

**Date** September 27, 2019

## **Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Sept. 27, 2019**



Ending human trafficking is one of my highest priorities. It will take collaboration and efforts from leaders at the local, state and national levels to eradicate this horrific crime. As Florida's Attorney General and Chair of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, I am honored to be hosting my first Florida Human Trafficking Summit next Monday. Having these leaders in the same room will lead to tremendous advances in our fight against this terrible situation. I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's diverse ideas and innovative solutions for our state.

The annual Summit provides leaders at all levels an opportunity to learn about our efforts in different fields to combat all forms of human trafficking. Hundreds of Floridians will attend the Summit dedicated to this fight, including law enforcement, prosecutors, survivors, advocates, educators, counselors and more.

I am thankful to serve alongside so many committed individuals and organizations

that want to end this form of modern-day slavery, including our state agency partners: the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families, Florida law enforcement and our prosecutors.

This horrific practice is still hurting Floridians and many others in our nation. A big draw for human traffickers is major events, including the Super Bowl, which will be hosted in Miami and Tampa within the next two years. In addition to elaborating on our preparations for these major events at this year's Summit, we will hold several breakout sessions and share strategies on how to spread awareness, identify signs of human trafficking, and provide a safe environment for survivors.

For more information about this year's Summit, click [here](#).

Human trafficking is a plague we cannot tolerate and must continue towards eliminating it, so we can build a stronger, safer Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial letter.

## **In The News**

**Florida attorney general launches opioid resource website ahead of statewide task force next month, Orlando Sentinel**

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**Attorney General Moody unveils new website to help fight Florida's opioid crisis, WESH Orlando**

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**Attorney general launches education website in battle against opioid use, Ocala-News**

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**Florida attorney general 'highly alarmed' about vaping-related illness after first death in state, WFTV Orlando**

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**FDLE Finishes Multi-Year Sexual Assault Kit Project, Florida Daily**

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**Villagers should beware of scam spoofing law enforcement phone numbers, Villages-News**

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**Vero Beach woman one of 19 arrested in statewide medicaid fraud of over \$1 million, Treasure Coast Newspapers**

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# Protecting Floridians

## Attorney General Moody Sponsors National Suicide Prevention Month Resolution

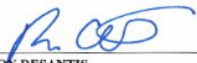
### NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

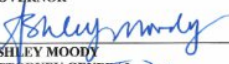
in the State of Florida as well as recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and while tragic is a preventable loss that has a devastating impact on families and communities.

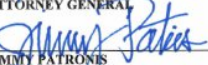
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor and Cabinet also recognize a new initiative by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay called "First to Respond, Last to Ask for Help." The program promotes suicide awareness and encourages law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics to call "2-1-1", the **Crisis Center Hotline**, if they feel the urge to harm themselves or others.

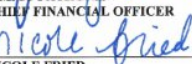
**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF** the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the official seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.



  
RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

  
ASHLEY MOODY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

  
JIMMY PATRONIS  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

  
NICOLE FRIED  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a resolution at a Florida Cabinet Meeting to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month in Florida. According to BlueHelp.org, 167 active and retired law enforcement officers nationwide committed suicide in 2018, more than those killed in the line of duty. Providing help and assistance to Florida law enforcement is one of Attorney General Moody's top priorities.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "My mission as Attorney General is to protect Floridians and we are constantly working to ensure their well-being and safety. This includes our first responders and law enforcement officers, who experience traumatic events and carry heavy burdens in the face of danger. I want them to know that we are here for them and will do everything possible to keep them from suffering." [Read More](#)

### Attorney General Moody's Statement on the Investiture of Justice Robert Luck

Attorney General Ashley Moody released the following statement on the investiture of Justice Robert Luck to the Florida Supreme Court:

“I congratulate Robert Luck on his formal investiture today as the 88th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Luck’s distinguished career in service as a federal prosecutor, circuit court judge and judge on the Third District Court of Appeal makes him highly qualified to sit on the highest bench of our state. I know Justice Luck will be a vigilant guardian of freedom and separation of powers.”

**Attorney General Moody’s Statement on the Investiture of Justice Carlos Muniz**

Attorney General Ashley Moody released the following statement on the investiture of Justice Carlos Muniz to the Florida Supreme Court:



“I congratulate Justice Muniz on his formal ceremony today and becoming the 89th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. This is a momentous occasion, and the experience and intellect Justice Muniz brings to the Court will be invaluable.

“I know Justice Muniz is committed to the rule of law and I look forward to his success as a Florida Supreme Court Justice.”

## Attorney General Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Arrests 19 in Regional Takedown



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced the completion of a statewide Medicaid fraud takedown. The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit executed 19 arrests for fraudulently billing Medicaid more than a million dollars. The arrests culminated from 14 different cases covering a wide range of charges, including: aggravated identity theft, conspiracy to commit health care fraud, exploitation involving an elderly person, false statements in connection with a health care matter, practicing as a health care professional without a valid license and more.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Fraud of any kind will not be tolerated in Florida. I am proud of the hard work of my MFCU and law enforcement partners in bringing these 19 individuals to justice. It is sickening to read these stories about how individuals will use and abuse those under their care. This kind of fraud and abuse not only hurts the direct victims, but it also drives up medical costs for everyone." [Read More](#)

## Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody joined Governor Ron DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried during a Florida Cabinet Meeting.



Attorney General Moody attending the ceremonial investitures of Justices Robert Luck and Carlos Muñiz inside the Florida Supreme Court.





Attorney General Moody visiting with Florida's First Lady Casey DeSantis to discuss efforts to protect Florida's children.





Attorney General Moody meeting with U.S. Attorneys representing the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida to talk about ways to combat human trafficking, fraud and the opioid epidemic.



*From left to right: U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida Maria Chapa Lopez, AG Moody, USAO for the Southern District Florida Ariana Fajardo Orshan and USAO for the Northern District Larry Keefe*

Attorney General Moody with members of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women inside the Attorney General's Capitol office.



*From left to right: FCSW Executive Director Kelly Sciba, AG Moody, FCSW Commissioner Lady Dhyana Ziegler and OAG Director of Civil Rights Danille Carroll*