



Office of the Attorney General ★ ★ ★ **ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN**

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THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS

December 12th Edition

TOP HEADLINES

Voting Rights Report



Attorney General Eric Schneiderman last week announced the results of his office's statewide inquiry into widespread voter complaints received before, during, and after the April 2016 presidential primary. The inquiry found New York's current election system erects significant barriers to voter access in at least two major ways: first, the state's rules, laws, procedures, and practices governing voter registration prevented many New Yorkers from participating in the primary; second, some of the rules, laws, procedures, and practices governing voting itself restricted voter access to the ballot.

To help alleviate these challenges, Attorney General Schneiderman also pledged to introduce the 2017 New York Votes Act, a comprehensive bill to reform the state's voting systems. The reforms are aimed at simplifying the voting process, boosting voter registration, and expanding voter turnout.

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In Other News...

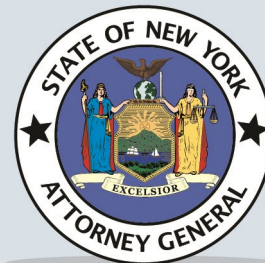
*Attorney General Schneiderman issued the following statement on President-elect Trump's reported intention to nominate Andrew Puzder as Labor Secretary:

President-elect Trump's reported choice to lead the Labor Department has done everything in his power to undermine the rights of American workers, from driving down wages to opposing over-time pay. Even worse, Andrew Puzder presided over a fast-food chain that repeatedly stole workers' hard earned wages. The fact that Mr. Puzder has now reportedly been selected to lead the same agency that uncovered wage theft at his restaurants is a cruel and baffling decision by President-elect Trump.

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TOP HEADLINES CONTINUED

\$19.5 Million Multistate Settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced a \$19.5 million multistate agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) arising from alleged improper marketing and promotion of the drug Abilify. New York's share of the settlement is \$788,774. Abilify is one of several second-generation antipsychotic prescription drugs, commonly referred to as "atypical antipsychotics," that were originally used to treat schizophrenia. The agreement is signed with 41 other State Attorneys General and the District of Columbia.

\$1.6 Million Settlements with Auto Dealerships

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman last week announced the settlement of a lawsuit against SG Hylan Motors Corp., a Staten Island dealership doing business as Staten Island Honda and Staten Island Nissan (collectively SG Hylan) and a separate settlement with Best Auto Outlet, Inc. (Best Auto) located in Floral Park. The SG Hylan settlement resolves a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General in July 2016, which alleged that these auto dealerships unlawfully sold "after-sale" products and services, including credit repair and identity theft protection services, to over 2,300 consumers, sometimes exceeding a cost of \$2,000 per consumer. The settlement requires SG Hylan to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to these consumers. The agreement with Best Auto, which returns \$115,000 in restitution to consumers, concludes an investigation into this dealership for similar misconduct – alleged unlawful sale of credit repair and identity theft prevention services, and other "after-sale" items to over 200 consumers.

Albany Couple Arrested for Defrauding Medicaid

Attorney General Schneiderman announced the arraignment of Lawrence D. Rosenbaum, 65, and his wife, Thomasine Henderson, 65, both of Albany, New York, on a ten-count indictment charging them with stealing over \$12,000 in life insurance payments and attempting to wrongfully obtain nearly \$50,000 in life insurance payments by submitting false claims with respect to the death of their son. If convicted, each defendant faces up to 2 1/3 to 7 years in prison.

Other News Continued

*Attorney General Schneiderman announced last week that his office filed legal action seeking a permanent injunction against a Rochester-based home improvement contractor who contracted to perform home improvement contracting services for consumers Rochester area.

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