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.

January 2014

**News from AG Offices**

According to [newspaper reports](#), the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office will sponsor assemblies in schools statewide this month to warn students about the dangers of human trafficking during the weeks surrounding Super Bowl XLVIII.

[Nevada Attorney General Catherin Cortez Masto](#) announced early last month that a Las Vegas man has pled guilty to one count of sex trafficking. Ian Lloyd, 32, contacted a 16-year old girl from Utah and persuaded her to go to Las Vegas where he engaged her in prostitution, keeping the proceeds. This is the first sex trafficking case prosecuted by the Nevada AG’s office.

**Federal Legislative Activity**

In December, U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Kay Hagan (D-NC) introduced the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act, [S. 1823](#). A companion bill, [H.R. 1732](#), was introduced in the House by Reps. Tomas Marino (R-PA) and Karen Bass (D-CA) in April. The bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and publish guidelines to assist state, Indian tribe, and tribal organization child welfare agencies and juvenile and family courts in efforts to serve appropriately youth who are victims of trafficking and youth at-risk of becoming such.

**State Legislative Activity**

The Pennsylvania Senate approved [S.B. 75](#). The bill more clearly defines labor and sex trafficking, increases the fines and penalties, expands resources available to victim service providers, and adds penalties for business entities involved in the crime.

**State Investigations/Arrests**

Wichita, Kansas, authorities have arrested and formally charged [Rico J. Brown](#), with one count of aggravated human trafficking involving a 17-year old.

In another case from Wichita, Kansas, [Jaylyn M. Bradley](#), 20, is accused of recruiting, harboring, transporting or obtaining a 17-year old female sometime between March 3 and April 8, knowing the teen would be “used to engage in forced labor, involuntary servitude or sexual gratification.”
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, officers arrested Travis Moore after an undercover operation targeting Internet prostitution led investigators to a Baton Rouge hotel. According to detectives, the women inside the hotel were being forced into prostitution.

Baton Rouge police were also involved in the arrest of two persons who were offering a juvenile for sex in exchange for money at a Baton Rouge hotel. Victor Medlock of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Lindsay Lovell, of Muldrow, Oklahoma, were arrested. Lovell, with her newborn infant, was found with the 16-year old in the hotel room; she allegedly placed ads for both the victim and herself on websites, offering sex in exchange for money.

A Mansfield, Massachusetts man, Sean Webb, was arrested in December after a lengthy investigation by the Boston Police Department Human Trafficking Unit and Homeland Security Investigators. He is charged with human trafficking of a minor child along with associated charges.

Michigan authorities are looking into links to human trafficking at a Fenton massage parlor that was shuttered last month after investigators found evidence there of sexual favors being exchanged for money. Genesee County prosecutor David Leyton, a member of Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette’s task force on human trafficking, announced the ongoing investigation.

A six-week undercover operation focusing on crimes associated with human trafficking by Minnesota investigators from the Superior Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Duluth Police Department, and the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force have yielded several arrests. Seven men were arrested when they responded to an ad that investigators had posted on Backpage offering pay-for-sex services.

A man and a woman, Johnathan Edwards and Kauser Yusuf, have been charged with trafficking a 15-year old girl in St. Paul, Minnesota, by placing an ad for her on Backpage. According to the complaint, the victim emailed Backpage asking for help. That complaint was sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and forwarded on to the St. Paul Police Department.

A joint investigation by Egg Harbor, New Jersey, Township Police Department and the FBI’s Innocence Lost Task Force has led to the indictment of Donnie Bethea on 15 counts including six counts of human trafficking. Bethea is accused of luring at least six women to West Atlantic City motels, holding them captive with threats and physical restraints, and forcing them to prostitute themselves.

Twenty-four year old Randolph Spain has been charged with the trafficking of three women, one of whom was a minor. This is the first human trafficking case in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

A tip from the Polaris Project led investigators to arrest Kewon Perry on charges of human trafficking of a minor child. He is accused of selling an underage girl for sex out of a hotel room in the 3200 block of Capital Blvd in Raleigh, North Carolina, by posting her ad on an Internet site.

A human trafficking sting in Perrysburg, Ohio, led to the arrest of Aaron Gregory on charges of promoting prostitution and of four other individuals for solicitation. Two women present were not
charged because police believe they are victims of human trafficking. The Wood County Sheriff’s Office, Perrysburg police, and the Ohio Attorney General’s office all cooperated in the investigation.

Two Beaverton, Oregon, men, Victor Moreno-Hernandez and Steven Toth, were arrested involving the sex trafficking of two 13-year old females at an adult entertainment business, Stars Cabaret. A third man, Yahir Ibidem Muniz, has also been arrested in connection to this case.

State Prosecutions and Convictions

Alvin M. Edwards was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his role in kidnapping and subjecting a 27-year old woman to prostitution. He is one of four men who were accused of kidnapping the woman from Lake County, Illinois, driving her to Racine, and forcing her into prostitution.

Articles of General Interest

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services issued the Kentucky Child Victims of Human Trafficking Report in November to the Kentucky legislature. It states that Kentucky has investigated 20 allegations of human trafficking involving 25 children between the end of June and mid-October.

Husch Blackwell, a law firm based in Kansas City, has committed to representing human trafficking victims referred by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in western Missouri. Its newest partner, Cynthia Cordes, was a former U.S. attorney specializing in prosecuting traffickers.

The Washing Post published an article, which was picked up by several other newspapers, discussing the Polaris Project’s Hotline and the new text campaign that went active in March.

The Pasco County, Florida, Sheriff’s Office offered a training to cable provider Bright House Networks employees on human trafficking. The session was part of a series of courses offered by various law enforcement agencies throughout the states where Bright House has operations. The Sheriff’s Department has offered similar training sessions to utility companies, hotels, malls, and retail centers.

The Supreme Court of Canada recently issued a decision which struck down laws against brothels, street solicitation, and living off the profits of prostitution. An op-ed, written by Kevin Ryan, President and CEO of Covenant House, a nonprofit charity serving homeless and trafficked youth, laments the decision and believes it will result in an escalation of child prostitution and human trafficking as it has in Germany. Mr. Ryan’s concern is backed up by an article that appeared several years ago in World Development which concluded that, on average, countries where prostitution is legal experience larger reported human trafficking inflows.

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