

NDOJ



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 21, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF CHIEF DEPUTY OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval today announced the pending retirement of longtime Chief Deputy Attorney General Brian Hutchins, head of the Transportation & Public Safety (TPS) Division in the Attorney General's Office. Hutchins will retire in February after having been with the Office for twenty-four years, the longest-serving deputy and chief deputy at NDOJ. Sandoval recently announced a successor for Hutchins, Senior Deputy Attorney General Joe Ward.

"Brian Hutchins possesses a significant share of the NDOJ's institutional memory and experience," said Brian Sandoval. "His career is distinguished by dedication and consistent fine work. We'll surely miss him."

Hutchins began his career with the Office as a deputy with the then Criminal Division in 1980 where, under a federal grant, he served as counsel to the then Nevada Division of Investigation and Narcotics and assisted rural counties in the prosecution of major crimes. Since then, Hutchins has served as capital case coordinator, and counsel to the Department of Corrections, Parole and Probation, and was chief of the Criminal Justice Division for three years before moving to the TPS Division in 1989, where he has served as chief counsel to the Department of Transportation (NDOT).

"Brian has been a big part of the Nevada Department of Transportation's efforts during his 15-year career with us," said DOT Director Jeff Fontaine. "He has provided invaluable counsel and has helped us navigate through the myriad legal issues associated with constructing and maintaining a state highway system. We wish him well in his future endeavors."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES FIRST DO NOT CALL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval today announced that his office has filed two lawsuits in Clark County District Court alleging violations of Nevada's Do Not Call law by two local home service and repair companies. The lawsuits were filed Monday afternoon.

The action, taken by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at the direction of newly-appointed Consumer Advocate, Adriana Escobar Chanos, are the first lawsuits filed under the new law, which took effect in May, 2004. The State alleges that **Alaskan Quality Services, Inc.**, an air conditioning and heating system service company with offices in Nevada and Arizona, made hundreds of telephone sales calls to Nevadans on the Do Not Call list. The State also sued **Ronald J. Marino**, doing business under the names **Vegas Valley Air Duct** and **Big Al's Carpet Cleaning**, under similar allegations.

"This is the first real test of Nevada's Do Not Call law," said Escobar Chanos. "The law has worked to dramatically reduce the number of unwanted telemarketing calls, but there may be occasion to enforce by action due to disregard of the law and the express wishes of Nevada consumers. These allegations are such an occasion."

The State is seeking a court order against each company halting further illegal practices and awarding civil penalties of up to \$2,500 for each violation and appropriate fees and costs.

For Nevadans that would like to limit the telemarketing calls they receive but have not yet registered their residential or wireless numbers on the Do Not Call list, registration is free by contacting the national do not call registry directly at <http://donotcall.gov> or calling toll free (888) 382-1222 (or TTY (866) 290-4236). The contact is the same to file a do not call complaint against a business, including those named in this press release.

Nevadans who want to learn more about Nevada's do not call law and other consumer protection issues are encouraged to visit the Attorney General's web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: February 16, 2005

TWELVE TO SIXTY MONTHS PRISON TIME FOR THEFT FROM ELDERLY

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that Monica L. Calloway, age 48, was sentenced to one count of felony theft from an elderly victim. The offense carried a maximum potential of two five-year terms and up to \$20,000.00 in penalties. Washoe County District Court Judge Steven R. Kosach ordered Ms. Calloway to pay \$8,143.00 in restitution, submit to DNA sampling, and also sentenced her to serve 12 to 60 months in the Nevada State Prison on the theft count and a consecutive term of 12 to 60 months because the victim is elderly.

The case investigation originated with the Division of Aging Services and Sparks Police Department. The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) assisted Sparks Police and prosecuted Ms. Calloway.

According to MFCU chief Tim Terry, the investigation focused on Calloway's employment at a local assisted living facility. In the course of her work, Calloway collected checks from four elderly female residents. Calloway failed to process the checks into the residents' accounts. Though Ms. Calloway was originally charged with four separate counts of theft she agreed to plea to a single count involving the theft of four checks totaling \$2,020.00. Washoe Progressive Care management cooperated in the investigation.

"Crimes against elderly persons carry additional penalties," said Chief Deputy Attorney General Tim Terry. "Seniors are especially vulnerable. Thanks to Sparks Police and Washoe Progressive Care, we were able to prosecute someone taking advantage of people in the very place they ought to feel safest."

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder patient abuse or neglect, exploitation and isolation. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing medical services and goods to Medicaid patients. Anyone wishing to report suspicions may contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in Carson City

(775) 684-1191 or in Las Vegas (702) 486-3187. Medicaid fraud information can also be found on the Attorney General's web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2005

[February 6-12, 2005 has been designated National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) to highlight consumer protection and education efforts nationwide. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the National Association of Attorneys General, is issuing a daily press release during NCPW, each designed to increase awareness of this year's theme "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction."]

ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS CONSUMERS ABOUT PROTECTING THEMSELVES FROM THEFT OF UTILITIES SERVICE

Carson City—Stealing electricity, cable, water and natural gas service, also sometimes known as "power diversion," is a crime that affects all Nevadans. Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos, Chief of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, advises Nevada consumers to be aware that the theft of these services is one of the ways in which identity thieves use information that has been collected from their victims.

For example, an identity thief may use a person's stolen identifying information to set up service for cable television and then not pay the bill. Since the identity thief makes sure the cable bill is sent to an address other than that of the victim, the victim is often unaware of the fraud. However, the delinquent account is on the **victim's** credit report.

In addition to fraudulent accounts, utility theft may also be committed through illegal utility connections, or by tampering with gas and electrical meters. Such illegal connections pose a very serious safety hazard not only for the offender, but also for the victim, other innocent people living or working in buildings affected, as well as members of the emergency services. Illegal connections on electricity installations have resulted in serious injuries, electrocution, fire, explosions and death.

By whatever means the theft occurs, it is important for consumers to understand that power diversion costs utilities and their customers millions of dollars each year and can result in higher costs for all Nevadans.

The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection offers the following tips for consumers to remember to protect themselves from power diversion, whether illegal power connections by-passing or interfering with electrical equipment, including meters, to falsify readings; tapping into neighboring premises; using illegal lines after being disconnected; self-reconnection; or tapping directly into overhead distribution wires.

- **Be on the alert for the following:**

- A meter that is not turning while an air conditioner or lights are in use;
- Someone digging into the ground near a water line;
- Someone other than an authorized utility representative working on cable, gas or electric lines;

- **Protect your identity:**

- Never provide your Social Security Number, address, or other vital information in response to an e-mail solicitation or telephone call in which the first contact is by the person requesting the information.
- Shred unnecessary financial documents: old bank statements, invoices with account information included, etc.
- Place outgoing mail in a U.S. Postal Service box or drop it off at the Post Office instead of placing it in your home mailbox. This will help prevent someone from stealing mail that includes billing statements and/or checks.
- If charges appear on a billing statement that you do not remember or seem otherwise inappropriate, call the company immediately.

- **Watch out for internet chat rooms:**

- Many participants are just looking for personal information that can be obtained in a very informal way. The identity thief can learn all sorts of personal information just by asking "small talk" questions. Genealogy websites are also attractive to identity thieves because of the abundance of personal information posted which could help an identity thief pose as the victim.

You are also urged to periodically check the status of your credit rating from one of the three major credit bureaus: Equinox, (800) 685-1111; Experian, (800) 397-3742; or TransUnion, (800) 916-8800.

If you believe that you may be a victim of utilities theft, or would like more information, please call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (702) 486-3194 in Las Vegas or (775) 687-6300 in Carson City. Consumer information can also be found on the Attorney General's web site at ag.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: February 9, 2005

12 TO 34 MONTHS FOR WORKERS COMP FRAUD

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that following a plea of guilty, District Judge Steven Kosach sentenced Dennis Dean Hogue, age 51, to twelve to 34 months in the Nevada State Prison for one count of Worker's Compensation Claimant Fraud. Hogue was also ordered to make restitution of \$9,500.00 to the Employers Insurance Company of Nevada (EICON) and to reimburse the NDOJ's Workers Compensation Fraud Unit (WCFU) \$2,500.00 in investigative costs. Hogue was further ordered to pay \$257.00 in extradition costs to the State of Nevada Extradition Unit.

On February 26, 2003 the Nevada Attorney General's office received a complaint from the Employers Insurance Company of Nevada. Hogue was suspected of filing a fraudulent worker's compensation claim. The Defendant had filed a claim in August of 2002 asserting that a fall and injuries occurred at work. Hogue withheld information several occasions that he had incurred injuries in the past. A previous claim undisclosed by Hogue resulted in a permanent partial disability payment. Despite the obligation to do so, Hogue failed to inform his employer, insurer or medical service providers of this and other previous claims.

Deputy Attorney General David Otto applauded EICON for its assistance to the WCFU. "Fraud crimes are often complex, and successful prosecution requires cooperation and assistance from insurance companies, medical service providers, and employers."

If you have knowledge that someone has committed workers compensation fraud, please contact the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-800-266-8688. Information on how to combat workers compensation insurance fraud can be found at the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2005

[February 6-12, 2005 has been designated National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) to highlight consumer protection and education efforts nationwide. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the National Association of Attorneys General, is issuing a daily press release during NCPW, each designed to increase awareness of this year's theme "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction."]

"FREE GRANTS"—BEWARE OF THE COSTS AND THE DANGERS

Carson City—Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos, Chief of the NDOJ's Bureau of Consumer Protection, urges Nevadans to beware of a recent increase in so-called "free grant" offers and why these offers may cost more than consumers realize.

The ads usually read something like this: "*FREE GRANT—never repay, acceptance guaranteed, lots of government and private sources, use for personal or business,*" or a consumer may get an unsolicited telephone call with a similar sales pitch. Unfortunately for consumers, many "money for nothing" grant offers are scams: they aren't free, they aren't guaranteed, and, in some cases, they aren't even available to the general public. Also, consumers who respond to these solicitations are often asked to divulge personal information to determine "eligibility" that can, instead, make them vulnerable to ID theft.

The most common scams will ask an interested consumer to pay a "processing fee," often \$200 or more, supposedly to cover finding a guaranteed grant source and arranging for the application package to be sent. But the consumer won't receive a guaranteed source or an actual application. If the consumer receives anything, it will be a list of agencies and foundations that the consumer will have to follow up with to get an application, assuming the consumer is even eligible. This information, however, is available at no cost at any public library or on the Internet.

Most legitimate sources of grant money do not give grants to individuals for personal needs. And, anyone who guarantees such a grant is likely to be interested in his or her own financial gain, not that of the consumer. Any consumers who believe they have been the

victim of a grant scam may contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3194, or in Carson City at (775) 687-6300.

Consumers who believe they have been the victims of ID theft, by a "free grant" scam artist or others, should immediately contact the credit bureaus to place a security alert on their files. For more information about how to contact the credit bureaus and other advice for ID theft victims, consumers may contact the contact the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Clearinghouse at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or toll-free 1-877-438-433 (TDD 1-202-326-2502).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2005

[February 6-12, 2005 has been designated National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) to highlight consumer protection and education efforts nationwide. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the National Association of Attorneys General, is issuing a daily press release during NCPW, each designed to increase awareness of this year's theme "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction."]

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT EMAILS: 'PHISHING' ID THEFT SCAMS

Carson City—Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection warns Nevadans to be on the lookout for one of the newest scams being used by identity thieves: internet "phishing."

The scam uses as its bait an e-mail message that appears to be from a bank, Internet service provider, or other legitimate company with which the recipient does business. The e-mail looks legitimate, often containing a well-recognized logo and copycat graphics. The e-mail typically requests that the recipient provide personal information for some urgent but counterfeit reason, such as to prevent a fraudulent transaction or to update, maintain, or prevent suspension of an account.

Some "phishing" e-mails even go so far as to contain a link to another website, which looks remarkably like the real thing but is instead a phony website completely fabricated by the scam artists. The phony webpage then requires that you enter and send your personal data to "validate" or "update" your account. Websites have been created that imitate AOL, Earthlink, eBay, PayPal, CitiBank, US Bank, and many other major corporations.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection offers the following tips to help consumers avoid being hooked by a "phishing" scam:

- **Do not reply to e-mails that ask for your personal information.** To be safe, always contact the company in question by telephone at its regular number on your billing statement.

- **Do not send personal information by e-mail.** E-mail is simply not secure enough to ensure the confidentiality of your personal information. Even legitimate websites can be unsafe, and personal information should only be provided, if at all, through a secure website indicated by a padlock icon or an “https” web address.
- **Regularly examine your account statements for unauthorized charges.**

Any consumer who receives an e-mail they believe to be a “phishing” scam are encouraged to report it to the company being impersonated, as well as to the appropriate law enforcement agencies through the National Fraud Information Center/Internet Fraud Watch at www.fraud.org or toll-free at 1-800-876-7060 (TDD 1-202-835-0778).

Any consumers who have provided personal information in response to an e-mail request should immediately notify any company where an account may be at risk, as well as place a security alert on their credit bureau files. For more information about how to contact the credit bureaus and other advice for ID theft victims, consumers may contact the Federal Trade Commission’s ID Theft Clearinghouse at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or toll-free 1-877-438-433 (TDD 1-202-326-2502).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2005

[February 6-12, 2005 has been designated National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) to highlight consumer protection and education efforts nationwide. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, in conjunction with the National Association of Attorneys General, is issuing a daily press release during NCPW, each designed to increase awareness of this year's theme "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction."]

ATTORNEY GENERAL ADVISES CONSUMERS HOW TO AVOID BECOMING VICTIMS OF "IDENTITY THEFT"

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the NDOJ's Bureau of Consumer Protection today issued an advisory to warn Nevada consumers about the ongoing dangers of "identity theft" and to suggest basic steps consumers should take to protect themselves from becoming victims.

"Identity theft" is the common term used in cases where a person obtains important personal information—such as a consumer's Social Security number or credit card or bank account numbers—and uses the information to commit fraud or theft. Identity thieves have been known to use the personal information they obtain to open and charge to fraudulent credit card accounts, secure deposits on major purchases like cars or housing, and rob checking and savings accounts and retirement earnings.

It can be very difficult to untangle such problems once they occur. A recent survey found that the average consumer victim spends 175 hours and \$800 resolving identity theft problems, and it can often take from two to four years for victims to clear up all of the resulting problems.

The information offered here is intended to help consumers to keep their important personal information private and thereby reduce the risk of becoming identity theft victims:

- Never give bank account or credit card numbers, or other personal information, over the phone unless (i) you initiate the call and (ii) you know you can trust the business.

- Shred or tear up papers with you personal information—such as billing statements, ATM and credit card receipts, and credit card solicitations—before disposing of them.
- Remove extra information from your personal checks—such as your Social Security number, date of birth, address, and middle name.
- Memorize your Social Security number, PIN numbers and passwords and do not carry anything with you on which they are written.
- Do not carry extra credit cards, your Social Security card, birth certificate or passport unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not reveal financial or unnecessary personal information on sweepstakes entries, prize offers, warranty cards, subscriptions, etc., as this information is often sold and circulated increasing your junk mail and the risk of identity theft.
- Ask the national credit reporting agencies NOT to give your name to solicitors. It is common for credit reporting agencies to sell lists to credit card companies and other direct marketers. To remove your name from inclusion on these lists, you may call 888-567-8688 (888-5-OPT-OUT).
- Examine your bank account and credit cards statements closely every month to identify and dispute unauthorized charges.
- Consider purchasing one of the new secure mailboxes on the market or obtaining a post office box if your residence does not already have or cannot support a locking mailbox. Identity theft is often enabled when a perpetrator obtains a credit card application or other financial document mailed to you in your name.

For more information about preventing identity theft, consumers may contact the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Clearinghouse at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. For other general consumer protection information, consumers may visit the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 29, 2005

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JoAnn Gibbs, Sr. Deputy AG
(702) 486-3789

FORTY-EIGHT ATTORNEYS GENERAL ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT WITH BLOCKBUSTER OVER ADVERTISING FOR "NO LATE FEE" PROGRAM

Attorney General Brian Sandoval through Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos today announced that Nevada and the Attorneys General of 46 other states and the District of Columbia reached agreement with Blockbuster Inc., to settle allegations that it misled consumers in the advertising of its "No Late Fee" program. As part of the settlement, which Blockbuster entered into without any admission of wrongdoing, the company will pay the states a total of \$630,000 for attorney's fees, costs of investigation and consumer protection.

The Attorneys General alleged the advertising campaign was misleading because it failed to disclose that if a consumer who rented a video or game from Blockbuster kept the item out more than 7 days after its return due date, the consumer would be charged for the selling price of the video. If the consumer later wanted to return the video, the consumer would be charged a "restocking" fee of \$1.25, or more at some franchise stores. They also alleged there was insufficient disclosure that the program was offered only at certain Blockbuster participating stores.

Blockbuster began advertising the "The End of Late Fees" and "No Late Fees" on December 15, 2004, with the program starting on January 1, 2005. The program is available at all company-owned stores and those franchise stores that chose to participate. Nevada has 49 company-owned stores and 8 franchise stores.

"This case is important because it reminds advertisers that they cannot use a catchy slogan or phrase if that slogan is misleading," said Escobar Chanos. "Slogans can be

misleading and violate the law if they do not fully and accurately describe the complete terms and conditions attached to the offer,” she warned.

Blockbuster will provide refunds or rental coupons to customers who believe they are so entitled because they did not understand the terms of the program. Information about the settlement can be obtained at www.blockbuster.com. Customers may also obtain forms at corporate owned or participating franchise stores, or by sending their requests to Blockbuster, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 2100, Dallas, TX 75270, Attention: Steve Krumholz, by April 28, 2005, or if after that, within 7 days of first discovering an expenditure in addition to the initial rental sum is or was required. Forms may also be obtained by contacting the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer protection hot line at 702-486-3132

Eligible customers are those who rented product after December 31, 2004 and prior to March 29, 2005. Refund coupons only apply to late fees on items in the initial rental transaction after December 31, 2004. The restitution period ends September 27, 2005.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

100 North Carson Street
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BRIAN SANDOVAL
Attorney General



ANN WILKINSON
Assistant Attorney General

March 17, 2005

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Yucca Mountain Project Alleged Data Falsification

Dear General Gonzales:

I am sending this letter concerning the deeply disturbing disclosure by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) yesterday that critical data supporting the Yucca Mountain project has been falsified by U.S. Geological Service (USGS) scientists. The information I am referring to concerns emails exchanged by USGS employees in conjunction with certain USGS studies relating to water infiltration at Yucca Mountain, a vital aspect of Yucca Mountain's ability or inability to isolate the nation's most lethal high-level nuclear waste.

This revelation casts additional, serious doubt on the Yucca project and undermines public confidence in the soundness of the science supporting the project. It is Nevada's position that to the extent the data supporting the Yucca Mountain site recommendation is compromised, public health and safety cannot be assured. I respectfully ask, in the strongest possible terms, that the Justice Department take the following immediate action.

First, please direct that DOE immediately make all emails relevant to this matter available to my office. Without access to these emails, there is simply no way to ensure public confidence in the pre-licensing activities being conducted at the Yucca Mountain site.

Second, I ask that your office move immediately to secure the entire Yucca Mountain data base at the project site to protect it from further manipulation. To the extent fraudulent activity has occurred, no one connected with the project should be allowed access to the very data being investigated.

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
March 17, 2005
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Third, because of the sensitive nature of this matter and the vested nature of DOE's involvement, a completely independent investigation should be conducted. I would suggest, in this regard, that either the Justice Department or an independent commission be established to undertake such an investigation. Such a commission should be entirely independent from DOE or any other agency or organization that has ever been involved with the Yucca Mountain project. If the Yucca Mountain data base has been compromised, independent investigators should be allowed to determine the extent and the severity of the activity

As Nevada's Attorney General, it is my responsibility to protect the public health and safety of the citizens of Nevada. I cannot fulfill my obligation without urging you to take the aforementioned action. Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Attorney General

By Facsimile (202-616-5117)
c: Nevada Delegation (By Facsimile)
Governor Kenny Guinn (By Facsimile 775-684-5683)

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Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 25, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES NO CONTEST PLEA TO EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES

Reno—Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that Mohammed Siddique pleaded no contest in Washoe County District Court to one felony count of theft by embezzlement. Conviction for such a crime carries a potential penalty of imprisonment from 1 to 10 years in Nevada State Prison and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000. Prosecution of the case was handled by Deputy Attorney General John McGlamery of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. Siddique's sentencing is set for June 8, 2005.

Siddique, a former loan officer at Associates Home Equity Services in Reno, was charged with theft by embezzlement of a check in the amount of \$15,371.92, from the proceeds of a home refinancing deal in which Siddique was the loan officer. Instead of sending the check to pay off the consumer's first mortgage, Siddique deposited the check into his personal account. The victim learned of the theft when she received collection calls from the first mortgage holder.

"The Bureau of Consumer Protection encourages everyone who refinances their home to carefully review their closing statement to ensure that unscrupulous lenders or their employees don't steal their money and ruin their credit," said McGlamery. "If they do, the Bureau stands ready to aggressively investigate and prosecute the perpetrators."

For more information on illegal deceptive trade practices you may contact the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1180 in northern Nevada, or (702) 486-3777 in southern Nevada, or visit the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2005

DEFENDANT ORDERED TO SERVE MINIMUM 16-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR SECURITIES FRAUD AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Carson City -- Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today the revocation of probation of Todd M. Selman of Las Vegas, Nevada. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection originally prosecuted Selman for theft and securities fraud against the elderly and sought revocation of probation when Selman failed to make court-ordered restitution payments. As a result of the revocation, District Court Judge Donald M. Mosley ordered Selman to serve a minimum sentence of 16 years in prison.

The original indictment alleged Selman offered and sold fraudulent investments in the form of an investment contract, including the fact that the investments were guaranteed with a 100% return within 90 days.

Pursuant to a Guilty Plea Agreement, Selman was placed on probation for five years. Selman made an initial payment of \$50,000.00 which the Attorney General's Office immediately turned over to the victims of his scam. Selman was next ordered to pay \$520,582.89 by April 13, 2005. When Selman failed to pay the full amount of restitution as directed, the Office of the Attorney General asked the court to order Selman to serve his full underlying sentence.

"The Nevada Attorney General's Office has no tolerance for predators who seek to scam Nevada residents, especially our senior citizens," said Jason Frierson, the Deputy Attorney General who prosecuted the case. "We will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute anyone who attempts to perpetuate a fraud on consumers."

Individuals who would like more information about investment scams should contact the Secretary of State, Securities Division at (702) 486-2440, or the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (702) 486-3194. Additional consumer protection information can be found on the Attorney General's web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: April 12, 2005**

Man Sentenced for Insurance Fraud Scheme

Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that Ty Eric Weaver, age 31, was sentenced today to 12 months in the Carson City jail after pleading guilty to conspiracy to obtain money by false pretense related to an insurance fraud scheme. He was also ordered to pay over \$7500 in restitution. Weaver has a substantial history of drug use and was not an appropriate candidate for probation.

In November of 2002, Weaver reported to Civil Service Employees Insurance Group that his 2001 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck had been damaged when it slipped off the road and fell into a ditch. The damage actually occurred when Weaver went four-wheeling while under the influence of drugs and wrecked the vehicle.

"Illegal drug use is often the reason many other crimes are committed. People will commit insurance fraud to obtain money to purchase drugs or, as in this case, will wreck a vehicle while under the influence of drugs and then lie about how the accident occurred" said Deputy Attorney General Ronda Clifton, of the Insurance Fraud Unit.

If you have information regarding insurance fraud, please contact the Nevada Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Unit Hotline at 1-800-266-8688. For more information about Nevada's Insurance Fraud Unit, please visit the Nevada Department of Justice website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: April 6, 2005

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(702) 486-3269

NEVADANS WHO USE THE ANTIDEPRESSANT REMERON CAN SEEK REFUNDS THROUGH A \$36 MILLION ANTITRUST SETTLEMENT

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval and Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos announce that Nevada joined a 50 state antitrust settlement with drug maker Organon USA Inc. and its parent company Akzo Nobel N.V. regarding the prescription antidepressant drug Remeron. Nevadans who purchased Remeron or its generic equivalent, mirtazapine, between June 15, 2001 and January 25, 2005 may be entitled to a cash recovery based on their out-of-pocket expenses. The settlement is subject to court approval before it becomes final.

"Once again, a drug maker has abused the regulatory scheme to stifle competition and prevent consumers from having access to low-cost, generic equivalents to a brand name drug," Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos said. "Obtaining this settlement represents a way for Nevada to help lower prescription drug costs for its consumers."

The states' lawsuit alleged that Organon unlawfully extended its monopoly by improperly listing a new "combination therapy" patent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In addition, the complaint alleged that Organon delayed listing the patent with the FDA in another effort to delay the availability of lower-cost generic substitutes. This resulted in higher prices to those who paid for the drug. Remeron, at its peak, was Organon's top-selling drug with annual sales in excess of \$400 million.

Nevada will receive monies for damages incurred by certain governmental entities, such as Medicaid, that paid for Remeron or its generic equivalent. Recovery is also available for third-party payors such as health insurance plans.

The settlement, if ultimately approved by the court, will resolve both claims brought by all 50 state attorneys general, as well as a private class action brought on behalf of a class of

end payors. Complete Claim Solutions, Inc. of West Palm Beach, Florida is assisting the States as the claims administrator for the settlement.

Consumers wanting a claim form and more information about the settlement may call toll-free at 1 866-401-6807 or visit the settlement website at www.RemeronSettlement.com. Claim forms can be filed online or with the administrator at the following address: Remeron Antitrust Settlement, c/o Complete Claim Solutions, Inc., PO Box 24769, West Palm Beach, FL 33416. All claims must be postmarked or filed with the administrator no later than June 13, 2005, in order to be eligible for a possible refund.

Affected consumers who do not wish to remain part of the settlement class must exclude themselves in writing on or before April 27, 2005. Information on “opting-out” of the settlement is also available on the settlement web site or by calling the toll-free number.



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(775) 850-4123**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: April 4, 2005**

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM

Carson City--Attorney General Brian Sandoval has announced the availability of funds under the **STOP** (Service - Training - Officers - Prosecution) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant program. Nevada has been allocated funds from the U.S. Department of Justice under the VAWA Grant program. The grant money will be awarded to qualified programs that meet the specific federal and state VAWA Grant objectives.

The purpose of the **STOP** Violence Against Women Program is to encourage the development and implementation of more effective law enforcement, court and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving crimes against women.

The Attorney General's Office will administer the **STOP** Grant funds on behalf of programs throughout Nevada. Sub-grant application kits are available on the Attorney General web page (listed under "Hot Topics"), at <http://ag.state.nv.us>. Since the inception of this program in 1995, over \$9 million has been distributed statewide to organizations and groups to assist in combating crimes against women.

For more information on the grant program, please call Dorene Whitworth, Office of the Attorney General, at (775) 850-4123. Applications are due by May 13, 2005.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 30, 2005

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR WORKER'S COMPENSATION FRAUD

Carson City - Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced that following a plea of guilty, District Judge William Maddox sentenced Christina Vanegas, age 33, to 12 months to 30 months in the Nevada State Prison for felony Workers Compensation Claimant Fraud. The sentence was suspended on the condition that she serve five years of probation. Vanegas was also ordered to make restitution of \$9,500.00 to the Employers Insurance Company of Nevada (EICON).

Ms. Vanegas signed numerous insurance forms claiming that she was totally disabled and unable to work when in fact she had been working for the very employer where she claimed an injury.

Attorney General Sandoval applauded EICON for its assistance to the Workers Compensation Fraud Unit, explaining, "Fraud crimes are often complex, and successful prosecution requires the joint efforts of the victim insurance company, and the WCFU."

If you have knowledge that someone has committed workers compensation fraud, please contact the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-800-266-8688. Information on how to combat workers compensation insurance fraud can be found at the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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llfralic@ag.state.nv.us
or
Leslie Brandeau-Kennedy
lmbrande@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 24, 2005

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that the Nevada Domestic Violence Prevention Council is seeking new members. The application is brief and submissions will be accepted now through June 30, 2005.

The mission of the Council includes providing direction to the Governor and the Legislature on statewide domestic violence policy and legislation; increasing public awareness of the magnitude and seriousness of domestic violence and sexual assault; advocating appropriate changes in law enforcement procedure and increasing access to legal and medical services to survivors in need.

As this is a statewide council, it is the Council's goal to be geographically balanced, culturally diverse, and representative of the various disciplines involved in domestic violence issues.

The Council meets quarterly in either Reno or Las Vegas and currently consists of a wide spectrum of community members, including educators, business and health care professionals, service providers, law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors, and advocates, as well as domestic violence victims and survivors.

Travel and per diem reimbursement are provided for official Council functions.

The application is available on the Nevada Department of Justice website at the following link: <http://www.ag.state.nv.us>, under "Hot Topics."

For more information or to receive the application by mail or fax, please contact:

Lori Fralick
Domestic Violence Ombudsman
(775) 688-1872

lfralic@ag.state.nv.us

or:

Leslie Brandeau-Kennedy
Domestic Violence Coordinator
(775) 850-4103

lbrande@ag.state.nv.us

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(775) 684-1116
Jim Spencer
(775) 684-1200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 13, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTS CAREER DEPUTIES TO KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today the appointments of two career Deputies to the top administrative positions in the Office of Attorney General. "It is with great pleasure that I appoint Randal R. Munn as my Assistant Attorney General and James T. Spencer as my Special Assistant Attorney General. The daily challenges of the Office of Attorney General require that these positions be filled with persons of integrity, experience and leadership," Sandoval stated. "Randy and Jim are proven leaders with an impressive history of litigation, administrative law and government affairs experience. I recognize and appreciate their past leadership and I'm confident they will skillfully guide this office through times of change and in the years ahead," Sandoval added.

Mr. Munn is in his 12th year with the Office of Attorney General and has served in the past 2 years as Chief of the Reno Office and most recently as Sandoval's Special Assistant. He has primary oversight over Open Meeting Law enforcement and is chief editor of Attorney General Opinions. He is responsible for the Office's legislative effort, coordinates Nevada's amicus participation with the National Association of Attorneys General and handles personnel matters. He is assuming overall statewide management responsibility for the Attorney General's Office and will be assisted by Mr. Spencer, who is in his 23rd year with the Office and will assume many of Mr. Munn's current duties.

Mr. Munn, a former bank officer, began his second career in law in 1989 and left the firm of Vargas and Bartlett for government service in 1993. His State clients over the years have included the Department of Human Resources, Nevada Medicaid, State Health Division, State Treasurer's Office, State Controller's Office, Department of Information Technology, State Purchasing, Buildings and Grounds and the Public Employees Benefits Program.

Mr. Spencer currently is the Supervising Senior Deputy Attorney General over Government Affairs and is an AV-rated attorney. He began his State service in 1982, representing the Departments of Administration, Personnel, General Services and Data Processing, Personnel Commission and State Board of Examiners. During his career, he has represented the Governor, State Controller, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, the Budget Division and Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education.

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Senior Deputy Attorney General
(775) 486-3120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 5, 2005

Insurance Fraud Convictions

The Nevada Department of Justice, Insurance Fraud Control Unit (IFCU), obtained final convictions against the following individuals for their actions in defrauding insurance companies operating in the State of Nevada and against Nevada policy holders:

Donald Lee Palmer, Jr. was sentenced on April 5, 2005, by Judge Jackie Glass in Clark County, for Felony Insurance Fraud. Palmer was sentenced to a term of 18-45 months in prison. Palmer conspired to defraud Liberty Mutual Insurance Company on a false auto theft claim. Palmer was the torch man who intentionally destroyed an insured's vehicle, at the request of the insured, to enable the insured to get out of an "upside down" loan situation. Palmer's co-conspirators have all been bound-over to District Court on related charges. Palmer is now housed at the Southern Desert Correctional Center.

Christopher William Kaiser was sentenced on April 6, 2005, by Judge John S. McGroarty in Clark County, for Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud. Kaiser was fined \$2000.00 and ordered to pay \$925.00 in other fees and costs. Kaiser made a false auto theft claim to his insurance company when in reality he conspired with another to dispose of his vehicle. Kaiser's co-conspirator was a confidential informant cooperating with the Nevada IFCU. No restitution was required for any damage to the vehicle as it was safely in the custody of the IFCU at the time Kaiser made his false claim.

Ty Weaver was sentenced on April 12, 2005, by Judge Maddox in Carson City for Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud. The judge sentenced him to one year in jail because he had a prior record. He was also ordered to pay \$7,500 in restitution.

Weaver claimed in November of 2002 that his 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup slipped off the road and went into a ditch. Weaver actually damaged his vehicle while four wheeling under the influence of drugs.

Robert Samaniego was sentenced on April 20, 2005, by Judge Stephen Kosach after pleading guilty to Felony Insurance Fraud in Washoe County. The judge sentenced him to 32 months in prison, but because of lack of prior criminal history, suspended Samaniego's sentence and placed him on probation for 5 years and ordered him to pay \$19,308.98 in restitution. Samaniego claimed to American Family Insurance that his 1999 Chevy Tahoe had been stolen. In fact he had placed his vehicle in a rented storage shed. It was his failure to pay rent on the storage shed that led to his arrest; when the owners of the storage unit took possession of the contents for failure to pay, it became known that he had reported it stolen.

"We are all daily victims of fraud and suffer the effects of such crimes in the form of increased insurance rates as well as increased costs for goods and services in the marketplace. Our unit is dedicated to fighting insurance fraud and prosecuting people who attempt to scam the system," said Senior Deputy Attorney General Thom Gover. The Nevada Department of Justice, Insurance Fraud Control Unit, has a team of attorneys and investigators in Reno and Las Vegas who are dedicated to prosecuting insurance fraud. If you have information regarding a suspected instance of insurance fraud, call our Fraud Hotline at: 1-800-266-8688.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 2, 2005**

ANNUAL CHILD SAFETY DAY INFORMATIONAL FAIR

Las Vegas—Attorney General Brian Sandoval urges press, parents and children to attend the Annual Child Safety Day event at the Circus Circus Adventuredome theme park:

**Sunday, May 22, 2005
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Circus Circus Adventuredome
Park Admission is free!**

"In 1979, President Reagan designated May 25th as National Missing Children's Day. To honor that day, and with the goal of preventing child abduction, the Attorney General's Office has partnered with Circus Circus Hotel Casino to sponsor this child safety event," said Rene Hulse, Senior Deputy Attorney General and Children's Advocate for the Nevada Attorney General's Office. In addition to a wealth of fun and information for parents, children and caregivers, Nevada Child Seekers will be providing "Child ID" kits for parents that give them a ready and up-to-date package of identification information for parents to provide to authorities and the media in the unlikely—but devastating—event that a child is missing. The importance of up-to-date identification information on one's child cannot be stressed enough: when a child is missing, precious time is often wasted gathering such information. These kits are for the parents for just this purpose, and no information is retained by those providing the service. Nevada Child Seekers will take a photo of your child, obtain fingerprints, assist you with filling out an identification data sheet, and the entire kit is yours to keep in a safe place at home and, even more importantly, to take with you when you travel.

Circus Circus has generously provided floor space for the event, and over twenty-five other organizations have donated time, materials, and energy as well.

The Nevada Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General hosts the Nevada Missing Children Clearinghouse, and works with agencies statewide and outside of the state,

and even internationally, to secure the safe recovery of missing children. For further information, please see the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.state.nv.us> or call (702) 486-3539.

The Attorney General's Office and the Nevada Missing Children Clearinghouse thank many agencies for their support in this endeavor, including: Metro, Henderson, and North Las Vegas Police Departments; Clark and Washoe County School District Police; Reno Police Department; Washoe County Sheriff; Child Protection Services/Child Haven; and the Family Courts statewide.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 21, 2005

MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

Leonard Sanfilippo was sentenced by Judge Connie Steinheimer on June 21, 2005, in Washoe County District Court. He pled guilty to two felonies, insurance fraud and obtaining money by false pretense on January 25, 2005. He claimed that he had been hit by a vehicle while walking across the street on December 28, 2002. In fact, the vehicle in question never even touched him. Sanfilippo made a claim for \$11,000 with Progressive Insurance for a hand injury that he caused himself by punching a brick wall. Sanfilippo lied to get the money from Progressive Insurance Company and then bragged about cheating an insurance company out of the money.

Sanfilippo's original sentencing date was March 4, 2005. He failed to appear for his sentencing hearing and bench warrant was issued by the Court for a bail amount of \$20,000. Ryan McDonald, Investigator with the Office of the Attorney General, was able to apprehend Sanfilippo and bring him to jail and ultimately back to court for sentencing.

Sanfilippo was sentenced to 48 months for count one and 48 months for count two with parole eligibility of 19 months. The duration of the sentencing terms were ordered to run consecutively. Sanfilippo was not given the opportunity for probation based upon his past criminal history and conduct during this case. Sanfilippo was also ordered to pay \$11,000 in restitution to Progressive Insurance Company and \$2,000 to the Office of the Attorney General for investigative costs.

"The Attorney General's Office was able to bring the truth to light because a concerned citizen came forward," said Deputy Attorney General Ronda Clifton. "Insurance fraud increases the amount of premiums that honest people have to pay."

Anyone who has witnessed insurance fraud is encouraged to call the Attorney General's fraud hotline. The number is 1-800-266-8688.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 15, 2005

“UPBEAT” PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN

Carson City, NV — In honor of Father’s Day, the Nevada Attorney General’s Office and the Nevada Division of Child Support Enforcement would like to recognize and publicly thank those parents who take their responsibilities seriously and provide for their children through support payments. While “deadbeat” parents are the ones that all too often make headlines, most non-custodial parents do in fact meet their child support obligations.

“Child support payments are the most obvious means of providing for children, and many parents making them—and making them on time—struggle to do so,” said Deputy Attorney General Donald Winne. “It costs the state many times over when children are not supported financially by those responsible, so to those who do, we’d like to say thanks.”

Attorney General Brian Sandoval adds, “As a father, and one who values time with my family, this is directed to all parents: financial support is just one obligation. Please remember the most important thing you can give your children is your time. You don’t get quality without a measure of quantity.”

The Nevada Department of Justice publishes this message each Father's Day. We feel that although it is our duty to find and prosecute parents who don’t live up to their obligation and commitment, it is also important to recognize those who do.

Below is a list of “upbeat” parents from throughout the state. The names were provided by Child Support Enforcement programs within county District Attorney offices. Each person listed has given his or her permission to publicize their name. To interview one of the parents listed, please contact your local district attorney’s office.

**WHATEVER YOUR NEWS AGENCY CAN DO TO HELP WITH PUBLIC
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY
PLAY ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN IS APPRECIATED.**

Elko County: Charles Brumfield, Robert Cleveland, Daniel Kohlman, Lucius Tjoa

“Charlie is a wonderful Daddy. He loves and cares for our blended family of seven. He is very family oriented and instills in the children . . . knowledge, manners and respect. Charlie has taught them they can go anywhere in life with these three simple things. He is a Daddy first and a Father second. Charlie brings joy and love to us all.”

Melissa, Jacob, Jasen & Deborah Brumfield
Shila, Sage, Cameo & Stormy Medlock

Humboldt County: Alberto Anaya, Fred Anderson

“We all know that being a parent can be challenging. It’s not easy to share time with your kids but any time is better than none at all. Sometimes it’s hard to be the best parent you can when you’re not with your children all the time. All you can do is the best you can with the time you have. The best thing parents can do is communicate, get along and do what is best for the children. Being a parent can be very rewarding.”

Fred S. Anderson

“In respect to being a non-custodial parent, my feelings are in the majority depressing, but having the opportunity to be a custodial parent during the visitation time, brings me some comfort. I believe that parents should have the right to be involved with their children as much as their heart desires. My joy of being a parent starts before my child’s birth and it has no ending. The small amount of time that I spend with my child is always joyful and enriching. I love my little girl, Mariela.”

Alberto Anaya

Lyon County: Thomas Lee

Washoe County: Ty Shepard, Sr.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 14, 2005

STATE EXTRADITION COORDINATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

CARSON CITY -- Nevada's State Extradition Coordinator Beverly Saucedo received a national recognition from the National Association of Extradition Officials at its annual conference in Portland, Oregon last week. The organization awarded Saucedo its "Outstanding Achievement Award."

Saucedo has worked in the Nevada Attorney General's Office for the past 28 years. She began working as the Nevada Extradition Officer in 1992 and is responsible for all state extradition matters.

Saucedo has also been an active member of the National Association of Extradition Officials since attending her first conference thirteen years ago. She served as Vice President for the organization's Board of Directors for three years, and has spent the last three years serving as Director at Large.

The organization says it chose Saucedo to receive the "Outstanding Achievement Award" for her "capacity to get along with everyone, her personable and approachable attitude which encourages others to work toward a common goal."

"We are very proud of Bev and her many accomplishments on behalf of this office and the people of Nevada," said Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval. "She is the essence of a dedicated public servant."

Saucedo plans to retire later this year. She says she looks forward to spending more time with her family and her husband. The couple celebrated its 45th wedding anniversary last week.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 13, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL RECEIVES EARLY PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN EL PASO CORPORATION LAWSUIT TO BENEFIT RATEPAYERS

Las Vegas— Attorney General Brian Sandoval and Consumer Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos, Chief of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, announce the distribution of the final payment from a multi-million dollar settlement reached with El Paso Corporation. The settlement resolved a lawsuit filed late last year in Clark County against several energy companies alleging the companies conspired to fix natural gas prices. This violated the Nevada Unfair Trade Practices Act. The lawsuit named several defendants, including El Paso Corporation, Sempra Energy, Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas and Electric. It alleged the energy companies engaged in an elaborate conspiracy to manipulate the supply of natural gas in Southern Nevada and refrain from competing against each other causing tremendous price spikes for both natural gas and electricity.

Escobar Chanos says the settlement with El Paso allowed consumers to receive either payment over a 20 year period or an accelerated payment plan at a discount. El Paso chose to accelerate payments and has now distributed the final payment to the State of Nevada. This method maximizes efficiency and return for residential ratepayers. In total, Nevada's consumers have received more than \$34 million from this settlement

"Distribution of funds to Southern Nevada's ratepayers will be in the form of a credit to the deferred energy account balances of Southern Nevada's utilities," said Escobar Chanos. "This method is administratively efficient since it does not require the issuance of thousands of individual checks and crediting the deferred energy balances reduces the ongoing carrying costs of these accounts, resulting in an even greater return to Nevada's electricity and natural gas ratepayers."

The settlement also requires El Paso to cooperate with other investigations and actions regarding market manipulation or other misconduct by energy companies. Additionally, El Paso must restructure its pipeline system in order to eliminate an artificial market constraint that currently contributes to higher natural gas prices. The restructuring costs are estimated to total \$200 million.

“Redesign of the pipeline system will provide a long term benefit to Nevada’s consumers potentially of greater ultimate value than the direct cash distributions,” Escobar Chanos said.

The State Consumer Advocate represents the public interest before the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUC), federal utility regulatory agencies, courts and all other forums with jurisdiction over Nevada public utilities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 8, 2005

SANDOVAL, OTHER AG'S SEEK TRADE TALKS AFTER GAMBLING DECISION

CARSON CITY – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval is joining with 28 other attorneys general across the country pushing for more dialogue with U.S. trade representatives regarding state's rights.

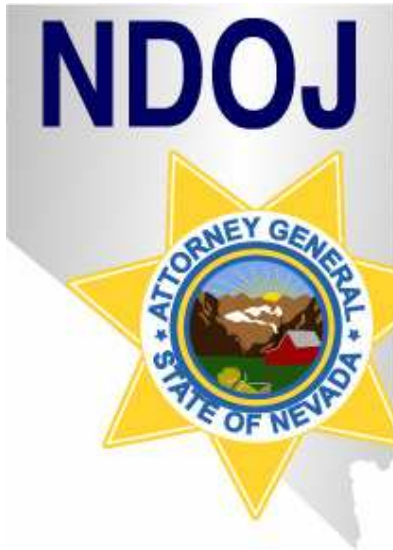
Sandoval signed a letter drafted by the attorneys general of Utah and Vermont to U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman. The letter is in response to a decision last month by the World Trade Organization (WTO) which almost lifted restrictions on Internet gaming. The WTO ruled gambling should be treated as a recreational service, and the letter to Portman claims the trade representative should have done more to stop that ruling. Following the WTO decision, the Caribbean island of Antigua requested its internet gambling services be opened up to everyone in the United States, regardless of state laws prohibiting internet gambling.

The letter from the attorneys general urges Portman to withdraw gambling from the trade agreement. It says the trade organization could stop all gambling regulations involving casinos, slot machines, state lotteries and Indian gaming rights.

"We'd like NAAG (National Association of Attorney Generals) members to have the ability to give input to U.S. trade representatives on the General Agreement on Trades and Services (GATS)," says Jim Spencer, Nevada's Special Assistant Attorney General, "We're concerned that without input from the attorneys general, U.S. trade representatives could usurp oversight of services currently regulated by states. We're asking for input into the process of determining which services are covered by GATS."

The letter was signed also by the attorney generals of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 8, 2005**

Additional Insurance Fraud Convictions Obtained, May 2005

The Nevada Department of Justice's Insurance Fraud Control Unit, ("IFCU") obtained convictions against the following individuals for their actions in defrauding Nevada insurance companies:

Brandon Jeffery Forth, pled guilty to one count of Insurance Fraud - Attempt to Make a False Claim for Insurance Benefits, a gross misdemeanor, and was sentenced on May 24, 2005, in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Forth was involved in a single motor vehicle accident while uninsured and attempted to procure insurance after the fact and make a claim on the newly acquired insurance. Forth received probation, on a suspended 6 month sentence, but must pay Progressive Insurance Company \$4,434.40 in restitution and \$1000.00 in Investigative Costs.

Adrian Gonzalez pled guilty to one felony count of Unlawful Practice of Law and was sentenced on May 26, 2005, in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Gonzalez, originally charged with 5 felony counts of Insurance Fraud and a felony count of Unlawful Practice of Law, posed as a personal injury lawyer and obtained settlements for his "clients." He also obtained a Lawyer's Lien with a Chiropractor and failed to pay him any money after he'd settled with the various insurance companies. He was given probation not to exceed 5 years and his suspended sentence was 1 to 4 years in the Nevada Department of Corrections. Gonzalez must pay all victims involved an amount in excess of \$42,000.00 in restitution. He must also pay the IFCU \$1000.00 for Investigative Costs.

"We all suffer the effects of insurance fraud, particularly in the form of increased insurance rates," said Senior Deputy Attorney General Thom Gover. "The Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Unit is dedicated to fighting insurance fraud and prosecuting people who attempt to scam the system," he added.

The Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Control Unit has a team of attorneys and investigators in Reno and Las Vegas who are dedicated to prosecuting insurance fraud. If you, or someone you know, have information regarding a suspected instance of insurance fraud, call our Fraud Hotline at: 1-800-266-8688.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 6, 2005

CONSUMER ALERT: REFUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NEVADANS WHO PURCHASED HYTRIN DRUG

Carson City—Nevadans who purchased the brand name prescription medication Hytrin are eligible for refunds from a \$30.7 million nationwide settlement agreement, Attorney General Brian Sandoval and Consumer's Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos announced today. The refunds to consumers and third party payers in Nevada and 17 other states will be paid by two companies which, the complaint alleged, had conspired to engage in anticompetitive conduct that delayed the availability of a more affordable generic version of the medication.

Hytrin, which is used in the treatment of hypertension and enlarged prostate, is manufactured by Abbott Laboratories, and the generic version (called "terazosin") is produced by Geneva Pharmaceuticals. According to a federal lawsuit, Abbott wrongfully paid Geneva to delay introduction of its generic version of Hytrin and took other steps to delay competition from lower priced generic versions of its product. This illegal activity harmed consumers.

Under the settlement agreement, which is still subject to final court approval, Abbott and Geneva would provide \$28.7 million for consumers and third party payers in Nevada and 17 other states. The most direct way for consumers to obtain claims forms is through the settlement website, <http://www.terazosinlitigation.com>. Consumers can also obtain claim forms by calling the settlement administrator toll free at (877) 886-0283 or by writing to the settlement administrator at:

In re Terazosin Hydrochloride Antitrust Litigation
c/o Complete Claim Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 24607
West Palm Beach, FL 33416

Claims forms must be mailed to the settlement administrator no later than July 15, 2005. The refund amounts depend on how many consumers file claims against the settlement fund.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 6, 2005

Insurance Fraud Convictions Obtained, May 2005

The Nevada Department of Justice, Insurance Fraud Control Unit, (IFCU), obtained final convictions against the following individuals for their actions in defrauding insurance companies operating in the State of Nevada:

Roldan Antonio Veitia was sentenced on May 9, 2005, in the Eighth Judicial District Court for Attempt to Commit Insurance Fraud, a gross misdemeanor. After making a false claim, Mr. Veitia admitted to insurance industry investigators his role in burning his own vehicle. He made the fraudulent claim on the insurance policy because he was in "bad financial trouble" and was having a difficult time making the payments on his auto loan. Mr. Veitia received probation, but must pay restitution in the amount of \$12,565.12 to American Family Insurance Company and \$1000.00 for investigative costs.

Nathaniel Partlow was sentenced on May 10, 2005, in the Ninth Judicial District Court to nine months in jail after pleading guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud, a gross misdemeanor. Partlow failed to appear for his original sentencing hearing, resulting in his arrest in California and extradition to Minden, Nevada. Partlow had reported to Sentry Dairyland Insurance Company that he did not receive a settlement check to which he was entitled after his vehicle had been damaged by a Sentry Dairyland insured driver. The insurance company promptly issued another check with instructions to destroy the first check if received. In fact, Partlow received both checks and cashed them. In addition to jail time, the Court ordered Partlow to pay over \$2,300 in restitution and investigative costs.

Santiago and Felicitas Dehoyos, were sentenced on May 10, 2005, each entering guilty pleas to one gross misdemeanor count of Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud in the Sixth Judicial District Court (Lander County). Felicitas Dehoyos filed a false insurance claim report with Sentry Dairyland Insurance Company stating that she was the driver when her

1991 GMC van backed into another vehicle in a parking lot. The actual driver was Ms. Dehoyos' uninsured 16 year old daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Dehoyos both falsified statements to the insurance company regarding the accident. They were each sentenced at the time of the entry of plea to pay a \$25 Administrative Assessment, \$350 in restitution to Sentry/Dairyland Insurance Company and \$650 for investigative costs.

“One does not have to be a direct victim of insurance fraud to suffer the effects of such crimes, primarily in the form of increased insurance rates. Our unit is dedicated to fighting insurance fraud and prosecuting people who attempt to scam the system,” said Senior Deputy Attorney General Thom Gover.

If you have any information regarding insurance fraud, please call the Nevada Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-800-266-8688. For more information about Nevada's Insurance Fraud Unit, please visit the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 2, 2005

HEALTH CARE WORKER GUILTY OF THEFT

Las Vegas—Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that Las Vegas resident Kelly Hooton, age 36, pled guilty to Theft, a misdemeanor offense, associated with her deliberate over billing of the State of Nevada Medicaid system for her services as a home health care aid. Justice of the Peace Nancy Oesterle sentenced Ms. Hooton to serve 80 hours of community service, pay \$860 as restitution, costs and penalties, and suspended a 30 day jail sentence.

The case was prosecuted by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). According to Unit Chief Tim Terry, the charges stem from an investigation concerning Hooton's time sheets. She was employed as a home health care aid and inflated the time she actually spent with one of her clients.

"If this crime was to go unchecked, the loss to our Medicaid system would have been substantial," said Terry. "The State of Nevada simply will not condone the exploitation of senior citizens or the Medicaid system, regardless of the amount involved," he added.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of patient abuse or neglect, exploitation and isolation. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing medical services and goods to Medicaid patients. Anyone wishing to report suspicions regarding any of these concerns may contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in Carson City (775) 684-1191 or in Las Vegas (702) 486-3187. Medicaid fraud information can also be found on the Attorney General's web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 8, 2005

NEVADA SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS FORMER COUNCILMAN'S CONVICTION FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

The Nevada Attorney General's Office announces the affirmation of the conviction of former North Las Vegas City Councilman John Rhodes. The Supreme Court of Nevada notified the Attorney General's office that it has decided to uphold Rhodes' 2003 conviction for one count of felony Insurance Fraud. Rhodes was found guilty by a Clark County jury in September 2003 based on evidence that Rhodes filed a fraudulent \$10,200 insurance claim following an alleged burglary of his home in 1998.

In an Order released on July 5, 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that there was no merit to Rhodes' claim that he was denied a fair trial due to an alleged faulty jury instruction. The Court also found no merit to Rhodes' claim that the State failed to provide exculpatory evidence in a timely manner.

"This was an important case from a public integrity standpoint and for the protection of insurers and consumers," said Attorney General Brian Sandoval. "We are pleased that the Supreme Court found that John Rhodes was afforded a fair trial and that his conviction should be upheld."

Rhodes was sentenced to 18 to 48 months in prison. The sentence was suspended and Rhodes placed on probation not to exceed 5 years. The case was tried by Chief Deputy Attorney General Gerald Gardner and Senior Deputy Attorney General Marty Howard.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 26, 2005

COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Carson City—Attorney General Brian Sandoval today announced that the State of Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence is currently accepting resumes for potential Committee members in the event a vacancy occurs.

Nevada law (NRS 228.4702) authorizes the Committee to:

- (a) Adopt regulations for the evaluation, certification and monitoring of programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence;
- (b) Review, monitor and certify programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence;
- (c) Review and evaluate existing programs provided to peace officers for training related to domestic violence and make recommendations to the Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission regarding such training;
- (d) To the extent that money is available, arrange for the provision of legal services, including, without limitation, assisting a person in an action for divorce; and
- (e) Submit on or before March 1 of each odd-numbered year a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the regular session of the Legislature. The report must include, without limitation, a summary of the work of the Committee and recommendations for any necessary legislation concerning domestic violence.

Committee members are appointed by the Attorney General. The Committee must be comprised of the following:

- One staff member of a program for victims of domestic violence.
- One staff member of a program for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence.
- One representative from an office of the district attorney with experience prosecuting criminal offenses.

- One representative from an office of the city attorney with experience prosecuting criminal offenses.
- One law enforcement officer.
- One provider of mental health care.
- One person who has successfully completed a domestic violence treatment program, has not committed a violent act following treatment, and has demonstrated leadership by assisting persons who commit domestic violence or assisting persons who are domestic violence victims.
- Two victims of domestic violence.

At least two members of the Committee must be residents of a county whose population is less than 100,000.

The Committee meets quarterly, at a minimum, in either Reno or Las Vegas and currently consists of a wide spectrum of community members, including health care professionals, law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and domestic violence victims and survivors.

Travel and per diem reimbursement are provided for official Committee functions.

For more information please contact:

Rebecca Thomas, Committee Chair
(775) 784-6272 ext. 241

Along with your resume, please include a letter of interest describing your personal interest and accomplishments regarding domestic violence issues and what your presence could bring to the Committee as well as a letter of recommendation from an individual or group who knows of your involvement or interest in the area of domestic violence.

Applications for potential vacancies will be kept on file and reviewed as vacancies occur on the Committee. Please mail your resume and other requested materials regarding potential vacancies to:

Domestic Violence Ombudsman
Office of the Attorney General
Nevada Department of Justice
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202
Reno, Nevada 89511

The Nevada Department of Justice and the Domestic Violence Ombudsman work together to educate our community on the warning signs of domestic violence and resources available for victims. If you or someone you know may be a victim of domestic violence, please call our Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1556.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 18, 2005

Fake Doctor Sentenced to Four Months Imprisonment

Las Vegas – Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that Andrew Michael was sentenced to serve 120 days in the Clark County Detention Center pursuant to his June guilty plea to one felony count of Attempt to Practice Medicine Without a License. Michael was immediately remanded into custody by Judge Valorie Vega following the District Court sentencing hearing.

From May 2001 until May 2003, Andrew Michael represented himself as a surgeon and graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He served as CEO of Meadows Diagnostic Imaging Center, and supervised numerous potentially dangerous medical procedures under the pretext that he was a physician. Michael had received a bachelor's degree from the now-defunct Hamilton University, an on-line school based in Wyoming, and was enrolled in St. Luke's School of Medicine, a correspondence medical school based in Liberia, Africa, that has since been shut down by African authorities.

"Mr. Michael's behavior was incredibly dangerous and put the health and safety of numerous Nevadans at risk," said Attorney General Sandoval. "We believe Judge Vega sent an appropriate message with her sentence."

Michael was sentenced to an additional 45 months in prison, suspended, and ordered to serve four years of intensive supervision probation upon his release from jail.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 11, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL SANDOVAL ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH 7-ELEVEN TO CURB TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS *Seventh Multi-State Agreement With Major Retailers Covers Nevada Stores*

Attorney General Brian Sandoval today announced an agreement with 7-Eleven, Inc. under which the nation's largest seller of tobacco products will implement new procedures to reduce tobacco sales to minors in its 197 Nevada stores, and 5,125 outlets in 33 other states and Washington D.C.

"This agreement is an important public health win, particularly for our youth," said Attorney General Sandoval. "7-Eleven has recognized the serious health risks associated with youth smoking and, with this agreement, has made a praiseworthy commitment towards notable solutions."

The 7-Eleven "Assurance of Voluntary Compliance" (AVC) is the seventh such agreement produced by an ongoing, multi-state enforcement effort. Previous agreements cover all Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Rite Aid stores, and all gas stations and convenience stores operating under the Exxon, Mobil, BP, ARCO and Amoco brand names. Combined, the agreements cover nearly 50,000 retail outlets across the nation. They provide measures to reduce sales of tobacco products to minors by the nation's top retail chain (Wal-Mart), number one drug store chain (Walgreens), largest oil company (ExxonMobil) and biggest retailer of tobacco products (7-Eleven).

Launched in 2000, the multi-state enforcement effort by a group of Attorneys General focuses on retailers with poor records of selling tobacco products to minors. State laws prohibit such sales. The enforcement program's goal is to secure the companies' agreement to take specific corrective actions. The agreements incorporate "best practices" to reduce sales to minors, developed by the Attorneys General in consultation with researchers and state and federal tobacco control officials.

(continued)

The agreement announced today requires that 7-Eleven do the following at all company-owned stores:

Check the ID of any person purchasing tobacco products when the person appears to be under the age of 27, and accept only valid government-issued photo ID as proof of age.

Prohibit self-service displays of tobacco products, the use of vending machines to sell tobacco products, distribution of free samples, sale of cigarette look-alike products, and the sale of smoking paraphernalia to minors.

Hire an independent entity to conduct random compliance checks of 900 7-Eleven stores annually in the signing states.

Restrict in-store advertising of tobacco products adjacent to products popular with minors and outdoor and outward-facing advertising within 500 feet of schools and playgrounds.

Train employees on state and local laws and company policies regarding tobacco sales to minors, including explaining the health-related reasons for laws that restrict youth access to tobacco.

7-Eleven will also take steps to effect compliance by its franchisees with the provisions of the agreement and state laws concerning tobacco products.

The Attorneys General have long recognized that youth access to tobacco products ranks among the most serious public health problems. Studies show more than 80 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 18. Research indicates that every day in the United States, more than 2,000 people under the age of 18 start smoking and that one-third of those persons ultimately will die from a tobacco-related disease. Young people are particularly susceptible to the hazards of tobacco, often showing signs of addiction after smoking only a few cigarettes.

In 1999, the Nevada Office of the Attorney General established a Tobacco Litigation and Enforcement Section to enforce Nevada laws regarding the sale of tobacco products. The section also enforces the national Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) reached with tobacco companies in November 1998.

Nevadans who suspect violations of state tobacco laws or the MSA can file complaints by calling 775-684-1100 at any time, or by writing to the Tobacco Litigation and Enforcement Section at 100 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 9, 2005

GOVERNOR GUINN AND ATTORNEY GENERAL SANDOVAL CONDEMN EPA'S PROPOSED LAX NEW YUCCA RADIATION STANDARD

CARSON CITY – Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn and Attorney General Brian Sandoval released the following statement today regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed new radiation protection standard for the licensing of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository:

"In a snub to the scientific community and a federal appeals court in Washington, the EPA today issued a proposed standard for the licensing that is 100 times more lenient than what the government permits for releases from nuclear power plants," Sandoval said. "It's an obscenely lax and dangerous new standard. They just threw up their arms and gave the project a pass."

EPA's radiation protection standard is the primary benchmark used to determine the repository's safety. It sets the maximum permissible radiation dose to humans living near the dump. EPA's previous standard had been set at 15 millirems, a level deemed safe by scientists. But since EPA had arbitrarily determined that this standard needed to be in place only during that period in which no leakage is expected from the repository, the D.C. Court of Appeals invalidated it as being inconsistent with Congressionally mandated recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences. Those recommendations required that the standard protect humans during periods when leakage will cause peak levels of radiation.

EPA's proposed new standard would keep the 15 millirem radiation dose limit during the first 10,000 years of the repository's operation, when no leakage from waste containers is expected by the government. But after that period, when leakage is all but certain, it would permit the standard to become 23 times more lenient, or 350 millirems.

"We were pessimistic about the outcome, given EPA's record of pushing the repository," said Gov. Guinn. "But never in our wildest nightmares would we have anticipated such a ridiculous standard. The EPA's dangerous proposal is three-and-a-half times more lenient than even the nuclear industry had recommended in a formal report to EPA last spring."

(continued)

Guinn and Sandoval outlined other features of the proposed rule:

- It lets future residents of Nevada suffer 100 times more radiation exposure from releases than what the federal government currently permits for residents living near nuclear power plants. See 10 C.F.R. Part 50, Appendix I, § 2A.
- It paradoxically applies a far stricter standard when the repository is not leaking than when it is leaking.
- It is by far the most lenient radiation protection standard proposed for any nuclear waste disposal project in the world.
- For the first time ever in the world, it seeks to establish the level of "natural background radiation" received by Americans as a tolerable threshold for additional radiation from man-made sources. That is, without explanation, it suggests Nevadans can receive *twice* the level of radiation normally received by other Americans from natural background sources.
- It completely abandons any separate groundwater protection standard during the time of expected leakage from the repository, applying it only during that time period in which no leakage is expected. Yet, EPA has admitted that groundwater contamination would represent as much as 80 percent of any total radiation dose to humans from Yucca.
- In considering a bifurcated standard in setting its old rule, EPA concluded that such a standard would be "immoral, unethical to future generations, irresponsible, and unacceptable."

The Energy Department is overjoyed with the new standard. In an Associated Press report today, DOE's spokesman Craig Stevens said he was "certain" the government could meet it.

"If this bogus new standard, or anything close to it, ends up being adopted by EPA, Nevada will sue them again," Sandoval emphasized.

"I can't imagine how they could have done anything to make themselves more vulnerable in the court of law as well as the court of science," Guinn added. "This is junk science at its worst."

For media requests for Governor Guinn's office, please contact Greg Bortolin at 775-684-5670 or bortolin@gov.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 4, 2005

Former Lander County Sheriff Sentenced for Embezzlement Funds

Attorney General Brian Sandoval announces that former Lander County Sheriff Mike Kranovich plead guilty to felony embezzlement charges in Lander County District Court on Monday August 1, 2005. The Nevada Attorney General's Office filed the state charges against Kranovich after an investigation by the Nevada Division of Investigations (NDI) revealed Kranovich had pocketed county money for personal use and misused his county credit card.

The NDI investigators found Kranovich had pocketed more than \$1500 in checks given to him to cover convention expenses. Kranovich instead used his county credit card to pay for those expenses. He also used his county credit card to pay for two airline tickets for his wife. The tickets were used for personal trips to Hawaii and Dallas, TX.

Kranovich plead guilty to felony charges of fraudulent appropriation of property. Nevada Senior District Court Judge Norm Robison sentenced him to probation. Kranovich is also required to pay nearly \$700 back to Lander County.

"This penalty reflects the fact that the defendant is being held accountable for his conduct," said Chief Deputy Attorney General Conrad Hafen. "With the overwhelming evidence we had that Kranovich committed these crimes, this is a fair resolution."

These embezzlement charges are not the first for Kranovich. He was also charged and convicted in federal court for embezzling money from the Lander County Sheriff Department's Drug Fund. The fund is maintained by the county to pay for undercover drug operations. Kranovich appealed his conviction, which was later upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He was sentenced to jail for the federal conviction. His state sentence will run concurrently with the federal sentence.

"The Public Integrity Unit of the Attorney General's Office will continue to hold elected officials accountable for their criminal conduct while they are in office," adds Hafen.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 4, 2005

GRANTS AWARDED TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

CARSON CITY — Attorney General Brian Sandoval announces the distribution of approximately \$1 million in grants awarded for programs addressing violence against women.

The grants are awarded in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2005 federal funding provided under the Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and will be distributed statewide. VAWA funds are distributed to groups and organizations that specifically target coordination of statewide law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes committed against women. Money is also awarded to assist in developing and enhancing governmental and private advocacy programs that aid such victims.

"Dozens of entities and organizations from throughout Nevada submitted proposals seeking nearly \$1.4 million in grant funds for their specific projects," said Dorene Whitworth, a grants administrator within the Nevada Attorney General's Violence Against Women Grant Unit. "Although the funding decisions are always very difficult, we are confident that the grants awarded this year will prove to be very valuable in helping to provide additional services to victims, training for law enforcement, and to enhance Nevada's overall response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking."

The awards were provided in the following categories: Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Victim Services, and Courts. A large portion of the funds went toward continuing or increasing advocacy services throughout the state.

Priority was given to areas showing the greatest need based on population and geographic area to be served in relation to the availability of such services. Priority was also given to programs providing services for underserved populations--elderly, disabled and minority victims--as well as geographically isolated victims and those victims who are isolated for reasons such as homelessness or drug and alcohol dependence.

-continued-

-Page 2 – Grants Awarded to Fight Violence Against Women-

New programs funded this year include an award to Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada to enhance legal services to victims of domestic violence, an award to the City of Reno to conduct a Battered Immigrant Women Summit, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for training, and the Elko Band Council of the Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone for emergency assistance funds.

Since the inception of the Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program in 1995, the Office of the Attorney General has distributed in excess of \$10 million to programs addressing violence against women. For more information regarding this formula grant program, please contact Dorene Whitworth, (775) 850-4123.

For more information on how to help with efforts to reduce domestic violence in Nevada, call Nevada's toll free domestic violence information and referral line at 1-800-230-1955. If you are being abused, or know someone who is being abused, call Nevada's Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1556, 24 hours a day, to get help.

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NDOJ



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday September 30, 2005

NDOJ's OFFICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO OFFER FREE CHILD FINGERPRINTING SERVICES AT 5th ANNUAL SAFE & HEALTHY HOMES FAIR

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that representatives from the Nevada Department of Justice's (NDOJ) Office of Domestic Violence will be on hand to offer free child fingerprinting services at this weekend's 5th Annual Safe & Healthy Homes Fair in Reno. The fair will be held from 10 am until 2 pm on Sunday October 2, 2005 at Reno's Idlewild Park and the California Building.

The Safe and Healthy Homes Fair is a collaborative effort among local agencies to enhance community awareness of local programs and resources. The event will kick-off National Domestic Violence Awareness Month which is observed each year in October.

"A missing child is a parent's worst nightmare but unfortunately it's a situation that happens all too often," said NDOJ Spokeswoman Nicole Moon. "However, parents can take proactive steps to help speed up an investigation should their child go missing. These steps could help police get the missing child home safely. Having their child's fingerprints taken is just one of those steps and we encourage all parents attending the event to take advantage of this free service."

Representatives from the NDOJ's Office of Domestic Violence will also be on hand at the Safe & Healthy Homes Fair to provide attendees with information on the programs it offers and to help educate families on the resources available to them.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, the NDOJ's Office of Domestic Violence encourages you to call the toll-free Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-500-1556.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday September 29, 2005

NDOJ CHIEF DEPUTY MOVING ON TO NEW POSITION AT UNLV

Las Vegas – Attorney General Brian Sandoval announces that Chief Deputy Attorney General Charlotte Matanane Bible is moving to a new position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas after more than 14 years of service with the Office of the Attorney General.

Bible began her tenure in the Attorney General's Office on March 11, 1991 and over the years has worked with numerous divisions in the office starting in the criminal justice division handling habeas and civil rights cases. In that position she had the opportunity to try a felony criminal case. She then proceeded to the gaming division where she worked for 7 years. She left gaming for a promotion to Senior Deputy Attorney General representing the Transportation Services Authority; two years later she was promoted to Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General to the civil division. When Brian Sandoval became Attorney General in 2003, Bible was appointed to Chief of the civil division.

"Charlotte is an excellent example of a good lawyer who is moving on to do great things," Sandoval said. "Her success speaks highly for the caliber of attorneys we have working at the Nevada Department of Justice and I wish her well in future endeavors."

Bible graduated from UOP, McGeorge School of Law in 1985 and embarked on a career in law in Las Vegas starting as a judicial law clerk to the late Howard Babcock, 8th Judicial District Court Judge. She then joined the Las Vegas law firm then known as Schreck, Jones, Bernhard, Woloson and Godfrey as an associate. After four and ½ years in private practice she started her long career in public service.

"There is considerable amount of mistrust of government," Bible said. "I have learned in our effort to protect the public safety, health and welfare that if we are able to keep the public informed, ensure that our State agencies clearly make known that the reasons for their decisions and actions are arrived at fairly and reasonably, then the public will be best served."

Bible begins her new position as Assistant General Counsel to UNLV on October 10, 2005.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 22, 2005

NDOJ OBTAINS CONVICTIONS, SENTENCING AGAINST TWO LAS VEGAS MEN IN SEPARATE SECURITIES FRAUD AGAINST THE ELDERLY CASES

Carson City -- Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that on September 20, 2005, John Myers was sentenced to two consecutive prison terms of 2 to 5 years. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection originally prosecuted Myers for securities fraud against the elderly. The original indictment alleged Myers gained the victims' trust as their financial advisor and took advantage of that relationship by selling them a security in an investment contract without ever investing their money.

Pursuant to a Guilty Plea Agreement, Myers agreed to pay \$35,000.00 towards restitution prior to sentencing, with the remaining amount of nearly \$200,000.00 to be paid within two years. When Myers failed to make the agreed upon payment, the Office of the Attorney General asked the court to order Myers to be sentenced to imprisonment. As a result, District Court Judge Valerie Vega ordered Myers to serve a minimum sentence of 4 years in prison.

"The Nevada Attorney General's Office has no tolerance for predators who perpetrate a fraud upon Nevada residents, especially our senior citizens," said Jason Frierson, the Deputy Attorney General who prosecuted the case. "We remain diligent in aggressively investigating and prosecuting anyone who attempts to scam consumers."

Earlier this month a Las Vegas jury returned a verdict convicting Paul K. Ray of one count of felony theft by embezzlement in connection with securities trading. The victim invested \$75,000 with Ray to trade in the stock market. Ray embezzled more than \$26,000 from the victim's investment accounts by transferring the money into private savings accounts and withdrawing the cash at various casino ATM machines in Las Vegas and Henderson. After unsuccessfully demanding the return of her money from Mr. Ray, the victim contacted the Nevada Secretary of State Securities Division who investigated the matter and referred the case to the Attorney General's office for criminal prosecution.

"We are pleased that the jury returned a guilty verdict and that the victim will now have closure after 5 long years of trying to get her money back," stated John P. Kelleher, the Senior Deputy Attorney General who prosecuted the case along with co-counsel Deputy Attorney General Jason Frierson.

The Nevada Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection strongly advises consumers to contact the Nevada Secretary of State, Securities Division to verify licensing and credentials of anyone claiming to be a broker or salesperson of securities or an investment advisor.

Individuals who would like more information about investment scams should contact the Secretary of State, Securities Division at (702) 486-2440, or the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (702) 486-3194. Additional consumer protection information can be found on the Attorney General's web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

For more information regarding the John Myers sentencing please contact Deputy Attorney General Jason Frierson at (702) 486-3128 or jmfriers@ag.state.nv.us. For more information on the Paul Ray conviction please contact Senior Deputy Attorney General John P. Kelleher at (702) 486-3130 or jpkelleh@ag.state.nv.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 13, 2005

Attorney General Sandoval Unveils *Identity Theft PASSPORT* Program at Senior Fest

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval unveiled the *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program today at Reno's Senior Fest. The program is the State of Nevada's newest tool to help victims of identity theft.

The 2005 Nevada Legislature authorized the NDOJ to create the *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program, which will be available to the public beginning on January 1, 2006. State Senator Bob Beers sponsored the bill. Beers says he came up with the idea after reading a news story about a man who was wrongly arrested by law enforcement because an identity thief used his name during an arrest.

"The story was based out of Virginia and this unfortunate man was arrested three times because some criminal was using his name," Beers said. "I wanted to make every effort to prevent a situation like that from happening here in Nevada, so I researched ways to help identity theft victims recover and came up with the *Identity Theft PASSPORT*."

In 2004, 2,935 complaints regarding identity theft were filed in the state of Nevada. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), that makes Nevada second in the nation for its identity theft report rate (based on per capita numbers).

The new *PASSPORT* program is designed to help Nevada residents who have fallen victim to identity theft regain control of their credit and personal information. It features a five-step process starting with the initial report to police that an identity theft crime has occurred and ending with a special *PASSPORT* card issued to the victim. Victims can then use the card as a way to prove to creditors and law enforcement that they are a victim of identity theft.

"Identity theft affects thousands of Nevadans every year. It's a growing crime and the *PASSPORT* program puts the Nevada Department of Justice in a unique position to help the victims in our state," said Attorney General Sandoval, "While our *PASSPORT* cards aren't necessarily a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card, they will help victims to prove they are the victim of identity theft and that they are actively working to fix the problem."

(continued)

How the *PASSPORT* program works:

If a resident believes he or she is a victim of identity theft, he or she can take advantage of the *PASSPORT* program by following these steps:

1. Contact local law enforcement and report the crime.
2. Once law enforcement verifies that a crime has been committed and processes a report, it will provide the victim with identity theft materials and a *PASSPORT* application to complete.
3. The victim will fill out the application and then the reporting agency will mail or deliver the application, a photo of the victim and the police report to the Nevada Department of Justice.
4. The Nevada Attorney General's office will verify the information and issue a *PASSPORT* card to the victim with his or her photograph and a unique identifying number. It takes about 4-6 weeks to complete this process.
5. After receiving the *PASSPORT* card, the victim may use it to alert creditors and law enforcement that he or she has been a victim of identity theft.

The *Identity Theft PASSPORT* cards will feature a photo of the victim, his or her current address and the victim's thumbprint, for law enforcement verification. The NDOJ will also host a toll-free telephone line so that victims can activate their cards and get more information about the program. The *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program will be available to the public starting on January 1, 2006.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 9, 2005

JUDGE HOWARD McKIBBEN HONORED WITH 2005 WILLIAM J. RAGGIO AWARD

Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys have named Senior U.S. District Court Judge Howard D. McKibben as recipient of the William J. Raggio Award for 2005. This award is presented annually to a current or former prosecutor who has contributed significantly to the improvement of the administration of justice in Nevada.

"The Council is proud and honored to recognize Judge McKibben for his distinguished service as a prosecutor, state court judge and federal judge," said Sandoval. "He has devoted his life to justice and the rule of law and is one of the most respected jurists in the history of Nevada."

The award is named in honor of former Washoe County District Attorney and current Senator Majority Leader William J. Raggio. Previous recipients are: Senator Raggio in 1998, Ben Graham in 1999, Thomas L. Leen in 2000, William T. Koot in 2001, Mills B. Lane in 2003, and Melvyn T. Harmon in 2004. Frankie Sue Del Papa and Stewart Bell were co-recipients of the award in 2002.

Judge McKibben is being recognized for his exemplary service as a dedicated prosecutor and judge in Nevada, including service as Douglas County District Attorney, Douglas County District Court Judge, and U.S. District Court Judge, and his strong commitment to justice for all people.

The Advisory Council is an executive branch state agency created pursuant to NRS chapter 241A with a broad statutory mandate to provide leadership, resources and legislative advocacy on legal and public policy issues related to the duties of Nevada's prosecutors. Attorney General Sandoval serves as chairman for the Advisory Council.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 7, 2005

Attorney General Sandoval to Unveil *Identity Theft PASSPORT* Program at Senior Fest

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval will unveil the *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program, the State of Nevada's newest tool to help victims of identity theft. Sandoval will present the *PASSPORT* program to the public for the first time at Reno's Senior Fest at the Park Lane Mall:

Unveiling of Nevada's *Identity Theft PASSPORT* Program

Tuesday September 13, 2005 • 11:45 am
Park Lane Mall • 310 E. Plumb Lane, Reno

In 2004, 2,935 complaints regarding identity theft were filed in the state of Nevada. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), that makes Nevada second in the nation for its identity theft report rate (based on per capita numbers). The Nevada Department of Justice wants to change those numbers by educating residents on how to protect their personal information and helping those who have fallen victim to this crime.

"Identity theft is one of the most devastating and underreported crimes. In most cases the victims don't know where to turn to get the help they need to salvage their credit," said Attorney General Sandoval. "The NDOJ's new *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program gives victims an important key to locking up their personal information and recovering from the theft."

The 2005 Nevada Legislature authorized the NDOJ to create the *Identity Theft PASSPORT* program, which will begin on January 1, 2006.

The NDOJ also plans to participate in the Senior Fest activities in several capacities. Representatives from the Bureau of Consumer Protection, the Nevada Attorney General's Office and the Senior Medicaid Fraud Patrol Unit will be on-hand to give presentations and answer seniors' questions. The NDOJ has also teamed up with two local document shredding companies, Iron Mountain and Shred-It, to offer free shredding services for seniors who wish to bring personal and/or financial documents for shredding.

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(702) 486-3256
Nicole Moon, Public Information Officer
(775) 684-1114; (775) 230-3360 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL ADVISES CONSUMERS TO REPORT GAS PRICE GOUGING

Carson City, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection today issued an advisory to Nevada consumers who are concerned about possible gas price gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The U.S. Department of Energy maintains a Gas Price Watch Line at 1-800-244-3301. They are also taking complaints regarding possible gas price gouging online, or via U.S. Mail for those who do not have internet access. The internet webform for filing a complaint may be found at <http://gaswatch.energy.gov>, or you can connect to the form through the link on the Energy Departments home page at www.energy.gov. If you do not have internet access, you may write the Energy Department at:

Gas Price Watch Project
U.S. Department of Energy
Box 2800, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

If complaining by mail, please be sure to include the following information: (1) name of the gas station, (2) city and state where the gas station is located, (3) your city and state, if different, (4) the cost per gallon and whether the price is for regular, medium or high grade gas, and (5) any additional brief comments you think may be helpful.

Finally, the Attorney General's Office does have limited jurisdiction to address illegal price fixing. The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, Antitrust Unit, is authorized to take action against gasoline retailers or suppliers that are proven to have engaged in illegal behavior in violation of state antitrust laws involving the setting of gas prices in Nevada. If you have information regarding possible price fixing please contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1180 in Carson City or (702) 486-3194 in Las Vegas. For additional consumer information, visit the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 1, 2005

Attorney General Sandoval Warns of Possible Gas Price Gouging and Charity Fraud in Wake of Hurricane Katrina

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Brian Sandoval and Consumer's Advocate Adriana Escobar Chanos are warning Nevada consumers about the possibility of gas price gouging in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane, which hit parts of Louisiana and Mississippi earlier this week, caused damaged to several oil refineries in the area, thus disrupting the supply of gasoline to American consumers across the country. This has brought about an abrupt increase in gas prices here in Nevada.

"Hurricane Katrina may have hit the southeast portion of our country, but we are feeling the effects across the nation," said Attorney General Sandoval. "We are asking all citizens to be aware of these effects, especially with gas prices, and to be good citizens in reporting and acting on any suspicion of wrong-doing."

The Nevada Department of Justice is watching the gas prices in our state closely. The NDOJ has authority to step in and take legal action, should it learn of any vendors colluding to fix prices. However, the state of Nevada does not have any laws preventing price gouging. The Attorney General's Office will pass on any complaints of price gouging to the Federal Trade Commission.

The Nevada Attorney General's Office worked with the 2005 Nevada Legislature to create AB 539, which would have created state price gouging laws. Unfortunately, this bill did not receive a hearing by lawmakers.

"The ripple effect Hurricane Katrina has had on our country only brings to light a need for this type of a law in Nevada," said Escobar Chanos. "The Attorney General's Office and Bureau of Consumer Protection plan to reintroduce this bill to the 2007 Nevada Legislature."

(continued)

The Attorney General is also warning about possible charity fraud connected to relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina. Reports across the country have already surfaced regarding fraudulent web donation sites and phishing scams soliciting relief funds to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Sandoval advises citizens to avoid these Internet donation sites and carefully investigate any Katrina relief requests.

“Nevada residents have many resources which that can help you determine if the charity you are donating to is legitimate,” Sandoval said. “Our office suggests contacting an independent organization like the Better Business Bureau to determine if a charity has a good reputation.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 1, 2005

NEVADA SUES NRC FOR PREJUDGING YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSING PROCEEDING

Carson City, NV -Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval today sued the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, alleging that NRC had refused to change a 1990 rule Sandoval believes is irrational and prejudices the outcome of the upcoming Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding. Those proceedings are scheduled to begin as early as March 2006, when the Energy Department has promised it will file its license application at NRC for a construction permit.

Nevada's suit, filed in the federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, complains that NRC unlawfully rejected Nevada's March 1, 2005 petition to change the so-called "Waste Confidence Rule." That rule allows NRC to continue to license new nuclear plants and waste storage facilities at power plant sites only because of NRC's finding, expressed in the rule, that a geologic repository for the disposal of nuclear waste will be available by the year 2025.

To avoid biasing the license proceeding for Yucca, NRC's 1990 rule was based on its determination that, if Yucca were to fail to receive a license by a projected date of 2000, there would still be sufficient time – 25 years – to locate, license, and construct an alternative repository. Sandoval claims it is no longer possible for that premise of the Waste Confidence Rule to be met due to numerous delays in the Yucca project, some caused by Nevada's legal challenges.

"Today," Sandoval said, "the only way NRC can meet its requirement that a repository will be available by 2025 is to presume it will give Yucca a license. For an ostensibly impartial regulator to make that prejudgment is simply unlawful. Frankly, it's also appalling public policy."

Citing the proliferation of on-site dry storage facilities for nuclear waste and NRC's own finding that these facilities will be safe for at least 100 years, Nevada urged in its March petition that there is plenty of time to locate another repository if Yucca fails, and it therefore requested removal of the 2025 requirement to avoid biasing the Yucca proceeding.

NRC rejected Nevada's petition on August 17 without first publishing it in the Federal Register and inviting public comment. "We understand this is the first time in NRC's history that it rejected a rulemaking petition without public comment," Sandoval said. "It shows how afraid they are of having a level playing field for Yucca. They're bending over backwards to ram this project forward, and we're confident the court will see through it."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday October 24, 2005

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2005: **Sandoval Encourages Nevada Parents to Create Family Computer Rules to Prevent** **Child Exploitation on the Internet**

Reno, NV – Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force are encouraging all Nevada parents to create and enforce family computer rules to prevent child exploitation on the Internet. The announcement comes as part of the Task Force's recognition of October 2005 as Cyber Security Awareness Month.

National statistics show one in every five children between the ages of 10 and 17 has received an unwanted sexual solicitation online and one in every four children has had an unwanted exposure to sexual material on the Internet.

"As a father of three, I know just how scary these numbers are," said Sandoval, who serves as chairman for the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force. "But there are things we can do now, to allow our children the opportunities to utilize the resources of the Internet and stay safe at the same time."

Internet predators target children in chat rooms, over e-mail or by instant messaging. Therefore it is very important for parents to talk to their children about their time spent on the computer. The National Centers for Missing and Exploited Children has put together this list of tips for parents to consider:

- Move the family computer to a spot where the screen is in plain sight (the living room or kitchen)
- Crack down on your children's time in chat rooms (65% of all solicitations come from chat rooms)
- Know your children's friends and their parents' surfing attitudes
- Minimize spam intake
- Monitor your child's e-mail account and email messages (It's not snooping, it's caring)
- Create a family computer plan which sets down the rules for computer time usage, Internet usage, etc.

The Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force takes an active role in cutting down on child exploitation on the Internet. Several of its members, including the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and Washoe County Sheriff's Office, have special units trained specifically to deal with these types of crimes.

Task Force Members are available to speak about this important issue:

Southern Nevada:

Russ Shoemaker, Detective Sergeant
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Monday October 24, 2005, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Phone: 702.229.3421

David Schrom, Public Information Officer
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Monday October 24, 2005
Phone: 702.366.7277

Natalie Collins, Public Information Officer
US Attorney's Office
Monday October 24, 2005, 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Phone: 702.388.6508

Northern Nevada:

Mike McKinley, Resident Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
David Nikoley, Detective Sergeant
Washoe County Sheriff's Office
Monday October 24, 2005, 10:00 – 11:00 am
Phone: 775.328.3046

In 1999, the Nevada Legislature created the Advisory Board for Technological Crime and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force. The Task Force's main goal is to create a statewide collaboration of law enforcement agencies to assist in the arrest and successful prosecution of individuals engaged in computer related crimes.

The agencies involved with the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force include:

Bureau of Consumer Protection
Carson City Sheriff's Office
Churchill County Sheriff's Office
City of Las Vegas
Clark County District Attorney
Clark County School District
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
El Dorado County Sheriff's
Office
Elko County Sheriff's Office
Fallon Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internet Fraud Complaint
Center
Internal Revenue Service
Las Vegas Metro P.D.
Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Nevada Attorney General
NV Division of Investigation
Nevada Gaming Control Board
Nye County Sheriff's Office
Reno Police Department
Social Security Administration
South Lake Tahoe Police
Department
Sparks Police Department
UNLV Police Department
UNR Police Department
US Attorney's Office
US Dept. of Defense-Defense
Criminal Investigative Service
US Department of Energy
US Forest Service

US Dept of Immigration and
Customs Enforcement
US Dept. of Interior-Bureau of
Land Management
US Department of Housing and
Urban Development/OIG
US Environmental Protection
Agency/OIG
US Dept of Health and Human
Services/OIG
US Postal Inspection Service
US Dept. of Transportation
Security Administration
US Secret Service
Washoe County Sheriff's Office
White Pine County Sheriff's
Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday October 17, 2005

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2005:

Nevadans Urged to Take Precautions to Prevent Becoming a Victim of ID Theft on the Internet

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force are encouraging all Nevadans to take precautions when it comes to protecting themselves from becoming a victim of identity theft on the Internet.

In 2004, nearly 3,000 Nevadans reported being a victim of identity theft, making Nevada the second highest on the list of identity theft per capita. Roughly one in every 125 Nevadans became a victim. Many of these victims were targeted over the Internet.

Nearly 70% of the US population uses the Internet and most of the time spent online is split between surfing different web sites, sending e-mails, using search engines and looking up the latest news and weather forecasts.

“Unfortunately identity thieves have found ways to take advantage of our new reliance on the Internet by targeting internet users and stealing their personal information,” said Sandoval, who serves as chairman of the Cyber Crime Task Force. “Our goal is to help educate Nevadans on how to protect themselves so they don’t become the next victim.”

How Internet Identity Thieves Steal Your Information:

Phishing: Identity thieves may steal your personal information from you through e-mail by posing as legitimate companies and claiming you have a problem with your account.

Fraudulent Websites: Identity thieves may steal your personal information by setting up what looks to be legitimate websites and conning you into “registering” for access or to buy products.

Hacking: Identity thieves may use the Internet to steal your personal information by “hacking” into unsecured websites, computers or databases.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself:

- Be wary of e-mails to “confirm” personal or financial information. Often, these are criminals trying to obtain those facts under the guise of “confirmation”.
- When creating passwords and PINS, do not use anything that could be discovered easily by thieves.
- Memorize all your passwords and PINS.
- Install security software or firewalls on your computer.
- Avoid paying by credit card if you think the business does not use adequate safeguards to protect your personal information.

- Be careful before you use a credit card or supply personal information online. Make sure the company is a reputable one and ask about the company's security policies before you make the purchase
- Order your credit report regularly.
- Thoroughly review all financial statements for any unusual activity. Immediately contact the company if an item looks suspicious.
- Ask about information security procedures in your workplace. Find out who has access to your personal information and verify that records are kept in a secure location. Ask about the disposal procedures for those records as well.

In 1999, the Nevada Legislature created the Advisory Board for Technological Crime and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force. The Task Force's main goal is to create a statewide collaboration of law enforcement agencies to assist in the arrest and successful prosecution of individuals engaged in computer related crimes.

Members of the Task Force are available to speak on Identity Theft on the Internet:

Northern Nevada:

Randy Potts, Chief Information Security Officer

Office of Information Security
Monday October 17: 2:00-3:00pm
Phone: 775.684.5800

Chuck Lovitt, Detective Sergeant

Reno Police Department

John Colledge, Resident Agent in Charge

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Mike McKinley, Resident Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Tuesday October 18: 10:00-11:00am
Phone: 775.334.2107 ext 2

Southern Nevada:

Natalie Collins, Public Information Officer

US Attorney's Office
Monday October 17: 4:00-5:30pm
Phone: 702.388.6508

Valerie Wiener, State Senator

Monday October 17: 4:00-5:00pm
Phone: 702.871.6536

Dave Strom, Public Information Officer

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Phone: 702.395.1281

The Cyber Crime Task Force has facilities in both Reno and Las Vegas, including a new 9600-square foot facility in North Las Vegas, which provide computer forensic examinations, intelligence, training opportunities and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts. It has also established a link with Internet Fraud Complaint Centers and works to promote the safe and ethical use of computers and the Internet through public education and outreach.

The agencies involved with the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force include:

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Churchill County Sheriff's Office
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Elko County Sheriff's Office
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Internal Revenue Service
Las Vegas Metro P.D.
Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Nevada Attorney General
NV Division of Investigation
Nevada Gaming Control Board
Nye County Sheriff's Office
Reno Police Department
Social Security Administration
South Lake Tahoe Police Department
Sparks Police Department
UNLV Police Department
UNR Police Department
US Attorney's Office
US Dept. of Defense-Defense Criminal Investigative Service
US Department of Energy
US Forest Service

US Dept of Immigration and Customs Enforcement
US Dept. of Interior-Bureau of Land Management
US Department of Housing and Urban Development/OIG
US Environmental Protection Agency/OIG
US Dept of Health and Human Services/OIG
US Postal Inspection Service
US Dept. of Transportation Security Administration
US Secret Service
Washoe County Sheriff's Office
White Pine County Sheriff's Office

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NDOJ



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday October 17, 2005

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2005:

Nevadans Urged to Take Precautions to Prevent Becoming a Victim of ID Theft on the Internet

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force are encouraging all Nevadans to take precautions when it comes to protecting themselves from becoming a victim of identity theft on the Internet.

In 2004, nearly 3,000 Nevadans reported being a victim of identity theft, making Nevada the second highest on the list of identity theft per capita. Roughly one in every 125 Nevadans became a victim. Many of these victims were targeted over the Internet.

Nearly 70% of the US population uses the Internet and most of the time spent online is split between surfing different web sites, sending e-mails, using search engines and looking up the latest news and weather forecasts.

“Unfortunately identity thieves have found ways to take advantage of our new reliance on the Internet by targeting internet users and stealing their personal information,” said Sandoval, who serves as chairman of the Cyber Crime Task Force. “Our goal is to help educate Nevadans on how to protect themselves so they don’t become the next victim.”

How Internet Identity Thieves Steal Your Information:

Phishing: Identity thieves may steal your personal information from you through e-mail by posing as legitimate companies and claiming you have a problem with your account.

Fraudulent Websites: Identity thieves may steal your personal information by setting up what looks to be legitimate websites and conning you into “registering” for access or to buy products.

Hacking: Identity thieves may use the Internet to steal your personal information by “hacking” into unsecured websites, computers or databases.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself:

- Be wary of e-mails to “confirm” personal or financial information. Often, these are criminals trying to obtain those facts under the guise of “confirmation”.
- When creating passwords and PINS, do not use anything that could be discovered easily by thieves.
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Reno Police Department
Social Security Administration
South Lake Tahoe Police Department
Sparks Police Department
UNLV Police Department
UNR Police Department
US Attorney's Office
US Dept. of Defense-Defense Criminal Investigative Service
US Department of Energy
US Forest Service

US Dept of Immigration and Customs Enforcement
US Dept. of Interior-Bureau of Land Management
US Department of Housing and Urban Development/OIG
US Environmental Protection Agency/OIG
US Dept of Health and Human Services/OIG
US Postal Inspection Service
US Dept. of Transportation Security Administration
US Secret Service
Washoe County Sheriff's Office
White Pine County Sheriff's Office

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nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday October 13, 2005

Nevada's Cyber Crime Task Force Recognizes October as Cyber Security Awareness Month

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Brian Sandoval joined with Governor Kenny Guinn's Chief of Staff Mike Hillerby today to recognize October as Cyber Security Awareness Month. Governor Guinn signed a proclamation declaring the designation and urging all Nevadans to reevaluate their computer's security protections. Sandoval is the chairman of the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force, which is launching a three-week awareness campaign to inform the public about the role the Task Force plays in keeping Nevada residents and businesses safe from cyber crime.

The prevalence of computers in our every day lives is overwhelming. Between the years 1998 to 2003, the percentage of Nevada households with computer rose from 41.6% to 61.3%. Across the US, there are more than 203 million Internet users which breaks down to nearly 70% of the US population.

"Computers went from being an option to a necessity virtually overnight," Sandoval said. "And as we become increasingly reliant on new technologies, cyber criminals are finding more ways to take advantage of the technology users."

These cyber criminals are using new ways to attack computers and computer users by targeting websites, e-mail and software. In 2003, Microsoft released 51 security advisories. That represents an average of nearly one new security patch per week. This means most personal and business computers in the state of Nevada with Microsoft products could be at risk for security vulnerability. The state of Nevada's ability to provide resources for cyber security will also help to attract and keep new businesses in the Silver State. This is where the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force comes in.

Since its creation in September 2000, the Task Force has worked to create a statewide collaboration of law enforcement agencies to assist in the arrest and successful prosecution of individuals who commit computer related crimes. The Task Force has facilities in both Reno and Las Vegas, including a new 9600-square foot facility in North Las Vegas, which provide computer forensic examinations, intelligence, training opportunities and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts. It has also established a link with Internet Fraud Complaint Centers and works to promote the safe and ethical use of computers and the Internet through public education and outreach.

The agencies involved with the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force include:

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UNLV Police Department
UNR Police Department
US Attorney's Office
US Dept. of Defense-Defense
Criminal Investigative Service
US Department of Energy
US Forest Service

US Dept of Immigration and
Customs Enforcement
US Dept. of Interior-Bureau of
Land Management
US Department of Housing and
Urban Development/OIG
US Environmental Protection
Agency/OIG
US Dept of Health and Human
Services/OIG
US Postal Inspection Service
US Dept. of Transportation
Security Administration
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cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday October 11, 2005

NDOJ, Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force to Join with Nevada Governor Guinn to Recognize Cyber Security Awareness Month

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force are joining with Governor Kenny Guinn to recognize October as Cyber Security Awareness Month. The groups will hold a press conference Thursday October 13, 2005 to highlight the importance of cyber security in the every day lives of Nevadans and what the state is doing to help protect residents and businesses from falling victim to cyber crimes.

Cyber Security Awareness Month Press Conference

Thursday October 13, 2005 • 11:00am
Nevada Attorney General's Office
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV

Cyber crime is a growing problem in America and in many cases it transcends state and country lines, leaving victims with little resources for retribution. In 1999, the Nevada Legislature created the Advisory Board for Technological Crime and the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force. The Task Force's main goal is to create a statewide collaboration of law enforcement agencies to assist in the arrest and successful prosecution of individuals engaged in computer related crimes.

Some of the main issues the Task Force has been called upon to address are:

- Cyber Security: Across all products, Microsoft released 51 security advisories in 2003. That represents an average of nearly one new security patch per week. This means most personal and business computers in the state of Nevada with Microsoft products could be at risk for security vulnerability. The state of Nevada's ability to provide resources for cyber security will also help to attract and keep new businesses in the Silver State.
- Identity Theft: Identity theft is the fastest growing theft crime in America. The average victim spends 175 hours and \$1000 repairing the damage. Identity thieves target their victims by using the methods of phishing, fraudulent transactions and e-mail scams
- Internet Fraud: The average loss to consumers due to Internet fraud in the first six months of 2005 was \$2,579, compared with \$895 in all of 2004. Cyber-thieves use online auctions, scams, sweepstakes and lotteries to lure their victims.

- Child Exploitation: According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 1 in 5 youths between the ages of 10 and 17 has received unwanted sexual solicitations online. Child exploitation on the internet also includes unwanted exposure to sexual material and threats and harassment

The agencies involved with the Nevada Cyber Crime Task Force include:

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El Dorado County Sheriff's Office
Elko County Sheriff's Office
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Las Vegas Metro P.D.
Lyon County Sheriff's Office

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NV Division of Investigation
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UNLV Police Department
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US Department of Energy
US Forest Service

US Dept of Immigration and Customs Enforcement
US Dept. of Interior-Bureau of Land Management
US Department of Housing and Urban Development/OIG
US Environmental Protection Agency/OIG
US Dept of Health and Human Services/OIG
US Postal Inspection Service
US Dept. of Transportation Security Administration
US Secret Service
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CONTACT: Jo Anne Embry (702) 524-0547
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
Cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday October 10, 2005

SANDOVAL WARNS OF POTENTIAL TELEMARKETING FRAUD AS A RESULT OF THE NEW MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAMS

Las Vegas – Attorney General Brian Sandoval warns Nevada seniors of the potential for fraud in the solicitation of seniors to participate in the new Medicare Part D prescription drug programs.

Starting January 1, Nevada Medicare recipients will be able to choose between traditional Medicare prescription drug coverage or a Medicare Advantage plan that may offer drug coverage and other benefits. Representatives for these new Medicare Prescription Drug Plans were allowed to begin marketing to Medicare recipients on October 1, 2005.

In Nevada, 17 companies are approved to offer stand-alone prescription drug plans. Six organizations are approved to offer prescription drug benefits through Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare managed care). Each company can offer multiple plans, as long as all meet Medicare's basic criteria for coverage and cost. The concern, however, is that fraudulent companies may take advantage of the confusing nature of these plans, and trick seniors into giving out personal information or signing up for non-existent benefits.

"We are concerned that some of these programs may try to sell unnecessary products to seniors, or worse, steal seniors' personal information for fraudulent purposes," said Jo Anne Embry, project director of Nevada's Senior Medicare Fraud Patrol Project. "We want to educate consumers to become informed health care consumers before making a decision. That means knowing which programs are legitimate in Nevada and reporting any kind of suspicious activity from groups that aren't approved in our state."

The Medicare-approved, stand-alone Prescription Drug Plans in the state of Nevada include:

- Aetna Life Insurance Company
- Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc.
- Connecticut General Life Insurance Company
- Coventry Health & Life Insurance Company / First Health Life & Health Insurance Company
- Humana Insurance Company
- Marquette National Life Insurance Company / Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company

- Medco Containment Life Insurance Company
- Memberhealth, Inc.
- Pacificare Health & Life Insurance Company
- RxAmerica, LLC
- Sierra Health & Life Insurance Company, Inc.
- Silverscript Insurance Company
- Sterling Life Insurance Company
- Unicare
- United American Insurance Company
- United Health Care Insurance Company
- Wellcare Health Plans

The Medicare Advantage (Medicare managed care) plans approved to offer prescription drug benefits in the state of Nevada include:

- Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc.
- Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.
- Hometown Health Plan
- Humana, Inc.
- Pacificare
- Sierra Health and Life Insurance, Inc.

Earlier today, Consumer Advocate and Chief of the Bureau of Consumer Protection Adrianna Escobar Chanos joined with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and other state, county and city officials to kick off a series of “Nevada Medicare Express” events across southern Nevada. The events will give seniors the opportunity to ask questions about how the new Medicare policy works and how to protect themselves from potential fraud.

The dates and locations for the events are:

OCTOBER 12: Boulder Station Railhead Saloon, 9 – 11am

OCTOBER 14: Boulder City Senior Center (1001 Arizona St., Boulder City), 10am – 1pm

OCTOBER 21: Doolittle Community Center (Lake Mead & J), 9 – 11:30am

OCTOBER 25: Mountain Crest Community Center (Craig & Durango), 11am – 1pm

NOVEMBER 2: Whitney Ranch Recreation Center (Boulder Hwy & Missouri), 9am – 1pm

NOVEMBER 8: Cambridge Community Center (Cambridge & Swenson), 9 – 11am

NOVEMBER 10: Santa Fe Station (Rancho & Ann Road), 9 – 11am

NOVEMBER 15: Texas Station, 9am – 1pm

NOVEMBER 16: Walnut Recreation Center (Cheyenne & Walnut), 9 – 11am

NOVEMBER 17: Charleston Heights Community Center (Charleston & Brush) 10 – 11:30am

The Nevada Medicare Express is a collaborative effort among federal, state, local, non-profit and corporate partners whose purpose is to bring Nevadans the best information on Medicare’s new prescription drug benefit. The goal is to help consumers make an informed decision on whether the new benefit is right for them, how to choose the right plan for their prescription drug needs, how the plan affects existing drug coverage and the consequences of choosing not to participate.

Additionally, there are approximately 90,000 potential Medicare beneficiaries in Clark County that are eligible for extra help from the Social Security Administration (SSA) in paying their drug premiums and co-pays. This number represents the highest number of persons per capita in the nation. Therefore,

Nevada's public affairs specialist from SSA will be on site at each of the Medicare Express events to explain the extra assistance eligibility requirements and there will be volunteers on site to assist beneficiaries in signing up for this program.

The NDOJ is also working closely with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, which contributed \$100,000 toward the Medicare Express events.

The Senior Nevada Medicare Fraud Patrol is part of the Senior Nevada Advocates on Guard, or "SNAG," which is a partnership of the NDOJ, the Nevada Division of Aging Services, the US Attorney's Office, and the AARP. The unit is comprised of a group of trained senior volunteers who are able to assist Nevada Medicare beneficiaries in understanding the delivery of their health care through the Medicare and Medicaid systems and how to spot and report suspicious activity.

If you or someone you know suspect Medicare Fraud, please call the fraud patrol's hotline at 1-888-838-7305.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday October 7, 2005

MEDIA ADVISORY: NDOJ, MAYOR GOODMAN TO UNVEIL "MEDICARE EXPRESS"

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Brian Sandoval announced today that the Nevada Senior Medicare Fraud Patrol, a part of the Senior Protection Unit within the Nevada Department of Justice, is joining with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and other state, county, and local officials to hold a press conference regarding newly implemented laws affecting Nevada Medicare recipients.

"MEDICARE EXPRESS" PRESS CONERENCE

Monday October 10, 2005 • 9:00 am
East Las Vegas Community Center in the Ballroom
250 N. Eastern Avenue (At Stewart)

The Medicare Part D program is very complex and may result in seniors being flooded with telemarketing phone calls from drug program representatives. The NDOJ is joining with Mayor Goodman and several state agencies to provide an opportunity for seniors to ask questions about how the new Part D policy works and how to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent solicitations.

The Senior Nevada Medicare Fraud Patrol is part of the Senior Nevada Advocates on Guard, or "SNAG," which is a partnership of the NDOJ, the Nevada Division of Aging Services, the US Attorney's Office, and the AARP. The unit is comprised of a group of trained senior volunteers who are able to assist Nevada Medicare beneficiaries in understanding the delivery of their health care system and to spot and report suspicious activity.

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nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Monday November 28, 2005

Chanos Announces Courtroom Win for Nevada Real Estate Commission

Reno, NV - Nevada Attorney General George Chanos announced today a decision by Washoe District Judge Brent Adams to uphold a ruling by the Nevada Real Estate Commission to suspend the licenses and fine Reno realtor Edward Lord and his broker Anna Lord. The couple owns and operates Network Realty, Inc. in Reno, Nevada.

In December 2004, the Real Estate Commission determined that the Lords had induced a client to sign an unethical contract involving the management of property. The client had signed an agreement in March 2002 with Network Realty, Inc. giving the company permission to rent her home in Sparks, Nevada. However, in the course of signing the agreement she was asked to also sign a "Memorandum of Exclusive Listing with Coupled Interest" creating an irrevocable listing of her property with Network Realty, Inc and giving the company a secured lien interest in the property. The Lords did not explain the terms of the memorandum to the client.

The client terminated her agreement with Network Realty, Inc. in March 2003, then sought and received a harassment/stalking protection order against Edward Lord in May 2003. The client then sought help from the Real Estate Commission, which held six days of hearings into the matter on September 21 & 22, 2004, October 27 & 28, 2004 and November 22 & 23, 2004. After the hearings the commission determined that the Lords had acted unethically and temporarily suspended Edward Lord's Property & Management Certificate pending the completion of 28 hours of educational courses and payment of a \$17,500 fine plus fees to cover the costs of the proceedings. The Lords were also warned that should they ever attempt to enforce the "Memorandum of Exclusive Listing with Coupled Interest" their licenses would be automatically revoked.

The Lords appealed the decision of the Real Estate Commission to the Second Judicial District Court in Washoe County. On November 2, 2005, Judge Brent Adams ruled to uphold the Commission's decision saying the Commission acted within its discretion as laid out by state law.

"We are pleased with Judge Adams decision because he has upheld the statutory rights of the Real Estate Commission to act as a reprimanding body when real estate agents and/or their brokers are

deceiving Nevada residents,” said Senior Deputy Attorney General Gina Session. “It is important for all residents that our state has a place they can go to for protection from people like the Lords.”

The Nevada Department of Justice provides legal representation for the Nevada Real Estate Division. Anyone who feels he or she may have been a victim in this case or a similar case is asked to contact the division directly.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday November 22, 2005

Chanos Appoints Special Counsel to Conduct Inquiry into Las Vegas Land Deal

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General George Chanos has appointed Senn Meulemans, LLP as special counsel to conduct a state inquiry into a land deal made by the Las Vegas City Council.

In a letter dated November 15, Chanos advised Las Vegas City Attorney Bradford R. Jerbic that the Nevada Attorney General's office would be conducting an inquiry into matters concerning the leasing, development and sale of wastewater "buffer land" property, now known as the Royal Links Golf Course. The letter advised Mr. Jerbic that the scope of the inquiry would include, but not be limited to, activities related to the request for and/or lifting of the deed restriction for the property (the "Inquiry").

In a letter dated today, Chanos advised Assistant Attorney General Randal Munn of the appointment of Senn Meulemans, LLP to conduct the Inquiry. In the letter Mr. Chanos writes: "It is essential that this Inquiry be conducted thoroughly, fairly, openly and expeditiously. It is equally essential that the results of this Inquiry, regardless of what may or may not be concluded, be beyond reproach."

To ensure that result, the Attorney General has disclosed to Mr. Munn his ownership interest in a 3.5 acre parcel of property in the City of Las Vegas. In May 2004, AG Chanos formed an entity known as Cousins Chanos, LLC to purchase the property. The property was purchased by Cousins Chanos, LLC on February 2, 2005. On April 11, 2005 Cousins Chanos, LLC entered into an agreement to sell the property. Escrow is set to close on the sale of the property on or before February 6, 2005. The property is not related to and/or in any way connected to the Royal Links Golf Course and/or the Inquiry. However, as the current record owner of the property, Cousin Chanos, LLC is identified as the owner of the property on certain entitlement applications submitted to the City of Las Vegas by the buyer. Cousins Chanos, LLC is not the applicant.

Mr. Chanos writes that, given the existence of his economic interest in Cousins Chanos, LLC, he has or intends to take the following actions:

- 1) Instruct private counsel to place Cousins Chanos, LLC in a blind trust and remove Mr. Chanos as the Manager of Cousins Chanos, LLC;

- 2) Pursuant to NRS 41.03435, Mr. Chanos has entered into an agreement to employ the law firm of Senn Meulemans, LLP, as independent special counsel to conduct the Inquiry, in order to ensure that the purposes of the Inquiry and the interests of the people of the State of Nevada are served without any actual and/or perceived conflict of interest; and
- 3) Instruct Assistant Attorney General Randal Munn to serve as Contract Monitor for the Special Counsel Agreement and to oversee any assignments or delegations of duties within the Attorney General's Office that may be appropriate in connection with the Special Counsel Agreement and/or the Inquiry.

General Chanos stated:

“The purpose of this action is to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest and ensure that the findings of the Inquiry are beyond reproach.”

The appointment of special counsel must receive final approval from the Nevada Board of Examiners.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1068

GEORGE J. CHANOS
Attorney General



GERALD J. GARDNER
Chief Deputy Attorney General

November 22, 2005

Randal R. Munn
Assistant Attorney General
Nevada Department of Justice
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717

Dear Randal:

This letter shall serve to inform you of the following:

- (1) On November 15, 2005, I advised Las Vegas City Attorney, Bradford R. Jerbic, that pursuant to NRS §228.120(3) and NRS §228.170, our office would be conducting an inquiry into matters concerning the leasing, development, and sale of wastewater "buffer land" property now known as Royal Links Golf Course (the "Property"). I further advised Mr. Jerbic that the scope of our inquiry would include, but not be limited to, activities related to the request for and/or lifting of the deed restriction for the Property (the "Inquiry").
- (2) The purpose of this Inquiry was and is to: (i) provide an objective examination and analysis of whether or not any of Nevada's laws, relating to the above transaction, have been violated, by any individuals and/or entities, whether public or private; (ii) to determine whether or not any viable causes of action exist, whether civil or criminal, with respect to such violations, if any; and (iii) by performing the above Inquiry, to ensure public confidence in the integrity of state and local government.
- (3) It is essential that this Inquiry be conducted thoroughly, fairly, openly and expeditiously. It is equally essential that the results of this Inquiry, regardless of what may or may not be concluded, be beyond reproach.
- (4) In order to ensure that result, I hereby make the following disclosures and indicate my intention to take the following action.

Disclosures

In May of 2004, I formed an entity known as Cousins Chanos, LLC. In February of 2005, Cousins Chanos, LLC purchased a 3.5 acre parcel of property in the City of Las Vegas (the "Property").

On April 11, 2005, Cousins Chanos, LLC, entered into an agreement to sell the Property (the "Agreement").

Pursuant to the Agreement, escrow is set to close on the Property on or before February 6, 2006.

The Property is not related to and/or in any way connected to the Royal Links Golf Course and/or the Inquiry.

Both the Buyer and the Seller have fully performed all required conditions of the Agreement and the Closing is non-contingent.

As the current record owner of the Property, Cousins Chanos, LLC is identified as the owner of the Property on certain entitlement applications submitted to the City of Las Vegas by the Buyer. Cousins Chanos, LLC is not the applicant on any such entitlement applications.

Given the existence of my economic interest in Cousins Chanos, LLC, I intend to take and have taken the following action:

Action:

- (1) I have instructed private counsel to place Cousins Chanos, LLC in a blind trust and remove me as the Manager of Cousins Chanos, LLC;
- (2) Pursuant to NRS 41.03435, I have entered into an agreement to employ the law firm of Senn Meulemans, LLP, as independent special counsel to conduct the Inquiry, in order to ensure that the purposes of the Inquiry and the interests of the people of the State of Nevada are served without any actual and/or perceived conflict of interest (the "Special Counsel Agreement"); and
- (3) I hereby instruct you, as Assistant Attorney General, to serve as Contract Monitor for the Special Counsel Agreement and to oversee any assignments or delegations of duties within the Attorney General's Office that may be appropriate in connection with the Special Counsel Agreement and/or the Inquiry.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE J. CHANOS
Attorney General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday November 15, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES JURY CONVICTION OF MICHAEL SCHUBARTH ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES

Carson City, NV —Attorney General George J. Chanos and Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski announced today a Douglas County District Court jury convicted Michael R. Schubarth, a former owner of High Desert Financial Inc. in Minden, Nevada, on two felony counts; theft by embezzlement from a builder's trust fund and theft by false pretenses in an advance fee loan scheme.

Schubarth, 55, was charged by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection with theft by false pretenses for engaging in an advance fee loan scheme against a Las Vegas woman by promising to obtain a refinancing loan upon payment of a refundable \$2500 "commitment fee." After receiving payment, Schubarth ended communication, performed no work to obtain the loan and no refund was provided.

Schubarth was charged with theft by embezzlement for using more than \$15,000 held in a builder's trust account for his own use. The victimized contractor learned of the embezzlement after receiving a notice from Schubarth employees that there were insufficient funds in the account to make the final \$15,000 in payments. Immediate action by the Financial Institutions Division, now the Mortgage Lending Division, and the Attorney General's Office to freeze all assets of High Desert Financial, helped return most, but not all of the stolen funds from other accounts held by Schubarth.

"Legitimate lenders never "guarantee" or say that a person is likely to get a loan before they apply. There should always be an offer in hand, ideally confirmed in writing, before the borrower pays any fees," said Chanos.

Conviction for crimes such as these carries a potential penalty of imprisonment from 1 to 10 years in Nevada State Prison and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000 for each count. Schubarth's sentencing is set for December 19, 2005.

For more information on illegal deceptive trade practices you may contact the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1180 in northern Nevada, or (702) 486-3777 in southern Nevada.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday November 15, 2005

CHANOS ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN UNION TO DISCOURAGE USE OF SERVICES BY FRAUDULENT TELEMARKETERS

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General George J. Chanos announced today that Western Union Financial Services, Inc., has entered into an Agreement with Nevada and 46 other States and the District of Columbia, in response to concerns about the use of the company's wire transfer services by fraudulent telemarketers. Western Union Financial Services is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Data Corporation, based in Greenwood Village, Colorado

Under the Agreement, Western Union will, among other things, fund an \$8.1 million national consumer awareness program and set out very prominent consumer warnings on the forms used by consumers to wire money. The problem addressed by the Agreement is the high number of "fraud-induced transfers"—that is, money wired by consumers to fraudulent telemarketers and other scam artists. Some telemarketers, often based in other countries, use a "lottery" scam, in which they tell vulnerable consumers they have won a large sum of money but must pay taxes or other charges in order to claim the winnings. The victims are then directed to send the money by wire, because wire transfers are fast, there are transfer agents in most communities, and funds can be picked up in multiple locations.

The problem of fraud-induced transfers is substantial, and consumers lose millions to cross border telemarketers. In response to this problem, the States negotiated an agreement with Western Union that will provide prominent warnings to consumers who transfer money by wire, education of high-risk consumers, and changes in company practices.

Among the terms of the recent Agreement are these:

- Prominent warnings to consumers of the dangers of fraud-induced wire transfers must appear in English and Spanish on a new front page of Western Union's Send Form, and comparable warnings are required for telephone and Web transfers.
- Western Union will pay \$8.1 million over five years for national peer-counseling programs to be overseen by the AARP Foundation and designed to reach at least 3 million consumers.

- Western Union will reimburse the amount of any transfer plus fees to any consumer who requests, prior to pickup, that a transfer be stopped and who reasonably claims that the transfer was fraud-induced.
- Western Union will send monthly anti-fraud emails to its agents, revise the company's agent training video and manual, and provide enhanced training to agents with elevated fraud levels at their locations.
- Western Union will terminate agents who are involved in fraud, and suspend or terminate agents who do not take reasonable steps requested by WU to reduce fraud.
- Western Union will block wire transfers from specific consumers or to specific recipients when Western Union receives information from a state that there is reason to believe that fraud will occur, until such time as the consumer is counseled on fraud and requests resumption of the transfer.

"The Nevada Department of Justice is proud to be part of this agreement. It is a positive first step toward educating the public," Chanos said. "Success in the fight against fraudulent telemarketing is in large part dependent upon our ability to educate consumers. Fraudulent telemarketers prey upon the elderly and the most vulnerable members of our society. They promise hope and deliver economic ruin and despair. People need to understand that they should NEVER send money to claim a prize. Finally, if consumers receive a telemarketing request for money, they should ask the caller for their phone number and call the Bureau of Consumer Protection and report the call. Consumers should never provide their credit card information or send money to anyone in order to claim a prize."

Chanos adds: "Today's settlement with Western Union will help to better inform consumers about the perils of sending money by wire transfer in an effort to claim a prize. It is therefore a very positive development in the fight against fraudulent telemarketing."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday November 4, 2005

ATTORNEY GENERAL CHANOS TO HOST LIVE CALL-IN RADIO SHOW

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General George Chanos will host a special edition of the NDOJ's radio talk show "State Your Case" and he'll be taking calls and questions from the public. The show will air live on the Nevada Matters radio station (KBDB-AM 1400) in the Park Lane Mall in Reno Tuesday November 8, 2005 from 5 – 6 pm.

"I realize that I'm the new kid on the block when it comes to Nevada's government officials and I want Nevadans to get a chance to get to know me better and ask me questions about my plans for Nevada's legal team," said Chanos. "No question is a too simple or too complicated so I encourage anyone who has a question for me to call in."

The call-in numbers are 770-2222 or toll-free 866-724-5232. The show can also be heard on the Internet. Just go to www.americanemail.com and click the "listen to KBDB" icon.

The Nevada Department of Justice has hosted the "State Your Case" show on the Nevada Matters radio station for more than 5 years. It currently airs every other Tuesday evening from 5 to 6pm, alternating weeks with Washoe County District Attorney Dick Gammick. Mr. Gammick has been kind enough to allow the NDOJ to share his time slot for the November 8th show which the Attorney General will host.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday November 1, 2005

CHANOS APPOINTS STATE'S NEW CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General George J. Chanos announces the appointment of Eric Witkoski as Nevada's new Consumer Advocate to head the Bureau of Consumer Protection. Witkoski replaces Adriana Escobar Chanos who resigned Monday, on the eve of her husband being appointed to replace Brian Sandoval as Attorney General. Sandoval was sworn in as U.S. District Judge, in Reno, on Monday afternoon.

"I want to thank Adriana for her service over the past ten months as our state's Consumer Advocate," Chanos said. "It is a difficult job but one she performed well. Eric has some big shoes to fill, but I'm confident he's up for the challenge."

Witkoski joined the Attorney General's Office in 1994 as a Deputy Attorney General in the Office of Consumer Advocate. He was promoted to Senior Deputy Attorney General in 2001. During his tenure, Witkoski has worked for three of Nevada's four previous consumer advocates. He has participated in every major natural gas and electricity rate case filed with the Public Utilities Commission during the past ten years, representing the interests of the utilities' residential and small business customers. Witkoski has also been the lead attorney for the office's participation in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in matters that impact Nevada.

"Eric's grasp of the highly technical issues involved in utility regulation, vast knowledge of Nevada utility cases, federal energy and telecommunications laws and regulations, as well as consumer protection laws, make him the ideal person to be the State Consumer Advocate," Chanos said. "Eric has demonstrated his commitment to protecting consumers' rights and has a tremendous amount of experience representing Nevada consumers' interests in litigated cases,"

Prior to coming to Nevada, Witkoski served as Assistant General Counsel for the Kansas Corporation Commission in Topeka, Kansas. Witkoski was also Senior Counsel to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, in Nashville, Tennessee advising the directors and staff on legal issues surrounding telecommunications and natural gas issues.

"I accept this appointment knowing fully the responsibilities and hard work that go with being consumer advocate and welcome the opportunity," Witkoski said. "I have a lot of respect for the

former consumer advocates and recognize the importance of the office's purpose. I am honored to have been chosen to lead this outstanding team of attorneys and professional staff, dedicated to protecting consumers and ensuring a fair competitive market for businesses in Nevada."

As Nevada Consumer Advocate, Witkoski will serve as Chief Deputy Attorney General overseeing the division in the Attorney General's Office responsible for enforcement of antitrust and deceptive trade practices laws, securities fraud, charities fraud and telemarketing fraud.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday December 28, 2005

CHANOS ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH HIV-DRUG MANUFACTURER

Carson City, NV - Attorney General George Chanos announced today that the Medicaid programs of 42 states and the District of Columbia recovered and distributed almost \$262 million dollars as a result of a settlement with Serono, S.A., a Swiss Corporation. Serono S.A. is the manufacturer of Serostim, a drug approved to treat HIV wasting, an AIDS-related syndrome. The company operates in the United States through its affiliates Serono, Inc., and Serono Laboratories, Inc., both of which have their principal place of business in Rockland, Massachusetts.

As part of the settlement, the State of Nevada's Medicaid program will receive a total of \$619,405.07 to address Serono's conduct in marketing Serostim. State Medicaid programs paid claims for the drug between 1997 and 2004 that were not eligible for reimbursement because they were generated by the use of unapproved testing devices, were used for unapproved uses or were induced by kickbacks.

Serono, S.A. together with its U.S. subsidiaries and related entities agreed to pay a total of \$704 million dollars to resolve criminal charges and civil liabilities in connection with these illegal schemes to promote market, and sell Serostim. That sum consists of a \$136.9 million criminal fine and \$567 million, including the \$262 million state recovery, for total federal/state Medicaid damages.

Serono Laboratories agreed to plead guilty to the following:

- Promoting Serostim for uses not approved by the FDA, including lipodystrophy and body cell mass wasting.
- Using unapproved software in connection with tests to determine patients' need for Serostim. The states alleged the software was intended to result in greater utilization of the drug.
- Paying illegal kickbacks to pharmacists and physicians in an effort to increase sales of Serostim. The kickbacks included payments and travel expenses, including trips to Cannes, France.

As a result of its criminal conviction, Serono Laboratories will be excluded from all federal healthcare programs for at least five years. Serostim will remain eligible for reimbursement by State Medicaid programs.

Serostim is approved by the FDA to treat AIDS wasting syndrome, which is marked by the involuntary loss of significant body weight and chronic weakness; and other forms of cachexia, a wasting away of body fat and muscle caused by disease. The drug is quite expensive, with a Medicaid reimbursement price of approximately \$6,000.00 per month. The suggested course of treatment is three months, but many patients have used Serostim much longer.

This global federal and state settlement is a result of federal False Claims Act (FCA) qui tam actions filed in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maryland in 2000 by a former Serono employee.

The civil settlements with Serono will also subject all its U.S. affiliates to a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure future compliance with the law. Serono was also required to provide cooperation to the states in any related investigations they undertake.

For further information please contact Tim Terry at 775-684-1185.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday December 27, 2005

Attorney General Releases Opinion on Importation of Prescription Drugs from Canada

Las Vegas, NV - Attorney General George Chanos released an opinion today concluding that Nevada law prohibits the importation of prescription drugs from Canada unless such prescription drugs have been approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

The Attorney General's Office drafted the opinion in response to a legal opinion request from Larry L. Pinson, Executive Secretary to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy.

The opinion analyzes Senate Bill 5, enacted in a special session of the 2005 legislature, which was intended to authorize the licensing of certain Canadian pharmacies to provide only "FDA approved" prescription drugs by mail to Nevada residents.

Attorney General Chanos stated, "Unfortunately, the prohibition contained in S.B. 5, which prohibits the importation of prescription drugs that have not received 'FDA approval' means that few, if any, drugs sold from Canadian pharmacies can be legally imported into Nevada."

Canada has its own governmental agency that approves prescription drugs. However, in enacting S.B. 5, the Nevada Legislature determined that the only prescription drugs that could be made available to Nevada's residents are "FDA approved" prescription drugs.

The opinion quotes portions of the legislative record from a Senate Commerce and Labor Committee work session, in which Senator Joe Heck, a member of the committee stated, "an FDA approved drug is not a drug the FDA has approved in general that is now made by someone else. It has to be the specific drug approved by the FDA, which includes where it was made, how it was made and how it was stored . . . Approval by the FDA means that the manufacturing process, the formulation and the pedigree have been ensured by the FDA."

"Our office is charged with interpreting the law accurately. We cannot interpret the law in a manner which is contrary to its plain meaning or contrary to the clearly expressed legislative intent of those who enacted the legislation," said Attorney General Chanos.

The opinion also points out that early drafts of the bill would have allowed the importation of drugs that had been approved by either the FDA or “the Canadian governmental agency responsible for approving prescription drugs.”

Chanos said, “The legislature deleted language that would have allowed the importation of drugs approved by the Canadian governmental agency responsible for approving prescription drugs. The legislative record reveals that this was an intentional deletion recommended and approved by Senator Joe Heck and Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley, two of the bill’s main supporters. If this language had remained in the bill, FDA approval would not have been a requirement of S.B. 5.”

Chanos said “It is a national disgrace that Americans should even need to consider going to Canada for their prescription drugs. This country can and should do better. If the legislature elects to revisit this issue, we would welcome the opportunity to work with the legislature to ensure the passage of workable legislation which would facilitate the importation of safe and affordable prescription drugs from Canada.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday December 15, 2005

ESCAPED INMATE TO SPEND ANOTHER 8 YEARS BEHIND BARS

Carson City, NV – A Nevada state inmate who attempted to escape from the Tonopah Conservation Camp last year on Christmas day was sentenced to spend a minimum of eight more years in jail.

The Nye County Sheriff's Office arrested inmate John Morrison along with inmate Joseph Mizzoni along SR 376 on Christmas day 2004 after a failed attempt to escape from the Conservation Camp. The Sheriff's Office determined the two had been drinking alcohol when they decided to break into a storage area and steal a Nevada Department of Forestry vehicle. However, due to icy conditions on the road, they rolled the vehicle off the road before they reached the highway leading out of the camp. When a corrections officer arrived on the scene to find out what had happened, Morrison and Mizzoni confronted the officer and stole his vehicle. A short time later, Nye County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the scene of another rollover accident near mile marker 12 along SR 376 where the inmates apparently had rolled the second vehicle. Both suspects were taken to the hospital for medical injuries and later booked into the Nye County Detention Facility.

"Attempting to escape from incarceration is a very serious crime that places lives at risk and the Nevada Department of Justice aggressively pursues prosecution in these cases," said Assistant Attorney General Randal Munn. "That Christmas could have been Mr. Morrison's last Christmas behind bars. Now he'll be spending at least the next eight more Christmas in incarceration."

The State of Nevada charged both inmates with charges of escape, grand larceny of a motor vehicle and robbery. Mr. Morrison agreed to plead guilty to those charges and was sentenced on Thursday December 8, 2005. He will spend a minimum of eight years in prison and a maximum of 20 years. Mr. Mizzoni has also agreed to plead guilty to the charges. He also faces a burglary charge and will be sentenced in February 2006.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: December 12, 2005**

STATES ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT WITH SATELLITE TV PROVIDER, DIRECTV

Las Vegas, NV –Attorney General, George Chanos, announced today that Nevada and 21 other states have formally entered into a settlement with DIRECTV, Inc., the largest provider of direct broadcast satellite services in the United States. The settlement, which followed a multi-state investigation into the alleged deceptive marketing practices of DIRECTV, Inc., was finalized today with a filing in the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The other states participating in the settlement are Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and West Virginia.

The investigation into DIRECTV, Inc.'s marketing practices arose from consumer complaints received by the states including, but not limited to, complaints regarding differences between the provider's offer and the terms of the contracts the consumers signed; problems consumers encountered with installation, programming activation and reception; and the imposition of fees for delayed activations and terminations.

"One of the primary concerns consumers expressed was the initial absence of local channel access, which had been offered and paid for by the consumers," explained Chanos. "The promised availability of local channels was an important factor for many who ordered DIRECTV, Inc.'s services, and their failure to provide that service was a primary concern of the states."

Attorneys in the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate and Chief Deputy Attorney General, Eric Witkoski, represented Nevada's interests in the settlement negotiations. The terms of the settlement include DIRECTV, Inc.'s agreement to clearly inform consumers of their rights and obligations when

accepting an advertised offer, as well as payment of restitution to consumers who have filed complaints regarding matters that were the subject of the settlement.

“We believe consumers will benefit significantly from this settlement, as they will now have full disclosure regarding exactly what services and equipment they will be getting from their contracts with DIRECTV, Inc. before they are bound by those contracts,” said Witkoski. “Hopefully this settlement will also set a new standard for business practices in the growing satellite television market.”

Nevadans who may be eligible to receive restitution under the settlement with DIRECTV, Inc. will have until May 11, 2006 for their complaints to be considered. Consumers who have already filed complaints with either DIRECTV, Inc. or the Attorney General’s Office do not need to re-file. Consumers who have not yet filed complaints concerning their problems with DIRECTV, Inc. should mail their written complaints to DIRECTV, Inc., State Complaint Program, and P.O. Box 29079, Glendale, California 91209.

Additional consumer protection information may be found on the Attorney General’s website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Monday December 5, 2005

GROUP HOME OPERATOR SENTENCED ON CHARGE OF INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

Las Vegas--Attorney General George J. Chanos announced today that Las Vegas Irma Chiang Rafael (age 40) was sentenced today by Clark County District Court Judge Nancy M. Saitta on charges of involuntary manslaughter. The charge carried a maximum sentence of 4 years in prison and a fine of \$5,000.00. Rafael was sentenced to 12 months to 30 months and she must serve a minimum of 12 months in the Nevada State Prison before she would be eligible for parole.

The case was prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

Irma Rafael was originally charged with separate counts of elder neglect resulting in death and involuntary manslaughter. On August 15, 2005 she pleaded to the single count of involuntary manslaughter.

The case resulted from an investigation by Las Vegas Metro P.D.'s homicide detail, the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Department, the Clark County Coroner's Office and the MFCU. The case focused on Rafael's operation of a group home on Holly Hill Avenue. It was alleged the home did not have an approved fire sprinkler system in operation when a fire broke out during March 2004. Two residents died as a result. It was also alleged that Ms. Rafael had left the home and the residents alone without a caregiver present when the fire broke out.

"The State of Nevada requires qualified caregivers to be in the group homes whenever there are residents present", said Chanos. "Those laws are designed to protect against the exact type of tragic results that occurred from this fire."

During sentencing Judge Saitta commented that Rafael showed an utter disregard for the most vulnerable people in her care that needed her protection the most.

Anyone suspecting the abuse or neglect of an elderly person may report it to the MFCU at (775) 684-1191 (Carson City) or (702) 486-3420 (Las Vegas); or to the Aging Services Division (775) 688-2964 (Reno), (775) 687-4210 (Carson City) or (702) 486-3545 (Las Vegas); or to any local law enforcement agency. Medicaid fraud and elder abuse or neglect information can be found on the Attorney General's web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday December 5, 2005

FORMER PSYCHOLOGIST PLEADS GUILTY IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG CASE

Las Vegas, NV - Attorney General George Chanos announced today that Paul Saskin, age 49, has pleaded guilty to Practicing Medicine Without Being Licensed, a category "D" felony. The charges were filed after an investigation revealed that Saskin, a psychologist, was illegally prescribing controlled substances and dangerous drugs to sleep disorder patients he treated at the Lung Center of Nevada. Nevada law prohibits non-physicians from prescribing controlled substances or dangerous drugs.

Saskin worked at the Lung Center of Nevada for approximately 10 years. Saskin voluntarily surrendered his psychology license to the Board of Psychological Examiners following a 2004 investigation.

Saskin will be sentenced on February 7, 2006 by Judge Valorie Vega. He faces up to four years in prison and a fine of up to \$5000.

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