



ONE YEAR IN OFFICE



One year ago, I was sworn in as the first female Attorney General for the great State of Mississippi, and what a year it has been. This year has been marked with unprecedented challenges as we have worked each day to serve the you, the people who make Mississippi so great.

The Coronavirus pandemic brought out the best in so many of us, and I am proud of the response this Office took to the current public health crisis. While the world battled the health and economic effects of the Coronavirus, the Attorney General's Office never stopped meeting the needs of the people of this State, and we also took on additional emergency duties to help Mississippi through some of the greatest challenges and uncertainties.

Throughout the year, we have worked diligently to restructure the Attorney General's Office to better meet the needs of our State. The more than 300 attorneys, investigators, and other professionals at the Office do a great variety of work, providing contract and regulatory assistance to our State agencies, boards, and commissions, and representing the State in federal and state courts alike. We are the State's premier law firm.

The Attorney General's Office also does work to empower Mississippians in their everyday lives. We educate people and businesses about their rights under the law, engage them in big issues like human trafficking, child exploitation, the opioid epidemic, and consumer protection matters, and provide services and support to victims of crime to help them and their families move forward with dignity and hope. So, we are not only the State's premier law firm, but also a real public service entity.

We have assembled a great team of legal and professional leaders for this new Attorney General's Office, and together, we are updating and improving the way we serve Mississippi.

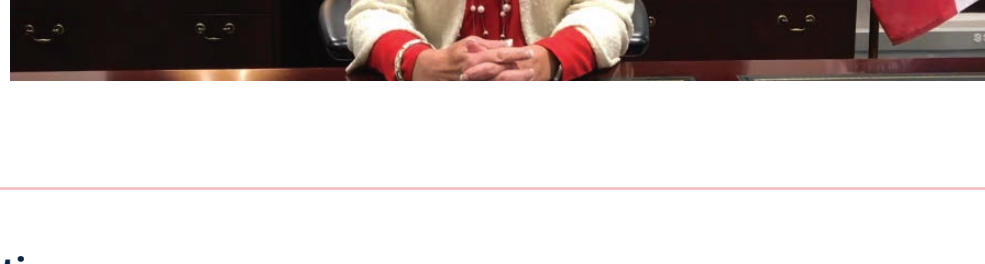
I'd like to take a moment to share a few highlights we accomplished this year.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD EXPLOITATION

Human Trafficking

I sat down with Sarah Ulmer of Y'all Politics to discuss human trafficking in Mississippi, and what our office is doing to combat the issue. To watch the interview, click below.



Child Exploitation



CONSUMER PROTECTION

State of Mississippi v. People's Republic of China, et al.

In April, I filed a lawsuit against China to hold the Communist government accountable for the malicious and dangerous acts that caused death, health injuries, and serious economic loss from the COVID-19 crisis. Not only is my lawsuit meant to recover the losses that we suffered, but it also reminds China, and any other country in the world, that they will not be allowed to act badly and recklessly and get away with it. We will hold them accountable when their actions cause damage to our people and our economy.

State of Mississippi v. Centurion Filing Services

After attempting to resolve the matter with the entity informally, I filed this action to address mailings targeting new businesses in Mississippi. The letters deceptively appeared to be from the Secretary of State's Office and solicited the business to pay an exorbitant amount for a Certificate of Existence, which are unnecessary for new businesses. More than 2,700 businesses have been affected and have lost between \$170,000 and \$260,000.

State of Mississippi v. Metals.com/Barrick Capital Inc.

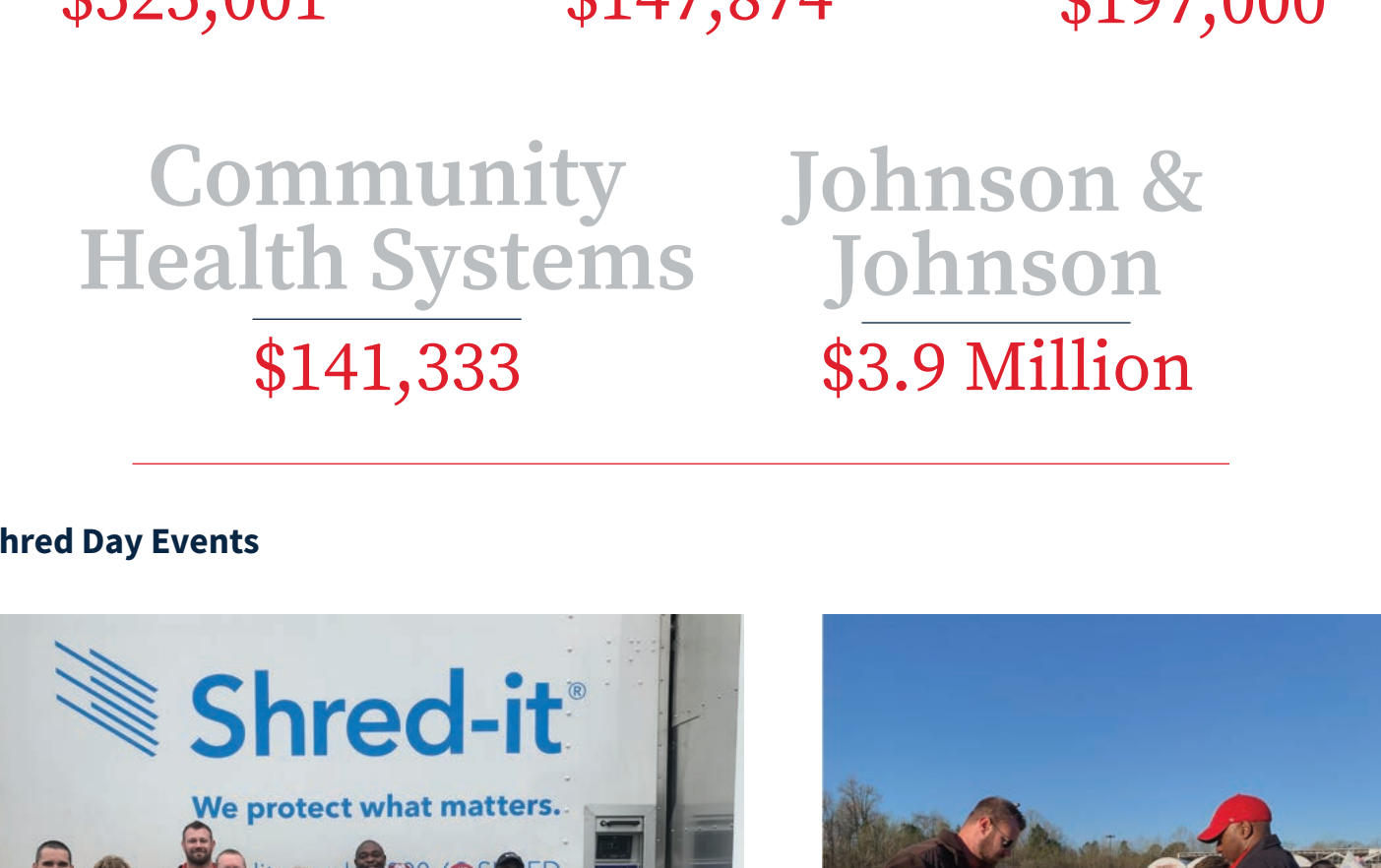
The Mississippi Attorney General and Secretary of State joined the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and 29 other states in filing a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas alleging Metals.com and Barrick Capital Inc. solicited \$185 million from 1,600 seniors and other vulnerable investors nationwide, including over \$350,000 from Mississippians, by touting precious metals at inflated prices that were not disclosed.

The defendants were preying on seniors and other vulnerable persons, grossly misrepresenting the value and likelihood of the investments they were selling and scamming consumers out of their retirement savings.

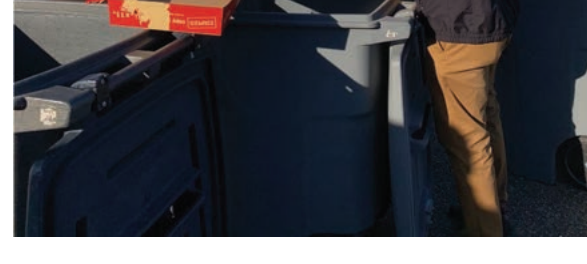
Facebook v. Noah Duguid

This case is key to Mississippi and other states' ability to protect residents from abusive robo-call tactics that threaten and scam people out of their money. If Facebook prevails here, there will be a gaping loophole in the law that protects citizens from abusive and unsolicited robo-calls. We filed this brief on behalf of all the Mississippians who have said enough is enough to annoying, deceptive, and sometimes even malicious robo-calls.

Bringing Money Back to Mississippi



Shred Day Events



In the Spring of 2020, we provided Mississippians a free, proper, and safe way to dispose of their sensitive documents through our Shred Day events. Those events took place in D'Iberville, Starkville, and Jackson, making it possible to reach those in north, south, and central parts of the State.



VICTIMS



In December, our Bureau of Victim Assistance hosted a Christmas tree dedication in honor of Mississippi crime victims and survivors of victims of homicide. Although we were disheartened that we were unable to gather as a large group due to COVID-19, we were still able to share this special ceremony via [video](#).

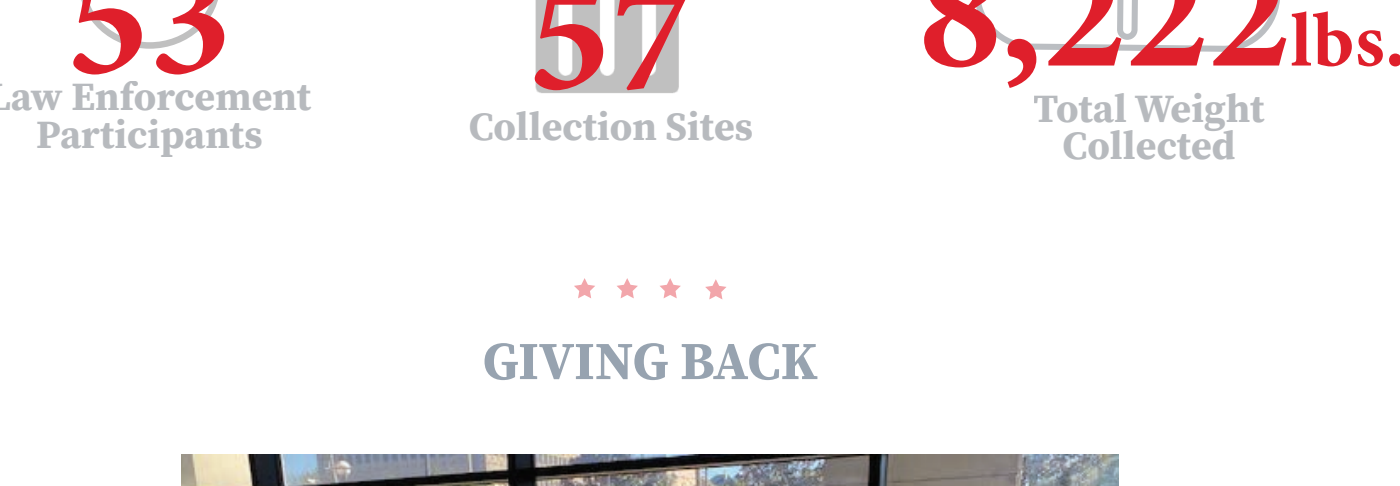
553 Mississippi victims paid out through the Victim Compensation Program



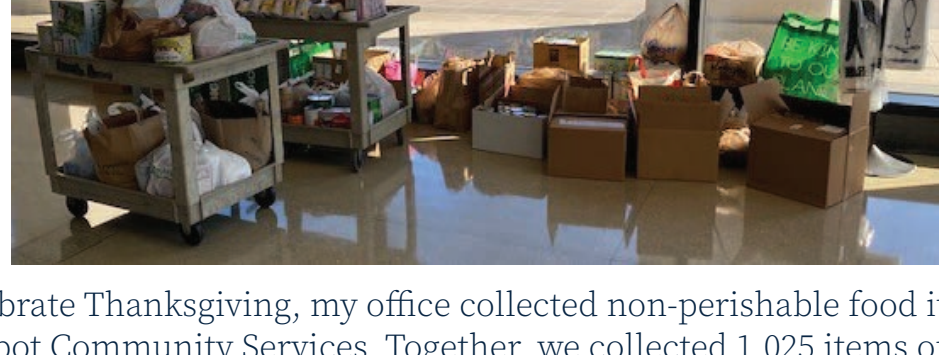
OPIOIDS

According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in that year, 10.3 million Americans misused opioids, including 9.9 million prescription drug misusers. Unused or expired medication in the home, if not properly stored or disposed of, can be dangerous to you and your loved ones. In fact, over 50 percent of abused prescription medication is obtained from family and friends, most commonly found in the home medicine cabinet.

My office partnered with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America for National Drug Take Back Day and October 2020 to raise awareness about the opioid crisis in Mississippi and provide the public an opportunity to safely and anonymously dispose of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs.



GIVING BACK



To celebrate Thanksgiving, my office collected non-perishable food items for Stewpot Community Services. Together, we collected 1,025 items of food!



Our office also coordinated an agency wide Toys for Tots drive during the holiday season.



The men and women with whom I have served in my first year as your Attorney General are true public servants, dedicated to protecting and defending the vulnerable and the least among us. It is a charge we take very seriously as we work to earn and re-earn your trust every day.

I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in this new year.

May God bless you, *Lynn Fitch*