township, will refund money to Iowans and permanently cease marketing to the state's residents.

<https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/new-jersey-seller-of-lottery-winning-systems-will-pay-refunds-and-stop-targeting-iowans/>

KANSAS

April 15, 2016

Attorney General Derek Schmidt Announces Florida Financial Services Company Banned From Operating In Kansas

A Florida-based financial services company has been banned from doing business in Kansas until it cooperates with the attorney general's investigation into its business practices, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced today.

In a lawsuit filed in Shawnee County District Court last month, Schmidt accused Financial Help Services, Inc. of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., of violating the Kansas Credit Services Organization Act and the Kansas Consumer Protection Act while operating in Kansas. The lawsuit accuses the company of advertising and providing debt management services to Kansas consumers without a license and of charging Kansas consumers a price that grossly exceeded the price at which similar services were readily obtainable from licensed credit services organizations.

<http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/04/15/florida-financial-services-company-banned-from-operating-in-kansas>

April 13, 2016

Attorney General Derek Schmidt: New York Company To Pay Fine For Impersonating Local Co-Op

A New York-based company has agreed to pay \$10,000 in penalties and fees to settle allegations that it impersonated a local agricultural co-op and violated the Kansas No Call Act, Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

Carso, Inc., d/b/a Supply House, d/b/a Coating and Chemicals and Jack Caratozzolo, all of New York state, agreed to a consent judgment ordering them to pay \$10,000 in investigative fees and civil penalties. The judgment was approved earlier this month by Judge Franklin Theis in Shawnee County District Court.

<http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/04/13/ag-schmidt-new-york-company-to-pay-fine-for-impersonating-local-co-op>

KENTUCKY

April 2016

Attorney General Beshear Orders Company to Halt Scam Targeting Small Businesses

Company improperly threatened federal fines if poster was not purchased for a fee

Attorney General Andy Beshear is warning Kentucky small-business owners to avoid a mail scam pressuring them to purchase a bogus labor law poster for their employees and business.

The mailers, and the belief that the labor law posters provided by the company are required by federal law, are false, misleading and deceptive, and constitute a violation of the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act, Beshear said.

<http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=85>

April 18, 2016

Attorney General Andy Beshear: Florida Business Owner Indicted for Failure to Deliver Food Truck to Louisville Man

Arrest set for April 25 in Jefferson County Circuit Court

Attorney General Andy Beshear announced today that Russell Elwood Hunnewell, owner of Florida Concession, was indicted by a Jefferson County grand jury last week for theft by deception, more than \$10,000.

The Office of the Attorney General conducted an investigation into allegations that in June, Hunnewell, 61, of Avon Park, Florida, failed to deliver a food truck that a Louisville man purchased over the Internet for \$53,000. After failing to issue a refund to the Louisville man, Hunnewell ended all communications and now faces a class C felony charge.

<http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=78>

MARYLAND

April 27, 2016

Attorney General Frosh Sues Montgomery County Home Builders

Charges Filed Against Mitchell & Best Homes, LLC for Alleged Violations of Home Builder Registration Act, Maryland Express and Implied Warranties Act, and Consumer Protection Act

Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his Consumer Protection Division's Home Builder Registration Unit ("Unit") filed charges against Mitchell & Best Homebuilders, LLC of Rockville, Maryland and related entities and individuals for alleged violations of the Home Builder Registration Act, the Maryland Express and Implied Warranties Act, and the Consumer Protection Act.

<https://www.oag.state.md.us/Press/2016/042716.htm>

April 18, 2016

Attorney General Brian Frosh Sues Landlords for Defrauding Rental Applicants

Perry Willey Rental, Perry Willey, and Jaime Dailey are charged with accepting prepaid rent and security deposits but never delivering possession of the premises or provided refunds

Maryland Attorney Brian E. Frosh announced today that the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division has filed charges against Perry Willey Rental and its owners, Perry Willey and Jaime Dailey, for advertising residential rental properties in the Salisbury area and accepting prepaid rent and security deposits from tenants, but refusing to deliver the properties to the tenants or provide refunds.

<https://www.oag.state.md.us/Press/2016/041816.htm>

MASSACHUSETTS

April 4, 2016

Attorney General Maura Healey Sues ITT Tech for Deceiving Students About its Computer Network Systems Program and Success in Finding Jobs

AG Healey Seeking Restitution for Students and Penalties against For-Profit School

A for-profit school with locations in Norwood and Wilmington has been sued for engaging in unfair and harassing sales tactics and misleading students about the quality of its Computer Network Systems program, and the success of the program's graduates in finding jobs, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

The complaint, filed Thursday against ITT Educational Services, Inc. in Norfolk Superior Court, alleges that from 2010 through at least May 2013, ITT aggressively enrolled students in the Computer Network Systems program based on misleading information.

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-04-04-itt-tech.html>

MICHIGAN

April 29, 2016

Attorney General Bill Schuette Secures Restitution Order for Over \$600,000 in 2014 Ponzi Scheme

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that a judge has ordered Shawn Dicken, of Bay City, to pay \$663, 531.48 in restitution for her role in an extensive multi-county Ponzi scheme. Dicken was [convicted in 2014 after an Attorney General investigation](#) and sentenced to 140 months to 20 years in prison.

http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-383688--,00.html

MISSOURI

April 22, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster Obtains Preliminary Injunction In Critique Services Lawsuit

-- fraudulent bankruptcy business shut down --

Attorney General Chris Koster today announced preliminary injunctions against Beverly Diltz, Critique Services L.L.C., Renee Mayweather, Dean Meriwether, and Robert Dellamano. Koster sued the individuals and businesses March 8.

The injunctions, ordered by Judge Julian Bush in St. Louis City Circuit Court, are effective April 21. They shut down the Critique Services business and prohibit the defendants from specific conduct for the duration of the lawsuit such as:

- spending or disbursing money received from clients for bankruptcy services, except to provide refunds;
- advertising, soliciting, or offering bankruptcy services; and
- forming another bankruptcy business.

<https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-obtains-preliminary-injunction-in-critique-services-lawsuit>

April 20, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster Reaches Settlement With Fulton Woman For Misuse Of Donations

Attorney General Chris Koster today announced a settlement with Mary Beth DeBrodie and the nonprofit Pets With A Purpose, Inc., who allegedly misused items donated for troops stationed overseas in December 2013.

Through Pets With A Purpose, Inc. d/b/a Alpacas at Autumn Run, Mary Beth DeBrodie solicited more than 800 pairs of high-end alpaca socks from the nonprofit BentStar Project in California. She claimed that she would distribute the socks to four units of active-duty U.S. military troops stationed in remote areas overseas and even purported to specifically identify the total numbers of

troops in each unit as well as each unit's gender breakdown. The distribution would be done before Christmas 2013.

<https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-reaches-settlement-with-fulton-woman-for-misuse-of-donations>

April 15, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster Announces St. Louis Contractor Pleads Guilty To Home-Repair Fraud

Attorney General Chris Koster announced today that Robert Mason, 66, pleaded guilty in St. Louis City Circuit Court to stealing by deceit and unlawful merchandising practices. In his plea, Mason admitted that he made false promises to purchase materials and perform home renovation for a St. Louis couple in exchange for a \$5,000 up-front payment. Koster's office prosecuted the case along with the City of St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office.

The Court ordered Mason to make restitution to the victims and sentenced Mason to a term of seven years for stealing and five years for unlawful merchandising practices. Execution of the sentences was suspended so long as Mason immediately provides restitution to the consumers and Mason abides by the terms of probation set by the Court.

<https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-announces-st.-louis-contractor-pleads-guilty-to-home-repair-fraud>

NEVADA

April 20, 2016

Attorney General Adam Laxalt Announces Guilty Plea of Las Vegas Man for Mortgage Lending Fraud

Defendant defrauded multiple victims out of thousands of dollars

Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that Benjamin Paul Narter, 36, of Las Vegas, pleaded guilty to one count of pattern of mortgage lending fraud, a category "B" felony. The fraud was committed between January 2013 and May 2014.

Narter operated a purported mortgage refinancing scheme doing business as “National Mortgage Help Center” to dupe consumers. He solicited victims who paid him thousands of dollars in upfront fees to obtain loan modifications on their behalf. Narter entered a guilty plea agreement that requires him to pay back 10 victims nearly \$60,000.

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Guilty_Plea_of_Las_Vegas_Man_for_Mortgage_Lending_Fraud/

NEW JERSEY

April 11, 2016

Acting Attorney General Robert Lougy and New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Seeks to Revoke Registration of Cape May County Health Care Service Firm That Allegedly Placed Uncertified Employees with Clients and Falsified Documents

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs is seeking to revoke the registration of Bergre Acquisitions, LLC, d/b/a “Home Care Specialists,” an Ocean City health care service firm that allegedly sent uncertified employees into the homes of patients that required the services of Certified Homemaker-Home Health Aides (“CHHA”), and falsified documents it provided to the state, among other violations.

New Jersey law defines a “health care service firm” as an employment agency that places personnel to provide companion, health care or personal care services in the homes of clients with disabilities or who are senior citizens.

In September 2015, the Division conducted an inspection of Home Care Specialists. In reviewing the records of five randomly selected clients and four employees assigned to them, investigators uncovered numerous alleged deficiencies in violation of the regulations that govern health care service firms.

<http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20160411a.html>

April 1, 2016

Acting Attorney General Robert Lougy Announces Jersey City Man Sentenced to Eight Years in Prison for Stealing Over \$500,000 from Investment Clients and Using Part of Funds to Play Poker

Acting Attorney General Robert Lougy announced that a Jersey City man was sentenced to prison today for stealing over half a million dollars from clients of his investment firm and spending the money on personal expenses, including playing poker at casinos and gambling on poker websites.

Evan Kochav, 34, of Jersey City, was sentenced to eight years in state prison by Superior Court Judge Thomas J. Critchley in Morris County. He pleaded guilty on Dec. 16 to second-degree charges of theft by deception and money laundering. He was sentenced to five years on the theft charge and a consecutive sentence of three years on the money laundering charge. He will be ordered to pay restitution to the victims totaling in excess of \$464,000, with the specific amount, which will factor in funds previously paid back, to be determined at a later date.

<http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20160401b.html>

NEW YORK

April 21, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlements With Four Auto Dealer Groups For Deceptive Practices That Resulted In Inflated Car Prices

Koeppel Auto Group, Plaza Dealerships, Manfredi Auto Group And Huntington Honda Will Pay Nearly \$2 Million In Restitution To Nearly 5,000 Consumers Who Were Unlawfully Duped Into Purchasing Credit Repair And Identity Theft Protection Services

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced four separate settlements with auto dealers that return nearly \$2 million in restitution to nearly 5,000 consumers and \$174,000 in penalties and costs to the state for selling “after-sale” products. The dealerships, Koeppel Auto Group, Plaza Dealerships and Manfredi Auto Group and Huntington Honda have locations in Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island and Westchester. The Attorney General charged the dealerships with unlawfully selling “after-sale” products

and services, including credit repair and identity theft protection services, that often added thousands of dollars to the purchase price of the vehicle.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlements-four-auto-dealer-groups-deceptive-practices>

April 21, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Walgreens/Duane Reade For Overcharging Consumers And Misleading Advertising Practices

Walgreen Co. Will Pay \$500,000 In Penalties, Fees, And Costs And Will Reform Its Advertising Practices In New York

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that his office has obtained a settlement with the national drugstore chain Walgreen, Co. and its subsidiary Duane Reade (collectively, “Walgreens”) for overcharging New York consumers and using misleading advertisements. Walgreens has also agreed to reform its advertising practices.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-walgreensduane-rea-de-overcharging-consumers-and>

April 19, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Conviction And Sentencing Of Construction Company Owner For Failing To Pay More Than \$50k In Wages

Shamas Mian And His Company Admitted To Willfully Failing To Pay Prevailing Wages And Benefits On Bronx Public School Project

NEW YORK –Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced the conviction and sentencing of Shamas Mian, 52, and his company United Construction Field, Inc., for failing to pay more than \$50,000 to masonry workers on an exterior renovation project at a Bronx public school from January 2012 through June 2012. Mian and his company were indicted early last year in Bronx Supreme Court as part of an ongoing initiative to combat wage theft at public works projects in New York City, which resulted altogether in the arrests of five contractors on April 8, 2015.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-conviction-and-sentencing-construction-company-owner-failing>

April 13, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Sues Northern Leasing Systems, Inc. For Deceptive Business Practices And Abuse Of Judicial Process

Attorney General Schneiderman Sues Northern Leasing Allegedly For Trapping Small Business Owners Through Deceptive Practices In Unconscionable Lease Agreements And Suing Them For Failure To Pay

The Lawsuit Seeks To Vacate Judgments Obtained By Northern Leasing, Provide Additional Relief For Consumers, And Dissolve The Company

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the filing of a lawsuit against Northern Leasing Systems, Inc., a New York company, and several of its affiliated companies, including Lease Finance Group LLC, MBF Leasing LLC, Pushpin Holdings LLC and others (collectively, “Northern Leasing”), as well as principal, Jay Cohen a/k/a Ari Jay Cohen, law firm Joseph I. Sussman, P.C., and other individuals involved in Northern Leasing’s operations, for their fraudulent and deceptive practices that trap small business owners across the country. The lawsuit alleges that Northern Leasing trapped small businesses into never-ending lease agreements for over-priced credit card processing equipment and abused the judicial process by suing to collect on these leases in the Civil Court of the City of New York, regardless of whether the debt is fraudulent, the claim is timely or legitimate efforts to terminate the lease were ignored. The Attorney General on behalf of the People of the State of New York, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern A. Fisher are joint petitioners in this proceeding.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-sues-northern-leasing-systems-inc-deceptive-business-practices-and>

April 7, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Obtains \$90k Agreement With Contractor Who Underpaid Workers On Taxpayer-Funded Affordable Housing Units

J.A.M. Construction Corp. Shortchanged Workers On A Chelsea Affordable Housing Project

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with J.A.M. Construction Corp. (“JAM”), a subcontractor that performed carpentry work at a Manhattan affordable housing project. JAM, based in Rockville Centre, failed to pay required prevailing wages to eight workers at the Selis Manor Affordable Housing complex located at 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan. In an Assurance of Discontinuance with the Attorney General’s Office, JAM agreed to pay over \$80,000 in underpayments, as well as a penalty of \$10,000.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-obtains-90k-agreement-contractor-who-underpaid-workers-taxpayer-funded>

April 5, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman And Tax Commissioner Boone Announce Conviction Of Unregistered Tax Preparer For Attempting To Steal Tax Refunds

Raul D. Kelley Expected To Be Sentenced To 2 To 6 Years In Prison For Submitting Forged NYC Transit Authority W2 Statements And Preparing Over 700 Fraudulent Tax Returns

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and Taxation and Finance Commissioner Jerry Boone today announced the guilty plea of Raul D. Kelley, 49, of the Bronx, NY for submitting forged W2 statements and preparing over 700 fraudulent tax returns while acting as an unregistered tax preparer. Kelley pleaded guilty today in Albany County Supreme Court before The Honorable Andrew G. Ceresia to the crimes of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class “D” felony, and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class “E” felony. Kelley is expected to be sentenced to 2 to 6 years in prison for his crimes when sentencing occurs on May 3.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-and-tax-commissioner-boone-announce-conviction-unregistered-tax>

April 5, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Agreement With Beach Bum Tanning Salon Chain Following Misleading Health Claims

Investigation Finds Chain Falsely Claimed Indoor Tanning Posed No Significant Cancer Risk And Could Even Prevent Certain Cancers

Some Locations Also Encouraged Frequent Indoor Tanning And Targeted High School Students With Prom Specials

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that his office has reached an agreement with Salon Management USA, LLC, a New York Company that licenses the use of the “Beach Bum Tanning” trademark under which Beach Bum Tanning salons operate and BBT Retail, Inc. a New Jersey company (collectively “Beach Bum”). Among other allegations, the Attorney General’s investigation found that Beach Bum made false and misleading health claims about indoor tanning, suggesting that the practices posed no significant cancer risk and could even prevent certain cancers.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-agreement-beach-bum-tanning-salon-chain-following-misleading>

NORTH CAROLINA

April 28, 2016

Vending Machine Restorer Banned From Operating In NC, AG Cooper Says

Court orders temporary restraining order against Antiquities Vending

A restoration company that repeatedly failed to complete work or return antiques to consumers is temporarily banned from operating in North Carolina, Attorney General Roy Cooper announced today.

Under a [temporary restraining order](#) signed today by Wake County Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens, Antiquities Vending Company and its owner Alan Huffman are barred from business in North Carolina. The defendants cannot advertise or collect payment from North Carolina consumers for antique restoration work, and cannot take advance payments for machine restoration work in the state.

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/Vending-machine-restorer-banned-from-operating-in.aspx>

April 26, 2016

Attorney General Roy Cooper Files Suit Over Kinston Charter School Mismanagement

Leaders of Kinston Charter Academy used public funds for themselves, state contends

The couple behind a former Kinston charter school misused public funds meant to educate students, Attorney General Roy Cooper contends in a lawsuit filed today.

Cooper's Consumer Protection Division today filed suit against Kinston Charter Academy, its CEO Ozie L. Hall, and the Chair of its Board Demyra McDonald-Hall. Kinston Charter Academy in Kinston closed its doors in September 2013 due to financial mismanagement, leaving 189 students without a school and teachers without jobs while still owed salary and benefits, according to the lawsuit.

<http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/AG-Cooper-files-suit-over-Kinston-charter-school-m.aspx>

OHIO

April 29, 2016

Attorney General Mike DeWine Sues Out-of-State Telemarketer for Misleading Ohioans about Computer Virus

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit against a telemarketer accused of tricking consumers into thinking their computers were infected with a virus in order to take their money. Dozens of consumers across Ohio are believed to have been affected.

According to the lawsuit, Prime Technologies LLC and operator Linda Brown Massey, of Greenwood, South Carolina, contacted consumers, told them their

computers had been hacked and were infected with a virus from Russia or Nigeria, and charged them anywhere from \$200 to more than \$15,000 to remove the virus and receive technical support.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2016/AG-DeWine-Sues-Out-of-State-Telemarketer-for-Misle>

April 28, 2016

Attorney General Mike DeWine Announces Home Improvement Contractor Accused of Failing to Deliver Services to Ohio Consumers

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit against a home improvement contractor accused of failing to deliver promised services to consumers in Ohio.

The lawsuit accuses Columbus-based 5 Star Remodeling LLC and owner Robert Turnquest of violating Ohio's Consumer Sales Practices Act.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2016/Home-Improvement-Contractor-Accused-of-Failing-to>

April 27, 2016

Attorney General DeWine Seeks Consumer Restitution from Toledo Gym

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit seeking restitution from a Toledo gym accused of closing without providing refunds to consumers.

The lawsuit accuses the business and owner behind Red Fitness, in Toledo, of multiple violations of Ohio consumer protection laws, including failing to provide refunds for unused gym memberships and continuing to withdraw payments from consumers' accounts after the gym closed.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Seeks-Consumer-Restitution>

April 14, 2016

Ohio Consumers to Receive Refunds under AG Settlement with Out-of-State Travel Companies

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced that consumers will receive refunds under a settlement with a group of out-of-state travel companies that held sales presentations at hotels in Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo.

Under the settlement, A2Z Vacations of Wyoming and related companies agree to pay more than \$44,000 over the next several months to reimburse 11 consumers who filed complaints after buying an A2Z travel club membership or attending a sales presentation. The companies also have agreed to pay a \$7,500 civil penalty and to comply with Ohio's consumer protection laws.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2016/Ohio-Consumers-to-Receive-Refunds-under-AG-Settlem>

April 12, 2016

Attorney General DeWine Seeks Reimbursement from Autos Direct Online

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit against Autos Direct Online for failing to deliver titles according to Ohio law.

The lawsuit seeks reimbursement to the Title Defect Rescission Fund and accuses Autos Direct Online and its owners Shawn R. Payne and Vincent Hugo of violating Ohio's Consumer Sales Practices Act.

Autos Direct Online operated at 4371 Pearl Road in Cleveland and sold used cars online to consumers in Ohio and across the country.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Seeks-Reimbursement-from-A>

OKLAHOMA

April 7, 2016

Attorney General Pruitt Charges Contractor with Embezzlement

Attorney General Scott Pruitt announced Thursday embezzlement charges filed against an Oklahoma roofing contractor.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit received a complaint against Ryan Christopher Veirs, regarding his businesses, The Veirs Group, LLC and Dr. Roofing, LLC. An investigation found that Veirs allegedly embezzled thousands of dollars from a Yukon family.

Veirs was hired by a Yukon resident for roof repairs. The resident, along with her bank and insurance companies, made a series of payments to Veirs, adding up to more than \$12,000 for materials and labor for the project. Unbeknownst to the resident, Veirs had subcontracted the project to another company. The subcontractor never received payments from Veirs, resulting in a lien placed on the resident's home.

Veirs is charged with one count of embezzlement. If convicted, Veirs faces up to five years in prison and fines of up to \$5,000.

https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=258&article_id=19964

OREGON

April 29, 2016

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum Sues Companies Trying to Scam Oregon Businesses

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins today announced a settlement against a fraudulent company, "Oregon State Compliance", that sent Oregon businesses a fake invoice. The phony invoice was made to look like it was from the State of Oregon. The invoice claimed it was for a labor law poster, but what the businesses did not know is that the state actually provides the poster for free online. Almost 300 businesses paid the fraudulent \$84 invoice for the poster.

In total, 293 Oregon businesses paid \$24,740.70 to the company. Through this settlement, all of the companies that paid the fake invoice will get their full

money back. The “Oregon State Compliance” company is also permanently banned from doing any future business in the state of Oregon.

<http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/Pages/2016/rel042916.aspx>

PENNSYLVANIA

April 28, 2016

Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane's Office Announces Representatives Of Chimney Cleaning Companies Allegedly Violated State Laws Through Telemarketing Practices

Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane's office today announced the filing of a civil lawsuit against a home chimney cleaning company and its owner. Evidence found by the Attorney General's office shows that representatives of the company and its affiliates made hundreds of thousands of unsolicited phone calls to people registered on Pennsylvania's Do Not Call list.

The lawsuit was filed by the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. It was filed against Adam Joyce and his business, Interstate Ventilation Inc. Joyce also operated under the business names of Lysco Contracting Inc. and Lysco Chimney Inc. The businesses offer home improvement services, such as chimney inspections and cleaning, and marketed the services through telemarketing.

https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2440

SOUTH DAKOTA

April 27, 2016

Attorney General Marty Jackley Out-of-State Transient Pavers Sentenced on Deceptive Trade Practices Violations

Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that Henry Josh Harrison, 46, Spiro, Oklahoma, Nailor L. Harrison Jr, 49, Carthage, Missouri and Billy Ray Jeffery, 54, Spiro, Oklahoma were sentenced for Deceptive Trade Practices regarding contractor work they were performing in several South Dakota counties.

<http://atg.sd.gov/News/NewsReleases/NewsReleasesView/tabid/441/itemID/3826/moduleID/597/Default.aspx>

WASHINGTON

April 7 2016

Attorney General Bob Ferguson Announces Sweep Halts Illegal Actions By Student Loan Adjustors, Secures Full Restitution

Nearly 350 Washington students to share in \$162,000 recovery

Attorney General Bob Ferguson today announced favorable resolutions for Washington consumers with six student loan debt adjustors that overcharged Washington state students and collected unlawful fees. Ferguson also obtained a default judgment against a seventh student loan debt adjustor for the same type of unfair and deceptive actions.

The six loan adjustors will pay a total of \$162,000 to refund Washington students for illegal charges and an additional \$56,000 for the Attorney General's costs and attorney's fees, as well as monitoring and future enforcement of the Consumer Protection Act.

All 346 Washington student victims will receive full refunds of the money they paid to the various companies. The Attorney General's Office will notify eligible consumers and distribute the refunds directly to them in July 2016.

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-sweep-halts-illegal-actions-student-loan-adjustors-secures-full-restitution>

WEST VIRGINIA

April 27, 2016

Attorney General Morrissey Files Lawsuit Against Jefferson County Contractor

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey this week filed suit against an Eastern Panhandle contracting operation, alleging two Jefferson County businesses and its owners violated the state's Consumer Credit and Protection Act.

The lawsuit targets Frederick Tarmon, Sr., and Frederick Tarmon, Jr., both doing business as Tarmon and Sons as well as Complete Handyman Service. Both men were arrested last week as part of an investigation by the Attorney General's Office and local partners in Charles Town.

<http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrissey-Files-Lawsuit-Against-Jefferson-County-Contractor.aspx>

April 25, 2016

Attorney General Morrissey Announces \$8M Settlement with Wells Fargo

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey today announced an \$8 million settlement with Wells Fargo to resolve a dispute that involved certain marketing practices of its predecessor, Acordia.

The settlement requires Wells Fargo to pay \$8 million to the Office of Attorney General on the state's behalf.

[http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrissey-Announces-\\$8M-Settlement-with-Wells-Fargo.aspx](http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrissey-Announces-$8M-Settlement-with-Wells-Fargo.aspx)

April 5, 2016

Attorney General Morrisey Announces \$4.9M Settlement with Rite Aid

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey today announced a \$4.9 million settlement with Rite Aid to resolve a dispute that involved cost savings derived from the sale of generic prescription drugs.

The settlement requires Rite Aid to pay \$4.9 million and implement a compliance program in accordance with the state's Pharmacy Act. The act requires pharmacies to pass retail savings from the sale of generic prescription drugs onto consumers.

[http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrisey-Announces-\\$4.9M-Settlement-with-Rite-Aid.aspx](http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrisey-Announces-$4.9M-Settlement-with-Rite-Aid.aspx)

MULTISTATE CASES AND SETTLEMENTS

April 28 2016

State Attorneys General And The Federal Government Recovers \$784.6 Million From Pharma Co. Wyeth's

Pharmaceutical company to pay \$784.6 million to federal government, states

Attorney General Bob Ferguson today announced the recovery of millions in overcharges to Washington by Wyeth, a pharmaceutical company owned by Pfizer, Inc. The agreement in principle resolves allegations the company knowingly underpaid rebates owed to Medicaid. After accounting for the federal government's Medicaid program share, Washington will receive \$22.9 million.

Wyeth is accused of underpaying rebates owed under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program for the sales of Protonix Oral and Protonix IV between 2001 and 2006. Both drugs are known as Proton Pump Inhibitors, which inhibit the production of gastric acid.

Wyeth agreed to pay a total of \$784.6 million back to the federal government and the intervening states. Washington's share totals \$46.7 million in federal and state Medicaid dollars. After accounting for the federal share of Washington's Medicaid program, \$22.9 million will come back to the state.

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-recovers-record-467-million-state-medicaid-program-pharma-co-wyeth-s>

MEDICAID FRAUD CASES AND SETTLEMENTS

ARKANSAS

April 27, 2016

Rutledge Announces Arrest of Two Crittenden County Women for Billing Medicaid for Services not Rendered

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced the arrest of a Marion woman and a West Memphis woman by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Pamela Pollard, 36, of Marion, was arrested on one count of Medicaid fraud. She is accused of billing for services not rendered from May to July 2014, totaling at least \$1,407.84, a Class C felony. Pollard is currently being held in the Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility on a \$2,500 bond. The Marion Police Department assisted in the arrest.

<http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-announces-medicaid-fraud-arrests-of-two-crittenden-county-women>

April 11, 2016

Attorney General Leslie Rutledge Announces Medicaid Fraud Arrest of Clark County Man

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge announced the arrest of a Clark County man by the Clark County Sheriff's Department in cooperation with the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Rodney Brothers Jr., 42, of Arkadelphia, was arrested on one count of abuse of an endangered or impaired person. Brothers is currently being held in the Clark County Jail awaiting arraignment. He is accused of assaulting a resident of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center, a Class D felony.

<http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-announces-medicaid-fraud-arrest-of-clark-county-man>

FLORIDA

April 19, 2016

Attorney General Pam Bondi Announces Two More Arrested in Fraud Scheme Involving Student Identity Information, One Still at Large

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, with the assistance of the Orlando Police Department, today arrested two individuals for participating in a scheme to defraud the Medicaid program using teenagers' personal identity information. Wendy Leiba of Longwood, 53, and Bobby Lyons of Winter Garden, 50, allegedly assisted Orlando-based companies to fraudulently bill Medicaid more than \$500,000 for services not rendered. An additional participant in this scheme, Brian Craig of Sanford, 40, is at large.

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/89FCB75437CB29CE85257F9A0064876D>

April 15, 2016

Attorney General Pam Bondi Announces Dentist Arrested After Billing Medicaid for Deceased Recipients

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit today announced the arrest of a Broward County dentist for allegedly billing the Medicaid program more than \$14,000 for services not rendered. Dr. Marino F. Vigna, 49, allegedly billed Medicaid for dentures that recipients never received and for tooth extractions Vigna never performed.

According to the investigation, Vigna billed for services performed at times he vacationed out of the country and on days he closed his dental office. Additionally, Vigna allegedly billed for services provided to recipients at a time after the recipients passed away.

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/5F481B9A4D5D4C0E85257F960063BDC0>

April 14, 2016

Attorney General Pam Bondi Announces Florida Couple Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud and Grand Theft

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit today announced the sentencing of a Palm Beach couple for Medicaid fraud and grand theft. David and Karen Bledsoe, owners of a durable medical equipment company named A Plus Medical Equipment and Supply, Inc., fraudulently billed the Medicaid program for more than \$40,000 in services and medical equipment never provided to Medicaid recipients.

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/71235345CD9630AE85257F950069D723>

April 12, 2016

Attorney General Pam Bondi Announces Two Arrested for Defrauding Medicaid out of more than \$100,000

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Miami-Dade Police Department today arrested two Miami-Dade County residents for allegedly billing the Medicaid program more than \$100,000 for in-home support services not rendered.

According to the investigation, David Krochmal, 43, owner of Peer Link Programs, and Cecilia Ines Krochmal, 47, operated a Home Health Agency that specialized in servicing individuals with developmental disabilities. Cecilia Krochmal, David Krochmal's sister-in-law, managed the day-to-day operations of the business. The defendants allegedly falsified service logs for individual Medicaid recipients to include in-home services, such as assisting with personal hygiene; however, told clients that the business could not afford to visit clients' homes to provide individual services. Instead, the defendants picked up multiple Medicaid recipients to participate in group activities on the weekends.

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/AEF869D3C38B849A85257F930048575B>

KENTUCKY

April 8, 2016

Attorney General Andy Beshear: Somerset Doctor Indicted on Medicaid Fraud

Indictment alleges doctor falsely billed for tobacco cessation counseling

Attorney General Andy Beshear and his Office of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse today announced the indictment and arrest of Dr. Ezekiel O. Akande, 57, of Somerset, on one count of Medicaid fraud and one count of theft by unlawful taking over \$500, both charges are Class D felonies.

Akande was indicted by a Pulaski County Grand Jury Wednesday, April 6. The indictment alleges that from April 2013 until December 2014 Akande billed \$300 or more to Medicaid for tobacco cessation counseling where the service was not performed, including where the patient was either a nonsmoker or a smoker who did not desire to quit smoking. Money was paid to Akande by Medicaid or a Managed Care Organization that he wasn't entitled to because he did not provide the service.

<http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=72>

LOUISIANA

April 25, 2016

Attorney General Jeff Landry Arrests Five for Medicaid Fraud in Louisiana

Attorney General Jeff Landry announced five people were arrested on defrauding the Medicaid program following investigations by his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

<https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx?articleID=2220&catID=2>

MISSISSIPPI

April 13, 2016

Attorney General Jim Hood Announces Madison Resident Arrested for Identity Theft and Medicaid Fraud

Brenda Faye Mason, 50, of Madison, has been arrested and faces charges for Medicaid fraud and identity theft, announced Attorney General Jim Hood today.

Mason turned herself in Tuesday to the Madison County Sheriff's Office following the indictment by a Madison County Grand Jury on multiple counts of Medicaid Fraud and one count of identity theft.

Mason is accused of willfully, unlawfully and feloniously presenting or causing to be presented, claims to Medicaid on behalf of Life Choices Community Health Services, knowing those claims to be false, fictitious or fraudulent. She is also accused of obtaining the personal identity information of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and using the information to make fraudulent claims to Medicaid for services that were false, fictitious and fraudulent. Claims were in excess of \$60,000 for a period from March 2, 2015, through March 31, 2105.

<http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/madison-resident-arrested-for-identity-theft-and-medicaid-fraud/>

MISSOURI

April 22, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster Announces Chillicothe Woman Pleads Guilty To Medicaid Fraud

Attorney General Chris Koster today announced that Sharyl Adams, 55, of Chillicothe, has pleaded guilty to two felony counts of Medicaid fraud, one felony count of forgery, and one felony count of fraudulent use of a debit device. Adams was ordered by the Pettis County Circuit Court to pay \$1,131.70 in restitution. The court also placed Adams on a five-year term of supervised probation.

<https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-announces-chillicothe-woman-pleads-guilty-to-medicaid-fraud>

April 19, 2016

Attorney General Chris Koster Obtains Additional \$245,660 For Missouri From Medicaid Fraud Settlement

-- APS Healthcare has now paid nearly \$3.9 million to Missouri --

Attorney General Chris Koster announced today that Missouri's Medicaid Fraud program recovered an additional \$505,681.50 for the state and federal government as a result of Universal American Corp's (UA) sale of APS Healthcare, Inc. (APS). More than \$240,000 of that amount will go to Missouri. The additional recovery is part of the March 17, 2015, settlement agreement between APS, the United States, and Missouri. Thus far, APS has paid nearly \$8 million to the state and federal government, with nearly \$3.9 million of that amount for Missouri.

A provision in the settlement agreement required APS to pay Missouri and the federal government 50 percent of the gross proceeds resulting from the sale of APS's domestic assets or business. UA, APS's parent company, sold APS on May 1, 2015 for \$5 million. Recently, UA received additional proceeds from the sale of APS that, pursuant to the settlement agreement, resulted in the additional payment to the United States and Missouri.

<https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-obtains-additional-for-missouri-from-medicaid-fraud-settlement>

NEW YORK

April 22, 2016

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman Announces Binghamton-Area Transport Company Owner Allegedly Bilked Medicaid For Over \$80k By Operating Without Valid License

Darin Cox Allegedly Ran Taxi Business Without Required Licenses; Illegally Obtained Over \$80K From Medicaid

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest and arraignment of Darin Cox, owner and operator of Broome Taxi, a transportation company in Broome County, for his allegedly fraudulent actions in obtaining over \$50,000.00 from the Medicaid system by operating his business without the licensing necessary to operate a taxicab in Broome County.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/binghamton-area-transport-company-owner-allegedly-bilked-medicaid-over-80k-operating>

April 21, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Arrest Of Mother And Daughter For Allegedly Bilking Medicaid For Home Health Services Not Provided

Mother And Daughter Accused Of Defrauding Medicaid By Submitting False Time Sheets For Services Not Provided To Relative

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman today announced the arrest and arraignment of Melinda Jones and Bertha Granderson, both of Rochester, for allegedly submitting phony time sheets to Maxim Health Care. Based on their false time sheets, Maxim Health Care unknowingly billed Medicaid for home health aide services Granderson did not perform for their relative.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-arrest-mother-and-daughter-allegedly-bilking-medicaid-home>

April 14, 2016

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Arrest Of Three-Quarter House Operators Yury And Rimma Baumblit On Charges Of Medicaid Fraud And Money Laundering

Yury Baumblit And Rimma Baumblit Accepted Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars In Kickbacks To Force Indigent Residents Living In “Three-Quarter Houses”

To Attend Medicaid Funded Drug Treatment Programs

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest of Yury and Rimma Baumblit yesterday, “three-quarter house” operators in New York City, on charges of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Money Laundering in the Second Degree, and violations of the Social Services Law prohibiting the payment of kickbacks related to the provision of services under the State’s Medicaid program. In addition to yesterday’s arrest, the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (“MFCU”) filed a False Claims Act lawsuit and other civil causes of action against Yury and Rimma Baumblit and others

seeking over \$1.9 million dollars in damages plus penalties. If convicted on all charges, Yury and Rimma Baumblyt face up to 15 years in prison.

<http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-arrest-three-quarter-house-operators-yury-and-rimma-baumblyt>

OKLAHOMA

April 26, 2016

Attorney General Scott Pruitt Charges Owner, Employees of OKC Counseling Office with Multiple Counts of Medicaid Fraud

Attorney General Scott Pruitt on Tuesday announced charges against the owner of an Oklahoma City counseling office and other staff members as well as the owner's mother.

Gina Lucille Redwine, of Oklahoma City, owned and operated Motivational Counseling Services, LLC, a behavioral health counseling agency. An investigation by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Attorney General's Office alleges that Redwine had not provided clients with counseling services but billed as if the services were provided. Instead, court documents allege, Redwine was paying individuals, without proper credentials, to perform the services in her place. Redwine along with Sally Cole, who was a Licensed Professional Counselor, submitted claims to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority as their own work, when it had actually been performed by the non-credentialed employees. Those individuals who are alleged to have received payment from Redwine are Charmetra and Dwight Reece, of Edmond and Redwine's mother, Gloria Willis, of Watonga. In total, Redwine and Cole had submitted claims adding up to more than \$99,000.

https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=258&article_id=20520

CONSUMER ADVOCACY

CALIFORNIA

April 28, 2016

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Issues Bulletin to California Law Enforcement Agencies Detailing Eviction Protections for Californians

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today issued an information bulletin to California law enforcement agencies to reinforce integral eviction procedures under the California Homeowner Bill of Rights. Under current California law, occupants of a foreclosed property who are not named in eviction documents - such as tenants - can present a “Claim of Right to Possession” form to temporarily stop the eviction process up to and including when the Sheriff comes to remove them from the property.

Following the 2012 national mortgage settlement, Attorney General Harris sponsored the landmark California Homeowner Bill of Rights (HBOR), which took effect on January 1, 2013. The legislation package included additional protections for homeowners and tenants facing foreclosure. Although HBOR has been in effect since 2013, advocacy groups have reported cases in which Sheriffs proceed with the eviction process despite being presented with a Claim of Right to Possession form. This bulletin provides guidance for Sheriffs performing evictions following a foreclosure.

<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-issues-bulletin-california-law-enforcement>

April 13, 2016

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Issues Consumer Alert Advising Students What to Look Out for when Applying for Student Loans

As students prepare to enroll in college this year and take out loans to pay for higher education, Attorney General Kamala D. Harris issued the following tips, encouraging Californians to know all the facts—and avoid potentially harmful scams—before taking on or paying off substantial student loans.

In advance of enrolling in a college or university, students should thoroughly research the types of financial aid they may qualify for and determine which loans, scholarships, grants, or work-study programs would be most beneficial to their personal situation. Student borrowers should be aware of factors that may impact their ability to repay student loans, such as changing the status of

student enrollment, future job prospects, the amount of interest accruing on loans, and any loan prepayment penalties.

<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-issues-consumer-alert-advising-students-what>

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 29, 2016

Attorney General Karl A. Racine Submits Bill to Fight Notario Fraud

Immigration Services Protection Act Would Help Protect Immigrants from Businesses Unlawfully Targeting Spanish-Speaking Communities

Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced today that he has submitted legislation to the Council of the District of Columbia to fight so-called *notario* fraud, which takes advantage of immigrant communities. In Latin America, *notarios* are often authorized to practice certain types of law. In the U.S., some have taken advantage of this fact and advertise themselves as *notarios* offering legal advice and services, though they are not authorized to do so in the United States. Many non-citizens pay hundreds of dollars only to find out that they will never obtain a green card, legal immigration status, or other crucial benefits because they received incorrect advice from an unqualified *notario* fraudster unlawfully working as an immigration lawyer.

<http://oag.dc.gov/release/attorney-general-submits-bill-fight-notario-fraud>

PENNSYLVANIA

April 4, 2016

Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane warns Pennsylvanians of lottery and sweepstakes scams

Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen G. Kane today warned consumers to be cautious of lottery and sweepstakes scams. Recently the Office of Attorney General has received several complaints from consumers regarding such scam calls.

https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2389

WEST VIRGINIA

April 8, 2016

Attorney General Morrissey to Consumers - Watch For Unusual Credit Card Fees

Attorney General Patrick Morrissey today warned consumers to keep an eye out for unusual credit card fees.

Based upon past history, consumers may be caught off guard by additional fees for late payments, non-sufficient funds and cash advances, as well as exceeding charge limits, accessing account information and automatic withdrawals for subscriptions or services that are no longer used.

<http://www.ago.wv.gov/pressroom/2016/Pages/Attorney-General-Morrissey-to-Consumers---Watch-For-Unusual-Credit-Card-Fees.aspx>