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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Honoring Those Who Demonstrate an Outstanding Commitment to Crime Victims

On Monday, the Attorney General's Office marked the start of [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#) by gathering with partners, Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault, to honor those who help victims of crime recover and become survivors.

This year's honorees for the annual Attorney General's Office Outstanding Service to Crime Victims Awards Ceremony are:

- Deputy Martin Shields, Jr. (posthumously), Hinds County Sheriff's Department
- David M. Spence, District Victim Assistance Coordinator and Investigator, District Attorney's Office, Second Circuit Court District of Mississippi
- Rebekah Reed, Director of Operations, S.A.F.E., Inc.
- Deedra Hughes, Assistant Director, Mississippi Forensics Laboratory

In addition, we presented Excellence in Advocacy for Human Trafficking Victims to nine organizations for their work with victims of trafficking:

- Center for Violence Prevention
- Domestic Abuse Family Shelter
- Easterseals Mississippi
- Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
- Hope Community Collective
- Mississippi Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- Southern Christian Services
- Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center
- Sunnybrook Children's Home

Fighting Human Trafficking

Last week, our office announced the completion of [Operation United Front](#), which was led by our Human Trafficking Task Force in Jackson, Mississippi. The operation resulted in two arrests and the recovery of seven human trafficking victims.

My office is committed to taking criminals who traffic people off the streets and equally committed to setting victims on the road to recovery. Developing partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the State is a priority of the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, and we are proud to be a part of a network of dedicated law enforcement agencies that work to end human trafficking.

Holding PBMs Accountable

This month, I joined a [bipartisan coalition of 45 attorneys general](#) in submitting a comment letter supporting a proposed U.S. Department of Labor rule that would require greater transparency from pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) that service employer-funded health plans covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

PBMs have taken from the health care economy for far too long without giving back. It is past time that there is accountability and an increase in transparency. I am proud to join my colleagues as we stand with consumers and community health providers to prevent PBMs from taking advantage of Mississippians.

\$1.5 Awarded to Help Victims of Human Trafficking

This week, [our office announced the distribution](#) of nearly \$1.5 million from the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund to nine organizations that help human trafficking victims become survivors. These awards bring the total distributed for human trafficking victim services to \$11 million since the Legislature created the Fund in 2020.

Working together, we can put an end to human trafficking in our State. Mississippi is blessed with many organizations, including these nine, committed to walking alongside victims on their journey to find healing. I am grateful to the State Legislature for ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these brave individuals working to rebuild their lives. And I am thankful for the Fund Committee ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these individuals as they work to rebuild their lives.

The recipients of the 2026 Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund are: Center for Violence Prevention, Domestic Abuse Family Shelter, Easterseals, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Hope Community Collective, Mississippi Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Southern Christian Services, Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center, and Sunnybrook Children's Home.

More Legislative Wins to Support Mississippians

This month, our bill to address gang violence, the centerpiece of my 2026 legislative agenda, was signed into law. [SB 2710](#) increases penalties for gang-related violence and improves transparency so prosecutors can pursue justice. It was supported by the Mississippi Prosecutors Association, the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, the Mississippi Municipal League (MML), and the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association.

There are more than 200 gangs in Mississippi, and they recruit minors to do a lot of their dirty work, knowing that punishment is often disproportionate to the severity of the crime. And now the penalty fits the crime, both making juvenile recruitment less attractive to gangs and getting dangerous criminals off the street.

This new law also directly addresses the kind of violence that struck high school and college football games and homecoming celebrations this past October, killing nearly a dozen people and injuring dozens more. Celebrations like those should bring communities together, not tear them apart.

[SB 2294](#), which includes language to require the Mississippi Department of Education to implement a financial literacy curriculum for students in grades 6-12, was also

signed into law this month.

When Mississippians have the knowledge to make informed decisions about their finances, they become better consumers, homeowners, and entrepreneurs. I am grateful to our Legislature for prioritizing this important life skill, and I am grateful to Mississippi's educators for their commitment to teaching this important curriculum. Together, we can better equip future generations to create a stronger, more resilient Mississippi.



Keeping Communities Safe

Last week, our office announced the recent sentencing of Todd Bryan Higgins, 52, known as the "[Fondren Firebug](#)," for one count of trespassing. Our office was proud to defend the law creating the Capitol Complex Improvement District (CCID) Court against both state and federal challenges. We were proud to work with the judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, and public defenders to stand up the court just over a year ago. And we are proud to work each day to prosecute the offenses that come before the CCID judges. We are committed to ensuring that our capital city is safe.

In 2025, our office had nearly 300 convictions in CCID court, with a 98% success rate. So far in 2026, AGO prosecutors have handled more than 300 initial appearances, more than 50 preliminary hearings, nearly 70 misdemeanor trials, and nearly 550 traffic violations before the CCID Court.

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Fitch".

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