



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday January 10, 2007

HAWTHORNE WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON IN CREDIT UNION EMBEZZLEMENT CASE

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the sentencing of Carla Trujillo, 28, of Hawthorne for embezzling money from the Financial Horizons Credit Union in Hawthorne. The Fifth Judicial District Court, Mineral County sentenced Trujillo to twelve (12) to forty-eight (48) months imprisonment on two felony counts of grand larceny. She had earlier pleaded guilty to the charges. Trujillo was formerly employed at the business as President of Finance and Operations. Deputy Attorney General Erik Levin contended during the sentencing that Trujillo used her position to illegally transfer more than \$106,000.00 in funds to her own personal accounts and other accounts for her personal use. The transfers took place over a period of thirty months.

The Nevada Attorney General's Office agreed to take on the Trujillo case because of a potential conflict of interest in the Mineral County District Attorney's Office.

The Nevada Attorney General's Office acts as the State of Nevada's chief legal counsel and top law enforcement agency. The Attorney General's Criminal Justice Division investigates and prosecutes crime under the Attorney General's criminal prosecution authority. The Division also advocates for upholding the convictions of Nevada's most serious offenders in federal habeas corpus actions. The Division oversees the Public Integrity Unit, Special Prosecutions Unit, Insurance Fraud Unit and Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit.

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Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
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100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Thursday January 11, 2007

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO APPOINTS KEITH MUNRO AS CHIEF OF STAFF

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Governor Kenny Guinn's former Chief of Staff Keith Munro has been named as Chief of Staff – Office of the Attorney General.

"This is a great opportunity for my office to benefit from years of distinguished public service by a skilled lawyer and administrator," General Cortez Masto said. "The position of Chief of Staff is one that I envisioned was already needed in my office, and with the full support of my Assistant Attorney General, we have been searching for the right candidate. With his prior experience working at the Attorney General's Office, Keith has excellent knowledge of the functions and duties of the office and will make a good transition to his new position."

In addition to his duties as statewide Chief of Staff, Munro will locate his office in and manage the Attorney General's Reno office. He will also serve as the Attorney General's Legislative Liaison.

"I am pleased with the opportunity to continue my duties with my former peer and client," said Assistant Attorney General Randal Munn. "Keith and I have worked closely together for many years in different roles and we will both make significant contributions to a solid legal and administrative team in support of the Attorney General."

In accepting the Chief of Staff position, Munro has agreed to resolve the dispute over his position on the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

"I am honored Attorney General Cortez Masto has asked me to serve as her Chief of Staff," Munro said. "I am anxious to work with the fine people of that office and continue to serve the people of Nevada. I wish to thank the Attorney General for her vote of confidence."

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Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

CONTACT: Gina Session (775) 684-1207
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday January 16, 2007

UNLICENSED BROKER FINED IN SALE OF BISHOP MANOGUE PROPERTY

Reno, NV – The Nevada Real Estate Commission has fined a California company, its owner and a broker for the unlicensed sale of a multi-million dollar property in south Reno.

On January 11, 2004, the Nevada Real Estate Commission ruled that Martin L. Hudler, Norman L. Holl and Commonwealth Companies engaged in unlicensed real estate activity in Nevada. The case involved a transaction that closed in July 2004 resulting in the sale of the Manogue Business Park for \$6,160,419. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno was the seller and the buyer was Arrow Creek Partners, LLC. Martin Hudler, the president and sole owner of the Commonwealth Companies formed Arrow Creek Partners, LLC for the purposes of the transaction. Norman Holl, a real estate broker licensed in California was listed on the Purchase Agreement as broker for the buyer. At the close of escrow a commission in the amount of \$184,812.57 was paid to the Commonwealth Companies. No one associated with Commonwealth Companies, including Martin Hudler and Norman Holl, was licensed to do real estate in Nevada. The Commission found the three Respondent's jointly and severally liable for a fine in the amount of \$184,812.57.

"The State of Nevada's Real Estate Commission works to uphold integrity within Nevada's real estate industry by holding accountable those who do not follow our state's laws," said Deputy Attorney General Gina Session. "The Commission will take action against anyone who engages in the unlicensed practice of real estate in our state."

The Nevada Real Estate Commission is a five-member body, appointed by the governor that acts in an advisory capacity to the State of Nevada Real Estate Division, adopts regulations, and conducts disciplinary hearings. The Nevada Attorney General's Office provides legal counsel for the Nevada Real Estate Commission.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

CONTACT: Victor Schulze (702) 486-3110
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday January 17, 2007

NEVADA STATE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE RETURNS MISSING CHILD

Las Vegas, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Nevada State Office of the Advocate for Missing and Exploited Children, a unit of the Attorney General's Office, was successful in reuniting a missing child with his mother. The mother and child were separated for a year and a half.

The mother's ex-husband, Robert Saunders, was arrested and charged Friday on kidnapping charges. According to the charges filed by the Attorney General's Office, the child, Sang Saunders, had been living with the ex-husband before and after the couple divorced. The ex-husband is not the child's father. However, in his divorce filings, the ex-husband contended that the child was the issue of the marriage. According to records from the Clark County Marriage Bureau, the child was born before the couple wed. This representation appeared to create a legal presumption of paternity. Saunders then used the divorce decree to obtain a "pick up" order for the child's return from a Family Court judge. The mother of the child was arrested for custodial interference in Portland, Oregon in 2005 and the ex-husband gained legal custody.

The prosecutor in the case became suspicious of Saunders' story when he refused to cooperate in the prosecution of his former wife. When a DNA test confirmed that the former husband was not the child's father, the Attorney General's office suspected the ex-husband may have filed a fraudulent decree of divorce and a false police report. This action had caused the missing children's recovery system to intervene by taking the child from its rightful parent.

"Any manipulation of the missing children's recovery system, as is alleged here, is a gross breach of justice and will not be tolerated by the Office of the Attorney General," said Nevada State Children's Advocate Victor-Hugo Schulze, II, Senior Deputy Attorney General. "False representations made with the intent to disrupt a legitimate parent-child relationship will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Saunders was arrested on Friday in Las Vegas on a warrant from the Las Vegas Justice Court on the Kidnapping charge, and the child was taken into protective custody by police and sent to the Department of Family Services facility at Child Haven. In a protective custody hearing on January 16th, a Family Court hearing master returned the child to the mother's custody. All charges against the mother have been dropped.

The Children's Advocate has filed an Amicus Curiae brief with the Family Court, recommending that the decree of divorce be modified to reflect that Robert Saunders, is not the father of the child, and that the factual representations made in the default decree of divorce were false and created a misrepresentation of paternity by the former husband.

The charges against Robert Saunders are moving forward. The defendant has not been convicted of any charge. Guilt or innocence is a question for a jury. All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty.

The State of Nevada Children's Advocate received substantial financial assistance from Nevada Child Seekers in connection with this case. These monetary funds allowed the mother of the child to fly to Las Vegas for the reunion with her child.

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Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday January 17, 2007

CONTACT: Tim Terry (775) 684-1191
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

TWO HEALTHCARE WORKERS SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that two Las Vegas have been sentenced for Medicaid Fraud. The cases were investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Those convicted are: Ildefonso Castaneda, age 46; and Adriana Campoverde, age 43.

The investigations began in 2006 as a result of a citizen's complaint. Medicaid has a personal care aid program to help seniors live independently by providing basic services, including bathing, dressing, cleaning and meal preparation. Medicaid contracts with home care companies that in turn employ individuals to provide the actual day to day care.

Ildefonso Castaneda was employed to provide home care services to his parents. He was accused of not performing all of the tasks he claimed on his service records and obtaining substitute providers. On January 2nd, Castaneda pled to the gross misdemeanor offense: Medicaid Fraud–Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. Judge Joseph Bonaventure sentenced him to 30 days in jail, serving 1 day, with the balance suspended, payment of \$2,500.00 in restitution and penalties and performance of 80 hours of community service.

Adriana Campoverde was employed to provide home care services to 4 Medicaid recipients. She was accused of falsifying service records and claiming home care tasks she did not provide. On January 17th, Campoverde pled guilty to the gross misdemeanor offense: Medicaid Fraud–Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. District Court Judge Kenneth Cory sentenced Ms. Campoverde to 350 days in jail, serving 5 days with the balance suspended, 18 month probation, 16 hours of community service per week and payment of \$953.00 for restitution and penalties.

"Thanks to a citizen complaint, these cases were caught before the state lost a significant amount of money," said Attorney General Cortez Masto. "If continued they would have cost taxpayers ten's of thousands of dollars a year."

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or 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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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday January 17, 2007

CONTACT: Eddie Gulbenkian (702) 486-3128
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

LAS VEGAS MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON IN SECURITIES FRAUD CASE

Las Vegas, NV— Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, announced today Khang Dang, 33 of Las Vegas was convicted of 2 counts of securities fraud and was sentenced to three (3) to ten (10) years in the Nevada State Prison. In addition, Dang was ordered to pay \$98,415.43 in restitution.

Following an investigation by the Nevada Secretary of State's Securities Division, the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski, charged Dang with multiple counts of securities fraud, forgery and theft. The case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Eddie Gulbenkian.

The evidence revealed that Dang, currently serving a prison sentence as the result of a prior securities fraud conviction, committed these crimes between September and December 2004 while awaiting sentencing on the previous charge.

In this case, Dang represented himself as a licensed stock broker and investment advisor to the owner of a local casino. Dang also represented that he could purchase stock in the casino at a discounted price and subsequently sell the stock for a fifty percent profit without any risk. After obtaining cash from his victims, Dang issued them checks from brokerage firms representing profits on their investments. These checks were later determined to have been forged. Utilizing this scheme, Dang obtained nearly \$100,000 from the victims.

"The public should be wary when presented with an investment opportunity that promises a high rate of return over a short period of time with no risk, especially with respect to the stock market. Mr. Dang's sentence is appropriate in consideration of his repeated acts of securities fraud upon Nevada consumers," Gulbenkian said.

Anyone who has information regarding this case or a similar scam should contact the Attorney General's Office at (702) 486-3420 in Las Vegas or (775) 684-1180 in Carson City.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: Tuesday January 23, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH BAYER CORPORATION

Las Vegas, NV— Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today a settlement with Bayer Corporation over its marketing of Baycol, a drug used to lower cholesterol. The drug was withdrawn from the market in 2001. The settlement was part of a 30-state consumer protection enforcement action initiated by the states' Attorneys General due to concerns that Bayer failed to adequately disclose safety risks associated with Baycol.

The judgment, filed today in Clark County District Court, requires Bayer to register most of its clinical studies and post the results at the end of each study. The judgment also requires Bayer's future compliance with the law in the marketing, sale, and promotion of its pharmaceutical and biological products. Bayer is furthermore prohibited from making false and misleading claims related to any such product sold in the United States. Bayer will pay a total of \$8 million to the 30 participating states to settle the concerns of those states' Attorneys General. Nevada will receive a payment of \$200,000.

"Drug companies must be held accountable if they fail to take quick action to pull unsafe and dangerous drugs off the market," stated Attorney General Masto. "This settlement highlights the need for active and continued state involvement in protecting the public and consumers from such risks."

Bayer introduced Baycol, a "statin" cholesterol-lowering drug into the United States market, in May 1988. All statins carry a known risk of muscle disorders. Through post-marketing surveillance of its product, Bayer learned that the risk for Baycol turned out to be significantly higher compared to other statins. The Attorneys General allege that while Bayer informed the US Food and Drug Administration about these adverse effects, Bayer failed to adequately warn prescribers and consumers about them. On August 7, 2001, Bayer voluntarily withdrew Baycol from the market.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Jo Ann Gibbs of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection represented Nevada in the settlement. Other participating states include Connecticut, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday, February 5, 2007

CONTACT: Kathleen Delaney (702) 486-3788
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE ADVISES CREDIT REPORT MAY BE BEST TOOL TO COMBAT IDENTITY THEFT

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following advisory to help consumers make the best use of their credit reports in an effort to combat identity theft.

While no method to prevent ID theft is guaranteed, there are ways consumers can use their credit reports and certain programs available through the agencies that maintain them in order to minimize their risks and minimize their damages if a problem occurs:

FREE CREDIT REPORTS. A federal law now allows consumers to receive free copies of their credit reports annually. Reports can be ordered at any time from one of the three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Requests for reports from each company can be made simultaneously, or staggered throughout the year. If staggered, consumers may view one of their credit reports as often as every four (4) months for free.

When you receive your free credit report, you should review it carefully for common errors, including:

- ✓ Inaccurate personal information such as name, middle initial, address and Social Security number.
- ✓ Accounts listed incorrectly as open, delinquent or in collections.
- ✓ Credit accounts, bankruptcies, tax liens or other judgments that do not belong to you.

For your convenience, the three major credit reporting agencies have created one website, toll-free number and address from which to order your free credit reports. You can contact them on line at www.annualcreditreport.com, toll-free at 1-877-322-8228, or by mail at Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5281.

“OPT OUT” OPTION. In addition to providing a free copy of your credit report annually, credit reporting agencies are also required to provide consumers the option to “opt out” of receiving unsolicited credit offers. The offers, also known as “preapproved” or “prescreened” offers are usually made by lenders who obtain a mailing list of qualified individuals from one of the three major credit reporting agencies. You may choose to stop receiving these offers, which may be intercepted at your mailbox or stolen from your trash by an identity thief, by calling 1-888-5OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com.

“SECURITY FREEZE” PROTECTION. As of October 1, 2005, consumers also have the option to place a “security freeze,” also known as a “file freeze,” in their credit report files by making a request in writing, via certified mail, to each national credit reporting agency directly. To be properly processed, the written request must provide the credit reporting agencies with, among other things, sufficient identification information to establish the identity of the consumer. There may also be a cost involved.

Because credit report security freezes are only available to consumers in a limited number of states, there are no centralized contacts or guidelines for obtaining a security freeze. Therefore, information to assist consumers to obtain a security freeze from each of the three major credit reporting agencies separately is provided below.

Experian

The specific address for Experian where consumers may obtain additional information and submit their “security freeze” requests is Experian Security Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, Texas 75013.

Experian requests that the following information be provided in the written request in order to facilitate processing:

- Full name, with middle initial and generation, such as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.
- Current Nevada mailing address
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Previous addresses for the past two years
- Two proofs of current mailing address, such as copy of driver’s license, utility bill, insurance statement, etc., and be sure the copy is legible, in your name and includes the statement date
- A \$15 fee or a copy of valid law enforcement agency complaint of ID theft

Experian will send a written confirmation notice to consumers once the “security freeze” is in place. The written confirmation will include a personal identification number (PIN) for future use to remove the freeze temporarily for a person or period of time or permanently.

Equifax

The specific address for Equifax where consumers may obtain additional information and submit their “security freeze” requests is Equifax Security Freeze, P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, Georgia 30348.

Equifax requests that the following information be provided in the written request in order to facilitate processing:

- Full name
- Current Nevada mailing address
- Social Security number
- Most recent former address for file matching purposes
- A \$15 fee or a copy of valid law enforcement agency complaint of ID theft

Additional information on what consumers can expect post-processing of their “security freeze” request is pending.

TransUnion

The specific address for TransUnion where consumers may obtain additional information and submit their “security freeze” requests is TransUnion Security Freeze, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, California 92834.

TransUnion requests that the following information be provided in the written request in order to facilitate processing:

- Name and address
- Social Security number
- A \$15 fee or a copy of a valid law enforcement agency complaint of ID theft

The security freezes will be applied to a consumer’s credit file within five (5) business days of receipt of the request. Consumers will also be provided with an information letter, including a personal identification number (PIN) and a copy of their credit report, after the security freeze has been added.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Bureau of Consumer Protection’s website at www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm.

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Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE ADVISES CONSUMERS HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ILLEGAL AND ABUSIVE DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory regarding abusive debt collection practices.

Debt collectors are in the business of trying to collect debts owed to others. You may be contacted by a debt collector if you fall behind repaying your creditors on a personal, family or household debt, or if an error is made in your account. In either situation, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that the debt collector treat you fairly and also prohibits certain debt collection practices.

Debt collectors are prohibited from:

- Contacting you before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m., or contacting you at work if the debt collector knows the employer disapproves of such contact.
- Falsely implying that they are attorneys or government representatives or that they operate or work for a credit bureau.
- Engaging in harassing or abusive behavior, such as using profane language, making threats of arrest or violence or repeatedly making annoying telephone calls.
- Giving false credit information about you to a credit bureau.
- Using a false name or contacting you by postcard.
- Garnishing social security, disability or unemployment benefits.

You have certain rights as a consumer:

- Within 5 days after you are first contacted, the debt collector must send a written notice about the debt; including the amount of money owed, the name of the creditor and what action to take if you do not owe the debt.

- You have 30 days to file a written dispute, and the debt collector must then provide written verification of the debt.
- You may stop a collector from contacting you by sending a written request to cease contact; however, sending such a letter will not erase the debt if you actually owe the debt.
- If you believe a debt collector has violated the law, you may sue the collector in a state or federal court within one year from the date of the violation. If you win, you may recover money for damages plus an additional amount up to \$1000.00. Court costs and attorney's fees may also be recovered.

If you have questions about a debt collection company or wish to file a complaint in writing, you may contact the Financial Institutions Division of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry at 2785 Desert Inn Road, Suite 180, Las Vegas Nevada 89121. For additional contact information for the Financial Institutions Division, as well as a list of collection agencies licensed in Nevada, please visit www.fid.state.nv.us.

To get free information on debt collection and other important consumer issues, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov or call the FTC's Consumer Response Center toll-free at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

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Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Weds., February 7, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE INFORMS CONSUMERS ABOUT PREDATORY MORTGAGE LENDING PRACTICES

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory regarding predatory mortgage lending practices.

Mortgage loans may be sold by misleading or high pressure methods that take advantage of a borrower's inexperience, vulnerabilities, language barriers, and general lack of information about loan products. These lenders are only interested in making a profit from the loan transaction, not getting you a mortgage you can afford. Consequently, borrowers may be manipulated into obtaining loans they cannot afford to repay or they may be defrauded outright. As a result, many borrowers are later faced with delinquent payments and the possibility of foreclosure.

Some common predatory mortgage lending practices include charging borrowers excessive fees and interest rates, or adding hidden fees, prepayment penalties or mortgage insurance without the borrower's knowledge or agreement. In addition, some types of loans in themselves hold particular hidden dangers for unsuspecting borrowers:

- **“Creative Financing:”** This involves “creative methods” of qualifying borrowers, such as hiding the borrower's debts or qualifying the borrower on the basis of the borrowers own “stated income,” rather than through standard income and credit verification procedures. This results in allowing the consumer to buy much more home than they can actually afford.
- **Foreclosure “Rescues:”** These companies target homeowners whose homes are in danger of foreclosure due to delinquent mortgage payments. Desperate and stressed homeowners may fall prey to scammers who offer financial assistance to help save their homes. Unfortunately, some owners unwittingly end up actually signing away their home ownership to those who they believed were there to help them.

- **Interest-Only Loans:** These loans allow the borrower to pay interest only for a specified number of years. While this is a legitimate loan product, there are risks borrowers need to be aware of in obtaining a “nontraditional loan.” Borrowers’ monthly payments will go up – as much as double or triple- once the interest only payment period expires, since they are now paying on both the principal and the interest. This may put some borrowers in a severe financial strain, and increase the likelihood of loan delinquency.

Consumers should be extremely cautious in shopping for mortgage loans. Here are some common sense tips to assist consumers to protect themselves from unscrupulous lenders:

- **Not all loans and lenders are the same.** Shop around for the best available loans. Be wary of lenders you did not contact first.
- **Mortgage brokers should be licensed by the state.** Check with your state financial regulator to see if the company is licensed and if complaints have been filed.
- **Check all terms and fees carefully.** Ask the lender for copies of the documents you will be asked to sign before the actual closing date so that you will have time to review and fully understand them.
- **Get help from a trusted source.** Homeowners with problems that could result in mortgage default or foreclosure on their property should consider contacting a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. To locate a HUD-approved counselor, you may call 1-888-466-3487 or visit www.hud.gov.

If you believe you have been the victim of illegal or predatory mortgage lending practices, you may contact the Mortgage Lending Division of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry at 3075 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89121. For additional contact information for the Mortgage Lending Division, please visit www.mld.nv.gov.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Bureau of Consumer Protection’s website at www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Weds., February 7, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE ADVISES CONSUMERS ABOUT HOME EQUITY LOAN CONCERNS

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory regarding borrowing money through home equity loans.

Many homeowners who need money to pay bills or for home repairs may think a home equity loan is the answer. Consumers should shop around – not all loans and lenders are equal. Some lenders – often called predatory lenders – target elderly or low-income homeowners or those with credit problems, by deceiving them about loan terms or giving them loans they can not afford to repay. Some common predatory lending practices include charging borrowers excessive fees and interest rates, or adding hidden fees, prepayment penalties or mortgage insurance without the borrower's knowledge or agreement.

Before taking out a home equity loan, consumers should be cautious and do their homework before they put their home on the loan line. Here are some common sense tips to assist consumers to protect themselves from unscrupulous lenders:

- Comparison shop. Comparing loan plans can help you get a better deal. As lenders to explain the best loan plans they have for you. Beware of loan terms and conditions that may mean higher costs for you.
- Be very careful about dealing with a lender who just appears at your door, calls you, or sends you mail. If you choose to use a mortgage broker, remember they arrange loans, but most do not lend directly. Compare their offers with those of other direct lenders.
- Be wary of home repair contractors that offer to arrange financing. You should still talk with other lenders to make sure you get the best deal. And, you may want to have the loan proceeds sent directly to you, not the contractor.

- Mortgage brokers should be licensed by the state. Check with your state financial regulator to see if the company is licensed and if complaints have been filed against them.
- Talk to someone other than the lender or the broker whom you trust before you make any decisions. Remember, if you decide to get a home equity loan and can't make the payments, the lender could foreclose and you would lose your home.

You have rights under the law. If you are using your home for a home equity loan or for a second mortgage or line of credit, federal law gives you three (3) business days after signing the loan papers to cancel the deal, for any reason, without penalty. You must cancel in writing, and the lender must return any money you have paid to date.

If you believe you have been the victim of illegal or predatory mortgage lending practices, you may contact the Mortgage Lending Division of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry at 3075 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89121. For additional contact information for the Mortgage Lending Division, please visit www.mld.nv.gov.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Bureau of Consumer Protection's website at www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone – (702) 486-3420
Fax – (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2007

CONTACT: Brian Armstrong, (702) 486-3269
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
Cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT WITH SAMSUNG

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today announced a \$90 million nationwide antitrust settlement with Samsung Semiconductor, Inc. and Samsung Electronics Company Ltd., resolving allegations that Samsung along with its competitors fixed the prices of Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM). DRAM is a type of memory chip used in computers and computer equipment. Samsung also agreed to injunctive relief preventing future similar conduct, and to cooperate with Nevada and other states in prosecuting co-conspirators. Samsung admits no wrong-doing in the settlement, which is subject to court approval.

“Price fixing strikes at the heart of free competition, the foundation of Nevada’s economic system,” said Masto. “Through a conspiracy involving an essential computer component, Samsung kept prices artificially high and victimized Nevada consumers.”

Nevada and other States continue to pursue litigation seeking relief for consumers and government entities who paid higher prices for computers and computer equipment from 1998 to 2002 as a result of alleged price fixing by at least seven DRAM manufacturers: Elpida Memory, Inc.; Hynix Semiconductor, Inc.; Infineon Technologies, AG; Micron Technology, Inc.; Mosel Vitelic, Inc.; Nanya Technology Corporation and NEC Electronics America, Inc. The suit arose from a federal criminal investigation that exposed which DRAM manufacturers coordinated the prices they charged to computer equipment manufacturers; those overcharges were then passed on to consumers. Nevada’s share of the nationwide settlement, on behalf of Nevada consumers, state, and local government entities, will be determined at a later date.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thurs., February 8, 2007

CONTACT: Eddie Gulbenkian (702) 486-3128
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHTS AUTO REPAIR PROTECTIONS

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory regarding automotive repair shops:

As everyone knows, every automobile requires maintenance to keep it in working condition. Unless you have the time, special skills or equipment to completely maintain your vehicle, you will inevitably take it to a repair shop or garage.

Repair shops and garages can be intimidating if you do not know your rights. There are some things to know and steps you can take, however, to ensure your next visit to a repair shop or garage goes smoothly.

When you enter a repair shop or garage, you should notice the posting of a sign which states that the garage is registered with the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In Nevada, automotive repair customers have several rights, including:

- The right to receive repairs from a business that is registered with the DMV that will ensure the proper repair of your vehicle
- The right to receive a written estimate of charges for repairs made to your vehicle which exceeds \$50. This right can only be waived in writing by the customer.
- The right to read and understand all documents and warranties before you sign them.
- The right to inspect all replaced parts and accessories that are covered by a warranty and for which a charge is made.
- The right to request that all replaced parts and accessories that are not covered by a warranty be returned to you at the time of service.

- The right to require authorization before any additional repairs are made to your vehicle if the charges for those repairs exceed 20% of the original estimate or \$100, whichever is less. This right can only be waived in writing by the customer.
- The right to receive a completed statement of charges for repairs made to your vehicle, including:
 - A statement of the total charges
 - An itemization and description of all parts used to repair the motor vehicle, including the charges for each part
 - A statement of the labor charges
 - A description of any other charges in the statement
- The right to a fair resolution of any dispute that develops concerning the repair of your vehicle.

These rights must be posted by the repair shop where you take your vehicle. If they are not honored, the owner/operator of the shop can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and fined \$500 for each right that is not honored.

So what should you do the next time you take your car to a repair shop?

1. If more than \$50 worth of work is being done to your vehicle, obtain a written estimate before the work is done.
2. If a vehicle part is being replaced, and is not covered by the warranty, ask the repair shop to return the old part to you after it has been replaced.
3. If the part being replaced in your vehicle is covered by a warranty, ask the repair shop to show you the part that was replaced.
4. If you are asked to authorize repairs in excess of the original estimate by 20% or \$100, make sure you read the fine print to ensure that you are not waiving this right.
5. After the service on your vehicle has been completed, review the statement of charges to see whether it includes an itemized breakdown of the parts used in the service of the vehicle, and the labor cost of the service.

If you believe an automotive repair shop has violated your legal rights, please submit your complaint in writing to the Nevada Consumer Affairs Division at 1850 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 101, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. A complaint form and other valuable information are available on the Nevada Consumer Affairs Division website www.fyiconsumer.org or you may call (702) 486-7355 in Clark County or toll free (800) 326-5602 outside of Clark County.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday, February 9, 2007

CONTACT: Kathleen Delaney (702) 486-3788
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE CLARIFIES DO NOT CALL EXEMPTION

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory regarding Nevada's "do not call" law, the limited exemption allowed businesses with a prior relationship, and how consumers can overcome even that limited exemption.

Nevada has a telecommunication solicitation law, popularly known as a "do not call" law. This law gives you an opportunity to limit the telemarketing calls you receive, by allowing you to place your phone number on a do not call registry. The Nevada law is in addition to a similar federal law that went into effect October, 2003. Nevada consumers are also protected by the federal law.

How to Register: If you have already registered your Nevada phone number on the national do not call registry, you are already registered for our do not call law. If you haven't registered your Nevada number yet and would like to, register for both laws for free at the national do not call registry's web site, www.donotcall.gov. If you prefer, you can also register by calling toll free (888) 382-1222.

How to File a Complaint: If your Nevada number has been registered on the national do not call registry for at least 31 days, you may file a complaint if you receive a call from a non-exempt telemarketer. To file a complaint, visit the national do not call registry web site at www.donotcall.gov and select the "File A Complaint" button. If you prefer, you can also file a complaint by calling toll free (888) 382-1222. In filing a complaint, you need to provide either the telemarketer's name or phone number, the date the telemarketer called you, and your registered phone number.

In certain cases, even though your number is already registered, non-exempt telemarketers may continue to call you. For instance, companies you have done business with in the past 18 months may continue to call you, as well as telephone surveyors and charitable, religious or political organizations.

How to Overcome the Existing Business Relationship Exemption: Under Nevada law, businesses with whom you have an existing business relationship are exempt from do not call law requirements. However, these businesses are required to send you an annual notice advising you of your right to be placed on a business's "internal" do not call list to overcome this exemption and advising you of the procedure for doing so.

Consumers are advised that it is best to only respond to these annual notices if you actually have a problem with the specific company in question telemarketing to you. Under state law, you may override the do not call exemption the specific company may have because of its existing business relationship with you, but, to do so, you must contact the specific company directly. Please note the company may have its own requirements to proceed with your request, such as requesting that you provide specific identifying information like your social security number or account number. And, although it is always wise to proceed with caution in responding to such requests, you may wish to do so in such cases where you initiated the call and are secure that you are speaking to the correct person or company.

Finally, please be advised that placing your telephone number on a specific company's internal do not call list is not the same as placing your telephone number on the national do not call list. Hopefully you have already registered your telephone number on the national do not call list, and, if so, you do not need to register again until your original registration expires.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Bureau of Consumer Protection's website at www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm.

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday February 8, 2007

CONTACT: Kareen Prentice (775) 688-1872
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

Reno, NV - Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto recognizes this week, February 5-9, 2007 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. General Masto and the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Unit are highlighting the week by sending out a unique training CD-ROM to all Nevada high schools and middle schools. The training disc is aimed at raising awareness of teen dating violence and gives tips on prevention in order to help Nevada's youth avoid the often devastating effects of teen dating violence.

"Nevada's teens too often face dating violence situations, either first-hand or through their friends. The goal of these training materials is to help our teens recognize these situations and handle them appropriately," said General Masto.

General Masto encourages Nevada's school administrators, teachers and other community organizations to use and distribute the materials as part of their regular curriculum and teen outreach efforts. The materials include a class-room use PowerPoint presentation, handouts and informational cards.

"The Teen Dating Violence Awareness materials were designed with Nevada's teenagers in mind," said Nevada Domestic Violence Ombudsman Kareen Prentice. "The presentations and handouts speak directly to teenagers to help them recognize the signs of dating violence and guide them through the process of getting help."

Nevada prosecuting attorneys and domestic violence agencies will also be receiving the teen dating violence materials to further facilitate their efforts in assisting Nevada's teen victims. Presentations and outreach are available by calling the Domestic Violence unit at 775-688-1872 or emailing: kcprenti@ag.state.nv.us for an appointment.

The materials were developed by a statewide advisory team and the Office of the Attorney General staff with grant funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, for recipients under the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program.

More information and materials are available at <http://teendatingviolence.state.nv.us>

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday February 27, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES FIRST MEETING OF GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON METHAMPHETAMINE USE

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the first meeting of the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use will be held on Thursday March 1, 2007 at 1:00pm. The meeting will be conducted via videoconference at the Attorney General's Offices in Carson City and Las Vegas. Attorney General Masto will chair the meeting in Carson City.

The agenda for the meeting includes presentations from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Department of Health and Human Services, Bristlecone Family Resource Center, Nevada Sheriff's and Chief's Association and Washoe County Juvenile Justice Services.

"The impact of meth reaches all corners of our communities and addressing the problem will not be an easy feat. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us," said Attorney General Masto. "The members of the working group are all committed to doing what it takes to finding a solution to Nevada's meth problem."

Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons commissioned the group by executive order in January to be chaired by Attorney General Masto. The Governor recently announced the members of the 16 person group. The Governor's executive order tasks the Working Group with studying the impact of methamphetamine on the state's law enforcement, corrections facilities, social services and community services. The group must make its first presentation addressing possible solutions to the problem to the Nevada State Legislature no later than April 1, 2007.

The members of the Working Group are: Dawn Gibbons, First Lady; Ken Furlong, Sheriff of Carson City; Phil Galeoto, Director of the Nevada Department of Public Safety; Doug Gillespie, Sheriff of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County Commissioner; Mike Haley, Sheriff of Washoe County; Dr. Joseph Heck, Nevada State Senator; Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney; Sheila Leslie, Nevada State Assemblywoman; Ted Quasula, Chief of Police of the Nevada Paiute Tribe; Dr. Rob Roberts, Superintendent of Nye County School District; Dr. Richard Steinberg, CEO of WestCare Nevada; Mayor Marv Teixeira, Mayor of Carson City; Rhonda Zuraff, Publisher of Elko Daily Free Press; and Mike Willden, Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

A copy of the Working Group's meeting agenda is available on the Attorney General's website at: <http://www.ag.state.nv.us/upcoming/agendas.htm>

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday February 27, 2007

CONTACT: Vic Schulze (702) 486-3110
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS AFFIRMS STROHMEYER CONVICTION

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has affirmed the criminal conviction of Jeremy Strohmeyer for the rape and murder of seven-year old Sherrice Iverson. Strohmeyer originally plead guilty to the crime, but later asserted that he had been coerced into the guilty plea. The case has been ongoing since the crime occurred ten years ago and has been heard by five respected courts. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Strohmeyer was not able to prove his original guilty plea had been coerced.

“While we respect the need for assurances that guilty pleas are entered voluntarily and intelligently, there was little doubt from the beginning that Strohmeyer’s eleventh-hour claims that he was bullied into his guilty pleas would be rejected by the courts,” Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto said. “We hope and pray that Sherrice Iverson’s family may be consoled by the fact that justice has been done and the perpetrator held accountable for his acts under the law of the land.”

Case background:

Strohmeyer had pleaded guilty to the crimes of Sexual Assault, Kidnapping, and Murder after the police found a cigarette butt on the floor of the stall containing his D.N.A., and after the police in Long Beach, California and Las Vegas located several witnesses, friends of Strohmeyer’s from his high school class who informed them that Strohmeyer had bragged about raping the seven year-old victim and then strangling her. In exchange for the guilty plea, District Attorney Stewart Bell agreed not to seek the death penalty against Strohmeyer for the crimes.

The crime occurred in May 1997 when Strohmeyer and his friend, David Cash, were traveling from Long Beach to Las Vegas with Cash’s father, and had stopped in Primm on the Nevada-California state line. The casino’s security cameras recorded Strohmeyer playing a game of hide-and-go-seek in the arcade with the victim, Sherrice Iverson. After some play, Sherrice could be seen on the security videotape running into the women’s restroom, with Strohmeyer following her. The child’s dead body was later found in the bathroom stall. Cash told police that he had entered the bathroom and saw Strohmeyer in the stall with the child, but Cash never reported the crimes. Strohmeyer, Cash, and Cash’s father then left for Las Vegas.

Because Stromeier had mentioned to others in the arcade that he was from Southern California, police focused their efforts on looking for suspects there. Friends of Strohmeyer’s in Long Beach approached high school counselors and reported that he had been bragging about raping a child in Nevada, and police were notified. When Long Beach police attempted to arrest Strohmeyer outside

of his Long Beach home, he fled on foot. Strohmeyer's home computer was later searched by police and it was discovered that the computer files contained dozens of images of child pornography. This lead prosecutors to believe that the motive for the crime was that Strohmeyer was a pedophile, and that he has killed the child to silence her as a witness after the rape. After bragging to his friends about the crimes, Strohmeyer confessed to the police that he had sexually assaulted the child. But he later told a judge in a hearing in Las Vegas that he had no memory of committing the crimes, and that the night in the arcade was a hazy memory.

Despite having told the trial court judge in the plea hearing that he wanted to plead guilty to the crimes to avoid the death penalty, and the judge's lengthy questioning of Strohmeyer about the facts of the crime and his decision to plead guilty, six months after his conviction Strohmeyer filed papers in the trial court through new attorneys claiming that he did not voluntarily plead guilty, but that his attorneys made him enter the plea against his wishes because he was coerced, and asking for the guilty plea to be reversed. The trial court held a lengthy evidentiary hearing in which Strohmeyer, his mother, and his original trial attorneys testified about his decision to plead guilty. At the end of the hearing, District Court Judge Joseph Bonaventure decided that Strohmeyer's guilty plea was voluntarily made, and that his attorneys did not coerce him.

Strohmeyer appealed Judge Bonaventure's decision to the Nevada Supreme Court, which upheld the trial court's denial of Strohmeyer's claims. Strohmeyer then appealed the Supreme Court's decision to the federal court in Las Vegas through a petition for writ of habeas corpus, which was denied by United States District Judge Robert Jones. Judge Jones' decision that the plea was voluntarily made was then appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where lengthy briefs were filed by Strohmeyer's new attorneys and the Office of the Attorney General. The Circuit Court held that Strohmeyer had failed to show that his plea was involuntary or that his attorneys had provided legally deficient legal advice and services to him.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday February 28, 2007

CONTACT: Vic Schulze (702) 486-3110
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES REINSTATES CRIMINAL CONVICTION OF NEVADA CHILD RAPIST MARVIN BOCKTING

Las Vegas, NV - Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Supreme Court of the United States, in a unanimous decision, reinstated the criminal conviction of Marvin Bockting who was convicted in 1988 of three counts of Sexual Assault against his six year old step daughter, after a jury trial before Eighth Judicial District Judge Donald Mosley. The Nevada Office of the Attorney General had sought the intervention of the Supreme Court after the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed the conviction, ruling that hearsay evidence was improperly admitted against the defendant Marvin Bockting. By issuing its decision today, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned the Ninth Circuit order, and reinstated the conviction.

The core issue in the appeal to the nation's highest court was whether the law on hearsay evidence that existed at the time of Bockting's trial should apply, or whether a new rule that was announced many years later by the Supreme Court should apply retroactively. The Nevada Attorney General had sought the intervention of the Supreme Court by arguing in their briefs that the State trial court properly applied existing law at the time of the trial.

"The importance of the Supreme Court's ruling today is that it upholds the long-standing rule of law that courts must properly apply existing law, and are not required to guess how the law might evolve in future cases," said Attorney General Masto. "The decision strengthens the principles of consistency, foreseeability, and finality of criminal trials, while maintaining fairness."

The case was argued before the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on November 1, 2006 by former Attorney General George J. Chanos, and the briefing in the case was prepared by Senior Deputy Attorneys General Victor-Hugo Schulze, II and Rene L. Hulse.

The decision has the potential to impact more than 4000 inmates nationwide currently serving prison sentences for violent crimes by cutting off a flood of new appeals by the inmates.

"I respect and applaud today's decision by our Supreme Court justices," said former Attorney General Chanos. "The decision truly shows how a case from Nevada can have widespread national implications. The Court's decision validates, with unmistakable clarity, our decision to appeal the Ninth Circuit ruling."

In Bockting's case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco had held in 2005 that the State trial court was responsible for applying a rule of law in the 1988 trial that did not come into existence until the *Crawford v. Washington* decision in 2003, even though the circuit court conceded that the Nevada courts could not have "divined" the unexpected change in the law about how hearsay evidence is to be admitted at trials.

However, in reversing the Ninth Circuit, the Supreme Court held that the trial court judge was not responsible for predicting unforeseeable changes to the law governing hearsay evidence that did not exist at the time of trial.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Schulze, who argued the case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, says this ruling is important because it does not allow Bockting or other inmates who were convicted before the *Crawford* rule was announced, to be able to refile appeals challenging their criminal convictions based on the announcement of the new rule.

"The immediate impact of the decision is that prisoners who were convicted of violent criminal offenses under the operation of the former rule of the admissibility of hearsay evidence, known as the "Roberts" rule, will now not be able to use the Ninth Circuit ruling as a new way of challenging their convictions in a flood of new appellate litigation in the nation's courts," Schulze said.

Bockting, who had lived in Las Vegas, had been charged with the repeated rape of his six year old step daughter when the child's mother was not home. The victim told her mother about the assaults and that Bockting had threatened that he would beat her if she ever told anyone. At the trial, the six year old child froze on the witness stand when called to testify. District Judge Mosley, following existing law from the Supreme Court, ruled that the child was legally "unavailable", and then allowed the child's mother and a detective to testify regarding what the child had told them regarding the sexual assaults. The trial court found as a matter of law that this testimony was hearsay, but that it was admissible under an existing United States Supreme Court ruling from the case *Ohio v. Roberts*, the "Roberts" rule. In 2003 the United States Supreme Court overruled the Roberts rule in a case called *Crawford v. Washington*, which created a new procedure for deciding whether hearsay evidence is admissible.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday March 2, 2007

CONTACT: Gianna M. Orlandi (702) 486-3788
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT IN CONNECTION WITH ADVANCED FEE MORTGAGE SCHEME

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that investigators executed a search warrant against Ric Reyes, 42, of Las Vegas, d/b/a Venture Capital Investment Inc. (VCI Inc.) yesterday, March 1, 2007. VCI, Inc. is located at 4955 South Durango Drive # 122, Las Vegas, Nevada 89113.

It is alleged that on at least three separate occasions, between May, 2006 and August, 2006, three consumers entered into contracts to purchase land in northern Nevada. All three consumers were referred to Reyes and VCI Inc., where Reyes and VCI Inc. attempted to broker loans to complete the purchases. During the course of arranging the loans, Reyes allegedly told each consumer that he or she was required to pay a 20 % deposit in addition to 10% they had already placed in order to qualify for the loans. These additional deposits were never received by a seller or deposited into appropriate escrow accounts. Furthermore, neither Reyes nor VCI Inc. is licensed by the Nevada Mortgage Lending Division to operate as mortgage brokers.

“More often than not, dealing with unlicensed brokers may increase your susceptibility to fraud and identity theft, because unlicensed brokers are not accountable to anyone. Nevada consumers are encouraged to check the licensing status of any mortgage broker by contacting the State of Nevada Mortgage Lending Division,” said General Masto.

Individuals who believe they have been victimized by Ric Reyes or VCI, Inc., should contact the Attorney General’s Office at 486-3777 in Las Vegas or 684-1180 in Carson City.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday March 6, 2007

CONTACT: Jamie Resch (702) 486-3783
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

INMATE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON IN CASA GRANDE ESCAPE CASE

Las Vegas, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced that Anthony Williams, age 35, was sentenced earlier today to 2 to 5 years in prison for escaping from Casa Grande Transitional Housing Center. On January 11, 2007, a jury convicted on Williams of Unauthorized Absence Constituting Escape, a felony punishable by up to ten years in state prison.

Williams had been serving time on a prior felony and was near his expiration date when he was assigned to Casa Grande, a transitional housing center which helps inmates find employment and prepare for re-entry into society. Williams left Casa Grande for work, but failed to return to the institution on time. His whereabouts were unknown for approximately two days. Williams eventually returned to the institution voluntarily, where he was transferred to higher custody.

"Although inmates are allowed to leave Casa Grande to work, they are all told in no uncertain terms that deviation from approved movement will be treated by our office as an escape from prison," said Attorney General Masto. "Inmate Williams has learned the hard way that he must follow prison rules."

The Office of the Attorney General prosecutes all escapes from state prisons, including Casa Grande.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday March 8, 2007

CONTACT: Kareen Prentice (775) 688-1872
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TEAMS WITH ALY'S PROM CLOSET TO HAND OUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE MATERIALS

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Unit has teamed with Aly's Prom Closet in Reno to distribute Teen Dating Violence information and materials to Reno teens.

Aly's Prom Closet is a program of the Family Counseling Service in Reno. The program provides dresses, tuxedos, makeup, hairdos, flowers and tickets to financially challenged teens so that they can attend the prom. The teens will also be receiving information on recognizing the signs of dating violence and how to get help for themselves or their friends.

"Going to the prom should be a good memory for these teens who have already faced so many hardships in their young lives," said Domestic Violence Ombudsman Kareen Prentice. "I appreciate Aly's Prom Closet joining with us so that together we can work to help educate these teens on dating violence and also help them look back with fond memories of their prom."

The most recent Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that 10.7% of Nevada's high school students and 9.8% of middle school students reported being hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend.

To address this issue, the Nevada Attorney General's Domestic Violence Unit coordinated a two-year Teen Dating Violence Initiative (TDVI) which culminated in February with the distribution of middle and high school-targeted classroom curriculums aimed at educating Nevada's youth about dating violence.

The TDVI materials were developed by a statewide advisory team and the Office of the Attorney General staff with grant funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, for recipients under the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program.

More information and materials are available at <http://teendatingviolence.state.nv.us>

Aly's Prom Closet is located in Shoppers Square on the upper level, and will be open to students on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. until April 28.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday March 23, 2007

CONTACT: Andrea Nichols (775) 850-4102
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

STATE AGENCIES WIN SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the unanimous jury decision in favor of the State of Nevada's Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and Department of Information Technology (DoIT) regarding sexual harassment allegations made by a former state employee. The jury handed down the decision late Thursday afternoon in the U.S. District Court in Reno.

Former employee Tom Loux sued the two state agencies alleging that his boss had sexually harassed him on an ongoing basis between the years 2000 and 2001. Loux filed a formal sexual harassment complaint with the Nevada Attorney General's Office in August 2002. The complaint was investigated by employees of the Department of Health and Human Services but was found to be unsubstantiated. However, Loux decided to press on with a lawsuit based on the allegations. The case went to trial on Tuesday March 20, 2007 and after a three-day trial the jury handed down a unanimous decision in favor of the State. Deputy Attorney General Andrea Nichols represented the State during the trial.

"While we certainly take allegations of sexual harassment very seriously at the Attorney General's Office, in this case we were able to prove that the plaintiff's allegations were false," said Attorney General's Office. "The Attorney General's Office not only has an obligation to ensure public safety, but also to defend our agency clients."

The Nevada Attorney General's Office HHS Division provides legal representation for the state Department of Health and Human Services.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday March 29, 2007

CONTACT: Tim Terry (775) 684-1185
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES \$670K SETTLEMENT WITH PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURER

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that her office has reached a settlement with Dey, Inc. concerning allegations that Dey misrepresented the average wholesale price ("AWP") for drugs reimbursed by the Nevada Medicaid program. The alleged misrepresentations caused the Medicaid program, and other Nevada consumers, to overpay for Dey's prescription products. Dey is paying a total of \$670,000.00 to resolve the issue.

Dey is one of many pharmacy manufacturers that Nevada, and several other states, have sued over the issue of misrepresenting AWP. Last year Nevada reached a settlement with GlaxoSmithKline in which GSK paid \$740,000.00 to settle identical allegations.

The AWP litigation is taking place primarily in U. S. Federal District Court in Boston, MA before Judge Patti Saris. Nevada is being represented by Tim Terry of the Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ("MFCU") and special counsel Steve Berman of the law firm of Hagens, Berman, Sobol & Shapiro headquartered in Seattle.

"The Nevada Attorney General's Office is committed to rooting out fraud on behalf of all Nevada citizens and will vigorously pursue that fight wherever necessary," said Attorney General Masto.

For more information on fighting fraud or consumer protection go to the Attorney General's website at: www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday April 10, 2007

CONTACT: Gianna Orlandi (702) 486-3782
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS CONSUMERS OF COSTLY TAX REFUND LOANS

Las Vegas, NV - With tax season underway, Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto is warning Nevada consumers about invitations from tax preparers to obtain tax refund loans borrowed against their expected tax refund. Consumers should be aware that these loans, commonly known as "Refund Anticipation Loans" are just that – a very short term loan that can be extremely expensive.

"It is certainly an enticing idea to walk out of the tax preparation center with a check or cash in your hand, but the short-term pay off may mean you only get to keep a small percentage of your full IRS refund," said Attorney General Masto. "If you are considering a tax refund loan, do your research first. Find out how much the firm will charge you in fees and finance charges and compare those costs to the amount of your total refund. You may decide it's worth the two week wait for the additional money."

Taxpayers are advised that they can receive their anticipated refund immediately, instead of waiting an additional 10 to 14 days for payment directly from the IRS. However, the money that the taxpayer receives is not the actual tax refund. The money actually comes from a loan secured by the taxpayers expected refund, which is arranged by a tax preparer through a bank. The loan is repaid when the IRS sends the full refund to the bank. In effect, the taxpayer is actually borrowing his or her own money.

The problem is that refund anticipation loans are actually very expensive. The taxpayer is paying a finance charge on the loan (and, most often tax-preparation charges as well.) According to a 2006 report by the National Consumer Law Center, depending on the size of the refund, these loans generally cost about \$29 to \$120. Thus, the interest rate on a refund anticipation loan could range from around 40% to over 700% APR. That's a bad bargain for an "advance" of just 7 to 10 days.

Had the taxpayer waited the extra days for the IRS to process the refund, he would be able to enjoy his refund in its entirety, without the cost of extraordinarily high fees and costs. Before being tempted to say yes to a refund anticipation loan, the taxpayer should ask if it is really worth the extra cost.

"We hope consumers will decline these offers and see the advantage of waiting just a short time to receive the entire amount of a refund. Avoid borrowing funds on terms that are so unfavorable," said Eric Witkoski, Chief of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Additional consumer protection and contact information may be found on the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202
Reno, Nevada 89711
Telephone - (775) 688-1818
Fax - (775) 688-1822
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: April 11, 2007

CONTACT: Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman
Office of the Attorney General
kcprenti@ag.state.nv.us (775) 688-1872

MEDIA ADVISORY

WASHOE COUNTY JOINS THE OBSERVANCE OF 2007 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK OBSERVANCE

Reno, Nevada—April 22nd-28th is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Alliance for Victims' Rights will be holding its Annual National Candlelight Ceremony Vigil on April 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mills B. Lane Justice Center, which is located at One South Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada.

"It is a time for Nevadans to reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and to promote laws, policies and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The week's theme 'Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time.' envisions a strengthened national commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by crime each year," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

The Candlelight Vigil's speakers include:

- Catherine Cortez-Masto, Nevada Attorney General,
- Richard Gammick Washoe County District Attorney,
- Mike Haley, Washoe County Sheriff,
- AJ Cornella, Project Restart, and
- Pam McCoy, Citizen.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country. Every state has a crime victim compensation fund, and powerful federal laws, such as the Violence Against Women Act and the Crime Victims' Rights Act, to help protect victims and fund needed services.

Yet many crime victims have not experienced the promise of such progress. Only a fraction of victims report the crimes against them and participate in the criminal justice system. Victims' rights vary from state to state. Not all protections are enforced. Services are sometimes not available, or they may not meet the physical, financial, and psychological needs of victims or their families. Particularly vulnerable populations—the elderly, person with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities, or residents of rural areas—may not receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

"For every crime there is a victim and every victim deserves our help, every time." said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Telephone - 775-684-1100
Fax - 775-684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 11, 2007

CONTACTS: Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick
775-684-8509
Attorney General Cortez Masto
775-684-1100

COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES ASSEMBLY BILL 383 STRENGTHENING LAWS ON HIRING OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CARSON CITY—The Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee today unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick (D-North Las Vegas) to assist employers with verifying the legal status of their employees, penalize employers who knowingly violate immigration laws, and criminalize human trafficking.

Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard testified in favor of the legislation.

“Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick should be commended for her work on this legislation,” Cortez Masto said. “Law enforcement agencies in this state need strong law enforcement tools that provide them with the ability to stop the trafficking of illegal aliens. The provisions in AB 383 as amended will allow us to specifically target individual smugglers, as well as those large human smuggling organizations in Nevada.”

Kirkpatrick said the bill gets at the root causes and sources of immigration and human trafficking problems.

“We are all frustrated with our ‘broken’ immigration system,” Kirkpatrick said. “While we hope that Congress will do something this year to fix it, Nevada needs to take whatever steps we can to address both the demand and supply side of these issues.”

AB 383, as amended, would:

- Require the Nevada Department of Business and Industry to provide a link on its website to connect to the Social Security website to assist Nevada employers with verifying the social security number of any employee;

- Require a hearing to be held if a Nevada employer is convicted in federal court of knowingly violating federal immigration law with possible revocation of that employer's Nevada business license; and
- Enhance penalties for those who engage in human trafficking.

Attorney General Cortez Masto said she had been contacted in January by the Arizona Attorney General's office requesting a meeting about the evidence they had compiled that rings of human smugglers, known as "coyotes," had moved their operations to Nevada as a result of a successful crackdown in Arizona. She said this report was corroborated by a report that in January, the U.S. Border Patrol arrested approximately 217 people who had been illegally smuggled into the country and were attempting to board flights at McCarran Airport.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*
Keith Munro, *Chief of Staff*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1068
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3871
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tim Terry (775) 684-1191
Linda Fitzgerald (775) 684-1112
lmfitzge@ag.state.nv.us

DATE: April 25, 2007

HEALTHCARE WORKER SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Las Vegas Vanxay Rasasak, age 67, was sentenced for Medicaid Fraud. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

MFCU Director, Tim Terry, said the investigations began in 2006, as a result of a citizen's complaint. Medicaid has a personal care aid program to keep people living independently in their own homes by providing basic services, including bathing, dressing, cleaning and meal preparation. Medicaid contracts with home care companies that in turn employ individuals to provide the actual day-to-day care.

Vanxay Rasasak was employed to provide home care services to his mother-in-law. He was accused of submitting claims for work performed when other records showed he was out of the country. Rasasak pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor offense: Medicaid Fraud–Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. District Court Judge Jennifer Togliatti sentenced him to 60 days in jail, suspended, payment of \$2,750.00 in restitution and probation for one year.

Attorney General Cortez Masto said "Though this case appears to have a small amount of loss, the continued prosecution of these types of cases is sending a message to the health care community that fraudulent activities involving Medicaid recipients will not go unpunished."

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or 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>



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 30, 2007

CONTACT: Dennis L. Belcourt, 702-486-3326

MEDIA ADVISORY

Internet Payday Lender Leads Global, Inc. Fined \$50,000 for Unlicensed lending

Mortgage Lending Division Commissioner Scott Bice, sitting as a hearing officer for the Financial Institutions Division, stated at the close of a hearing held Friday, April 27, 2007, that Leads Global, Inc. ("Leads") had violated NRS Chapter 604A by conducting lending activity without a license. Mr. Bice stated that the written decision that would follow would include a fine in the amount of \$50,000.

Acting Commissioner Steven Kondrup testified at the hearing that the Financial Institutions Division had received numerous complaints about the manner in which Leads conducted its lending and collections activities. All of the loans involved were deferred deposit loans, commonly known as "payday loans," and complaints concerning these loans were all from non-Nevada residents. Dennis Belcourt, the Deputy Attorney General representing the Financial Institutions Division, argued at the hearing that Nevada law authorized jurisdiction over a Nevada lender even where loans were only to non-Nevadans. All indications are that Leads is not licensed for lending in any other states.

Leads is a Nevada Corporation that has done business as Cash Today, Cash Today Commercial, Cash Today Factoring, Global Cash Advances, and Global Financial Services, through fictitious name filings with the Washoe County Clerk. It has held a City of Reno Business License at 1005 Terminal Way, Reno, Nevada, Suite 110 and conducted business with the assistance of Corporate Office Services, Inc. at that address. The Acting Commissioner of Financial Institution Division had previously issued an order that Leads desist from unlicensed lending and that Corporate Office Services, Inc. discontinue its assistance to Leads.

Leads Global, Inc. had been notified of the hearing but failed to appear.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202
Reno, Nevada 89711
Telephone - (775) 688-1818
Fax - (775) 688-1822
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 2, 2007

CONTACT: Anthony Sassi (775) 850-4119

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is seeking new members. The application is brief and submissions will be accepted now through July 31, 2007.

The mission of the Council is to provide direction to the Governor and the Legislature on statewide domestic violence policy and legislation; increase public awareness of the magnitude and seriousness of domestic violence and sexual assault; and advocate 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 their goal to be geographically balanced, culturally diverse, and representative of the various disciplines involved in domestic violence issues.

The Council meets quarterly in either Carson City 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 Attorney General's website at the following link: <http://www.ag.state.nv.us>, under "Hot Topics" or on the Council's website located at http://ag.state.nv.us/menu/action_btn/programs/domestic/dvpc/dvpc.htm.

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

Kareen Prentice
Domestic Violence Ombudsman
(775) 688-1872
kcprenti@ag.state.nv.us

Anthony Sassi
Assistant to the Council
(775) 850-4119
arsassi@ag.state.nv.us



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202
Reno, Nevada 89711
Telephone - (775) 688-1818
Fax - (775) 688-1822
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 2, 2007

CONTACT: Vicky T. Oldenburg
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Tobacco Unit
775-850-4125

MEDIA ADVISORY

Attorneys General Ask Movie Studios to Heed Harvard's Advice to End Depictions of Smoking in Movies

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that she has joined Attorneys General from across the country in asking Hollywood's major motion picture studios to take the advice sought by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) from the Harvard School of Public Health on how to address the issue of smoking in movies and its impact on children: remove smoking depictions from films accessible to children.

The letters from the Attorneys General were prompted by Harvard's recent disclosure of the recommendation it made in a closed meeting in February to the MPAA and its member companies, along with the Directors Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild and the National Association of Theatre Owners.

"After years of letters and meetings, the MPAA told the Attorneys General last October that it was going to determine how to address the issue of smoking in movies and its impact on youth smoking by seeking, for its member companies, the recommendations of the renowned experts at Harvard. Harvard has now told the MPAA and the studios how they can help prevent kids from smoking – eliminate depiction of smoking from films seen by children. We are counting on the MPAA and its studios to follow the advice they sought," Attorney General Masto said.

As early as August 2003, citing compelling scientific evidence that viewing smoking in movies promotes youth smoking initiation, as many as 41 Attorneys General have sought the cooperation of the movie industry in reducing youth smoking initiation by eliminating tobacco brand appearances in movies, by reducing or eliminating depictions of smoking in movies, and by airing anti-smoking public service announcements. The Harvard presentation, made by Dean Barry Bloom, Associate Dean Jay Winsten and Dr. Jonathan Samet, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, strongly confirmed the evidence the movie industry previously heard from the Attorneys General.

Attorney General Masto's letter notes that, in light of this research, each time a studio releases a movie that depicts smoking, it does so with knowledge of the harm it will bring to children who watch it. "This is particularly disturbing," said Attorney General Masto, "given that three-quarters of PG-13 movies and more than one-third of G and PG movies depicted smoking."

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Nine out of every ten current adult smokers began smoking as teens.

Attorney General Masto's letter was sent to MPAA member companies Walt Disney Studios, Fox Filmed Entertainment, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Bros. Entertainment, Universal Studios, and Paramount Pictures. The letter was also sent to independent movie studios Lionsgate and The Weinstein Company. To date, The Weinstein Company is the only movie studio to agree to insert American Legacy Foundation truth® anti-smoking messages in DVD movies that depict smoking, as requested by the Attorneys General in September 2006.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 7, 2007

CONTACT: Jim Spencer

775-684-1108

MEDIA ADVISORY

Attorneys General Praise Beam Global for Adopting Stronger Voluntary Advertising Standard to Reduce Youth Exposure to Alcohol Ads

Alcohol Industry Urged to Follow Beam's Lead

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto praised Beam Global today for adopting a comprehensive set of new policies designed to reduce exposure of its advertising to underage persons. Beam Global is the largest distilled spirits company based in the U.S. Beam Global adopted these measures following talks with state Attorneys General from around the country. Attorney General Masto joined 36 other Attorneys General in calling on members of the alcohol beverage industry to follow Beam's lead.

Recent studies confirm the correlation between alcohol advertising and underage drinking. While advertising is only one of the factors that contribute to underage drinking, the importance of reducing youth exposure to alcohol advertising is magnified given that youth who begin drinking before age 15 are four times as likely to develop alcohol dependence after age 21.

"Beam Global's new standards represent a significant and encouraging step to reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising," Attorney General Masto said. "I join Attorneys General from around the country in calling on other alcohol industry members to follow Beam Global's lead and join in the effort to reduce underage drinking by reducing youth exposure to alcohol advertising."

For more than two years, Attorneys General have been calling on Beam Global and other alcohol manufacturers to implement improved voluntary standards that reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising. Beam Global took this call to heart and modified its marketing practices by adopting the following policies:

- Beam Global will make sure that no more than 25% of the audience for any of its TV, radio or print advertisements is under 21.
- In addition, Beam Global will insure that no more than 15% of the annual average audience for its TV, radio, and print advertising is underage.

- Beam Global will not introduce or market any “flavored malt beverages” – sweetened, flavored alcoholic drinks (also known as alcopops) that the AMA and others have found to be particularly popular with teenage girls.
- Beam Global will not advertise within 500 feet of schools, playgrounds, or places of worship.
- Beam Global products will not be marketed on college campuses or in connection with Spring Break events.
- Beam Global will adopt enhanced standards for restrictions on brand name merchandise.

The current alcohol industry standard provides that advertisements may be placed in any media where less than 30% of the audience is under age 21. However, youths ages 12-20 make up only about 15% of the population age 12 and older. The landmark report issued in 2003 by the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility*, proposed voluntary ad placement limits by the alcohol industry as the most important strategy to address youth overexposure to alcohol advertising. The report concluded that the industry standard allows for too much exposure and should be reduced to 25% to signify meaningful self-restraint.

In March of this year, Acting Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu issued *A Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. In it, he calls on the alcohol industry to place alcohol advertising in ways that do not disproportionately expose youth to messages about alcohol. Under Beam Global’s new advertising standard, alcohol ads will not appear in magazines or during television shows particularly popular with adolescents.

Attorney General Masto and 36 other Attorneys General have written to Beam Global welcoming this action and commending Beam Global for its leadership in stepping forward to address this important issue.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007**

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789

Nevada Settles With Purdue Pharma Over Advertising Practices For OxyContin

Nevada along with 25 other states and the District of Columbia, filed a settlement today with Purdue Pharma regarding the narcotic pain medication OxyContin. The settlement resolves concerns that Purdue engaged in extensive off-label marketing of OxyContin, a time-released, Schedule II opioid used for pain management of moderate to severe pain over an extended period of time, and that Purdue failed to adequately disclose abuse and diversion risks associated with the drug in violation of the states' respective consumer protection statutes.

"This case highlights the responsibility of drug companies to protect consumers by providing consumers as well as doctors, with full disclosure and adequate warnings about the risks and dangers associated with the use of certain prescription medications," stated Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "Under this settlement, Purdue is prohibited from making any false, misleading or deceptive claim regarding OxyContin."

The injunctive provisions in the settlement address those marketing practices considered to be excessive or abusive. Under the settlement, Purdue is also required to maintain an abuse and diversion-detection program that the company established internally to detect problem prescribing, and requires all field personnel to undergo training on the program before being allowed to promote OxyContin. Purdue must now market and promote OxyContin only in line with FDA-approved uses.

Finally, the settlement provides for a monetary payment by Purdue to the states in the amount of \$19,500,000. Nevada's share of the settlement is \$719,500.00. The state was represented by Senior Deputy Jo Ann Gibbs of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Other states taking part in the investigation of Purdue's business practices, as well as in today's settlement, are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 11, 2007

CONTACT: Linda Fitzgerald
775-684-1112

ATTORNEYS GENERAL SAY ANHEUSER-BUSCH IRRESPONSIBLY TARGETING YOUTH WITH ALCOHOL ENERGY DRINKS

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto criticized Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. for producing and promoting alcohol energy drinks containing caffeine and other stimulants. Citing serious health concerns, the Attorney General called on the company to provide readable warning labels that alert consumers about the health risks posed by these products.

In a letter to Anheuser-Busch, Attorney General Masto, along with 29 other state attorneys general, noted that medical doctors and public health professionals have warned that combining caffeinated energy drinks with alcohol – a practice popular among young people – poses significant health and safety risks. The stimulant in the energy drink may skew a person's sense of alertness – without reducing the adverse effect of the alcohol on that person's motor skills or ability to react quickly.

Anheuser-Busch's caffeinated alcoholic beverages include Spykes, TILT and Bud Extra. These drinks with a caffeine kick are similar in nature to non-alcoholic energy drinks currently popular with youth under 21. They are primarily marketed on websites featuring music particularly popular with young people.

"These alcoholic energy drinks are promoted and packaged in a way that is highly attractive to underage youth," Attorney General Masto said. "Drinks such as Spykes plainly and perniciously appeal to children in both taste and appearance – and their caffeine content dangerously masks the effects of the alcohol. If Anheuser-Busch is going to hold itself out as a partner in the fight against underage drinking, then it must stop marketing these types of drinks that so strongly appeal to underage youth."

Spykes is available only in fruit and chocolate flavors, and comes in small, attractive, brightly colored, plastic containers that can be easily concealed in a pocket or purse. Advertisements for Spykes, TILT and Bud Extra also tout the products' caffeine content and other additives that youth are likely to associate with popular non-alcoholic energy drinks. Spykes contains 12 percent alcohol by volume – more than twice that of most flavored malt beverages and beers.

Because they are designated as flavored malt beverages, Spykes and similar drinks can be sold inexpensively and – in many states – distributed to grocery stores and convenience stores, where they may be more readily seen and purchased by underage youth than if they were sold only in liquor stores.

The Attorneys General believe that these types of alcohol energy drinks must include a warning to consumers about the risks of mixing energy drinks with alcohol. The letter to Anheuser-Busch raises specific concerns about the illegible health warnings on the Spykes product. Recently, the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau made clear that it agreed with these concerns, finding that several Spykes labels violate federal law. Anheuser-Busch has agreed to stop production and to replace the product labels. The Attorneys General call upon the company to act promptly to address their remaining concerns about the production and marketing of these products.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 16, 2007

CONTACT: Linda Fitzgerald
775-684-1100

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO JOINS NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE LEGAL AND POLICY BARRIERS TO ENSURING SCHOOL SAFETY

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced plans today to join a coalition of the nation's state Attorneys General in a coordinated effort to examine legal issues related to school violence and safety.

In light of recent outbreaks of violence on college campuses and schools, Attorney General Masto, under the auspices of the National Association of Attorneys General ---- the professional membership association of the nation's 56 elected and appointed state Attorneys General --- will work with her colleagues on the Task Force on School Safety to identify legal and policy barriers to ensuring students safe learning environments.

"As the chief legal officers of our respective jurisdictions, Attorneys General have a unique role in implementing steps to ensure that all places of learning are safe, secure, and free from the disruptive influences of fear and violence," said Attorney General Masto. "All Attorneys General have a responsibility in dealing with the aftermath of violence in our schools."

The Task Force, chaired by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch, will work to identify innovative programs, policies, and legislative initiatives that may serve to fill in the gaps in existing school safety protocols. Task Force members also will examine key relationships that Attorneys General must build to effectively address school violence and safety issues, including those with educators, law enforcement, and public and private educational advocacy groups.

"There are a number of critical areas this task force must address, including examining strategies for improving inter-agency communication and training to strengthen response by law enforcement to crisis situations that occur in the educational environment," Attorney General Lynch said. "Attorneys General are well-equipped to assist local law enforcement authorities and make recommendations on where our jurisdictions stand in terms of crisis preparedness."

On May 3, several former Attorneys General now serving in the United States Senate wrote to Attorneys General asking them to assess the state of campus security around the country and make recommendations for improvements. U.S. Senators Joe Lieberman (CT), Mark Pryor (AL), Ken Salazar (CO), and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) asked Attorneys General to respond to questions surrounding contingency trainings, safety practices, and emergency notification procedures, as well as actions the federal government can take to facilitate emergency planning and law enforcement response on college campuses.

“Unfortunately, this is not a new topic for Attorneys General,” NAAG President Thurbert Baker said. “In 1999, Attorneys General issued a national report on youth violence and school safety following a spate of fatal school shootings in Colorado and Mississippi. Now, we’re planning to revisit those recommendations and, hopefully, identify even better measures states can adopt to create safer environments for our children.”

Recent statistics indicate that the rate of serious violent crime has fallen and that college campuses are relatively safe places on which students can live and learn. Since the early 1990s, there have been on average 20 murders on campuses each year, out of some 16 million students who attend annually, according to a recent report in *U.S. News and World Report*.

However, the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech underscores the need for continued work by Attorneys General, law enforcement, school officials, mental health experts, and other groups to ensure a learning environment that is free from violence.

"I am pleased to accept the responsibility of chairing this task force," commented Attorney General Suthers. "The nation's Attorneys General, as a group, issued a report on school safety in 1999. Much has been learned since then, and I believe we can significantly contribute to the ongoing discussion of school and campus security."

“There is clearly a need for an urgent reexamination of a number of issues surrounding school safety, including reviewing current legal issues related to mental health and privacy and the impact on school safety, as well as devising adequate plans to address behavioral or mental health problems exhibited by students who may pose a danger to themselves or others,” said Attorney General Mastro. “We need to develop best practices and solutions to put a stop to student victimization by these senseless acts of violence.”

Experts in school security, behavioral specialists, educators, students, and other advocates will be invited to meet with Attorneys General in order to develop a comprehensive report with recommendations to the states in September.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 21, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs
702-486-3789

MEDIA ADVISORY

Attorneys General to get info on thousands of sex offenders found on MySpace

MySpace agrees to provide the names of convicted sex offenders on its site

Carson City: Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that MySpace will turn over names and other information about convicted sex offenders the company has identified on its website.

"The fight to keep our children safe from sexual predators is a constant challenge. By providing this information to our police officers, we are taking another positive step in protecting our children from online predators" said Attorney General Masto.

Following a letter sent by state attorneys general to MySpace on May 14 demanding that the company turn over information about sex offenders, MySpace has confirmed that Sentinel Tech Holdings has already identified thousands of registered sex offenders as members of the popular social networking site. MySpace has deleted these users from its site but has preserved information about them and will provide it to the attorneys general.

MySpace will continue to search its site for registered sex offenders, and will give the states information about all offenders found on its site including their email and IP addresses. The attorneys general commended MySpace for taking this important safety step.

The fact that many sex offenders have used MySpace underscores how dangerous social networking sites can be for children, the attorneys general said. In 2006 alone, the media reported almost 100 criminal incidents across the country involving adults who used MySpace to prey or to attempt to prey on children. The states remain concerned about other sex offenders who may be on the site using an alias and misrepresenting their age.

Since May of 2006, a group of attorneys general from 52 states and territories, including Nevada, have been pushing social networking sites to do a better job protecting children from threats such as sexual predators and inappropriate content.

Last week's letter, written by eight attorneys general on behalf of the larger group, is just the latest part of this effort. Because of the push by the group of attorneys general, MySpace has previously taken other steps to improve safety on its site such as screening profiles for inappropriate content and making certain profiles private. The attorneys general are continuing to urge MySpace to require parental permission for children to be on its site, among other safety steps.

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL
BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION**

100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
Attorney General



ERIC WITKOSKI
*Consumer Advocate
Chief Deputy Attorney General*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2007

CONTACT: John McGlamery
Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

**CONSUMER ADVOCATE WARNS AGAINST
COUNTERFEIT CASHIERS' CHECKS**

Carson City—Nevada Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski issued a warning to Nevada residents about counterfeit, forged or stolen cashiers' checks being sent as either lottery or sweepstakes winnings or used to purchase internet auction items.

In each case, the recipient is sent what appears to be an authentic-looking check, usually appearing to be either a bank check or cashier's check. In each case the recipient is asked to cash the check, then wire money back to the sender or the sender's agent. If the check is deposited, it will be found to be either fraudulent or stolen in about a week to fourteen days. If money is wired to the sender, the victim is out the amount of the check as well as the money sent.

This scam has been seen in three different versions. The most prevalent is that of the lottery or sweepstakes winner scam. In this case recipients are told that they are the winner of a lottery or sweepstakes and that the check represents the first or initial payment of the prize. Many times the lottery or sweepstakes is located in a different country. The recipient is told that taxes or fees need to be paid before the full amount can be awarded, to immediately cash the check and wire money to a person so that the taxes or fees can be paid.

Another common use of forged or counterfeit checks is related to internet auction sales. In this scheme the seller is sent an official-looking check for an amount greater than the sales price of the item. When contacted, the buyer asks the seller to cash the check, then send the difference back to the seller with the item purchased. In this scam the seller is out both the item purchased and any money sent to the alleged buyer.

The third variation is the mystery shopper scam. In this case, the recipient is mailed an unsolicited offer to become a mystery shopper. The recipient is sent an official-looking check for a large sum of money which the seller is told is to be used to make mystery purchases. The recipient is told to keep part of the money for a salary and to wire the excess back to the sender. Later, the check bounces and the recipient is out the amount wired to the scammer and the amount of any purchases which cannot be returned for a refund.

Press Release

Re: Counterfeit and Stolen Check Scams

May 30, 2007

Page 2

In each case, the recipient is sent an official-looking check, usually in the amount of several thousand dollars, and in each case the recipient is instructed to wire money back to the sender or the sender's agent. This is the best identification that the recipient is the target of a scam.

The Nevada Consumer Advocate warns Nevada citizens to never wire money to anyone who is not personally known to the sender. Scammers use wire transfers, usually via Western Union or MoneyGram, because those transfers cannot be traced. The person picking up the money for the scam is many times just someone hired to pick up the money and transfer it to someone else. Money sent by wire transfer cannot be traced or refunded and, if sent out of the country, cannot be retrieved. In almost all of the cases referred to the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, the payee listed on the check does not match the name of the so-called lottery, sweepstakes or mystery shopping service. This is a quick indication that the checks are probably stolen.

Before cashing a lottery, sweepstakes or mystery shopper check, call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection first. Whenever receiving a prize notice for a foreign lottery or sweepstakes or from a sweepstakes or contest the recipient has never heard of, call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection first. If the intended victim calls the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection before cashing the check and sending money by wire transfer, there is a chance to protect the intended victim.

The intended victim can be warned of the scam ahead of time and can be warned that any money sent by Western Union or MoneyGram is not recoverable. After money is wired out, there is little the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection can do to help the victim, since the wired money is untraceable, especially if it is wired out of the country.

For more information on how you can help prevent such scams or to respond to 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) 486-3194 in southern Nevada.

###



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: MAY 31, 2007

CONTACT: Gianna Orlandi, 702 486-3782

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CHOICEPOINT

Carson City, Nevada – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, along with the attorneys general of 43 other states, announced a settlement with ChoicePoint to resolve allegations that the company failed to adequately maintain the privacy and security of consumers' personally identifiable information that was in its control.

ChoicePoint is a provider of identification and credential verification services to businesses, government and non-profit organizations. ChoicePoint, among other things, collects, maintains, and distributes consumers' personally identifiable information. In February 2005, ChoicePoint announced that criminals posing as legitimate businesses gained access to consumers' personally identifiable information. In the wake of these crimes, ChoicePoint, using the California breach notification law as a guide, mailed more than 145,000 notices to consumers across the country whose information may have been viewed or acquired by the criminals.

As a result of this settlement, ChoicePoint agrees to make significant, ongoing changes in the way that the company credentials new customers who have access to personally identifiable information.

“With the rising number of cases of identity theft, those companies who profit from selling private identifying information have a high duty to assure that such personal identifying information is not made available to those who would use such information to steal or defraud Nevada residents,” said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

In January 2006, ChoicePoint settled its case with the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), and paid \$10 million in penalties and \$5 million in consumer redress. Consumer redress pursuant to the FTC Order is available for out-of-pocket expenses for identity theft that resulted from the ChoicePoint breach. The deadline to submit a redress claim form to the FTC is June 22, 2007. If consumers meet the eligibility requirements for redress, they can complete the redress form and submit that for consideration. More information is available at:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/cases/choicepoint/index.shtm>.

Examples of expenses for which consumers may be reimbursed:

- Unauthorized charges on existing accounts NOT covered by bank or credit card company
- Money paid on new accounts opened in consumer's name
- Money paid to a debt collector on new accounts opened in consumer's name
- Cost of ordering new checks
- Cost to file or receive copy of police report
- Notary fees
- Costs associated with correcting unauthorized charges and/or disputing incorrect information – telephone calls; mail, fax, photocopy charges; hourly fees for internet access; travel expenses.

Joining Nevada in today's settlement are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 6, 2007

CONTACT: John P. Kelleher
Senior Deputy Attorney General
(702) 486-3130

DEFENDANT PLEADS NO CONTEST IN SECURITIES FRAUD SCAM PREYING ON THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN STATES

LAS VEGAS -- Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Dree Ward has pled "no contest" to one felony count of selling unregistered securities in a securities fraud scam targeting primarily senior citizens throughout Nevada. A no contest plea has the same legal effect as a plea of guilty to criminal charges but the plea cannot be used against the defendant to prove civil liability. Ward has also agreed to pay \$110,000 in restitution to victims.

An investigation by the Secretary of State's Securities Division revealed that Ward and other individuals organized and established a bogus joint venture investment program entitled "The Neutral Trade Organization," which promised investors they would earn profits from shares in 300 trade centers that would be built in 50 different countries throughout the world.

Between February 2000 and December of 2003, Ward and others sold unregistered securities to numerous victims throughout the Western states, most of whom were senior citizens. The elderly victims collectively invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the scheme based on fraudulent representations made by Ward and other defendants. None of the trade centers were ever built and the defendants used the bulk of the investment money for personal expenses, including investments in race cars, travel, and gym memberships; all without the knowledge of the elderly victims.

The count to which Ward has pled also includes an enhanced penalty due to the victims ages being over 60 at the time of the purchase of the investment, which means in addition to the minimum prison term for each count, the defendant must serve an additional equal term to run consecutively if sentenced to serve jail time.

Ward was the fourth and final defendant prosecuted in this scam by the Nevada Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection and wraps up a four year investigation and prosecution into the activities of the "Neutral Trade Organization" investment scheme. The Nevada Attorney General's office successfully obtained 10 total felony convictions and restitution orders and fines in excess of \$800,000 between the named Defendants.

“We will continue to aggressively prosecute people who violate the Securities laws in Nevada, which violations are particularly egregious when the targeted victims are primarily senior citizens...” said Senior Deputy Attorney General John P. Kelleher, who prosecuted the case along with Deputy Attorney General Robert Giunta.

Nevada Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski advises Nevadans to be suspicious of investment opportunities that do not provide sufficient information about the investment. 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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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday, June 8, 2007

CONTACT: Robert Giunta (702) 486-3199 direct
(702) 486-3194 main

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH PRO BOWL TICKET SCAM

Las Vegas, NV— Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the arrest of **Mitchell Adam Chirchick, 39, of Las Vegas**, in connection with an alleged scheme involving the sale of bogus travel packages to the NFL's 2007 Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Chirchick was arrested and charged with nine (9) counts of felony theft and one (1) count of racketeering. The case was filed by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, who alleges that Chirchick, through his company, **CEI, d.b.a. Crosseyed Enterprises, Inc.**, solicited hundreds of victims to purchase the Pro Bowl travel packages, which included round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, and tickets to the game. The first sign of a problem for most came when they arrived at the airport the day of the scheduled departure to Hawaii and found out the flights had never been booked.

The investigation into Chirchick's activities, which was conducted jointly by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection and the Nevada Consumer Affairs Division, revealed that the money paid by the victims did not go toward the purchase of airfare, lodging or game tickets. Instead, Chirchick diverted the funds for his personal use, including the purchase of a new home and the installation of a swimming pool. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of \$190,521.39 from a company bank account.

"We intend to prosecute Mr. Chirchick's illegal conduct to the fullest extent of the law and recover as much money for people as we can," said Masto. Chirchick had previously been prosecuted in Federal court in Minnesota for a similar scheme.

Consumers who purchased a Pro Bowl travel package from Mitchell Adam Chirchick or CEI who have not obtained a refund from any other source are asked to contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3194 to obtain a complaint form. Consumers with internet access may also obtain a Consumer Complaint Form, as well as other consumer protection and contact information, on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 8, 2007

CONTACT: John McGlamery
Deputy Attorney General
(775) 684-1169

OWNERS OF SIERRA PERFORMANCE AND MACHINE PLEAD GUILTY TO FIVE COUNTS OF VIOLATING DECEPTIVE TRADE LAWS

CARSON CITY -- Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Mark Dagher (father) and Mark Joseph Dagher (son), owners of Sierra Performance and Machine of Reno, pled guilty to five misdemeanor criminal counts of engaging in deceptive trade practices, including: 1) Bait and Switch: accepting a deposit for the sale of services and subsequently switching the purchase order for higher priced goods or services; 2) Failing to make delivery of goods or services for sale or lease within a reasonable time; 3) Failing to disclose a material fact in connection with the sale or lease of goods or services; 4) Use of coercion in the sale of goods or services; and 5) Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the price of goods or services for sale or lease. Reno Justice Court imposed on each defendant a 10-day suspended jail sentence and a fine of \$1,000. The Daghers have also agreed to pay \$4,300 in restitution to three victims.

The conviction resulted from an investigation by the Bureau of Consumer Protection, with assistance from the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Better Business Bureau and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Daghers operated Sierra Performance and Machine, an automobile repair facility located at 1196 Telegraph Street in Reno, Nevada. The Daghers advertised primarily in the Big Nickel newspaper for vehicle engine rebuilds at a cost of \$1,500 to \$2000, with a 3-year warranty. The investigation determined that during the period May 2006 through February 2007, the Daghers required customers to make non-refundable advance cash payments of at least 50 percent of the estimated repair costs. After obtaining customers' vehicles, the Daghers would "discover" costly additional work was needed and demand customers pay, or the engines would not be rebuilt. To encourage agreement, the Daghers would remove the vehicles' engines and even prevent customers from hauling their engines and cars away. The Daghers held some customers' vehicles hostage for periods in excess of 2 years.

Over a period of 4 years, the Department of Motor Vehicles received 56 complaints regarding businesses operated by the Daghers, including Sierra Performance and Machine, Sierra Performance 4X4, and Western Auto 4X4. Deputy Attorney General John McGlamery, who prosecuted the case, said, "We will continue to aggressively prosecute people who violate Nevada's Deceptive Trade laws."

Nevada Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski advises Nevadans to obtain more than one estimate on major auto repairs and to be suspicious of vehicle repair advertisement offers that are significantly low. In addition, consumers should always check with the Better Business Bureau when considering using businesses they have not previously used. Individuals who would like more information about deceptive trade laws and automotive repair scams should contact the Department of Business and Industry, Consumer Affairs Division at (775) 688-1800, or the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1168. Additional consumer protection information can be found on the Attorney General's web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 12, 2007

CONTACT: Brian Armstrong
Senior Deputy Attorney General
(702) 486-3269

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH OVCON DRUG MAKER WARNER CHILCOTT

Las Vegas, Nevada – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today announced a settlement with Warner Chilcott, the brand name drug maker of the popular oral contraceptive Ovcon. The settlement stems from an antitrust law enforcement action filed by Nevada and 34 other states against Warner Chilcott and Barr Pharmaceuticals. The action alleged the two companies made an agreement to prevent the entry of Barr's generic version of Ovcon into the marketplace. The action against the Companies was pursued to stop the alleged conduct and allow Barr to market its generic version of Ovcon.

"Such agreements between competitors deprive consumers of lower price choices," said Masto. "This is particularly a problem when necessary prescription drugs are involved."

Nevada and other states filed the lawsuit in 2005 in federal court in the District of Columbia, seeking civil penalties and injunctive relief. During the litigation, Warner Chilcott abandoned the allocation agreement with Barr that prevented Barr from selling its generic version of Ovcon. Warner Chilcott is paying \$5.5 million to the states, and is agreeing not to engage in similar conduct in the future. The lawsuit against Barr continues to move forward.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday June 15, 2007

CONTACT: Don Winne (775) 684-1137
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

“UPBEAT” PARENTS RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORTING 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 non-custodial parents who take their parenting responsibilities seriously by providing for their children through support payments. As in years past, it is important to publicize the fact that many absentee parents do meet their child support obligations.

“I want to express my deep appreciation to those non-custodial parents who strive to stay both financially and emotionally connected with their children,” Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto said. “Children need all the support their parents can give even though they live in different households. By continuing to take an active role in their child's life, these parents are building a lifetime of self confidence their children need in this world.”

Lyon County resident Justin Hanson said, “Your children are the most important thing in your life. No one can teach them the things they need to know like you can. Your obligation to them doesn't stop with your marriage. Child support is the least you can do.”

Terry Farmer, a resident of Louisiana, stated, “It is important for a child to have both parents in their lives. It helps the child to grow up healthy and to be a vibrant part of the community. Even from 2000 miles away I stay a vital part of my son's life.”

A brochure entitled, “**Tips for Collecting Child Support: Working With the Child Support Enforcement Program**,” is available from the Attorney General's Office. The brochure offers advice on how to collect child support, explains how child support is enforced in Nevada, and outlines who is eligible to receive child support. Spanish language copies of this brochure are also available. To obtain a copy, call the Attorney General's Office in Carson City at (775) 684-1100 or call the Child Support Enforcement Help Line at 1-800-992-0900; Las Vegas at (702) 486-1646; in the Reno, Carson City area at (775) 684-7200.

--more--

The following 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.**

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORTING FATHERS

Elko County:

1. Jason Pengelly Wells	3. Shawn Doyle
2. Derk Bawcom Spring Creek	

Lyon County:

1. Matthew Leatham	3 Justin Hanson Fernley
2. Kenneth Howell	4 Terry Farmer

Humboldt County:

1. Louise Michelle Mathews	2 Chari Duran
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Churchill County:

1. Nick Campbell Silver Springs	3. John Smiley
2. Alan Jones Carlin	

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday July 2, 2007

CONTACT: Ronda Clifton (775) 688-1835
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(cell) (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

INCLINE VILLAGE AUTO BODY SHOP OWNER SENTENCED IN FRAUD SCAM

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the sentencing of Richard Johnson of Incline Village on charges of insurance fraud. Johnson is the owner of Ritch's Body Shop in Incline Village.

Johnson pled guilty on Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud charges after the Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Unit conducted an undercover investigation of the business with the help of Farmer's Insurance. The Unit had received information that Johnson was charging his clients' insurance companies for new parts and not placing new parts on the vehicles but rather fixing the old parts. The undercover investigation revealed that he was, in fact, billing for new parts and only repairing the old parts.

On June 28, 2007, Judge Janet Berry in the Second Judicial District Court sentenced Johnson to one year in prison, but suspended the sentence and gave Johnson probation for the one year term. Johnson was also ordered to pay \$16,000 in restitution and investigative costs.

"Insurance fraud is one of the costliest white-collar crimes in the United States, ranking second only to tax evasion," said Attorney General Masto. "The cost of this crime is passed onto citizens in the form of the increased costs to purchase and maintain insurance coverage."

The Insurance Fraud Unit within Nevada Attorney General's Office actively investigates and prosecutes cases of insurance fraud across the state. Contrary to popular opinion, insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. If you or someone you know have information regarding a suspected instance of insurance fraud, call the Nevada Attorney General's Fraud Hotline at: 1-800-266-8688. Complaint forms and more information on the Insurance Fraud Unit are available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday July 2, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Susan Stewart at 684-1256
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION BY INMATE UPHELD ***Inmate Who Broke Another Inmate's Jaw and Teeth Required To Pay Medical Costs***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that a federal court has found that Inmate Wess Dease's complaints about having to pay restitution to the Nevada Department of Corrections for medical costs it paid for treatment of an inmate that Inmate Dease assaulted were without merit. Inmate Dease assaulted another inmate in 2003, was found Guilty of fighting by the Prison Disciplinary Committee and ordered to pay medical costs restitution. Inmate Dease filed a federal lawsuit in 2005 against multiple Nevada Department of Corrections Defendants including a prison doctor alleging violations of the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and Fourteenth Amendment due process violations.

Deputy Attorney General Susan Stewart defended the lawsuit and successfully argued the lack of personal participation by the prison doctor in the assessment of restitution and the proper procedure and documentation done by the other Nevada Department of Corrections Defendants. Thus the medical costs restitution of over \$14,000 was deemed proper and owed by Inmate Dease.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. More information is available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 3, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Melanie Porter at 684-1257
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

INMATE DECLARED VEXATIOUS LITIGANT
Inmate Who Inundated Court With Frivolous and Unnecessary Motions
Sanctioned By Federal Court

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that a federal court has found Inmate Richard Deeds to be vexatious in having filed approximately fifty-three (53) frivolous or unnecessary motions in one of his multiple lawsuits against the Nevada Department of Corrections. The Court's Order noted that the Court had counseled Inmate Deeds on several occasions concerning the filing of such motions and admonished him to refrain from making personal attacks on Corrections Defendants and their counsel via motion practice. The Court ordered that any further motions by Inmate Deeds will be reviewed prior to filing by the Court Clerk and if found to have no basis in law they will be not filed and returned. In addition, the Court ordered Inmate Deeds to pay One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to the Prison Law Library Fund.

Deputy Attorney General Melanie Porter, who is defense counsel, sought vexatious litigant status and sanctions against Inmate Deeds.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to seek vexatious litigant status for and sanctions against inmates who file frivolous or unnecessary motions causing the wasting of taxpayer dollars to defend against such motions. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 3, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Melanie Porter at 684-1257
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CHARGES INMATE WITH
WASTING TAXPAYER DOLLARS**
Inmate's Meritless, Redundant and Extraneous Motions
Cost Expenditure Of Taxpayer Dollars To Defend

Carson City, NV – Inmate L. Seville Parks has already been declared a vexatious litigant in at least five different lawsuits he has filed against the Nevada Department of Corrections. He has been declared a vexatious litigant again. The federal court in one of Inmate Parks' current multiple lawsuits against the Department of Corrections found his court filings to be "scurrilous and oppressive as plainly evidenced by the sheer number of them, the rapid succession in which they have been filed and the numerous overlapping allegations." The federal court found that the "abusive filings threaten the orderly administration of business in this court" and "it is clear Parks' numerous motions and filings are designed to annoy and harass the opposing party and to use this court as a sounding board for Parks' petty grievances." The federal court ordered the Clerk to not file any more of Inmate Parks' motions in the current case until reviewed by the federal court and warned that further frivolous submissions could lead to dismissal of the current lawsuit.

Deputy Attorney General Melanie Porter, who is defense counsel, sought vexatious litigant status and sanctions against Inmate Parks because it costs taxpayers' dollars to defend against his court filings.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to seek vexatious litigant status for and sanctions against inmates who file meritless, redundant and extraneous motions causing the wasting of taxpayer dollars to defend against such motions. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 3, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Embry or
Mika Greathouse (702) 486-3403
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

Nevada Senior Medicare Patrol Launches New Outreach Effort

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the launch of a new outreach effort on behalf of the Nevada Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). Beginning on July 1st, the Nevada SMP, in coordination with the Nevada Broadcasters Association, began airing public service announcements featuring the Attorney General on radio stations across the state. The spots are aimed at educating Nevadans to identify and report potential Medicare abuse, which may include fraud, waste or errors. The PSAs also focus on how to join the SMP's volunteer efforts. The radio spots will run through the end of September 2007.

"The Nevada SMP is the only program nationwide that is located in a law enforcement agency. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to support the Administration on Aging and other law enforcement agencies in reducing errors to the Medicare system," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "I am proud of the record of this program in my office and am confident their new outreach efforts will be more effective than ever."

The Nevada SMP, formerly known as the Senior Nevada Advocates on Guard, recently changed its name to more accurately reflect the focus of the program. The program works to limit the amount of abuse that occurs in the Medicare system. The SMP title has been adopted by all programs nationwide for easier recognition.

"We operate by building partnerships with the Division of Aging Services, Family Resource Centers and other senior service provider groups," said Jo Ann Embry, Nevada SMP Program Director. "Our message is conveyed through the media, community outreach events, one on one counseling and literature distribution."

The program's primary focus is the recruitment and utilization of retired senior professionals, who are trained to help others identify Medicare abuse. Signs of abuse might be double billing, billed for services that were not received or providing your Medicare number for a "free" service, etc.

The Nevada SMP is federally funded through a grant from the Administration on Aging and operates out of the Nevada Attorney General's Office. The program started in 1999. If interested in a presentation, volunteering or with questions regarding Medicare fraud, waste and abuse please contact Mika Greathouse at: **702-486-3403**, or the statewide toll-free number at **888-838-7305**. For more information on how the Nevada Attorney General's Office assists seniors or to listen to the Nevada Senior Medicare Patrol PSAs go to the Attorney General's Office website at: www.ag.state.nv.us

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 3, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Susan Stewart at (775) 684-1256
DAG Jill Davis at (702) 486-2625
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

TWO LAWSUITS DISMISSED AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that the Department of Corrections has been dismissed from two different lawsuits filed in different courts.

Judge William Maddox of the First Judicial District Court has dismissed Inmate James Wicker's Medical Negligence lawsuit against the Nevada Department of Corrections. Inmate Wicker alleged Medical Negligence in failure to provide medical care, negligent diagnosis and examination, failure to provide medication, and fraud and malice against the Nevada Department of Corrections and its medical doctors.

Deputy Attorney General Susan Stewart established Inmate Wicker failed to provide a medical affidavit in compliance with NRS 41A.071 and had never been denied medical treatment based on indigence. Inmate Wicker failed to respond to the evidence Deputy Attorney General Stewart marshaled and Judge Maddox granted a Motion To Dismiss.

In a different case, Inmate Stephen A. Szczepanik has also agreed to dismiss his federal lawsuit against the Nevada Department of Corrections. Inmate Szczepanik alleged that the Department of Corrections discriminated against him because of his physical and mental disabilities and improperly held him in administrative segregation.

Deputy Attorney General Jill Davis's defense of the Department of Corrections revealed that the Department had not discriminated against Inmate Szczepanik and that his segregation status was due to his own bad behavior. After a settlement conference with the federal court, Inmate Szczepanik agreed to dismiss his lawsuit.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. More information is available on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 3, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Alicia Lerud at 775-684-1259
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT UPHOLDS SMOKING BAN AT LOVELOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTER ***Inmate Sought Ability To Smoke Cigarettes In His Cell***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that Judge John Iroz of the Sixth Judicial District Court has denied Inmate Jason Miguel Garcia's Petition For Writ of Prohibition; Alternate Writ of Mandamus in which Inmate Garcia sought the ability to smoke cigarettes in his cell at the Lovelock Correctional Center, Lovelock, Nevada.

Deputy Attorney General Alicia Lerud cited the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act and the Nevada Department of Correction's revisions of its administrative regulations to comply therewith. Judge Iroz noted that federal cases have consistently held that inmates have no constitutional right to smoke in prison, found that Correction's smoking regulations were Constitutional and Inmate "Garcia's claim entirely lacks merit."

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. More information is available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 9, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Kristen Geddes at 684-1260
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

INMATE'S LAWSUIT FOR \$40,000 DISMISSED ***Inmate Claims Corrections Failed To Provide Dental Care***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that a federal court has dismissed a former inmate's \$40,000 lawsuit against the Nevada Department of Corrections. This lawsuit filed while Troy Payne was an inmate and pursued after his release alleged failure to provide dental care at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center.

Deputy Attorney General Kristen Geddes defended the lawsuit and established the true facts that Payne's teeth were in poor condition prior to his incarceration due to lack of care, that he was never denied care while incarcerated and in fact was treated on multiple occasions. In the face of the evidence presented to the federal court, Payne failed to respond to the evidence presented and the federal court dismissed Payne's lawsuit.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 9, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Susan Stewart at 684-1256
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

PRISON LITIGATION REFORM ACT AFFIRMED

Inmate Who Failed To Exhaust His Administrative Remedies Has Lawsuit Dismissed

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that a federal court has dismissed the lawsuit of Inmate Kris K. McSorley against the Nevada Department of Corrections. Inmate McSorley alleged violation of his Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights when the prison Defendants allegedly failed to properly diagnose and treat a his painful and debilitating back condition. This alleged occurred at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center and at Lovelock Correctional Center.

Deputy Attorney General Susan Stewart defended the lawsuit and properly identified the threshold issue of and established Inmate McSorley having failed to exhaust his administrative remedies as required by the Prison Litigation Reform Act. The Prison Litigation Reform Act passed by Congress in 1996 put into place several requirements which inhibit the filing of frivolous or meritless lawsuits while still allowing inmates access to the court. In this case, Inmate McSorley failed to use the inmate grievance procedure to give Corrections notice of his complaints and surprised Corrections by filing his federal lawsuit. Accordingly, the federal court granted the prison Defendants' Motion For Summary Judgment.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada and require inmates to follow the proper inmate grievance procedures. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday July 11, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH AOL

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today announced a settlement with AOL, one of the nation's largest Internet service providers, requiring the company to make significant changes in honoring consumer cancellation requests and further ordering refunds for consumers.

The settlement, which was filed by Nevada and 47 other states as well as the District of Columbia, resolves consumer complaints about difficulty and confusion in attempting to cancel certain paid services AOL provides. AOL formerly limited the methods available for consumers to cancel their accounts, such that the majority of consumers attempted to cancel by directly calling AOL. Customer service representatives received incentives for retaining or "saving" customers in lieu of cancellation, and consumers complained that as a result, cancellation was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Today's agreement puts strict limitations on this practice and requires recording and verification of these telephone calls. In addition, the agreement expands consumers' options by allowing them to cancel through a simple on-line method via the website at <http://cancel.aol.com>.

The agreement also requires AOL to make broad refunds to consumers who have complained of unauthorized charges for AOL service. In addition to resolving any outstanding complaints, the company will adopt an ongoing process of refunding consumers for unauthorized charges, and will continue to cooperate with the states in these efforts.

Today's settlement also addresses a number of other billing practices that created consumer confusion. Specifically, AOL will revise its disclosures regarding reactivation of terminated accounts as well as its disclosures relating to accounts billed directly to a consumer's monthly telephone bill. AOL will also significantly revise its practice of allowing consumers to create "spin off" accounts - which are additional paid accounts for AOL service stemming from one original membership. These accounts can now only be created over the phone in a recorded conversation with a customer service agent, who must make detailed disclosures of the applicable costs.

AOL recently announced that it would begin limiting its role as an Internet access provider, allowing its customers to convert to free e-mail accounts. The terms of today's agreement should minimize the potential for consumer confusion during this transition.

The settlement further requires AOL to reimburse the states a total of \$3,000,000. Nevada will receive \$45,000 as its share of the settlement.

The other participants in today's settlement are the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, the Commonwealths of Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday July 12, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

Attorney General Masto says 3,317 Nevada Consumers are Eligible for over \$1.6 Million in Ameriquest Restitution

Claim forms are going to eligible consumers, who must submit claims by September 10, 2007.

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto said today that 3,317 Nevada consumers are eligible for \$ 1,660,901.84 in restitution from Ameriquest Mortgage Company and its related companies as part of a \$325 million national settlement of a predatory lending lawsuit against the company.

AG Masto said her office and Mortgage Commissioner Scott Bice began sending letters and claim forms to eligible Nevada consumers during the week of July 9, 2007. To participate in the settlement and receive restitution, consumers must mail completed and signed forms to the settlement administrator by September 10, 2007.

The forms mailed to each consumer will indicate the minimum payment the consumer can expect to receive. However, the exact amount could be larger, depending on how many eligible Nevada consumers decide to participate in the settlement.

AG Masto encouraged consumers to study the claim forms and information and reply as soon as possible.

Consumers who opt to receive the restitution payments relinquish their right to file lawsuits against Ameriquest related to the loans covered by the settlement. Therefore, consumers are encouraged to consult with a private attorney or, if they qualify, a legal services attorney before deciding whether to participate in the settlement. However, consumers who participate in the settlement do not give up any claim they may otherwise raise if their home goes into foreclosure.

Under the settlement, over 481,000 borrowers who were customers of Ameriquest Mortgage Company, Town and Country Credit Corporation, and AMC Mortgage Services,

Inc. (formerly known as Bedford Home Loans) between January 1, 1999, and December 31, 2005, are eligible to receive the restitution payments. Restitution payments nationwide are expected to total over \$300 million.

Attorney General Mastro noted that a pamphlet of "Frequently Asked Questions" was mailed with the claim form and provides additional information about the restitution process for eligible consumers.

Consumers can also obtain detailed information about the settlement and their eligibility for restitution by going to the Settlement Administrator's web site:

www.ameriquestmultistatesettlement.com. Consumers also may contact the Settlement Administrator at 800-420-5875. (Hearing-impaired persons may call 866-494-8274.)

The settlement resolves allegations by the Attorneys General and banking and finance regulators of the District of Columbia and every state except Virginia (where Ameriquest did not do business) that Ameriquest and its affiliates, among other things, misrepresented and did not adequately disclose the terms of home loans, such as whether a loan carried a fixed or an adjustable rate; charged excessive loan origination fees and prepayment penalties; refinanced borrowers into improper or inappropriate loans; and improperly inflated appraisals used to qualify borrowers for loans.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 16, 2007

CONTACT: Senior DAG Janet Traut at 775-684-1254
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

**LAWSUIT BY CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS
AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DISMISSED**
***Former and Current Correctional Officers Had
Alleged Retaliation and Hostile Work Environment***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that former Correctional Officer Randy White and current Correctional Officer Kevin Duyn's lawsuit against the Nevada Department of Corrections has been dismissed by the federal court. White and Duyn filed their lawsuit alleging wrongful discharge of White, civil rights violations by retaliating for exercising free speech rights in complaining about payroll policies, due process violations regarding holiday pay and a hostile work environment.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Janet Traut's defense of the Department of Corrections revealed that the investigation and resignation of White was a result of his clear violation of prison policy by bringing his cell phone to work and a security violation rather than retaliation for complaining about payroll policies. The federal court rejected the plaintiffs' argument that payroll policies are a matter of public concern subject to free speech protection. The federal court also found no due process violations and that Duyn completely failed to establish that a hostile work environment existed.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 24, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Melanie Porter at 684-1257
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

JUDGE JAMES RUSSELL DISMISSES LAWSUIT AGAINST FORMER GOVERNOR GUINN ***Lawsuit also dismissed against former*** ***Department of Corrections Director Jackie Crawford***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that a State District Court Judge James Russell has dismissed a lawsuit filed by an inmate against former Governor Kenny Quinn and former Nevada Department of Corrections Director Jackie Crawford. Inmate John Steven Olausen alleged that Guinn and Crawford violated multiple of his Constitutional rights in connection with a hearing before the Pardons Board on December 12, 2003. The Complaint alleged improper transmission of Department of Corrections disciplinary records to the Pardons Board and consideration of those records by the Pardons Board including Governor Guinn. However, Judge Russell ruled the right to due process arises only where a party has a constitutionally protected interest, a prisoner has no right to clemency and no liberty interest or expectation that his sentence will be commuted, Pardons Board decisions are not subject to judicial review and Pardons Board officials and witnesses are entitled to absolute immunity.

Deputy Attorney General Melanie Porter successfully sought the dismissal of the lawsuit on behalf of Guinn and Crawford.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Governor's Office and the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate civil rights lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to vigorously defend the Governor's Office and the Nevada Department of Corrections and the State of Nevada against lawsuits with no merit. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 27, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Alicia Lerud at 775-684-1259
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

FEDERAL COURT AGAIN UPHOLDS APPLICABILITY OF PRISON LITIGATION REFORM ACT ***Inmate Failed To Exhaust His Administrative Remedies***

Carson City, NV – The Attorney General's Office announces that the Federal Court has again upheld the applicability of the Prison Litigation Reform Act. Inmate Kenner filed a lawsuit against multiple Nevada Department of Corrections Defendants alleging they violated multiple of his Constitutional rights in denying him due process, allegedly housing him with a cigarette-smoking cellmate, and in discriminating against him on the basis of race. He also alleged retaliation for attempting to seek redress of his grievances. Alicia and Darcy established that Kenner failed to comply with the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act by failing to exhaust his administrative remedy of the inmate grievance procedure.

Deputy Attorney General Alicia Lerud established that Inmate Kenner failed to comply with the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act by failing to exhaust his administrative remedy of the inmate grievance procedure. Administrative exhaustion serves the twin purposes of protecting administrative agency authority and promoting judicial efficiency. Agencies responsible for enforcing rules and procedures should have the opportunity to correct its own mistakes with respect to the programs it administers before it is hauled into court. Filing grievances alerts the institution to inmate concerns and unlawful conduct within the institution so that the institution may properly address those issues. Armed with this knowledge, the institution can work to provide a safer environment for its staff and inmates. Institutional grievance procedures allow the institution to define the institution's rules, policies, and procedures for inmates and staff members as well as correct any mistakes made by staff members in implementing such rules, policies, and procedures.

The courts benefit from a system that requires inmates to attempt to resolve their grievances before filing suit. Institutions that are able to resolve inmate grievances internally will result in fewer inmate cases taxing a system already overburdened by the increase in prison and non-prison litigation. The administrative grievance process often assists the courts in evaluating prisoner complaints by clarifying the nature of the prisoner's claim.

Inmates also benefit from utilizing the institutional grievance process. By availing themselves of institutional grievance procedures, inmates learn about the institution's rules, policies and

procedures. Inmates are also able to alert officials to problems and potentially unlawful conduct within the institution.

The Litigation Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office defends the Nevada Department of Corrections in inmate lawsuits. Chief Solicitor General Daniel Wong, in charge of the Litigation Division, asserted that the Litigation Division will continue to require that inmates comply with the Prison Litigation Reform Act. The Attorney General's Office has a website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday July 30, 2007

CONTACT: Brett Kandt (775) 688-1966
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

WASHOE CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY NAMED 2007 WILLIAM J. RAGGIO AWARD RECIPIENT

Carson City, NV -- Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys have named Washoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney Kristin L. Erickson as recipient of the William J. Raggio Award for 2007. 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.

Ms. Erickson is being recognized for her steadfast dedication, unselfish efforts and hard work on behalf of prosecutors at the Nevada State Legislature, which have significantly improved the effectiveness of law enforcement in the criminal justice system.

"Congratulations to Kristin Erickson on receiving this award," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "The honor is a testimony to her hard work and dedication to the Washoe County District Attorney's Office as well as to her state and local community."

Ms. Erickson started her career with the Washoe County District Attorney's Office in 1992. Her involvement in the agency includes serving as a representative for the Repeat Offender Program, Secret Witness Board, Weed and Seed program, and the Washoe County Sheriffs Honorary Deputies Association. While her current position gives her responsibility for the training and mentoring of all new prosecutors, she has also served as the agency's legislative liaison for the last three sessions of the Nevada State Legislature.

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, Melvyn T. Harmon in 2004, Howard D. McKibben in 2005, and Noel Waters in 2006. Frankie Sue Del Papa and Stewart Bell were co-recipients of the award in 2002.

The Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys 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 Masto serves as chairwoman for the Advisory Council.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday July 30, 2007

CONTACT: Vic Schulze (702) 486-3110
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

INVESTIGATORS RETURN FROM AUSTRALIA WITH ACCUSED CHILD ABDUCTOR

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that investigators from the Nevada Missing Children's Clearinghouse, a unit of the Office of the Attorney General, and the United States Marshall's Office have returned from an extradition trip to Sydney, Australia with accused child abductor Hae Kyung Shugarman. The Accused is charged with fleeing the country after allegedly abducting her child from the legal custody of her former husband, Jeremy Shugarman. She remained a fugitive from justice for three years while moving from location to location in Asia.

Judge William Jansen, Las Vegas Justice Court, signed an arrest warrant on July 30, 2004 against Hae Kyung Shugarman on felony charges of Detaining, Concealing, or Removing a Child in violation of a court order. Prior to the arrest warrant being issued, the Clark County Family Court issued an Order granting the father of the child primary physical custody, and the Accused rights to visitation.

It is alleged that six days after the Accused picked up the child for her first visitation under the court's order, she took the child and fled to South Korea. The Family Court found Shugarman in contempt of court for alleged abduction of the child. She subsequently left South Korea and made her way to Australia with the abducted child where she was located by authorities as a wanted person in the United States.

"The Office of the Attorney General views cases of child abductions as among the most serious of criminal cases," said Attorney General Masto. "When parents usurp the authority of the courts by ignoring and violating legally-valid orders, and abducting their children, it is the children who are the primary victims, as they suffer the most harm. The facts alleged in this case are among the most egregious this office have seen in the past ten years."

Through the assistance of the United States Department of State and the United States Marshall's Office under international extradition treaties, extradition proceedings were commenced in Australia. On June 19, 2007, the Australian Minister for Justice and Customs, Hon. David Albert Lloyd Johnston, ordered that the Defendant be surrendered to the custody of the United States Marshall's Office for transportation back to the United States for trial proceedings.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tues., July 31, 2007

CONTACT: Kathleen Delaney (702) 486-3788 direct
(702) 486-3194 main

ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPANDS CASE AGAINST PURRFECT AUTO SERVICE FRANCHISES

Las Vegas, NV — The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection today filed an Amended Complaint for Injunction and Other Equitable Relief ("Amended Complaint"), which significantly expands its case against multiple Purrfect Auto Service franchise locations and alleges that they are under the control of one man, **Shafik Hirji**, of Las Vegas.

The Amended Complaint names a total of eighteen (18) individual and corporate defendants, including Hirji, in an alleged scheme to sell unnecessary repairs and charge for parts and services never provided at eleven (11) Purrfect Auto Service locations throughout the Las Vegas valley. Specific locations named in the Amended Complaint are:

Purrfect Auto Service #36 at 3101 N. Rancho Dr., Suite 101, Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #37 at 5140 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #47 at 1910 Rock Springs Dr., Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #72 at 3540 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite A-400, Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #108 at 5035 S. Decatur Blvd., Suite 140, Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #111 at 2050 E. Craig Rd., North Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #112 at 10050 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 101, Henderson;
Purrfect Auto Service #113 at 3685 N. Lamb Blvd., Suite 100, Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #119 at 2403 N. Las Vegas Blvd., Suite A, North Las Vegas;
Purrfect Auto Service #121 at 3190 E. Sunset Road, Unit A, Las Vegas; and
Purrfect Auto Service #263 at 7501 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas.

The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection is seeking a court order to permanently suspend each Defendant's privilege to conduct an auto repair business in Nevada, civil penalties up to \$5,000 for each violation, restitution for consumers and other appropriate equitable relief.

Consumers who wish to file complaints concerning their transactions with a Purrfect Auto Service location may contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3194 to obtain a complaint form. Consumers with internet access may also obtain a Consumer Complaint Form, as well as other consumer protection and contact information, on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 31, 1007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(cell) (775) 230-3360
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

NEW LAW ADDRESSING MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE GOES INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1, 2007

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that a new law addressing the manufacture of methamphetamine in Nevada will go into effect on August 1, 2007. During its 2007 Session, the Nevada State Legislature passed AB 148 which restricts the sale of pharmaceuticals containing precursor materials used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and other controlled substances.

“The changes the Legislature made to the law make it harder for criminals to gain access to the amount of pseudoephedrine they would need to manufacture methamphetamine,” said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

Nevada’s new law changes how many over-the-counter drugs, including pseudoephedrine, are sold. It also adds criminal penalties for certain activities related to the manufacture of methamphetamine.

“This new law gives local law enforcement more authority to go after those who are manufacturing methamphetamine in Nevada,” General Masto added. “It also brings our state up to standard with laws passed recently by the federal government. We’ve already seen a drop in the number of meth lab busts in Nevada since the federal laws went into effect. With the new state laws in place, we should be able to severely limit access to pseudoephedrine used by local illegal meth labs.”

The new statutes:

- Prohibits a person from: (1) selling or transferring in the course of business a product that is a precursor to methamphetamine; or (2) engaging in the business of selling at retail a product that is a precursor to methamphetamine, unless the person is a pharmacy.
- Requires sellers of a product that contains certain materials that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine to keep the product in a locked case or cabinet or behind a store counter so that the public does not have direct access to the product. A pharmacy which violates these provisions is subject to a penalty of not more than \$250,000 for each violation.
- Establishes limits on the quantity of certain chemicals that can be sold to the same person during a calendar day.

- Requires sellers of a product that contains materials that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine to maintain a logbook of sales and transfers of the product and to ensure that certain information is entered in the logbook. Any person who knowingly enters a false statement in a logbook is guilty of a category D felony.
- Requires a pharmacy that becomes aware of any unusual or excessive loss or disappearance of a product that is a precursor to methamphetamine to report the loss or disappearance to the Department of Public Safety.
- Prohibits the possession or disposition of chemical waste or debris resulting from the manufacture of methamphetamine. Violators are subject to a category C felony. Existing law prohibits a person from possessing certain chemicals with the intent to manufacture or compound a controlled substance other than marijuana. This bill adds lithium metal and sodium metal to the list of controlled chemicals.
- Provides that a building or place that was used to unlawfully manufacture a controlled substance is both a private and public nuisance if certain activities relating to the decontamination of the building or place have not occurred within a certain period.
- Provides that a person commits first degree arson if, by knowingly engaging in the manufacture of methamphetamine, the person sets fire to or causes an explosion that damages a dwelling house or personal property that is occupied by one or more persons.

The Nevada Attorney General's Office is dedicated to addressing the issue of methamphetamine use in Nevada. Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto serves as the chairperson for the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use which has been charged with studying the impact of methamphetamine on Nevada's communities. More information on recognizing and fighting methamphetamine and the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use is available on the Attorney General's Office website at: <http://www.ag.state.nv.us/meth/meth.htm>

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday July 31, 2007

CONTACT: Mark Kemberling (702) 486-3420
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

TWO LAS VEGAS GROUP HOME OPERATORS GUILTY OF NEGLECT

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the sentencing of two Las Vegas residents on charges of Elder Neglect. The two separate cases were investigated by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Abuse-Neglect Detail in connection with the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Both cases were prosecuted by the MFCU. Those convicted are Lolita Taqueban, age 57; and Emilie DaMaso, age 48.

Lolita Taqueban was operator of a group home located on 2007 Alta Drive. On October 26, 2006, she went grocery shopping, leaving the group home without a caregiver. While she was out, one of the residents suffered an apparent heart attack. Since no caregiver was present it was left up to the remaining residents and a boarder to call 911 to request emergency assistance and begin CPR.

On July 9, 2007, Ms. Taqueban plead guilty to one count of Elder Neglect, a gross misdemeanor offense with a possible penalty of 1 year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Today, District Court Judge James Bixler sentenced her to 12 months incarceration, suspended; 2 years of probation and over 400 hours of community service.

Emilie DaMaso was operator of a private group home on 4475 East Cleveland Avenue. During March 2004, she accepted an elderly woman as a new resident. Even though Ms. DaMaso had opportunities, she failed to make a thorough inquiry with a physician about the resident's medical needs. It was alleged that the resident needed supplemental care and Ms. DaMaso's failure to quickly confirm the resident's condition complicated the staff's ability to provide adequate care.

On June 5, 2007, Emilie DaMaso plead guilty to one count of Elder Neglect, a gross misdemeanor violation with a potential maximum penalty of 1 year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Today, District Court Judge Valerie Adair sentenced her to 9 months incarceration, suspended; 3 years of probation, \$2,000.00 restitution and over 500 hours of community service.

Neither woman had prior convictions. These crimes will also be reported to state and federal licensing and oversight agencies.

"Thanks to the teamwork of Metro's Abuse-Neglect Detail and the Attorney General's Office, these matters were brought to justice," said Attorney General Cortez Masto. "These convictions serve notice to caregivers in this industry that this office is committed to protecting the elderly from physical abuse and neglect."

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare 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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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 2, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

Nevada Attorney General Urges Consumers to Check Tire Numbers for Potentially Dangerous Tires

Carson City – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto is warning consumers about some potentially dangerous tires. Approximately 450,000 tires were imported to the United States, and as many as 270,000 of these tires may have insufficient or missing “gum strips,” an important part of a tire related to the prevention of tread separation. These tires were sold from 2002 to 2006 for light trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), and vans.

Many of these tires were imported by Foreign Tire Sales (“FTS”), a tire distributor in New Jersey. The tires that FTS has identified as potentially dangerous were made in China by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co. Ltd (“HZ”), and distributed in the United States under these names:

- Westlake
- Compass
- YKS

FTS filed a Non-compliance Report on certain tires with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (“NHTSA”) on June 11, 2007, stating the tires, imported by FTS, may not meet the minimum specifications provided to the tire manufacturer, and may be unsafe. Since that time, FTS has narrowed its position on which tires may be defective. FTS has reported that the following locations in Nevada could have sold the tires in question, but there may be others:

1. Firebird Tire, 3383 Losee Road in North Las Vegas, Nevada;
2. GRC Truck Tire Center, 650 Union Pacific Way in Elko, Nevada.

Other brands manufactured by HZ include Vesta, Goodride, Milestone and Telluride. Consumers should check the sidewalls of their tires for the brand name, size, model, and DOT number. If the DOT number contains “FTS” as part of the number, the tire may be subject to a future recall. Affected tires also will contain a tire size starting with “LT,” as well

as a DOT number that starts with "7D." Further information can be obtained from FTS's web site at www.foreigntire.com

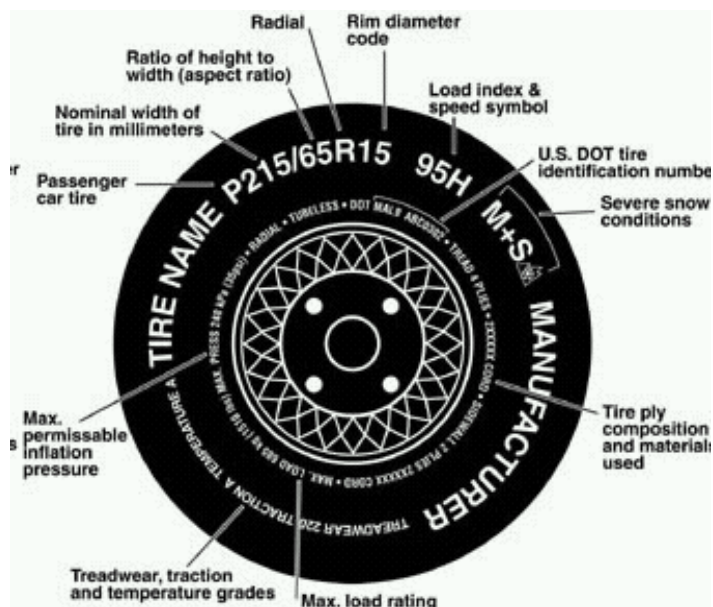
Because of the seriousness of tire separation, Attorney General Masto is urging consumers who have tires with the following specific tire numbers and sizes to have them checked by their tire dealer to make sure they are not driving on potentially unsafe tires:

LT235/75R-15 CR861 CR857
LT245/75R-16 CR860 CR861 CR857
LT225/75R-16 CR861
LT265/75R-16 CR860 CR861 CR857
LT235/85R-16 CR860 CR861 CR857
LT31X10.5R-15 CR861 CR857

The "LT" in front of the number stands for "light truck." The picture used here is of a passenger tire. A light truck tire will have "LT" instead of the "P" shown in the picture. "LT" tires are also used on sport utility vehicles and vans.

"215" represents the width of the tire in millimeters. "65" is the ratio of height to width. "R" stands for "radial," and the "15" is the diameter of the wheel in inches. The letters "DOT" are meant to certify compliance with the applicable safety standards established by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Adjacent to the letters "DOT" is a tire identification or serial number. This serial number is a code with up to 12 digits that are a combination of numbers and letters. The last characters are numbers identifying the week and year of manufacture. (Example: "1501" means the fifteenth week of the year 2001.)

You should not drive your vehicle for long distances on hot roads until they are checked. It is recommended that you also be careful not to overload your vehicle.



If you have any of the tires described above, you should immediately contact the dealer where you bought the tires, or if that dealer is more than 50 miles from you, another tire dealer, and ask them to inspect your tires.

If an inspection indicates that your tires may be unsafe, immediately contact the dealer, as well as Foreign Tire Sales, Inc., and report the problem. At this time, NHTSA has not called for a recall of any of these tires, and no replacement tire program has been instituted. However, an official recall of at least some of these tires may begin as early as this month. Once those details are made available, the Nevada Attorney General will issue a release with information about any

recall that may be instituted. The dealer where you purchased the tires should also have information available shortly. In addition, you may visit Foreign Tire Sales' web site at www.foreigntire.com to register affected tires and obtain information related to a recall. A toll free number for consumers and tire dealers will be established. Consumers who live in Nevada or who purchased the specified tires in Nevada, and have questions about the specified tires, may contact the Office of the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection's hotline at 702-486-3132, or can file a complaint with the Bureau in either the

Carson City or the Las Vegas office. Complaint forms may be downloaded on line at www.ag.state.nv.us. If you have had an accident as a result of a specified defective tire, you may file a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection and should also file a report with the NHTSA by calling their Vehicle Safety Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-372-4236, TTY: 1-800-424-9153. You may also want to consult with a private attorney, as there is a limited amount of time in which to file a lawsuit.

As part of general tire safety, Attorney General Masto wishes to remind consumers to keep the following tips in mind:

- At least once a month and before every long trip, inspect tires for patterns of uneven wear that could damage tires. Check tire inflation pressure in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Do not overload your vehicle. Excess weight can place extra stress on your tires. Check your tire placard or vehicle owner's manual for the maximum amount of weight your vehicle can safely carry.
- Develop safe driving habits. Observe speed limits and avoid fast stops, starts, and turns. Avoid contact with potholes, objects, and curbs when driving or parking your vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle properly maintained. Rotate tires regularly, get wheels balanced, and get a front-end alignment as necessary.
- Use the proper tires for your vehicle. Check the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations before replacing a tire with a different size and/or construction.
- Be aware of how the outside temperature affects your tires. Hot weather can be especially hard on tires, causing them to expand. As the outside temperature drops 10 degrees, tire pressure drops about one or two pounds per square inch.
- Have any tire problems checked out by professionals. If you find that one of your tires is losing pressure, take it to a tire expert for a complete internal inspection.
- Be careful of buying used tires. It is possible that some used tire dealers may try to capitalize on tire recalls by re-selling recalled tires. Though unethical and hazardous, it has happened before. Check used tire numbers, and do not buy any that are part of a recall.

Additional tire safety information can be found at the NHTSA web site at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/TireSafety/ridesonit/brochure.html>.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Carson City, NV 89701
775-684-1100
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: August 7, 2007

CONTACT: Ronda Clifton, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Insurance Fraud 688-1835

WINNEMUCCA MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FELONY INSURANCE FRAUD

Reno, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced the sentencing of Daniel Elwood Sanders of Winnemucca on charges of insurance fraud.

Sanders, age 34, pled guilty to felony insurance fraud in May 2007. Sanders started an electrical fire on August 27, 2005, in his mobile home located in Winnemucca, Nevada. His five year old son was asleep in the house when the fire ignited. On September 6, 2005, Foremost Insurance Company referred the case to the Nevada Attorney General's office. A thorough investigation revealed that Daniel Sanders had a previous house fire in Battle Mountain, and that Mr. Sanders was experiencing financial problems just prior to the Winnemucca house fire. On December 2, 2006, Mr. Sanders was arrested by the Bancroft County Sheriff's Office in Pocatello, Idaho on a Nevada Fugitive Warrant.

On August 6, 2007, the Honorable John M. Iroz, of the Sixth Judicial District Court, sentenced Sanders to a maximum term of 48 months in the Nevada Department of Corrections with a minimum term of 19 months. Sanders was ordered to pay \$149,000 in restitution to Foremost Insurance Company and National Star Mortgage through the Division of Parole & Probation. The prosecutor strenuously argued for prison time because Mr. Sanders admitted to starting the fire while his son was in the house.

"Insurance fraud is one of the costliest white-collar crimes in the United States, ranking second only to tax evasion," said Attorney General Masto. "The cost of this crime is passed on to citizens in the form of the increased costs to purchase and maintain insurance coverage."

The Insurance Fraud Unit within the Nevada Attorney General's Office actively investigates and prosecutes cases of insurance fraud across the state. Contrary to popular opinion, insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. If you or someone you know have information regarding a suspected instance of insurance fraud, call the Nevada Attorney General's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-266-8688. Complaint forms and more information on the Insurance Fraud Unit are available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 9, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF RECALL OF IMPORTED CHINESE TIRES

Carson City, Nevada - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced a formal nationwide recall beginning today of 255,000 light truck radial tires manufactured by Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Co., Ltd. of Hangzhou, China between early 2004 and mid-2006 and imported by Foreign Tire Sales (FTS), Inc. of Union, N.J.

The brands subject to recall are Westlake, Compass and YKS. According to FTS, the tires lack a "gum strip" -- a rubber strip between the steel belts -- making them susceptible to premature tread separation, which can cause serious accidents. All the tires were sold as replacements; new vehicles are not equipped with these tires.

Consumers should check their tires and return them as soon as possible to a retailer for free replacements. To return the tires, consumers must fill out a claim form and bring the form, along with the tires, to a dealer. After confirming the tires are subject to recall, the retailer will provide free replacements.

FTS will reimburse retailers for replacement tires and related costs.

"These tires are prone to premature blow outs, so consumers should err on the side of caution -- check your tires immediately and return them to retailers for free replacements if they are in the recall," Masto said. "If motorists are unsure, they should go to a tire dealer for an inspection. The quicker consumers and retailers act, the faster these dangerously defective tires will be off our roads."

Consumers can download the claim form from FTS's web site, www.foreigntire.com, or may call a toll-free number, 1-888-899-9293, and have the form mailed to them. Retailers will use the same toll-free number to confirm tires brought to them are subject to recall and arrange for reimbursement.

Consumers should check their tire sidewalls for the following information to determine whether their tires are being recalled:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Models</u>	<u>Partial D.O.T. Number</u>
LT235/75R-15	CR861, CR857	7DT5FTS.....
LT235/85R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT2FTS.....
LT245/75R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT3FTS.....
LT265/75R-16	CR860, CR861, CR857	7DT4FTS.....
LT31X10.5 R-15	CR857, CR861	7DT6FTS.....

No other tires are involved in the recall. Consumers or dealers with questions may contact the Attorney General's Office Bureau of Consumer Protection hotline at 702-486-3132.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 10, 2007

CONTACT: Robert Giunta (702) 486-3199
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN SECURITIES FRAUD SCAM PREYING ON THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN STATES

LAS VEGAS -- Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Carlos Reyes-Roman has pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Sell Unregistered Securities in a securities fraud scam targeting primarily Hispanic citizens throughout the Las Vegas area. Reyes-Roman was originally charged with numerous counts of Securities Fraud, Sale of Unregistered Securities and Unlicensed Sale of Securities.

An investigation by the Secretary of State's Securities Division revealed that Reyes-Roman sold ownership in investment opportunities called International Hispanic Investors, LLC and Amigo Investors, LLC. Reyes advertised these investment opportunities through his AM radio program and guaranteed the return of initial investments within 12 months. These investments involved the purchase and resale of real estate. However, at the end of the 12-month period, no houses had been resold and the initial investments had not been returned. Reyes-Roman's plea bargain was contingent on his making full restitution to the victims named in the complaint.

"We will continue to aggressively prosecute people who violate the Securities laws in Nevada, with an eye toward obtaining restitution for the victims," said Attorney General Cortez Masto.

Nevada Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski advises Nevadans to be suspicious of investment opportunities that do not provide sufficient information about the investment. Individuals who would like more information about investment scams should contact the Secretary of State's 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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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

CONTACT: Gianna Orlandi (702) 486-3782
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday August 16, 2007

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES LAS VEGAS MAN ARRESTED ON THEFT CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH MORTGAGE QUALIFICATION OPERATION

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Ricardo G. Reyes, 42 of Las Vegas, has been arrested on charges of theft in connection with the operation of a business which misled customers into believing that additional deposit money was necessary, would be used, and/or was used to qualify for parcels of land they sought to purchase. Mr. Reyes operated the business under Venture Capital Investment, Inc. (VCI) and SFR Networking. VCI is located at 4955 South Durango Drive, #122, Las Vegas, Nevada 89113.

Following an extensive investigation, the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, headed by Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski, alleges that on 4 separate occasions, four consumers, between June, 2006, and December, 2006, entered into contracts to purchase land in Northern Nevada. All four consumers were referred to Reyes and VCI, whereupon Reyes would attempt to broker loans for the land purchase. During the course of arranging these loans, Reyes allegedly told the consumers that they were required to pay an additional 20% deposit in order to qualify for the loan. These additional "deposits" were never received by the land seller, nor were they deposited into appropriate escrow accounts. Reyes is also alleged to have accepted mortgage "payments" from two of these consumers after falsely advising them that that they had qualified for the loan and were the lawful owners of the land they sought to purchase.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection's investigation also revealed that Reyes held himself out to licensed loan broker for and under VCI when, in fact, he was not duly licensed as a mortgage broker with VCI and he had not obtained the necessary license.

Anyone who has information regarding this case should contact the Attorney General's Office at 486-3777 in Las Vegas or 684-1180 in Carson City.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday August 22, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO JOINS OTHER ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN URGING ACTION ON ALCOHOLIC ENERGY DRINKS

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Masto, joined by 29 attorneys general nationwide, is urging the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) to stop alcohol manufacturers from making misleading health-related statements when advertising alcoholic beverages that contain caffeine and other stimulants.

In a letter to TTB Administrator John Manfreda, the attorneys general said that alcoholic energy drinks mimic non-alcoholic energy beverages that are very popular with youth. They warn that alcoholic energy drinks pose serious health and safety risks. According to medical researchers and public health professionals, the stimulants in alcoholic energy drinks may cause an intoxicated person to falsely believe that he or she can continue to drink and function normally.

Aggressive marketing campaigns claim these alcoholic energy beverages increase a person's stamina or can have an energizing effect. For instance, *BudExtra* has an advertising slogan, "You can sleep when you're thirty" and makes claims of renewed strength through the addition of guarana. However, the ads do not mention the potentially severe, adverse consequences of mixing caffeine or other stimulants and alcohol, the attorneys general said.

"Just as with other states, the popularity of non-alcoholic energy drinks with Nevada's teens and young adults is high," Attorney General Masto said. "Beverage companies are unreasonably targeting young drinkers with claims about the stimulating properties of alcoholic energy drinks. We urge TTB to take action to stop companies from making misleading claims."

As TTB has recognized in one of its own publications, "Alcohol is the nation's number one drug problem among youth, and it is involved in teen automobile crashes, homicides and suicides, the three leading causes of teen death." The Surgeon General recently reported that approximately 5,000 people under the age of 21 die each year from alcohol-related injuries. Alcohol also contributes to risky sexual behavior, poor school performance, and other psychological and sociological dysfunctions among youth.

The attorneys general also requested a TTB investigation into the makeup of alcoholic energy drinks and other flavored malt beverages to determine whether, based on the percentage of distilled spirits contained in the drinks, they are properly classified as malt beverages under federal law. The malt beverage classification, in many states, enables cheaper and broader sale of these drinks, making them more readily available to young people than distilled spirits.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 27, 2007

CONTACT: John Kelleher (702) 486-3130
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH TIME SHARES SCAM

Las Vegas, NV— Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the arrest of **Matthew Allan Fitzpatrick, 27, of Las Vegas**, on Friday, August 24, 2007, in connection with an alleged scheme involving the bogus sale of time shares on behalf of Las Vegas time share owners.

Fitzpatrick was arrested and charged with five (5) counts of felony theft and fourteen (14) counts of deceptive trade. The case was filed by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection and alleges that Fitzpatrick, through his company, **RESORT PROPERTY SPECIALISTS**, defrauded local victims who had listed their timeshares for sale with his company, by falsely claiming he had buyers for their timeshares and requesting the payment of thousands of dollars in bogus escrow fees to facilitate the sales, which sales were bogus.

Consumers who listed their timeshares with Fitzpatrick or his company, Resort Property Specialists, and were falsely told that their properties had been sold, are asked to contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3194 to obtain a complaint form. Consumers with internet access may also obtain a Consumer Complaint Form, as well as other consumer protection and contact information, on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: August 30, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Gibbs (702) 486-3789
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto Announces Settlement with Maker of Implantable Defibrillators

Las Vegas, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Nevada, 34 other state attorneys general, and the District of Columbia have reached a settlement with Guidant Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boston Scientific and one of the world's three largest manufacturers of Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs). The settlement concerns the sale of one ICD, the Ventak Prizm 2 DR Model 1861 (Prizm). Pursuant to the settlement, Guidant has agreed to implement certain ICD Safety programs, publicly report important safety information about the potentially life-saving heart devices it manufactures and pay \$16,750,000.00 to the states, up to \$1,000,000 of which will supplement Guidant's warranty program in order to recompense consumers. Guidant does not admit to any wrongdoing.

ICDs are medical devices that doctors surgically implant in a patient's chest to monitor for abnormal heart rhythms. If the heart stops, the ICD delivers a small jolt of electricity to start the heart functioning again.

Masto and the other attorneys general began investigating Guidant when they learned that Guidant made changes in 2002 to correct a Prizm wiring problem that could cause the unit to short circuit. If the Prizm short-circuited, it could fail to deliver a life-saving jump-start to a patient's heart when needed. Guidant continued to sell unmodified Przims even after making two separate changes to correct the Prizm wiring problem. Guidant did not inform physicians or the public until May, 2005 that it had continued to sell unmodified Przims in 2002 and 2003.

Pursuant to the settlement, Guidant agreed, among other matters, to do the following:

- * Establish a patient safety advisory board consisting of independent experts to evaluate data concerning ICD performance;
- * Establish a patient safety officer position, staffed by a physician whose primary responsibility is to advance ICD patient safety;

- * Clearly disclose and disseminate to the public specific information on a quarterly basis, including worldwide failure data, survival probability estimates, and current information in the event of an FDA recall of any ICD;
- * Post a notice on its website within 30 days of any modification to any of its ICDs to correct a failure pattern;
- * Solicit the return of out-of-service ICDs; and
- * Maintain a data system to track the serial numbers, implant dates and explant dates of all ICDs Guidant distributes in the United States.

Currently, Guidant is conducting a warranty program to provide consumers who wish to replace their Prizms with a new device at no cost and to reimburse consumers up to \$2,500.00 for out-of-pocket expenses they incur with this replacement. Pursuant to today's settlement, Guidant has agreed to extend this warranty program for an additional six months. Also, the States will use up to \$1,000,000 of the \$16,750,000.00 payment to reimburse warranty program participants for expenses they incurred beyond \$2,500.00.

Nevada will receive \$390,000 as its share of the \$16,750,000.00 payment. Senior Deputy Attorney General Jo Ann Gibbs of the Bureau of Consumer Protection represented Nevada in the settlement.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday August 31, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO APPEALS COURT RULING IN BROTHEL ADVERTISING CASE

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today filed an appeal of the US District Court ruling in *Coyote Publishing et. al. v. Heller*.

"The people of this state have placed restrictions on brothel advertising for 40 years. In reviewing the decision of the federal court, I have concerns about the legal standard used by the judge in determining that our state's long standing limitations on brothel advertising were constitutionally invalid," said General Masto. "To protect the will of Nevadans to place reasonable restrictions on brothel advertising, my office will appeal this decision. This will allow our state to clarify the standard for reviewing our existing law and could help the legislature should a new law need to be crafted."

The Attorney General's Office filed its appeal this afternoon in the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday September 4, 2007

CONTACT: Marta Adams (775) 684-1237
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO REGARDING U.S. DISTRICT COURT'S DECISION IN YUCCA MOUNTAIN WATER RIGHTS CASE

Carson City, NV – In a strongly-worded 24 page order, U.S. District Court Judge Roger Hunt denied the Department of Energy's motion for a preliminary injunction on all counts seeking to enjoin State Engineer Tracy Taylor's order that DOE immediately cease and desist its use of water for a bore hole drilling program at the Yucca Mountain site.

"Judge Hunt's order vindicates Nevada's long-standing position that DOE's sleight of hand in using Nevada's water for an unauthorized bore hole drilling program is neither mandated by federal law nor consistent with the public's interest," stated Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "DOE violated a court-sanctioned agreement among the parties and there is no justification for DOE's unlawful actions in clear violation of the State Engineer's order," Cortez Masto added.

"In what Judge Hunt characterizes as 'arrogant,' DOE has not, in the Court's opinion, complied with Nevada water law or 'been forthcoming about its intentions for water use in the future.'" In addition, despite DOE's arguments that such bore hole drilling is required for it to file a license application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Court found "no congressional mandate, no legal mandate for bore hole drilling" regardless of the extent of the program which has arbitrarily changed from the "drilling of 44 or 84 bore holes and the use of 4 million or 8 million gallons of water." In fact, Judge Hunt states that he "entertains the suspicion that either DOE wants to look busy, or it wants to keep its contractor occupied during its lengthy delays in filing for a license."

The Court found that the issues presented by DOE do not involve preemption of state water law and in fact only involve whether an agreement between the two Nevada parties and the DOE for the interim use of water has been violated. In the balance of hardship analysis, the Court emphasized that:

"The Court does not know if DOE's efforts are motivated by a desire to answer Congressional and media criticisms of its scientific conclusions and reports of falsified scientific reports, or a desire to look busy by this sudden flurry of activity, or some other motivation. Whatever the motivation, the potential hardship upon the state and its rights is far greater than [sic] any potential hardship upon the DOE for short term delays or the curtailing of the DOE's activities back to its original projections and promises."

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: September 6, 2007

CONTACT: DAG Melanie Porter at 684-1257
Nicole Moon, PIO (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

**NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS RULES THAT INMATES MUST EXHAUST
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES PRIOR TO FILING ADA AND REHABILITATION CASES.**
***Inmate Had Argued the Exhaustion Requirement Was Inapplicable to
ADA And Rehabilitation Cases.***

Carson City, NV – The Nevada Attorney General's Office announces that today the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an important ruling regarding inmates and the ADA and Rehabilitation Act. Appellant Inmate Roy Alan O'Guinn filed a complaint in federal court alleging ADA and Rehabilitation Act violations based on the prison's alleged failure to provide adequate treatment for his mental disability. O'Guinn wanted the federal court system to review his medical concerns before he identified his medical needs to prison medical personnel. He admitted he had not given prison personnel the opportunity to address his medical needs and argued he did not have to do so under the ADA. The federal district court dismissed the case due to O'Guinn's failure to first notify prison medical staff of his medical concerns and allow them an opportunity to address those concerns. O'Guinn appealed and the Ninth Circuit appointed the law firm of Snell & Wilmer to represent O'Guinn.

In a case of first impression in the Ninth Circuit, Deputy Attorney General Melanie Porter successfully argued in writing and in oral argument that the exhaustion requirement of the PRLA did apply to ADA and Rehabilitation cases citing federal case authority on federal statutory construction and public policy considerations. The Ninth Circuit agreed and held that an inmate must first tell prison officials about his medical needs before requesting a federal court to intervene.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday September 6, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO CALLS FOR FEDERAL AND STATEWIDE REFORMS TO INCREASE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CAMPUS SAFETY

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today issued a call to federal and state leaders to address serious deficiencies in federal and state laws and educational policies that leave students vulnerable to violence in their schools and on college campuses.

As a member of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Task Force on School and Campus Safety, Attorney General Masto released a 14-page report that includes specific recommendations addressing threat assessment, protocols for dealing with the mentally ill, information sharing among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, and crisis response planning and communications.

"Making sure our children and young adults are safe at school and college campuses is an important priority for the state of Nevada and the nation," said Attorney General Masto. "The goal of this report is to stimulate dialogue among policy makers, educational administrators, law enforcement professionals and others as they examine school and campus safety issues."

Attorney General Masto has asked the Nevada Teaching Tolerance Task Force, which she co-chairs, to examine the recommendations made in the report and create an action plan for implementation of the recommendations in the state of Nevada. The Task Force, formerly known as the Bully-Free-for-Me Task Force, consists of education professionals, community organizations and state legislators.

Recommendations from the NAAG Task Force include:

- All schools and colleges should establish a system whereby disturbing behavior is reported to an individual or multidisciplinary team of individuals with expertise and training in risk assessment that can assess the information received and put into action an appropriate response. Students, parents, faculty and other community stakeholders should be made aware of the reporting mechanism.
- State and federal lawmakers should examine privacy laws in an effort to remove barriers to effective information sharing. Appropriate state and federal agencies should clarify how information, including mental health records, can be shared under existing state and federal laws.
- States should modify or enhance state laws to ensure that all information that is relevant to federal firearms laws is shared with the National Instant Criminal Background System,

especially for individuals disqualified from purchasing or possessing firearms for mental health reasons. The U.S. Department of Justice should provide clear guidance to jurisdictions on the scope of relevant records.

- State legislators should mandate that all schools and colleges that receive state funding create, maintain, and update emergency management plans.
- Colleges should implement a multi-point, redundant communication system that leverages existing technology and provides information to as many people as possible as quickly as possible.
- Every school and college should have mechanisms in place to allow for the anonymous reporting of perceived threats by students or faculty. The system should include educational outreach and effective follow-up by trained professionals.
- States should continue to implement and expand bullying prevention measures, including cyber bullying.

The 27-member Task Force*, chaired by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch, was convened to update a 1999 report issued by NAAG to address issues surrounding school violence. Although much of the information in the 1999 report remains relevant, the ad hoc group was created to update recommendations and determine what issues have been brought into sharper focus as a result of the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

More information on the Nevada Teaching Tolerance Task Force and copies of the NAAG School and Campus Safety Report are available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.ag.state.nv.us

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*The members of the Task Force are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday September 17, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3420
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER RURAL ROAD TRIP

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto will embark on her “Rural Road Trip” through 12 of Nevada’s 17 counties beginning on Monday September 24, 2007. The theme of the trip is “Five Challenges Facing Rural Nevadans: Methamphetamine, Identity Theft, Domestic Violence, Senior Protection and Child Advocacy”. The Attorney General will be accompanied on the trip by staff members with professional expertise in each of the areas highlighted in the theme. The group will be making several stops in different communities to discuss these challenges with Nevadans and how the Attorney General’s Office can help Nevada’s rural residents overcome these challenges.

“Nevada’s rural communities face a unique set of challenges because of their locations and the climate of our state. As Attorney General, my office can help our rural communities face these challenges,” said General Masto. “The goal of this road trip is get out and meet face-to-face with residents, hear their concerns and talk about what our office can do to help.”

The Attorney General is also planning a second “Rural Road Trip” for early 2008 which will visit counties not visited in September.

Attorney General’s Rural Road Trip Agenda

Monday September 24, 2007

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 am | <i>“Kitchen Table” with the Attorney General</i>
Alamo Senior Center – Airport Rd, Alamo |
| 1:00 pm | <i>“Kitchen Table” with the Attorney General</i>
Silver Café – 97 Main St., Pioche |
| 5:30 pm | <i>“Kitchen Table” with the Attorney General</i>
Prospector Hotel Meeting Room - 1501 E. Aultman St, Ely |
| 7:00 p | <i>Meeting with District Attorneys Rich Sears & Ted Beutel</i>
Prospector Hotel - 1501 E. Aultman St, Ely |

Tuesday September 25, 2007

- 8:25 am *Meet with White Pine High School Class*
White Pine High School – 1800 Bobcat Dr., Ely
- 1:00 pm *Tour Elko Harbor House, Domestic Violence Shelter*
Elko Harbor House, Elko
- 2:30 pm *Tour of Nevada's Rural County Drug Court*
Elko District Court – 571 Idaho St., Elko
- 4:00 pm *Great Basin College Students Forum*
Great Basin College – 1500 College Pkwy, Elko
- 5:45 pm *"Kitchen Table" with the Attorney General*
Great Basin College Solarium – 1500 College Pkwy, Elko

Wednesday September 26, 2007

- 9:00 am *"Kitchen Table" with the Attorney General*
Lander County Senior Citizens Center – 365 E. Fourth St., Battle Mountain
- 12:30 pm *"Kitchen Table" with the Attorney General*
Winnemucca Convention Center – 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd, Winnemucca
- 1:45 pm *Meeting with Domestic Violence Best Practices Group*
Humboldt County Library, 80 E. 5th Street, Winnemucca
- 5:45 pm *"Kitchen Table" with the Attorney General*
Lovelock Community Center, 820 6th St., Lovelock

Thursday September 27, 2007

- 10:30 am *Visit Pershing County Living Tree Children's Memorial*
400 Main Street, Lovelock
- 11:00 am *"Kitchen Table" with the Attorney General*
Pershing County Senior Center, 636 Western Ave, Lovelock

** Although we do not anticipate a change in the schedule, the times listed below are for scheduling purposes only and are subject to minor adjustments.*

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Monday September 17, 2007

CONTACT: Dorene Whitworth (775) 850-4123
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM

Carson City, NV -- Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto 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 (DOJ) 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 STOP Program envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, courts and victim services organizations to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their 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 "Upcoming Events"), at <http://ag.state.nv.us>. Since the inception of this program in 1995, more than \$11 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 **October 19, 2007**.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

CONTACT: JOHN McGLAMERY
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEAS OF MICHAEL MASERATI AND GANYA WYNN TO THEFT AND CONSPIRACY CHARGES RELATED TO SALE OF SECURITIES

Reno, NV—Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the guilty plea in Washoe County District Court of Michael Maserati, also known as Michael Meza, operator of Nevada Sun LLC, on one felony count of theft by embezzlement related to securities fraud in a scheme to defraud investors in an ATM machine service.

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, and payment of restitution.

As part of the guilty plea, Ganya Wynn, Maserati's wife, agreed to plead guilty to an amended charge of conspiracy to engage in securities fraud related to Nevada Sun LLC, a gross misdemeanor, which carries a potential penalty of one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Sentencing is set for October 30, 2007.

Maserati and Wynn were charged by the Nevada Secretary of State with securities fraud. Maserati was charged with theft by embezzlement. Maserati and Wynn were charged in connection with the operation of Nevada Sun LLC, a business in which Maserati was an owner. Maserati and Wynn convinced investors to purchase an interest in Nevada Sun LLC, under the promise that the investor's money would be used to stock ATM machines in the Bahamas with cash. The investors were told that they would receive a portion of the ATM machine fee and that their investment was without risk. Instead of using the investment to stock ATM machines, Maserati spent the money on personal and other expenses.

Prosecution of the case is being handled by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, on behalf of the Nevada Secretary of State's Office.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

CONTACT: JOHN McGLAMERY
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA OF ROBERT MENDOZA TO SECURITIES FRAUD

Reno, NV—Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the guilty plea in Washoe County District Court of Robert Mendoza to securities fraud for making an untrue statement or failure to disclose a material fact related to the sale of securities.

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 \$500,000, and payment of restitution. Sentencing is set for November 14, 2007.

Mendoza was charged by the Nevada Secretary of State with securities fraud in connection with the operation of GSW Consulting International, a foreign exchange investment scheme operating from Shingle Springs, California.

Nevada investors were told that they would receive a guaranteed return on their investment of 5 percent per month "without risk." Foreign exchange trading, or "FOREX trading," is the buying and selling of domestic and foreign currencies as commodities or futures. FOREX trading is highly speculative and involves a higher risk than the trade of other commodities, since governments can legally manipulate the value of currencies, by whim for political reasons, thus making the market for such currencies unpredictable and very volatile. It is an investment suitable only for very sophisticated investors willing to risk their entire investment. None of the Nevada investors in GSW Consulting International were sophisticated investors and lost all of their investment.

Prosecution of the case is being handled by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, on behalf of the Nevada Secretary of State's Office.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday September 18, 2007

CONTACT: Tim Terry (775) 684-1185
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

NEVADA ENTERS INTO SETTLEMENT WITH PURDUE PHARMACEUTICALS

Carson City, NV - Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that her office has reached a settlement with The Purdue Frederick Company, Inc., a New York corporation, and Purdue Pharma, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, which are associated entities engaged in the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of OxyContin, an extended-release form of oxycodone.

Under the terms of the settlement, the State of Nevada recovered \$1,047,787.19 to recoup damages to the Nevada Medicaid program as well as damages for investigative costs and penalties.

According to Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ("MFCU") Director Tim Terry, the companies allegedly marketed OxyContin as a drug less subject to abuse, illicit use, and diversion, and as less likely to cause tolerance and withdrawal than other pain medications, even though the companies were aware that these claims were false and misleading.

"Drug companies that make false claims about their products must be held accountable, especially when those false claims lead to excessive costs to the state of Nevada's Medicaid program which is funded by Nevada taxpayers," said Attorney General Masto. "The money from this settlement will go to our state Medicaid program to help provide medical coverage for Nevada's working poor and underprivileged children."

The civil settlement with the companies will also require them to enter into a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Office of the Inspector General of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services in order to monitor the company's operations and ensure future compliance with all laws and regulations.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday September 18, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO TO MEET WITH MEXICO ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DISCUSS METHAMPHETAMINE INTERDICTION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto will join seven other Western Attorneys General* this week in Mexico to meet with Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora. The meeting between the delegation from the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) and the Mexican Conference of Attorney Generals (MCAG) will be held on Friday September 21, 2007 and is intended to open a “Binational Dialogue” between the two countries on important issues including methamphetamine interdiction and human trafficking.

“Opening this dialogue between the United States and Mexico is very important for our country and for Nevadans,” said General Masto. “Most of the methamphetamine that is illegally distributed in Nevada is manufactured in so-called ‘super labs’ in Mexico so it is imperative for me to sit down with Mexican law enforcement to discuss ways to keep this drug from ever crossing the border.”

Attorney General Masto and the other Attorneys General will arrive in Mexico tomorrow where they will be greeted by the Honorable Tony Garza, Ambassador of the U.S. to Mexico. Prior to Friday’s meeting with the Mexican Attorney Generals, the group will spend Thursday touring the state of Morelos and visiting its surrounding areas.

“I am honored to be joining my colleagues on this trip,” said General Masto. “I welcome this opportunity to work with the Mexican government to discuss these important issues and work together toward potential solutions.”

The meeting between the CWAG Delegation and the Mexican Attorney Generals is scheduled for Friday September 21, 2007 at 9:00 am. A press conference will be held at 2:30 pm following the closing ceremony of the event at the Mision Del Sol Hotel in Jiutepec, Morelos.

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*Attorneys General participating in the CWAG delegation are: Arizona, California (sending representative), Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and North Dakota



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday September 25, 2007

CONTACT: Timothy Terry (775) 684-1191
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

FUGITIVE FROM TEXAS ARRESTED FOR HEALTH CARE CRIMES

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Las Vegas, Mary Jean Welch, age 39 was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant issued in Texas. Welch is charged with Aggregated Theft and Misapplication of Client Funds. She will be awaiting extradition to Austin, Texas where she will face up to 4 years incarceration and \$10,000.00 fine if convicted.

It is alleged that during 2001 and 2002 Welch was employed to work in group homes. While having access to the residents' financial accounts she devised a scheme in which she took \$4,000.00 - \$20,000.00 of residents' money. The victims were elderly and vulnerable adults.

The arrest was made by Investigators of the Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in conjunction with the Texas Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. All states, except North Dakota, have Medicaid Fraud Control Units. The Units often work with each other, ensuring that people accused of committing health care fraud and crimes against the elderly cannot simply abscond and hide out in another location.

The criminal charges are allegations. She is presumed innocent until proven otherwise in a court of law.

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare 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>.

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday September 25, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL RETURNS FROM VISIT WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEYS GENERAL **Exchange focused on Methamphetamine, Money Laundering, Human Trafficking**

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto has returned from a trip to Mexico to visit with the state attorneys general from all 31 Mexican states, the Federal District, and Mexico's Attorney General, Eduardo Medina Mora. General Masto was joined on the trip by the Attorneys General and Deputy Attorneys General from the Western states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, Hawaii, and California, all members of the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG). The CWAG delegation participated in the 19th National Conference of Attorneys General of Mexico in Jiutepec, Morelos on September 20 and 21, 2007.

The binational exchange during the Conference provided an opportunity for U.S. and Mexico state attorneys general to have an open exchange on critical topics of mutual importance such as human trafficking, smuggling of firearms, efforts to reduce methamphetamine use, Internet crimes against children, and money laundering. Moreover, Mexico's Attorney General provided a substantive overview of the strategic and collaborative drug interdiction efforts between Mexico and U.S. at the federal level, as well as the implementation of regulatory controls on Pseudoephedrine, a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

"Building this alliance between Mexico and the United States is crucial to curbing the problem of methamphetamine in our country and in Nevada. However, the problem goes both ways and we have to actively do our part to fight methamphetamine use here," said Attorney General Masto. "It comes down to supply and demand. The United States is the largest consumer of the methamphetamine made in Mexico. We cannot just demand Mexico stop the flow of supply without also actively working to curb the demand in the United States."

Participating U.S. and Mexico attorneys general also shared perspectives and experiences on the need to work cooperatively to reduce the smuggling of firearms into Mexico; diminish substance abuse; and to continue to make effective strides to interrupt and bring to justice money laundering, drug trafficking and human trafficking criminal organizations that operate on both sides of the border. Participating attorneys general agreed on the importance of convening frequent exchanges to strengthen state-to-state efforts and to develop effective collaborative strategies to combat mutual challenges. As a result, Arizona Attorney General, Terry Goddard, Chair of CWAG, offered to host the next forum in the Spring of 2008 to follow-up and provide specific focus on the topics discussed.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 3, 2007

CONTACT: JOHN McGLAMERY
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

CONSUMER ALERT REGARDING GRANT WRITING SCAMS **DIRECTED AT SMALL BUSINESSES**

The following consumer advisory is offered by the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, as part of an ongoing effort to educate consumers.

The Nevada Attorney General has received information from consumers regarding grant writing schemes for small businesses which appear to be originating from Las Vegas. The consumers received an unsolicited fax concerning grant money, primarily for small businesses, indicating that "no one has been turned down for a grant in 10 years of business." The "service" must be prepaid at a cost of \$2500. Those who have paid money have not received any services. The Nevada Attorney General has also received information from consumers about similar companies making telemarketing calls offering assistance with obtaining grants.

Grant writing scams have become commonplace. No one can "guarantee" that any applicant will receive a grant upon application. Government grants are usually aimed at the needy, educational institutions, or specialists who can provide assistance to the government. A list of information about government grants and how to apply can be found at www.grants.gov, a service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Private grants are almost always specifically directed at charitable, educational, or scientific research organizations and, with the exception of scholarship funds, are not generally available to the public at large.

Whenever paying anyone for information or services relating to public or private grant assistance, always research the company. Such companies almost never telemarket, send unsolicited fax advertisements, or advertise by bulk mail to the general public. If the service has an internet website, check out the domain registration at www.whois.net. If the website is registered to a "proxy" address, question why the company does not wish to disclose its identity. Check the company out at the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org. Check to see if the company provides a local telephone number, not just a toll-free number. Scammers specifically use toll-free numbers to hide their true identity and location. In all cases, ask for

copies of their business license, a list of their grant writers, a list of their past successful grant applications, the names of the agencies which awarded grants, and a list of references.

Eric Witkoski, the Nevada Consumer Advocate, warns consumers to never give out personal information to people you don't know, especially unsolicited telemarketers and unsolicited fax advertisers. Never pay money to get money. In this scam, it appears that all the victim has to do is pay \$2500 to get a "guaranteed" grant, which unfortunately will probably never materialize or be refundable. Deal face to face with local companies with a good reputation. When dealing only over the telephone or over the internet, you do not know if the person or company you are dealing with is who or where they say they are. Many times, such persons are calling from or are located in a foreign country, placing themselves out of the reach of law enforcement in this country.

If you would like further information, please call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3420; or in Carson City at (775) 684-1180. Consumer protection information can also be found on the Attorney General's Web site at ag.state.nv.us.

#####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday October 3, 2007

CONTACT: Kareen Prentice (775) 850-1872
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

Media Advisory

- What:** News conference to announce new statewide programs to address domestic violence in Nevada
- When:** Thursday October 4, 2007; 1:00 pm
- Where:** Front steps of Nevada Attorney General's Office
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City
- Who:** Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto
Dick Clark, POST
Sue Meuschke, Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence
Brett Kandt, Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys
- Why:** October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Nevada is ranked first in the nation for domestic violence related deaths. Last year more than 38,000 people received assistance from domestic violence programs in Nevada.

####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday October 3, 2007

CONTACT: Vic Schulze (702) 486-3110
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION OF CHILD RAPIST MARVIN BOCKTING AFTER REMAND FROM UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Las Vegas, NV - Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has entered a published decision upholding the conviction of Marvin Bockting for sexual assault, and affirming the earlier dismissal of the federal habeas corpus appeal in the United States District Court.

"I would like to thank George Chanos and my staff for all the hard work they put in on this case," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "The Bockting case has been in the habeas process for 17 years, but it has been worth the fight for the precedent it has set and for the result of keeping this child predator behind bars."

In 1988, Bockting was convicted in Clark County District Court of sexually assaulting his five year old step daughter, and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The Nevada Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentence in Bockting's direct appeal in 1989, but in June, 1990, the Supreme Court of the United States vacated that decision, and ordered the Nevada Supreme Court to reconsider its decision in light of a new case decision decided by the Supreme Court in 1990 that clarified Defendants' rights under the Sixth Amendment pertaining to the introduction of hearsay evidence.

The Nevada Supreme Court reconsidered its earlier decision, and in 1993 again affirmed Bockting's conviction.

After another unsuccessful state court appeal proceeding, Bockting filed a federal appeal, referred to as a habeas corpus proceeding, in the United States District Court in 1998. That court denied the habeas corpus petition, and Bockting appealed to the federal Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The Court of Appeals granted relief to Bockting and ordered him released from prison by applying a new 2003 decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, Crawford v. Washington, retroactively to his 1988 case.

The Office of the Attorney General filed papers with the United States Supreme Court, asking the nation's highest court to intervene and overturn the Court of Appeals. The Attorney General argued that the Supreme Court's new rule defining how hearsay is admitted in criminal trials decided in 2003 should not be applied retroactively to Bockting's 1988 case, and that the Ninth Circuit had mistakenly applied the new rule to his case.

The case was argued before the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. by attorneys from the Attorney General's Office and the Federal Public Defender in November 2006.

In February, 2007, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the Ninth Circuit in a 9 – 0 decision, ruling that the new rule on hearsay in Crawford v. Washington was not to be applied retroactively to old cases, and sending the case back to the circuit court for rehearing under the pre-Crawford rule regulating the admission of hearsay evidence, thereby reinstating Bockting's conviction and sentence.

The case was reargued before the Ninth Circuit in June, 2007. The circuit court filed it's lengthy published opinion affirming Bockting's conviction by holding that the 1993 opinion of the Nevada Supreme Court denying Bockting's state court appeal on hearsay grounds was not an unreasonable application of then-existing controlling decisions from the Supreme Court of the United States pertaining to the admissibility of hearsay evidence, and that the State courts did not unreasonably depart from the applicable Supreme Court decisions.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday October 4, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN LAWSUIT OVER ALLEGED CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS AT GRANT SAWYER BUILDING

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and the State of Nevada Public Works Board announced today the settlement of a lawsuit involving alleged construction defects in the exterior tile veneer at the Grant Sawyer Building. The settlement amount was \$6,250,000.

"I am glad we were able to recoup over 6 million dollars in losses that the State had suffered. This was definitely worth the fight," said General Masto. "I'd like to thank the members of my staff and the Public Works Board who worked so hard to resolve this matter."

The settlement was accepted by Public Works Board Chairman Renny Ashleman and Public Works Board Manager Gus Nunez pursuant to prior authorization by the full Board in order to avoid costly litigation. A trial in the case had been set to start in January 2008 and was expected to last about a month.

"Litigation is always an uncertain avenue," said Mr. Nunez. "Furthermore, there were legal issues and defenses in the case whereby it made sense to me and the Board to resolve the case at this point in time."

"I am pleased that we have been able to return over \$6 million in taxpayer dollars back to the State, while at the same time ensuring that the Grant Sawyer building is a safe place for visitors and employees," said Governor Jim Gibbons.

Protective measures were installed at the building in 2003 after several tiles fell off the building. Because of safety concerns, the Nevada State Legislature approved repairs and other improvements to the building in 2005. These repairs, which were completed earlier this year, included replacing all existing tile on the building.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday October 4, 2007

CONTACT: Kareen Prentice (775) 688-1872
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES NEW STATEWIDE PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEVADA

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the implementation of two statewide programs to address domestic violence in the state of Nevada. One program is intended to assist law enforcement officials, the other to assist prosecutors. General Masto announced the programs at a press conference in Carson City today where she was joined by members of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim's advocacy groups and members of the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The press conference was held in conjunction with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"Addressing the issue of Domestic Violence in Nevada is one of my top priorities as our state's Attorney General and working with law enforcement and prosecutors is key to offender accountability," said General Masto. "These two programs are important because they are giving valuable information to our state law enforcement and prosecutors on how to best handle cases of domestic violence."

As part of the law enforcement program, the Nevada Attorney General's Office is sending out 300 training CDs to be used by more than 16,000 law enforcement officials from across the state. The disc is an interactive training CD entitled "Domestic Violence & Elder Abuse Investigations" which was put together through a collaborative effort between the Attorney Generals Office and the Nevada Commission on Peace Officers' Standards Training (Nevada POST).

"The problem most prosecutors face in a domestic violence case is that most of the time, the victim will end up recanting his or her story, so the prosecutor needs to rely on physical evidence that a crime has been committed and prosecutors rely on the responding law enforcement officers to provide that evidence," said Kareen Prentice, Nevada's Domestic Violence Ombudsman. "This training CD will assist law enforcement officers and those who complete it will also receive POST credits toward their annual certification requirements."

This law enforcement CD-ROM would not have been possible without the assistance of the City of Henderson Attorneys' Office, City of Henderson Police Department and S.A.F.E. House of Henderson. Each of these agencies shared valuable professionals who were filmed presenting various segments of the four hour training. The Attorney General's Office thanks these agencies for their participation and help in creating this valuable training tool.

The other program addressed at today's press conference is aimed at helping Nevada's prosecutors in prosecuting domestic violence cases. In 2004 the Prosecution Advisory Council initiated the Nevada Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Project, which utilized federal grant funding to convene a multi-disciplinary advisory group that surveyed current prosecution practices and developed a statewide set of Best Practices to enhance victim safety and offender accountability.

Pilot implementation sites in several communities are now building the best practices into their current infrastructure with technical assistance from NVPAC. This grant is from the Office of Violence Against Women and is administered by the Office of the Attorney General. Those communities include the City of Henderson and Churchill, Eureka, Humboldt, Lincoln and White Pine counties.

This project is the first of its kind in the nation and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women is producing a study paper to facilitate replication of the project in other states.

The press conference also highlighted three campaigns to raise awareness of domestic violence during October. The Attorney General's Office in Carson City is displaying several hundred purple flags on its front lawn this week. Each flag represents 100 of the 38,297 people who sought assistance from domestic violence programs in Nevada during 2006. The Attorney General's Office also distributed 2,500 "Purple Ribbon Pins" to public health agencies across the state to raise awareness of domestic violence in the health care industry. The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence displayed its Silent Witness Display, featuring 18 red shirts with the names and stories of the people who died in domestic violence-related deaths in Nevada in 2005.

More information on domestic violence and resources in Nevada is available on the Attorney General's Office website at: <http://ag.state.nv.us>

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday October 23, 2007

CONTACT: Victoria Oldenburg (775) 850-4125
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH KROGER CO. TO CURB TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Masto today announced she has joined the Attorneys General of 41 other states and Guam in an agreement with Kroger Co. to curb tobacco sales to minors. Kroger is the nation's largest grocery chain with 2,468 supermarkets in 31 states under two dozen banners and 779 convenience stores in 15 states under 5 banners. All but 92 of the convenience stores are company-owned. There are 55 stores in Nevada operating under the names of Food 4 Less and Smith's.

"Every day we keep a child from smoking is a public health victory. With this agreement, Kroger joins the growing list of retailers who have demonstrated their commitment to keeping our kids healthy in Nevada and across the country," said Masto.

The Kroger "Assurance of Voluntary Compliance" (AVC) is the eleventh such agreement produced by an ongoing, multi-state enforcement effort. Previous agreements cover all 7-Eleven, CVS, Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Rite Aid stores, and all gas stations and convenience stores operating under the Conoco, Phillips 66, 76, Exxon, Mobil, BP, Amoco, ARCO and Chevron brand names, in the signing states. Combined, the agreements cover over 80,000 retail outlets across the nation. Launched in 2000, the multi-state enforcement effort by the Attorneys General seeks to secure national retailers' agreement to take specific corrective actions to prevent sales of tobacco products to minors. State laws prohibit such sales. 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.

The agreement announced today provides that Kroger implement comprehensive youth prevention tobacco retailing practices in its company-owned stores. Kroger will also take a number of steps to prevent youth access to tobacco in its franchise outlets, including providing annual notices of the importance of complying with youth access laws; requiring franchisees to report violations to the corporate office; and modifying franchise agreements to provide that violations of youth access laws could constitute grounds for termination or non-renewal of the franchise agreement.

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.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate*
Chief Deputy Attorney General

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Tuesday November 6, 2007

CONTACT: Kathleen Delaney (702) 486-3788
Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
cell (775) 230-3360
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

CONSUMER ADVOCATE ISSUES NEW DO NOT CALL ADVISORY

Las Vegas, NV—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate, Eric Witkoski, today issued the following consumer advisory with important updates concerning the National Do Not Call Registry.

"The protections afforded by Federal and State do not call laws are in need of renewed attention by the public," say Witkoski. "We're seeing new strategies being employed by telemarketers to avoid the laws' reach, and, with the initial 5-year registration period for most consumers set to expire next summer, it is more important than ever for consumers to be vigilant."

Hidden Authorizations: The latest tactic being used by telemarketers to avoid the do not call laws involves including express authorization to accept telemarketing calls in direct mailings that otherwise promise to provide "free" consumer information on a particular product or service. These mailers require the consumer to sign and return a card or other document in order to receive the free materials, but they also include language that could trigger the express authorization exception to the do not call laws' general prohibition against unsolicited telemarketing calls to telephone numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry.

Often these mailers are directed at senior citizens or other vulnerable consumer groups and use scare tactics, such as claims that certain government benefits are going to change or that well-known consumer groups are encouraging consumers to have their medical, retirement or probate plans reviewed by an "expert." Often the mailers appear to be from a governmental or consumer protection source. Subsequently, the consumer begins getting telemarketing calls selling investments, insurance or other financial products.

The good news for consumers who may have inadvertently given express authorization to a telemarketer, however, is that they still have the right to override the exception by asking to be placed on the specific company's "internal do not call list." Companies that may otherwise be exempt from do not call law requirements are required to

honor direct requests from consumers who do not wish to be called, and the failure to honor such requests is a separate, reportable violation.

Registration Renewals: In addition to providing tips on avoiding telemarketer tactics, Nevada's Consumer Advocate is advising consumers to take a few minutes to renew their do not call registrations. The original time period for telephone numbers to be included on the National Do Not Call Registry was five (5) years, and the majority of registrations were done when the Registry was opened in June, 2003. Renewals for an additional five (5) year period can be made at any time, however, and the steps are the same as for the initial registration. Congress is looking at making registrations permanent, but consumers are advised to act now to ensure there is no lapse in their registrations while the change in the law is under consideration.

Registrations may be renewed at any time for free at the national do not call registry's web site, www.donotcall.gov. If you prefer, you can also register by calling toll free (888) 382-1222 from the telephone number you wish to renew.

Filing a Complaint: If your Nevada number has been registered on the national do not call registry for at least 31 days, you may file a complaint if you receive a call from a non-exempt telemarketer. To file a complaint, visit the national do not call registry web site at www.donotcall.gov and select the "File A Complaint" button. If you prefer, you can also file a complaint by calling toll free (888) 382-1222. When filing a complaint, you need to provide the telemarketer's name or phone number, the date the telemarketer called you, and your registered phone number.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Bureau of Consumer Protection's website at <http://www.ag.state.nv.us/org/bcp/bcp.htm> .

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday November 16, 2007

CONTACT: Tim Terry (775) 684-1191
Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

TWO LAS VEGAS HOME CARE PROVIDERS SETTLE FOR \$700,000.00

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that two home health care companies, Greater Vegas Personal Care, LLC and Vegas Valley Personal Care, LLC each paid the State \$350,000.00. Earlier, on November 7, 2007, each company entered a guilty plea to one felony count of Medicaid Fraud, Submission of False Claims. District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez rendered the companies guilty and ordered them to make the \$700,000.00 payment as restitution to Nevada Medicaid, costs of the investigation and penalties.

The case against both companies was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The investigation centered on allegations that from June 2005 through March 2007 some of the companies' employees were not properly qualified to provide services to Medicaid recipients. Subsequently the companies were sold and new oversight controls were enacted.

"This case exemplifies the determination of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit", said the Attorney General. "The investigation lasted over a year, encompassing multiple search warrants, the review of thousands of documents and the interviews of numerous witnesses. Even though the companies effectively relinquished their wrongful actions by selling their ownership interests, they could not escape their culpability or liability to the State."

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of financial fraud by those providing healthcare services and goods to Medicaid patients. The unit also investigates and prosecutes elder abuse or neglect. 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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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2007

CONTACT: JOHN McGLAMERY
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA OF JAMES YIM TO SECURITIES FRAUD

Reno—Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today the guilty plea in Washoe County District Court of James Yim to securities fraud for making an untrue statement and of failure to disclose a material fact related to the sale of securities. 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 \$500,000, and payment of restitution. The case was investigated by the Secretary of State's Office and referred to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution.

Yim was charged with securities fraud in connection with the operation of Yim Investment Consulting, of improperly selling securities of investors and using the proceeds of those sales to pay personal debts. As part of the guilty plea, Yim agreed to pay 100% restitution to the victims, in the sum of \$564,000, on or before the date of sentencing. This case is being prosecuted by the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, under the direction of Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski. Sentencing is set for March 20, 2008.

Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski warns investors that any investment promising a high rate of return with little or no risk is probably fraudulent. Before investing in any security or investment, carefully review all required disclosures and investigate the sellers. For more information on how you can help prevent illegal deceptive trade practices and securities fraud you may contact the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1169 in northern Nevada, or (702) 486-3194 in southern Nevada.

####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2007

CONTACT: JOHN McGLAMERY
Senior Deputy Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
(775) 684-1169

MASTO ANNOUNCES ACTION AGAINST PAYMENT PROCESSOR

Reno, NV—Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the State of Nevada, along with six other states and the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), have charged Your Money Access, LLC, d/b/a Netchex Corp., Universal Payment Solutions, Check Recovery Systems, Nterglobal Payment Solutions, Subscription Services, Ltd.; YMA Company, LLC, Derelle Janey, and Tarzene Dixon, with violating federal and state laws by debiting, or attempting to debit, more than \$200 million from consumers' bank accounts on behalf of fraudulent telemarketers and Internet-based merchants.

Automated clearing houses contract with merchants to process customers' credit card payments, demand drafts and automatic debits to consumer accounts for payment for goods or services. In the case of honest businesses, automated clearing houses provide a benefit to merchants and consumers by enabling electronic payments.

However, fraudulent telemarketers and Internet-based merchants cannot perpetrate their scams without the assistance of automated clearing houses who, for profit, continue to process payments for fraudulent telemarketers and Internet-based merchants, regardless of consumer complaints and demands for refunds.

The State of Nevada, the FTC and the attorneys general of Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, and Vermont have charged the defendants with offering payment processing services to a variety of fraudulent merchants, many of which were engaged in deceptive telemarketing or Internet-based schemes. These schemes were designed to extract money from consumer bank accounts by inducing consumers, through misrepresentations and omissions in connection with the marketing of products or services, to provide the merchant with the consumer's personal bank account information. The merchants then transmitted the bank account information to the defendants, who processed debits to the consumers' bank accounts.

Between June 23, 2004 and March 31, 2006, the defendants processed more than \$200 million in debits and attempted debits to consumers' bank accounts. The complaint

alleges more than \$69 million of the attempted debits were returned or rejected by consumers or their banks for various reasons, In many instances, after the defendants debited accounts, the merchants failed to deliver the promised products or services, or sent consumers relatively worthless items. The complaint alleges that by providing access to the banking system and the means to extract money from consumers' bank accounts, the defendants played a critical role in their clients' fraudulent and deceptive schemes.

The complaint seeks a permanent bar on further violations, monetary relief, including consumer redress and the disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, and civil penalties under applicable state claims.

Attorney General Masto and Consumer Advocate Eric Witkoski warn that the states and the federal government are now taking a hard look not only at people and businesses engaged in deceptive business schemes, but also those businesses which knowingly and in disregard of consumer rights provide the necessary services to make such fraudulent schemes possible. For more information on how you can help prevent illegal deceptive trade practices you may contact the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1169 in northern Nevada, or (702) 486-3194 in southern Nevada.

####



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

MASTO WARNS NEVADANS OF GROWING IDENTIFY THEFT SCAM INVOLVING JURY DUTY

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announces a new scam to obtain personal information for the purpose of committing identify theft where callers pose as a court employee and claim they are calling in regard to jury duty.

Perpetrators of this scam will telephone a private residence, identify himself as an officer of the court or some type of court employee, and inform the caller that he or she failed to report for jury duty and a warrant has been issued for his or her arrest. If you tell the caller you never received any written notice requiring you to report for jury duty, the caller will ask for personal information in order to “clear the matter up.”

The caller may ask for your date of birth, your social security number, and perhaps a credit card number. Never give this kind of information to anyone unknown to you, whether over the telephone, via e-mail, or in person. Hang up on these types of calls. This particular fraud has been reported in at least 11 states to date. The perpetrators have even offered to clear the problem up by having you pay a fine right then, asking for your credit card number. Never provide this type of information to someone who has telephoned you. Never give out personal information when you receive an unsolicited telephone call.

If you believe that you may have in fact received a summons for jury duty, you can telephone your local district court yourself to find out.

“We want to arm Nevadans with the information they need to protect themselves against identity theft. Rather than being intimidated by unscrupulous solicitors, be prepared to thwart them in their efforts,” advises Attorney General Masto.

For more information concerning identity theft, you may call the Attorney General’s Bureau of Consumer Protection in Las Vegas at (702) 486-3420, or in Carson City at (775) 684-1180. Information on consumer protection can also be found on the Attorney General’s Website at <http://ag.state.nv.us>

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL Bureau of Consumer Protection

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Eric Witkoski, *Consumer Advocate/Chief Deputy Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: December 14, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
njmoon@ag.state.nv.us

MASTO AND MILLER WARN NEVADANS TO BEWARE OF FORECLOSURE SCAMS

Las Vegas, NV- Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and Secretary of State Ross Miller are warning all Nevadans to beware of fraudulent foreclosure rescue schemes. Recent reports place Nevada first in the nation for its number of foreclosures. This has led to an increase in the number of foreclosure scams reported to law enforcement authorities.

Some companies which appear to offer foreclosure relief will require consumers to sign contracts which involve turning ownership of a home over to the foreclosure relief company and leasing the home back to the consumer with a buy back option at some future date. Many companies prey on consumers' fears of losing their homes. Many of these schemes are designed to fail so that consumers will lose their homes to the foreclosure rescue company.

"Unfortunately, home foreclosures are on the rise in Nevada and that has given scam artists fertile ground for cheating those desperate to keep their homes," said Attorney General Masto. "If you are facing foreclosure, I encourage you to talk with your mortgage lender before accepting help from an outside party."

An example of one scam known to be operating in Nevada: The perpetrator solicits victims directly through the mail with promises to help a homeowner from foreclosure by saving their credit and negotiating directly with their lender. The perpetrator will offer to buy the house for the total amount owing on the house, plus some small amount of cash. The perpetrator will require the victim to sign a deed, a transfer tax form, and a contract of sale. The deed provides that the seller (the victim) is selling the house to a corporation. The perpetrator pays the cash to the victim and assures him he will take care of paying off any mortgages on the home. After the victim moves out of the house, the perpetrator rents the house, does not pay the mortgages, and the house goes into foreclosure. The perpetrator can continue to collect rent until the foreclosure process is completed. The victim collects none of the rent, and, once foreclosure is completed, the renters are evicted.

"Anyone who has information about a scam with these characteristics should contact the Secretary of State's office in Las Vegas at (702) 486-2440," said Secretary of State Miller. "In the current market there are a lot of people who, for various reasons, may want or need to sell their homes. When that need to sell becomes desperation, homeowners become lucrative targets for scammers. If it's not something that's within the jurisdiction of my office, we'll find the appropriate agency to deal with it."

Masto and Miller encourage homeowners facing foreclosure to become informed of all their options.
Consumers must talk to their lenders immediately if they are having problems meeting

mortgage payments. Any delay in communicating with your lender will only make the problem worse. Assistance is available from licensed debt credit counselors, government agencies, and legal services. Seek advice from qualified professionals who do not have a personal interest in your decision.

Consumers may contact the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection about home foreclosure "rescue" scams at (702) 486-3194 in Las Vegas or (775) 684-1180 in Carson City. A complaint form, as well as other valuable information on consumer protection, is also available on the Attorney General's website at www.ag.state.nv.us.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday December 20, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (775) 684-1114
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

MASTO ANNOUNCES FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE ARRESTED ON THEFT AND FORGERY CHARGES

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that John E. Delap III, age 29, of Las Vegas, has been arrested on thirty four (34) counts of theft, forgery and unlawful use of public money, in connection with his former employment as the Deputy Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

“The Attorney General’s office takes charges of misconduct by State employees very seriously, particularly when the misconduct involves theft of public funds,” said Attorney General Masto.

Following an extensive investigation, the Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Justice, alleges that during his employment by the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine between November 2004 and January 2006, Delap embezzled in excess of \$60,000 of the Board’s money by forging checks made payable to himself and others, illegally obtaining and using a State Board credit card to purchase personal items and embezzling additional funds to pay off the credit card debt and hide the embezzlement.

The Attorney General’s investigation also revealed that in April of 2007, Delap pled guilty to felony theft arising from charges of embezzlement of \$33,308.14, during his employment with another employer Administrators in Medicine, between 2003 and 2004, where he also worked at the same time as his employment with the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine..

“Anyone with knowledge of such activities by State employees should report it to the Attorney General’s office for investigation,” said John P. Kelleher, Assistant Chief of the Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Justice.

Mr. Delap is currently being held on bail at the Clark county Detention Center awaiting an arraignment date.

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Governor's 2007 Strategic Approach to Reducing Methamphetamine Use in Nevada



**Governor's Working Group on
Methamphetamine Use**

**Jim Gibbons
Governor**

**Catherine Cortez Masto
Attorney General
Chairwoman**

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Members of the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use

Governor Jim Gibbons issued an Executive Order on January 22, 2007 commissioning the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use in Nevada. The sixteen appointed members were the driving force behind the creation of this report. They dedicated many hours to fact finding and research to present a comprehensive, strategic approach to addressing the methamphetamine issues in Nevada. Their hard work and expertise is appreciated as is their commitment to Nevada's citizens in combating methamphetamine.

Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General of Nevada – Chairwoman

Dawn Gibbons, First Lady of Nevada

Sheila Leslie, Nevada State Assemblywoman

Dr. Joseph Heck, Nevada State Senator

Chris Giunchigliani, Commissioner, Clark County

Marv Teixeira, Mayor, Carson City

Doug Gillespie, Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Mike Haley, Sheriff, Washoe County

Ken Furlong, Sheriff, Carson City

Mark Jackson, District Attorney, Douglas County

Phil Galeoto, Director, Nevada Department of Public Safety

Mike Willden, Director, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Ted Quasula, CEO, International School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts
Former Chief of Police, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Rhonda Zuraff, Publisher, Elko Daily Free Press

Dr. Rob Roberts, Superintendent, Nye County School District

Richard Steinberg, CEO, WestCare

A Message from the Governor of Nevada



My fellow Nevadans, enclosed is a copy of a report compiled by the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use, *Governor's 2007 Strategic Approach to Reducing Methamphetamine Use in Nevada*. On behalf of the people of Nevada and myself, I want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Working Group for their dedication, devotion, and expertise used in successfully completing this important task. Further, I want to add my thanks and gratitude to those people on the front lines – law enforcement, substance abuse counselors, and other professionals who undertake

this important mission on our streets every day of the year. The fight against methamphetamine is one in which we must all be engaged.

Methamphetamine is a long-standing epidemic that needs immediate attention, which is why in the first days of my administration; I took two actions to support Nevada's commitment to fight this scourge on our society.

First, I placed a \$17.4 million dollar allocation in the 2008-09 Biennium budget to be used toward fighting the utilization and effects of this devastating drug. Second, in January 2007, an Executive Order was issued and signed creating the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use. This dedicated group was chaired by Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and comprised of law enforcement, state agencies, legislators, private citizens, and First Lady Dawn Gibbons. The group had two major tasks: 1) delivering a preliminary report outlining the scope of the problem in Nevada and recommending needed bill drafts to the 2007 Legislature to address the issues, and 2) compilation and delivery of this booklet with a final report containing information on current efforts, successes, and specific recommendations on how the state should proceed in this critical battle. The Working Group met each and every challenge of creating a blueprint for Nevada's battle against methamphetamine use, ultimately providing us with Action Steps and Recommendations for implementation.

Together we can solve this most insidious problem.

Sincerely,

JIM GIBBONS
Governor

A Message from the First Lady of Nevada



Dear Friends:

As First Lady of the State of Nevada, I have witnessed first hand the helplessness, destruction, and pain families endure as a result of methamphetamine use. As citizens we must unite to rid this deadly drug from our state. Otherwise, we may be faced with losing an entire generation of our youth – something that none of us are willing to accept.

Methamphetamine is made up of toxic chemicals that can be smoked, snorted, eaten, or injected. While easily cooked in a household setting, most of the methamphetamine distributed in Nevada comes directly from Mexico, manufactured by drug cartels that have perfected its potency and destructive effect. As a result, the number of addicts has skyrocketed, and unfortunately, there are few prospects for finding suitable means of treatment and rehabilitation.

As Nevadans, I know you are caring and compassionate people that wish to join in this important mission to eliminate methamphetamine from our society. There is much we can do. **We must stop anyone else from ever trying this drug, even once.** If we prevent one person from trying this drug for the first time, then we have saved a life and spared their family and loved ones a great deal of suffering. To that end, prevention is the most important step.

In addition, we need recovery programs for those who have become hopelessly addicted to methamphetamine. We need to be diligent in improving evidence-based treatment services so those desperate individuals can reclaim their lives and become productive citizens once again.

The Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use has spent the past year identifying specific, action-oriented recommendations in an effort to effectively end the use of methamphetamine in our communities. The cause is great and requires our active participation. We need everyone's help in finding solutions that will save precious lives. Our biggest challenge is before us and we must ensure that methamphetamine is not in our homes, our schools, our communities, nor anywhere in our state. I urge you to carefully review this report and find an area you can become involved with, as a concerned and engaged citizen. The time is now for each of us to carry the responsibility of securing a better and brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

DAWN GIBBONS
First Lady of Nevada

A Message from the Attorney General



Dear Nevadans:

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive, destructive drug with high costs to every aspect of our society. It knows no boundaries: economic, social or racial. It has rooted itself in our communities and as a state, we are coming together to fight back.

To win this battle, we must look at all sides of the issue from law enforcement to treatment, to prevention, to education and to legislation. The Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use recognizes that we cannot defeat the menace of methamphetamine by addressing just one of these issues. All must be addressed, simultaneously, to make an impact on methamphetamine use in our state. The Working Group has spent the past year studying these various issues.

This report to the Governor and Nevada State Legislature is just the beginning, and to truly make a difference we need to recognize that combating methamphetamine use requires long-term attention, communication and participation by everyone in our state. I encourage you to read this report thoroughly. When you have finished, ask yourself what you can do to help in your community. Together, we can put an end to methamphetamine use in Nevada.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
Nevada Attorney General

**All documents referenced in this report
may be viewed at:**

**Nevada's Methamphetamine Website
www.nevadameth.nv.gov**

Executive Summary

The sixteen members of the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use, commissioned through Executive Order by Governor Jim Gibbons on January 22, 2007, have dedicated the past eleven months to studying the problems associated with methamphetamine use and developing a comprehensive response, outlined in this Final Report.

Recognizing the need for immediate action, the Governor, Legislature, and the Working Group, early on, achieved some worthy accomplishments. Governor Gibbons included General Fund support in the amount of \$17.4 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget to fund methamphetamine specific substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, and law enforcement activities. This funding was appropriated by the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature.¹ Assembly Bill 148 and Senate Bill 112 restrict access to precursors used in the production of methamphetamine, and Senate Bills 346 and 570 fund the Working Group and this important study.

Nevada has experienced other successes this past year as well. The Department of Health and Human Services received a substantial Child Welfare grant to assist young victims of methamphetamine use. The award, in the amount of \$3,742,000 over the next five years, will address the growing problem of methamphetamine addiction as it relates to child welfare issues in Clark County. Through support from Nevada's First Lady, Dawn Gibbons, a 30-minute documentary underscoring the devastation of methamphetamine use was broadcast statewide, and follow-up pamphlets were made available in all communities. The twelve Prevention Coalitions serving the seventeen Nevada counties have initiated methamphetamine specific prevention projects that address the individual needs of their communities, while collaborating with one another to create a "social norms" – a message highlighting Nevadans making healthy choices – campaign message statewide. Through aggressive and collaborative enforcement operations, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have dramatically reduced the number of clandestine laboratory incidents by 88% between 1999 and 2006.

Despite these accomplishments, the Working Group heard presentations from experts in the field of law enforcement, prevention and treatment outlining the challenges that still exist:

- Although local methamphetamine production is down, it is brought into Nevada from Mexico and distributed by highly sophisticated drug networks.
- A lack of operational agreements between some tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the state has impeded arrests and interdiction activities.

¹ During the drafting of this Final Report, Nevada's Governor announced a 4.5% reduction to the State's general fund appropriations which may have an impact on the allocation of the \$17.4 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget.

- As methamphetamine related arrests and treatment admissions go down, the prevalence of other drug problems such as prescription drug abuse goes up.
- The Juvenile Justice system is seeing third and fourth generation families coming into their systems with more serious problems, while federal funding for critical services has been reduced by 62.5% in the last five years.
- The adult correctional system, which is stretched to capacity due to drug-related crime, has seen a tremendous impact on recent intakes due to methamphetamine. Eighty percent of intakes in a six-week period reported regular meth use.
- Between 2002 and 2006, methamphetamine treatment admissions rose from 25.1% to 32.5%. The estimated overall unmet treatment need in Nevada is 112,034 individuals. This is complicated by the longer stay in treatment, up to three years, required for successful recovery from methamphetamine.
- There is an impending crisis in the treatment workforce as less people are entering the field, more are leaving due to age and inadequate pay, and the issue of portability of qualified people from outside the state is not addressed.
- Nevada is currently without a Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance and county DEC teams, which are established to ensure the safety of children retrieved from homes where drug use threatens their safety and well-being.
- Although funding for prevention was significantly increased during the 2007 Legislative Session, current evidence-based practices are in jeopardy due to a loss in federal funds.

Cognizant of the magnitude of the presenting problems, the Working Group recommends extending the authority of the Working Group by a Governor's Executive Order beyond December 31, 2007 until June 30, 2009. Additionally, the scope of the Working Group should be expanded beyond methamphetamine to include all drugs of abuse. The Working Group has laid out an ambitious plan to improve drug prevention, treatment, and law enforcement conditions. Although specific to methamphetamine, many of the strategies presented will address all drugs of abuse.

The Working Group identified overarching recommendations in the areas of Drug Endangered Children, Law Enforcement, Prevention, and Treatment, including treatment workforce development. Each recommendation is supported with specific, action-driven strategies, or Action Steps. The Action Steps for each area are summarized on a flow chart indicating the Action Step requires immediate action/accountability, fiscal/budget study, or further study and information gathering. State and local experts should be included in the study and implementation of the Action Steps through involvement in subcommittees. The flow charts will assist the

Working Group in prioritizing future action should their authority be extended beyond December 31, 2007.

The Executive Summary of these Action Steps is provided in the front pocket as a fold out.

This report was created with the help of many Nevada citizens, and will be driven forward by the commitment to the health and safety of all Nevadans, by Nevadans.

Introduction

On January 22, 2007, Governor Jim Gibbons issued an Executive Order commissioning the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use in Nevada. The Working Group is comprised of sixteen appointed members from law enforcement, state legislature, social service agencies, local elected officials, schools, and private and public sector leadership, to study the impact of methamphetamine use in Nevada.

The Executive Order directed the Working Group to specifically evaluate and make suggestions for improvements pertaining to several areas of impact:

- impacts on law enforcement, prison, and detention resources;
- sources and manufacture of methamphetamine;
- preventative and punitive measures against methamphetamine users and suppliers;
- rehabilitation and recovery options for methamphetamine users;
- youth education and awareness programs;
- education and awareness programs for family and friends of users; and
- impact of methamphetamine use on Nevada's economy.

The Working Group was tasked with issuing a Final Report to the Governor by December 31, 2007, including recommendations addressing possible solutions and proposed legislation that will assist the state in its goal of curtailing methamphetamine use in Nevada. The Working Group met fifteen times during 2007. Additionally, three subcommittee meetings were conducted. A Preliminary Report containing the Working Group's initial recommendations was presented to the Governor and the Legislature in April, 2007. The following months were spent in information gathering, consulting with experts in the field, and the development of this Final Report.

The Final Report summarizes recent information and research describing the nature of methamphetamine and the impact on the user and the community. The Successes section describes the accomplishments of the Working Group in addition to the many successes achieved across Nevada. The section outlining Challenges and Recommendations presents a summary of the information gathered by the Working Group describing the problems presented by methamphetamine use. Recommendations addressing possible solutions with specific action steps are identified, and presented in accompanying flow charts.

This document should be viewed as a working document to guide all Nevadans committed to eradicating methamphetamine in our state.

Nature of Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine: What is it?

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Although most of the methamphetamine used in this country comes from foreign or domestic super labs, the drug is easily made in small clandestine laboratories, with relatively inexpensive over-the-counter ingredients: cold medications containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, red phosphorus, hydrochloric acid, anhydrous ammonia, drain cleaner, battery acid, lye, lantern fuel, and antifreeze. These factors combine to make methamphetamine a drug with high potential for widespread abuse.

Methamphetamine is a Schedule I controlled substance in Nevada, which means it has a high potential for abuse and has no accepted medical use in treatment or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision.

Methamphetamine is referred to by many street names such as “crank,” “speed,” “meth,” “wire,” and “chalk.” Methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly resembling chunky crystals or ice, is referred to as “ice,” “crystal,” “glass,” and “tina.”

After smoking, snorting, or injection, the user experiences an intense sensation, called a “rush” or “flash,” that lasts only a few minutes and is described as extremely pleasurable. Following the “rush,” there is typically a state of high agitation that in some individuals can lead to violent behavior. Other possible immediate effects include increased wakefulness and insomnia, decreased appetite, irritability, aggression, anxiety, nervousness, convulsions, and heart attack. As use of methamphetamine progresses, users forego food and sleep. Chronic use can cause paranoia, hallucinations, repetitive behavior (such as compulsive cleaning and taking on projects with no organization), and sensations of parasites or insects crawling under the skin, which results in obsessive scratching and picking at the skin to the point of bleeding. Toxic psychosis, extreme paranoia, strokes, and death can occur from long-term use.

Methamphetamine is easily manufactured, contributing to its widespread use. Large manufacturing operations, or “super labs,” are located throughout certain regions of Mexico. These super labs are the primary source of methamphetamine in Nevada, distributing it through a highly sophisticated drug trafficking network. Although home lab production, or “clandestine labs” exist, they tend to produce very small amounts of methamphetamine, normally intended for the producer’s own use.

The information above is taken from *“The Partnership for a Drug Free America: Facts About Meth,” the National Institute on Drug Abuse “Methamphetamine Abuse and Addiction,” and Nevada Revised Statute 453.166. Documents and links can be accessed at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

Current Efforts and Successes in Nevada

Recognition of current successes in combating substance use and abuse in Nevada is as important as recognizing what needs to be accomplished in the future. Nevada's successes to date specific to methamphetamine are impressive and many have been accomplished with very limited resources. Federal, state, and local efforts all contributed to the work that has been accomplished thus far, along with strong leadership from Nevada's elected officials. It will be important for Nevada to pull from these successes when addressing recommendations in this report, ensuring that current systems and strategies are not duplicated and that current practices are supported.

Executive Order Issued by Governor Jim Gibbons

On January 22, 2007, Governor Jim Gibbons issued an Executive Order commissioning the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use. The Working Group was directed to issue a Preliminary Report to the Governor by April 1, 2007, that included recommendations addressing possible solutions and proposed legislation that would assist the state in its goal of curtailing methamphetamine use in Nevada.

The recommendations outlined in the report titled "Preliminary Report: Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use" set the framework for important legislative action and budget increases crucial to addressing Nevada's methamphetamine issues. Governor Gibbons' appointment of the sixteen Working Group members was the first step in establishing a coordinated process to strategically approach reducing methamphetamine use in Nevada. *The Executive Order and Preliminary Report can be found at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

2007-2009 Executive Budget Increases

Governor Gibbons included General Fund support in the amount of \$17.4 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget² to fund methamphetamine specific substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, and law enforcement activities. These funding allocations were the largest increase in Nevada's history for the substance abuse field. Allocation of these funds was made to the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, and the Department of Public Safety.

- \$5.3 million - Replace lost federal funds to support community coalitions and local prevention programs;
- \$2 million - Support methamphetamine awareness and education campaigns;

² During the drafting of this Final Report, Nevada's Governor announced a 4.5% reduction to the State's general fund appropriations which may have an impact on the allocation of the \$17.4 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget.

- \$3.8 million - Funding to address waiting lists for treatment beds for methamphetamine addicts;
- \$3 million - Funding for a pilot program in Southern Nevada to address treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders;
- \$3.2 million - Funding to hire additional state narcotic investigators to be placed on existing and new task forces across the state; and
- \$100,000 - Support for the Working Group.

Legislation

The 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature adjourned on June 5, 2007, passing some important legislation related to methamphetamine. *For more information on the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature refer to www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

Assembly Bill 148: Effective August 1, 2007

An act relating to controlled substances, making various changes concerning the sale, transfer or acquisition of precursors to methamphetamine, and making various changes to crimes relating to the use or manufacturing of methamphetamine and other controlled substances. This bill establishes restrictions on the sale and purchase of products that contain materials that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine and makes other various changes pertaining to methamphetamine and other controlled substances.

Senate Bill 112: Effective July 1, 2007

An act relating to controlled substances; requiring entities that sell certain products that are precursors to methamphetamine to place such products in an area to which the public does not have direct access, to limit the quantity of such products sold or transferred to the same person during any calendar day, to maintain a list of sales of such products and to ensure that certain information is entered in that list; and prohibiting a person from acquiring more than a certain amount of certain products that are precursors to methamphetamine. This bill establishes restrictions on the sale and purchase of products that contain materials that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Senate Bill 346: Effective May 31, 2007

An act making an appropriation to the Office of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to fund a working group to study the methamphetamine problem in Nevada for the current fiscal year. This bill appropriates \$9,900 to fund a working group to study the methamphetamine problem in Nevada.

Senate Bill 570: Effective June 13, 2007

An act making an appropriation to the Office of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to fund a working group to study the methamphetamine problem in Nevada. This bill appropriates \$90,100 to fund a working group to study the methamphetamine problem in Nevada.

Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership

Nevada is one of very few states to have a statewide collaborative specific to community coalitions with a focus on substance abuse prevention. The Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership was formed in 2001 out of a need to enhance the coordination of planning, service development, and delivery of prevention services. Through the Partnership, community-based coalitions work together to address statewide issues, share information, provide up to date training, and facilitate the development of statewide strategies, while being consistent and strategic as a group. Currently, the twelve coalitions that are members of the Partnership work closely with tribal, state, and local officials to collect data specific to methamphetamine so decisions are strategic and evaluated for effectiveness. Community-level partnerships with key stakeholders drive the prioritization of evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies that are best for individual communities yet always look to the goals of the statewide partnership. Each coalition set aside a minimum of ten percent of the state allocated methamphetamine prevention dollars to collaborate on a statewide media campaign. Additionally, a common web-based data collection system was created to collect process and outcome data specific to methamphetamine prevention projects across the state.



Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership

Coalition – Methamphetamine Specific Strategies

The two million in funding to support methamphetamine awareness and education campaigns included in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget was allocated to community coalitions to fund methamphetamine strategies specific to their Comprehensive Community Prevention Plans. By September 2007, each funded coalition had met with key stakeholders and coalition partners to prioritize these strategies, each of which is unique to the coalition area. Efforts include:

- a. Implement substance abuse prevention curriculum that impacts the initiation of substance use;

- b. Provide public education that will raise awareness and educate multiple sectors of the community about the negative ramifications of methamphetamine use and the processes to create change regarding methamphetamine use;
- c. Remove barriers and increase linkages between prevention programs and parents and children;
- d. Increase community collaborations and partnerships including key leaders such as government officials, educators, law enforcement representatives, and tribal leaders;
- e. Evaluate effectiveness of methamphetamine prevention efforts;
- f. Educate specific populations of the community that are either the most vulnerable to the damages of methamphetamine or have access to the most vulnerable;
- g. Raise awareness, educate, and provide capacity building assistance to the business and employment communities;
- h. Implement local environmental strategies highlighting the dangers of substance abuse;
- i. Promote policies that target decreased methamphetamine use; and
- j. Participation in a statewide Social Norms Media Campaign.

The ability of communities to mobilize and agree on how to allocate funds in a short period of time is one testament to the power of community collaborations. Scarce prevention dollars have been allocated throughout Nevada and will target problems unique to each community.

The “Most of Us” Social Norms Campaign

Twelve community coalitions with a focus on substance abuse have partnered to implement a statewide Social Norms Media Campaign titled “Most of Us.” The coalitions, led by Goshen Community Development Coalition, partnered with Dr. Jeffrey Linkenbach, Ed.D, a pioneer of the social norms approach to prevention. Dr. Linkenbach is the developer of the Montana Model of Social Norms Marketing, a model that contains specific protocol for conducting social norms marketing in a variety of settings. The approach involves correcting community perceptions and misperceptions of what is the norm and the development and translation of the social science into social action through radio, television, and print campaigns and other forms of media advocacy or strategic communications. The goal is to reshape health behavior by marketing positive norms practiced by the majority of the population, parting ways with more traditional methods that involve the use of scare tactics.

Listed by the New York Times Magazine as one of the most significant ideas of 2001, social norms marketing is based on the central concept of social norms theory – that much of people’s behavior is influenced by their perceptions of what is “normal” or “typical.” The problem is that we often severely misperceive the typical behaviors or attitudes of our peers.

- “Most of Us” Campaign

The coalitions are developing comprehensive and conclusive media and environmental strategies that are aligned with the identified issues of individual communities and the state of Nevada as a whole. The strategies will:

- Use a data-driven decision-making process;
- Encourage evidence-based prevention programs;
- Encourage the development of effective policy strategies and practices; and
- Employ a system for monitoring the success of the strategies implemented related to change in perception and misconception of harm within the specified populations throughout the state.

For more information on the “Most of Us” campaign visit www.nevadameth.nv.gov.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Funding

In September 2007, The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was awarded the grant, *Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Substance Abuse* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The award, in the amount of \$3,742,000 over the next five years, will address the growing problem of methamphetamine addiction as it relates to child welfare issues in Clark County. DCFS collaborated on the grant with several partner agencies including the Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Nevada’s Court Improvement Project, Clark County Department of Family Services, WestCare Nevada, Clark County’s Drug Dependency Court, and the Nevada State Health Division. The funding allows for expanded treatment capacity, more timely access to appropriate substance abuse treatment, and better integration of child welfare services related to methamphetamine abuse.

2007 Nevada Prosecutors Conference

In July 2007, Ely was host to a joint strategy session with members of the Nevada Sheriffs’ and Chiefs’ Association and attendees of the 2007 Nevada Prosecutors’ Conference titled “Developing a Methamphetamine Control Strategy in Nevada.” Panel members representing the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership, the Nevada District Attorneys Association, and the Nevada Sheriffs’ and Chiefs’ Association presented challenges specific to their communities and professions, in both rural and urban areas of the state. Attendees divided into three groups to identify and prioritize recommendations relating to the challenges outlined. The groups reconvened and shared their main priorities and suggestions for improvement to be submitted to the Governor’s Working Group on Methamphetamine Use. The challenges and solutions identified through this joint strategy session are incorporated in this report. *Full meeting minutes and recommendations are posted at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

Roundtable on the States' Best Practices for Fighting the Methamphetamine Epidemic

In May 2007, Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto took part in a roundtable discussion with attorneys general from other states related to best practices for fighting methamphetamine. States at the table included Nevada, Arkansas, Iowa, Ohio, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Oregon. The group shared best practices occurring in their states related to law enforcement, treatment, education, and awareness. Nevada was recognized for being proactive in tackling methamphetamine as it is acknowledged as having some of the worst problems in the nation. Nevada's strategies related to treatment and prevention, specifically the importance of working with youth and their families to prevent the cycle of addiction, were supported by the group. The main issue for the attorneys general was pseudoephedrine and Nevada addressed this issue through the passage of Senate Bill 112 and Assembly Bill 148. Even though the Working Group has been convened a very short period of time, Nevada is much farther along in aggressively attacking methamphetamine issues in the state. The attorneys general are looking to Nevada to share their strategies as a best practice to be used across the country.

Crystal Darkness

On January 9, 2007, the community of Northern Nevada fought back against methamphetamine by airing a 30-minute documentary titled "Crystal Darkness." The documentary was broadcast simultaneously on most stations. The Crystal Darkness Campaign was a collaboration between the local media, schools, law enforcement, recovery specialists, and the business community. It was spearheaded by Secret Witness, a local non-profit crime-stopping organization. On May 30, 2007, the documentary aired in Southern Nevada, reaching the largest population base in Nevada.

"Crystal Darkness" underscores the frightening truth about methamphetamine's devastating attack on our youth and their families. The program targets youth and their parents, but the message extends with conviction to the entire community. The story is

I was a 4.0 GPA student, I lost everything; my scholarship to college, I graduated at 16 – it's not worth it. Don't try it. Not even once.

- Tennille, Crystal Darkness

told through the powerful testimonies of young people who have gone through the dark and lonely depths of methamphetamine addiction. With heart wrenching and raw honesty, they speak to their generation with an unforgettable message of warning. The documentary is also available in Spanish, titled "Obscuridad Cristal."

Since the broadcast, Secret Witness has been contacted by cities throughout the nation and is offering to assist other communities in hosting their own Crystal Darkness Campaign. A blueprint has been developed that can be adapted to any community in the nation. The Oregon Crystal Darkness Campaign

aired October 9, 2007, broadcast on 25 television stations throughout the state. San Diego County broadcast the documentary on December 12, 2007 to nearly three million people. New Mexico and Arizona are planning campaigns in 2008.

Through “Crystal Darkness,” Secret Witness hopes to raise awareness of methamphetamine problems and solutions, assure methamphetamine hotline callers receive quality referrals, and create linkages to ongoing methamphetamine efforts. One of the most significant positive effects of the campaign is that it brings communities together in the fight against methamphetamine, mobilizing citizens to fight back to protect Nevada’s youth and neighborhoods. *Link to this campaign is available at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

No Safe Haven

This initiative established communication plans to share information between three adjoining counties regarding tips, intelligence, known cartels, and other relevant information to achieve the stated message directed to methamphetamine manufacturers, traffickers, sellers and users: in their Tri-County area, they would find “No Safe Haven.”

The District Attorneys in Carson City, Douglas County, and Lyon County determined that the best way to combat the manufacturing, trafficking, and sale of methamphetamine is to work collaboratively to defeat this common threat to the health, safety, and well-being of their communities. The key to this effort is cooperation and collaboration between all law enforcement agencies within the Tri-County area. Tri-Net is the hub of this collaborative effort. The District Attorneys established uniformity and consistency in the prosecution of methamphetamine cases. They continue to support local prevention plans, and conduct monthly briefings and regular training pertinent to the legal aspects of drug task force investigations.

DEA Partnerships

Specific to securing Nevada’s borders, Mike Flanagan, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration for the District of Nevada, cites the interdiction programs sponsored with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada Highway Patrol, and Nevada Department of Public Safety Investigations as very successful. The programs look at the drugs coming across our border to be utilized in Nevada and also destined to other parts of the U.S.

This is cooperative law enforcement at its best where all law enforcement agencies, state, local, and federal come together for one common goal and share information and work together on an everyday basis. The communities, cities, counties and the state of Nevada benefit from this partnership.

**- Mike Flanagan
Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge
Drug Enforcement Administration,
District of Nevada**

The major routes are out of California and Arizona. DEA's leadership has played a pivotal role in the decline of methamphetamine labs throughout the state. During 2006, Nevada law enforcement seized 20 labs, down from 84 in 2003. In conjunction with their HIDTA counterparts, the DEA seized approximately 75 kgs of methamphetamine and over \$1 million in methamphetamine-related currency and assets in 2006.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee to the Working Group agreed to adopt the basic guidelines of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) because they believe this can guide the law enforcement/criminal justice piece of their approach to dealing with methamphetamine in the state. HIDTA is not an agency or organization but a program that provides federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with a funding mechanism to pool resources and share information. The mission statement of HIDTA is "to measurably reduce drug trafficking through intelligence driven task forces, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in this and other areas of the country." The goals of HIDTA are to:

1. Reduce drug availability by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations;
2. Measurably reduce methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution;
3. Reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking;
4. Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement organizations and their efforts;
5. Measurably reduce drug related crime; and
6. Establish a multi-agency drug intelligence network within the HIDTA region.

The table below outlines the positive results of the Washoe County collaborative and the Las Vegas collaborative:

Washoe County: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007	Las Vegas 2006 Interdiction Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 67 arrests ▪ 34 asset seizures ▪ \$934,825 – value of seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 94 arrests ▪ 14 search warrants ▪ 2 firearms seized ▪ 12 vehicles seized ▪ \$2,787,243 – U.S. Currency ▪ Ice – 25 kgs ▪ Pure meth – 14 kgs

There are eleven Nevada HIDTA enforcement and intelligence initiatives in Nevada. By taking HIDTA statewide, they have effectively begun to work on all these areas. HIDTA is a good example of how local, state, and federal agencies can work together. It allows for connectivity to adjoining states and is a great method for exchanging information. Future initiatives for law enforcement will be consistent with what HIDTA is doing.

Conference of Western Attorneys General Mexico Delegation

On September 20-21, 2007, Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto participated in the 19th National Conference of Attorneys General of Mexico in Jiutepec, Morelos along with State Attorneys General and Assistant Attorneys General of the Western states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota, Hawaii, and California. State attorneys general from all 31 Mexican states, the Federal District, and Mexico's Attorney General, Eduardo Medina Mora, attended the meeting.

The binational exchange during the Conference provided an opportunity for U.S. and Mexico state attorneys general to have an open exchange on critical topics of mutual importance, which included efforts to reduce methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking. At the conference, Mexico's Attorney General provided a substantive overview of the strategic and collaborative drug interdiction efforts between Mexico and U.S. at the federal level, as well as the implementation in Mexico of regulatory controls on pseudoephedrine, a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamines.

On Sept. 1, 2007, Mexico began requiring prescriptions for medicines containing pseudoephedrine and blocked over-the-counter sales of the decongestant used in methamphetamine production. Methamphetamines are increasingly produced in Mexico and shipped north to the U.S., with seizures along the border increasing fivefold over five years to three tons in 2006, according to a congressional report released by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Participating attorneys general agreed on the importance of convening frequent exchanges to strengthen state-to-state efforts and to develop effective collaborative strategies to combat mutual challenges. As a result, Arizona Attorney General, Terry Goddard, Chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General, offered to host the next forum in the Spring of 2008 to follow up and provide specific focus on the topics discussed.

COPS Six State Combat Methamphetamine Initiative

Nevada has been invited to collaborate with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) of the U.S. Department of Justice in its Six State Combat Methamphetamine Initiative. States are selected based on a commitment by the Governor's Office to lead a statewide planning and implementation process to combat methamphetamine. Other federal partners include the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The COPS office partners with prevention and treatment to advance community policing practices that promote collaboration, problem solving, and systems change. Nevada meets the key strategies needed to participate as outlined by COPS including: 1) a committed Governor's Office to drive change, 2) a statewide planning system inclusive of local coalition building, 3) comprehensive strategies related to prevention, treatment, and enforcement, 4) mobilization and coordination of all sectors, 5) promotion of

effective media and communication strategies, 6) provision of outcomes that reflect evidence-based strategies, and 7) data-driven planning and assessment. In 2008, the Working Group will communicate to COPS the recommendations laid out in this report and further gauge their involvement in Nevada. *More information on COPS can be found at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Community Meth Abatement Project

In May of 2006, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) convened a focus group of national experts to discuss guidelines for community methamphetamine abatement. The Community Meth Abatement Advisory Project (CMAAP) was created to assist communities in responding to methamphetamine issues having a major impact on children. NCJFCJ, in cooperation with the Sixth Judicial District Juvenile Department and the Frontier Community Coalition, held a training in Winnemucca in June 2007 for professionals who face challenges caused by methamphetamine production, distribution, and use. Topics included the medical and psychiatric aspects of methamphetamine addiction; children exposed to methamphetamine, both perinatally and in the home; and methamphetamine labs, production, and distribution.

Challenges and Recommendations

Introduction

From January through November 2007, the Working Group heard from state and national experts who described the many challenges methamphetamine use presents to various disciplines, and recommendations for corrective action. Equally important, individuals in recovery from methamphetamine addiction shared their personal stories about how they began using methamphetamine, and how it impacted their lives. Three subcommittees of the Working Group: Law Enforcement, Treatment/Prevention, and Legislation, which included advisory members from related fields, used this information to further articulate the presenting problems and develop recommendations with specific action steps to address these concerns.

In this section under the sub headings: Drug Endangered Children, Law Enforcement, Prevention, and Treatment and Workforce Development, the challenges presented to the Working Group are summarized, followed by overarching recommendations achieved through specific action steps.

This section leads with a recommendation not specific to the three subcommittees established, but to the Working Group itself. The authority of the Working Group is to dissolve on December 31, 2007, per the Executive Order by the Governor. Members of the Working Group voted at the December 4, 2007 meeting to request an extension of the Working Group to June 30, 2009 by a new Governor's Executive Order. This will allow time for recommendations presented in this section to be addressed.

Extension of the Working Group's Authority

The success of the recommendations proposed in this section now rides on the continuation of this group. The Working Group gathered information, listened to experts, and developed solid recommendations. Extending the Working Group will ensure further actions are taken in Nevada to address methamphetamine and other substances of abuse.

- 1. Extend the authority of the Working Group beyond the December 31, 2007 deadline as outlined in the Governor's Executive Order.**
 - a. Extend the authority of the Working Group by a Governor's Executive Order through June 30, 2009.
 - b. Expand the scope of the Working Group to include all drugs of abuse.
 - c. Establish teams to conduct further studies or take action to address recommendations outlined in the Governor's 2007 Final Report.
 - d. Continue to meet as a full Working Group to address recommendations outlined in the Governor's 2007 Final Report.

Drug Endangered Children

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) programs aim to help children who suffer physical or psychological harm and neglect resulting from presence at or near sites of drug production (especially methamphetamine) or from exposure to illegal drugs or persons under the influence of illegal drugs.

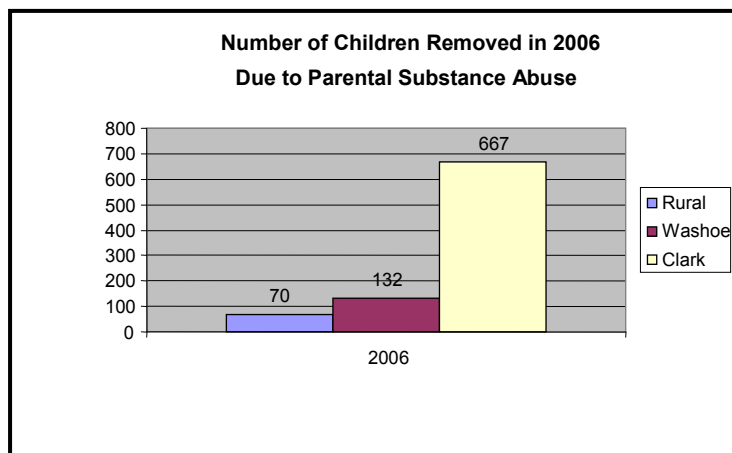
It is a very important part of this Working Group that we focus on children. The Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is about rescuing, defending, sheltering, and supporting children.

**- Mark Jackson
District Attorney, Douglas County**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recognizes the following specific dangers faced by children who live in or visit drug-production sites or are present during drug production:

- Inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of toxic chemicals, drugs, or contaminated food or drink that may result in respiratory difficulties, nausea, chest pain, eye and tissue irritation, chemical burns, and death;
- Fires and explosions resulting from dangerous methamphetamine production processes;
- Abuse and neglect by parents who often binge on methamphetamine and traumatic consequences that result; and
- Hazardous living conditions (firearms, code violations, poor ventilation, and sanitation).

Fernando Serrano, Administrator for the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services presented this chart in his testimony to the Working Group.



Mr. Serrano provided these disturbing statistics from regions of the state:

- In the rural region, 25% of children entering foster care is due to parental substance abuse;
- From October 2006 to December 2006, 55 children entered care from the rural regions; of these, 31 were due to drug abuse (56%);
- In Clark County, 85% of mothers treated at the Bridge Treatment Center have meth as the primary drug of choice;
- 60% to 70% of Washoe County's child abuse/neglect cases involve parental substance abuse; and
- In FY 2005-06, 55% of Washoe County protective custody hearings involved substance abuse.

Mark Jackson, District Attorney in Douglas County, states the DEC program started primarily because of the methamphetamine labs and the number of children who were exposed to labs. The idea was to set up a protocol involving not only law enforcement and judiciary but also mental health, physicians, nurses, and hospitals. Ultimately, a coordinated plan will ensure the needs of these young victims are addressed.

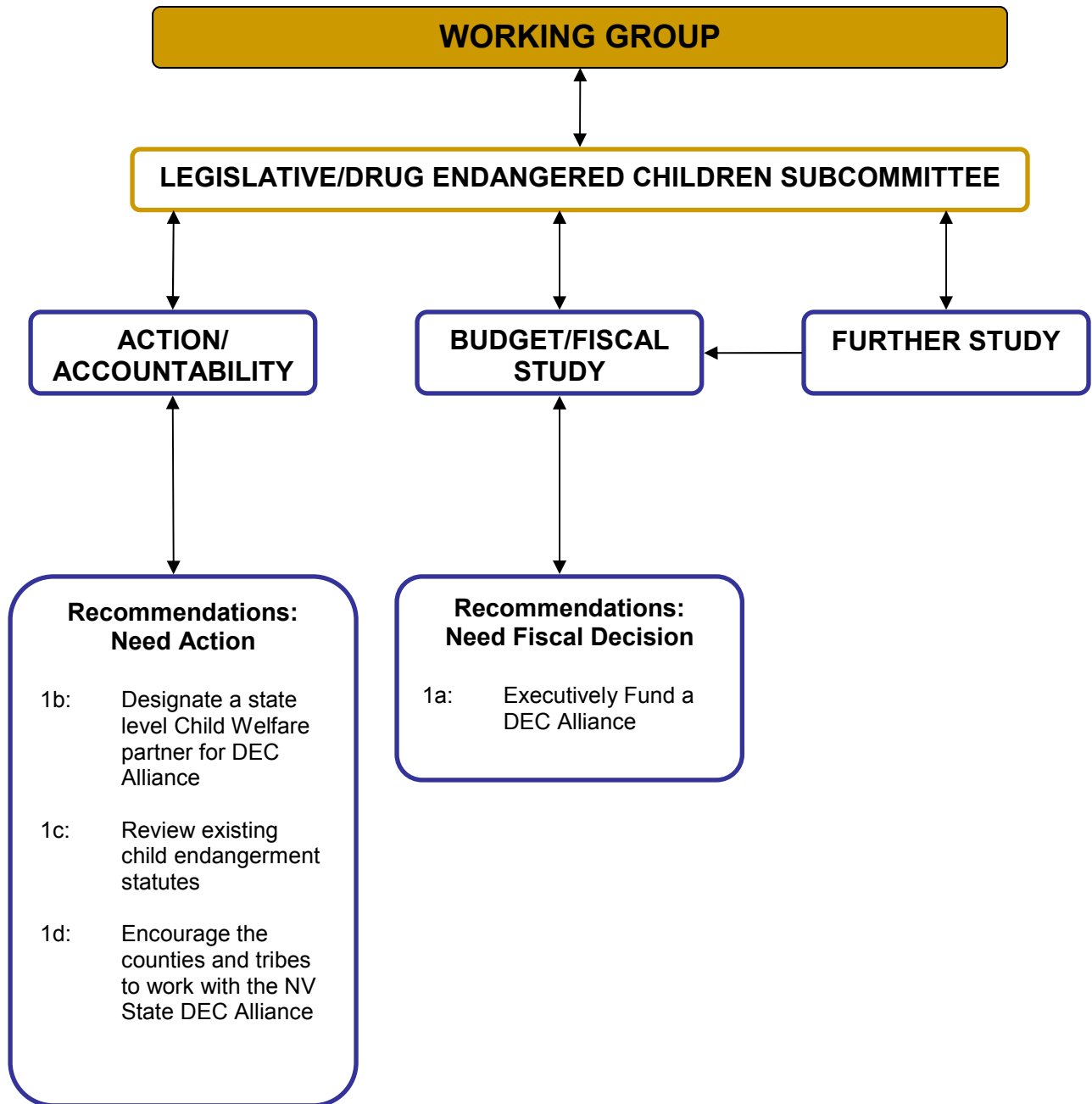
According to Chris Bayer, Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates in Carson City, a state level DEC Alliance supports the creation of this coordinated response at the county level through training, resource gathering, and the provision of model protocols. Nevada is the only state in the Far West with no state DEC Alliance. It is the only state in the Far West without county DEC teams.

Meanwhile, according to Mr. Bayer, many county DEC teams and states across the nation are moving into a second generation, which takes the concern beyond methamphetamine labs. They are creating new child welfare statutes and risk assessment practices, such as the use of environmental swabs. They are developing guidelines for the involvement of child welfare in law enforcement interventions, and visa versa. *Supporting DEC information and Mr. Bayer's full report can be obtained at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Develop a Nevada DEC Alliance - a state-level system to protect and serve Drug Endangered Children (DEC).**
 - a. Executively fund a Nevada DEC Alliance, initially consisting of an Executive Director and support staff plus operating expenses. Initial responsibilities of the DEC Alliance will include creating county contacts, develop comprehensive training and training resources for county DEC Teams, collect available related DEC data, develop an on-going DEC tracking system, create an advisory board, engage in strategic planning, and create a DEC program evaluation system.

- b. Designate a state level Child Welfare partner - an individual at a state policy level within the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to work with the DEC Alliance.
- c. Review existing statutes to determine if changes are needed regarding child endangerment.
- d. Encourage counties and tribes to work with the Nevada State DEC Alliance, outlining the need for DEC protocols.



Law Enforcement

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) state and local Nevada intelligence has identified large scale Mexican distribution and smuggling organizations based in Mexico as the main source of methamphetamine in Nevada. The methamphetamine is not only destined for Nevada, but Nevada is a transition point for bulk methamphetamine shipments destined for other parts of the United States. *Link to DEA trafficking maps is available on www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

Over the past six years, there has been a reduction in clandestine lab seizures in Nevada due not only to effective enforcement operations, but to the available supply of methamphetamine from Mexico. During 2006, Nevada law enforcement seized 31 labs, down from 84 in 2003.

There are twenty-seven tribes in Nevada. In their testimony to the Working Group, Judge Mitch Wright, Chief Justice of the Mojave Tribe and Judge F. Woodside Wright, Chief Judge of the Fallon and Walker River Tribal Courts, emphasized the need for Memorandums of Understanding between jurisdictions to facilitate arrests and interdiction operations. For example, tribal courts do not maintain criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians in tribal land. Therefore, a non-Indian who is trafficking methamphetamine in Indian country cannot be criminally prosecuted by a tribal court. This gets jurisdictionally confusing and law enforcement officers typically do not have time to find out who is the primary, secondary, and tertiary party. “The access to the reservation is such that there is nothing that would prevent it. They have a free flow of traffic back and forth across jurisdictional lines polluting both the communities with a drug they don’t want out there” (Judge M. Wright).

As a law enforcement leader, I recognize that methamphetamine use is more than just a crime with legal ramifications; it is a societal epidemic which destroys lives, tears families apart, and devastates communities. Only by joining forces as a community can any true progress be made in stemming this devastation.

***- Sheriff Mike Haley
Washoe County Sheriff's Office***

A concern of law enforcement is the need for better coordination between tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. In areas where Memorandums of Understanding are in place, such as Douglas County and Carson City, these problems are not as severe. Ted Quasula, former Chief of Police for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, indicated that “tribes, federal law enforcement, state law enforcement, and sheriffs of Indian tribes need to discuss criminal jurisdiction, discuss resources, liabilities, and develop a formal working relationship between tribes and off reservation enforcement.”

Currently, the Nevada Department of Public Safety reports that methamphetamine is the primary drug of choice throughout Nevada, comprising 60 to 70 percent of all narcotics cases in Rural Nevada Task Forces. Through aggressive law enforcement operations, and cooperation from the Mexican government in limiting the importation of

pseudoephedrine, the availability of methamphetamine has been reduced. Unfortunately, the demand for mind-altering substances has not. As methamphetamine supplies go down, other drug use increases, specifically marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and prescription drugs. Non medical use of prescriptions is the second largest form of illicit drug abuse, which presents a new set of enforcement concerns and challenges. Phil Galeoto, Director for the Nevada Department of Public Safety, reported that operations which disrupt the illegal distribution of prescription drugs is critical and should be expanded to stay ahead of this potentially disastrous problem.

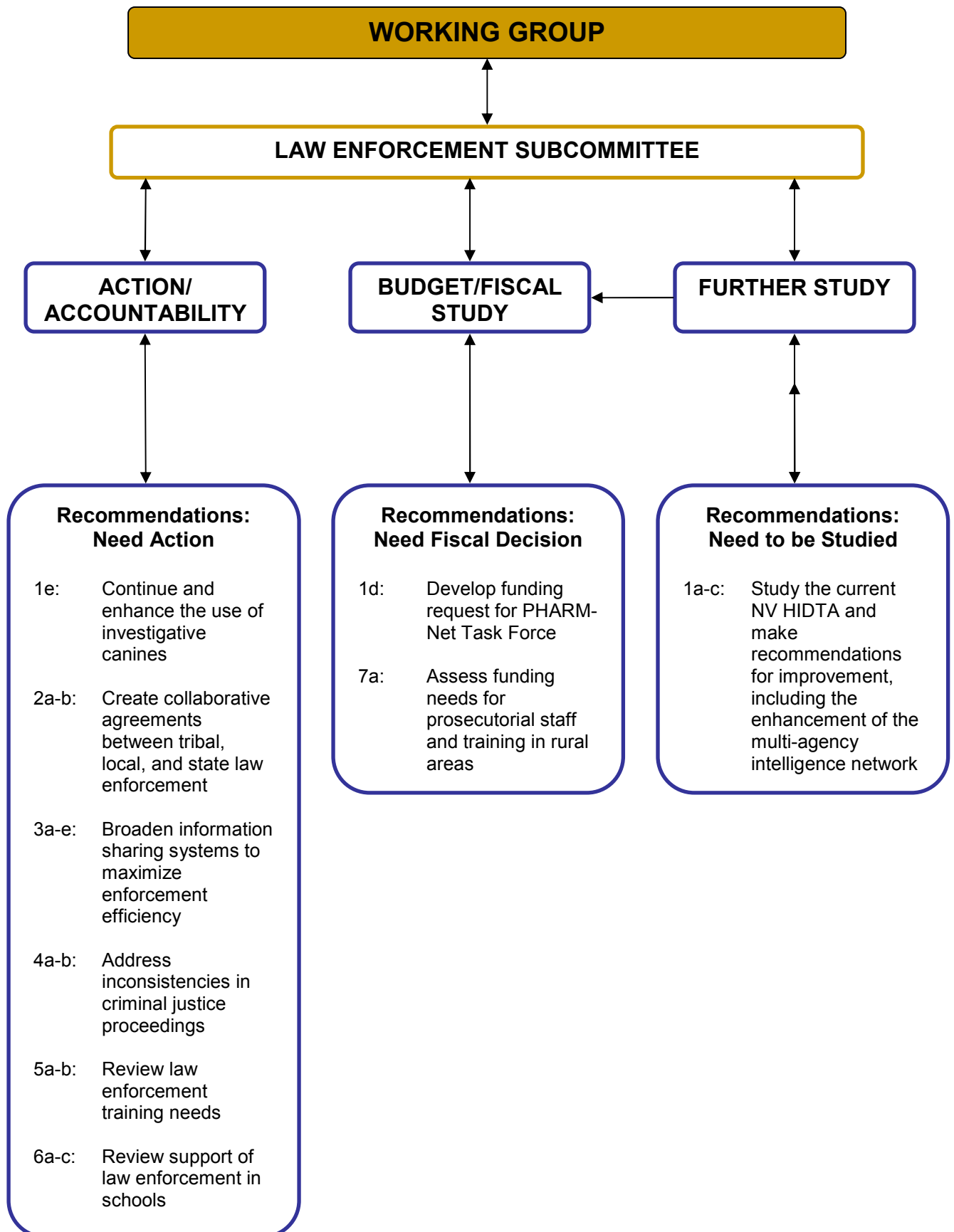
Sergeant Jeff Hammack, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, identifies interdiction as an effective practice in curtailing trafficking of methamphetamine. In 2006, their interdiction teams seized 85 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of over three million off of the highways. Future enforcement efforts need to be multifaceted and multidimensional, crossing counties, states, and borders. A Nevada Department of Public Safety Captain, Karen Lorenzo, reported that best practices for law enforcement include fluid and flexible investigative techniques, communication, rural vs. urban operations, coordination of efforts between local jurisdictions and state, investigative and prosecutorial coordination, community involvement, and involvement of the courts. *Link to full presentation is available at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Measurably reduce methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking, and distribution networks, and related criminal activity.**
 - a. Nevada state and local law enforcement will continue engagement in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative (HIDTA) as the foundation of methamphetamine and other drug criminal activity reduction.
 - b. Expand a multi-agency drug intelligence network within the HIDTA region.
 - c. Address jurisdictional restraints from enforcement across tribal, county and, municipal lines, creating a “statewide” methamphetamine abatement law enforcement initiative.
 - d. The Director of the Department of Public Safety will develop specific funding request for PHARM-Net Task Force to control the abuse of prescription drugs.
 - e. Continue and enhance the use of investigative canines to support the interdiction of drug trafficking.

- 2. Develop collaborative agreements and practices addressing enforcement barriers between tribal, state, and local jurisdictions.**
 - a. Create a plan to address issues on tribal lands that would include the development of Memorandums of Understanding with tribal, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies for a better understanding of criminal jurisdictions.
 - b. Develop a precise protocol for the safety and well-being of the tribal communities from alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues on and off tribal lands and expand standing federal funding to support state and tribal law enforcement and human resources.
- 3. Continue and broaden information sharing systems between state, local, and tribal agencies, and expand to allow accessing information from other outside agencies affected by drug crime that may be valuable in the enforcement operations.**
 - a. Develop and share jurisdictions/references, such as Deskbook.
 - b. Review pre-sentence investigation (PSI) reports prepared by the Division of Parole and Probation for information on the drug users and abusers such as demographics, what precipitated their methamphetamine use, their patterns of use, and how and where they obtained their drugs.
 - c. Ensure participation by law enforcement in the drug courts to avoid drug traffickers from being allowed into that process.
 - d. Implement an “all crimes/all hazards” approach to information sharing by enhancing and expanding the three Fusion Centers.
 - e. Develop information sharing protocol involving not only law and judiciary enforcement, but also mental health, physicians, nurses, and hospitals.
- 4. Ensure consistency of operational procedures across law enforcement and criminal justice disciplines.**
 - a. Encourage investigative and prosecutorial coordination through combined training and ongoing communication.
 - b. Address inconsistencies in the spectrum of criminal justice proceedings, from arrest through sentencing, in addition to the lack of coordination between the different courts, even when processing the same offender.

- 5. Provide ongoing education and instruction on current drugs of abuse and their effects on law enforcement agencies.**
 - a. Peace Officer's Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) will offer curriculum in methamphetamine-specific instruction, as well as other substance abuse issues affecting law enforcement, to ensure law enforcement officers have current information.
 - b. Ensure law enforcement has the appropriate knowledge and skills in interdiction programs, with an emphasis in the rural areas as well as all security personnel working in or around airports.
- 6. Law enforcement agencies should be proactive participants in local drug prevention coalitions, and engage in community drug education activities as appropriate.**
 - a. Encourage law enforcement to participate in civic presentations, such as the Nevada Narcotics Officers Association.
 - b. Encourage local law enforcement to support the revised Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) II program in their schools.
 - c. Provide support for training materials to local law enforcement to enable them to provide local training.
- 7. Support the development of rural facilities that are proportional to the problem in a geographic area.**
 - a. Adequately staff and train rural prosecutor offices to address the direct effects and the collateral effects of the methamphetamine problem, both criminally and civilly.



Prevention

Prevention program strategies should act like a layer of filters. There is no "one size fits all." If a child doesn't relate to one approach, they may try another. We have to try everything to catch them before they fall into trouble.

***- Dee Wirth, Lead Counselor's Tech
WestCare's Women and Children's Campus,
and recovering methamphetamine addict***

On November 8, 2007, the Working Group heard from a panel of recovering methamphetamine users who were asked the question, "What would have deterred you from ever using methamphetamine and what would you recommend communities and law enforcement do to keep young people from ever trying methamphetamine?" Overwhelmingly, the response was education and

prevention. One panelist stated education would have deterred her by seeing the dirty and ugly side of methamphetamine at a young age. Another panelist responded that education would have deterred her from using because she would have learned that methamphetamine is a different drug than marijuana and it causes different behaviors. A third panelist recommended education for parents. Specific recommendations for how to educate the community included using visuals, enlisting those in recovery to speak to groups, reaching youth at a very young age, and mandating drug education as part of school curriculum.

An overriding theme throughout the Working Group presentations focused on prevention as key to eradicating the problem of methamphetamine abuse in Nevada. Nearly every presentation heard by the Working group, from law enforcement, corrections, treatment, judges, prosecutors, tribes, coalitions, and recovering addicts, referenced prevention as the means to reducing many of Nevada's issues related to methamphetamine. Michael Flanagan, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration for the District of Nevada, said the most important thing needed to secure Nevada's borders is to work together and participate in the prevention/education side, such as educating people about products sold to produce methamphetamine. At the Roundtable on the States' Best Practices for Fighting the Methamphetamine Epidemic, Attorney Generals in attendance stressed the importance of prevention, particularly working with youth and their families to prevent the cycle of addiction. Prevention today must be broad based, evidenced-based, and reach across multiple sectors with multiple strategies.

In calendar year 1999, Metro closed 362 meth labs. In calendar year 2006, HIDTA seized 137 pounds (62 kgs) of meth. We will not arrest and incarcerate our way out of this problem. Education and prevention of its use are our best tools.

***- Sheriff Doug Gillespie
Las Vegas Metropolitan
Police Department***

Even though Nevada recognizes prevention as important, prior to the last legislative session, the state committed a total of \$42,000 to prevention efforts. This represented one of the lowest commitments from any state in the nation to the prevention field. In

the 2007 legislative session, Governor Gibbons included General Fund support in the amount of \$7.3 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget³ to fund prevention efforts. Two million is specific to methamphetamine and \$5.3 million replaces lost federal funds to support community coalitions and local prevention programs. This is the largest increase to prevention in Nevada history but, unfortunately, it falls short of what other states commit to the field.

In Nevada, community substance abuse prevention coalitions are an integral part of prevention efforts. Currently, twelve community coalitions are funded to implement methamphetamine strategies by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA). These twelve coalitions represent geographic areas in all seventeen Nevada counties. The *February 2007 President's National Drug Control Strategy* states, "By supporting the development of local drug-free community coalitions, the Administration is working to achieve long-term sustainable success in preventing drug use by youth and enlisting parents in achieving these goals. These coalitions bring together community leaders: professionals in health care, law enforcement, and education, the clergy, and others to provide grassroots solutions to substance abuse. Coalitions work to identify local drug problems and then establish partnerships to bring the community together to combat them. Some communities may find that prescription drug abuse is on the rise, while others may target marijuana use. The flexibility and locally driven nature of community coalitions allow a range of successful responses to local problems."

Major General Arthur Dean, CEO, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), presented to the Working Group in October 2007 on current evidence-based practices in methamphetamine prevention and strategies being implemented at the community level. The Drug Free Communities Support Program currently provides funding to seven community coalitions in Nevada in the amount of \$100,000 per year for a maximum of ten years. Four of these coalitions will age out of this funding by fiscal year 2009. Major General Dean supports the Working Group's move to addressing substance abuse in its totality. CADCA defines substance abuse as underage drinking, illicit drug use, and most recently the abuse and misuse of prescription medicines to include over-the-counter. He stressed the importance of training community partners in evidence-based strategies and, even more important, the necessity of getting buy-in and ownership at the community level as to the magnitude of the problem and the solutions needed.

For prevention to be most effective, it must be strategic, evidence-based, and focus on strategies that address youth prior to first use. Maria Canfield, Chief, SAPTA, provided a *Methamphetamine Briefing* to the Working Group that outlined prevention best practices. Key components of effective substance abuse prevention must:

³ During the drafting of this Final Report, Nevada's Governor announced a 4.5% reduction to the State's general fund appropriations which may have an impact on the allocation of the \$17.4 million in the 2007-2009 Executive Budget.

- Touch not only the individual but the whole community (comprehensive broad-based approaches that focus on multiple strategies across multiple sectors);
- Be a balance of early primary prevention and intervention to stop the progression of addiction in all populations before it starts;
- Cut across disciplines and across categories of youth; and
- Focus on high-risk behaviors and groups, community norms, and casual factors that increase vulnerability to initiating methamphetamine use.

There are six evidence-based prevention strategies that are promoted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) as being effective and are being used by the twelve community coalitions in implementing their methamphetamine strategies.

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Information Dissemination	This strategy provides awareness and knowledge of the nature and extent of substance use, abuse, and addiction and their effects on individuals, families, and communities. It also provides knowledge and awareness of available prevention programs and services. Information dissemination is characterized by one-way communication from the source to the audience, with limited contact between the two.
Education	This strategy involves two-way communication and is distinguished from the information dissemination strategy by the fact that interaction between the educator/facilitator and the participants is the basis of its activities. Activities under this strategy aim to affect critical life and social skills, including decision-making, refusal skills, critical analysis (e.g., of media messages), and systematic judgment abilities.
Alternatives	This strategy provides for the participation of target populations in activities that exclude substance use. The assumption is that constructive and healthy activities offset the attraction to--or otherwise meet the needs usually filled by--alcohol and drugs and would, therefore, minimize or obviate resort to the latter.
Problem Identification and Referral	This strategy aims at identification of those who have indulged in illegal/age-inappropriate use of tobacco or alcohol and those individuals who have indulged in the first use of illicit drugs in order to assess if their behavior can be reversed through education.
Community-Based Process	This strategy aims to enhance the ability of the community to more effectively provide prevention and treatment services for substance abuse disorders. Activities in this strategy include organizing, planning, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of services implementation, interagency collaboration, coalition building, and networking.
Environmental	This strategy establishes or changes written and unwritten community standards, codes, and attitudes, thereby influencing incidence and prevalence of substance abuse in the general population. This strategy is divided into two subcategories to permit distinction between activities that center on legal and regulatory initiatives and those that relate to the service and action-oriented initiatives.

Ms. Canfield's presentation and a link to SAMHSA and CAPT can be found at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.

Data collection to track prevention efforts is a continuing challenge in Nevada and across the nation. Individual funding entities each require specific reporting, often using different outcome measures for tracking data. Community coalitions and prevention providers must balance the desire to provide effective, efficient programming to the communities with the necessity of meeting burdensome reporting requirements. Nevada's systems must be analyzed to ensure the delivery of evidence-based prevention practices is effective both fiscally and programmatically, ensuring that data is

The percent of youth who have used methamphetamine one or more times during their lifetime is decreasing, yet Nevada's use rates remain consistently higher than the Nation.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>
U.S.	7.6	6.2	not available
Nevada	12.5	11.7	7.4

- Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey

available and accessible. One example is the change in questions to the 2007 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a valuable tool to community coalitions in collecting data from youth as it is the only survey conducted within the school system across the entire state. Changes to the format of questions do not allow for consistent data collection from year to year. This is the only current data source that tracks core measures needed for reporting at the federal level.

When analyzing systems related to prevention, the Nevada school system cannot be overlooked. Nevada's site-based management of schools does not offer continuity and consistency in prevention programming. Dr. Rob Roberts, Superintendent, Nye County School District, reported that the state of Nevada requires students to take a Health class usually in the 10th grade. Substance abuse is discussed and part of this is methamphetamine. Some students receive the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in 5th grade, but this is not offered at every school. Prevention efforts are dependent upon the individual school administration. Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani stressed a need for preparing teachers in activities to watch for and new lingo related to methamphetamine. Much is being done in individual communities across the state to train professionals, yet there is no system to ensure that every teacher receives the information. According to Mike Fitzgerald, Education Consultant for the Nevada Department of Education, school-based prevention education needs to be "comprehensive and multifaceted along a continuum both vertically and horizontally, K-12 and wellness to aftercare." Nevada's current school-based substance abuse prevention curriculum needs to be reviewed and minimum requirements established for comprehensive K-12 prevention education, while encouraging collaboration with local community partners.

Substance abuse prevention efforts specific to methamphetamine are recognizing the need to provide education to all populations in a community. Judge John Tatro, Carson City Justice of the Peace, spoke to generational abuse associated with methamphetamine. He states "until the users stop using new people will begin to use and it's evident by the parents, the grandparents, and the kids in court day in and day out. It's a cycle that they have to stop." He stated that education and awareness are

10% of the population that try alcohol for the first time become addicted. 90% of people who use meth for the first time become addicted. The younger a person is when they are exposed to a drug the more likely they are to become addicted. The education and awareness of the kids is extremely important.

*- Judge John Tatro
Carson City*

extremely important. “The younger a person is when he is exposed to a drug the more likely he is to become addicted. We can beat this monster with education, awareness, and treatment as priorities. The main thing is to bring everyone together, law enforcement, the courts, treatment providers, and those offering education and awareness.”

Don Helling, Director of Operations, Nevada Department of Corrections, spoke to the social costs of methamphetamine as it

relates to families and intergenerational abuse. Incarcerated family members leave spouses and children to fend for themselves or depend on welfare or disability systems. The corrections system is currently working with fourth generation methamphetamine-infested families, becoming the caretaker for these multiple-generational offenders. Prevention is the key, as it is sometimes too late once they enter the prison system.

PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Ensure that all prevention strategies are broad-based, cover multiple drugs, and are available to local communities.**
 - a. Maintain substance abuse prevention strategies through community coalitions to reach all populations and geographic areas of the state by replacing lost federal dollars to coalitions.
 - b. Work with the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) to establish and market web-based sites to disseminate substance use and abuse information efficiently to adults; and involve the Nevada’s Youth Prevention Teams to create a site specific to youth, funding web-based strategies, interventions, and publications.
 - c. Continue to support and fund evidence-based prevention programs, practices, and strategies across multiple sectors through the funding of recommendations outlined in the community coalitions’ Comprehensive Community Prevention Plans.
 - d. Make community coalition strategic plans available to the community at large, funders and key stakeholders to encourage broad-based support and involvement in the implementation of strategies. Dissemination may include posting the plans on state, county, and city websites and supporting other marketing techniques created by the community coalitions.

- 2. Analyze all systems related to prevention to ensure the delivery of evidence-based prevention practices is effective both fiscally and programmatically.**
 - a. Establish protocols among state agencies; specifically the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, the Department of Education, and the Juvenile Justice Programs Office, to ensure equitable, effective and accessible prevention funding streams.
 - b. Define the role of faith-based communities in the prevention process and their involvement at the state level.
 - c. Review current school-based substance abuse prevention curriculum and use thereof, and establish minimum requirements for comprehensive K-12 prevention education, while encouraging collaboration with local community partners.
- 3. Support substance abuse training opportunities for those directly working with youth and families.**
 - a. Create and/or expand substance abuse training specific to methamphetamine to first responders (i.e. law enforcement, child protective services).
 - b. Train “gatekeepers” to identify potential risk factors including signs and symptoms, prevention techniques, and referral processes.
 - c. Collaborate with the judicial system to provide methamphetamine specific training to judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors by supporting a training partnership between the community coalitions and the juvenile justice systems and/or the judicial colleges.
 - d. Be inclusive of youth, who are vital to the community-based model, to conduct and participate in substance abuse prevention trainings.
- 4. Continue to support the community-based coalition process to ensure effective prevention programs, practices, and strategies exist in each of the seventeen counties and to avoid duplication of efforts and services.**
 - a. Support increased funding, both private and state, for collaborative projects engaging multiple community sectors related to methamphetamine and other substances.
 - b. Increase State support of a statewide social norm media campaign implemented by the local coalitions to change perceptions, norms, attitudes, and acceptance toward methamphetamine use.

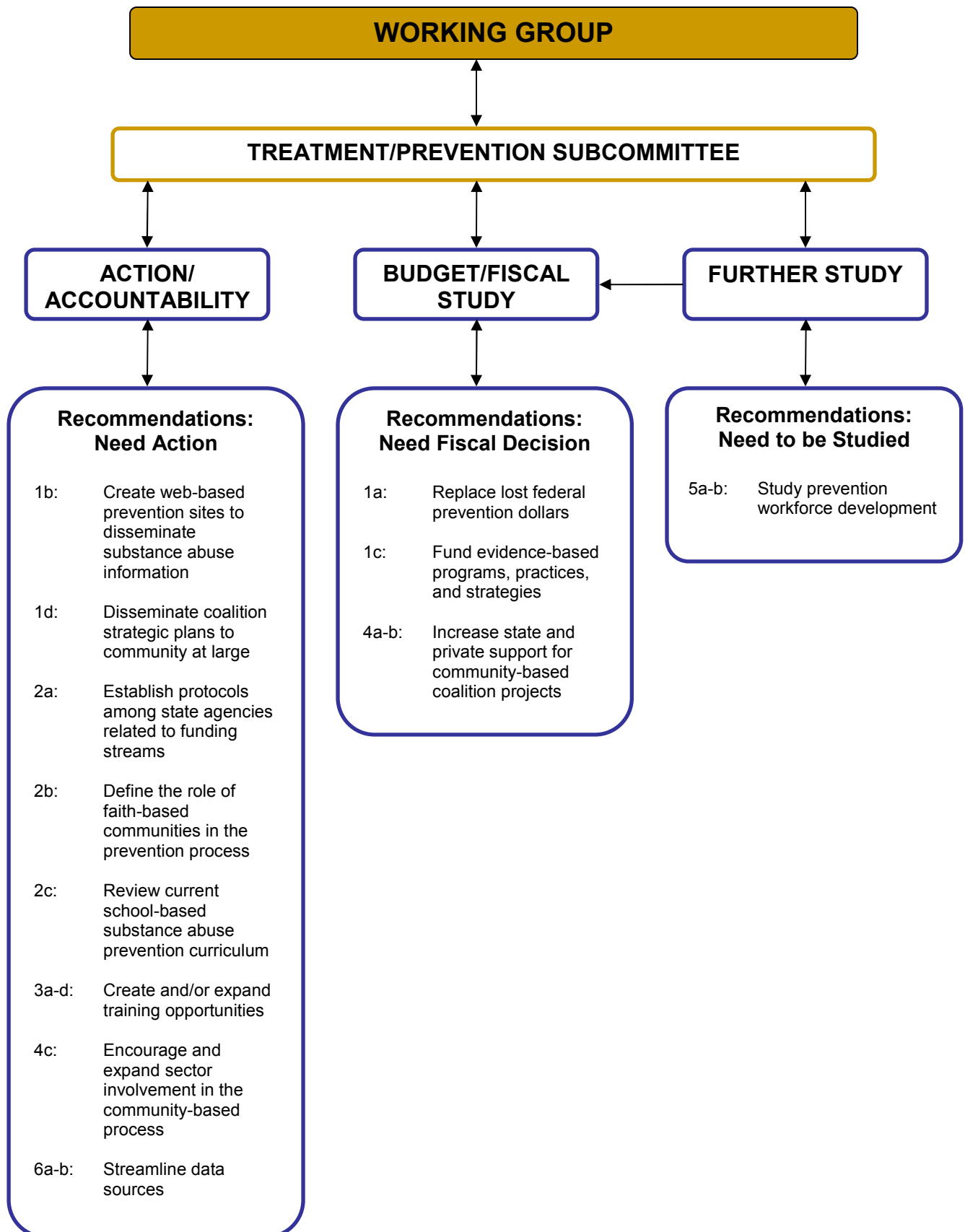
- c. Encourage and expand the involvement of all sectors in the community-based prevention process, utilizing this cross collaboration to make local level prevention funding decisions.

5. Develop strategies to support prevention workforce development.

- a. Engage in a study to define the role of prevention specialists and necessary training requirements to support increased salaries and materials in the field.
- b. Support the development of local, community-based prevention training opportunities for prevention professionals, especially in the rurals, through access to training resources and materials. Work with providers and coalitions to determine community-specific training needs, creating a system for providers to earn continuing education units. Create a mobile training bureau comprised of prevention experts from the community, state, and federal levels.

6. Ensure that data is available and accessible to the public.

- a. Consolidate existing information systems into a shared database (data warehouse).
- b. Support the database system developed by the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership to track and evaluate prevention programs, practices, and strategies.



Treatment and Workforce Development

Treatment: Service Agencies

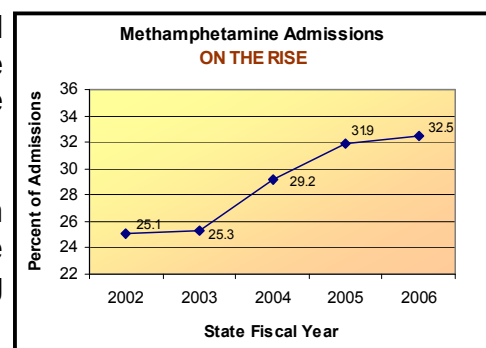
As evidenced by the issues presented in the following sub sections, outlining the scope of the problem created by methamphetamine use in Nevada, it is clear that for the most part, corrective action depends on the availability of treatment. Effective law enforcement and enhanced education in problem identification has created a critical need for additional treatment services.

In her presentation to the Working Group, Dr. Melissa Piasecki, Associate Professor Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, stated that many believe methamphetamine addiction is untreatable because:

- Many of the geographic regions impacted by methamphetamine do not have adequate and effective treatment systems available;
- The medical and psychiatric needs of methamphetamine addicts exceed program capabilities;
- The high rate of use by women and the needs of their children can be overwhelming, and
- Staff report feeling unprepared for the issues presented by these patients.

Dr. Piasecki went on to say that there is hope for methamphetamine addicts when the treatment is available and evidenced-based practices such as the Matrix Model, Cognitive Behavioral Models, and Contingency Management are used.

Maria Canfield, Chief, Nevada Substance Abuse and Treatment Agency (SAPTA), presented this table demonstrating the rise in methamphetamine admissions to SAPTA funded treatment agencies:



Using the 2006 data collected by SAPTA from treatment providers, Ms. Canfield was able to provide the following profile of methamphetamine using clients:

- 52% males and 48% females
- 36% living independently, 35% homeless living with others, 6.2% on the streets
- 19% married or with "significant other," 54% never married, 25% divorced, separated, or widowed
- 84% white, 5% black, 5% Alaskan Native or Native American, 2% Asian, 4% "other"
- Average client age was 30 years, median age was 29
- 80% had no health insurance, 48% no source of income, and 52% employed
- Vast majority were admitted for poly-drug abuse

I have worked in the treatment field since 1976. In that time I have never seen anything like we are seeing with methamphetamine. The heroin problems in the 1960's and 1970's created their challenges. The cocaine problem in the 1980's definitely challenged our knowledge, abilities, and resources. But the methamphetamine problem is definitely the greatest issue we have faced in our field to date.

**- Kevin Quint, Director
Join Together Northern Nevada**

SAPTA collects treatment admissions data from sixty-one SAPTA treatment sites statewide. This information subtracted from the calculation of total treatment needs gives Nevada insight into the unmet treatment needs. However, the Agency does not collect data from treatment providers not required to report to SAPTA such as tribal providers, private for-profit and federally supported services such as veterans programs; therefore, estimates are often low.

The following table summarizes state estimates of substance abuse treatment needs using statistically reliable data from the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and SAPTA's records on treatment services provided to them. *Full calculations and further breakdowns in treatment are available via link at www.nevadameth.nv.gov.*

Age	2006 population estimate	Needing Treatment (estimated)	Range of Treatment Need Met (estimated)*	Range of Unmet Treatment Need (estimated)
12 - 17	209,728	18,000	1,860 – 3,720	14,280 – 16,140
18 +	1,884,899	162,000	32,123 – 64,246	97,754 – 129,877
Total	2,094,627	180,000	33,983 – 67,966	112,034 – 146,017

*The figures in this column were arrived at by using numbers reported to SAPTA for the lower number. The higher number was calculated by doubling the number reported to compensate for services that may have been provided, but not reported to SAPTA.

Further complicating treatment for substance abuse is the increase in the identification of individuals with co-occurring mental health and addictive disorders. In the past, there has been confusion over which health issue needed to be addressed first. This has resulted in people with co-occurring disorders being referred back and forth between substance abuse treatment centers and mental health services, and eventually becoming lost in the shuffle, often ending up in correctional centers or homeless. As suggested by Mike Willden, Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, "We have entered a time when we can no longer talk about co-occurring disorders. We must create co-occurring systems of care." This can be accomplished by integrating service delivery systems, and adequately screening for both substance abuse and mental health problems regardless of the primary presenting problem.

Treatment: Juvenile Justice

Teenagers are frequently detained in our center after having used substantial amounts of methamphetamine. These youth report being without sleep for days, having sexual relations with multiple partners (sometimes coerced), and going without food for much of this period. They sleep for much of the first 2-3 days in detention. Methamphetamine-using youth report severe depression, hopelessness, and intense thoughts about suicide. They can experience hallucinations in the form of seeing and hearing things, and delusions that most often involve paranoia. These children frequently pick at their skin on their face, arms, and legs to the point of bleeding in addition to using their fingernails or contraband to self mutilate as a means of reducing stress or numbing pain associated with past traumas.

*- Mike Pomi
Director, Washoe County
Juvenile Justice Services*

On behalf of the Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators, Association President Michael Pomi provided testimony to the Working Group on the burden methamphetamine use among children and adolescents has placed on the juvenile justice statewide system. He stated that 2006 reports from the Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance studies indicate that 11.7 percent of youth surveyed in Nevada's (grades 9–12) report using methamphetamine one or more times during their lives. This is almost twice the national average of 6.2 percent. These figures are especially alarming given that serious psychiatric and addictive symptoms can arise after a one-time use of methamphetamine. Additionally, when methamphetamine use begins in childhood, the potential for lifelong chronic use patterns increases dramatically.

Methamphetamine use by juvenile offenders has increased the already overwhelming need for secure treatment centers that serve youth with severe mental health and substance abuse problems using a co-occurring disorders approach. Unfortunately, this upward trend in demand for services comes at a time when federal funding that provides support for these programs is dramatically reduced, and the crisis is exacerbated by population growth, as illustrated in the table below

Nevada Data	2001	2006	Change
K-12 Student Population	340,706	408,259	+ 67,553 (+16.6%)
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention federal funding amounts	\$2,983,000	\$1,117,750	-\$1,865,000 (-62.5%)

In her presentation to the Working Group, Maria Canfield, Chief, Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, stated the estimated unmet need for methamphetamine treatment in the juvenile justice population in 2006 was 2,500. Only 438 accessed services, leaving 2,062 adolescents in the Nevada juvenile justice system

with unmet treatment needs. Regrettably, this number may be lower than the actual need, due to the lack of data available from some of the jurisdictions. According to Mr. Pomi, the figure of 2,500 youth is based on substance abuse evaluations over one year and does not include youth already in the system that have not been evaluated in the given year. He estimates the cost for outpatient treatment for methamphetamine abusing youth is \$2,700 per client, which would bring the total required for 2,500 juveniles to \$6,750,000. This figure would be significantly higher if needed residential services were included. Within the current state funding system for substance abuse treatment, there is no funding stream specifically designated for this critical population.

We are seeing 15 and 16 years olds coming in and their bodies are already shot. They have permanent heart damage, kidney failure, scarring, and teeth rotting out, all from methamphetamine use. It is sickening. They're just kids.

**- Larry Carter
Assistant Director
Clark County Juvenile Services**

Treatment: Adult Corrections

Substance abuse is the primary contributing problem resulting in adult incarceration in Nevada's prisons. In particular, methamphetamine has a tremendous impact on prison intakes. Don Helling, Director of Operations for the Nevada Department of Corrections, presented these troubling inmate statistics to the Working Group that demonstrate not only the impact on the correctional system, but the law enforcement agencies that dealt with the arrests, and the court systems that processed the cases.

The following represents a six-week period from April and May 2007 when 368 new intakes into the Northern Nevada Correctional Center, the receiving institution for Northern Nevada, were recorded:

- 258 (70%) report first using methamphetamine at age 14 or under
- 184 (50%) report that they committed all their crimes while under the influence of methamphetamine
- 94 (80%) reported regular methamphetamine use
- Of the 294, 98 (one third) are incarcerated for trafficking
- 31 (12%) reported regular intravenous methamphetamine use
- 100% of new intakes who are HIV positive report regular methamphetamine use
- 71% of women admitted in 2006 reported methamphetamine use

Mr. Helling went on to report the typical sentencing for these individuals:

- First time possession of methamphetamine: 1 – 3 years
- First time trafficking of methamphetamines: 1 – 4 years
- Conviction of possession and/or trafficking large amounts of methamphetamine: 10 – 25 years, or a life sentence
- The Nevada Department of Corrections is currently working on the fourth generation of methamphetamine-infested families, thereby becoming the caretaker for these multiple-generational offenders

I've tried crack cocaine, but when I tried meth it was like the sun rising in my soul. I was immediately hooked.

***- Inmate
Northern Nevada Correctional Center,
previously a long distance trucker***

In addition to the sheer increase in the number of inmates due to methamphetamine, the lengthy sentences increase the number of inmates incarcerated and compound the costs of housing and medical care. For example, the Northern Nevada Correctional Center dental personnel

estimate that up to thirty-five percent of all intakes have significant dental problems as a direct result of methamphetamine use.

Richard Steinberg, CEO of WestCare, stated Nevada houses over 8,000 inmates with substance abuse issues. However, intensive substance abuse services are only provided to 450 inmates.

Mr. Steinberg indicated that, according to the Department of Corrections, the current cost of new construction for a secure prison is \$200,000 to \$250,000 per inmate bed. This cost increases at twelve percent annually. If the funding for just one prison were diverted to appropriate, in-custody treatment services and continuing care services upon release, the result would be a reduction in the growing prison population and the need for costly new prisons.

According to a National Institute for Drug Abuse report, "*Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations*," in 2002 it was estimated that the cost to society of drug abuse was \$180.9 billion (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2004), a substantial portion of which, \$107.8 billion, is associated with drug-related crime, including criminal justice system costs and costs borne by victims of crime. The cost of treating drug abuse (including research, training and prevention efforts) was estimated to be \$15.8 billion, a fraction of the overall societal costs. See [link to NIDA report at www.nevadameth.nv.gov](http://www.nevadameth.nv.gov).

The methamphetamine problem will be with us for a long time. This price will have to be paid. It is up to us how, when and where it will be paid. The Nevada Department of Corrections has the unique opportunity and skills to make a difference in the lives of these inmates, their families, and ultimately our community.

***- Don Helling
Director of Programs
Nevada Department of Corrections***

Although Nevada ranks among the top states in the nation for methamphetamine use, according to the Department of Corrections, Nevada is among the lowest in the nation in corrections program expenditures.

Workforce Development

In her presentation to the Working Group, Nancy Roget, the Director of the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies, brought to light a serious concern; as the need for substance abuse and mental health treatment services continues to stay critically high and is exacerbated by methamphetamine users, the treatment field in Nevada is beginning to see the advent of a serious shortage of qualified staff.

According to Ms. Roget, the treatment professional shortage appears to be the result of:

- An aging workforce: 77% are over 41 years old;
- Professionals leaving the field due to low pay and minimal benefits: The average annual salary for substance abuse counselors is \$31,300, ranking as the sixth most underpaid job in the United States;
- Few young professionals are entering the field: Only 6% of current substance abuse counselors are under 30;
- High rates of turnover: 50.8% reported being in their current position five years or less. Programs report an average twenty-five percent staff turnover annually and there is a fifty-three percent turnover rate among program directors. Twenty-five percent of health care employees leave within the first ninety days. Replacing an employee can cost 150 % of the employee's salary; and
- Nevada has not adequately addressed the issue of portability of certified and licensed counselors applying from outside the state.

Given the current demographics of treatment providers compared to the demographics of the current client population, the question arises whether or not counselors are able to adequately relate to their clients:

	Age	Gender	Caucasian	Hispanic
Treatment staff	77% over 41 6% under 30	66% female	91%	5%
Clients	60% 18 - 40	62% male	68%	15%

As of the end of 2006, there are currently only 702 licensed substance abuse counselors, 68 certified counselors, and 261 interns for a total treatment workforce of 1,031. Only 274 are working in the SAPTA funded agencies, staffing 61 treatment facilities statewide. The current shortage will only become worse, with thirty-eight percent of current substance abuse counselors reporting they don't plan on practicing in five years. Ms. Roget presented innovative and effective strategies for recruitment, training and retention that are critical in reversing this impending shortage in the workforce.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Identify and improve funding resources to meet the treatment needs of all Nevadans.**
 - a. Encourage the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to allocate discretionary funding on a per capita formula as opposed to a competitive basis.
 - b. Replace federal funding lost by the Nevada Juvenile Justice Programs Office over the past five years for critical substance abuse intervention and substance abuse and mental health treatment services.
 - c. Support parity between public and private health insurances for substance abuse treatment.
 - d. Study the cost effectiveness of providing incentives to businesses that provide Employee Assistance Programs and drug treatment services for their employees.
 - e. Build caseload growth formulas into the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) budget so the Nevada substance abuse treatment and mental health systems can grow with the population and the need.
 - f. Explore the expansion of funding streams that address specific community based substance abuse and mental health treatment needs (i.e. high per capita of methamphetamine use or other emerging drug use).
- 2. Improve treatment access and comprehensive case management considering that not all individuals with substance abuse problems are easily identified, and may require multiple services for successful recovery.**
 - a. Replace discussions of co-occurring disorders with discussions of co-occurring systems to ensure substance abuse and mental health treatment needs of methamphetamine users (as well as other individuals with dual diagnosis) receive services for both issues, simultaneously. Consider enhanced funding to meet the treatment needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders in the discussion.
 - b. Support the state's "no wrong door" policy by initiating intensive service coordination provided by multiple agencies for youth and their families to create a unified plan of care. Study the development of a central intake and case management system to encourage treatment providers to work together, and become more creative in serving more people. Consider providing incentives to treatment agencies that submit cost effective, collaborative grant applications.

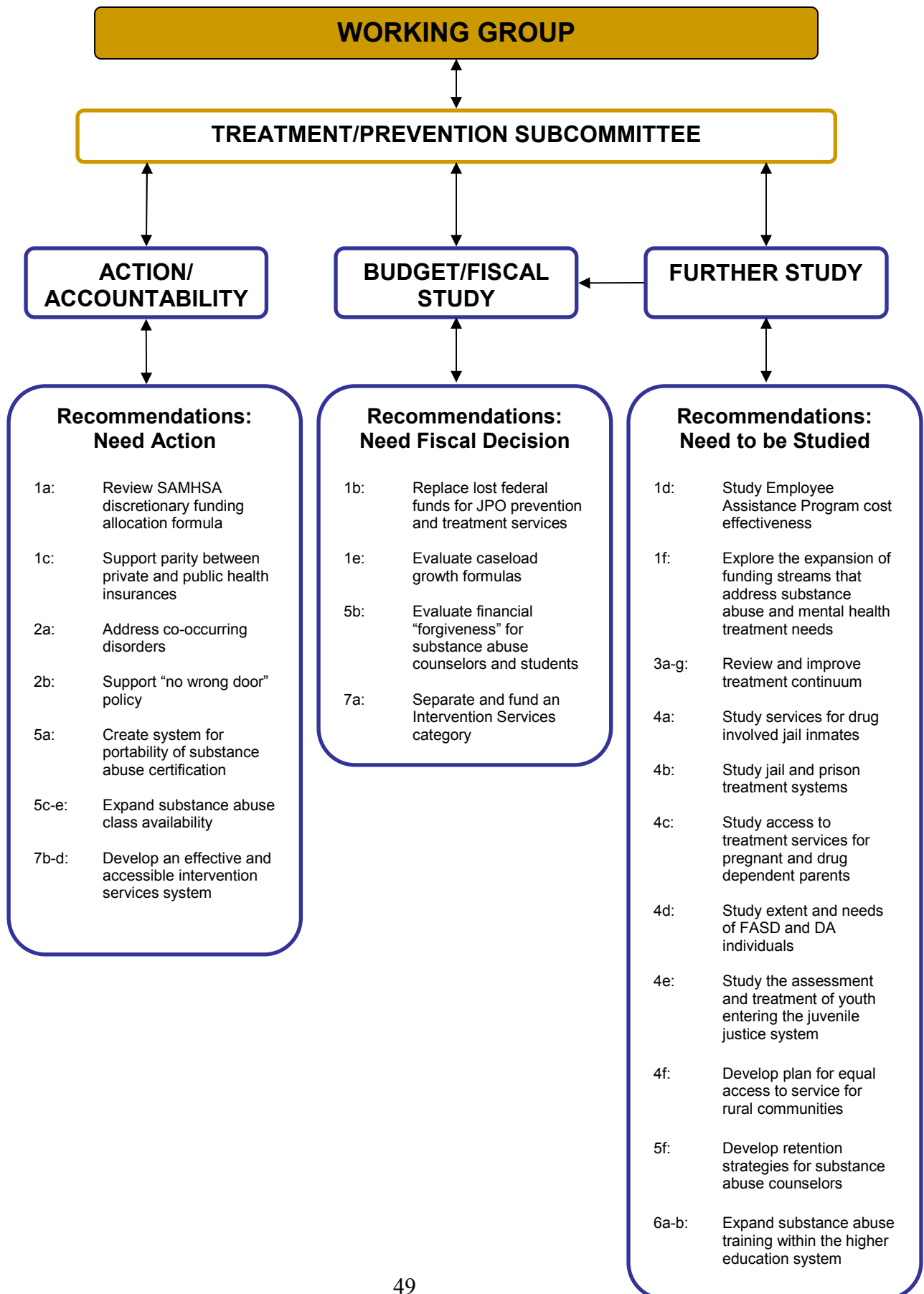
3. **Increase the treatment infrastructure capacity across the continuum of services to address a broad scope of current and possible future substances of abuse, ensuring treatment for poly drug users and co-occurring disorders.**
 - a. Ensure medically modified detoxification services are readily available to substance abusers, particularly those with methamphetamine addictions.
 - b. Make available pre-treatment services to individuals assessed as needing treatment, to thereby avoid jeopardizing their eventual entry into treatment.
 - c. Infuse science and research through continued use of evidence-based practices across the treatment continuum: Matrix model, cognitive behavioral therapy, and contingency management for treatment of methamphetamine use.
 - d. Budget for longer lengths of treatment stays for methamphetamine users, as it is encouraged and expected.
 - e. Ensure Intensive Outpatient services are available to assist individuals in treatment needing to maintain connectivity to school, work, and home life.
 - f. Provide Recovery Support Services addressing emotional and cognitive impairment as an essential component of the treatment continuum for all alcohol and other drug (AOD) addictions, specifically methamphetamine addiction.
 - g. Make available medical providers, such as Physician's Assistants, to assist across the treatment continuum.
4. **Ensure evidence-based, appropriate treatment services along the full continuum of care (as outlined in *Treatment Recommendation #3*) are readily available for client populations with unique and specific needs.**
 - a. Address the needs of drug-involved inmates in county/city jails.
 - b. Make evidence-based treatment available for offenders in prison facilities, addressing related criminal thinking behaviors, and ensure services continue when released on probation or paroled. Conduct a thorough evaluation of the fiscal impact and cost effectiveness of a systems-wide substance abuse/mental health treatment structure within Nevada's prison system, to include post release and reentry services. The evaluation should include long-term cost savings analysis.

- c. Provide pregnant and parenting women and parents whose children are involved in child abuse cases due to unmet substance abuse treatment needs with immediate and comprehensive services.
- d. Assess the prevalence of individuals affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and drug affected behaviors, and ensure they are provided treatment for addiction as well as other needed remediation.
- e. Increase funding and support for treatment providers statewide to address the specific needs of youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, as well as youth within the system to include the full continuum of care. Make available screening and assessment services to “gatekeepers” such as social workers, juvenile probation officers, local law enforcement, and school counselors, who are in contact with children and adolescents exhibiting a need for these services.
- f. Explore various strategies to guarantee rural communities have equal access to the full continuum of services, including transportation alternatives to nearby services.

5. Develop strategies to increase the treatment workforce to address the growing treatment needs through recruitment and retention strategies.

- a. Support efforts to create a process for the portability of certification and licensure of substance abuse counselors.
- b. Evaluate the fiscal efficacy of loan forgiveness and/or loan repayment programs as well as tuition waivers for current substance abuse counselors and students in substance abuse counseling classes.
- c. Enhance mentoring, internship, and clinical training programs for students in the substance abuse counseling field.
- d. Create more substance abuse classes in the community colleges to create a “feeder” into university counseling programs, or consider a full certification program through the community college system, with appropriate changes in licensure requirements.
- e. Increase video and Internet based class offerings accessible from rural community colleges.
- f. Develop retention strategies designed to keep counselors in the field such as increased salaries, benefits through other systems such as the state or university, and opportunities for career advancement without leaving the substance abuse treatment field.

- 6. Extend substance abuse awareness and treatment classes into other related professions within higher education.**
 - a. Explore adopting a substance abuse treatment curriculum within the medical residency rotations.
 - b. Strongly recommend classes in substance abuse signs and symptoms be infused within related fields such as social workers, school employees, juvenile justice, and law enforcement.
- 7. Make funding available for early intervention services using an overarching systemic approach.**
 - a. Create a separate category for intervention services, and make funding available for the provision of evidence-based intervention strategies, beginning with juvenile probation departments addressing the needs of the juvenile offender population with alcohol and other drug (AOD) related offenses.
 - b. Develop a “whole family” system of prevention and intervention through the creation of an “environmental” approach to working with children and families, addressing generational drug use in families and making funding available for training, and family assessments in the intervention process.
 - c. Ensure “front-end” prevention and intervention services are available to address risk factors presented by youth and families outside of the juvenile justice system.
 - d. Support and fund the development of community-based early identification and referral systems for first-time juvenile and adult offenders, prior to adjudication.



Acknowledgements

Adams, Frank – Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association, presentation on the current status of state law enforcement agencies' efforts to combat the use, distribution, and manufacture of methamphetamine.

Bayer Chris – Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates in Carson City, presentation on Drug Endangered Children efforts in Nevada.

Bailey, Chuck – Health Program Specialist II, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, presentation on the substance abuse need for treatment services and client wait list in Nevada.

Canfield, Maria – Chief, Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, presentation on the current efforts of SAPTA to reduce the impact of methamphetamine use, abuse, and dependency in Nevada.

Clinger, Andrew – Director, Nevada State Department of Administration, presentation on proposed funding set forth in the Executive Branch Budget submitted to the 74th regular Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Craft, Dr. Ed – Lead Government Project and Activities Coordinator for Methamphetamine, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presentation regarding the current evidence-based practices in methamphetamine treatment.

Dean, Major General Arthur – Chairman and CEO, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, presentation regarding the current evidence-based practices in methamphetamine prevention and strategies being implemented at the community level.

Demeo, Tony – Sheriff, Nye County Sheriff's Office, presentation on the current status of state law enforcement agencies' efforts to combat the use, distribution, and manufacture of methamphetamine.

DeSantis, Linda – State Webmaster and Manager Web Development Team, Nevada Department of Information Technology, assistance in establishing the Nevada Methamphetamine website.

Dixon, Diaz – CEO, Step 2, presentation regarding methamphetamine treatment issues and solutions.

Fitzgerald, Linda – Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, assistance in coordinating Working Group meetings including drafting agendas and scheduling presenters.

Fitzgerald, Michael – Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education, presentation on substance abuse prevention education in Nevada.

Flanagan, Michael – Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration for the District of Nevada, presentation on federal efforts to reduce methamphetamine use and its effects on Nevada.

Galloway, Robert – Advertising Manager, Sierra Nevada Media Group, presentation on the creation and media pricing for a multi-media ad campaign in Nevada to address methamphetamine prevention, education, and awareness.

George, Steve – Public Information Officer, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, writing of the Preliminary Report and assistance in establishing the Nevada methamphetamine website.

Gillespie, Doug – Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, presentation on the initiatives and allocation of personnel of the Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Glass, Jackie – Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court, presentation on the criminal drug court.

Haas, Dr. Joseph – Psychologist, Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services, presentation on the impact methamphetamine use is having on Nevada juvenile justice facilities.

Haboush, Amanda – Research Analyst, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy in the School of Public Health at UNLV, presentation regarding research and policy analysis that will assist with the decrease of methamphetamine use in Nevada.

Haley, Mike – Sheriff, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, presentation regarding best practices for law enforcement involving methamphetamine.

Hall, Mick – Clinical Director, Bristlecone Family Resources, presentation on the type of treatment necessary for a methamphetamine user.

Hammack, Jeff – Sergeant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, presentation regarding best practices for law enforcement involving methamphetamine.

Harris, Jacqueline – Executive Director, Bridge Counseling Associates, presentation on methamphetamine and child welfare.

Helling, Don – Director of Operations, Nevada Department of Corrections, presentation on the impact methamphetamine use is having on the state prison system.

Hogan, Julie – Director of Prevention, University of Nevada Reno Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, presentation on evidence-based prevention strategies.

Jackson, Mark – District Attorney, Douglas County, presentation on Drug Endangered Children efforts in Nevada.

Lang, Linda – Consultant, Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership, presentation on the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership and community coalitions.

Lehman, Jack – Senior District Judge, presentation on the criminal drug court.

Lorenzo, Karen – Captain, Nevada Department of Public Safety, presentation regarding best practices for law enforcement involving methamphetamine.

Marcher, Keith – Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, Working Group counsel with regard to procedures and the Open Meeting Law.

McGill, Christy – Chair, Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership and Executive Director, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties, presentation on the progress of prevention in Nevada and presentation on the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership and community coalitions.

Miller, Jim – Sheriff, Storey County Sheriff's Office, presentation on the current status of state law enforcement agencies' efforts to combat the use, distribution, and manufacture of methamphetamine.

Piasecki, Dr. Melissa – Associate Professor Psychiatry, University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine, presentation on best practices for treating methamphetamine dependence.

Pomi, Mike – Director, Washoe County Juvenile Justice Services, presentation on the impact methamphetamine use is having on the State of Nevada juvenile justice facilities and presentation on meeting the challenge of methamphetamine use in Nevada's Juvenile Justice population

Quint, Kevin – Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada, presentation on the treatment need in Nevada and presentation on next steps and recommendations related to prevention in Nevada.

Roget, Nancy – Director, University of Nevada Reno Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technology, presentation regarding the impact of methamphetamine on Nevada's substance abuse workforce.

Serrano, Fernando – Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, presentation on the child welfare impact of methamphetamine.

Simmons, Winnifer – Administrative Assistant III, Office of Disability Services, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, assistance in creating Working Group minutes.

Smith, Barry – Executive Director, Nevada Press Association, presentation on the creation and media pricing for a multi-media ad campaign in Nevada to address methamphetamine prevention, education, and awareness.

Smith, Stacy – Executive Director, Nye/Esmeralda Communities Coalition, presentation on methamphetamine prevention education and public awareness plans proposed by community coalitions.

Steinberg, Richard – CEO, WestCare, presentation on prevention and treatment fact finding.

Sullivan, Frank P. – Juvenile Hearing Master, Eighth Judicial District, presentation on the criminal drug court.

Tatro, John – Judge, Carson City Justice of the Peace, presentation regarding the impact of methamphetamine use in the adult drug court system.

Thompson, Belinda – Executive Director, Goshen Community Development Coalition, presentation on the statewide social norms media campaign.

Vonfeldt, Rick – Lieutenant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, presentation regarding best practices related to methamphetamine for law enforcement.

Willden, Mike – Director, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, presentation on prevention and treatment fact finding.

Wright, F. Woodside – Chief Judge, Fallon Tribal Court and Walker River Tribal Court, presentation regarding methamphetamine in Indian country and the impact of methamphetamine on the justice system.

Wright, Mitch – Chief Justice, Mojave Tribe and Tribal Judge, Ely Tribal Court, presentation regarding methamphetamine in Indian country and the impact of methamphetamine on the justice system.

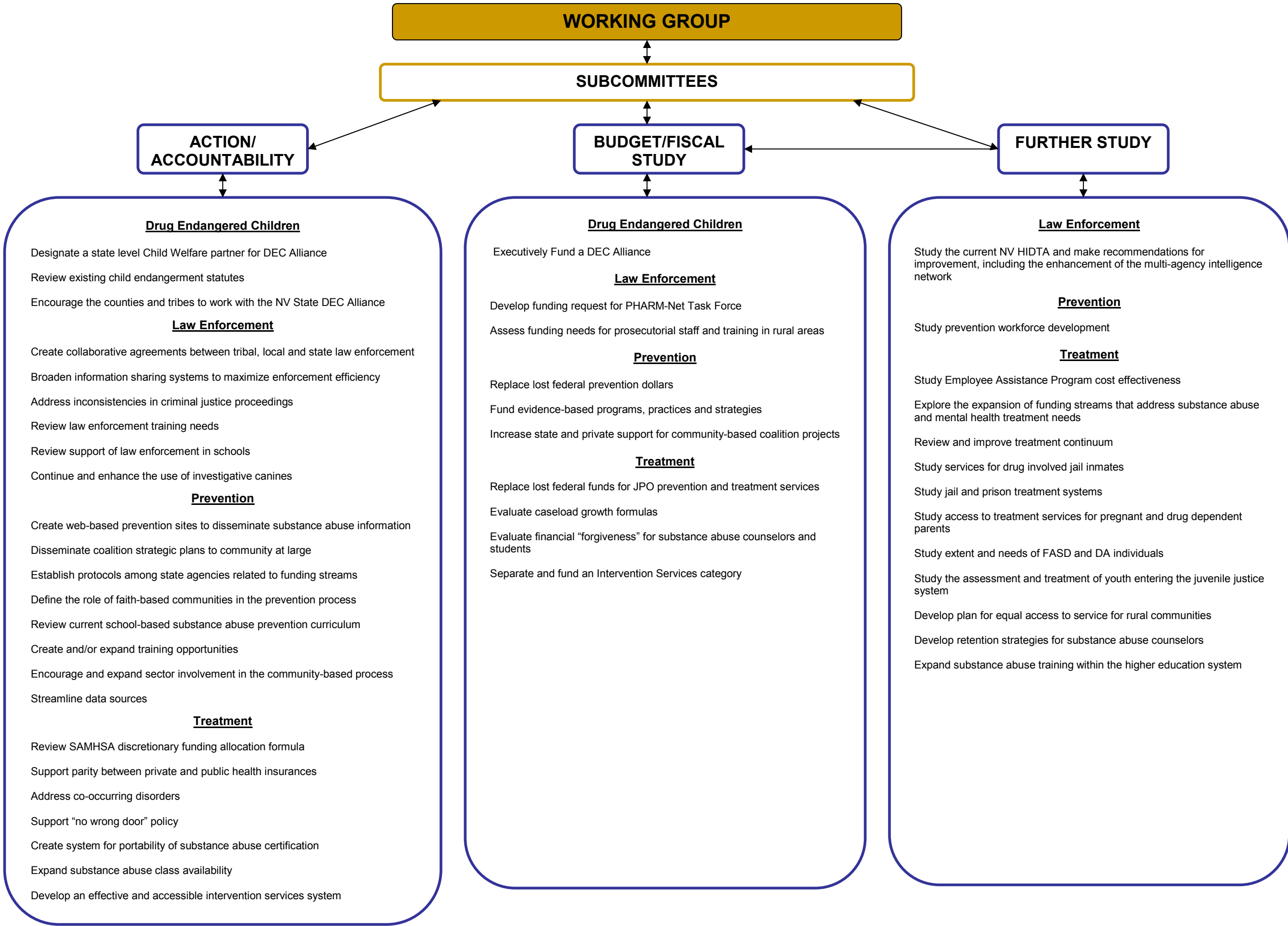
Yuhos, Rose – Area Health Education Center of Southern Nevada, presentation regarding 2008 Methamphetamine Conference.

Zimmerman, Brett – Captain, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, presentation regarding best practices related to methamphetamine for law enforcement.

Zuraff, Rhonda – Publisher, Elko Daily Free Press, presentation on prevention/education fact finding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION ACTION STEPS:

All recommendations outlined in this report have been designated as needing immediate action/accountability, a budget/fiscal study, or further study that may or may not produce a fiscal impact. All supporting data and justification of these recommendation action steps can be found in the Challenges and Recommendations section of this report.



Executive Summary
of Recommendations

by

The Governor's Working
Group on
Methamphetamine Use



Governor's 2007
Strategic Approach
to Reducing
Methamphetamine Use
in Nevada



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Randal R. Munn, *Assistant Attorney General*

100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717
Telephone - (775) 684-1100
Fax - (775) 684-1108
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday December 27, 2007

CONTACT: Nicole Moon (702) 486-3379
(775) 230-3360 (cell)
nimoon@ag.state.nv.us

WORKING GROUP ON METHAMPHETAMINE USE DELIVERS REPORT ON STATE OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE TO GOVERNOR GIBBONS

Carson City, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and members of the Governor's Working Group on Methamphetamine Use in Nevada delivered its 2007 Final Report to Governor Gibbons today. The report culminates eleven months of testimony and research done by the Working Group on the impact methamphetamine is having on Nevada's communities and potential actions the state can take to lessen that impact.

"Fighting methamphetamine is vital to the future of Nevada and the Working Group and I wanted to ensure this report gave recommendations that are useful and actionable by the State Legislature," said Attorney General Masto. "The Working Group's report is a working document intended to guide all Nevadans committed to eradicating methamphetamine in our state."

The 55-page report categorizes the fight against meth into separate categories, law enforcement, treatment, prevention and education and legislation. In each category, the Working Group offers action-based recommendations to the Governor for combating methamphetamine in Nevada.

"Far too many families have been affected by methamphetamine," said First Lady Dawn Gibbons. "Nevadans must unite to ensure that this devastating drug is not in our homes, schools, or communities."

The report includes recommendations to:

- Extend the authority of the Working Group beyond 2007 and to include all drugs of abuse. This extension will allow the group to conduct further studies and work to address some of the other recommendations made in the report;
- Reduce the manufacture, tracking and distribution of methamphetamine by expanding a multi-agency drug intelligence network within the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area;
- Put together information sharing systems between state, local and tribal agencies to ensure that law enforcement participates in drug courts to avoid drug traffickers from being allowed into that process;
- Develop and fund a statewide alliance to protect Drug Endangered Children;
- Fund early intervention services that use a "whole family" system of prevention to working with children and families;

- Review school-based substance abuse prevention curriculum and establish minimum requirements for K-12 prevention education, while encouraging collaboration with local community partners and law enforcement;
- Replace federal funding lost by the Nevada Juvenile Justice Programs Office over the past five years for critical substance abuse intervention and substance abuse and mental health treatment services;
- Ensure that all prevention strategies are broad-based, cover multiple drugs and are available to local communities;
- Support the community-based coalition process to ensure effective prevention programs, practices and strategies exist in each of the seventeen counties and to avoid duplication of efforts and services;
- Increase funding to allow for more access to treatment for all Nevadans in need and budget for longer lengths of treatment stays for methamphetamine users; and
- Develop recruitment and retention strategies to increase the number of people working in the treatment workforce to address the growing treatment needs.

“Over the past year, the Working Group has heard many presentations in regards to the abuse of methamphetamine in the state of Nevada,” said Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. “It is clear to me as Sheriff that in order for us to effectively combat the use of this drug, law enforcement working in partnership with education and treatment programs is essential to our success. I believe this report lays the foundation for us to develop effective strategies in these areas.”

The members of the Working Group are: Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, First Lady Dawn Gibbons, Nevada State Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Nevada State Senator Dr. Joseph Heck, Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Carson City Mayor Marv Teixeira, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sheriff Doug Gillespie, Washoe County Sheriff Mike Haley, Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong, Douglas County District Attorney Mark Jackson, Nevada Department of Public Safety Director Phil Galeoto, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden, International School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts CEO and Former Chief of Police, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Ted Quasula, Elko Daily Free Press Publisher Rhonda Zurauff, Nye County School District Superintendent Dr. Rob Roberts, and WestCare CEO Richard Steinberg.

A copy of the Working Group’s 2007 Final Report is available on the Attorney General’s website at <http://ag.state.nv.us> A separate website containing the information reviewed by the Working Group and other relevant materials related to methamphetamine use in Nevada will be available at www.nevadameth.nv.gov after January 1, 2008.

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