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Keeping Fentanyl Out of Our Communities

Our office recently completed two [Fentanyl Strike Force operations](#) in Meridian on May 7 and Corinth on April 30, resulting in 6 ICE detainers and 23 arrests. We are grateful to work alongside such dedicated and skilled federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. Together, we are taking dangerous criminals off the streets and restoring peace and security in our communities.

In 2023, my office launched the Fentanyl Strike Force with the rollout of our One Pill Can Kill public education and awareness campaign. Through the Strike Force, more than 800 law enforcement officers have been trained to safely handle fentanyl and successfully work narcotics cases, most recently at a training in Corinth that preceded the operation there.



Supporting Law Enforcement

This week, as we marked National Police Week, the Attorney General's Office hosted the [16th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Candlelight Vigil](#) with the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association to honor Mississippi's fallen heroes and recognize their families for the sacrifices they have made.

It is a privilege to recognize Mississippi's dedicated men and women in uniform for their service to our State. This vigil is a reminder of the lives of the heroes who have fallen - the men and women who spent their days in service to their friends, neighbors, and even strangers, always with a sense of purpose, duty, and honor. We will always remember their sacrifice. You can view photos from the event [HERE](#).

I also traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in a roundtable discussion with Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and FBI Director Kash Patel to discuss ways the federal government and states can work together to defend the rule of law, promote public safety, and support our law enforcement officers.



Fighting Human Trafficking

Recently, my office's Human Trafficking Task Force led Mississippi's participation in a national [human trafficking operation](#) that spanned 30 states and included over 250 law enforcement agencies. In Mississippi, the operation in Biloxi led to four arrests and the recovery of three victims.

Operation Coast to Coast was started in 2024 as an initiative of the Human Trafficking Training Center (HTTC) in an effort to spur a nationwide response to human trafficking. Nationally, this operation resulted in 59 arrests and the recovery of 166 victims, including 12 minors.

Supporting Mississippi's Mothers

Our office is excited to host a [virtual baby shower](#) through our Empowerment Project to support pregnant women and mothers with young children with material assistance. The baby shower includes 17 pregnancy centers all across Mississippi, and you can support these organizations by viewing their wishlist [here](#).

Mississippi is committed to both empowering women and promoting life. And we are blessed with caring organizations and volunteers who walk alongside women with support, love, and understanding.

Taking on Big Pharma for Mississippi

Last week, we announced that a [\\$7.4 billion settlement](#) reached with Purdue Pharma and its owners, the Sackler family, has become legally effective, capping more than a decade of work by attorneys general from across the country in pursuing investigations and litigation over Purdue's and the Sacklers' role in fueling the opioid crisis. Mississippi sued Purdue in December 2015, and shortly after, the attorneys general launched a multistate investigation of Purdue.

The opioid epidemic has claimed far too many lives in Mississippi, leaving behind lasting pain. This settlement is another step toward holding accountable those who played a role in this epidemic and toward healing for many Mississippians who lost loved ones. Together, we can address the harm already done and prevent more senseless deaths.

Recognizing States' Authority Over Sports-Related Prediction Markets

This month, my office joined a [bipartisan coalition](#) of 41 attorneys general in urging federal regulators to reaffirm that jurisdiction over sports-related "event contracts" belongs to states.

Mississippi, like many states, has carefully balanced competing interests to allow responsible sports betting here. The CFTC should not upend that balance, usurp state authorities without a clear Congressional directive, and leave states with the responsibility for cleaning up the impacts of sports betting without the ability to regulate it on the front end. The best interests of Mississippians are served by preserving our traditional police powers.

Protecting You From Credit Card Scams

Given the recent sentencings of Sean Matthew Langston and John Carleton Johnson, Jr., who were found in possession of approximately 322 gift cards valued at more than \$12,000, 17 re-encoded instruments containing stolen bank card data, and two magstripe encoding devices, my office [shared tips](#) to help consumers avoid becoming victims of fraud.

COMMON SCAMS USING GIFT CARDS CAN INCLUDE:

- **Law Enforcement Imposter Scams:** Caller poses as a law enforcement official demanding that a fine must be paid to avoid arrest or legal action.
- **Tech Support Scams:** A call or email informing you that there is an issue with your computer, and you must provide payment via gift card to fix it.
- **Charity Imposter Scams:** Requests from a fake charity requesting a financial donation.
- **Utility Imposter Scams:** Demands that payment via gift card is required right away to avoid shut off for an unpaid or late utility bill.
- **Sweepstakes, Lottery Winnings, or Inheritance Scams:** A request for up-front fees to be paid via gift card before any winnings can be collected.



HOW TO IDENTIFY, STOP, AND REPORT SCAMS:

- Never use gift cards to pay debts. Gift cards are intended for gifting - not for paying bills or fines.
- Be skeptical of urgent payment requests. Legitimate organizations will not pressure you to act immediately.
- Verify claims independently. Contact the company or individual directly using independently verified contact information. Do not use contact information the scammer provides.
- If you paid a scammer with a gift card, tell the company that issued the card right away and report it to law enforcement.
- Be cautious with online and phone interactions. Don't share gift card details unless you are sure of the recipient's legitimacy.



K9 TracE to Receive New Protective Vest

Our [K9 Officer TracE](#) will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 TracE's vest was sponsored by Eve R. Hershkowitz of Brielle, NJ.

Providing protective equipment to K9s like TracE ensures that our law enforcement dogs receive the same level of protection as the officers they serve alongside. This donation will allow TracE to not only work effectively and confidently in high-risk situations, but also ensure her safety and wellbeing when engaged in law enforcement activities.

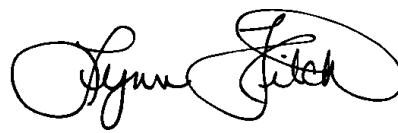
Ending Court Control Over Child Welfare

This week, our office announced that the State had filed motions in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi to end federal court oversight of the State's child welfare system that resulted from the 2004 [Olivia Y. lawsuit](#).

The State was sued in 2004, the parties settled in 2007, and a settlement agreement and reform plan has been in place since 2008. The volume of documents produced by the State pursuant to that agreement ballooned from 6,303 pages in 2018 to 71,845 pages in 2020, plus supporting spreadsheets and data files. The State has spent more than \$25 million in legal fees for this case, including more than \$8 million to the plaintiff's attorneys and the court-appointed monitor.

As we stated in the filings: "Time and resources that would be better spent on developing and sustaining a competently administered system focused on the best interests of the children is expended on data collection and legal bills that sustain the institutional reform litigation cottage industry. The recent history of this very case proves this point: The greatest strides in institutional reform here in the 22 years since this case was filed have been accomplished when the settlement agreement and reform plan have been suspended and Defendants could turn their attention to the system's true purpose—meeting the needs of Mississippi children, not those of self-interested professional plaintiffs."

May God bless you,



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