

THE STATE CENTER  
CONSUMER  
PROTECTION REPORT

December 2016

## About the State Center Consumer Protection Report

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The National State Attorneys General Program at Columbia Law School's Consumer Protection Report is now the State Center Consumer Protection Report ("Consumer Protection Report"). Published by [The Center for State Enforcement of Antitrust and Consumer Protection Laws](#) ("State Center") in partnership with [StateAG.org](#), the Consumer Protection Report is a monthly compilation of state attorney general press releases on local and national consumer protection efforts, including investigations, court cases, consumer alerts and advocacy initiatives. It makes no effort to prioritize, analyze or comment on the information presented in the press releases and their potential impact on consumers.

The Consumer Protection Report relies solely and exclusively on state attorney general press releases, and thus is not an exhaustive representation of state attorney general consumer protection activity.

The Consumer Protection Report is produced through the State Center's State AG Consumer Protection Initiative: a website featuring all current and previous editions of the Report and a database, allowing visitors to conduct key-word and drop-down menu searches of all previous editions. To visit the Initiative website, please visit [www.statecenterinc.org/cpi-newsletter](http://www.statecenterinc.org/cpi-newsletter).

- If an office would like their consumer protection activity included in subsequent newsletters, please [contact us](#).
- **Newsletter sign up:** To sign up for the monthly Consumer Protection Report, please [sign up here](#).



**For more information about the State Center and StateAG.org, please visit our websites:**

State Center: <http://www.statecenterinc.org>

StateAG.org: [www.stateag.org](http://www.stateag.org)

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## Consumer Protection Cases

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### ALABAMA

December 13, 2016

#### **AG Luther Strange Announces Settlement to Compensate Consumers and Reform Practices of Plumbin Company**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange today announced an agreement with a Jefferson County plumbing company to compensate certain wronged consumers and implement major reforms to its business practices. Attorney General Strange and the Alabama Plumbers and Gasfitters Examining Board have entered into a settlement with Plumbing 911 Inc. of Moody, and its owner and president, Tony C. Gowins of Talladega.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ago.alabama.gov/News-954>

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### ARIZONA

December 23, 2016

#### **Attorney General Brnovich Announces \$800,000 Settlement with Diamond Resorts**

PHOENIX - Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced today that the State of Arizona has entered into a settlement agreement with Diamond Resorts Corporation, a timeshare sales company with resorts located in the United States and internationally. The assurance of discontinuance requires Diamond to pay the State a total of \$800,000, of which \$650,000 will be used for consumer restitution and \$150,000 for the State's attorneys' fees and costs. The assurance also includes a relinquishment program, which requires Diamond to allow qualifying consumers, who no longer want their timeshares, to return them to Diamond with no further obligations.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/attorney-general-brnovich-announces-800000-settlement-diamond-resorts>

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December 22, 2016

#### **Preliminary Injunction Obtained Against AZ Real Estate Consulting Companies**

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced today his office won a Preliminary Injunction against a group of Arizona-based real estate consulting companies accused of scamming Arizona families. The Attorney General's Office filed a Consumer Fraud Lawsuit against ProSolutions LLC, and owner, Ruben Diaz, in March of 2016. The lawsuit alleges ProSolutions and Diaz preyed on Spanish-speaking families who wanted to buy a home...

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/preliminary-injunction-obtained-against-az-real-estate-consulting-companies>

December 13, 2016

### **Smoke Shop Workers Indicted**

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced the State Grand Jury indicted Iskandar Hallak and Saif Hallak on 13 felony charges related to selling illegal spice laced with fentanyl at a Tempe smoke shop.

- *Original Press Release: <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/smoke-shop-workers-indicted-accused-selling-spice-laced-fentanyl>*

December 08, 2016

### **AG Brnovich Files Brief to Protect AZ Consumers from Class Action Settlement Abuse**

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich, leading a bi-partisan coalition of 14 state Attorneys General from across the country, filed a brief in federal court to protect Arizona consumers from abuse in the class action settlement process. In the Amicus Brief, Attorney General Brnovich asked the court to reject a proposed class action settlement because the vast majority of the class members receive nothing of particular value from the deal, even as the class action attorneys collect almost \$3 million.

- *Original Press Release: <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/ag-brnovich-files-brief-protect-az-consumers-class-action-settlement-abuse>*

December 01, 2016

### **Auto Glass Company Agrees to 6 Year Ban on Telemarketing Calls**

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced an auto glass company is banned from making telemarketing calls for 6 years as part of a settlement in an Arizona Consumer Fraud Lawsuit. Under the settlement, Larmore Auto Glass, LLC admitted to placing illegal telemarketing calls to Arizonans listed on the National Do Not Call Registry. Larmore Auto Glass agreed to pay the State \$50,000 in civil penalties.

- *Original Press Release: <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/auto-glass-company-agrees-6-year-ban-telemarketing-calls>*

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## ARKANSAS

December 21, 2016

### **Rutledge Files Lawsuit Against NuCold Refrigeration**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today filed a consumer-protection lawsuit in Pulaski County Circuit Court against Morrilton-based NuCold Refrigeration Inc. and its owner, Jerry Collins of Plumerville. NuCold also conducts business under the names of RV Fridge House and RV Icebox.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-files-lawsuit-against-nucold-refrigeration>

December 21, 2016

### **Rutledge Files Suit Against Capital Credit Solutions**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge filed a consumer-protection lawsuit today against Florida-based Capital Credit Solutions Inc. and Willie J. McKenzie for multiple false and misleading representations made to Arkansans in order to urge them to purchase credit repair services.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-files-suit-against-capital-credit-solutions>

December 20, 2016

### **United Networks of America Violated Arkansas Law, Rutledge says**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge filed a consumer-protection lawsuit today against Louisiana-based United Networks of America Inc. for multiple law violations, including statutes governing health-related cash discount cards.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/united-networks-of-america-violated-arkansas-law-rutledge-says>



December 17, 2016

### **Rutledge Files Lawsuit Against Vancurens Auto Sales**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today filed a consumer-protection lawsuit in Pulaski County Circuit Court against northwest Arkansas-based Vancurens Auto Sales LLC, Infinity Auto Sales Inc., Infinity Towing and Recovery Inc., John Michael Vancuren, Michelle Nicole Vancuren and their officers and owners.

- *Original Press Release: <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-files-lawsuit-against-vancurens-auto-sales>*

December 16, 2016

### **Rutledge Files Suit Against NorthStar Alarm Services**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge filed a consumer-protection lawsuit today against NorthStar Alarm Services LLC for violations of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the Arkansas Home Solicitation Sales Act among others. NorthStar, which engages in door-to-door sales across Arkansas, subjects consumers to illegal high pressure sales tactics, often misrepresenting its affiliation with other alarm companies and failing to disclose the length and full cost of the proposed service agreements and contract.

- *Original Press Release: <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-files-suit-against-northstar-alarm-services>*

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## CALIFORNIA

December 20, 2016

### **Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, California Air Resources Board Announce \$66 Million Agreement with Volkswagen Over “Defeat Devices” in 3.0-Liter Diesel Vehicles**

SAN FRANCISCO - Attorney General Kamala D. Harris and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) today announced an additional \$66 million settlement with Volkswagen over the company’s use of “defeat device” software to bypass emissions controls in its Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche 3.0-liter diesel vehicles, in violation of California’s environmental laws.

- *Original Press Release: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-california-air-resources-board-announce-66>*

December 07, 2016

**Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Announces Criminal Charges Against Oswaldo Rafael Cabrera of Coalición Latinoamericana Internacional for Defrauding Immigrants**

LOS ANGELES – Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today announced felony charges against Oswaldo Rafael Cabrera, owner and operator of a Los Angeles-based business known as the Coalicion Latinoamericana Internacional (CLI), for defrauding immigrants. Cabrera, who is not licensed as an attorney in California, is charged with 22 counts of grand theft, attempted grand theft, attempted perjury, and conspiracy to engage in the unlawful practice of law. Charges have also been filed against his wife, Maria Marcelina Rodas.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-announces-criminal-charges-against-oswaldo>

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FLORIDA

December 28, 2016

**Tampa Area Family and Pastor Arrested on Multiple Charges of Financial Fraud**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Attorney General Pam Bondi, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Office of Financial Regulation today announced the arrest of Miguel Angel Perez, his wife Maritza Belinda Perez, their sons Miguel Angel Perez III and Jonathan Alexander Perez, as well as their family pastor, Mark Timothy Huba. The group was arrested on charges related to racketeering, grand theft, money laundering, unlicensed practice of law and operating an unlicensed assisted living facility in connection with the sale of purported real estate investment offerings in Pasco, Pinellas, and Hernando counties.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/4B2177D4C9F36D3885258097006F43FC>

December 22, 2016

**Attorney General Bondi Takes Action Against Timeshare Resale Company**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi filed a civil consumer protection lawsuit against a timeshare resale company and its owners for allegedly making false promises regarding the resale of timeshares. The action alleges violations of the Florida’s Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and the state’s Timeshare Resale Accountability Act. The defendants in the suit are J. William Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Pro Timeshare Resales, Pro Timeshare Resales, LLC and Pro Timeshare Resales of Flagler Beach LLC and Jess W. Kinmont and John P. Wenz, Jr. The Federal Trade Commission also filed a separate action...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/FDFE53C158A9D5E585258091007285F2>

December 22, 2016

**Attorney General Bondi Takes Action Against Alleged Price Gougers Following Hurricane Matthew**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today announced three actions filed against lodging businesses in the Tampa Bay area alleging price gouging during the State of Emergency declared for Hurricane Matthew.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/69FF2CE0FB21B56C8525809100595043>

December 22, 2016

**Attorney General Bondi and FTC Settle Another Tech Support Scam Case**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Federal Trade Commission today announced a settlement with Inbound Call Experts, LLC also d/b/a Advanced Tech Support; Advanced Tech Supportco, LLC; PC Vitalware, LLC; Super PC Support, LLC and the owners of Inbound Call Experts, Robert D. Deignan, Paul M. Herdsman and Justin M. Wright. In November 2014, Attorney General Bondi’s Office and the FTC filed a complaint against the defendants for deceptively marketing tech support services and computer software.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/6AF86282FB82D9D4852580910055A941>

December 01, 2016

### **Florida Reaches Settlement with Travel Company**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today announced a settlement reached with Grand Incentives, a Sarasota-based corporation doing business as Coast to Coast Giveaways, Take Two Nights and Jose L. Martinez. In December 2015, Attorney General Bondi’s Office filed a civil action against Grand Incentives following an investigation into allegations that the travel company engaged in unfair and deceptive practices.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/B23B963BCDA666EB8525807C007212BB>

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## ILLINOIS

December 15, 2016

### **Madigan Sues Cook County Home Repair Businesses for Defrauding Homeowners**

CHICAGO — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced lawsuits against two Cook County home repair businesses for collecting at least \$70,000 from homeowners for repair work that was substandard, incomplete or never started at all. Madigan’s office filed lawsuits against ROK Roofing & Siding Co. (ROK) and ROK’s president, Jung Soo Hwang; and Defender Steel Door Co. Inc., doing business as Defender Door and Window Company and Defender Steel Door Co., and its president, Robert Bianco. Both businesses were dissolved by the Secretary of State.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016\\_12/20161215.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016_12/20161215.html)

December 14, 2016

### **Madigan Charges McHenry County Man for Theft and Bank Fraud After Luring Couple into Mortgage Refinancing Scam**

CHICAGO —Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced charges against a McHenry County man for defrauding a couple who was struggling to keep their home by deceiving them with a mortgage refinancing scam.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016\\_12/20161214.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016_12/20161214.html)

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## IOWA

December 14, 2016

### **Nevada Seller of “Beat the Lottery” and “Beat the House” Schemes to Stop Targeting Iowans, Pay \$5,000**

DES MOINES – The owner of three companies behind fraudulent direct mailings claiming guaranteed ways to beat lotteries, slot machines and other forms of gambling, will cease targeting Iowa consumers, issue refunds to Iowans, and pay the state \$5,000.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/nevada-seller-of-beat-the-lottery-and-beat-the-house-schemes-to-stop-targeting-iowans-pay-500/>

December 13, 2016

### **“Predatory” Mass Mail Operation Permanently Barred from Targeting Iowans**

DES MOINES – A New York company will cease mail marketing to Iowans to resolve a consumer fraud lawsuit filed by Attorney General Tom Miller. Polk County District Court Judge Brad McCall Monday approved a consent judgment that resolves Miller’s lawsuit, filed in September, against Waverly Direct Inc., and owner Gordon F. Shearer, of East Rockaway, New York. The suit alleged the company solicited older Iowans with bogus notices of financial winnings and then sold customer lists to con artists.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/predatory-mass-mail-operation-permanently-barred-from-targeting-iowans/>

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## KANSAS

December 20, 2016

### **Attorney General Derek Schmidt: Kansans may be eligible for payment under recent pharmaceutical settlement**

TOPEKA – (December 20, 2016) – Kansans who bought the wakefulness drug Provigil may be eligible for part of a \$35 million settlement, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said. Consumers who purchased generic versions may also be eligible. Kansas was part of a settlement in August with Cephalon, Inc., and its affiliated companies.

The settlement included Kansas and 47 other states that filed a lawsuit asserting the manufacturer violated antitrust laws. Affected consumers can submit claims beginning this month.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/20/attorney-general-derek-schmidt-kansans-may-be-eligible-for-payment-under-recent-pharmaceutical-settlement>

December 16, 2016

**AG Derek Schmidt: Three roofing companies temporarily banned from doing business in Kansas**

TOPEKA – (December 16, 2016) – Three roofing contractors have been prohibited from doing business in Kansas by temporary court orders pending the outcome of lawsuits filed against the companies in October for violating the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and Kansas Roofing Registration Act, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

- *Original Press Release: <http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/16/ag-derek-schmidt-three-roofing-companies-temporarily-banned-from-doing-business-in-kansas>*

December 09, 2016

**AG Derek Schmidt: Lawrence roofer ordered to pay \$46,000 in restitution, banned from doing business**

LAWRENCE – (December 9, 2016) – A Lawrence roofer has been ordered to repay more than \$46,000 to consumers for violating the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, Attorney General Derek Schmidt said. Aaron Joshua Damm, who did business as Kaw Valley Roofing, has been ordered by Douglas County District Court Judge James McCabria to repay \$46,143.70 to eight consumers. The court also prohibited Damm from advertising, soliciting or selling any services, goods or property – and specifically barred him from engaging in door-to-door sales – in Kansas until the restitution is paid in full.

- *Original Press Release: [http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/09/ag-derek-schmidt-lawrence-roofer-ordered-to-pay-\\$46-000-in-restitution-banned-from-doing-business](http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/09/ag-derek-schmidt-lawrence-roofer-ordered-to-pay-$46-000-in-restitution-banned-from-doing-business)*

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## KENTUCKY

December 14, 2016

**Beshear: Daymar to Refund \$1.2 Million to 3,500 Former Kentucky Students**

FRANKFORT, KY. (Dec. 14, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today announced nearly 3,500 former students of Daymar College’s Kentucky campuses and online programs will this week begin receiving restitution checks totaling \$1.2 million.

- *Original Press Release: <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=232>*

December 05, 2016

**Beshear Transfers \$2.8 million in Settlement Money to State's General Fund**

FRANKFORT, KY. (Dec. 5, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today announced he will transfer nearly \$2.8 million in the state's General Fund from his office's settlement with Volkswagen.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=223>

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## MASSACHUSETTS

December 20, 2016

**Burlington Woman Sentenced to Jail, Ordered to Pay Up to \$570,000 for Billing Public Agencies for Unlicensed Mental Health Services**

WOBURN – A Burlington woman has been sentenced to jail and ordered to pay up to \$570,000 in restitution for stealing from public agencies by billing for unlicensed psychological services, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-12-20-burlington-woman-sentenced-.html>

December 19, 2016

**Former Group Insurance Commission Finance Director Pleads Guilty, Sentenced for Stealing More Than \$122,000**

BOSTON – The former Director of the Finance Division of the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) has pleaded guilty and has been sentenced in connection with stealing more than \$122,000 from the agency, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-12-19-gic-director-sentenced-.html>

December 19, 2016

### **North Attleboro Pesticide Company to Change Advertising Practices After Deceptive Marketing Allegations**

BOSTON – A North Attleboro-based pesticide company and its franchisees in Wilmington, Hanover, and Westfield have agreed to change their advertising practices and pay penalties to the state to resolve allegations that they misrepresented the potential impact of their pesticide spraying practices on the environment and public health, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/pesticide-company-to-change-advertising.html>

December 07, 2016

### **South Shore Used Car Dealership to Cease Operations, Owner to Pay Restitution to Consumers for Selling Unsafe Motor Vehicles**

BOSTON – A South Shore used car business will cease operations and its owner will pay restitution after they were sued for selling unsafe and unreliable used cars, failing to make repairs which were promised or required under warranties, and operating in unlicensed locations, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. “This dealership scammed hard-working Massachusetts residents who were looking for a good deal and sold vehicles that put consumers’ lives, families, and others at risk,” AG Healey said. “Not only were these vehicles dangerous, many of the drivers were left with unreliable or unusable cars and significant debt.”

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/car-dealership-to-cess-operations-owner-to-pay.html>

December 02, 2016

### **Real Estate Company Resolves Claims of Failing to Accommodate Tenants with Disabilities**

BOSTON – A Haverhill-based real estate company has agreed to pay up to \$70,000 to resolve allegations that it failed to accommodate two tenants with disabilities at an Andover apartment complex, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. The consent judgment, entered in Suffolk Superior Court, resolves allegations that Andover Portland Avenue Associates, LLC (Andover Portland) violated state antidiscrimination and consumer protection laws by failing to making reasonable modifications to accommodate tenants with disabilities residing at the “Casco Crossing” apartment complex in Andover.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/real-estate-company-resolves-claims-of-failing-to-accommodate-tenants-with-disabilities.html>



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## MICHIGAN

December 21, 2016

### **Schuetze Files Cease and Desist Against Dearborn-based Fundraiser for Illegally Operating Clothing Donation Bins**

LANSING - Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuetze today announced a Notice of Intended Action and Cease and Desist Order against professional fundraiser Golden Recyclers, Inc., alleging over 2,000 violations of the Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849\\_47203-400382--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-400382--,00.html)

December 14, 2016

### **Schuetze: Ottawa County Man Pleads No Contest to Running \$1.5 Million Ponzi Scheme**

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuetze today announced that Scott Rookus, of Jenison, has pleaded no contest to two felony charges, one count of Racketeering and one count of Fraudulent Sale of Securities in relation to his role in running a million dollar Ponzi scheme between 2010 and 2015. “Many of this man’s victims were seniors on a fixed income,” said Schuetze. “Today’s plea brings us one step closer to finding relief for those who were affected by this illegal Ponzi scheme.”

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849\\_47203-399501--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-399501--,00.html)

December 01, 2016

### **Up to 20 years in Prison for Former CEO of Veterans Credit Union Who Stole Millions, Will Also Pay \$1.9 Million in Restitution**

LANSING — Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuetze today announced that Fuataina Afutiti, of Westland, has been sentenced to 30 months to up to 20 years in prison for stealing nearly \$2 million dollars from the Veterans Health Administration Credit Union. The former President and CEO of the credit union used the stolen funds for her personal use including leasing luxury cars, gambling and financing personal vacations. “This person not only took advantage of her position within the credit union but took advantage of military veterans, many of who are disabled or on a fixed income,” said Schuetze.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849\\_47203-398452--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-398452--,00.html)

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## MINNESOTA

December 19, 2016

### **Attorney General Swanson Sues Fence Company That Kept Prepayments From Customers For Fences It Never Actually Installed.**

Attorney General Lori Swanson recently filed a lawsuit against Alpine Fence Company, LLC (“Alpine”) under Minnesota’s consumer protection laws for allegedly soliciting large prepayments from customers for fences it never subsequently built. The company’s owner, Chad Thompson, is also named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/PressRelease/20161215Alpine.asp>

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## MISSOURI

December 16, 2016

### **AG Koster announces the conviction of Christopher Hanson of securities fraud**

Jefferson City, Mo. – Attorney General Chris Koster announces that Christopher Hanson, owner of Hanson Holdings, LLC and IBS Investments, LLC pleaded guilty to one count of securities fraud and two counts of violations of securities law related to an investment scheme he perpetrated. Hanson had previously been served with a cease and desist order issued by the Missouri Securities Commissioner after Hanson had sold over one million dollars in securities despite Hanson not being licensed to sell securities in Missouri and the securities not being registered.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/ag-koster-announces-the-conviction-of-christopher-hanson-of-securities-fraud>

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## NEVADA

December 07, 2016

### **Attorney General Laxalt Announces Grand Jury Indictment against Two Defendants for Investment Scam**

Las Vegas, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that Shane Allan Unruh, 43, and Brian James Oney, 46, were indicted by the Clark County Grand Jury on 12 felony charges for convincing multiple individuals to purchase vehicles purportedly for use by Uber drivers.

➤ *Original Press Release:* [http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney\\_General\\_Laxalt\\_Announces\\_Grand\\_Jury\\_Indictment\\_against\\_Two\\_Defendants\\_for\\_Investment\\_Scam/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Grand_Jury_Indictment_against_Two_Defendants_for_Investment_Scam/)

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## NEW JERSEY

December 23, 2016

### **Former Union County Insurance Agent Charged With Assuming Insureds' Identities to Fraudulently Submit Additional Policies in Their Names to Collect Commissions**

TRENTON – A former Union County insurance agent has been charged with assuming the identities of former clients to fraudulently apply for new life insurance policies in order to collect commissions on the policies. Marta Cristina Cunha, 36, of Union Township, was charged with second-degree insurance fraud, second-degree identity theft, and third-degree theft by deception in the alleged scheme that involved at least seven individuals she submitted policies for while working with American Income Life Insurance Company (“American Income”).

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161223a.html>

December 16, 2016

### **New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Cites 21 Unlicensed Movers Nabbed in “Operation Mother’s Attic” Undercover Sting**

NEWARK – The Division of Consumer Affairs today announced it has cited 21 unlicensed moving companies and fined each \$2,500, following “Operation Mother’s Attic,” a covert sting in which Division investigators posed as consumers to catch moving companies suspected of operating without a license. The undercover initiative was conducted in late October at a public storage facility in Bernardsville, where movers advertising on various websites were booked for a “job” transporting personal possessions from the storage facility to another location in the state.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161216a.html>

December 13, 2016

### **Bergen County Man Charged with Attempting to Collect a Payout on a \$500,000 Life Insurance Policy He Had Fraudulently Obtained in the Name of a Stranger**

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) announced that a Bergen County man has been charged in an insurance fraud scheme in which he allegedly used the death of an acquaintance to try to cash in a \$500,000 insurance policy he had fraudulently obtained in the name of another man.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161213a.html>

December 06, 2016

**Former Motor Vehicle Inspector and Two Current Inspectors Indicted in Alleged Scheme to Use Data Simulators to Falsify Emissions Tests**

TRENTON –Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced that a former motor vehicle inspector and two current inspectors have been indicted on charges that they fraudulently used a data simulator to generate false results for motor vehicle emissions inspections, which rely on data from onboard diagnostic systems. Two car owners also were charged in the indictment for allegedly having data simulators used to generate passing results for their own vehicles that had failed emissions inspections.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161206a.html>

December 02, 2016

**New Jersey Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs, and Department of Banking and Insurance File Action Against Three North Jersey Individuals and Their Companies for Allegedly Defrauding Financially Distressed Consumers Who Paid for Mortgage Forec**

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino, the Division of Consumer Affairs, and the Department of Banking and Insurance have filed an action against three North Jersey individuals and the companies they operated, for allegedly defrauding financially strapped consumers who paid for mortgage foreclosure rescue services to save their homes from foreclosure.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161202b.html>

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## NEW MEXICO

December 21, 2016

**AG Files Federal Lawsuit against California Ring Preying on New Mexicans Facing Foreclosure**

Santa Fe, NM - Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that he filed a federal civil action against a group of individuals and businesses, located in California, who were taking advantage of New Mexicans facing foreclosure. The complaint alleges that the group violated state and federal consumer protection laws by sending deceptive mass mailings to over 4,400 New Mexico homeowners offering foreclosure relief and loan modification.

➤ *Original Press Release:*  
[http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG\\_Files\\_Federal\\_Lawsuit\\_against\\_California\\_Ring\\_Preying\\_on\\_New\\_Mexicans\\_Facing\\_Foreclosure.pdf](http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Files_Federal_Lawsuit_against_California_Ring_Preying_on_New_Mexicans_Facing_Foreclosure.pdf)

December 08, 2016

### **Attorney General Files Suit in Massive Real Estate Contract Scheme; Issues Consumer Alert for Real Estate Contracts**

Albuquerque, NM- This morning, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that he filed a lawsuit against Jesus Cano for an alleged real estate contract and mortgage scheme involving potentially hundreds of victims and properties in Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia Counties. The lawsuit alleges Mr. Cano and his associates perpetrated fraud and would prey on Spanish-speaking and Hispanic communities in central New Mexico taking anywhere from \$1,000 to \$46,000 from victims with the empty promise of owning a home. Many times the victims would find themselves in substandard homes that they would have to make repairs on themselves just to lose all their money without a getting the title to the home.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG\\_Files\\_Suit\\_in\\_Massive\\_Real\\_Estate\\_Contract\\_Scheme%3B\\_Issues\\_Consumer\\_Alert\\_for\\_Real\\_Estate\\_Contracts\\_1.pdf](http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Files_Suit_in_Massive_Real_Estate_Contract_Scheme%3B_Issues_Consumer_Alert_for_Real_Estate_Contracts_1.pdf)

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## NEW YORK

December 23, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$25,000 Fine For Rochester Home Health Care Company That Unlawfully Obtained Private Patient Information For Use In Commercial Marketing Push**

ROCHESTER - Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that All American Home Care, a home care services agency, will pay a \$25,000 fine after an investigation by the AG's office found that the company obtained personal contact information of patients at a competing agency for use in a commercial marketing effort. In addition to the fine, the company agreed as part of a settlement with the AG's office to stop using patients' private information for commercial purposes without the patients' prior consent.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-25000-fine-rochester-home-health-care-company-unlawfully>

December 22, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Agreement Barring Tanning Salon Chain From Making Misleading Health Claims**

NEW YORK - Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a court-ordered settlement with Portofino Spas, LLC, a New York Company that provides indoor tanning services at 5 Manhattan locations, which resolves a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General in April 2015 over the misrepresenting the health effects of indoor tanning. The agreement prohibits

Portofino from making health claims and ensures the company will comply with New York State and New York City tanning regulations. Portofino has agreed to pay \$300 per day for any future health misrepresentations and for each future violation of New York tanning laws.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-agreement-barring-tanning-salon-chain-making-misleading-0>

December 21, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Suit Against Brooklyn Telemarketing Firm Under Investigation For Possible Deceptive Fundraising Practices And Harassment**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a suit to compel Brooklyn professional fundraiser, Menacola Marketing, d/b/a Neighborhood Outreach (“Menacola”), and the husband and wife team that ran it -- president and owner, Katherine DeGregorio, and Joseph DeGregorio, vice president – to comply with an ongoing fraud investigation. From 2010 to 2015 Menacola reported raising donations of \$5.04 million from New York donors from the approximately twenty charities it represented. During this same period Menacola retained, on average, 85% of the donations, or at least \$4.4 million, for its fundraising services.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-suit-against-brooklyn-telemarketing-firm-under-investigation>

December 16, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Deutsche Bank Will Pay \$37 Million Penalty For Fraudulent Order Routing Practices – The Latest Case Stemming From A.G.’s Insider Trading 2.0 Initiative**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc. will pay a combined \$37 million to the State of New York and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) to settle investigations into false statements and omissions made in connection with the marketing of Deutsche Bank’s electronic equities order routing services, known as its “Dark Pool Ranking Model.”

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-deutsche-bank-will-pay-37-million-penalty-fraudulent-order>

December 14, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Legal Document Company For Multiple Violations Of Court Orders**

WATERTOWN – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announces a Consent Order and Judgment resolving civil and criminal contempt actions brought by the Attorney General against Derek Distenfield and his businesses related to multiple violations of prior court orders. The Order, signed by Supreme Court Justice James P. McClusky, permanently bars Distenfield from conducting any legal document preparation business for New York consumers unless certain consumer protection conditions are met. Distenfield's business, NextGenJustice, (formerly known as Legal Docs By Me), offered legal documents prepared by non-lawyers in store locations in Watertown and Syracuse.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-legal-document-company-multiple-violations-court>*

December 13, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman, DOI Commissioner Peters And DFS Superintendent Vullo Announce Indictments Of 13 Current And Former City Fire And Police Department Employees In Half Million Dollar Supplemental Insurance Fraud Scams**

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters and New York State Department of Financial Services Superintendent Maria T. Vullo today announced the indictments of 13 public employees in Queens and Brooklyn, including New York City Police Department Traffic Agents and FDNY EMT's, Lieutenants, and Paramedics for allegedly committing insurance fraud against the American Family Life Assurance Company ("AFLAC").

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-doi-commissioner-peters-and-dfs-superintendent-vullo-announce>*

December 09, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Announces Indictment Charging Albany Insurance Broker And Wife With Life Insurance Fraud Scam**

ALBANY – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced the arraignment today of Lawrence D. Rosenbaum, 65, and his wife, Thomasine Henderson, 65, both of Albany, New York, on a ten-count indictment charging them with stealing over \$12,000 in life insurance payments and attempting to wrongfully obtain nearly \$50,000 in life insurance payments

by submitting false claims with respect to the death of their son.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-indictment-charging-albany-insurance-broker-and-wife-life>*

December 08, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Announces Lawsuit Against Rochester Home Improvement Contractor For Allegedly Defrauding Consumers**

ROCHESTER – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that his office filed legal action seeking a permanent injunction against a Rochester-based home improvement contractor who contracted to perform home improvement contracting services for consumers Rochester area.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-lawsuit-against-rochester-home-improvement-contractor>*

December 08, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$1.6 Million Settlements With Auto Dealerships That Illegally Charged Thousands Of Customers For Hidden Purchases**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the settlement of a lawsuit against SG Hylan Motors Corp., a Staten Island dealership doing business as Staten Island Honda and Staten Island Nissan (collectively “SG Hylan”) and a separate settlement with Best Auto Outlet, Inc. (“Best Auto”) located in Floral Park. The SG Hylan settlement resolves a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General in July 2016, which alleged that these auto dealerships unlawfully sold “after-sale” products and services, including credit repair and identity theft protection services, to over 2,300 consumers, sometimes exceeding a cost of \$2,000 per consumer.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-16-million-settlements-auto-dealerships-illegally-charged>*

December 06, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Files Motion To Dismiss And Motion To Quash In Northern District Of Texas In Response To Exxon’s Efforts To Interfere With NY AG’S Fraud Investigation**

DALLAS, TX - New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman filed a Motion to Dismiss (“MTD”) Exxon’s lawsuit against NYAG in the Northern District of Texas on Monday evening.



NYAG also filed a Motion to Quash (“MTQ”) Exxon’s related requests for discovery.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-files-motion-dismiss-and-motion-quash-northern-district-texas-response>*

December 05, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Indictment Of Brooklyn Man Charged With Fraudulently Holding Himself Out As An Attorney**

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the indictment of Mikhail Perlov for allegedly defrauding unsuspecting clients, particularly in the Russian community, by passing himself off as a licensed attorney. From 2013 to 2016, Perlov allegedly held himself out as a lawyer in New York, defrauding multiple victims of tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. Perlov allegedly continued his illegal practice of law despite entering into a Consent Order and Judgment with the Attorney General’s Office in September 2015, which permanently banned him from misrepresenting himself as an attorney.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-indictment-brooklyn-man-charged-fraudulently-holding-himself>*

December 02, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Medrite Urgent Care And Carmel For Paying For Positive Reviews Online**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with medical emergency care service MedRite Care, LLC, d/b/a Medrite Urgent Care (“Medrite”) for paying for positive reviews on consumer-review websites. Over a 2-year period, Medrite paid thousands of dollars to internet advertising companies and freelance writers to write positive reviews of Medrite on consumer-review websites such as Yelp.com. Medrite never required that the reviewers visit its facilities and experience its services, and never required the reviewers to disclose that they were paid for the review.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-medrite-urgent-care-and-carmel-paying-positive>*

December 01, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Furniture Company That Held Deceptive Sale**

ROCHESTER – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with a Henrietta-based furniture company for engaging in deceptive acts and making false statements in its advertisements. Specifically, York Furniture Centers, Inc. advertised that they were holding a Warehouse Closing sale when in fact it did not intend to close its warehouse and while continuing to receive pieces of furniture, which is a violation of New York State law.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-furniture-company-held-deceptive-sale>*

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## NORTH CAROLINA

December 13, 2016

### **Home Repair Company Barred From Business in NC, AG Cooper Says**

Raleigh: A repair company that bilked Triad consumers out of cash deposits but never completed the work is now banned from business in North Carolina, Attorney General Roy Cooper said today. “Avoid doing business with anyone who shows up at your home and asks you to pay for repair work in advance,” Cooper said. “Don’t get rushed into paying for home repairs, and never hire contractors to work on your home without checking them out thoroughly.”

- *Original Press Release: <http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/Home-repair-company-barred-from-business-in-NC,-AG.aspx>*

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## OHIO

December 12, 2016

### **Attorney General DeWine Seeks Consumer Restitution from Roofer Accused of Failing to Deliver Services**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit against a Columbus roofer accused of failing to provide promised services to consumers. The lawsuit seeks consumer restitution from Diamond Set Roofing & Restoration LLC and the business’s owner, Diamond Murphy, of Columbus. It also seeks an end to any violations of Ohio’s consumer protection laws by the company. According to the lawsuit, Murphy and her company offered home improvement services and solicited consumers at their homes. After consumers paid, the company allegedly failed to deliver the promised services or provided shoddy work. The company also allegedly failed to properly notify consumers about their cancellation rights.

- *Original Press Release: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Seeks-Consumer-Restitution>*

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## PENNSYLVANIA

December 21, 2016

### **Settlement with West Chester rental companies calls for restitution for certain consumers**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced a legal settlement with two rental companies alleged to have illegally imposed fees on West Chester University students leasing luxury apartments.

The settlement was reached with West Chester Commons, L.P., College Arms, L.P., and Walters Pennsylvania 1, Inc., the general partner of the other two companies. The settlement is the result of an investigation conducted by the Attorney General’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. The settlement alleges the companies, which offered housing to students at the West Chester Commons and College Arms apartment complexes, violated the Landlord Tenant Act and the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2955](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2955)

December 21, 2016

### **Former insurance company employee charged with illegally obtaining prescription drugs**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced the filing of criminal charges against a Luzerne county woman accused of illegally obtaining prescription drugs, in part by stealing the identities of patients through the insurance company where she was employed.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2959](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2959)

December 20, 2016

**Two midstate chiropractors charged with defrauding insurance companies of \$150K**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced the arrests of two midstate-area chiropractors accused of orchestrating a scheme that defrauded insurance companies out of approximately \$150,000.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2952](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2952)

December 20, 2016

**AG Beemer: Lancaster Co. company failed to complete home improvement projects for which it was paid**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced the filing of a consumer protection lawsuit against a Lancaster County company and its owner following allegations that the company accepted large sums of money from consumers for home improvement projects that were never completed. The lawsuit against Shawn Gerety and BuildTRENDS Construction LLC alleges violations of the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act and the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law... According to the lawsuit, Gerety, the sole employee of his company, used deposits from consumers to pay for personal luxury items, such as vehicle loans, semi-custom clothing, meals and entertainment.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2953](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2953)

December 20, 2016

**Office of Attorney General files lawsuit against Erie home improvement contractor**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced the filing of a civil lawsuit against an Erie County home improvement contractor who allegedly engaged in unfair and deceptive business practices. The lawsuit against Lloyd A. Davis and his company, LD Construction, LLC, is the result of an investigation by the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. According to the lawsuit, in certain cases Davis accepted substantial deposits for home improvement projects, but failed to perform the work for which he was paid.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2954](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2954)

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## RHODE ISLAND

December 07, 2016

### **Two Plead to Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fraud**

Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin announced that two individuals pleaded nolo contendere recently to unemployment insurance benefit fraud with court-ordered restitution of approximately \$45,000.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/29128>

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## TENNESSEE

December 05, 2016

### **Lawsuit filed against Individuals in Government Imposter Scheme**

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III, along with Secretary of State Tre Hargett and Division of Consumer Affairs Director Cynthia Wiel, today announced the filing of a lawsuit in Davidson County Chancery Court against three individuals for violating the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act. According to the lawsuit, Chad Davis and Joshua Strawn of Florida and Tate Howe of California have been doing business in Tennessee as Division of Corporate Services and Annual Business Services over the past few years. Multiple businesses, registered with the Tennessee Secretary of State, have reported receiving a solicitation from the two private companies. The companies offer to create annual corporate meeting minutes for a fee of up to \$150.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/news/47246#sthash.GYtjllct.dpuf>

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## VERMONT

December 08, 2016

### **Osterman propane to pay \$23,000 to settle Consumer protection claims**

Osterman Propane, LLC, a Massachusetts company, has agreed to pay \$15,778 to 89 Vermont consumers and \$7,500 to the State of Vermont to settle claims that the company violated Vermont consumer protection laws. The Attorney General found that, since 2012, Osterman did not disclose fees to certain commercial propane users, even though Vermont's propane law required the disclosures.

➤ *Original Press Release:* [http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/osterman-propane-to-pay-\\$23000-to-settle-consumer-protection-claims.php](http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/osterman-propane-to-pay-$23000-to-settle-consumer-protection-claims.php)

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## VIRGINIA

December 09, 2016

### **Refund Checks Issued to Alarm Company Victims**

RICHMOND (December 9, 2016) -Attorney General Mark R. Herring today issued refund checks totaling \$12,338.18 to twenty Virginia consumers, including several Virginia seniors, who were victims of allegedly deceptive door-to-door sales tactics by Trio Alarm, LLC. A July 2015 settlement between Trio Alarm and Attorney General Herring's Consumer Protection Section provides full restitution to consumers who were forced to pay for multiple home alarm contracts, or who had to pay large termination fees to get out of their contract with Trio.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/851-december-9-2016-refund-checks-issued-to-alarm-company-victims>

December 06, 2016

### **Corinthian Colleges Students Eligible for Loan Forgiveness**

RICHMOND (December 6, 2016) - Attorney General Mark R. Herring today announced that more than 5,000 Virginia students formerly enrolled in schools operated by Corinthian Colleges, Inc.-including Everest Institute, Everest College, Everest University, Heald College, and Wyotech-may be eligible for loan forgiveness following a finding by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) that Corinthian College and its subsidiaries published misleading job placement rates for many programs between 2010 and 2014. Corinthian operated several branches of its Everest facilities in Virginia including Everest Arlington, Everest Chesapeake, Everest Newport News, and Everest Tyson's Corner.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/849-december-6-2016-corinthian-colleges-students-eligible-for-loan-forgiveness>

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## WASHINGTON

December 23, 2016

### **AG wins Round 1 against Comcast**

SEATTLE — Attorney General Bob Ferguson issued the following statement today, after King County Superior Court Judge Timothy A. Bradshaw ruled that the state's lawsuit against cable television and internet giant Comcast can move forward.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-wins-round-1-against-comcast>

December 23, 2016

**AG Schimel Announces Charges in Megabucks Lottery Fraud**

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel announced today the filing of a criminal complaint charging Eddie Tipton and Robert Rhodes, both of Texas, with multiple felonies for their alleged roles in defrauding the Wisconsin Lottery. Tipton and Rhodes are both charged with Engaging in Racketeering Activities and Theft by Fraud. Tipton is also charged with four additional counts of Computer Crime. The complaint alleges that the two defendants conspired to win the December 29, 2007, Wisconsin Megabucks lottery game. Tipton, who was an employee of the Multi-State Lottery Association and responsible for programming the software used in the random number generator (RNG) machines used to pick the winning numbers, allegedly planted a modified code in the RNG software that produced a predictable set of winning numbers when certain conditions were met.

- *Original Press Release: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/ag-schimel-announces-charges-megabucks-lottery-fraud>*

## Multistate Cases

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### ARKANSAS

December 14, 2016

#### **Rutledge and FTC Reach \$17.5 Million Settlement with Ashley Madison**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today joined with 12 other states, the District of Columbia and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in a settlement with Ruby Corp., which owns the AshleyMadison.com website. The company will make an immediate payment of \$1,657,000, split between the states and the FTC. Arkansas will receive \$52,829.69. The remaining \$17.5 million is suspended based upon Ruby Corp.'s inability to pay a further amount, which is demonstrated through financial disclosure documents.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-and-ftc-reach-17.5-million-settlement-with-ashley-madison>

December 08, 2016

#### **Rutledge Part of \$19.5 Million Bristol-Myers Squibb Settlement**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge has reached a settlement, along with 41 other states and the District of Columbia, with Bristol-Myers Squibb. The settlement ends a multistate investigation into unfair or deceptive trade practices with marketing the company's prescription drug, Abilify, an antipsychotic medication. Arkansas will receive \$292,036 from the settlement, which will be deposited into the Consumer Education and Enforcement Fund.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-part-of-19.5-million-bristol-myers-squibb-settlement>

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### CALIFORNIA

December 08, 2016

#### **Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, 42 Other Attorneys General, Announce \$19.5 Million Settlement with Pharmaceutical Company Bristol-Myers Squibb Over Unlawful Promotion of Abilify Drug**

SAN FRANCISCO – California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today announced that California, along with 42 other states and the District of Columbia, has reached a \$19.5 million agreement with biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb over allegations that the company illegally marketed the popular atypical antipsychotic drug Abilify. Attorney General Harris secured \$1.3 million of the overall settlement for California.



In 2009, California and other states launched a multistate consumer protection investigation of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., which manufactures Abilify, and Bristol-Myers Squibb, which is largely responsible for promoting Abilify.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-42-other-attorneys-general-announce-195-million>

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## COLORADO

December 08, 2016

### **Attorney General Coffman Announces \$19.5 Million Multi-State Consumer Protection Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb**

DENVER, CO – Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman announced today that she, along with 42 other Attorneys General, reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) related to the drug company’s alleged deceptive trade practices when it marketed Abilify. Colorado served on the multistate executive committee that negotiated the settlement, and will receive \$527,740.00 of the settlement funds.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://coa.gov/press-room/press-releases/12-08-16>

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## CONNECTICUT

December 15, 2016

### **Connecticut Leads 20 State Coalition Filing Federal Antitrust Lawsuit against Heritage Pharmaceuticals, other Generic Drug Companies**

HARTFORD - Attorney General George Jepsen today joined with 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-makers Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into illegal conspiracies in order to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication. The lawsuit was filed under seal in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Portions of the complaint are redacted in order to avoid compromising the ongoing investigations.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=588538>

December 08, 2016

**Connecticut Joins Multistate Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb over Abilify Marketing Allegations**

Connecticut has joined a \$19.5 million multistate settlement with drug-maker Bristol-Myers Squibb to resolve allegations that the company improperly marketed the atypical antipsychotic drug, Abilify, Attorney General George Jepsen and state Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Commissioner Jonathan A. Harris announced today.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=588352>

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DELAWARE

December 15, 2016

**Delaware and 19 Other States File Federal Antitrust Lawsuit Against Six Generic Drug Companies**

Attorney General Matt Denn Thursday joined with 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into numerous illegal conspiracies in order to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://news.delaware.gov/2016/12/15/gdms/>

December 08, 2016

**Forty-Three Attorneys General Reach Consumer Protection Settlement With Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Over Abilify Marketing**

Delaware Attorney General Matt Denn and 42 other Attorneys General have reached a settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) related to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://news.delaware.gov/2016/12/08/a1/>

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 15, 2016

### **Owners of Ashley Madison Enter Into Settlement with District, Other States, and FTC Concerning Data Breach**

WASHINGTON, D. C. – Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced today that the District, 13 states and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have reached a consumer-protection settlement with ruby Corp., ruby Life, Inc. and ADL Media, Inc., the owners of the Ashley Madison website (referred to collectively as “Ashley Madison”). The settlement resolves allegations that Ashley Madison failed to take reasonable steps to secure the personal information of users of their website, leading to a highly publicized Ashley Madison data breach in July of 2015.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://oag.dc.gov/release/owners-ashley-madison-enter-settlement-district-other-states-and-ftc-concerning-data-breach>

December 08, 2016

### **Bristol Myers Squibb to Pay \$19.5 Million to District, Other States in Settlement over Deceptive Practices**

WASHINGTON, D. C. – Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced today that the District and 42 states have reached a \$19.5 million settlement with Bristol Myers Squibb Company to resolve allegations that the drug maker misled consumers and doctors about the antipsychotic drug Abilify and improperly marketed it for uses not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The District, along with nine states, led this investigation and is set to receive \$386,425.00 of the total settlement.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://oag.dc.gov/release/bristol-myers-squibb-pay-195-million-district-other-states-settlement-over-deceptive>

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## FLORIDA

December 15, 2016

### **Attorney General Bondi Joins Multistate Antitrust Action Against Generic Drug Companies**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi and 19 other state attorneys general today filed a federal antitrust action against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/DFEBC300118086058525808A00564509>

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Bondi Announces Multistate Settlement with Drug Company**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today joined 42 other attorneys general to announce a \$19.5 million settlement reached with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. The settlement relates to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. A complaint filed in court along with the settlement agreement alleges that BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when marketing Abilify.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/01A7F82C55B5744D852580830066FADD>

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GEORGIA

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Chris Carr and 42 Other Attorneys General Reach \$19.5M Consumer Protection Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb**

ATLANTA, GA—Attorney General Chris Carr today announced that he, along with 42 other Attorneys General, reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) related to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. In a complaint filed today in court along with a settlement agreement, Attorney General Carr alleges that BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when it marketed Abilify.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://law.ga.gov/press-releases/2016-12-08/attorney-general-chris-carr-and-42-other-attorneys-general-reach-195m>

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HAWAII

December 16, 2016

**Attorney General Sues Generic Prescription Drug Companies Over Inflated Drug Prices**

HONOLULU - Attorney General Doug Chin yesterday filed a federal lawsuit with 19 other states against generic drug makers Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging they entered into conspiracies to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate prices and reduce competition for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an

antibiotic, and glyburide, a diabetes medication.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/News-Release-2016-84.pdf>

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## IDAHO

December 16, 2016

### **Idahoans May be Eligible for Payment Under Recent Pharmaceutical Settlement**

(Boise) - Idahoans who bought the wakefulness drug Provigil may be eligible for part of a \$35 million settlement. Consumers who purchased generic versions may also be eligible.

Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden announced in August a settlement with Cephalon, Inc. and its affiliated companies. The settlement included Idaho and 47 other states who filed a lawsuit asserting the manufacturer violated antitrust laws. Affected consumers could submit claims beginning this week.

- **Original Press Release:** [http://www.ag.idaho.gov/media/newsReleases/2016/nr\\_12162016.html](http://www.ag.idaho.gov/media/newsReleases/2016/nr_12162016.html)

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## ILLINOIS

December 08, 2016

### **Madigan Announces \$19.5 Million Settlement with Drug Maker for Deceptive Marketing of Abilify**

Chicago —Attorney General Lisa Madigan, along with 42 other Attorneys General, today announced a \$19.5 million settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) over unfair and deceptive marketing of its drug Abilify for unapproved uses in older patients.

- **Original Press Release:** [http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016\\_12/20161208.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016_12/20161208.html)

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## IOWA

December 15, 2016

### **Iowa Joins 20-State Antitrust Lawsuit against Heritage Pharmaceuticals, other Generic Drug Companies**

DES MOINES – Attorney General Tom Miller today joined 19 state attorneys general in filing a federal antitrust lawsuit against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals Inc., Auribindo

Pharma USA Inc., Citron Pharma LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA) Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/iowa-joins-20-state-antitrust-lawsuit-against-heritage-pharmaceuticals-other-generic-drug-companies/>

December 08, 2016

**Bristol-Myers Squibb Pays State Nearly \$300,000 to Resolve Improper Marketing Allegations over Abilify**

DES MOINES – Drug manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) will pay \$19.5 million dollars to 43 states, including nearly \$300,000 to Iowa, in a settlement to resolve allegations the company improperly marketed atypical antipsychotic drug Abilify.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/bristol-myers-squibb-pays-state-nearly-300000-to-resolve-improper-marketing-allegations-over-abili/>

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## KANSAS

December 19, 2016

**AG Derek Schmidt sues generic drug companies, alleges price-fixing conspiracy violates antitrust laws**

TOPEKA – (December 19, 2016) – Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt last week filed a federal lawsuit accusing six generic drug-making companies of illegally conspiring to drive up prices of two generic drugs.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/19/ag-derek-schmidt-sues-generic-drug-companies-alleges-price-fixing-conspiracy-violates-antitrust-laws>

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## KENTUCKY

December 15, 2016

**Beshear: Multistate Lawsuit Alleges Massive Conspiracy by National Pharmaceutical Companies to Monopolize Generic Drugs**

FRANKFORT, KY. (Dec. 15, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear announced today that Kentucky has joined a multistate lawsuit alleging a large group of pharmaceutical companies have monopolized generic drugs, calling the conduct “straightforward and sinister.” The lawsuit, filed in federal court today, alleges widespread collusion among the pharmaceutical

companies to reduce competition and increase the price of generic drugs.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=233>

December 08, 2016

**Beshear Secures nearly \$335,000 for State General Fund from Settlement with Pharmaceutical Company's Antipsychotic Drug**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 8, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear announced today that his office will be transferring nearly \$335,000 to the state's General Fund from a multistate settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb for unfair or deceptive trade practices with its atypical antipsychotic drug, Abilify. Beshear and the Maryland Attorney General's Office led the investigation and negotiations of the settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb for 43 states.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=228>

December 06, 2016

**Beshear Returns \$625,000 to State General Fund from Settlement with Hyundai, Kia**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 6, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today announced his office has transferred \$625,000 to the state's General Fund from a multistate settlement with automakers Hyundai and Kia for violating Kentucky's Consumer Protection Act. The settlement alleges that the automakers violated state law when they misrepresented the mileage and fuel economy ratings to consumers on model year 2011, 2012 and 2013 vehicles.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=225>

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## LOUISIANA

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Jeff Landry Joins 42 States in Multi-Million Dollar Settle**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Attorney General Jeff Landry today announced a \$19.5 million settlement with 42 other Attorneys General in a case against Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). BMS allegedly promoted the atypical antipsychotic drug Abilify for elderly patients dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article/2329/5>

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## MAINE

December 15, 2016

### **Maine and 19 other States File Federal Antitrust Lawsuit against Heritage Pharmaceuticals, other Generic Drug Companies**

AUGUSTA – Attorney General Janet T. Mills today joined with 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into numerous illegal conspiracies to artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.maine.gov/ag/news/article.shtml?id=723940>

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## MARYLAND

December 15, 2016

### **AG Frosh Announces that Maryland and 19 other States File Federal Antitrust Lawsuit against Six Generic Drug Companies**

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (December 15, 2016) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined with 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-maker Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into numerous illegal conspiracies in order to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2016/121516.pdf>

December 14, 2016

### **Attorney General Frosh Announces that Owner of Ashley Madison Enters \$17.5 Million Settlement with State Attorneys General and the FTC**

BALTIMORE, MD (December 14, 2016) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced that his office, joined by twelve other state attorneys general, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Trade Commission, entered into Consent Judgments with ruby Corp., the company that owns the AshleyMadison.com website. The settlements include an



immediate payment of \$1,657,000 split between the states and the Federal Trade Commission, with the remainder of the \$17.5 million payment suspended.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2016/121416.pdf>

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## MASSACHUSETTS

December 15, 2016

### **In Major Antitrust Lawsuit, AG Healey Sues Generic Drug Makers for Conspiring to Raise Prices**

BOSTON – Alleging that six pharmaceutical companies conspired together to raise prices and reduce competition for generic drugs, Attorney General Maura Healey has joined a coalition of states in filing a lawsuit against the generic drug makers.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-12-15-generic-drugs-lawsuit.html>

December 08, 2016

### **Bristol-Myers Squibb to Pay \$19.5 Million for Alleged Improper Drug Marketing to Encourage Prescriptions to Children, Elderly**

BOSTON – Resolving allegations that it improperly marketed an antipsychotic drug to children and elderly patients, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) has agreed to pay a total of \$19.5 million in a multistate settlement, including more than \$400,000 to Massachusetts, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/bristol-myers-squibb-to-pay-19-5-million.html>

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## MINNESOTA

December 15, 2016

### **Attorney General Swanson Sues Prescription Drug Companies Over Generic Drug Price-Fixing Scheme**

Attorney General Lori Swanson today filed an antitrust lawsuit, along with 19 other states, against six major prescription drug manufacturers for colluding to fix the prices of widely-used generic diabetes and antibiotic medicines.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/PressRelease/20161215PrescriptionDrugCompanies.asp>

## MISSISSIPPI

December 14, 2016

### **States, Federal Government Reach Settlement with Ashley Madison Owner Over Data Breach**

Attorney General Jim Hood announced today that the owners of a website catering primarily to married men have agreed to strengthen data security and cease deceptive practices following a July 2015 data breach in which sensitive user information was hacked and posted online.

Ruby Corp., the entity that owns AshleyMadison.com, will also make a payment of \$1.657 million to the federal government and 13 states involved in an investigation of the company's practices. Mississippi will receive \$52,489.05.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/states-federal-government-reach-settlement-with-ashley-madison-owner-over-data-breach/>

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## MISSOURI

December 08, 2016

### **AG Koster announces Missouri to receive over \$383,000 in national settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Jefferson City, Mo. – Attorney General Chris Koster announced today that Missouri will receive \$383,000 as part of a 43-state \$19.5 million settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) over allegations of illegal off-label marketing of its drug Abilify. Off-label use is the practice of prescribing pharmaceuticals to treat conditions for which they have not been approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).

- *Original Press Release:* <https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2016-news-archives/ag-koster-announces-missouri-to-receive-over-383-000-in-national-settlement-with-bristol-myers-squibb>

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## NEBRASKA

December 20, 2016

### **Forest Laboratories & Forest Pharmaceuticals to Pay \$38 Million to Resolve Kickback Allegations**

LINCOLN – Today, Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson announced that the State of Nebraska joined with other states and the federal government to settle allegations against Forest Laboratories LLC, and Forest Pharmaceuticals Inc. for violating the federal Anti-Kickback Statute. This law prohibits paying or otherwise compensating doctors to induce them into

prescribing specific medications paid for by state and federal health care programs such as Medicaid.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/media/news/view/102441/forest-laboratories--forest-pharmaceuticals-to-pay-38-million-to-resolve-kickback-allegations>

December 16, 2016

### **Owner of Ashley Madison Enters Settlement**

Attorney General Doug Peterson joined with thirteen other states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Trade Commission in entering a Complaint and Consent Judgments with ruby Corp., which owns the AshleyMadison.com website.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/media/news/view/102419/owner-of-ashley-madison-enters-settlement>

December 13, 2016

### **Consumer Protection Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Lincoln - Attorney General Doug Peterson announces that he, along with 42 other Attorneys General, have reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) related to its alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/media/news/view/102350/consumer-protection-settlement-with-bristol-myers-squibb>

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## NEVADA

December 14, 2016

### **Attorney General Laxalt Joins 19 Other States in Federal Antitrust Lawsuit Against Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Other Generic Drug Companies**

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt joined with 19 other attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-makers Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Auribindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

- **Original Press Release:** [http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney\\_General\\_Laxalt\\_Joins\\_19\\_Other\\_States\\_in\\_Federal\\_Antitrust\\_Lawsuit\\_Against\\_Heritage\\_Pharmaceuticals,\\_Other\\_Generic\\_Drug\\_Companies/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Joins_19_Other_States_in_Federal_Antitrust_Lawsuit_Against_Heritage_Pharmaceuticals,_Other_Generic_Drug_Companies/)

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Laxalt and 42 States Reach \$19.5 Million Settlement With Pharmaceutical Company for Deceptive Trade Practices Related to Drug Abilify**

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt, along with attorneys general representing 42 other states and the District of Columbia, announced a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) related to the drug company's alleged improper marketing of Abilify. Abilify is the brand name for the prescription drug aripiprazole, and is an atypical antipsychotic drug.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney\\_General\\_Laxalt\\_and\\_42\\_States\\_Reach\\_\\$19\\_5\\_Million\\_Settlement\\_With\\_Pharmaceutical\\_Company\\_for\\_Deceptive\\_Trade\\_Practices\\_Related\\_to\\_Drug\\_Abilify/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney_General_Laxalt_and_42_States_Reach_$19_5_Million_Settlement_With_Pharmaceutical_Company_for_Deceptive_Trade_Practices_Related_to_Drug_Abilify/)

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

December 08, 2016

**New Hampshire Joins 42 Other States in Reaching \$19.5 Million Consumer Protection Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company**

Attorney General Joseph A. Foster announced today that he, along with 42 other Attorneys General, reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company ("BMS") related to the drug company's alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. In a complaint filed today in court along with a settlement agreement, Attorney General Foster alleges that BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when it marketed Abilify.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://doj.nh.gov/media-center/press-releases/2016/20161208-bristol-meyers-squibb.htm>

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NEW JERSEY

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Porrino Announces Multi-State Settlement with Bristol-Meyers Squibb over Misleading Promotion of Drug Abilify**

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced today that New Jersey has entered into a multi-state settlement with drug manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb that resolves allegations the company used false and misleading representations to promote its

antipsychotic drug Abilify... New Jersey is to receive a total payment of \$468,661 under the settlement.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161208b.html>

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## NEW YORK

December 15, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Files Federal Antitrust Lawsuit With 19 Other States Against Heritage Pharmaceuticals And Other Generic Drug Companies**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today joined with 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-makers Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they entered into numerous illegal conspiracies in order to unreasonably restrain trade, artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic used to treat a range of conditions including respiratory tract infections, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-files-federal-antitrust-lawsuit-19-other-states-against-heritage>

December 14, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$17.5 Million Settlement With Owner Of AshleyMadison.com In Joint Multi-State And FTC Agreement**

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman joined twelve other states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Trade Commission Wednesday in announcing a \$17.5 million settlement with ruby Corp., which owns the dating website AshleyMadison.com.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-175-million-settlement-owner-ashleymadisoncom-joint-multi>

December 08, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$19.5 Million Multi-State Agreement With Bristol-Myers Squibb To End Deceptive Advertising Practices And Off-Label Promotion Of Drug Used To Treat Schizophrenia**

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today a \$19.5 million multistate agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb (“BMS”) arising from alleged improper

marketing and promotion of the drug Abilify. New York's share of the settlement is \$788,774.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-195-million-multi-state-agreement-bristol-myers-squibb-end>

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## NORTH CAROLINA

December 08, 2016

### **NC to Share in \$19.5 Million Settlement for Unfair Drug Marketing, AG Cooper Says**

Raleigh: Drug maker Bristol-Myers Squibb will pay \$19.5 million to North Carolina and other states for marketing the drug Abilify for unapproved uses, Attorney General Roy Cooper said Thursday.

Cooper, along with 42 other Attorneys General, reached a settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (BMS) to resolve allegations that the drug company used unfair and deceptive practices to market Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. Under the settlement, BMS will pay \$19.5 million to 43 states, including \$663,302 to North Carolina.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/NC-to-share-in-\\$19-5-million-settlement-for-unfair.aspx](http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Press-Releases/NC-to-share-in-$19-5-million-settlement-for-unfair.aspx)

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## OHIO

December 15, 2016

### **Ohio and 19 States File Antitrust Lawsuit Against Several Generic Drug Companies**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today joined 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against Heritage Pharmaceuticals and several other generic drug makers accused of conspiring to reduce competition and inflate prices in the United States for two drugs: doxycycline hyclate delayed-release (an antibiotic) and glyburide (a diabetes medication).

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Ohio-and-19-States-File-Antitrust-Lawsuit-Against>

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## PENNSYLVANIA

December 15, 2016

### **Attorney General Beemer announces multistate federal antitrust lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today joined 19 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit that alleges six pharmaceutical companies violated antitrust laws by conspiring to fix prices and allocate markets for various generic drugs.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2931](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2931)

December 08, 2016

### **Attorney General Beemer announces \$19.5 million settlement with maker of antipsychotic drug**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today announced the filing of a \$19.5 million settlement with a major biopharmaceutical company related to the company's alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an antipsychotic drug. The settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company was joined by 42 other Attorneys General. Pennsylvania's share of the settlement is approximately \$745,000. Part of that money will go toward future consumer protection efforts.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2926](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2926)

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## RHODE ISLAND

December 08, 2016

### **Attorney General Kilmartin Announced \$19.5 Million Multistate Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company**

Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin announced today that he, along with 42 other attorneys general, reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company ("BMS") related to the drug company's alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. In a complaint filed today in court along with a settlement agreement, Attorney General Kilmartin alleges that BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when it marketed Abilify. Rhode Island will receive \$235,269 through this settlement.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/29142>

December 08, 2016

**Attorney General Jackley and 42 Other Attorneys General Reach \$19.5 Million Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company**

Pierre, S.D. - Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that South Dakota and 42 other Attorneys General, reached a \$19.5 million dollar settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) related to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. The settlement agreement alleges that BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when it marketed Abilify. South Dakota will receive \$224,612 as part of the settlement.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1689>

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TENNESSEE

December 12, 2016

**\$19.5 Million Consumer Protection Settlement reached with Bristol-Myers Squibb**

ennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III, along with the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs and 42 other Attorneys General, today announced a \$19.5 million settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”). The settlement relates to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify, an atypical antipsychotic drug. The complaint, which was filed today along with the settlement, alleges BMS engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices when marketing Abilify.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/news/47494#sthash.BofOn2Q4.dpuf>

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TEXAS

December 08, 2016

**AG Paxton: Texas and 42 States Reach \$19.5 Million Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company**

Attorney General Ken Paxton today announced that the state of Texas will receive \$1,015,420 in a \$19.5 million settlement that 42 other state attorneys general reached with the pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). The settlement stems from claims that the company violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act by improperly marketing the antipsychotic drug Abilify. Under the terms of the settlement, BMS is prohibited from making



false or misleading claims about Abilify, including its safety or efficacy in comparison with other drugs.

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-texas-and-42-states-reach-19.5-million-settlement-with-bristol-my>

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## VERMONT

December 14, 2016

### **Owner Of Ashley Madison Enters \$17.5 Million Settlement**

Attorney General William Sorrell led a group of thirteen states and the District of Columbia, and worked with the Federal Trade Commission to enter Consent Judgments today with ruby Corp., which owns the AshleyMadison.com website. The State of Vermont, as the lead state, will receive an immediate payment of \$116,000.

- **Original Press Release:** [http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/owner-of-ashley-madison-enters-\\$17.5-million-settlement.php](http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/owner-of-ashley-madison-enters-$17.5-million-settlement.php)

December 08, 2016

### **Vermont Attorney General Announces That Bristol-Myers Squibb Will Pay Vermont Over \$220,000 As Part Of Abilify Settlement**

Vermont will receive over \$220,000 from a settlement entered into by Attorney General William H. Sorrell and 42 other Attorneys General with Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”). The settlement relates to the drug company’s alleged improper marketing of Abilify. The total settlement amount is \$19.5 million.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/vermont-attorney-general-announces-that.php>

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## VIRGINIA

December 15, 2016

### **Virginia and 18 Other States File Federal Antitrust Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Companies for Inflating Prices of Generics**

RICHMOND (December 15, 2016) - Attorney General Mark R. Herring today joined with 18 other state attorneys general in filing a federal lawsuit against generic drug-makers Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. alleging that they conspired to artificially inflate and manipulate prices and reduce competition in the market for two drugs in the United States: doxycycline hyclate delayed release, an antibiotic, and glyburide, an oral diabetes medication.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/852-december-15-2016-virginia-and-18-other-states-file-federal-antitrust-lawsuit-against-pharmaceutical-companies-for-inflating-prices-of-generics>

## Medicaid Fraud

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### ARKANSAS

December 28, 2016

#### **Rutledge Announces Arrest of Two Arkansas Women for Medicaid Fraud**

December 28, 2016

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the arrest of a Craighead County woman and Hot Spring County woman. Jamie Anderson, 28, of Jonesboro was arrested by the Jonesboro Police Department and held at the Pulaski County Detention Facility on no bond. She is charged with one count of , a Class C felony. She is accused of billing for services not rendered, totaling over \$535 from September 2015 to March 2016. The Control Unit received assistance from Craighead County Prosecutor Scott Ellington on this case.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-announces-arrest-of-two-arkansas-women-for-medicaid-fraud>

December 12, 2016

#### **Rutledge Announces Arrest of Pulaski County Woman for Medicaid Fraud**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the arrest of a Little Rock woman. Evitta Walker, 34, was arrested and held at the Pulaski County Detention Facility on a \$2,500 bond. She is charged with one count of , a Class C felony. She is accused of billing over \$1,000 for services that she was not eligible to charge for in 2015. This case was referred to the Attorney General’s office by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://arkansasag.gov/news-and-consumer-alerts/details/rutledge-part-of-19.5-million-bristol-myers-squibb-settlement>

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### FLORIDA

December 21, 2016

#### **Pediatrician Arrested for Medicaid Fraud**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Control Unit and the Bay County Sheriff’s Office today announced the arrest of a Bay County pediatrician for Medicaid provider fraud. A complaint to the Attorney General’s fraud hotline initiated a investigation against Sameh Mohamed El Amir, 45, for allegedly stealing more than \$250,000 from Florida Medicaid.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/581B16C1A87C71F88525809000731B45>

December 21, 2016

**Lee County Man Arrested for Exploitation of an Elderly Person**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Control Unit, with the assistance of the East District SET Team with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, today announced the arrest of a Lee County man for exploitation of an elderly person. According to the investigation, Ryan Todd Powers, 40, unlawfully obtained funds from an elderly relative suffering from physical limitations who resides in a nursing home.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/52CCEF1FE20C028485258090006C227A>

December 20, 2016

**Former Mental Health Therapist Arrested for Medicaid Fraud**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Control Unit and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office today announced the arrest of a Duval County resident for . Jennifer Schulz, 32, is a former mental health therapist who provided counseling to children. According to the investigation, Schulz submitted false progress notes for services she did not provide. Schulz faces one count of Medicaid provider fraud, a third-degree felony.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/CFBF362526128F828525808F00714377>

December 13, 2016

**Attorney General Bondi Announces Settlement with Obstetrician and Gynecologist**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today announced a million dollar settlement reached with an obstetrician and gynecologist in Ocala. Dr. Rasiklal Dhanji Nagda is a Medicaid provider and owner of Nagda Medical, Inc. According to Attorney General Bondi’s Control Unit’s investigation, Nagda submitted more than 700 claims to Medicaid for intrauterine devices not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and received reimbursements from the Medicaid program.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/B3C2CE1AC3A248098525808800762378>

December 05, 2016

### **Columbia County Resident Arrested for Medicaid Fraud and Grand Theft**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Control Unit, with the assistance of the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, today announced the arrest of a Columbia County resident for and grand theft. Lorrene L. Morrow-Miller, a certified nursing assistant, 42, allegedly submitted daily service logs and timesheets to her previous employer, Kelly’s Helping Hands, Inc., for services not provided.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/0015AD2CD9A1C5A5852580800054AECE>

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## LOUISIANA

December 20, 2016

### **Medicaid Fraudsters Ordered to Pay Over \$7 Million Restitution**

BATON ROUGE, LA – Attorney General Jeff Landry today applauded the sentencing of a conviction made by the Louisiana Department of Justice’s Control Unit. Judge Bruce Bennett ordered Millennium Health Care Services, the company owner Dwaine Woods, and his wife Dynetta Woods to make an over \$7 million restitution payment to the State of Louisiana for their guilty verdicts in a scheme to defraud the Medicaid system. Dwaine Woods was also sentenced to ten years of hard labor.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article/2334/5>

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## MARYLAND

December 21, 2016

### **Attorney General Frosh Files Lawsuit Against Nursing Home Operator for Resident Dumping and Submission of False Claims to Medicaid Program**

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced that his office has filed suit in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County against Neiswanger Management Services, LLC (“NMS”), the operator of five Maryland nursing homes, for unsafely and unlawfully evicting frail and disabled people from its facilities, and for submitting false claims to the Maryland Medicaid program.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2016/122116.pdf>

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## MICHIGAN

December 07, 2016

### **Schuetz Convicts Saginaw Doctor who Made False Medicaid Claims for Payment**

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuetz today announced that Dr. Chidozie Ononuju, 57, of Saginaw, was sentenced on three felony counts of -False Claim, for fraudulent Medicaid billings. As a result of repaying over \$400,000 for his theft, Ononuju was sentenced to five years probation.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849\\_47203-398845--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-398845--,00.html)

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## MISSISSIPPI

December 27, 2016

### **Hattiesburg Pharmacy Technician Arrested for Multiple Medicaid and Insurance Fraud Charges**

Attorney General Jim Hood announced today that a Hattiesburg pharmacy technician has been arrested following a joint investigation by the Health and Human Services Division of the Office of Inspector General, the Attorney General's Control Unit and the Attorney General's Insurance Integrity Division.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/hattiesburg-pharmacy-technician-arrested-for-multiple-medicaid-and-insurance-fraud-charges/>

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## NEW YORK

December 07, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Announces Arrests Of Three Individuals For Allegedly Defrauding Medicaid-Funded Home Health Programs**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the conclusion of two separate investigations and the arrest of Tina Gabel, 58, and Sean Gabel, 23, of Poughkeepsie, and Enny Portillo, 58, of Highland Mills, for submitting over \$50,000 of false home health care claims to Medicaid.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-arrests-three-individuals-allegedly-defrauding-medicaid>

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## OKLAHOMA

December 01, 2016

### **Attorney General Pruitt Announces Guilty Pleas in Cases**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Two former licensed counselors pleaded guilty to multiple counts of following charges brought by Attorney General Scott Pruitt. Assumpta Lange, 37, of Norman, worked as a behavioral health professional providing counseling services to Medicaid recipients. Lange billed Medicaid for services she claimed to have performed in the United States when she was actually travelling abroad, adding up to more than \$12,000 in Medicaid costs.

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom\\_article.php?id=258&article\\_id=27229](https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=258&article_id=27229)

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## VERMONT

December 27, 2016

### **Bennington Family Convicted Of Multiple Counts Of**

Patrick Morse, 64, Ellie May Morse, 43, and Donald Morse, 23, of Bennington, Vermont, were convicted in Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Criminal Division, of multiple felony counts of arising out of their scheme to defraud the Vermont Medicaid Children’s Personal Care Services (“PCS”) Program.

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/bennington-family-convicted-of-multiple-counts-of-medicaid-fraud.php>

## Consumer Advocacy

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### ALABAMA

December 05, 2016

#### **AG Luther Strange Warns Against Holiday Scams**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange wishes Alabamians safe and happy holidays, urging them to take precautions against scams and other potential dangers. Unfortunately, this also is a time when unscrupulous people might take advantage of others' generous and joyful spirits. The Attorney General offers the following tips and reminders to protect consumers during this special time.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.aqo.alabama.gov/News-950>

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### ARIZONA

December 15, 2016

#### **CONSUMER ALERT: Protect Yourself after Yahoo Data Breach**

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich is urging Arizonans to take action to avoid identity theft after Yahoo announced a major data breach affecting one billion user accounts. The stolen Yahoo user account information may have included names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, encrypted passwords, and encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers. Yahoo indicates the stolen information did not include passwords in clear text, payment card data, or bank account information.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://www.azaq.gov/press-release/consumer-alert-protect-yourself-after-yahoo-data-breach>

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### COLORADO

December 05, 2016

#### **AG Coffman Urges Colorado Consumers to Be Cautious When Making Donations and Purchases this Holiday Season**

DENVER, CO – As Colorado celebrates Colorado Gives Day tomorrow, Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman wants to encourage Coloradans to always check the charity before they give and ensure that their hard-earned money is actually going to support the causes they care about.



Those wishing to make a donation on Colorado Gives Day can go to <https://www.coloradogives.org/cogivesday> and feel confident that the charities listed by ColoradoGives.org are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Secretary of State, and are in good standing. Potential donors can also go to [www.checkthecharity.com](http://www.checkthecharity.com) which provides access to a charity's detailed filings, information about the organization's mission, leadership, tax-exempt status, financial efficiency and the paid solicitors with whom they have contracted.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <https://coag.gov/press-room/press-releases/12-05-16>

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## CONNECTICUT

December 22, 2016

### **Gov. Malloy, Lt. Gov. Wyman, and Attorney General Jepsen Announce At-Home Drug Disposal Kits Now Available at Pharmacies Across Connecticut**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and Attorney General George Jepsen today announced that – as part of the state's ongoing efforts to combat the misuse of opioids – 80,000 drug deactivation kits capable of safely disposing unused prescription medications have been donated to the State of Connecticut and are now available free-of-charge to residents at over 600 pharmacies throughout the state. The biodegradable Deterra drug disposal kits were donated by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and can deactivate and destroy up to 45 pills each simply by adding warm tap water and then disposing the kit in the trash.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=588728>

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 13, 2016

### **Attorney General Racine Launches Consumer Protection Library**

WASHINGTON, D. C. – Just in time to help residents learn how to avoid scams prevalent at holiday time such as fake charities and identity theft, Attorney General Karl A. Racine today announced the launch of a comprehensive library of consumer-protection resources. The resources are available online as well as in print, and residents and community groups are welcome to download and print their own copies of the resources or request a printed version from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Office of Consumer Protection.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://oag.dc.gov/release/attorney-general-racine-launches-consumer-protection-library>

December 07, 2016

### **Attorney General Karl Racine Applauds Passage of Three Bills Enhancing Protections for Vulnerable District Residents**

WASHINGTON, D. C. – Attorney General Karl A. Racine today applauded the Council’s passage of three bills that will provide additional legal tools to help the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) protect vulnerable District residents. District workers, immigrant communities, and low-income renters are among those who will benefit from this legislation, which combats wage theft and notario fraud and clarifies consumer protections regarding affordable housing units.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://oag.dc.gov/release/attorney-general-karl-racine-applauds-passage-three-bills-enhancing-protections-vulnerable>

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## GEORGIA

December 06, 2016

### **SCAM ALERT: Attorney General Chris Carr Warns of New Twist on Microsoft Tech Support Scam**

ATLANTA, GA – Attorney General Chris Carr is warning consumers about a new twist on a technical support scam in which people pose as representatives from Microsoft. The scammers are taking the scheme a step further this time. See below for a detailed outline of their process:

- **Original Press Release:** <http://law.ga.gov/press-releases/2016-12-06/scam-alert-attorney-general-chris-carr-warns-new-twist-microsoft-tech>

December 01, 2016

### **Attorney General Chris Carr Encourages Consumers to Protect Themselves from Holiday Scams**

The holiday season is a fun and festive time, but it’s also a time when scammers look to take advantage of unwitting consumers. Attorney General Chris Carr is offering the following resources and tips to help consumers stay safe and avoid scams:

- **Original Press Release:** <http://law.ga.gov/press-releases/2016-12-01/attorney-general-chris-carr-encourages-consumers-protect-themselves>

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## IDAHO

December 06, 2016

### **Wasden Urges Business Owners to Guard Against Scammers Pretending to Represent His Office**

(Boise) – Attorney General Lawrence Wasden is once again warning business owners to be on the lookout for emails sent by scammers posing as representatives of his office. The emails indicate they were sent by “The Office of The State Attorney General” and are generically addressed to “Business Owner.” They inform recipients a complaint has been filed against their business, Wasden said. The emails are similar to those that prompted an alert from the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division on July 8, 2016.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[http://www.ag.idaho.gov/media/newsReleases/2016/nr\\_12062016.html](http://www.ag.idaho.gov/media/newsReleases/2016/nr_12062016.html)

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## ILLINOIS

December 12, 2016

**\*\*\*CONSUMER ALERT\*\*\***

### **Attorney General Madigan: Investigate Before Donating to Charitable Causes for the Holidays**

Chicago —With requests for charitable contributions filling up your mail and email inbox, Attorney General Lisa Madigan today encouraged residents to do some important research before making holiday donations to any of the more than 25,000 charitable organizations in Illinois working to help others this holiday season and all year long. Under Illinois law, charitable organizations, along with professional fundraisers, are required to register and file annual financial reports with the Attorney General’s office. Potential donors may then access this information, including income, expenditures, program details and administration costs, before giving to a charity.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

[http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016\\_12/20161212.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2016_12/20161212.html)

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## KANSAS

December 30, 2016

### **AG Derek Schmidt files brief to protect Kansans from class action settlement abuse**

TOPEKA – (December 30, 2016) – Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt has joined a bi-partisan coalition of 14 state attorneys general in filing a brief in federal court to protect Kansas consumers from abuse in the class action settlement process. In the friend-of-the-court brief filed earlier this month, Schmidt asked the court to reject a proposed class action settlement

because the vast majority of the class members receive nothing of particular value from the deal, even as the class action attorneys collect almost \$3 million.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2016/12/30/ag-derek-schmidt-files-brief-to-protect-kansans-from-class-action-settlement-abuse>

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## KENTUCKY

December 12, 2016

### **Beshear: Kentuckians, Organizations Received nearly \$18 million from 2014 Settlement with Bank of America**

FRANKFORT, KY. (Dec. 12, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today announced nearly 350 Kentuckians and three state organizations have received a combined \$18 million from the 2014 Bank of America Settlement involving the company’s mortgage loan practices during the 2008 national financial crisis. The impact of the settlement for Kentuckians is based on the most recent compliance report by the 2014 Bank of America Mortgage Settlement Monitor released Nov. 30.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=230>

December 05, 2016

### **Beshear Issues Holiday Charitable Giving Guide**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 5, 2016) – Attorney General Andy Beshear has issued a holiday charitable giving guide to help Kentuckians avoid becoming a victim of holiday and end-of-year scams. “When Kentuckians decide to give, I want to make sure their money goes to a good cause,” said Beshear. “Our office is working to ensure that Kentuckians and the hundreds of deserving charitable organizations that truly need and rely on donations are not defrauded by scammers.” Estimates suggest Americans donate approximately 2 percent of their disposable income to charity each year.

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=222>

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## MASSACHUSETTS

December 21, 2016

### **AG Healey Calls on the DPU to Investigate Increase in Allowed Profits for Utilities in Massachusetts**

BOSTON – Attorney General Maura Healey this week called on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to launch an investigation to explain why the allowed profits for Massachusetts utility companies are going up and are higher than the allowed utility profits in neighboring states. In a letter sent to the DPU Monday, AG Healey urged the DPU to shine more light on--and improve the process used to determine--utility companies' allowed profits.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/ag-healey-calls-on-the-dpu-to-investigate-profits.html>

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## MISSISSIPPI

December 28, 2016

### **Resolve to Find the Best Financial Fit When Joining Gym**

With the new year approaching, many consumers may consider joining a health club to improve their overall fitness or just to shed a few pounds put on during the holidays. Consumers who plan to hit the gym in coming days as a New Year's resolution should also resolve to make sure they're getting a fair deal, Attorney General Jim Hood said. Mississippi state law protects consumers against misrepresentations and fraud in contracts with health clubs.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/resolve-to-find-the-best-financial-fit-when-joining-gym/>

December 15, 2016

### **Attorney General Jim Hood Warns Yahoo Users of Identity Theft Risk**

Attorney General Jim Hood today warned Mississippi consumers to take action to protect themselves against identity theft following Yahoo's announcement that password information for more than one billion email accounts has been compromised. Yahoo is requiring its users to change passwords, and Attorney General Hood urged Mississippians to do this immediately. Consumers should also reset passwords for any other accounts that may have the same or similar passwords.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/attorney-general-jim-hood-warns-yahoo-users-of-identity-theft-risk/>

December 08, 2016

### **Online “Blessing Loom” Spins Only Trouble**

Consumers expecting to collect hundreds of dollars from an online gifting scheme will find a “Blessing Loom” that spins nothing but trouble. “The gimmick currently making the rounds online may be referred to as a Christmas wheel, a Christmas loom or pay-it-forward loom, and with it comes assurances that participants can earn up to \$800 if they themselves pay a fee and then recruit other friends to do the same. Whatever it’s called, it’s a pyramid scheme,” Attorney General Jim Hood said.

- *Original Press Release: <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/online-blessing-loom-spins-only-trouble/>*

December 01, 2016

### **Attorney General Jim Hood Reminds Storm Victims of Post-Storm Dangers from Scammers**

Attorney General Jim Hood wants to remind Mississippians who suffer property damage as a result of severe storms or flooding to be on alert for scam artists and aware of the many dangers that come from scammers following disasters and storm damage. “Our thoughts go out to our friends and neighbors around the state who have been impacted by the recent storms. Our job is to ensure that Mississippi storm victims are not victimized again by unscrupulous contractors or other scam artists who prey on misfortune,” Attorney General Hood said.

- *Original Press Release: <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/attorney-general-jim-hood-reminds-storm-victims-of-post-storm-dangers-from-scammers/>*

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## MONTANA

December 22, 2016

### **DOJ Seeks Representative of Commercial Motor Carrier Industry and MHP for Tow Truck Complaint Resolution Committee**

The Montana Department of Justice is seeking applications for membership to the Tow Truck Complaint Resolution Committee from a representative of the commercial motor carrier industry and a representative of the Montana Highway Patrol. The Tow Truck Complaint Resolution Committee is made up of six representatives: two members from the tow truck industry, one member from the commercial motor carrier industry, one member from the insurance industry, one member from the public, and one member from the Montana Highway Patrol.

- *Original Press Release: <https://dojmt.gov/doj-seeks-representative-commercial-motor-carrier-industry-mhp-tow-truck-complaint-resolution-committee/>*

December 16, 2016

### **Attorney General Fox Offers Safe Giving Tips for Year-End Donors**

Many nonprofit organizations rely on end-of-year donations to round out their budgets. Attorney General Tim Fox and his Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) want to make sure Montanans who donate to their favorite charities at this time of year do so in the safest way possible.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-fox-offers-safe-giving-tips-year-end-donors/>

December 07, 2016

### **Attorney General Fox Warns of Online Threats During Holiday Season**

Attorney General Tim Fox and his Montana Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) want to remind Montanans to stay safe online by keeping an eye out for common social media and web-based scams and deceptive offers as Christmas approaches.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-fox-warns-online-threats-holiday-season/>

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## NEVADA

December 14, 2016

### **Attorney General Laxalt Releases Smart Shopping Suggestions Ahead of Holidays**

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt released his 2016 Smart Shopping Suggestions guide. The guide includes suggestions for in-store shopping, online purchases and charitable donations.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney\\_General\\_Laxalt\\_Releases\\_Smart\\_Shopping\\_Suggestions\\_Ahead\\_of\\_Holidays/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2016/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Releases_Smart_Shopping_Suggestions_Ahead_of_Holidays/)

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## NEW JERSEY

December 22, 2016

### **New Jersey Attorney General and Division of Consumer Affairs Unveil “Safe Care Cam” Program**

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced a new program designed to ensure that New Jersey residents who suspect their loved ones are being abused by unscrupulous home health care providers have access to the

latest technology in micro-surveillance cameras that can easily be hidden to detect abuse and protect patients.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases16/pr20161222a.html>

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## NEW MEXICO

December 29, 2016

### **AG: New Year, New Number for Keep Your Home New Mexico, Operation Holiday Home Protection roll outs new toll free number**

Albuquerque, NM – If you are facing foreclosure or finding it hard to make your mortgage payments, Keep Your Home New Mexico, a program run by the Office of the Attorney General may be able to help. Attorney General Hector Balderas announced today that the program has a new toll free number: 1-800-220-0350. By calling this number or by visiting [www.keepyourhomenewmexico.org](http://www.keepyourhomenewmexico.org), New Mexicans can get assistance that may help keep them in their homes.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/Operation\\_Holiday\\_Home\\_Protection\\_rolls\\_out\\_new\\_toll\\_free\\_number.pdf](http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/Operation_Holiday_Home_Protection_rolls_out_new_toll_free_number.pdf)

December 14, 2016

### **Attorney General Issues Consumer Alert for Families to Keep their Homes Safe this Holiday Season**

Albuquerque, NM - Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas issued a consumer advisory in conjunction with his Operation Holiday Home Protection to remind New Mexicans to keep their home and family safe during the holidays.

- *Original Press Release:* [http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG\\_Issues\\_Consumer\\_Alert\\_for\\_Families\\_to\\_Keep\\_their\\_Homes\\_Safe\\_this\\_Holiday\\_Season.pdf](http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Issues_Consumer_Alert_for_Families_to_Keep_their_Homes_Safe_this_Holiday_Season.pdf)



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## NEW YORK

December 22, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Report Finds Many Professional Fundraisers Keep Significant Portion Of Charity Dollars They Raise**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today released his “Pennies for Charity: Where Your Money Goes; Fundraising by Professional Fundraisers” report, which found that fully one-third of charitable donations ended up in the pocket of the professional fundraisers. This year’s report expanded its focus beyond telemarketers to include a broader range of solicitation methods conducted by professional fundraisers, including direct mail, email, and internet fundraising campaigns.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-report-finds-many-professional-fundraisers-keep-significant-portion>*

December 17, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Issues End Of Year Holiday Shopping Alert**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today issued tips for New Yorkers finishing up their holiday shopping. “As New Yorkers start making final holiday purchases for their family and friends, it can be easy to fall prey to bogus deals or scams,” said Attorney General Schneiderman. “We want to ensure that consumers spend their money safely and wisely this holiday season, and following our tips will help protect against fraudsters and scammers.”

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-issues-end-year-holiday-shopping-alert>*

December 15, 2016

### **A.G. Schneiderman Issues Consumer Alert After Second Yahoo Data Breach, Examines Circumstances Of Breach And Disclosure To Law Enforcement**

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman urged all New Yorker to take immediate steps to protect their personal information online, in the wake of Yahoo’s recent disclosure that a third party had breached its servers and accessed the personal data of over 1 billion users. This follows news of a 2014 breach of Yahoo’s servers which compromised the data of a reported 500 million users.

- *Original Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-issues-consumer-alert-after-second-yahoo-data-breach-examines>*

December 14, 2016

**A.G. Schneiderman Announces Additional \$20 Million For Homeowner Protection Program, Plus New Grant Program To Prevent Foreclosure Scams, Funded Through Bank Settlements**

BROOKLYN – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced an additional \$20 million in funding for the fifth year of his Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), as well as the launch of the Foreclosure Rescue Scam Prevention Initiative, a new grant program that will enhance outreach, education, and referral services for homeowners at risk of fraudulent foreclosure rescue schemes.

- *Original Press Release:* <https://aq.ny.gov/press-release/aq-schneiderman-announces-additional-20-million-homeowner-protection-program-plus-new>

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## OHIO

December 29, 2016

**Attorney General DeWine Offers 10 New Year’s Consumer Protection Tips**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today offered consumer protection tips ahead of the New Year. “Our mission is to protect Ohio’s families,” Attorney General DeWine said. “We want to help consumers avoid scams, identity theft, and other problems. We encourage people to take steps to protect themselves and to contact the Ohio Attorney General’s Office if they need help.”

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/%E2%80%8BAttorney-General-DeWine-Offers-10-New-Year%E2%80%99s-Cons>

December 21, 2016

**Attorney General DeWine Warns of Family Emergency Scams**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned Ohioans to beware of family emergency scams. Several Ohioans have reported losing thousands of dollars to the scam in recent weeks. In the scam, con artists pose as relatives or friends and claim they need money right away to help with an emergency, such as getting out of jail or paying attorney fees after getting into a car accident. The most common version of the scam is the “grandparent scam,” which targets grandparents, but the scam also can affect parents, aunts, uncles, and family friends, among others.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Family-Emergency>

December 20, 2016

**Attorney General DeWine Warns of Overpayment Scams**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned Ohioans to beware of overpayment scams this holiday season. The scam commonly affects businesses, charities, and people who sell items online. In the scam, a con artist pretends to overpay for something (often by providing a counterfeit check or fraudulent credit card) and then asks the victim to return the extra amount right away using another form of payment. While the victim’s payment is good, the con artist’s is not.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Overpayment-Scams>

December 15, 2016

**Attorney General DeWine Offers Consumer Tips Following Yahoo Breach Announcement**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today offered tips for consumers following Yahoo’s recent announcement of a data breach affecting more than one billion user accounts. Yahoo has reported it believes the information was compromised in August 2013 and may have included names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, “hashed” passwords, and some security questions and answers.

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Offers-Consumer-Tips-Follo>

December 02, 2016

**Attorney General DeWine Warns of Puppy Scams**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned consumers to avoid puppy scams. Several consumers have reported losing hundreds of dollars trying to buy a puppy online in recent weeks. “Some ‘sellers’ who advertise online are con artists,” Attorney General DeWine said. “They post a picture of a cute puppy and tell you to wire money for a crate or insurance. Then they take your money without delivering anything in return. People expect to receive a cute puppy, and instead they get nothing.”

- *Original Press Release:* <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/December-2016/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Puppy-Scams>

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## OREGON

December 20, 2016

### **Tis the Season to Be Safe Online! Don't Let the Grinch Steal Your Information or Money**

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum today reminded mobile-savvy consumers to be cautious when using a mobile device to buy holiday gifts or to make end-of-the-year charitable donations. With mobile shopping and mobile giving on the rise, it is especially important for Oregonians to be vigilant when using their phone or device to make a financial transaction this holiday season.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/Pages/2016/rel122016.aspx>

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## PENNSYLVANIA

December 07, 2016

### **Attorney General Beemer warns consumers of potential scams with college football bowl game tickets on sale**

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Bruce R. Beemer today reminded Pennsylvania college football fans to be on the lookout for potential scams now that tickets for bowl games have gone on sale. The Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in the past has received complaints from the public concerning underhanded ticket sellers, questionable travel packages and counterfeit tickets.

➤ *Original Press Release:* [https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media\\_and\\_Resources/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release/?pid=2925](https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=2925)

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## SOUTH DAKOTA

December 06, 2016

### **Attorney General Jackley Encourages Cautious Charitable Giving**

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley is asking South Dakotans to beware of those potentially exploiting victims of the Copper Lounge collapse in Sioux Falls.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://atq.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1686>

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## TENNESSEE

December 22, 2016

### **AG Warning: Chattanooga Residents should be cautious of Predatory Law Firms**

Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III is asking Chattanooga residents to be aware of predatory law firms seeking to profit from the Woodmore Elementary school bus tragedy on November 21, 2016. While communities and families deal with the heartache and stress associated with tragedy, out-of-state law firms have been known to solicit business and coerce families into signing legal agreements that are difficult to understand.

➤ *Original Press Release:*

<https://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/news/47682#sthash.OKs7HzRk.dpuf>

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## WASHINGTON

December 07, 2016

### **Sen. Murray, Attorney General Ferguson Urge U.S. Department of Education to Provide Immediate, Long Overdue Loan Debt Relief to Former Washington State Students Cheated by Defunct Vocational School**

(Washington, D.C) – Today, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the top Democrat on the Senate education committee, sent a letter urging the U.S. Department of Education (“the Department”) to provide full and immediate student loan debt relief to Washington State students formerly enrolled at the Court Reporting Institute, Inc. (“CRI”). CRI was opened in 1988 under the pretense of providing stenographic training to students in Seattle and Tacoma looking to launch a career in transcription. Instead, as detailed in a November 21, 2016 letter from Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson to the Department, this vocational school induced students to enroll and finance their educations with extraordinary levels of debt by systematically misrepresenting its educational practices, instructor qualifications, graduation rates, and employment prospects.

➤ *Original Press Release:* <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/sen-murray-attorney-general-ferguson-urge-us-department-education-provide>

December 06, 2016

### **Ferguson, Wyman team up to remind people to “Give Smart”**

OLYMPIA — Secretary of State Kim Wyman and Attorney General Bob Ferguson are reminding Washingtonians to make smart choices when giving money to charity and avoid unscrupulous solicitors during the holiday season and beyond.

The two statewide officials who deal most closely with charities also are sharing tips on how to “Give Smart.” “People here in Washington are very generous,” Wyman said. “Many of us give money to help those in need, here or around the world. Unfortunately, scammers can victimize donors if they aren’t careful and do their homework before giving. Our goal is to help people give smart and avoid being ripped off.”

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ferguson-wyman-team-remind-people-give-smart>