

THE STATE CENTER CONSUMER PROTECTION REPORT

June & July 2017

About the State Center Consumer Protection Report

The Center for State Enforcement of Antitrust and Consumer Protection Laws ("State Center") is pleased to present the latest edition of the State Center Consumer Protection Report ("Consumer Protection Report") Published 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.

- *For more information on the State AG Consumer Protection Initiative, please visit our website: 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

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Consumer Protection Cases

ARIZONA

July 27, 2017

AG Brnovich Obtains Refunds for Arizonans after Canceled Concerts

PHOENIX - Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced a settlement with BTW Concerts.com, LLC, an Arizona-based concert promoter involved in the cancellation of the 2015 Arizona Jazz Festival. The settlement includes up to \$75,000 in restitution for consumers and bans BTW Concerts.com, LLC, and related entities BTWCruises.com, LLC, and Alternatix, Inc. from promoting concerts in Arizona. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/ag-brnovich-obtains-refunds-arizonans-after-canceled-concerts>

July 27, 2017

\$400k Judgment Against Company that Sent Deceptive Mailers to AZ Businesses

PHOENIX - Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced today his office obtained a consent judgment against Mandatory Poster Agency, Inc. and its owners, for sending government “Annual Minutes” lookalike mailers. The judgment resolves a 2015 consumer fraud lawsuit filed against the business. Mandatory Poster also agreed to pay \$175,500 in restitution to Arizona businesses who responded to the 2013 “Annual Minutes Requirement Statement” solicitation. “Every Arizona business who responded to the mailer will have the opportunity to receive a full refund,” said Attorney General Mark Brnovich. “Scamming businesses with phony government lookalike notices is unacceptable. These types of scam mailers will not be tolerated in Arizona and our office will take aggressive legal action to stop them.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/400k-judgment-against-company-sent-deceptive-mailers-az-businesses>

July 26, 2017

\$241,401 Judgment Obtained in Alleged Mortgage Scam

PHOENIX - Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced his office obtained a \$241,401 judgment against Mortgage Relief Solutions, Inc. and its owner, Eric David Brown. The judgment also prohibits Mortgage Relief Solutions and Eric Brown from engaging in mortgage or real estate-related activity in Arizona. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/241401-judgment-obtained-alleged-mortgage-scam>

June 27, 2017

AZ Consumer Fraud Lawsuit Filed Against Jet Ski Rental Company

BULLHEAD CITY - Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced his office filed an Arizona Consumer Fraud Lawsuit against Malows Jet Ski Rentals, LLC, and its owner Fariba Badre and manager Mahriar Akbari. Malows Jet Ski Rentals is accused of using misleading advertisements and charging consumers far more than advertised prices. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/az-consumer-fraud-lawsuit-filed-against-jet-ski-rental-company>

CALIFORNIA

July 20, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Announces Action Against Proposed Asset Sale That Could Raise Gas Prices in Northern California

SACRAMENTO – California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced action against a proposed asset sale that could lead to higher gas prices for consumers in Northern California. Valero Energy Corporation is attempting to acquire the petroleum terminal in Martinez from Plains All American Pipeline, a move that raises significant competitive concerns. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-announces-action-against-proposed-asset-sale-could>

July 13, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Cracks Down on Tobacco Company for Selling Illegal Cigarettes

SACRAMENTO – California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit against a Canadian cigarette manufacturer, Grand River Enterprises Six Nations (GRE), for failing to comply with California laws regarding tobacco sales and illegally selling the product in California. In filing this lawsuit, the Attorney General is enforcing the law by continuing to ensure tobacco companies comply with California's financial and regulatory requirements, protect competition and, most importantly, prevent the sale of cheap, illegal cigarettes in the state. I ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-cracks-down-tobacco-company-selling-illegal-cigarettes>

June 26, 2017

Attorney General Becerra and District Attorney Lacey: Car Donation Charity Agrees to Injunction to Stop Charity Fraud

SACRAMENTO -- A Los Angeles-based car donation charity accused of soliciting vehicle

donations using false and misleading advertising entered a stipulated final judgment ordering its dissolution and other provisions, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey announced. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-and-district-attorney-lacey-car-donation-charity-agrees>

COLORADO

June 13, 2017

AG Coffman Issues Opinion on the Colorado Choice Health Plans

Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman has issued her opinion in the matter of the conversion plan for the Colorado Choice Health Plans. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://coag.gov/press-room/press-releases/06-13-17>

CONNECTICUT

June 06, 2017

AG, DSS: State Reaches Settlement with Stamford-based Dentist Resolving False Claims Act Lawsuit

A Stamford-based dentist will be excluded from participation in the state's Medicaid program for 10 years and will agree not to renew his expired dental license as part of a settlement resolving allegations that he engaged in a long-running and substantial scheme to submit false claims for dental services provided to residents of long-term care facilities in the state, Attorney General George Jepsen and state Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby announced today. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?Q=593582&A=2341>

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 28, 2017

Handy Technologies to Pay Restitution to D.C. Consumers Harmed by Company Providing App-Based Cleaning Services

WASHINGTON, D. C. – Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced today that his office has obtained restitution for consumers through its lawsuit against Handy Technologies, a “sharing economy” company. The lawsuit alleged that Handy Technologies misled consumers about the safety of the in-home cleaners offering their services through Handy’s website and smartphone

application. Numerous Handy customers have reported having their personal items stolen by house cleaners they hired through Handy. The settlement provides restitution to those customers harmed by Handy's cleaners, as well as consumers who have complained that they were misled into enrolling in a cleaning plan involving recurring charges and fees when they thought they were purchasing only a single cleaning service. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.dc.gov/release/handy-technologies-pay-restitution-dc-consumers-harmed-company-providing-app-based-cleaning>

FLORIDA

July 11, 2017

Avis Budget Agrees to Change Billing Practices for Cashless Toll

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The Florida Attorney General's Office obtained a court enforceable settlement agreement with Avis Budget Car Rental System, LLC which owns the Avis, Budget and Payless car rental companies. The settlement agreement resolves an investigation by Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office regarding Avis, Budget and Payless' practices involving add-on fees for cashless tolls in Florida and other related add-on charges. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/CFD01492DC1A338B8525815A006A8053>

June 07, 2017

Settlement Reached with Panama City Beach Rental Business

Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office has reached a settlement with a Panama City Beach business that rents scooters, golf carts and motorcycles and allegedly charged consumers for damage they did not incur. Classy Cycles, Inc., owned by Colleen Swab and Rich R. Roof, operates out of five locations on Panama City Beach and rents vehicles on an hourly or daily basis. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/13048939C2E7B6F485258138005067A7>

June 05, 2017

Attorney General Bondi and FTC Obtain Final Orders Shutting Down Robocall Scam

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office and the Federal Trade Commission obtained permanent injunctions halting an Orlando-based robocall operation. All Us Marketing

LLC, f/k/a Payless Solutions, LLC and affiliated businesses and individuals allegedly bombarded millions of consumers with nationwide robocall campaigns designed to trick consumers into paying up-front for worthless credit card interest rate reduction programs. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Orange County Sheriff's Office assisted in the case. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/B37ADBB6F3775E1F852581360053F9E8>

June 02, 2017

Car Dealership Agrees to pay \$5 Million in Debt Forgiveness

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Office obtained a consent order to resolve a complaint filed against a Jacksonville car dealership and its president regarding the dealership's misleading business and sales practices. The complaint alleges that Beach Blvd. Automotive used GPS tracking devices to track hundreds of purchased vehicles without consumer's knowledge or consent to conduct unconscionable repossessions of vehicles. The defendants also allegedly created fake online profiles and, without consumer knowledge, used consumer data to post false positive comments online about the dealership. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/E3F8FF24AF4EFC278525813300621083>

June 01, 2017

Six Arrested and One at Large for Card Skimming at Multiple Florida Gas Stations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Rick Swearingen today announced six arrests in connection to a credit card skimming scheme. According to the investigation, the defendants installed multiple skimming devices at various gas stations in Pinellas and Hillsborough County. In just a three-week period, the defendants allegedly stole more than 40 credit card numbers, using skimming devices at more than a dozen gas stations. Card skimmers are devices that can be inserted or attached to payment terminals. Once in place, these skimmers are able to copy the payment information of cards that are swiped or inserted. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/40E64B5D3D7A000385258132005924A3>

GEORGIA

July 19, 2017

Attorney General Chris Carr Files Lawsuit Against Company for Misleading Internet Advertising and Deceptive Sales Practices

ATLANTA, GA – Attorney General Chris Carr today filed an action to stop Marvelay, LLC, operating under the names “Spot Reservation” and “Rushcube,” from defrauding consumers through misleading internet advertising and unfair and deceptive sales practices.

“Our office is committed to protecting the public from companies whose business models rely on misleading, deceptive acts and practices,” said Attorney General Chris Carr. “As we investigated Marvelay, we found overwhelming evidence of these types of behaviors, and we will hold them accountable for their actions.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://law.georgia.gov/press-releases/2017-07-19/attorney-general-chris-carr-files-lawsuit-against-company-misleading>

June 01, 2017

FTC, State of Georgia Obtain Court Order Permanently Halting Electronics Buyback Scheme

A Federal court has granted a request from the Federal Trade Commission and the State of Georgia to permanently bar the deceptive business practices of an electronics buyback company that misled consumers about the amount of money it would pay them for selling their used smartphones, tablets and other devices. The court also ordered the company’s owner to pay more than \$42 million. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ocp.ga.gov/news/articles/view/ftc-state-of-georgia-obtain-court-order-permanently-halting-electronics-buyback-scheme>

HAWAII

July 07, 2017

STATE OBTAINS \$45,000 JUDGMENT AGAINST INSURANCE SCAMMER

HONOLULU - Attorney General Doug Chin announced today that the State won a summary judgment motion against Daniel Yoshio Doi. Doi had been previously found to have violated various provisions of chapter 488, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), titled Prepaid Legal Service, but had negotiated a settlement with the State Insurance Commissioner. According to the terms of the settlement agreement, Doi was required to cease operations of his company American Legacy Group Legal Plan, LLC, refund 23 clients for prepaid service plans that were not delivered, and pay a \$50,000 penalty for his actions. \$45,000 of the penalty was stayed until November 2, 2010, so long as Doi complied with the settlement agreement and did not continue to violate any provision of chapter 488, HRS.

Despite these settlement terms, however, Doi quickly created Financial Group Legal Plan, Inc., which continued to provide p ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/News-Release-2017-86.pdf>

ILLINOIS

July 13, 2017

MADIGAN DEMANDS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXPLAIN DELAY IN LOAN FORGIVENESS TO FORMER CORINTHIAN COLLEGES STUDENTS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today issued a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Education requesting information on why the Department has delayed loan forgiveness to former students of for-profit Corinthian Colleges Inc. who attended programs where the Department has made findings of fraud.

Across the country, thousands of former Corinthian students who are eligible for loan forgiveness by the Department of Education due to Corinthian's fraudulent conduct have yet to see their loans forgiven. Some students are nearing the end of 12-month forbearances or collections bans on their loans and face restarting monthly payments on debts that should be canceled. In some instances where the Department has extended loan forbearances, student loan debt servicers are not recognizing the extensions and are demanding payments from students. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_07/20170713.html

June 01, 2017

MADIGAN SUES KANE COUNTY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR DEFRAUDING RESIDENTS SEEKING WEATHER-RELATED HOME REPAIRS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a lawsuit against a Kane County construction company and its owner alleging the company defrauded at least 10 residents in Chicago and the western suburbs after offering home repair and roofing services for weather-damaged homes, after receiving upfront payments from homeowners but failing to conduct the work. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/20170601b.html

June 01, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH FRAUDULENT CHARITABLE TELEMARKETERS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced a settlement with Safety Publications Inc., a professional fundraiser and for-profit telemarketer, and its owners over allegations that the company violated the charitable Solicitation Act and prior consent decrees with Madigan’s office. The Solicitation Act dictates the laws governing charitable solicitations and fundraising activities in Illinois. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/20170601.html

INDIANA

June 27, 2017

AG Hill: After a seven-year battle, Indiana’s ban on robocalls withstands final challenge

INDIANAPOLIS – Attorney General Curtis Hill today announced that the United States Supreme Court denied an organization’s request to have a lower court’s ruling reviewed. The decision not to review the lower court’s ruling puts to rest the legal challenge originally filed by Patriotic Veterans, Inc., in 2010.

On Monday, the United States Supreme Court denied certiorari, or discretionary review, of a ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In January, the Seventh Circuit upheld Indiana’s anti-robocall law, which prohibits making pre-recorded message calls to peoples’ phones without their consent. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=265767&information_id=270149&type=&syndicate=syndicate

IOWA

July 13, 2017

\$85,000 in Refund Checks Sent to Elderly Iowa Victims of Four Related Unauthorized Charging Schemes

(DES MOINES, Iowa) Attorney General Tom Miller’s office this week is finalizing a months-long effort to refund \$85,000 to more than 350 Iowans, based on two older Iowans’ complaints last year about unauthorized withdrawals from their checking accounts.

A Consumer Protection Division investigation revealed four related schemes ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/85000-in-refund-checks-sent-to-elderly-iowa-victims-of-four-related-unauthorized-charging-schemes/>

July 10, 2017

Income Scheme based on Playing Florida Lottery Barred from Marketing to Iowans

DES MOINES – Two out-of-state companies marketing a so-called money-making system must stop promoting the scheme in Iowa, through a court-approved agreement with Attorney General Tom Miller.

In the consent judgment, filed in Polk County District Court, District Court Judge David Porter ordered the companies and people behind Wealthperx, formerly called Lotto Magic, to stop promoting their money-making system in Iowa and refrain from any marketing directed to Iowa residents. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/income-scheme-based-on-playing-florida-lottery-barred-from-marketing-to-iowans/>

KANSAS

July 12, 2017

AG Derek Schmidt: Lyons contractor banned from doing business in Kansas

HUTCHINSON – (July 12, 2017) – A Lyons man operating as a contractor has been banned from door-to-door sales and engaging in roofing services in Kansas and ordered to repay seven Kansas consumers, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/07/12/ag-derek-schmidt-lyons-contractor-banned-from-doing-business-in-kansas>

July 05, 2017

AG Derek Schmidt: Abilene contractor temporarily banned from doing business in Kansas

TOPEKA – (July 5, 2017) – An Abilene contractor has been prohibited by temporary court order from doing business in Kansas for violating the Kansas Consumer Protection Act and Kansas Roofing Registration Act, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

Jesse Howard, dba Jesse Howard Roofing, Abilene, is temporarily banned from doing business in Kansas. Dickinson County District Judge Ryan Rosauer entered a temporary restraining order last week prohibiting Howard from acting as a roofing contractor in the state. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/07/05/ag-derek-schmidt-abilene-contractor-temporarily-banned-from-doing-business-in-kansas>

June 19, 2017

AG Derek Schmidt: Topeka man criminally charged under new consumer protection law

TOPEKA – (June 19, 2017) – A Topeka man has been criminally charged with violating a new law

that makes it a crime to violate a consumer protection order, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said today.

In February 2016, a civil consent judgment entered under authority of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act was approved in Shawnee County District Court against Travis D. Kaiser, 48, of Topeka, d/b/a T's Lawn Service. In that consent judgment, Kaiser was found liable for deceptive or unconscionable acts against Kansas consumers. He was enjoined by the court from engaging in any future door-to-door sales in the State of Kansas as defined by law. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/06/19/ag-derek-schmidt-topeka-man-criminally-charged-under-new-consumer-protection-law>

KENTUCKY

July 07, 2017

Beshear: Opioid Painkiller Being Pulled by Pharmaceutical Company 'First Step' in Fighting Epidemic

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 7, 2017) – In 2015, more than 225 Kentuckians died from a drug overdose with Opana in their blood.

Now that the makers of the opioid painkiller announced July 6 that it will no longer sell the drug, Attorney General Andy Beshear is calling the move a “first step” in fighting against what he believes is the single greatest threat to Kentucky – the state’s drug epidemic.

Beshear sent his concerns on the potential for abuse by Kentuckians on a reformulation of the drug, Opana ER (extended release), to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in February during an open comment period on the drug. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=359>

July 06, 2017

Beshear: Appeals Court Allows AG's Lawsuit against Drug Company Bayer to Move Forward

FRANKFORT, KY. (July 6, 2017) – The Kentucky Court of Appeals has ruled that a lawsuit by the Office of the Attorney General against drug company Bayer Corporation will proceed at the trial court level.

In two June 29 orders, the three-judge panel denied Bayer’s request to dismiss the AG’s lawsuit, currently in Franklin Circuit Court, that alleges the company improperly promoted a drug and violated a 2007 agreement with the Commonwealth. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=358>

June 28, 2017

State drug epidemic ‘single greatest threat to Kentucky’

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 28, 2017) – Attorney General Andy Beshear is taking another step in the fight against what he believes is the single greatest threat to Kentucky – the state’s drug epidemic.

Beshear today announced that his office intends to file multiple lawsuits against drug manufacturers, distributors and retailers where there is evidence that they contributed to the opioid epidemic by illegally marketing and selling opioids to Kentuckians.

To support this litigation, Beshear is issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for legal services to assist the Commonwealth in multiple lawsuits and to ensure that Kentucky tax dollars are not used for the costs of the litigations. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=355>

June 26, 2017

Beshear Reaches Settlement with Louisville-based Heating and Cooling Business

FRANKFORT, KY. (June 26, 2017) – Today, Attorney General Andy Beshear announced his office has entered into a settlement with Louisville-based Bryant Heating and Cooling Co. Inc., to resolve alleged violations of the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act.

In the assurance of voluntary compliance filed in Franklin Circuit Court today, Bryant agreed to provide more than 7,100 customers a one-year extended warranty on their HVAC unit. Bryant, headquartered at 4531 Bishop Ln. in Louisville, with offices in Lexington, Northern Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana, also agreed to strengthen future customer protections and pay a penalty. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=353>

LOUISIANA

June 29, 2017

Unlicensed Dentist Providing Services to Illegal Immigrants Arrested in New Orleans

BATON ROUGE, LA - Attorney General Jeff Landry today announced the arrest of a New Orleans woman for practicing dentistry without a license, providing services to illegal immigrants.

“When there are unlicensed people posing as professionals, it violates the public’s trust,” said General Landry. “There are too many hard-working people in our State to let criminals affect their professions.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2426?catID=5>

MARYLAND

June 29, 2017

AG Frosh Secures Settlement with Land Sales Company over Cabin Advertisements

Baltimore, MD (June 29, 2017)—Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his Consumer Protection Division entered into a settlement with Deep Creek Mountain Land Company, LLC, NLP of Maryland, LLC, and Harry Patten (together, “NLP”), to resolve allegations that NLP’s advertisements deceived and misled consumers in order to entice them to respond. The Division alleged that NLP placed ads that offered consumers a new log cabin and plot of land near Deep Creek Lake for as little as \$119,000, but failed to inform consumers that what they would actually receive was either a partially-completed cabin or a kit containing the materials to construct a log cabin, and that consumers would have to pay over \$200,000 to complete the home. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/062917.pdf>

June 09, 2017

Consumer Protection Division Orders Wedding Video Company to Pay Over \$500,000 for Deceiving Consumers

Baltimore, MD (June 9, 2017) -Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his Consumer Protection Division has issued a Final Order finding that Blue Sky Films (also known as Blue Sky Media Corporation and Martin Andrews, Inc.) and Martin Gruber repeatedly violated the Consumer Protection Act and requiring them to return \$380,834.42 to consumers and to pay penalties and costs of \$136,564. Blue Sky Films was found to have violated Maryland law in 112 instances for advertising that they would record and produce edited videos of wedding ceremonies, receptions, and other major events, but failing to deliver the promised videos or to provide refunds. The Final Order further states that Mr. Gruber, the sole owner of Blue Sky Films, is personally liable for the violations of the Consumer Protection Act committed by Blue Sky Films. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/060917a.pdf>

June 08, 2017

Attorney General Frosh and the CFPB Ask Federal Court to Find Gary Klopp in Contempt

BALTIMORE, MD (June 8, 2017)—Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his Consumer Protection Division and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau asked the United States District Court to find Gary Klopp in contempt of an order entered in November 2015. In 2015, Klopp settled allegations that he engaged in a mortgage kickback scheme with a defunct Owings Mills title company, Genuine Title, LLC, by referring mortgage clients to Genuine Title in exchange for payments made to his companies. The 2015

settlement restricts Klopp's participation in the mortgage industry to serving as a personnel or human resources manager. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/060817.pdf>

June 08, 2017

Attorney General Frosh Secures Guilty Plea in Tax Fraud Case

BALTIMORE, MD (June 8, 2017) –Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh has secured a guilty plea from tax return preparer Scott L. Jacobson, of Dundalk, operating as HTR, LLC. Jacobson pled guilty this week in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court to one count of theft by deception. Judge Michele Jacklitsch sentenced Jacobson to five years of incarceration—all of which was suspended—and ordered him to complete five years of supervised probation, during which he cannot act as a tax preparer or assist others with filing tax returns in any way. Additionally, the court entered a judgment against the defendant totaling \$75,499. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/060817a.pdf>

June 01, 2017

Attorney General Frosh Announces \$95 Million Settlement with Deutsche Bank

BALTIMORE, MD (June 1, 2017)–Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that the Securities Division of the Office of Attorney General has reached a \$95 million settlement with Deutsche Bank, resolving financial crisis-era civil claims that Deutsche Bank misled investors in its securitization and sale of residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) and related collateralized debt obligations (CDOs). As part of the settlement, Deutsche Bank will be required to provide \$80 million in relief to Maryland consumers. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/060117.pdf>

MASSACHUSETTS

July 27, 2017

AG Secures \$1 Million for Consumers Exploited by Largest Debt Collection Law Firm in Massachusetts

BOSTON – The largest debt collection law firm in Massachusetts and its two owners have agreed to pay \$1 million in restitution and significantly change their practices after Attorney General Maura Healey took action against them for widespread consumer abuses impacting thousands of Massachusetts consumers.

A consent judgment entered against Lustig, Glaser & Wilson, P.C. (Lustig) and its two principals,

Ronald E. Lustig and Kenneth C. Wilson – resolves allegations they routinely sued consumers for debts they did not owe or debts that were inaccurate, and consistently violated state law and abused the court system in their pursuit of debts. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-27-1-million-for-consumers-exploited-debt-collection.html>

July 13, 2017

Lowell Debt Collection Attorney Sued for Threatening Consumers With Arrest, Imprisonment

WOBURN – A Lowell attorney has been barred from threatening consumers with arrest or imprisonment for nonpayment of small debts, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today.

AG Healey’s Office yesterday obtained a preliminary injunction in Middlesex Superior Court against Attorney Robert R. White and his law firm Levy & White.

“This attorney’s unlawful debt collection practices caused financial and emotional injury to consumers and deprived consumers of their right to a fair hearing,” said AG Healey. “With this injunction, he will no longer be able to abuse consumers and the court system.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-13-lowell-attorney-sued.html>

July 12, 2017

Used Car Dealership to Pay Restitution and Reform Its Practices Based on Claims of Misleading Consumers, Selling Unsafe Cars

BOSTON – A used car dealership with multiple locations in Massachusetts has agreed to pay restitution to consumers and reform its business practices to resolve allegations that it routinely sold unreliable cars, misled consumers about financing arrangements, used false advertising including bait and switch tactics, and charged excessive document preparation fees, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-12-used-car-dealer.html>

July 05, 2017

AG Healey Secures \$455,000 in Refunds for Students Deceived by Online For-profit School

BOSTON — For-profit school DeVry University has agreed to pay \$455,000 in refunds to resolve allegations that it used deceptive job placement rates in marketing certain online programs to Massachusetts students, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. This is the office’s

first settlement reached with a school operating only online. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-05-refunds-for-students-deceived-by-online-for-profit-school.html>

MICHIGAN

July 25, 2017

Schuette Issues Cease and Desist to Charity that Lied to Donors about Phone Card Program for Wounded Military

LANSING - Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced a Notice of Intended Action and Cease and Desist Order against Healing American Heroes, Inc. of Round Rock, Texas and its professional fundraiser Jeremy Squire & Associates for over a million violations of the Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act. Violations included deceptive solicitations and diversion of funds raised to other purposes. Over 10,000 donations – totaling more than \$200,000 – were received from Michigan donors. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-427273--m_2017_7,00.html

July 21, 2017

Schuette Sues Great Lakes Gas & Mart for Falsely Advertising Fuel Prices

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced his office is filing a lawsuit in Ingham County Circuit Court against retail gas station Great Lakes Gas & Mart, LLC (Great Lakes), located in Orion Township in Oakland County, for its repeated violations of the Weights and Measures Act. Based on inspections by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), which enforces the Act, the suit states that the gas station’s roadside advertising displayed only the lower (cash) price for fuel, not the higher price it actually charges for customers who pay by credit. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-427119--m_2017_7,00.html

July 19, 2017

Schuette Tells Family Fitness to Cease and Desist Collection of Excessive Cancellation Fees

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today told West Michigan-based gym Family Fitness that it should immediately cease and desist its unlawful practice of misleading members into believing they must make certain monetary payments after they cancelled their gym and personal training contracts. Schuette said Family Fitness should stop making any

statements, written or verbal, that cause customers to believe they will be required to pay the full amount of their contract, even if they cancel their membership. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-426746--m_2017_7,00.html

MINNESOTA

July 28, 2017

Attorney General Swanson Permanently Bans Veterans Charity from Soliciting in Minnesota for Engaging in Deceptive Practices

Attorney General Lori Swanson recently settled with a Michigan-based veterans charity, Foundation for American Veterans, Inc. (“FAV”), over concerns that it used deceptive practices to solicit donations in Minnesota, as well as improperly manipulated its financial records to make it appear that its charitable programs were more significant than was actually the case. The settlement permanently bans FAV—and its board members and officers—from soliciting contributions in Minnesota. FAV is also subject to a \$200,000 civil penalty if it violates the settlement. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/PressRelease/20170728_FAVBan.asp

July 12, 2017

Attorney General Swanson Sues CenturyLink for Billing Higher Amounts than its Sales Agents Quoted to Customers for Internet and Cable Service

Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson filed a lawsuit today against CenturyLink—the Louisiana phone, cable, and internet company—for billing higher amounts than its sales agents quoted customers for internet and cable television service. The company often refused to honor the prices quoted to consumers who catch the discrepancies on their bills. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/PressRelease/20170712_CenturyLink.asp

MISSOURI

July 19, 2017

AG Hawley announces St. Louis contractor pleads guilty to home repair fraud

Jefferson City, Mo. – Attorney General Josh Hawley announced that Donald J. Harralston, 34, pleaded guilty to stealing by deceit and unlawful merchandising practices today in St. Louis

County Circuit Court. In his plea, Harralston admitted that he lied to three St. Louis homeowners when he contracted to install new roofs but instead took their down payments and then failed to do any work or provide any materials. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2017-news-archives/ag-hawley-announces-st.-louis-contractor-pleads-guilty-to-home-repair-fraud>

June 21, 2017

Missouri Attorney General Sues Opioid Manufacturers for Fraud

St. Louis, Mo. – Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley filed a lawsuit today against three large drug manufacturing companies in the Circuit Court of St. Louis City. Hawley is suing Purdue Pharma, Endo Health Solutions and Janssen Pharmaceuticals. The lawsuit alleges that these companies fraudulently misrepresented the serious risks posed by the drugs they manufacture and sell. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2017-news-archives/missouri-attorney-general-sues-opioid-manufacturers-for-fraud>

NEVADA

June 21, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Announces Grand Jury Indictments for Immigration Scam Operated out of Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that Ernesto Gerardo Fernandez-Carranza, 33, of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Alicia Herrera, formerly known as Alicia Alvarado Lopez, 53, of Oakland, California, were indicted by the Clark County Grand Jury on multiple felony charges for operating an immigration fraud scam out of Las Vegas. The charges include: three counts of theft in the amount of \$3,500 or more, three counts of possession or sale of document or personal identifying information to establish false status or identity, and one count of multiple transactions involving fraud or deceit in the course of an enterprise or occupation. The alleged scam occurred from January 2014 through July 2014. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Grand_Jury_Indictments_for_Immigration_Scam_Operated_out_of_Las_Vegas/

June 15, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Announces Arrest of Las Vegas man Indicted for Scam Targeting Immigrants

Las Vegas, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that David A.

Thomas, 54, of Las Vegas, was arrested on five felony charges for operating an immigration fraud scam out of Las Vegas. The charges include four counts of theft in the amount of \$3,500 or more and one count of multiple transactions involving fraud or deceit in the course of an enterprise or occupation. The alleged scam occurred between August 2014 and February 2016.

...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Arrest_of_Las_Vegas_m
an_Indicted_for_Scam_Targeting_Immigrants/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Arrest_of_Las_Vegas_m
an_Indicted_for_Scam_Targeting_Immigrants/)

NEW JERSEY

July 26, 2017

Attorney General Porrino and Division of Consumer Affairs Announce Complaint Against Newark Used Car Dealer, Allege Fraud Violations Including ‘Bait and Switch’

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs have announced they are seeking restitution and civil penalties from a Newark used car dealer alleged to have violated the state Consumer Fraud Act and a number of state regulations concerning the sale of motor vehicles. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170726a.html>

July 24, 2017

“Just Pups” Pet Stores and Owner Vincent LoSacco Agree to Permanently Stop Selling Animals in New Jersey, Pay \$326,000 to Settle Allegations of Consumer Fraud in Sale of Sick Puppies

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced that pet shop owner Vincent LoSacco and his “Just Pups” Stores have agreed to permanently stop selling animals in New Jersey and pay \$326,000 to settle allegations they misled customers about the health of the puppies they sold, failed to reimburse consumers for animals that got sick or died, and committed dozens of other acts of consumer fraud. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170724a.htm> /

July 20, 2017

Owners of Tinton Falls Broker-Dealer Agree to Pay \$2.1 Million in Restitution and Penalties for Violating New Jersey Securities Laws

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced that a couple and the companies they own in Monmouth County have agreed to pay \$2.1 million – including \$1.8 million in investor restitution - to settle legal actions brought

against them by the Bureau of Securities for multiple violations of New Jersey's securities laws. Anthony J. Cantone and Christine L. Cantone agreed to the terms with the Bureau, set forth in two documents, to resolve actions against them and the investment companies they own in Tinton Falls – Cantone Research, Inc. ("CRI") and Cantone Office Center, LLC ("COC"). ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170720a.html>

July 19, 2017

Man Sentenced to Five Years in Prison for Stealing Nearly \$300,000 from Customers of His Debt Relief Businesses in Maplewood and Jersey City

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced that a man who stole approximately \$298,000 from customers of his two debt relief businesses was sentenced to prison today. Germaine Theodore promised customers of TGC Movement in Maplewood and Save My Future in Jersey City big reductions in their monthly bills, but he instead stole their money through Ponzi schemes. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170719b.html>

June 29, 2017

Five Indicted on First-Degree Charges for Allegedly Obtaining Car Loans and Cars by Fraud and Reselling the Cars After Falsely Removing Liens

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced that five individuals were indicted on first-degree charges of conspiracy and money laundering for allegedly engaging in various theft schemes in which they obtained car loans and cars by fraud and resold the vehicles after fraudulently removing liens from the vehicle titles. They face first-degree charges because the schemes allegedly involved transactions involving stolen loan proceeds and stolen vehicles with a total value of well over half a million dollars. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170629b.html>

June 22, 2017

New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Reaches \$160,000 Settlement with Georgia Financing Company to Resolve Probe of Home Improvement Loans Arranged by the Company

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced that a Georgia financing company will change its business practices, make a \$100,000 payment, and provide an additional \$60,000 to consumers, to settle the Division's investigation into point-of-sale home improvement loans the company arranged for New Jersey

consumers.

GreenSky Servicing LLC (“GreenSky”), which arranges on-the-spot financing for home improvements through its participating contractors, agreed to the settlement terms in an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance (“AVC”) that resolves the investigation into whether the company’s lending program violated New Jersey’s consumer protection laws. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170622a.html>

June 20, 2017

New Jersey Board of Nursing Suspends Certification of Burlington County Home Health Aide Allegedly Caught on Camera Stealing Money, Prescription Pain Pills from Elderly Woman in Her Care

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced that the State Board of Nursing (the “Board”) has temporarily suspended the certification of a Burlington County homemaker-home health aide arrested on theft charges after a hidden video camera allegedly caught her stealing money and prescription medication from an elderly woman in her care. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170620a.html>

June 16, 2017

Attorney General Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs Announce Settlement with For-Profit Company Offering Student Loan Consolidation Services

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs announced today that the Division has reached a settlement with a for-profit company that offered student loan consolidation services to New Jersey consumers despite not being properly licensed to provide these services in New Jersey. The settlement will provide \$119,606 in full restitution to 95 New Jersey consumers who used these services.

...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170616a.html>

June 12, 2017

Attorney General Porrino and Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Announce Record \$2 Million Fine Against Craft Beer Wholesaler for Alleged Trade Practice Violations

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control today announced a settlement with a Hunterdon County craft beer wholesaler which resulted in an unprecedented \$2 million fine for alleged trade practice violations.

The Division alleged that Hunterdon Brewing Company LLC sold draft beer tap systems at below fair market prices and concealed the charges by mislabeling them as “miscellaneous draft charges” on invoices and ignored credit regulation for at least 700 retail customers. During its investigation, the Division compiled sworn statements from more than two dozen retail licensees and reviewed thousands of documents. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170612a.html>

June 05, 2017

New Jersey Board of Nursing Temporarily Suspends Certification of Middlesex County Home Health Aide Following Her Arrest on Charges of Attempted Credit Card Fraud Involving a 91-Year- Old Woman in Her Care

NEWARK – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs today announced that the State Board of Nursing (the “Board”) has temporarily suspended the certification of a Middlesex homemaker-home health aide accused of using the personal information of a 91-year-old client, in an attempt to open a line of credit in the woman’s name last fall. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170605a.html>

NEW MEXICO

June 07, 2017

Attorney General Balderas Announces \$24 Million Settlement & Dismissal of Qui Tam Lawsuit in Pay-to-Play Case

Santa Fe, NM – Attorney General Hector Balderas announced today that the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") secured two court rulings yesterday in the Vanderbilt Capital Advisers and Austin Capital Management pay-to-play cases. District Judge Louis McDonald approved the State's proposed settlement and ordered the dismissal of Qui Tam Plaintiff Frank Foy's lawsuits. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**
http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/Attorney_General_Balderas_Announces_%2424_Million_Settlement___Dismissal_of_QUI_Tam_Lawsuit_in_Pay_to_Play_Case.pdf

June 06, 2017

Attorney General Balderas Files Suit against Major Discount Chain Dollar General

Albuquerque, NM – Attorney General Hector Balderas announced today that the Office of the

Attorney General ("OAG") filed a lawsuit last night against national discount retail chain Dollar General for false advertising, unfair trade practices, and environmental public nuisance for the sale of obsolete motor oil in New Mexico stores from 2010 until February of this year. Dollar General has eight-seven (87) stores located across New Mexico, including in rural and suburban communities, many of which are lower income. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Balderas_Files_Suit_against_Major_Discount_Chain_Dollar_General.pdf

NEW YORK

July 20, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Demands Pet Store Chain Stop Illegally Denying Reimbursement To Customers Sold Very Ill Dogs

WATERTOWN – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that his office has issued a cease and desist letter to Bell Pet Company, LLC, which owns a chain of pet stores with locations in Watertown, Albany, Poughkeepsie, and Queensbury, known as The Pet Zone. The letter demands that the company stop illegally denying reimbursement or refunds to customers who have attempted to enforce their rights under the state’s Pet Lemon Law when the dogs they purchased from the stores became ill and were certified as “unfit for sale” by their veterinarians. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-demands-pet-store-chain-stop-illegally-denying-reimbursement-customers>

June 29, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Major College Athletic Scouting Company For Deceptively Advertising Recruiting Services

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with National Scouting Report, Inc. (“NSR”), a major high school athletic scouting and college recruiting business located in Alabaster Alabama. An investigation by the Attorney General’s office found that NSR’s website and advertisements contained false claims about the success of their recruiting programs and that made promises about supposed services provided by scouts that went unfulfilled. Under the settlement agreement, NSR has agreed to reform their advertising practices and will pay restitution to those affected. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-major-college-athletic-scouting-company>

June 20, 2017

Attorney General Schneiderman Announces Guilty Verdict For Brooklyn Landlord Who Harassed Rent Regulated Tenants

BROOKLYN—New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced the guilty verdict of Crown Heights landlord Daniel Melamed, and the corporation that he controlled, on three counts of Unlawful Eviction of rent stabilized tenants. Melamed will be sentenced on September 13, 2017; he could face up to one year in jail. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/attorney-general-schneiderman-announces-guilty-verdict-brooklyn-landlord-who-harassed>

June 16, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$350,000 Settlement With Sham Breast Cancer Charity

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with the Breast Cancer Survivors Foundation, Inc., (“BCSF”), and its President and Founder Dr. Yulius Poplyansky. For years, BCSF and its fundraisers painted the picture of an organization that was providing medical services to breast cancer patients and those at risk of breast cancer. Instead, as the Attorney General’s investigation found, BCSF was a shell charity created and run by its primary outside fundraiser, Mark Gelvan, in order to line the pockets of Gelvan, his companies, and his business associates – who pocketed 92 cents of every dollar donated to BCSF. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-350000-settlement-sham-breast-cancer-charity>

June 15, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Files Suit Against Paving Company; Alleges Fraudulent, Deceptive Conduct

WATERTOWN – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a lawsuit against Tri-State Paving and its principals, Richard Attenborough, III and Stevee Paige Castle-Lagerquist. The suit alleges that they defrauded homeowners with a deceptive paving scheme and failed to comply with New York’s home improvement contractor laws. Based upon the evidence submitted to the court, Supreme Court Justice James P. McClusky issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the company from conducting or soliciting any paving business while the lawsuit is pending. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-files-suit-against-paving-company-alleges-fraudulent-deceptive-conduct>

June 15, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Felony Conviction Of Fake Brooklyn Attorney

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the felony conviction of Mikhail Perlov, of Brooklyn, NY for posing as an attorney and defrauding multiple victims of tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. On May 4, 2017, Perlov pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree (Class D felony), five counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree (Class D felony), two counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree (class E felony), one count of Practicing or Appearing as Attorney-at-Law Without Being Admitted and Registered (class E felony), two counts of None but Attorneys to Practice in the State (class E felony), and two counts of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree (class E felony). Today, Kings County Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth A. Foley sentenced Perlov to six months in jail and five years on probation ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-felony-conviction-fake-brooklyn-attorney>

June 15, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Settlement With Healthcare Services Company That Illegally Deferred Notice Of Breach Of More Than 220,000 Patient Records

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a settlement with CoPilot Provider Support Services, Inc. (“CoPilot”), a New York corporation that provides support services to the health industry, after the company violated General Business Law by waiting over a year to provide notice of a data breach that exposed 221,178 patient records. CoPilot has agreed to pay \$130,000 in penalties and to improve its notification and legal compliance program. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlement-healthcare-services-company-illegally-deferred>

June 14, 2017

Operation Vandelay Industries: A.G. Schneiderman Announces Felony Guilty Pleas Of Fake Architect In Three Counties

NEW YORK–Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that Paul J. Newman, President of Cohesion Studios, Inc., entered guilty pleas in Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties for defrauding construction companies, business owners, and municipalities throughout the Capital Region by pretending to be a licensed and registered architect. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/operation-vandelay-industries-ag-schneiderman-announces-felony-guilty-pleas-fake>

June 14, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Lawsuit Against Queens Investment Adviser For Allegedly Defrauding Elderly New Yorkers

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced a lawsuit against Dean Mustaphalli and several of the entities he controls for allegedly engaging in a six-year scheme to defraud New Yorkers—many of whom were elderly and at or near retirement—out of millions of dollars of their savings. The suit alleges that Mustaphalli caused his clients to invest in his hedge fund where he engaged in a highly speculative and risky trading strategy— against their interest and without their knowledge. The complaint alleges that Mustaphalli knew that his trading strategy for the hedge fund was unsuitable for his clients, who were interested in more conservative investments, and that this caused his clients to suffer devastating losses. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-lawsuit-against-queens-investment-adviser-allegedly>

June 13, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Statement On Legal Victory In Rent Regulation Challenge

Today, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced a legal victory in Portofino Realty Cort. et al. v. New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal et al.

Judge Richard Velasquez of New York State Supreme Court, Kings County recently granted Attorney General Schneiderman’s motion for summary judgment, dismissing the challenge to the state’s rent regulation laws and Tenant Protection Unit in its entirety. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-statement-legal-victory-rent-regulation-challenge>

June 08, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces \$63K Settlement, Court Order, Effectively Banning Fraudulent Rochester Home Improvement Contractor From Operating In NYS; Encourages Other Potential Victims To File Claims

ROCHESTER – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that the New York State Supreme Court has ordered George Frisch, president of Dynabuild Construction Group, Inc., to pay restitution, costs, and penalties of at least \$63,000 and banned him from owning or operating a home improvement business in New York State. Consumers who paid deposits to Dynabuild but did not have their job completed have until July 16, 2017 to file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Rochester Regional Office. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-63k-settlement-court-order-effectively-banning-fraudulent>

June 06, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Guilty Plea Of Major NYC Landlord Steven Croman

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the guilty plea of Steven Croman, a major New York City landlord with more than 140 apartment buildings across Manhattan, for fraudulently refinancing loans and committing tax fraud. Under the terms of his plea, Croman would serve one year of jail time on Rikers Island and pay a \$5 million tax settlement – marking a significant precedent in the effort to combat landlords who base their business model on the displacement of rent-stabilized tenants. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-guilty-plea-major-nyc-landlord-steven-croman>

NORTH CAROLINA

June 15, 2017

Attorney General Josh Stein Wins Nearly \$90,000 Over Illegal Auto Advertisements

RALEIGH, NC – Attorney General Josh Stein today announced a settlement with Hopkins and Raines, Inc. and Pro Automotive, LLC over deceptive auto dealer advertisements. The North Carolina Department of Justice had previously investigated Hopkins and Raines and entered into an agreement with it in 2011 to prohibit the company from doing business in North Carolina. Today’s news comes after the Attorney General’s Office sued the companies for violating that agreement and North Carolina’s consumer protection laws. ...

- **Original Press Release:** [http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Attorney-General-Josh-Stein-Wins-Nearly-\\$90,000-Ov.aspx](http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Attorney-General-Josh-Stein-Wins-Nearly-$90,000-Ov.aspx)

NORTH DAKOTA

June 23, 2017

STENEHJEM JOINS FTC IN ASKING COURT TO PAUSE MERGER OF SANFORD HEALTH AND MID DAKOTA CLINIC

After a months-long analysis, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has joined the Federal Trade Commission in asking the federal district court to pause the merger of Sanford Bismarck and Mid Dakota Clinic until the FTC has completed an administrative hearing that will determine the legality of the transaction and any appropriate remedies. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/news/stenehjem-joins-ftc-asking-court-pause-merger-sanford-health-and-mid-dakota-clinic>

OHIO

July 31, 2017

Suspect Wanted for Grand Theft, Telecommunications Fraud

(CLEVELAND) -- Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine joined the Cleveland Division of Police today to seek the public's help in locating Zienup Sbeih-Maddox, 23, of Cleveland, who is wanted for multiple counts of grand theft and telecommunications fraud.

In the spring of 2017, victims began contacting the Cleveland Division of Police Financial Crimes Unit reporting that they had been scammed by the same woman. Sbeih-Maddox is accused of creating a Facebook page which she allegedly used to entice potential buyers with discounted baby and toddler items. According to investigators, Sbeih-Maddox mainly targeted new mothers and investigators believe she has scammed over 150 victims with a total loss of approximately \$200,000. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Suspect-Wanted-for-Grand-Theft-Telecommunications>

July 24, 2017

Man Accused of Repeat Consumer Protection Violations

(HAMILTON, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a consumer protection lawsuit against a man accused of repeatedly failing to deliver promised home improvement services to customers.

The lawsuit accuses Christopher D. Craft, operating as New Century Remodeling, of taking money from consumers and then failing to perform the work or to provide refunds. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Man-Accused-of-Repeat-Consumer-Protection-Violatio>

July 07, 2017

Home Contractor Accused of Providing Shoddy Work to Consumers in Northwest and Central Ohio

(BOWLING GREEN, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a consumer protection lawsuit against a home improvement contractor accused of providing shoddy, incomplete work to consumers in northwest and central Ohio.

According to the lawsuit, Dynasty Remodeling LLC and its operator, Ryan Wilcox, took money for projects that were never completed and damaged consumers' property, leaving some consumers with large holes in their yards, torn-up bathrooms, improperly installed roofs, or other damage. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Home-Contractor-Accused-of-Providing-Shoddy-Work-t>

June 12, 2017

Lawsuit Seeks Reimbursement from Columbus Used Car Dealer Following Title Problems

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a consumer protection lawsuit against Cousins Car Lot LLC and owner Alan Cabral for failing to deliver vehicle titles to customers as required by state law.

The lawsuit seeks reimbursement to the Title Defect Recision Fund (which helps consumers when dealerships fail to provide titles) and an end to further violations. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Lawsuit-Seeks-Reimbursement-from-Columbus-Used-Car>

June 02, 2017

Attorney General DeWine Seeks Consumer Restitution from Strongsville-Based Adoption Agency

(CLEVELAND)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today announced a lawsuit against an international adoption agency based in Strongsville for allegedly misleading clients and taking payment for adoption services it never performed.

The lawsuit accuses European Adoption Consultants and its owner, Margaret Cole, of violating Ohio's consumer protection and charitable laws. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Attorney-General-DeWine-Seeks-Consumer-Restitution>

OKLAHOMA

June 07, 2017

Attorney General Hunter Files Securities Fraud Charges on Tulsa Businessman

TULSA – Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter has filed two felony counts of securities fraud on Robert Eugene Tucker.

Tucker is currently serving a suspended sentence after pleading guilty in 2016 to practices similar to the charges filed today by the attorney general's office.

An investigation into the allegations was opened after a complaint was referred to the Attorney General's Office by the Oklahoma Department of Securities, alleging a Tulsa resident attempted to invest in Tucker's company, Corporate eXchange International. ...

- **Original Press Release:** https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=258&article_id=33161

PENNSYLVANIA

June 13, 2017

Attorney General Shapiro Protects Consumers by Taking Legal Action against 31 Unregistered Home Improvement Contractors

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro today announced the filing of 31 legal actions against home improvement contractors who failed to register under Pennsylvania law. Home improvement contractors who earn more than \$5,000 a year are required to register every other year under Pennsylvania’s Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (HICPA). The legal actions – settlement agreements known as Assurances of Voluntary Compliance – are being filed by the Bureau of Consumer Protection. Each of the contractors cited for failing to register received fines of at least \$500. ...

- **Original Press Release:** https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=3560

TENNESSEE

July 21, 2017

HRC Medical and Its Principals Ordered to Pay \$18 Million and Stop Unlawful Activity

Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III today announced Senior Judge Don Ash, serving as special judge for the Davidson County Circuit Court, has granted the State’s Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in its lawsuit against HRC Medical Centers, Inc. and the company’s principals, Dan Hale, Don Hale, and Dixie Hale. The Order is a significant step in concluding the case. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/news/52047>

TEXAS

July 17, 2017

AG Paxton Obtains \$25 Million for the State of Texas in Illegal Debt Collecting Suit

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton last week obtained a final judgment and permanent injunction against Samara Portfolio Management, LLC, Law Office of Joseph Onwuteaka, P.C., and Joseph O. Onwuteaka, for violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices—Consumer Protection Act (DTPA), Texas Debt Collection Act and the Identity Theft Protection and Enforcement Act (ITPA). ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-obtains-25-million-for-the-state-of-texas-in-illegal-debt-colleti>

July 07, 2017

AG Paxton Obtains \$900,000 Judgment against Developer of Illegal Subdivision

Attorney General Ken Paxton today announced the entry of a \$900,000 agreed judgment against Pearland developer Richard J. Burns in connection with his sale of property in an illegal Caldwell County subdivision known as Century Oak Estates.

The state's lawsuit against Burns included allegations that he engaged in unlawful conduct in the sale of lots in Century Oak. Burns deceptively represented that lots were fit for residential use when in fact some were in flood plains, others had illegal septic tanks, and purchasers were unable to obtain building permits because Century Oak Estates was an unplatted and unrecorded subdivision which had never been approved by Caldwell County. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-obtains-900000-judgment-against-developer-of-illegal-subdivision>

June 22, 2017

AG Paxton Reaches \$74K Agreement with San Antonio-Based Business

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton today reached an agreement with Joseph Brandon Shirley and Randy Lee Gardner over allegations that their travel service operations violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act and other Texas statutes. The State alleged that Respondents offered travel promotions that were unavailable in order to get consumers to purchase memberships, misrepresented the savings promised to consumers for services, and refused requests to cancel memberships, among several other complaints. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-reaches-74k-agreement-with-san-antonio-based-business>

June 21, 2017

AG Paxton Reaches \$36,000 Settlement with Online Contact Lens Provider

Attorney General Ken Paxton this week reached a \$36,000 settlement with THEG, Inc., which did business as the online contact lens distributor/wholesaler Fine and Clear. Fine and Clear sold contact lenses to consumers without requiring them to provide a valid prescription, violating the Deceptive Trade Practices Act and the Texas Optometry Act.

Fine and Clear voluntarily agreed to stop selling contact lenses to consumers without prescriptions, and also agreed to provide consumers with a full refund for a period of 90 days from the start date of the settlement. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-reaches-36000-settlement-with-online-contact-lens-provider>

VERMONT

July 03, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL T.J. DONOVAN SETTLES LITERATI CREATIVE GROUP LITIGATION

Attorney General T.J. Donovan settled litigation alleging consumer protection act violations against Literati Creative Group, which published the wedding magazines Vermont Vows and Well Wed. Literati went out of business in early 2016. The Attorney General sought reimbursement for advertisers who purchased ads in magazines that were not published or were published much later than anticipated. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/attorney-general-t.j.-donovan-settles-literati-creative-group-litigation.php>

June 30, 2017

Attorney General TJ Donovan Resolves Mobile Home Parks Dispute

Attorney General T.J. Donovan announced today that Ship Sevin, LLC and Ship Sevin, LLC II (“Ship Sevin”), agreed to pay a penalty of \$30,000 to the State of Vermont, and to reimburse Vermonters for illegal fees paid to Ship Sevin. Ship Sevin leases mobile homes, mobile home lots, and residential rental properties in Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, and Washington Counties.

Ship Sevin violated Vermont’s Consumer Protection Act by charging tenants unreasonable and undisclosed fees. Vermont law requires that all terms governing mobile home rentals be contained in a written lease, and that all lease terms be reasonable and fair. Landlords may only collect properly disclosed rental and utility charges, and other reasonable incidental service charges. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/attorney-general-tj-donovan-resolves-mobile-home-parks-dispute.php>

June 02, 2017

JPay To Pay Vermont \$7,380 Penalty For Contest Violations, Refunds To 82 Vermonters

Attorney General Thomas J. Donovan, Jr. announced today that Vermont has entered into a settlement with JPay Inc., a provider of communication services to correctional facilities. The settlement involves a promotional contest that JPay conducted in violation of Vermont law. JPay will pay a \$7,380 penalty to the State of Vermont, and will refund at total of approximately \$400 in fees paid by 82 Vermonters who entered the contest. ...

- **Original Press Release:** [http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/jpay-to-pay-vermont-\\$7380-penalty-for-contest-violations-refunds-to-82-vermonters.php](http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/jpay-to-pay-vermont-$7380-penalty-for-contest-violations-refunds-to-82-vermonters.php)

VIRGINIA

July 25, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH VIRGINIA BEACH OPEN-END CREDIT LENDER

RICHMOND (July 25, 2017) - Attorney General Mark Herring announced today that his office has reached a settlement with Alternative Finance Company, LLC ("Alternative Finance"), a Virginia Beach open-end credit lender, to provide refunds and debt forgiveness, including judgment satisfactions, to nearly 600 consumers as a result of the company's alleged violations of the Virginia statutes applicable to consumer finance companies and the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA). ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/992-july-25-2017-ag-herring-reaches-settlement-with-virginia-beach-open-end-credit-lender>

July 14, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING SUES VIRGINIA BEACH-BASED SEA-THRU WINDOWS FOR DEFRAUDING HOMEOWNERS

RICHMOND (July 14, 2017) -Attorney General Mark R. Herring announced today that he has filed a lawsuit against Sea-Thru Windows, Inc., a Virginia Beach-based window seller and installer, and its President and sole owner, Jeffery C. Pesich, for allegedly absconding with tens of thousands of dollars of customers' money in violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The suit seeks restitution for homeowners whose money was taken without work being completed, as well as for homeowners whose supposed "lifetime warranty" was not honored by Sea-Thru. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/984-july-14-2017-attorney-general-herring-sues-virginia-beach-based-sea-thru-windows-for-defrauding-homeowners>

June 30, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH B&B PAWNBROKERS, INC.

RICHMOND (June 30, 2017) - Attorney General Mark Herring announced today that his office has reached a settlement with B&B Pawnbrokers, Inc. (B&B), a Fredericksburg-based pawnbroker that will offer over \$60,000 in refunds to over 840 consumers as a result of the company's alleged violations of the Virginia pawnbroker statutes, the Virginia motor vehicle title loan statutes, the Virginia consumer finance statutes, and the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA). ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/978-june-30-2017-ag-herring-reaches-settlement-with-b-b-pawnbrokers-inc>

WASHINGTON

July 20, 2017

AG's Office sues Blue Utopia for deceptive conduct

OLYMPIA — The Attorney General's Office today announced a lawsuit against a Seattle-based company offering campaign and non-profit fundraising services, alleging Blue Utopia failed to send all the donations it collected to its clients, and used new donations to cover old debts to other campaigns. The lawsuit alleges these are unfair and deceptive practices in violation of state law. The office has identified at least two affected campaigns in Washington so far.

Today, the Attorney General's Office obtained a temporary restraining order, requiring the company to provide donations to its clients in a timely fashion and in the proper amounts. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ag-s-office-sues-blue-utopia-deceptive-conduct>

WEST VIRGINIA

July 31, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey Secures Refunds, Shutdown of Charter Bus Company

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey achieved a temporary injunction shutting down a charter bus company and forcing its owners to refund more than \$22,600 for two canceled field trips and a family vacation.

The agreed upon order requires that Cav's Coach Company, LLC and its owner, Christopher Todd Cavender, cease operations for the duration of the state's litigation. It also freezes the company's assets, permits access to corporate and personal bank records and requires the company turn over all trip records dating back to January 2013. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=ce7312c688>

July 21, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey: Indictment Highlights Enforcement, Benefits of Preneed Funeral Contracts

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey believes the recent indictment of a funeral home owner highlights not only his office's civil enforcement of preneed funeral contracts, but also the benefit such agreements provide families across the state.

Preneed funeral contracts give people the choice to preplan their final arrangements and lock in current prices, all within the protection and monitoring of the Attorney General's Office.

Approximately one third of funerals are planned in such fashion. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=d5a34cd62c>

June 29, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey Reaches Settlement With Furniture Store

CHARLESTON — Attorney General Patrick Morrisey reached a settlement with a north central West Virginia furniture store to resolve a consumer’s complaint and alleged consumer protection violations revealed as part of a subsequent investigation. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=f92312959d>

WISCONSIN

June 23, 2017

Wisconsin DOJ Files Lawsuit Against Midwest Auto Recycling, LLC and its 10 Related Businesses for Fraudulent Misrepresentations and Unfair Billing Practices

MADISON, Wis. – Today, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit against Cudahy-based Midwest Auto Recycling, LLC and its related businesses, operating under at least ten unique website addresses, including Engine & Transmission World, Engine Shopper, and SW Engines, among others. The complaint alleges that Midwest Auto Recycling, LLC and its related businesses used deceptive marketing and billed consumers for goods that consumers did not agree to purchase.

Attorney General Brad Schimel stated, “I am asking the Court to force Midwest Auto Recycling to halt their alleged corrupt business practices, pay fines, and most importantly, provide restitution to the hundreds of consumers from Wisconsin and across the country who have been wronged by this company.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/wisconsin-doj-files-lawsuit-against-midwest-auto-recycling-llc-and-its-10-related>

June 05, 2017

Wisconsin DOJ Files Lawsuit Against Deceptive Property Management Company and its Many Affiliates

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of the Department of Financial Institutions and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, filed

a lawsuit against Vision Property Management (VPM), a South Carolina-based property management company. The complaint alleges that VPM used misleading and deceiving business practices to induce Wisconsin consumers to lease, rent, or purchase uninhabitable properties in violation of Wisconsin landlord-tenant and mortgage banking laws. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/wisconsin-doj-files-lawsuit-against-deceptive-property-management-company-and-its-many>

WYOMING

June 05, 2017

Gary Lee Slender, Gary Niklaus Slender, Sammy Whillie Slender, a/k/a Sam Slender and John Wayne Slender, d/b/a Asphalt Services, Slender Home Maintenance, and Gary Slender Asphalt Services (Case No. 2016-21; Docket No. 2017-90-DC)

The Slenders offered paving and roofing services in Lincoln County, Wyoming. The Attorney General alleged that the Slenders violated the Consumer Protection Act by misrepresenting the quality of their services; performing services without first obtaining permission from the property owner and then demanding payment; failing to provide consumers with the statutorily mandated disclosures regarding their right to cancel home solicitation sales; and falsely representing to consumers that they were licensed and bonded to perform contract work in the state and relevant counties. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ag.wyo.gov/cpu/resolved-matters>

Multistate Cases

Borrower Defense Regulations

Date: June 5, 2017

Details: Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced she is leading a coalition of attorneys general and other state officials demanding that the U.S. Department of Education stop delaying its program to cancel federal student loans for thousands of Illinois students victimized by predatory for-profit colleges.

Across the country, thousands of former students of Corinthian Colleges Inc., who are eligible for loan forgiveness by the U.S. Department of Education, have yet to see their loans forgiven and are continuing to make payments on these loans. Some students are nearing the end of 12-month forbearances or collections bans on their loans and face restarting monthly payments on debts that should be canceled. All of these students attended campuses and programs where the Department of Education found fraud.

Example Press Release:

http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/20170605.html

Letter:

http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/6517BorrowerDefenseMultistateLetter.pdf

Fed Agency: Department of Education

States: Illinois, Washington, Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia

The Arbitration Rule

Date: July 28, 2017

Details: Attorney General Maura Healey has led a group of 18 states in supporting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and its proposed rule to limit the use of mandatory pre-dispute arbitration clauses in contracts for financial products and services.

The multistate letter, co-sponsored by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, and Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine and joined by 14 other states, was sent on Thursday to CFPB Director Richard Cordray. The attorneys general are supporting CFPB's rulemaking which restores consumers' rights to assert their claims in court in class or group actions in disputes with financial institutions.

Example Press Release: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/ag-calls-for-limits-on-mandatory-arbitration-clauses-.html>

Example letter: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/consumer/cfpb-multistate-letter.pdf>

Fed Agency: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

States: California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Oregon, Washington, Vermont, and Virginia

Settlement with CareCore over False Medicaid Claims

Date: June 20, 2017

Details: Attorney General Pam Bondi and 20 other states joined the federal government in a settlement with CareCore National, LLC, resolving allegations that the company caused false claims to be submitted to government health care programs. CareCore provides utilization management services that determines whether services are medically necessary. CareCore allegedly instituted a scheme to auto-approve hundreds of radiology service requests on a daily basis, deeming the diagnostic services as reasonable and medically necessary, even though appropriate medical personnel did not evaluate the cases.

Example Press Release:

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/5367820C9AA5FC3A852581450065BF4C>

Settlement: [http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/JMAR-ANGR6D/\\$file/CareCore+Settlement.pdf](http://myfloridalegal.com/webfiles.nsf/WF/JMAR-ANGR6D/$file/CareCore+Settlement.pdf)

States: 21 States

Settlement with Pharmaceutical Company for Marketing Schemes and Illegal Kickbacks

Date: March 31, 2017

Details: The settlement resolve allegations that the company engaged in a variety of illegal marketing schemes for its cancer drugs Thalomid and Revlimid and paid kickbacks to physicians to induce them to prescribe the drugs. Specifically, this settlement resolves allegations that Celgene unlawfully marketed these drugs for a variety of off-label uses, including Thalomid for the treatment of multiple myeloma prior to its FDA approval for use in treating multiple myeloma; for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes ("MDS"); brain cancer; bladder cancer; cervical cancer; esophageal cancer; Kaposi's sarcoma; leukemia, (including but not limited to chronic lymphocytic leukemia ("CLL")); lymphoma; melanoma; ovarian cancer; prostate cancer; pancreatic cancer; renal cancer; thyroid cancer; lung cancer; colon and colorectal cancer; uterine cancer; and breast cancer.

This settlement also resolves allegations that Celgene unlawfully marketed Revlimid for the treatment of multiple myeloma; newly diagnosed multiple myeloma; maintenance therapy for multiple myeloma; for the treatment of multiple myeloma without dexamethasone; for the treatment of MDS which is not associated with a deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality; leukemia, (including but not limited to CLL); lymphoma; myelofibrosis; brain cancer; and prostate cancer. These indications for Thalomid and Revlimid were not approved by the FDA for some or all of the time-periods during which Celgene promoted the drugs for such uses. Certain of these indications were not covered by the State's Medicaid Program (42 U.S.C. Chapter 7 Subchapter XIX) for some or all of the time-periods during which Celgene promoted the drugs for such uses.

Example Press Release: [URL](#)

Fed Agency: Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

States: 28 States and the District of Columbia

Protect Consumers from Class Action Settlement Abuse

Date: June 1, 2017

Details: Attorney General Mark Brnovich, leading a bi-partisan coalition of 13 state Attorneys General from across the country, filed a brief in federal appeals court to protect Arizona consumers from abuse in the class action settlement process. In the Amicus Brief, Attorney General Brnovich asked the appeals court to reverse a lower court approval of a proposed class action settlement that would send \$8.5 million to class action attorneys but only \$225,000 in cash to consumer class members.

Example Press Release: <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/ag-brnovich-files-brief-protect-az-consumers-class-action-settlement-abuse-0>

Amicus Brief: https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/sites/all/docs/press-release/press-release-files/2017_Files/Briefs/CAFA_EasySaver_Ninth_Circuit_Amicus_as_filed_.pdf

States: Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.

Judgement against Dish Network LLC for Illegal Telemarketing

Date: June 6, 2017

Details: The Court entered the judgment against Dish after a five-week bench trial. The Court also ordered robust injunctive relief requiring Dish Network to reform its telemarketing practices. California was joined by co-plaintiffs the federal government, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio in this action.

Example Press Release: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-california-receive-53-million-dish-network-llc-illegal>

States: California, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio.

Suit Filed Against Trump Administration Over Energy Efficiency Standards

Date: June 13, 2017

Details: New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, leading a coalition of 11 Attorneys General and the City of New York, today filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration's U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) over its failure to comply with federal law by delaying energy efficiency standards for several common consumer and commercial products.

The Trump administration failed to publish in the Federal Register final energy efficiency standards for five products: portable air conditioners, uninterruptible power supplies, air compressors, walk-in coolers and freezers and commercial packaged boilers.

These standards would save consumers and businesses an estimated \$11.6 billion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 159 million tons, and conserve over 242 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity – the equivalent of the annual electricity consumption of more than 19.3 million households – over a 30-year period. The coalition filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Example Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/attorneys-general-eric-schneiderman-and-becerra-file-suit-against-trump-administration>

Fed Agency: Department of Energy

States: New York, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington.

The City of New York is also a party in the lawsuit.

Opposition to Merger between Fantasy Sports Sites DraftKings and FanDuel

Date: June 19, 2017

Details: The complaint opposes a proposed merger between DraftKings, Inc., and FanDuel Limited. Such a merger between the two largest providers of paid daily fantasy sports contests, the government agencies argue, would lessen competition in violation of federal antitrust laws.

Draft Kings and FanDuel currently dominate the market for daily fantasy sports contests. The FTC, the District and California allege that the proposed merger would result in a virtual monopoly in that market, and would harm consumers by limiting price competition, decreasing quality, reducing incentives for innovation in the industry, and raising entry fees..

Example Press Release: <https://oag.dc.gov/release/dc-joins-federal-trade-commission-california-opposing-merger-between-fantasy-sports-sites>

Fed Agency: Federal Trade Commission

States: California and District of Columbia

Letter Urges FCC to Preserve States' Ability to Sue Internet Providers for Deceptive Advertising

Date: June 19, 2017

Details: A coalition of more than 30 attorneys general sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking the agency to reaffirm the authority of states to enforce consumer protection laws against internet providers for false or misleading advertisements about their services.

The attorneys general oppose a petition, submitted by industry trade groups, that asks the FCC to declare that states cannot file lawsuits against broadband providers for misleading consumers if that provider is in compliance with FCC transparency rules.

Example Press Release: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/consumer/final-state-ag-comments-re-fcc-petition.pdf>

Letter: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/consumer/final-state-ag-comments-re-fcc-petition.pdf>

Fed Agency: Federal Communications Commission

States: Massachusetts, Texas, New York, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

20 Attorneys General Reject Financial Choice Act's Dismantling of Critical Consumer Protections

Date: June 07, 2017

Details: A coalition of 20 state attorneys general joined in strongly opposing the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017 (H.R. 10), which would eviscerate the role of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and eliminate other critical protections for consumers across the country.

Example Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-leads-coalition-20-ags-urging-house-reject-anti-consumer-legislation>

Letter: https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/6.7.2017_choice_act_letter.pdf

Fed Agency: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

States: California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington.

Drug Companies for Price-Fixing Conspiracy in Sales of Popular Generic Drugs

Date: July 18, 2017

Details: The lawsuit was filed against several manufacturers of generic drugs for allegedly conspiring to fix drug prices, thwart competition, and engage in illegal and anti-competitive trade practices with regard to two drugs. The lawsuit alleges that the manufacturers' actions have caused significant harm to the nation's healthcare system.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut against six drug companies: Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc.; Citron Pharma, LLC; Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc.; Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. It alleges that these companies 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.

This latest suit mirrors an ongoing action in the same court in which 40 state attorneys general allege violations of federal and state antitrust laws and state consumer protection laws against the same six defendants. Today's suit brings the number of attorneys general suing the companies over the alleged misconduct to 45.

In July 2014, the State of Connecticut initiated an investigation into the reasons behind suspicious price increases of certain generic pharmaceuticals.

Example Press Release: <https://oag.dc.gov/release/district-and-four-states-sue-drug-companies-price-fixing-conspiracy-sales-popular-generic>

States: 45 States

Nationwide Health Care Fraud Takedown

Date: July 13, 2017

Details: The charges announced today aggressively target schemes billing Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE (a health insurance program for members and veterans of the armed forces and their families) for medically unnecessary prescription drugs and compounded medications that often were never even purchased and/or distributed to beneficiaries. The charges also involve individuals contributing to the opioid epidemic, with a particular focus on medical professionals involved in the unlawful distribution of opioids and other prescription narcotics, a particular focus for the Department. According to the CDC, approximately 91 Americans die every day of an opioid related overdose.

Example Press Release: http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-426190--m_2017_7,00.html

Example Press Release: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/national-health-care-fraud-takedown-results-charges-against-over-412-individuals-responsible>

Fed Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

States: 41 federal districts

Coalition Opposing Elimination of Low-income Energy Assistance Programs

Date: July 31, 2017

Details: A coalition of 36 attorneys general and state consumer advocate agencies urged members of Congress to preserve and expand funding for critical low-income energy assistance programs for residents across the country.

In a letter sent to Congress, the attorneys general and advocates conveyed the importance of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to their states and expressed opposition to the proposed elimination or reduction of their funding within the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Community Services budget.

Example Press Release: http://www.ag.state.il.us/pressroom/2017_07/20170731.html

Letter:

http://www.ag.state.il.us/pressroom/2017_07/Letter_to_Congress_from_Attorneys_Genera_l_and_Consumer_Advocates.pdf

Fed Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

States: 36 States

Suit Against Drug Makers for Anti-Trust Violations

Date: July 18, 2017

Details: A multistate lawsuit alleging antitrust violations involving an antibiotic, an oral diabetes medication and six generic drug manufacturers.

The companies are accused of fixing prices, coordinating schemes through direct interactions with competitors and allocating markets among other assertions. Those sued were Heritage Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Aurobindo Pharma USA, Inc., Citron Pharma, LLC, Mayne Pharma (USA), Inc., Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

Example Press Release: <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-files-suit-against-drug-makers-for-anti-trust-violations/>

States: 44 States total

A Coalition of 35 States, Urge FCC to Reject Petition by Broadband Industry to Strip Consumer Protection Powers

Date: June 19, 2017

Details: A bipartisan coalition of 35 attorneys general joined in opposing a cable telecommunications industry petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) intended to stop states from enforcing laws intended to prevent false advertising related to internet speeds.

In a comment submitted to the FCC, the attorneys general underscored the long-standing critical role they have played in protecting broadband consumers. As the comment letter points out, the industry is seeking a ruling that exceeds the authority of the FCC, is procedurally improper and would upend the longstanding dual federal-state regulation of deceptive practices in the telecommunications industry. Rutledge and her colleagues believe this would leave consumers across the country without the basic state protections from unfair and deceptive business practices that help ensure they are receiving the internet speeds for which they are paying..

Example Press Release: [https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/leading-a-coalition-of-35-states-ag-paxton-urges-fcc-to-reject-petition-by-Letter:](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/leading-a-coalition-of-35-states-ag-paxton-urges-fcc-to-reject-petition-by-Letter)

https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/epress/final_State_AG_comments_re_FCC_petition.pdf

Fed Agency: Federal Communications Commission

States: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Major Multistate Investigation into Manufacturers' Contributions to Opioid Crisis

Date: June 15, 2017

Details: A bipartisan coalition of a majority of Attorneys General from across the country as part of an effort to combat the opioid epidemic. The Attorneys General are conducting comprehensive investigations into the widespread prescribing and use of opioids, as well as the role parties involved in the manufacture and distribution of opioids may have played in creating or prolonging this problem.

A focus of the ongoing investigation is to evaluate whether manufacturers have engaged in unlawful practices in the marketing and sale of opioids. The Attorneys General are committed to using the vast investigative resources available, including subpoenas for documents and testimony, to identify and hold accountable those parties responsible for the opioid epidemic.

Example Press Release: <https://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/news/50993>

Coalition of 12 Attorneys General in Opposing Regulatory Rollbacks that Would Jeopardize Americans' Health and Safety

Date: June 26, 2017

Details: A coalition of 12 Attorneys General, today wrote U.S. Senate leadership expressing “strong opposition” to S. 951, the proposed Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (RAA), which would jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of the American public. In a letter addressed to Senate leadership, the coalition contends that the RAA would bring the federal regulatory process “to a grinding halt,” thereby obstructing the implementation of laws that protect Americans from toxic chemicals, predatory marketing practices, dangerous labor conditions, unsafe food and drugs, and much more.

Example Press Release: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-leads-12-state-coalition-opposing-regulatory-rollbacks-would>

Letter: https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/letter_raq_6_26_17_final_0.pdf

States: New York, California, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Calls for Reversal of Lower Court's Approval of Remington's Class Action Rifle Settlement

Date: July 7, 2017

Details: Looking to hold Remington responsible for the harm caused by the defective triggers on many of its rifles, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey today announced that her office is leading a coalition of 14 attorneys general in urging the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to overturn a class action settlement arranged by the gun manufacturer.

As reported by 60 Minutes and CNBC, more than 7.5 million Remington rifles are prone to accidentally fire without a trigger pull, a defect that already has resulted in numerous deaths and other serious bodily injuries. Despite these ongoing risks, under the settlement, fewer than 25,000 of the defective guns are expected to be repaired.

In an amicus brief led by Massachusetts, the attorneys general criticize the settlement with Remington because it unfairly terminates valuable legal claims for the rifle owners while leaving consumers and the public at ongoing risk of death or injury.

Example Press Release: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-07-remington-class-action-rifle-settlement.html>

Amicus Brief: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/policy/2017/filed-remington-appellate-amicus.pdf>

States: Massachusetts, California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington.

State AGs Express Concerns over U.S. Education Department Delays in Student Loan Forgiveness

Date: June 5, 2017

Details: In a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, Madigan urges the Department of Education to review the mounting applications and work to forgive loans already approved to be canceled.

The letter presses DeVos to provide information on what the department is doing to rectify the growing backlog of applications and to provide a timeframe for forgiving the student loan debt. In addition, since the Department of Education has already determined that these students are eligible for loan forgiveness, the letter urges DeVos to abandon the application process and automatically discharge all eligible loans..

Example Press Release:

http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/20170605.html

Letter:

http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_06/6517BorrowerDefenseMultistateLetter.pdf

Fed Agency: Department of Education

States: Illinois, Washington, Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

30-State Coalition Urging Federal Government to Take Action Against Spoof Robocalls

Date: July 5, 2017

Details: Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich led a bipartisan group of 30 attorneys general in urging the federal government to adopt rules that would allow telephone providers to block illegal robocalls.

The FCC has requested public comment on rules that would allow providers to block several types of “spoofed” calls, in which a call appears to be coming from one number, but is actually coming from a different number. Scammers frequently use spoofed calls to hide their identity and to trick consumers into believing that their calls are legitimate.

Currently, regulatory roadblocks prevent telecommunications companies from blocking many illegal robocalls. If the new rules are adopted, providers would be allowed to block calls coming from invalid numbers, unallocated numbers, and numbers whose owners have requested to be blocked. For example, phone providers would be able to block a scammer that is using a telephone number that clearly can’t exist because it hasn’t been assigned.

The letter sounds the alarm about the growing number of telephone scam complaints in Arizona and across the country and supports the FCC’s proposal to remove regulatory roadblocks. As the letter points out, “legitimate businesses do not need to use any of these methods to contact consumers.”

Example Press Release: <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/ag-brnovich-leads-30-state-coalition-urging-federal-government-take-action-against>

Letter: https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/sites/all/docs/press-release/press-release-files/2017_Files/letters/Letter.pdf

Fed Agency: Federal Communications Commission

States: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Medicaid Fraud

ALABAMA

June 30, 2017

AG MARSHALL JOINS ACTING US ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA IN ANNOUNCING ARREST OF DAPHNE PAIN CENTER DOCTOR FOR MEDICAID FRAUD AND THEFT

Acting United States Attorney Steve Butler of the Southern District of Alabama and Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced today that Dr. Rassan M. Tarabein, 58, a neurologist residing in Fairhope, Alabama, was arrested by law enforcement officials on federal and state criminal charges relating to health care fraud. On June 16, 2017, a state grand jury in Montgomery County, Alabama returned a 22–count indictment against Dr. Tarabein, charging him with Medicaid fraud and theft of property in the first degree. On June 28, 2017, a federal grand jury for the Southern District of Alabama returned a 22–count superseding indictment against Dr. Tarabein, charging him with health care fraud, making false statements relating to health care matters, lying to a federal agent, unlawfully distributing schedule II controlled substances, and money laundering. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-1086>

ARKANSAS

July 21, 2017

Rutledge Announces Oklahoma Man Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the conviction of a Pocola, Oklahoma man for Medicaid fraud. Shawn Howard pleaded guilty in Pulaski County Circuit Court and was sentenced to five years in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), with an additional 15 years suspended. He will pay \$23,980 in restitution to the Arkansas Medicaid Program if and when he is paroled. His sentence will run consecutively to a separate case prosecuted in Sebastian County. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-announces-oklahoma-man-sentenced-for-medicaid-fraud/>

July 13, 2017

Rutledge Announces Arrest of Two Central Arkansas Women for Medicaid Fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the arrest of a Pulaski County woman and a Garland County woman.

Jene Wyatt, 38, of Little Rock, was arrested and released from the Pulaski County Detention Facility. Wyatt is charged with one count of Medicaid fraud, a Class C felony. She is accused of

billing for services not rendered, totaling \$1,438.56 in November and December 2016. Lois Fields, 41, of Malvern, was arrested and released from the Pulaski County Detention Facility. Fields is charged with Medicaid fraud, a Class B felony. She is accused of billing \$5,833.56 for services not rendered as an adult companion between October 2015 and February 2016. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-announces-arrest-of-two-central-arkansas-women-for-medicaid-fraud/>

July 06, 2017

Rutledge Announces Malvern Woman Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the conviction of a Hot Spring County woman for Medicaid fraud. Wendy Beasley pleaded guilty in Pulaski County Circuit Court and was sentenced to three years probation. She will pay \$1,080 in restitution to the Arkansas Medicaid Program and a \$3,240 fine and court costs in the criminal case.

“Wendy Beasley took advantage of the Medicaid system,” said Attorney General Rutledge. “My staff of attorneys and investigators diligently work to investigate and prosecute people like Beasley, who is now required to pay the money back to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-announces-malvern-woman-sentenced-for-medicaid-fraud/>

June 13, 2017

Rutledge Announces Jonesboro Woman Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the conviction of a Craighead County woman for Medicaid fraud. Paula Riggs pleaded guilty in Pulaski County Circuit Court and was sentenced to three years probation. She will pay \$200 in restitution to the Arkansas Medicaid Program and a \$600 fine and court costs in the criminal case. Riggs also agreed to pay a civil judgment of \$36,268.76 for restitution and civil penalties of \$16,964.88 resulting from false claims she submitted to the Arkansas Medicaid Program. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-announces-jonesboro-woman-sentenced-for-medicaid-fraud/>

June 05, 2017

Rutledge Announces IZARD County Woman Sentenced for Medicaid Fraud

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today announced the conviction of an IZARD County woman for marrying a patient she was caring for, which would make her ineligible to be paid by the Medicaid program, and continuing to provide care.

Anna Moore pleaded guilty in Pulaski County Circuit Court and was sentenced to five years probation and to pay \$5,232 in restitution to the Arkansas Medicaid Program Trust Fund, \$500 in fines and court costs. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-announces-izard-county-woman-sentenced-for-medicaid-fraud/>

CONNECTICUT

July 13, 2017

State Initiates False Claims Act Lawsuit against Norwalk Family Practitioner over Medicaid Fraud Allegations

The state has initiated a False Claims Act lawsuit alleging that a Norwalk-based family practitioner engaged in a pervasive and illegal scheme to defraud Connecticut's Medicaid program by submitting false claims for services never provided, Attorney General George Jepsen and state Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby said today.

The state alleges that, from November 2013 until at least October 2016, Dr. Ramil Mansourov and his company, Ramil Mansourov, LLC, billed Connecticut's Medicaid program – the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) – for millions in services that were never provided to his Medicaid patients and further defrauded the program by falsifying his income information in order to obtain Medicaid benefits for himself and his children. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=594608>

FLORIDA

July 25, 2017

Escambia County Resident Arrested for Criminal Use of Personal ID Information

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office today arrested a convicted felon for criminal use of personal identification information. According to the MFCU investigation, Sade Monique Grier, 29, criminally used her sister's identification in order to work in the health care field and receive more \$10,000 in payroll funds. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/4F4AFF84ABA9F3A385258168006EA79B>

July 25, 2017

Targeted Case Manager Arrested for Defrauding Medicaid Out of More Than \$27,000

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Miami-Dade Police Department today arrested a targeted case manager for defrauding the Medicaid program out of more than \$27,000. According to the investigation, Arkyn Mena, 45, falsified the progress notes of six different Medicaid recipients to make it appear that the defendant provided services never performed. Submitting these falsified progress notes caused fraudulent billing to the Medicaid program. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/2970CBB13240889E852581680068965B>

July 19, 2017

10 Assisted Living Facility Owners Sentenced in Health Care Kickback Scheme

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation today announced the sentencing of 10 Miami-Dade County assisted living facility owners for participating in a scheme to receive health care kickbacks. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/8638CB320CCD44CB85258162006E257E>

July 13, 2017

Massive Nationwide Health Care Fraud Takedown

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today announced a nationwide health care fraud take down stopping schemes defrauding Medicare and Medicaid out of more than a billion dollars. In Florida alone, authorities arrested 87 defendants for participation in various fraud schemes involving more than \$150 million in fraudulent billing. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/748254DA9D60DE488525815C00672AF2>

June 30, 2017

Home Health Aide Arrested for Defrauding Medicaid and Neglect

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Leon

County Sheriff's Office arrested a home health aide for neglecting a disabled adult and defrauding the Florida Medicaid program. Vanesa Cainion, 50, allegedly failed to provide home health care services to the disabled adult and submitted false progress notes causing the Medicaid program to reimburse more than \$1,000 for services never provided. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/7189CE36E7493B1D8525814F004B3AE8>

June 28, 2017

Former Florida State Hospital Worker Arrested for Aggravated Abuse of a Patient

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Corrections Office of Inspector General arrested a former Florida State Hospital worker from Georgia for abusing a disabled adult. According to the MFCU investigation, while working at the hospital, Latavious Heard, 20, punched a disabled patient in the face, causing great bodily harm to the victim. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/D528C91A76013A888525814D005123E5>

June 23, 2017

Former Nursing Home Manager Arrested for Organized Scheme to Defraud and Grand Theft

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Tarpon Springs Police Department today arrested a Pasco County woman for a scheme misappropriating more than \$50,000 from nursing home residents. Jill Marie Spohn, 37, is a former employee of a Hillsborough County nursing home. While employed as the manager, Spohn allegedly misappropriated the funds of two elderly residents paid in cash to the facility. According to the MFCU investigation, to conceal the theft, Spohn manipulated the trust accounts of other residents. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/6529C688F97D0C36852581480064A51D>

June 22, 2017

Pinellas County Man Arrested for Exploiting Two Elderly and Disabled Victims

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Clearwater Police Department today arrested a Pinellas County

resident for exploiting two elderly and disabled individuals. In two separate occasions, Fernando Gutierrez, 58, allegedly gained access to victims' personal papers and funds to illegally transfer money into personal accounts. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/DB3EB74080DFDABA85258147005DBA30>

June 22, 2017

Two Arrested for More than \$100,000 in Medicaid Fraud

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Winter Garden Police Department today arrested Anthony Handal, 59, and Sandra Mora, 46, for allegedly defrauding the Medicaid program out of more than \$100,000. Handal, a licensed clinical social worker and Mora, a targeted case manager, are both contract employees of MTS Health Services. MTS provides applied behavior analysis and targeted case management services. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/5E1C598534018ADC8525814700534FBF>

June 19, 2017

Assisted Living Facility Owner Arrested for Exploitation of a Disabled Adult

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit announced the arrest of a Duval County resident for exploitation of a disabled adult. Warrenrina La'Tara Henderson, 42, is the owner of Paradise Retreat Assisted Living Facility and allegedly used the victim's Social Security funds for personal purposes ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/16D2B3F4BA011EE4852581440063F9D0>

June 12, 2017

Attorney General Bondi's MFCU Wins Top Award for Fighting Waste, Fraud and Abuse

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General today awarded Attorney General Pam Bondi's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit its top award for fighting fraud. The HHS OIG selected Attorney General Bondi's MFCU from 50 units nationwide for success fighting fraud and recovering hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. The MFCU today received the Award of Excellence in Fighting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse at the

2017 Honor Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/4ADAB9C4D6330DE78525813D00644947>

INDIANA

July 13, 2017

BREAKING NEWS: ATTORNEY GENERAL HILL AND STAFF CONTRIBUTE TO LARGEST HEALTHCARE FRAUD TAKEDOWN IN U.S. HISTORY

INDIANAPOLIS – Attorney General Curtis Hill today announced that his office made vital contributions to the largest healthcare fraud takedown in U.S. history. The Office of the Indiana Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) played a key role in seven federal criminal investigations that uncovered more than \$1 million in Medicaid fraud, leading to the indictment of 15 individuals and two companies on various charges. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://calendar.in.gov/site/oag/event/breaking-news--attorney-general-hill-and-staff-contribute-to-largest-healthcare-fraud-takedown-in-us-history/>

KENTUCKY

June 09, 2017

Suboxone Clinic Doctor Arraigned in Lawrence Circuit Court

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 9, 2017) – Attorney General Andy Beshear and his Office of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse today announced a former Eastern Kentucky Suboxone clinic doctor has been arraigned in Lawrence Circuit Court.

Dr. Curtis Edens, 57, of Hardeeville, South Carolina, is charged with two counts of Medicaid fraud; one count of improperly prescribing a controlled substance; one count of theft by deception over \$500 – all Class D felonies; and four counts of theft by deception over \$10,000, Class C felonies. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=345>

LOUISIANA

July 13, 2017

Medicaid Fraud Takedown a Success in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, LA – Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit has

arrested 19 and obtained a grand jury indictment against two individuals and their company this week as part of the 2017 National Health Care Fraud Takedown – a nationwide initiative aimed at bringing to justice those accused of Medicaid welfare fraud, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, violations of the anti-kickback statutes, and money laundering ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2433?catID=5>

MARYLAND

June 28, 2017

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Sentenced for Felony Medicaid Fraud

BALTIMORE, MD (June 28, 2017) –Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Jennifer B. Schiffer sentenced Candice Tisdale-Cornish, 45, of Baltimore to five years of incarceration, with all but six months suspended, and to be served on home detention, and five years of probation for billing the Medicaid program for therapy services that had not been provided. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/062817.pdf>

June 20, 2017

Hagerstown Pediatrician Agrees to Pay \$49,000 to State of Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD (June 20, 2017) -Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Mohammed Tariq, M.D., a pediatrician practicing in Hagerstown, Maryland, will pay \$49,000 to the State of Maryland to resolve allegations that he violated the terms of his participation agreement with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/062017.pdf>

MASSACHUSETTS

July 11, 2017

Owner of Home Health Agency and Employee Arrested for Allegedly Stealing Nearly \$2.7 Million From MassHealth

BOSTON – The owner of a Boston-based home health agency and an employee have been arrested in connection with allegedly stealing nearly \$2.7 million from the state’s Medicaid program (MassHealth) by routinely overbilling and falsely billing for services that were not authorized or provided to patients, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. Elena Kurbatzky, age 44, of Boston, and Natan Zalyapin, age 43, of Burlington, were arrested last night by Massachusetts State Police assigned to the AG’s Office. A Suffolk County Grand

Jury returned indictments charging Kurbatzky, Zalyapin and the company, Harmony Home Health Care, LLC (Harmony), on Monday. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-11-stealing-from-masshealth.html>

June 14, 2017

Father and Son Indicted in Connection With Defrauding MassHealth in False Billing Scheme

WORCESTER – A father and son who served as a personal care attendant (PCA) surrogate and a PCA for a family member have been charged with allegedly defrauding MassHealth, the state’s Medicaid program, of more than \$10,000 by falsely billing for services not rendered, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-06-14-father-and-son-indicted-masshealth.html>

MISSISSIPPI

July 25, 2017

Meridian Man Charged For Stealing Money From Vulnerable Person

Today, Attorney General Jim Hood announced the arrest and multi-count indictment of a man charged with two counts of felony exploitation of a vulnerable person.

Roger Lewis, Jr., 64, of Meridian, was arrested Monday in Lauderdale County by investigators with the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Lewis is accused of stealing two banking cards from the victim and withdrawing more than \$250 from each card for his personal use between November 2016 and January 2017. He was booked into the Lauderdale County Jail without bond. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/meridian-man-charged-for-stealing-money-from-vulnerable-person/>

July 06, 2017

Woman Arrested for Using Forged Checks From Assisted Living Center

Today, Attorney General Jim Hood announced the arrest of a woman on one count of uttering forgery in Greenville.

Ludie Mae Hicks, 43, of Hollandale, was arrested at her home Friday by investigators with the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division with assistance from the office’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Hicks allegedly produced several forged checks in 2016 at the Greenville

Walmart, totaling more than \$1,000. The checks were fraudulent but listed the account numbers affiliated with the Mississippi Care Center of Greenville. Hicks was booked in the Washington County Jail. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/woman-arrested-for-using-forged-checks-from-assisted-living-center/>

June 13, 2017

Meridian Registered Nurse Arrested on Medicaid Fraud Charges

Today, Attorney General Jim Hood announced the arrest of a Meridian registered nurse who is accused of stealing prescription drugs intended for several of her patients.

Kristina Nechol Lewis, 31, was arrested Friday following an indictment by a Lauderdale County Grand Jury on three counts of obtaining possession of a controlled substance by fraud, misrepresentation or subterfuge. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/meridian-registered-nurse-arrested-on-medicaid-fraud-charges/>

NEBRASKA

June 20, 2017

Chadron Mental Health Therapist to Pay for Medicaid Fraud

Lincoln, Nebraska--Attorney General Doug Peterson announced today that a judge has ordered a Chadron-area mental health therapist to pay more than \$300,000 to the state due to her improper billing practices.

Dawes County District Judge Travis O’Gorman ordered Anna Young to pay \$308,866.80 after an investigation by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud and Patient Abuse Unit found that she had billed Nebraska Medicaid \$102,955.60 for mental health services. Young admitted that she knowingly failed to maintain documentation to support the submission of the claims, as required by law. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/chadron-mental-health-therapist-pay-medicaid-fraud>

NEVADA

July 25, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Announces Sentencing of Medicaid Provider Business

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that JMD Counseling &

Outreach Center, LLC (hereinafter JMD), based out of Las Vegas, was sentenced today for Medicaid fraud.

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Kerry Earley sentenced JMD on a gross misdemeanor charge of Intentional Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. The fraud was committed between October 2014 and December 2016. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Sentencing_of_Medicaid_Provider_Business/

July 17, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Announces Sentencing of Behavioral Health Provider

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced that Kenneth Hollingsworth, 67, of Las Vegas, was sentenced today in a Medicaid fraud case involving the failure to maintain required documentation.

Hollingsworth was sentenced for one gross misdemeanor offense of Intentional Failure to Maintain Adequate Records by District Court Judge William Kephart. Kephart sentenced Hollingsworth to 364 days incarceration, suspended, performance of 100 hours of community service and payment of \$1,199 in restitution. The fraud occurred between November 2013 and February 2015. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

[http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Sentencing_of_Behavioral_Health_Provider\(3\)/](http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Sentencing_of_Behavioral_Health_Provider(3)/)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

July 28, 2017

Jerry Newton Indicted on Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald announces the indictment of Jerry Newton, age 53, of Hillsborough, for the financial exploitation of his elderly mother.

Newton was indicted on 4 counts of financial exploitation of an elderly, disabled or impaired adult. The indictments allege that Newton, having a power of attorney for his mother, misappropriated funds that should have been used for her sole benefit. The total amount of the alleged theft is \$328,375.96. The timeframe of the theft spanned from September 2015 through August 2016. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.nh.gov/media-center/press-releases/2017/20170728-jerry-newton.htm>

NEW JERSEY

June 02, 2017

Essex County Pediatrician Found Guilty at Trial of Submitting Fraudulent Bills to the Medicaid Program for 24-Hour Workdays

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor today announced that an Essex County pediatrician was found guilty at trial of submitting fraudulent claims to the Medicaid Program through which she falsely billed for working 24 hours or more a day. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170602c.html>

NEW MEXICO

July 26, 2017

AG Balderas Unveils New Public Service Announcements Launching Statewide Medicaid Fraud and Facility Abuse & Neglect Detection Initiative

Albuquerque, NM – This afternoon, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced a new statewide Medicaid Fraud and Facility Abuse & Neglect Detection Initiative that will utilize a new proactive approach of identifying patterns of fraud. Attorney General Balderas will also be contacting state agencies and Medicaid providers regarding the new initiative and asking for the partnership of both the providers and agencies in the new initiative. The Attorney General is also reaching out to the community for information through the unveiling of two new public service announcements that will air in the Albuquerque and El Paso markets. The new commercials will help New Mexicans better identify and report Medicaid fraud, and neglect and abuse in facilities. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**
http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Balderas_Unveils_New_Public_Service_Announcements_Launching_Statewide_Medicaid_Fraud_and_Facility_Abuse___Neglect_Detection.pdf

July 11, 2017

AG Balderas Files Lawsuit Against Presbyterian Health Plan, Presbyterian Network, and Presbyterian Insurance Co. for Fraud

Santa Fe, NM - Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that he has filed a lawsuit against Presbyterian Health Plan, Presbyterian Network, and Presbyterian Insurance Co. for fraud based on the systematic, deliberate underpayment of taxes on premiums received or written. The Office of the Attorney General's complaint alleges that between 2001 and 2015, Presbyterian routinely filed false claims for premium tax deductions and credits, thereby

defrauding the people of New Mexico and evading its legal duty to pay these taxes. The Presbyterian lawsuit is the first action brought by the Attorney General as part of his independent civil and criminal review, which is ongoing, and this lawsuit is limited to Presbyterian’s alleged false claims for reductions related to the Medicaid program. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/Balderas_Files_Lawsuit_Against_Presbyterian_Healthcare_Services___Presbyterian_Health_Plan.pdf

NEW YORK

July 28, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Guilty Verdict For Suffolk County Nurse Aide Who Falsified Nursing Home Record To Cover Up Neglect Of Dementia Residents

NEW YORK — Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that Yolanda Monsalvo, 51, of Ronkonkoma, NY—a former certified nurse aide at the Medford Multicare Center for Living (“Medford”)—was found guilty of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree after a trial in Suffolk County Court. In April 2016, Monsalvo was indicted for lying in an investigation report prepared after an unsupervised dementia resident at Medford fell from her wheelchair and sustained serious injuries. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-guilty-verdict-suffolk-county-nurse-aide-who-falsified>

NEW YORK

July 28, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces 46-Year Prison Sentence For Former Traumatic Brain Injury Center Counselor Who Sexually Abused Disabled Residents

KINGSTON – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the sentencing of Jacky Stanley, 51, of Kingston, a former counselor at the Northeast Center for Rehabilitation and Traumatic Brain Injury in Lake Katrine, New York (Northeast Center), after a jury found him guilty of sexually abusing six residents of Northeast Center between July 2014 and February 2015. Stanley was sentenced today by Ulster County Court Judge Donald A. Williams to 46 years in prison and 20 years post release supervision. Stanley has remained in jail since his arrest in August 2016 and will immediately commence his state prison sentence. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-46-year-prison-sentence-former-traumatic-brain-injury-center>

July 17, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Joint State And Federal \$4.4 Million Settlement With Visiting Nurse Service Managed Long-Term Care Plan

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and Acting United States Attorney Joon H. Kim today announced that Visiting Nurse Service of New York and its Managed Long-Term Care Plan, VNS Choice, will pay a total of \$4,392,150.00 to resolve allegations that the plan improperly obtained public funds and knowingly retained over \$1.6 million in Medicaid overpayments. Under the settlement, the service provider admitted that between January 1, 2011 and March 31, 2015 it failed to identify and disenroll 365 VNS Choice members in a timely manner and consequently continued receiving payment for care it did not provide. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-joint-state-and-federal-44-million-settlement-visiting-nurse>

July 13, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Guilty Plea, \$500K Settlement With Binghamtom-Area Transport Company Owners For Stealing From Medicaid By Failing To Secure Proper Insurance

BINGHAMTOM – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the convictions of Kenneth Cohn and Sharon Cohn and Yellow Medi-Van and Taxi, Inc., for Medicaid fraud and related charges. Broome County residents Kenneth Cohn and Sharon Cohn owned and operated Yellow Medi-Van and Taxi, Inc., a transportation company providing transportation to medical appointments for Medicaid recipients in Broome County. During the period June 2, 2012, to January 30, 2014, the defendants knowingly operated Yellow Medi-Van and Taxi in violation of Broome County transportation regulations and the New York State Workers’ Compensation Act, by failing to have Worker’s Compensation insurance. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-guilty-plea-500k-settlement-binghamtom-area-transport>

June 27, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Sentence Of Suffolk County Doctor For Criminal Sale Of Opioid Prescriptions

HAUPPAUGE—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today that Dr. Kurt Silverstein, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, was sentenced in Suffolk County Court in Riverhead to one year in jail after being found guilty by a jury for Criminal Sale of a Prescription for a Controlled Substance, Unauthorized Practice a Crime (Medicine), and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. The evidence at trial proved that Silverstein sold prescriptions for opioid medications on several occasions; aided, abetted and authorized one of his non-

physician employees to issue prescriptions for controlled substances at her discretion; and falsified electronic medical records relating to the patients to conceal his crimes. Silverstein was taken into custody and will serve his sentence in the Suffolk County Correctional Facility. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-sentence-suffolk-county-doctor-criminal-sale-opioid>

June 26, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Arrest Of Registered Nurse For Allegedly Defrauding Medicaid

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest and indictment of registered nurse Collins Anyanwu-Mueller, 47, for allegedly submitting over \$390,000 of false claims over the course of nearly five years for private-duty nursing services that he did not provide. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-arrest-registered-nurse-allegedly-defrauding-medicaid>

June 13, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Indictment Of Three-Quarter House Director Charged With Defrauding Medicaid Through The Use Of A Kickback Scheme

NEW YORK—Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced the indictment, arrest and arraignment of Robert H. Corrado, 56, Kristina Corrado, 32, of Nesconset, New York, and Interline Employee Assistance Program, Inc. for engaging in a systematic kickback scheme and violating patients’ rights. In addition to the arrest, the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (“MFCU”) filed several civil causes of action against Robert Corrado and Kristina Corrado, Interline, and others seeking to recover monies improperly obtained as a result of their criminal conduct. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-indictment-three-quarter-house-director-charged-defrauding>

June 09, 2017

Operation Toothache: A.G. Schneiderman Announces Separate Convictions Of Unlicensed Dentist And Nurse

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the separate convictions of former dentist Alexander Hollander, 70, and former Park Nursing Home employee Noucheline Jean, 45, both of Brooklyn, NY for providing patient care as unlicensed medical professionals. On June 7, Hollander was convicted by a Kings County Supreme Court jury of Unauthorized Practice of a Profession (Dentistry) in violation of the New York State Education

Law, a Class E Felony. On June 2, Jean was convicted by a Queens County jury for the felony crime of Unauthorized Practice of a Profession (Nursing), and Unauthorized Use of a Professional Title, a misdemeanor. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/operation-toothache-ag-schneiderman-announces-separate-convictions-unlicensed-dentist>

June 07, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Announces Indictment Of Brooklyn Medical Supply Company Owner For Stealing Over \$1 Million From Medicaid

NEW YORK – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that Kester Atumonyogo, of Valley Stream, NY, and his company Monack Medical Supply, Inc. were arraigned on an indictment charging Atumonyogo and Monack with billing Medicaid and Healthfirst, a Medicaid managed care organization, for an expensive nutritional formula while supplying patients with a lower-priced substitute and stealing over \$1 million in the process. Atumonyogo, 49, was arraigned in New York Supreme Court, Kings County, by the Honorable Danny K. Chun. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-indictment-brooklyn-medical-supply-company-owner-stealing>

OKLAHOMA

July 12, 2017

Attorney General Hunter Files Charges on Two Individuals During National Health Care Fraud Takedown

OKLAHOMA CITY - Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter today filed charges against two individuals during the National Health Care Fraud Takedown effort.

The takedown is a nationwide sweep led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Medicare Fraud Strike Force in partnership with other federal, state and local law enforcement entities to crackdown on healthcare fraud schemes ...

- **Original Press Release:** https://www.ok.gov/triton/modules/newsroom/newsroom_article.php?id=258&article_id=33937

RHODE ISLAND

July 13, 2017

Six Individuals Arrested in Rhode Island for Medicaid Fraud as Part of Nationwide Crackdown

Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin today announced that six individuals were arrested as part of a joint state and federal crackdown on Medicaid fraud. As announced this morning by Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price, M.D., the national enforcement action included more than 412 charged defendants, including over 115 doctors, nurses and other licensed medical professionals, for their alleged participation in health care fraud schemes involving over \$1.3 billion in false billings. In addition to Rhode Island, more than 30 state Medicaid Fraud Control Units participated in the investigations and arrests. In addition to criminal charges, the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is suspending payment to 295 providers, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/30904>

SOUTH DAKOTA

July 13, 2017

South Dakota Medicaid Fraud Unit Takes Part in Nationwide Health Care Fraud Sweep

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that the Attorney General’s Medicaid Control Fraud Unit (SD MFCU) participated with various law enforcement authorities in a nationwide coordinated health care fraud sweep.

“This coordinated action demonstrates the effectiveness of our relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement,” Jackley said. “By working together, we protect taxpayer resources and better ensure Medicaid dollars help those in need of assistance.”

The sweep resulted in criminal and civil charges against 412 individuals, including 115 doctors, nurses and other licensed medical professionals, for their alleged participation in health care fraud schemes involving approximately \$1.3 billion in false billings. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1820>

June 08, 2017

Nation’s Largest Nursing Home Pharmacy Company to Pay \$23 Million to Settle Allegations Involving False Billings to State Medicaid Programs

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that South Dakota has joined with other states and the federal government to settle allegations of fraud against Omnicare Inc., the nation’s largest provider of pharmaceuticals and pharmacy services to nursing homes. Omnicare, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, was acquired by CVS Health Corporation in

August 2015. The total value of the settlement is \$23,000,000. The total portion of the settlement amount recovered by South Dakota is \$63,954.00, of which \$42,869.10 will be retained by the federal government as the federal Medicaid share. The remaining \$21,084.90 will go to the state general fund to offset alleged Medicaid damages in this case. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1800>

UTAH

July 07, 2017

Jury Finds Son Guilty of Exploiting Elderly Father

SALT LAKE CITY July 7, 2017 – After a two-day trial, a jury returned guilty verdicts on June 28, 2017, against David Bryce Jones for financially exploiting his elderly father who resides in a local assisted living facility, the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) announced today. During the trial, Assistant Attorney’s General Robert Morton and Robert Steed presented evidence that Jones used his father’s retirement funds to pursue a risky restaurant business venture and to pay his personal expenses while his father’s bills at the assisted living facility went unpaid. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://attorneygeneral.utah.gov/featured-content/jury-finds-son-guilty-of-exploiting-elderly-father>

WISCONSIN

July 13, 2017

AG Schimel Announces Medical Assistance Fraud Charges Against Hartford, WI Therapist

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel filed ten felony counts of medical assistance fraud against Hartford therapist Sharon N. Medina in Dane County Circuit Court today.

“Public assistance fraud not only steals hard-earned taxpayer dollars, but also takes financial resources intended for our neediest citizens and gives it to criminals,” said Attorney General Schimel. “We must prosecute criminals who intentionally defraud the system and undermine taxpayer confidence in medical assistance programs.”

Medina, who has a history of financial trouble, including multiple bankruptcies, is alleged to have fabricated dates of service and submitted claims for services not rendered, from 2013 to 2015, when she was a Medicaid service provider. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/ag-schimel-announces-medical-assistance-fraud-charges-against-hartford-wi-therapist>

Consumer Advocacy

ALABAMA

June 07, 2017

AG MARSHALL OFFERS TIPS TO HELP CONSUMERS AVOID COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT SCAMS (MONTGOMERY)— Attorney General Steve Marshall today shared advice to consumers on how to avoid falling prey to tech support scams. As the Attorney General’s Consumer Interest Division is receiving an increasing number of reports of these fraudulent attempts, he warns consumers to be vigilant.

Working together, the State of Alabama and the FTC were recently successful in obtaining a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to suspend fraudulent tech support practices by a company operating out of offices in Birmingham and Huntsville. These steps were part of a major international crackdown by the FTC and states on tech support scams, to combat this recurring problem throughout the nation. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.al.us/News-1079>

ALASKA

July 17, 2017

DOOR-TO-DOOR PAVING SCAM

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Alaska Attorney General’s Office warns Alaskans of the existence of individuals or companies going door-to-door offering paving services that mislead consumers by violating the Door-To-Door Sales provision and the Unfair trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.

The individuals claim that they are knocking because they have leftover materials and are able to pave driveways or sidewalks for a discounted rate. They cite a price that is attractive to homeowners without giving the required written notice under AS 45.02.350(a) that the homeowner consumer has a right to cancel any written or verbal contract without penalty for 5 (five) days. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/consumer_alerts/2017/0717-DoorToDoor.html

July 17, 2017

Alaska State Trooper/Jury Service Scam

Persons (generally males) identifying themselves as Alaska State Troopers are calling with the bad news that you missed federal jury service and they have a warrant for your arrest. Then they tell you they can get the “judge” to “clear this whole thing up” if you go to Fred Meyers or

another store and get an “electronic voucher” of the fine amount which you will find as a “MoneyPak” on the gift card rack as a “bond” until you prove your innocence. The “trooper” will ask you to bring your “verification” to the trooper station on Tudor Road. . . .

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/consumer_alerts/2017/0717-TrooperScam.html

June 06, 2017

Federal Loan Cancellation for Former Students of Corinthian Colleges

The Alaska Office of the Attorney General sent letters to Alaska residents who attended schools operated by Corinthian Colleges, Inc. notifying them that they are eligible for cancellation of their federal student loans used to attend those schools. If a student’s federal loan is cancelled, the student will make no more payments on the loan, and any payments already made will be refunded.

After Corinthian Colleges abruptly ceased operations in 2015, the U.S. Department of Education found that while it was operating, Corinthian Colleges made widespread misrepresentations between 2010 and 2014 about post-graduation employment rates at its campuses. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/consumer_alerts/2017/0617-CorinthianColleges.html

June 06, 2017

Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) Deceptive Advertising Scam

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Alaska Attorney General’s Office warns Alaskans of the existence of an online promotion that misleads consumers into believing they are eligible to receive tobacco settlement monies.

The advertisements promote claims that individuals can sign up to receive thousands of dollars per month from the MSA. The advertisement, which promises a tax-free portion of the MSA, misleads consumers into believing they are eligible for guaranteed money backed by the government. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.law.state.ak.us/press/consumer_alerts/2017/0617-DeceptiveAd.html

ARIZONA

July 24, 2017

SCAM ALERT: Avoid Monsoon Storm-Related Home Repair Fraud

PHOENIX - Heavy rain, strong winds, and microbursts from monsoon storms can wreak havoc

on homes and yards during this time of year. Attorney General Mark Brnovich is warning Arizonans to be wary of unsolicited contractors coming to homes and offering help with repairs or cleanup related to monsoon storms. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/scam-alert-avoid-monsoon-storm-related-home-repair-fraud>

June 21, 2017

CONSUMER ALERT: Air Conditioning Repair Fraud

PHOENIX - This summer's record-breaking temperatures are maxing out air conditioners and putting local families at risk for air conditioning repair scams. Attorney General Mark Brnovich says Arizonans need to search for a reputable service company and follow the tips below to avoid high-pressure sales tactics and unneeded or costly repairs. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.azag.gov/press-release/consumer-alert-air-conditioning-repair-fraud>

ARKANSAS

July 05, 2017

Rutledge Wants Protections for Arkansans Against Caller ID Spoofing

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt rules that would allow telephone providers to block illegal robocalls that use Caller ID spoofing technology.

The FCC has requested public comment on rules that would allow providers to block several types of spoofed calls, in which a call appears to be coming from one number but is actually coming from a different number. Rutledge's office routinely receives reports of scammers using spoofed calls to hide their identity and to trick consumers into believing that their calls are legitimate. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/rutledge-wants-protections-for-arkansans-against-caller-id-spoofing/>

June 19, 2017

Attorney General's Office to Host Summer Webcast Series

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge today opened registration for a Summer Webcast Series of trainings on internet safety, dating violence prevention, common scams, identity theft and the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

"After the enormous success of the Winter Webcast Series, I am excited to offer these

beneficial trainings again,” said Attorney General Rutledge. “Using web-based technology, my office can reach more Arkansans and offer important materials on internet safety, scams, ID theft, preventing dating violence and navigating the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.” A FOIA webcast covering public records and meetings will be available from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, June 20. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://arkansasag.gov/media-center/news-releases/attorney-generals-office-to-host-summer-webcast-series/>

CALIFORNIA

July 12, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Issues Consumer Alert on Price Gouging Following State of Emergency in Butte County

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today issued a consumer alert following the Governor’s declaration of a state of emergency in Butte County. Butte County, like other parts of the state, is currently dealing with a devastating wildfire that has burned hundreds of acres and forced residents to evacuate their homes. Attorney General Becerra reminds all Californians that price gouging during a state of emergency is illegal under Penal Code Section 396. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-issues-consumer-alert-price-gouging-following-state>

June 15, 2017

Attorney General Becerra: Beware Of Tobacco Scam Circulating On Internet

SACRAMENTO – California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today issued a consumer alert to warn Californians about a tobacco scam circulating on the internet. The scam suggests individuals can sign up to receive payments under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. This is false, as individuals are not entitled to receive payments under the Agreement, which is between state governments and tobacco companies. All payments under the Settlement are made to state and local governments. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-beware-tobacco-scam-circulating-internet>

June 01, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Announces More Than \$450,000 in Grants to Fight Privacy And Intellectual Property Crimes

SACRAMENTO – California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today announced that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) has awarded more than \$450,000 to five entities across the state

to help fight violations of privacy and intellectual property rights. The grants are awarded from the Attorney General’s Privacy and Piracy Fund, created in 2006, as part of a settlement with Hewlett-Packard (HP) to fight civil and criminal violations of privacy and intellectual property rights and to adopt corporate governance reforms. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-announces-more-450000-grants-fight-privacy-and>

COLORADO

July 11, 2017

Colorado AG Coffman, Acting U.S. Attorney Troyer and Boulder County DA Garnett Announce Collaborative Effort to Protect Coloradans from Phony Immigration Consultants and Consumer Scams

Denver – Today Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman was joined by Acting U.S. Attorney Bob Troyer, Boulder County District Attorney Stan Garnett, and community leaders from I Drive Colorado, and the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, to announce a collaborative effort to educate and empower members of Colorado’s immigrant communities to protect themselves from phony immigration consultants and other consumer scams. While Colorado’s immigrant communities are being targeted and victimized by scammers and fraudsters, victims are not often reporting these crimes to agencies that can help. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://coag.gov/press-room/press-releases/07-11-17>

June 27, 2017

AG Coffman and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Work to Keep Coloradans Safe on Social Media

DENVER – Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman today announced that her office is partnering with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s READYColorado program to promote safe social media habits in honor of National Internet Safety Month. Follow @StopFraudCo and @READYColorado on your favorite platforms or search for the #SocialMediaSafe hashtag to get involved.

Social media sites such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook are widely used for connecting with friends, catching up with the news, and buying products and services; which make them prime platforms for scammers to find victims. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://coag.gov/press-room/press-releases/06-27-17>

CONNECTICUT

July 07, 2017

State Officials Warn Connecticut Residents of Ongoing Phone Scammers Posing as IRS Agents

Connecticut officials warn residents to stay on alert for telephone callers who pose as an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents and attempt to get an immediate tax payment, Department of Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin B. Sullivan, Attorney General George Jepsen and Department of Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull said today. Complaints from residents about the scam phone calls have persisted over the past few years. The scammers tell potential victims that they owe the IRS money and they face arrest from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or from local police if they do not pay. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?A=2341&Q=594516>

DELAWARE

July 25, 2017

Attorney General's Office Warns Delawareans About Rental Scams

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Delaware Department of Justice warns Delawareans during this peak vacation season to be careful when they are looking for a vacation rental. The scammers operating rental scam schemes find legitimate rental postings and capture the information and photos of the property, and then list it on Craigslist or other online advertising platforms. Unsuspecting consumers looking for a good deal on a vacation rental find the bogus posting, send a deposit, and receive confirmation of their rental only to arrive and find other people in the home, are unable to gain access, or are otherwise turned away from the property they believed they had rented. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://news.delaware.gov/2017/07/25/attorney-generals-office-warns-delawareans-rental-scams/>

FLORIDA

July 31, 2017

Attorney General Bondi Activates Price Gouging Hotline

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today activated Florida's price gouging hotline for consumers in multiple Florida counties. The opening of the hotline comes as Governor Rick Scott declares a state of emergency in 31 counties in preparation for Tropical Storm Emily.

Florida's price gouging law only applies within the area of the declared state of emergency. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/OF378D7AABDCB4B98525816E00574654>

July 06, 2017

Attorney General Bondi Recognizes July as Month of the Military Consumer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—In recognition of the National Month of the Military Consumer, Attorney General Pam Bondi is highlighting the office's most recent efforts to protect military members and veterans from scams. In May, Attorney General Bondi launched a new program to serve the unique consumer protection needs of Florida's military and veteran communities.

"Although we will never be able to fully thank the men and women of our military and the loved ones who support them, my office will continue to protect them from unscrupulous businesses and individuals here at home," said Attorney General Bondi. "In recognition of the Month of the Military Consumer, I am encouraging military consumers and their families to visit MyFloridaLegal.com/MVAP to learn more about our new Military and Veterans Assistance Program." ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/7AC6FDBF2CA57F2885258155006AEFD3>

June 01, 2017

Prepare for Hurricane Season and Beware of Price Gouging

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins today and Attorney General Pam Bondi is asking Floridians to be prepared should a storm impact the state. As a peninsula state with warm waters, Florida is especially vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes, and Attorney General Bondi is encouraging citizens to review the 2017 Hurricane Preparedness Guide to prepare for a storm or common scams that could arise in the aftermath.

"Our Hurricane Preparedness Guide is full of helpful information and advice to better prepare for a storm and avoid common storm-related scams," said Attorney General Bondi. "The best advice is to prepare now. Use our hurricane supply checklist and make sure you have enough food, water and supplies to support your family in the wake of a disaster." ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrel.nsf/newsreleases/BD037558497776E6852581320045F0B3>

GEORGIA

June 15, 2017

Office of the Attorney General, GBI and PAC Recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Elder abuse is a tragic and evolving problem in our state.

The Office of the Attorney General, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia (PAC) and other stakeholders are working closely together to go after those who seek to perpetrate crimes against our at-risk adults. Sickeningly enough, approximately 90 percent of these offenses are committed by a family member, and, as you can imagine, they are particularly devastating in these situations. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ocp.ga.gov/news/press-releases/view/office-of-the-attorney-general-gbi-and-pac-recognize-world-elder-abuse-awareness-day>

HAWAII

July 12, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL CHIN STRONGLY SUPPORTS GOVERNOR DAVID IGE'S INITIATIVE TO FIGHT OPIOID ABUSE

HONOLULU – Earlier today Attorney General Doug Chin joined Governor David Ige, Director of Health Dr. Virginia Pressler, representatives from the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, and stakeholders from across the state to kick off a statewide collaborative effort to address opioid abuse and deaths in Hawaii. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/News-Release-2017-88.pdf>

ILLINOIS

July 14, 2017

MADIGAN WARNS RESIDENTS TO BE ON ALERT FOR FLOOD-RELATED REPAIR SCAMS

Chicago — Following this week's heavy rainfall and resulting flooding in northern Illinois and the Chicago area, Attorney General Lisa Madigan today warned residents in impacted areas to be on alert for scammers looking to exploit homeowners and business owners who may need to repair flood damaged property.

Madigan cautioned Illinois residents that scammers often move quickly into communities to take advantage of people with damage to their homes or businesses. Madigan noted these "storm chasers" use the opportunity to pressure people into making quick and often expensive decisions about cleanup and construction work. Madigan also warned residents to the potential

that scam artists may be operating as insurance adjusters or public adjusters. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_07/20170714.html

July 07, 2017

MADIGAN: DON'T FALL FOR TOBACCO MASTER SETTLEMENT SCAMS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today alerted Illinois residents to beware of an online scam that falsely claims consumers can receive funding under a settlement with the tobacco industry that is overseen by Madigan and attorneys general across the country. Madigan's office is receiving an increase in calls from consumers who report receiving emails or seeing online advertisements touting consumers' ability to receive payments under the settlement. Madigan said the settlement does not provide consumer restitution and people should not respond to the solicitations. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_07/20170707.html

IOWA

July 31, 2017

Statement from Attorney General Tom Miller on FDA's New Tobacco Plan

DES MOINES -- Attorney General Tom Miller today issued the following statement about the FDA's announcement of a new comprehensive plan to shift the trajectory of tobacco-related disease and death: ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/statement-on-fdas-new-tobacco-plan/>

KANSAS

July 19, 2017

AG Derek Schmidt: 2016 consumer recoveries top \$16 million

TOPEKA – (July 19, 2017) – The attorney general's Consumer Protection Division returned more than \$16 million to consumers and taxpayers last year, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced today.

In its annual report filed today with the governor and Kansas Legislature, Schmidt's office reported \$16.8 million in savings and recoveries to Kansas consumers and the state treasury in

calendar year 2016. During Schmidt’s administration, the division has recovered a total of more than \$146 million, by far the most in state history. ...

- **Original Press Release:** [https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/07/19/ag-derek-schmidt-2016-consumer-recoveries-top-\\$16-million](https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/07/19/ag-derek-schmidt-2016-consumer-recoveries-top-$16-million)

June 28, 2017

AG Derek Schmidt: New law will protect military consumers from scams

TOPEKA – (June 28, 2017) – A new Kansas law will stiffen penalties for scammers who prey on members of the military, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said.

Effective July 1, members of the military have been added to the definition of “protected consumer” in the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. This definition has previously included veterans and immediate family members of members of the military, along with elder and disabled persons, but not service personnel themselves. If a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act is found to have occurred against a consumer fitting one of these descriptions, the court may impose a penalty of up to \$20,000 for each violation, double the usual \$10,000 maximum penalty. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/06/28/ag-derek-schmidt-new-law-will-protect-military-consumers-from-scams>

June 21, 2017

Consumer Alert: Storm damage could attract illegal contractors

TOPEKA – (June 21, 2017) – Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt is urging Southwest Kansas residents to use caution to avoid scams by transient contractors following last night’s storms. “After storm damage, our instinct is to clean up and make repairs as quickly as possible,” Schmidt said. “When considering roofing work on a home or business, it is important that consumers make sure their roofing contractor is properly registered before signing any contract or having any work done. Consumers should request a copy of their roofer’s registration certificate and then should check our consumer protection website to confirm that the registration remains active.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/06/21/consumer-alert-storm-damage-could-attract-illegal-contractors>

June 16, 2017

Consumer Alert: Tobacco settlement ads are a scam

TOPEKA – (June 16, 2017) – Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt today warned Kansans that advertisements appearing online that purport to offer consumers a share of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement are a scam.

“The Master Settlement Agreement reached in 1998 was to repay Kansas taxpayers for the health-related costs of tobacco use in our state,” Schmidt said. “The MSA has never provided payments directly to individuals. Any advertising that claims to help individual Kansans collect money from the settlement is a scam.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2017/06/16/consumer-alert-tobacco-settlement-ads-are-a-scam>

KENTUCKY

July 25, 2017

Beshear: New Scam Targets Kentuckians’ Generosity to Veterans

FRANKFORT, KY. (July 25, 2017) – A caller from a sham charity dubbed, “Coalition for Veterans of America” is preying upon Kentuckians’ goodwill toward veterans and veteran causes, Attorney General Andy Beshear said today.

The Office of the Attorney General has received multiple reports from Kentuckians, including a report directly from the Kentucky State Police, saying a caller claiming to be with the “Coalition for Veterans of America” is seeking donations to help cover Veterans Affairs medical bills and aid homeless veterans. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=368>

July 11, 2017

Beshear: Beware of Tobacco Settlement Scam

FRANKFORT, KY. (July 11, 2017) – Today, Attorney General Andy Beshear is warning about a scam that claims Kentuckians can receive tax-free, monthly payments from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA).

Beshear said his office has identified misleading online ads and received reports of scam emails claiming Kentuckians can receive monthly payments directly from the multibillion-dollar MSA. The solicitations proclaim Kentuckians, even if they “never used tobacco,” can receive thousands of dollars each month if they pay \$5 a month or up to \$100 a year to learn how. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=361>

June 19, 2017

Deceitful Blacktop Contractors Targeting Central Kentucky Residents

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 19, 2017) – Today, Attorney General Andy Beshear and Woodford County Sheriff Wayne “Tiny” Wright said a group of door-to-door blacktop contractors are targeting elderly residents in Woodford County, and possibly families in the Central Kentucky region. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=348>

LOUISIANA

July 20, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Landry Educates Consumers on Recent Child Product Recalls

BATON ROUGE, LA – Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry is encouraging consumers to be mindful of several child products that have recently been recalled.

“In order to help ensure the well-being of all Louisiana children, I urge parents and guardians to take a brief moment to learn about these recalled products,” said General Landry. “I would do anything to ensure the safety of my child; and as your Attorney General, I am committed to doing all I can to protect yours.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2438?TypeId=1&CatId=3>

July 19, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Landry Warns Consumers to Beware of Misleading Tobacco Settlement Ads

BATON ROUGE, LA – Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry is warning the public of online promotions that mislead consumers to believe they can receive money from a settlement reached between the nation’s four largest tobacco companies and attorneys general from 46 states and territories.

“It is important for consumers to understand that if an advertisement sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” said General Landry. “Louisiana consumers should be on guard that if a promotion is promising free money, it may not be legitimate.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2435?TypeId=1&CatId=3>

June 30, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Landry Releases Safety Tips for Independence Day

BATON ROUGE, LA – The upcoming holiday celebrating our Country’s independence means

family events, barbecuing, and fireworks. As Louisiana citizens gather with friends and family, Attorney General Jeff Landry encourages safety when using fireworks.

“It is important that people know, understand, and follow all firework laws and directions in order to keep themselves and those around them safe,” said Attorney General Jeff Landry.

“This July 4th, I encourage everyone to keep their celebration fun and safe for all who are attending.” ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2427?TypeId=1&CatId=3>

June 26, 2017

Attorney General Jeff Landry Alerts Louisiana Residents to Watch Out for Door-to-Door Scam Artists

BATON ROUGE, LA – With an increase in reports of door-to-door scams, Attorney General Jeff Landry is urging Louisiana residents to use caution if someone shows up at their doors offering a service or product at an incredibly low price. General Landry warns it could be a con artist trying to scam you.

“It is very common for scam artists to go door-to-door trying to make a quick dollar; but understanding how to spot and stop door-to-door scam artists can protect consumers from becoming fraud victims,” said General Landry ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Article.aspx/2424?TypeId=1&CatId=3>

MARYLAND

July 25, 2017

Attorney General Frosh: Protect Yourself After the Storm, Too

BALTIMORE, MD (July 25, 2017) –After a big storm, your home, yard, auto or business may be in need of major repairs as a result of the wind or water damage. Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh urges Marylanders to be wary of home repair scams and other consumer fraud that often follow in the wake of a storm’s destructive path.

“It’s unfortunate, but after big storms, we see a sudden gust of scammers swooping in, hoping to take advantage of desperate families and business owners trying to rebuild,” said Attorney General Frosh. “Marylanders should be wary of door-to-door salesmen using high pressure tactics to get your hard-earned money. You may never see that money again while the job goes undone.” ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/072517.pdf>

July 03, 2017

Attorney General Frosh, Maryland Cybersecurity Council Release Biennial Report

BALTIMORE, MD (July 3, 2017) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh, Chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, today announced the release of its Biennial Report, outlining the Council’s activities and updated recommendations based on its findings over the last 12 months. The report follows up on its Preliminary Report issued in July 2016, in which several of the Council’s recommendations have been implemented. The recommendations include enactment of several bills that expand protections for consumers, the creation of a portal to house best practices and additional resources to protect Maryland’s critical infrastructure. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/070317.pdf>

June 15, 2017

Attorney General Frosh Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

BALTIMORE, MD (June 15, 2017)-In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh released a video today reminding Marylanders on how to recognize the signs of elder abuse in all its forms. Seniors are especially susceptible to falling prey to predators seeking to gain control of their financial resources and benefits, or may become victims of physical and emotional abuse by caretakers. Approximately 5 million –or 1 in 10 –older adults are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation every year ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/061517a.pdf>

MASSACHUSETTS

July 10, 2017

AG Healey Applauds CFPB’s Restriction on Class Action Waivers in Consumer Contracts

BOSTON – Attorney General Maura Healey issued the following statement on today’s passage of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) rule to limit the use of class action waivers in mandatory pre-dispute arbitration clauses in most consumer contracts.

“Class action claims are critical to ensuring that consumers are able to pursue their legal rights and deterring businesses from using unlawful, unfair or deceptive business practices,” AG Healey said. “We fought for this rule because it provides a valuable check against corporate misconduct and are pleased that the CFPB has adopted it to protect the public interest.” ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2017/2017-07-10-cfpb-class-action-waivers.htm>

MICHIGAN

July 28, 2017

Schuette Highlights Consumer Protection Resources Available for Active Military Members & Veterans

LANSING — Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today reminds Michigan’s service members of consumer protection programs and tips geared toward the specific needs of both active military members and veterans, as July is designated by the Federal Trade Commission 'Month of the Military Consumer.' ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-427487--m_2017_7,00.html

July 18, 2017

Schuette Reminds Brides-to-be to Use Best Practices with Bankrupt Retailers

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today called attention to best practices to be used by Michigan consumers, in this case brides-to-be, when protecting themselves from bankrupt retailers. This notice results from the nationwide shutdown of bridal gown retailer, Alfred Angelo, which has left brides across Michigan wondering if they’ll be without a dress and without a refund on their wedding day. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-426464--m_2017_7,00.html

July 11, 2017

Schuette's New Consumer Newsletter Answers Common Garage Sale Questions

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has released a new consumer education newsletter that answers many common questions Michigan residents may have when hosting or visiting a garage sale this summer.

“Garage sales are very common across the state, especially in the warmer summer months,” said Schuette. “Many residents have questions such as ‘Do I need to pay taxes on what I am selling or purchasing?’ or ‘Is a permit required?’ This newsletter looks to answer those frequently asked questions and more, so all Michigan residents can have a smooth garage sale experience.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-426068--m_2017_7,00.html

June 30, 2017

Schuette: Michigan a Leader in Fighting Charitable Solicitation Fraud

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that the Department’s Charitable Trust Section is receiving national attention for its aggressive pursuit of charitable solicitations fraud. Within the last year, Schuette’s Charitable Trust Section brought six total actions against fraudulent charities - more than any other state. ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-425096--,00.html

June 08, 2017

Cost Savings, Safe Disposal Focus of Schuette Consumer Alert on Prescription Drugs

LANSING – Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette today released a new Prescription Drug consumer alert providing Michigan residents with tips on how to safely save money on prescription medications and dispose of unwanted medications.

“While we talk a lot about opioid abuse, many citizens use prescription medications responsibly and legitimately to treat very real conditions,” said Schuette. “This Alert is to help those patients walk out of the pharmacy with more money in their pocket and know how to safely dispose of medications.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-46849_47203-420645--,00.html

MISSISSIPPI

July 19, 2017

A Consumer Guide: Tips for Storm Victims

If your home has been damaged by a natural disaster, chances are you’re in the market for a reputable contractor. Immediately following a natural disaster the demand for qualified contractors is at an all-time high, and will surely exceed supply. Be aware that these conditions are ripe for home repair con artists who may charge excessive rates, perform shoddy work or simply skip town with your money. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/publications/consumer-tips-for-storm-victims/>

July 07, 2017

Attorney General Hood Recognizes Military Consumer Protection Month

July marks Military Consumer Protection Month, and Attorney General Jim Hood is offering

guidelines to prevent members of the military from falling victim to targeted fraud. “Unfortunately, our nation’s heroes are commonly targeted by scammers,” said General Hood. “It is very important to protect our active and reserve servicemembers from criminals while they are out protecting us from other types of threats. My office is here to serve and protect military men and women from potential scams whether they are in Mississippi or overseas.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/attorney-general-hood-recognizes-military-consumer-protection-month/>

June 26, 2017

CONSUMER ALERT: Elders Targeted in “Grandparent Scam”

Attorney General Jim Hood’s Consumer Protect Division has seen a recent increase in cases where grandparents have been the targets of wire fraud scams, commonly known as “grandparent scams.” General Hood is issuing a reminder to Mississippians to remain vigilant of these scammers and to know how to protect yourself—or your loved ones—in these situations. Identifying the grandparent scam is easy: a theme of the scam is the caller’s request for the grandparent or intended victim to wire money through Western Union or MoneyGram or to provide bank account routing numbers to the scammers. Reports of this scam have been made across the state, but Harrison and Hinds Counties appear to be specifically targeted. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/consumer-alert-elders-targeted-in-grandparent-scam/>

June 20, 2017

Consumer Alert: Staying Weather Aware, Avoiding Scams This Hurricane Season

With the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season underway, Attorney General Jim Hood urges Mississippians to make provisions for possible tropical storms and hurricanes in the upcoming months.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can bring storm surges, flooding, and high winds. These storms have the ability to cause massive destruction from hundreds of miles inland, and General Hood wants to be sure residents are prepared both before and after the storm. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ago.state.ms.us/releases/consumer-alert-staying-weather-aware-avoiding-scams-this-hurricane-season/>

MISSOURI

July 17, 2017

AG Hawley Lauds Creation of Prescription Drug Monitoring Database

Jefferson City, Mo. – Attorney General Josh Hawley today applauded Governor Eric Greitens' creation of a statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Database.

"Today's first step toward a prescription drug monitoring program in Missouri is long overdue," Hawley said. "I brought suit against major opioid manufacturers last month to start the fight to end the opioid epidemic in our state. A prescription drug monitoring database is critical to that effort." ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.ago.mo.gov/home/news-archives/2017-news-archives/ag-hawley-lauds-creation-of-prescription-drug-monitoring-database>

NEBRASKA

July 18, 2017

Scam Alert: Automated calls state that Social Security Number has been flagged for fraud

Lincoln - The Nebraska Attorney General's Office would like to alert Nebraska residents to a scam involving fraudulent automated calls posing as both the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Inspector General's Office as well as the Internal Revenue Service. The caller states "your Social Security number has been flagged for fraud" and requests an immediate call back to (512) 937-2871. When this number is called you are advised the "Google subscriber is not available please leave a message". ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/scam-alert-automated-calls-state-social-security-number-has-been-flagged-fraud>

July 10, 2017

BCBSNE Scam

Lincoln--The Attorney General's Office received notice this morning that scam artists based in Florida are posing as Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska ("BCBSNE"). The scam artists are using fake Google and Manta listings bearing Blue Cross's logo and web address, along with bogus physical addresses in Omaha. Investigators employed by BCBSNE believe the scam is affiliated with an entity called Simple Health based out of Hollywood, Florida. When contacted by phone, the scam artists collect personal information and offer insurance plans well below market value. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/bcbsne-scam>

July 26, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Warns of Fraudulent Make-A-Wish Foundation Sweepstakes Scam

Carson City, NV - Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt cautions Nevadans about a fraudulent phone call regarding a sweepstakes that appears to be sponsored by Make-A-Wish Foundation, a charity that endeavors to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. According to complaints, a caller claiming to be from the federal government, such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or the fictitious "Consumer Protection Agency," informs the receiver that he or she has won a large reward as part of a sweepstakes sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Warns_of_Fraudulent_Make-A-Wish_Foundation_Sweepstakes_Scam/

June 29, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Announces Appointment of new Nevada State Consumer Advocate

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt announced the appointment of Ernest Figueroa as Nevada’s State Consumer Advocate and head of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. Effective July 1, 2017, Figueroa will replace Eric Witkoski, who served as Nevada’s Consumer Advocate since 2005 and whose term ends on June 30, 2017. “Energy and consumer protection are at the forefront of issues that impact Nevadans,” said Laxalt. “Mr. Figueroa will bring an innovative perspective to the job of protecting Nevada’s ratepayers and consumers as the State evaluates the changing competitive market forces and new technologies.” ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Announces_Appointment_of_new_Nevada_State_Consumer_Advocate/

June 09, 2017

Attorney General Laxalt Warns Nevadans of Deceptive Tobacco Settlement Advertising

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt warns Nevadans of a recent set of deceptive advertisements related to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. These advertisements mislead consumers into believing they are eligible to receive tobacco settlement money. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_Warns_Nevadans_of_Deceptive_Tobacco_Settlement_Advertising/

NEW HAMPSHIRE

June 19, 2017

Attorney General MacDonald and Department of Revenue Administration Commissioner Beardmore Warn of Deceptive Tobacco Settlement Advertising

New Hampshire Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald and Revenue Commissioner John T. Beardmore warn of recent deceptive advertisements related to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. These advertisements mislead consumers into believing they are eligible to receive tobacco settlement money. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.nh.gov/media-center/press-releases/2017/20170619-tobacco-settlement-advertising.htm>

NEW JERSEY

June 28, 2017

Attorney General Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs Announce Boardwalk Game and Retail Establishment Inspections in Seaside Heights and Point Pleasant Beach; 20 Locations Alleged to Have Violations

POINT PLEASANT BEACH – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Division of Consumer Affairs announced today that summer boardwalk compliance efforts have begun along New Jersey’s shore and initial inspections have discovered 20 locations that have allegedly violated state regulations governing their operation.

The Division launched its annual “Safe Summers” initiative by inspecting 55 stores and amusement game locations on boardwalks in Seaside Heights and Point Pleasant Beach to ensure they are complying New Jersey’s consumer protection laws and regulations ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases17/pr20170628a.html>

NEW MEXICO

July 13, 2017

REFUND ALERT: AG Balderas Announces Hundreds of NM Students to Receive Refund Checks from DeVry University

Albuquerque, NM – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that hundreds of New Mexico students will receive refund checks from DeVry University as part of a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) settlement over deceptive statements made by DeVry about their job prospects and earning potential after graduation. On July 5th, the FTC began mailing 173,000 refund checks worth more than \$49 million to some students who attended the school between 2008 and 2015. The checks will expire 60 days after they are mailed so it is important

for former students in New Mexico to watch the mail. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/REFUND_ALERT_AG_Balderas_Announces_Hundreds_of_NM_Students_to_Receive_Refund_Checks_from_DeVry_University.pdf

June 01, 2017

SCAM ALERT: Attorney General & HSD Warn about New Mexico Medicaid Program Phishing Scam

Santa Fe, NM – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas and Human Services Department Secretary Brent Earnest issued a joint Scam Alert to warn New Mexicans about a new scam that involves callers claiming to work for the New Mexico Medicaid program while phishing for personal and financial information. The solicitors are calling individuals several times a day and asking for their name, Social Security Number, and Medicaid number. Medicaid recipients should never provide personal information such as Social Security Number or Medicaid identification numbers over the phone to unsolicited callers. The callers are not affiliated with the New Mexico Human Services Department, its Medicaid program, the Centennial Care managed care organizations, or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/Attorney_General___HSD_Warn_about_New_Mexico_Medicaid_Program_Phishing_Scam.pdf

NEW YORK

June 28, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Welcomes Withdrawal Of Ringless Voicemail Petition

Today, New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman welcomed All About the Message, LLC's withdrawal of its petition to the Federal Communications Commission that would have exempted so-called "ringless voicemails" from consumer protections under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

The withdrawal follows a joint comment letter filed by Attorney General Schneiderman, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear earlier this month. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-welcomes-withdrawal-ringless-voicemail-petition>

June 22, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Issues Tips For Consumers To Avoid Scams When Hiring Contractors Following Flood Damage

ALBANY – In light of recent flooding along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shoreline, leaving many property owners with a huge mess, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today released a list of tips for consumers to avoid being scammed. As property owners begin to hire contractors to repair the damage, Attorney General Schneiderman is reminding them to be vigilant when selecting a contractor, and to insist that all contracts contain terms and conditions that are required by law to protect consumers from unscrupulous contractors. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-issues-tips-consumers-avoid-scams-when-hiring-contractors-following>

June 19, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Issues Consumer Alert Regarding Deceptive Tobacco Settlement Advertisements

Attorney General Schneiderman has issued a consumer alert warning New Yorkers about recent deceptive advertisements that mislead consumers into believing they are eligible to receive settlement money from the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. The ads seek to induce consumers into purchasing paid subscriptions in order to learn how to receive settlement funds and mislead consumers into believing that they are eligible for guaranteed money backed by the government. The Attorney General urges consumers not to provide payment information to individuals or entities who claim they can assist in obtaining tobacco settlement money ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-issues-consumer-alert-regarding-deceptive-tobacco-settlement>

June 15, 2017

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, A.G. Schneiderman Launches New Elder Fraud Prevention Initiative

NEW YORK – To mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the launch of a dedicated portion of his office’s website, titled “Smart Seniors: Resources for Older Adults,” that will provide easily accessible safety tips, alerts and information that seniors can use to stay safe in their daily lives ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day-ag-schneiderman-launches-new-elder-fraud-prevention>

June 08, 2017

A.G. Schneiderman Statement On Ticket Extender

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman released the following statement in response to the State Senate's passage today of a straight extender of New York's ticketing laws.

"The two house bill passed today by the State Senate does nothing to protect New Yorkers from widespread abuse in the ticketing industry.

As my office's work on this issue makes clear, if we are serious about fixing the serious problems in the ticketing industry, we need to pass strong and comprehensive consumer protections for New Yorkers, not simply kick the can down the road and accept the status quo year after year. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-statement-ticket-extender>

NORTH CAROLINA

July 21, 2017

Be smart... and cautious... with "Smart" toys

Toys that talk to you, know your name and play like real friends? Toys today are a far cry from the cabbage patch kids and G.I. Joe's their parents played with. Many toys these days can connect to the internet. One reason these new toys are so fascinating is their connectivity; but with this exciting level of engagement also comes the risks associated with kids being online. Parents must be aware of these risks and monitor how their children are playing.

...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/Alerts/Be-smart%E2%80%A6-and-cautious%E2%80%A6-with-Smart%E2%80%9D-toys.aspx>

July 17, 2017

Working with a Realtor? Watch out for this Scam

Crooks are targeting real estate agents and companies with a scam aimed at potential home buyers. North Carolina consumers have reported losing tens of thousands of dollars in this type of fraud.

The scammers hack into real estate agents' email accounts and harvest information about deals that are in the making. When they see that a closing date has been set for a sale they contact the prospective buyers by email, pretending to be the real estate agent. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/Alerts/Working-with-a-Realtor-Watch-out-for-this-Scam.aspx>

June 16, 2017

Attorney General Josh Stein Speaks Out on Behalf of Student Borrowers

RALEIGH, NC – This week, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it will delay important new rules that protect student loan borrowers from predatory and deceptive practices. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Attorney-General-Josh-Stein-Speaks-Out-on-Behalf-o.aspx>

June 02, 2017

Attorney General Stein Takes on National Role in Substance Misuse, Consumer Protection

RALEIGH, NC – Attorney General Josh Stein has been appointed to two national committees within the National Association of Attorneys General. Attorney General Stein will represent North Carolina’s interests on committees related to protecting people from substance misuse and scams, fraud and corporate bad behavior. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Attorney-General-Stein-Takes-on-National-Role-in-S.aspx>

NORTH DAKOTA

June 14, 2017

SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS STILL FINDING VICTIMS

BISMARCK, ND – In the last twelve months, elderly North Dakotans have reported losses of more than \$366,000 to sweepstake scams. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the victims all believed they had won a valuable prize in a sweepstake but had to pay assorted fees and taxes before the prize could be released to them. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/news/sweepstakes-scams-still-finding-victims>

OHIO

July 31, 2017

Ahead of Sales Tax Holiday, Attorney General DeWine Offers Tips for Consumers

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today offered consumer protection tips ahead of Ohio’s sales tax holiday, which runs this Friday through Sunday.

“As people take advantage of the sales tax holiday and complete their back-to-school shopping, we want them to be prepared,” Attorney General DeWine said. “We’ve helped thousands of

people resolve consumer complaints, and we know that many disputes are the result of a misunderstanding. We put an emphasis on prevention to help people avoid problems and make the most of their money.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Ahead-of-Sales-Tax-Holiday-Attorney-General-DeWine>

July 14, 2017

Following Severe Weather, Attorney General DeWine Warns Consumers to Beware of Scams

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned consumers to beware of scams following the severe weather that hit Ohio this week.

“Bad weather, unfortunately, can lead to scams,” Attorney General DeWine said. “Some con artists will travel to storm-damaged communities, go door to door offering immediate work, and then leave after taking someone’s money. Another risk, with all the flooding we’ve had, is for flood-damaged cars to eventually make their way to the market. We just warn people to be careful. Scams are out there, but prevention can go a long way.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Following-Severe-Weather-Attorney-General-DeWine>

July 07, 2017

Attorney General DeWine Warns of Uptick in IRS Scams

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned that his office logged about 600 reports of “IRS” scams in June, more than in any other month this year.

The scam generally begins with a call claiming the recipient is in trouble with the IRS and must call a certain phone number to avoid arrest or legal action. People who respond to the call are asked to pay immediately, typically by purchasing a gift card and reading the card numbers over the phone.

Overall, the Ohio Attorney General’s Office has received more than 1,800 reports of the scam in 2017. Most consumers haven’t lost any money, but some have reported losses ranging from \$100 to over \$5,000. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/July-2017/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Uptick-in-IRS-Scams>

June 30, 2017

Attorney General DeWine Warns of Home Rental Scams

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine today warned consumers to beware of home rental scams. The Ohio Attorney General’s Office has received over 40 reports about

the scams in 2017, and summer is a peak time for moving and traveling. In a typical rental scam, a con artist posts an ad online offering a house or apartment for rent. When interested consumers respond to the ad, the con artist tells them to send a deposit. Later, the consumers discover that the rental ad was phony and the con artist had no affiliation with the property. Reported losses have ranged from \$250 to \$5,000. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Home-Rental-Scams>

June 22, 2017

Attorney General's Advisory Group on Student Loan Debt Collection Issues Report

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Advisory Group on Student Loan Debt Collection issued a report of its findings, including the recommendation that late fees and penalties added by colleges and universities should not be assessed interest during debt collection proceedings. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Attorney-General-s-Advisory-Group-on-Student-Loan>

June 14, 2017

Attorney General DeWine Warns of Elder Abuse

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ahead of Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15), Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is warning Ohioans to beware of signs of elder abuse.

“Elder abuse can affect any family in any community,” Attorney General DeWine said. “It often involves a person in a position of power or trust who takes advantage of an older adult. Sadly, many elder abuse cases are never reported. The good news is that we can help protect our neighbors, family, and friends by bringing attention to the problem and taking steps to prevent and stop it. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Elder-Abuse>

June 06, 2017

Attorney General DeWine Warns of Ticket Scams

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is warning consumers to beware of ticket scams as the Cleveland Cavaliers prepare to face the Golden State Warriors in Cleveland tomorrow during the NBA Finals and as the summer concert season heats up.

In 2017, the Ohio Attorney General’s Office has received more than a dozen complaints about suspected ticket scams, including those involving Cavs games, concerts, and other popular

events. The average reported loss is about \$200. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/June-2017/Attorney-General-DeWine-Warns-of-Ticket-Scams>

OREGON

July 14, 2017

AG Rosenblum Urges Eclipse Travelers to Confirm Hotel Rooms

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum today urged visitors and Oregonians who have booked hotel rooms within the 90-mile path of total solar eclipse on August 21 to confirm their hotel reservations immediately. There has been an increase in Oregon DOJ consumer complaints from people who have had hotel reservations cancelled, or have had their room rates double—and even triple—in price. It is estimated that as many as one million visitors could travel in Oregon for the first total solar eclipse in 38 years. i ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/ag-rosenblum-urges-eclipse-travelers-confirm-hotel-rooms/>

July 07, 2017

Statement from AG Rosenblum on her 2017 Oregon Legislative Session Priorities and Accomplishments

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum today issued the following statement at the conclusion of the 2017 Oregon Legislative session.

“Despite an uncertain budget environment, the Oregon Legislature passed a series of new laws that my office took the lead on and that will have positive effects on public safety, government transparency, consumer protection, and students’ and their families’ financial circumstances. I am pleased that we were able to work closely, and on a bipartisan basis, throughout the session with legislators, task force members, and many stakeholder and advocacy groups. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/statement-ag-rosenblum-2017-oregon-legislative-session-priorities-accomplishments/>

July 05, 2017

Oregon’s Debt Buyer Bill Passes Out of Oregon Senate; Moves to Governor’s Desk

The Oregon Senate today passed House Bill 2356, clearing the way for this landmark consumer legislation to go to the Governor for her signature. Unfair debt collection practices have scored near the top of the Oregon Attorney General’s list of frequent consumer complaints for decades. Yet, until now debt buyers, or those who buy debt for “pennies on the dollar” from

the actual creditors, have gotten away with suing alleged debtors without providing basic information or even ensuring the debt is owed to the individual being sued. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/oregons-debt-buyer-bill-passes-oregon-senate-moves-governors-desk/>

June 05, 2017

AG Rosenblum's Student Debt Bill Passes out of Oregon House; Moves to Governor's Desk

The Oregon House today passed the Attorney General's bill designed to help Oregon's students and their families better understand their education related debt obligations. The proposed legislation, Senate Bill 253, would require Oregon colleges and universities to send students annual, easy-to-understand letters explaining the scope of their federal educational debt. The bill already passed the Senate unanimously and will now move to the Governor's desk. Under the proposed legislation, every student who receives a federal educational loan will annually receive an estimate of the total amount of federal loans the student has taken out, and the total potential payoff amount over the life of the loan. Students will also receive an estimated monthly payment applicable after graduation. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.doj.state.or.us/releases/Pages/2017/rel060517.aspx>

PENNSYLVANIA

July 20, 2017

Attorney General Josh Shapiro Announces Consumer Financial Protection Unit

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced today he is creating a Consumer Financial Protection Unit to better protect Pennsylvania consumers from financial scams, and appointing an experienced consumer protection attorney to lead the initiative.

Attorney General Shapiro announced the appointment of Nicholas Smyth, who helped create the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), as Assistant Director of the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection with a dedicated focus on financial initiatives. ...

- **Original Press Release:** https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=3757

July 02, 2017

Fireworks Alert from Attorney General Josh Shapiro:

HARRISBURG — Attorney General Josh Shapiro today detailed the work of the Office of

Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, which is inspecting fireworks dealers throughout Pennsylvania to ensure fireworks sales are in compliance with Pennsylvania law. The attorney general also offered a series of safety tips to ensure Pennsylvania residents enjoy the national holiday weekend safely and responsibly if they use or are around fireworks. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:**

https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Press_Releases/Press_Release/?pid=3684

RHODE ISLAND

June 29, 2017

Attorney General Kilmartin Legislation Prohibiting Illegal Practices in the Mortgage Industry Passes General Assembly

With passage last evening by both the House and the Senate, legislation (H5695/S0835) filed at the request of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin that creates the criminal offense of residential mortgage fraud now moves to the Governor's desk for signature.

Residential mortgage fraud is when a person knowingly makes an omission or misrepresentation of a fact with the deliberate intention that it will be relied on in the mortgage lending process; receives proceeds in connection with a fraudulent transaction; conspires with another to engage in acts of residential mortgage fraud; or files a document that is known to be a misstatement. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/30790>

June 07, 2017

Attorney General Kilmartin and Infoshred Team Up to Provide Free Shredding to Rhode Island Residents

Continuing his commitment to helping Rhode Island residents protect against identity theft, Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin is teaming up with Infoshred to offer free shredding services this month, the first of several events planned throughout the year.

The first event will be held on Thursday, June 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, located at 150 Jenckes Hill Road in Lincoln, RI. The shredding service is free and open to the public. All consumers are invited to drop off up to two boxes or two paper shopping bags of documents for shredding, and are encouraged to donate a non-perishable food item for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/30585>

SOUTH CAROLINA

June 15, 2017

Attorney General Alan Wilson Alerts Consumers to Deceptive Tobacco Settlement Promotion

(Columbia, S.C.) – Today, Attorney General Alan Wilson alerted the public to an online promotion that misleads consumers to believe they can receive tobacco settlement money. The online promotion claims individuals can sign up to claim thousands of dollars per month from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. The advertisement promises that individuals may receive a tax-free portion of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement and that this money is guaranteed by the government. In reality, this advertisement entices citizens to enter a credit card number for a monthly subscription in order to learn about purchasing tobacco revenue bonds. Attorney General Wilson warned consumers that once they provide a credit card number, it may be difficult to cancel the monthly subscription and obtain a refund. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://www.scag.gov/archives/32523>

SOUTH DAKOTA

July 20, 2017

Attorney General Jackley Warns Scam Contractors with Summer Storm Damage

PIERRE S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley urges consumers who have been hit with storm damage across the State to proceed with caution when working to get homes, vehicles, and businesses repaired.

Residents will understandably be eager to have new construction or the necessary work done to their damaged property, but consumers are urged to take the necessary steps to evaluate a bidder before contracting for a job. Consumers who need repair work done quickly following storm damage are often targets of unscrupulous business practices. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1827>

July 19, 2017

Attorney General Jackley Warns of Pirated Websites

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley warns that hackers are now using so-called pirate websites to infect computers. These websites, which online users visit to watch illegally distributed movies, music, books, and other copyrighted content, have become a major source for infecting computers with dangerous malware that can lead to identity theft and other serious financial and privacy harms. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1825>

June 15, 2017

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

PIERRE, S.D. – In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day today, Attorney General Marty Jackley would like to highlight the Attorney General’s Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Subdivision and the work they have done over the past year.

“Providing extra protections for South Dakota seniors is the role of the Attorney General’s Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Subdivision,” said Jackley. “Seniors are all too often a target for financial exploitation and our investigators and prosecutors are working hard to provide those much needed protections.” ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1806>

June 14, 2017

Attorney General Jackley Warns of Deceptive Tobacco Settlement Advertising

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley warns South Dakota citizens of recent deceptive advertisements related to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. These advertisements mislead consumers into believing they are eligible to receive tobacco settlement money.

“The settlement monies obtained through the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement are not available to individuals,” said Jackley. “Do not provide credit card numbers or any personal identifying information to unsolicited emails or advertisements.”

The online advertisements lead consumers to believe that they can claim thousands of dollars per month from the tobacco settlement through a special program. The advertisement, which promises a tax-free portion of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, misleads consumers into believing they are eligible for guaranteed money backed by the government. The advertisements emphasize ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1805>

June 05, 2017

South Dakotans Asked to Recognize Elder Abuse Awareness Day

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley is asking South Dakotans to join in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2017. The Attorney General’s Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Subdivision has been in service for one year. The Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Subdivision was created by the Legislature during the 2016 legislative session and is comprised of one full-time investigator and one full-time prosecutor. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1798>

June 02, 2017

Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division Warns of Sweepstakes Imposters

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakota consumers that winners of the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes do not receive phone calls about their prizes. The Publishers Clearing House organization will be releasing prize winners in the near future and consumers are beginning to receive imposter calls attempting to scam them out of their money. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://atg.sd.gov/OurOffice/Media/pressreleasesdetail.aspx?id=1795>

VERMONT

July 05, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL DONOVAN ANNOUNCES PUBLIC FORUM ON THE COST OF HEALTH CARE IN VERMONT

BURLINGTON- Attorney General T.J. Donovan announced today that the Attorney General's Office will host a public forum on the cost of health care in Vermont on July 11th in Burlington. The forum will provide information on how the cost of health care is determined in Vermont and the process for the public to give comments to the Green Mountain Care Board. The Attorney General will be joined at the forum by Judy Henkin, General Counsel of the Green Mountain Care Board, Mike Fisher, Vermont Legal Aid's Chief Health Care Advocate, Amy Cooper, Executive Director of Health First, Jill Mazza Olson, Executive Director of the Visiting Nurses Association of Vermont (VNAVt) and Jeffrey Tieman, President and CEO of Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (VAHHS). ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/attorney-general-donovan-announces-public-forum-on-the-cost-of-health-care-in-vermont.php>

June 30, 2017

Attorney General And Department Of Financial Regulation Announce Public Meetings On Possible Data Broker Legislation

On Tuesday, July 25 and Wednesday, July 26, 2017, meetings will be held at which any interested person may provide comments on data broker regulatory legislation. Broadly speaking, a data broker collects information, including citizens' personal information, from a variety of sources and then sells that information to advertisers and others for various purposes. ...

➤ **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/attorney-general-and-department-of-financial-regulation-announce-public-meetings-on-possible-data-broker-legislation1.php>

June 29, 2017

Vermont Attorney General Launches “VT Scam Alert” System

Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan joined Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann along with Vermont businesses, advocacy groups, and utilities to announce the addition of a statewide “VT Scam Alert.” “VT Scam Alert” is an emergency notification tool that is part of “VT Alert.” This pairing allows members of the public to receive instant alerts by email, text, or pre-recorded telephone message when a new financial scam has hit the state. Thousands of Vermonters collectively lose hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to telephone, internet, mail, and door-to-door scams. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/vermont-attorney-general-launches-vt-scam-alert-system.php>

June 13, 2017

Attorney General’s Office in our Community: Attorney General’s Office to Present Tips on Rental Housing at Upper Valley Haven

Attorney General TJ Donovan announced that members of his Environmental Protection Division will be presenting on Vermont’s rental housing laws at the Upper Valley Haven in White River Junction on Thursday, June 15th. The presentation is expected to provide a broad overview of existing resources available to Vermont renters and tips on common tenant issues, including rental applications, leases, and Vermont’s lead paint law. “We’ve heard the call for more education on rental housing and how to be a good tenant,” said Attorney General Donovan. “My team is excited to visit the Haven and help meet some of those needs.” ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/news/attorney-generals-office-in-our-community-attorney-generals-office-to-present-tips-on-rental-housing-at-upper-valley-haven.php>

VIRGINIA

July 27, 2017

ATTORNEY GENERAL HERRING WARNS OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT SCAM TARGETING VIRGINIA CONSUMERS

RICHMOND (July 27, 2017) - Attorney General Mark Herring is warning Virginia consumers of a tobacco settlement scam that is actually just a marketing pitch to persuade readers to purchase a subscription for investment advice.

"My office is getting dozens of calls from Virginia consumers asking how they can collect from a tobacco settlement, but they can't," said Attorney General Herring. "This is nothing more than a

scam hoping to rope consumers into paying for newsletter subscriptions, and I caution all Virginians to pay close attention to what they're signing up for, and contact my office if you have any questions." ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/993-july-27-2017-ag-herring-warns-of-tobacco-settlement-scam-targeting-virginia-consumers>

WASHINGTON

June 16, 2017

Ferguson issues statement regarding reports of multi-state investigation on opioids

In response to media inquiries regarding a bipartisan coalition of Attorneys General from across the country participating in an ongoing investigation to evaluate whether manufacturers have engaged in unlawful practices in the marketing and sale of opioids, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson issued the following statement:

"I'm committed to combating the opioid epidemic that is devastating Washington families. I'm currently hosting a two-day summit on the opioid epidemic that began Thursday in Seattle, convening law enforcement, health experts and prosecutors to address this important issue. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/ferguson-issues-statement-regarding-reports-multi-state-investigation-opioids>

June 13, 2017

CONSUMER ALERT: AG Ferguson warns consumers about deceptive tobacco settlement advertisements

The Attorney General's Office has received numerous inquiries about advertisements telling consumers that they can sign up to receive payments from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. This is a scam. Individuals are not eligible to receive payments from the Master Settlement Agreement. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/consumer-alert-ag-ferguson-warns-consumers-about-deceptive-tobacco-settlement>

WEST VIRGINIA

July 29, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey Warns Against Price Gouging During State of Emergency

CHARLESTON — Attorney General Patrick Morrisey warned against price gouging during a state of emergency given reports of serious flooding in areas of northern and north central West

Virginia.

Laws prohibiting such activity took effect Saturday with the governor's declaration of a state of emergency in Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio and Wetzel counties.

The state's price gouging laws specifically prohibit any person, business or contractor from inflating the price of select consumer items by more than 10 percent of what it sold for 10 days prior to the declaration. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=39233d8152>

July 28, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey Alerts Public to Disturbing Twist on Grandparent Scam

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey alerted consumers to a new version of the notorious grandparent scam, a disturbing twist already responsible for two West Virginians losing more than \$200,000.

Both victims received a call from a man pretending to be their grandson. The caller, following the usual script, claims to have been arrested and in need of bail money. However, in the new twist he gives the phone to a so-called attorney and requests that cash be mailed inside a magazine. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=c3f957a235>

July 24, 2017

Attorney General Morrisey Urges Caution With Online Classified Deals

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey urged consumers to exercise caution when making online classified purchases.

Just last week, the Attorney General's Office received calls from two consumers concerned about online sellers who requested payment via Ebay gift cards. One caller's inquiry involved a \$6,000 used vehicle, while the other pertained to a house rental. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=3318e57779>

July 19, 2017

Protecting West Virginia Consumers

Most businesses are reputable, but when a home repair, a vehicle sale or other transaction goes wrong, our office looks out for consumers.

Our dedicated staff works to protect the consumer's money and personal information from predatory scams and practices. We achieve this through awareness, complaint mediation and,

when necessary, vigorous litigation and enforcement.

Make no mistake, we want business to thrive in West Virginia, but every company, charity and organization must adhere to the state's consumer protection laws. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=dffe711cd807d3fba5777bbf0&id=e1f2f5029c>

June 08, 2017

Attorney General Morrissey Alerts Consumers to Misleading Tobacco Settlement Promotion

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey alerted individuals to an online promotion that misleads consumers to believe they can receive tobacco settlement money.

The online promotion claims individuals can sign up for the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. Despite the promotion's assertion, there is no mechanism for payments to consumers. Payments are made each year to the states and territories. ...

- **Original Press Release:** <http://mailchi.mp/wvago/wva-ag-alerts-consumers-to-misleading-tobacco-settlement-promotion?e=6758df02a8>