The following is a compendium of news reports over the last month that may be of interest to our AG offices who are dealing with human trafficking issues. Neither the National Association of Attorneys General nor the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute expresses a view as to the accuracy of news accounts nor as to the position expounded by the authors of the hyperlinked articles.

**February 2014**

**News from AG Offices**

Several Attorneys General recognized National Human Trafficking Awareness Month by issuing press releases to raise public awareness about the crime. *Massachusetts Attorney General Mar

atha Coakley’s statement is accessible [here](#). *Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette’s statement is accessible [here](#). *Georgia Attorney General Sam Olen’s statement is accessible [here](#); Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi’s resolution to recognize January as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month is available [here](#). Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and *Attorney General Derek Schmidt* proclaimed January as *Human Trafficking Awareness Month* in the state.

In addition to issuing press statements, Attorneys General have participated in meetings in their states to discuss human trafficking and their respective states’ commitment to fight against this crime. For instance, *Gen. Schutte* held a meeting with the Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition to spread the word about the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission’s report. *Gen. Schmidt* was particularly busy, recording, along with other officials, a PSA that ran on radio stations and cable TV channels throughout the month, participating in a *policymaker panel discussion* in Wichita, and meeting with representatives from the hospitality industry, agriculture groups, hospital association and truckers and convenience store operators to discuss human trafficking awareness efforts. The Kansas Attorney Generals’ Office also provided awareness posters and brochures for posting at hospitals, health departments, health clinics and at state-run rest stops. *Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto* participated in a press conference unveiling a new human trafficking documentary called “Trafficked No More” and moderated a panel of experts addressing human trafficking in Las Vegas in connection with the screening of a new human trafficking documentary called “Surviving Sin City.” *Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel* has posted a human trafficking survey on his website for social services providers. His office also hosted a human trafficking focus group in Jonesboro, Arkansas, this week. Information from this and similar meetings to be held around the state will be used to make recommendations to General McDaniel on how to better understand the impact of sex and labor trafficking in the state.

*Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi* hosted a press event in connection with the first anti-trafficking workshop for businesses in Florida.
Montana Attorney General Tim Fox announced that Town Pump, a privately held company operating convenience food stores, truck stops, car washes, hotels, casinos, propane services, and petroleum delivery operations, has volunteered to join with his office to help raise awareness of human trafficking in the state. All Town Pump businesses will display the poster created by the Montana Department of Justice as a requirement of HB 488.

Nevada Attorney General Catherin Cortez Masto joined other federal and state officials in announcing that Nevada TV stations had agreed to air the 30-minute program titled “Trafficked No More” in January.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt convened the state’s first human trafficking law enforcement task force. The task force includes more than 30 law enforcement agencies, including tribal law enforcement and the U.S. Attorneys Office.

According to news reports, the Texas Attorney General’s office charged a Wisconsin woman with trafficking a 16-year old in San Antonio, Austin, and other cities on the way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen joined with Wisconsin legislators in proposing an anti-human trafficking bill, introduced as AB 620 and its companion bill SB 492. The bills are aimed at better protecting victims of human trafficking and making enforcement tools more effective.

Federal Legislative and Policy Activity

The Obama Administration has issued the first Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States. The plan describes the steps that federal agencies will take to ensure that all victims of human trafficking in this country are identified and have access to the services they need.

H.R. 2283 has been introduced and sent to committee. Titled the “Human Trafficking Prioritization Act,” the bill aims to change the status of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to that of a Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons, headed by an Assistant Secretary of State rather than an Ambassador-at-Large.

Draft legislation, titled the “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care” is being developed. It is designed to prevent sex trafficking of youth in America’s foster care. Comments were solicited and due to the committee by January 17.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee’s Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on “Lessons Learned from Super Bowl Preparations: Preventing International Human Trafficking at Major Sporting Events.”

The Department of Defense’s zero-tolerance for human trafficking was explored in an article from the American Forces Press Service.
**State Legislative Activity**

New York has passed and Governor Cuomo has signed into law [A8071](#). The law will require that local criminal courts treat persons 16 and 17 years of age accused of prostitution as Persons in Need of Supervision instead of as criminals.

A human trafficking bill is pending in the Pennsylvania House. [Senate Bill 75](#) was unanimously approved by the Senate in early December. The bill more clearly defines sex and labor trafficking, increases fines and penalties, expands resources for victims, adds a civil forfeiture provision, and calls for increased training for first responders.

**Virginia** legislators have introduced anti-human trafficking bills for the current legislative session. [HB 994](#) and [SB 453](#) would create a human trafficking stand-alone offense in Virginia. Virginia is one of only two states that do not have a comprehensive human trafficking statute.

**State Investigations/Arrests**

**Gilroy, California**, police have charged five individuals with human trafficking and conspiracy in connection to a 13-year old girl.

A [Connecticut newspaper](#) reported that the state is seeing an increasing number of human trafficking cases. During the past few years, 130 girls and boys in the state have been identified as child sex slaves.

The [Manatee, Florida](#) Sheriff’s Office arrested 38-year old Elroy Johnson and he has been charged with human trafficking involving a 15-year old runaway. She was reported missing by Manatee Children’s Services who found her three days later at a gas station.

[Indianapolis, Indiana](#) announced the arrest of 24-year old Jerry Mitchell on human trafficking, child molestation, and promoting prostitution charges. He is accused of being a leader of a human trafficking operation involving teenagers and a 12-year old with special needs.

A [Johnson County, Indiana](#) prosecutor has charged three Greenwood residents with human trafficking after a woman claimed she was beaten, sexually assaulted, and forced into servitude after she arrived from India to enter an arranged marriage.

Police in [Kansas](#) report that the number of trafficking victims has tripled in just one year’s time, from 11 in 2012 to 29.

[Louisiana](#) officials announced the arrest of a fourth suspect in a human trafficking investigation involving a 14-year old.

Undercover police in [Camden County, New Jersey](#), working on a case in conjunction with New Jersey’s Human Trafficking Task Force, rescued a 26-year old woman from North Carolina. Eight individuals have been arrested in the case, including a Pennsylvania woman and a New Jersey man who have both been charged with first-degree human trafficking.
A criminal complaint was issued against two Milwaukee, Wisconsin, men charging them with human trafficking of a 16-year old.

Jackson, Wyoming, prosecutors have charged an Idaho man, Jonathan Kelly, with human trafficking involving an 18-year old woman.

**State Prosecutions and Convictions**

In Long Beach California, Larry McDowell, Jr., was sentenced to five years in state prison for his involvement in the trafficking of a 14-year old. Two other men were earlier convicted and sentenced, one for six years and the other for 100 days and 3 years’ probation.

The San Diego, California, DA’s Office noted that the number of human trafficking cases that have been prosecuted has more than tripled over the past four years.

In Cleveland, Ohio, Gregory Kranjnyk was sentenced to 13 years in prison after being convicted in Cuyahoga County’s first human trafficking case.

In Port Orchard, Oregon, 34-year old Anthony D. Parker was sentenced to 50 years in prison on human trafficking and related charges. He beat and tortured a 22-year old woman whom he was selling as a prostitute.

**Articles of General Interest**


An op-ed by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Cindy McCain, wife of Sen. John McCain and co-chair of the Arizona Governor’s Task Force on Human Trafficking, published in the Washington Post, noted the effort to encourage states to strengthen law enforcement’s tools to combat trafficking and to expand training to different community sectors, such as first responders.

California has begun an innovative program called Girls Court which brings an all-hands-on-deck approach to the lives of vulnerable girls, many of whom have been recruited as child prostitutes or are considered at risk for involvement.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently approved a $200,000, two-year program to fight child sex trafficking.

A guide for Massachusetts attorneys who represent victims of human trafficking has been prepared. It is designed to give a general overview of human trafficking law to help attorneys identify victims and determine how to meet their legal and non-legal needs.

The Salem County, New Jersey, Prosecutor’s Office, held a presentation this month on human trafficking for hospitality professionals.
The Ohio non-profit Imagine Foundation released a report showing that there were about 3,000 advertisements for sex services in the Cincinnati area over a three-month period. The report examines the patterns of commercial sex in the region to better understand sex trafficking.

Federal authorities recently arrested an El Paso, Texas, juvenile probation officer, and charged him with trafficking a minor. Five El Paso gang members have also been charged for their roles in sex trafficking.

Fairfax, Virginia, school officials are developing teen sex trafficking awareness lessons to add to the County’s public schools’ health curriculum. A website, JustAskVA.org, is already on-line offering videos and resources for parents, the community, and students.

Partnership for Freedom, a coalition of funders in partnership with the Federal government to identify and fund new models for “innovative and sustainable social services for human trafficking survivors,” has issued a public funding challenge, asking social entrepreneurs to propose new solutions for helping victims of human trafficking in the U.S. The challenge has a prize of up to $1.8M over two years to fund the ideas and measure the impact.

The Times Herald published a three-part series on human trafficking this month. The first is titled “Human Trafficking Not Just a Global Problem” and talks about the effect locally. The second is “Human Trafficking Has Wide-Reaching Social Impact,” and the third is headlined “How Does Human Trafficking Relate to Agriculture.”

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility issued a “Statement of Principles and Recommended Practices for Confronting Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery.”

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