A.G. Schneiderman announced the launch of ClearYourCabinet.com, a new statewide initiative and website dedicated to helping New Yorkers safely dispose of prescription drugs, ahead of tomorrow’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. As part of Attorney General Schneiderman’s multi-levered approach to tackling the opioid epidemic, the initiative is aimed at helping New Yorkers take one of the simplest steps to prevent addiction by safely disposing of their unused drugs at drop-off sites around New York – including at two dozen sites around Buffalo. According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, four out of five new heroin users start out by misusing prescription drugs; and according to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

In Other News...

* A.G. Schneiderman announced a settlement with Sharp Entertainment LLC, producer of “Man v. Food,” “Bad Ink,” and several other reality television programs, for misclassifying employees and subsequently failing to pay scores of employees overtime. Following an investigation conducted by the Attorney General’s office, Sharp Entertainment agreed to pay $226,000 in restitution to employees who did not receive overtime for having worked well over 40 hours each week and to reform their business practices.

Today’s settlement follows the Attorney General’s $411,000 settlement with True Entertainment LLC, which produces “The Real Housewives Of Atlanta.”

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TOP HEADLINES CONTINUED

Attorney General’s Office Delivers “People’s Hearing” Clean Power Plan Testimony To EPA, Demonstrating New Yorkers' Overwhelming Opposition To Proposed Repeal

The offices of New York Attorney General Schneiderman and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio delivered to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testimony and comments collected during New York’s “People’s Hearing” on EPA’s proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan – the first-ever nationwide limits on emissions of climate change pollution from existing power plants. In the testimony, New Yorkers overwhelmingly supported the Clean Power Plan, focusing on the central role it plays in stemming climate change’s growing harm to the health, environment, jobs, and prosperity of New Yorkers. In fact, rather than doing away with the regulation, most testified in support of strengthening the Clean Power Plan.

Over 110 New Yorkers – included elected officials, environmental, health, social justice, and religious organizations, and concerned New Yorkers – attended the January 9, 2017 People’s Hearing, with 65 providing oral testimony. An additional 75 pieces of written testimony were submitted.

A.G. Schneiderman Files Brief Defending Misclassified Employees' Right To Organize

A.G. Schneiderman joined a coalition of 12 Attorneys General in filing an amicus brief with the National Labor Relations Board supporting its decision against Velox Express Inc., which concluded that the company’s misclassification of employees as independent contractors constituted an unfair labor practice in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. The Administrative Law Judge in the case against Velox Express Inc. determined that Velox Express, an Indiana-based company that performs medical specimen pick-ups, retail deliveries, home infusions, and long-term care pharmacy work, misclassified its drivers as independent contractors and restrained them from exercising their right to unionize.

According to the brief, misclassification is an increasingly common way for employers to avoid their legal obligations to employees and to unfairly compete in the marketplace. When employers misclassify their workers as independent contractors, it is harder for those employees to assert their workplace rights, including protections from wage theft, harassment, and discrimination. Misclassified workers are also denied Occupational Health and Safety Act protections, and are unable to form unions, collectively bargain, or join in concerted efforts to improve conditions in their workplace without fear of reprisal from employers.

Other News Continued

A.G. Schneiderman announced the arrest of Haimid Thompson, a/k/a “Mookie”, of Jamestown, NY for allegedly stealing over $7,500 from Medicaid by submitting false claims for rides he claimed he provided to a Medicaid recipient through the taxi service 716 Transportation, Inc. (716).

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