

May 3, 2017



Key California DOJ Actions Over the Last 100 Days

Standing Up for Hardworking Californians

Consumers:

Attorney General Becerra Issues Consumer Alert Concerning Price Gouging in Wake of Oroville Dam Auxiliary Spillway Incident

Issued a consumer alert concerning price gouging in the wake of the Oroville Dam Auxiliary Spillway Incident and related evacuations. The Attorney General also warned donors to carefully vet anyone who is promising to help evacuees. ([February 13, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Urges Congress To Preserve Consumer Protections for Prepaid Card Users

Sent a letter urging Congress to preserve important protections for the millions of consumers who use prepaid cards. Congress is currently considering measures that would block implementation of a Final Rule announced by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to make the fees associated with prepaid cards more transparent, protect users against fraud and unauthorized charges, and limit the abusive use of overdraft fees. ([April 5, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Announces Guilty Plea and Sentencing of Long Beach Gang Member and Mastermind of Tax Fraud Scheme

Announced that Dominique Lewis, an influential member of the Baby Insane Crips, a Long Beach street gang that operated a scheme to perpetrate tax fraud, pled guilty to 18 felony charges including identity theft, grand theft, and conspiracy. ([April 7, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Urges Acting U.S. Labor Secretary Hugler To Put The Interests of Consumers Above Those Of Retirement Advisors

Urged Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Edward Hugler to immediately implement the "fiduciary" conflict of interest rule, which would require those who provide retirement investment advice to put the interests of their clients above their own financial gain. Under current rules, which went into effect 40 years ago, many such advisors are only subject to a "suitability" standard, which allows them to choose investments that make more money for them, rather than what is best for their clients. Creating a fiduciary conflict of interest rule makes it clear that the retirement advisor's legal responsibility is solely to the clients they are advising. The rule was scheduled to go into effect on April 10, but has been delayed by the Trump Administration. ([April 13, 2017](#))

May 3, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Announces Settlement With Western Union For Wire Fraud Scams, Encourages Victims to Come Forward

Announced that California has joined a multistate settlement with Western Union, which resolves an investigation that focused on complaints by consumers who used the financial institution's wire transfer service to inadvertently send money to third parties involved in schemes to defraud consumers. ([April 12, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Sues Charities For Falsely Claiming to Help Veterans

Filed a civil lawsuit seeking to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars from two California charities claiming to support veterans. The lawsuit alleges that the operators of Wounded Warriors Support Group (WWSG) and Central Coast Equine Rescue and Retirement (CCERR) run raffles purportedly to support veterans, but instead spend the donated proceeds for personal use, including shopping at Victoria's Secret, paying off personal credit card debt, and traveling, dining, traffic school, dressage equipment, and other personal expenses. ([April 17, 2017](#))

LGBTQ People:

Attorney General Becerra Joins Amicus Brief in Defense of Transgender Rights

Joined 18 state attorneys general in filing a friend-of-the-court brief supporting transgender rights in the United States Supreme Court in *Gloucester County School Board v. G.G.* The brief, authored by New York and Washington, makes clear that discrimination on the basis of gender identity causes real and significant harm to transgender people and denies students equal access to educational opportunities. ([March 3, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra: North Carolina Remains on List of Restricted States

Announced that California will continue to prohibit state-funded and state-sponsored travel and expenditures to North Carolina based on that state's discriminatory laws. ([April 12, 2017](#))

Health:

Attorney General Becerra Joins Price-Fixing Lawsuit Against Six Drug Companies

Announced that California has joined a federal antitrust lawsuit with 39 other states charging six generic drug-makers with an illegal conspiracy to divide customers and markets and increase prices for two generic drugs. ([March 1, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra: Walgreens Settles \$9.8 Million Whistleblower Case

Announced a \$9.8 million settlement with Walgreens, one of the largest drugstore chains in the United States. The settlement involved allegations that Walgreens failed to adhere fully to requirements imposed by California law for the dispensing of certain prescriptions drugs under Medi-Cal. The settlement is the result of lawsuits filed by whistleblowers and investigated and resolved by federal and state prosecutors. The lawsuits alleged that for more than five years, Walgreens falsely certified that it had complied with diagnosis-related requirements for the lawful dispensing of prescriptions to Medi-Cal patients. ([April 20, 2017](#))

May 3, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Files Amicus Brief To Defend Women’s Health and Medical Services

Filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case *Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio et al v. Hodges* before the Sixth Circuit United States Court of Appeals. The brief defends a woman's right to access essential healthcare services, including reproductive health services, and a qualified healthcare provider's right to participate in offering publicly-funded health services to all people. Specifically, the brief challenges an Ohio law which excludes qualified healthcare providers that offer services to women, including abortion services, from participating in publicly-funded health programs unrelated to abortion – including breast and cervical cancer prevention programs. ([April 6, 2017](#))

Attorney General Xavier Becerra Files Brief Defending Women’s Access to Constitutionally-Protected Health Care

Filed an amicus brief yesterday afternoon in *West Alabama Women’s Center v. Dr. Thomas Miller*, a case currently pending before the Eleventh Circuit United States Court of Appeals. At issue is an Alabama law which threatens a woman’s access to safe and legal abortion. The brief makes clear that restricting a woman’s right to reproductive healthcare to favor practices that are not medically-proven endangers the health and safety of all women and should be rejected. ([May 2, 2017](#))

Immigrants:

Attorney General Becerra Joins 6 State Attorneys General to File Amicus Brief in the U.S. Supreme Court Seeking Constitutional Protection for Non-Citizens Detained by Federal Authorities

Filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Jennings v Rodriguez*, a case involving the federal government’s authority to detain non-citizens pending completion of their removal proceedings. The plaintiffs in this case are non-citizens who have been detained by federal authorities for longer than six months. ([February 10, 2017](#))

Becerra Announces Five-Year Prison Sentence for Oswaldo Cabrera of Coalición Latinoamericana Internacional for Defrauding Immigrants

Announced that Oswaldo Rafael Cabrera, the owner and operator of a Los Angeles-based business known as the Coalición Latinoamericana Internacional (CLI), was sentenced to five years and two months in state prison after pleading guilty to felony charges involving grand theft, attempted perjury and conspiracy to violate the Immigration Consultants Act. Cabrera’s wife, Maria Marcelina Rodas, was sentenced to three years of felony probation for charges that she conspired to violate the Immigration Consultants Act. ([February 22, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Files Amicus Brief in *County of Santa Clara v. Trump*, Supporting Challenge to President Trump’s “Sanctuary Jurisdictions” Executive Order

Filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case *County of Santa Clara v. Trump, et al.*, supporting the County of Santa Clara in its challenge to President Donald J. Trump’s executive order targeting “sanctuary jurisdictions.” President Trump’s executive order threatens to withdraw federal funds from states and local jurisdictions that the Administration deems to be “sanctuary jurisdictions.” Attorney General Becerra’s brief highlights California’s interest in protecting state laws and policies that ensure public safety and protect the constitutional rights of residents. ([March 22, 2017](#))

May 3, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Files Amicus Brief in City and County of San Francisco v. Trump

Filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case *City and County of San Francisco v. Trump, et al.*, supporting San Francisco in its challenge to President Donald J. Trump's executive order targeting "sanctuary jurisdictions." Like the County of Santa Clara, San Francisco challenges President Trump's threats to withdraw federal funds from states and local jurisdictions that the Administration deems to be "sanctuary jurisdictions." Attorney General Becerra's brief highlights California's interest in protecting state laws and policies that ensure public safety and protect the constitutional rights of residents. ([March 29, 2017](#))

Challenging Trump's Muslim Ban

Attorney General Becerra, 15 State Attorneys General File Amicus Brief Opposing President Donald Trump's Unconstitutional Travel Ban

Filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in *State of Washington v. Trump*, a case opposing the Trump Administration's unconstitutional and un-American travel ban. ([February 6, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Joins 16 Attorneys General Filing an Amicus Brief In Support of the State of Virginia in Aziz v. Trump, Case Challenging the Trump Travel Ban

Joined 16 state attorneys general in filing a friend-of-the-court brief in the Eastern District Court of Virginia in *Aziz v. Trump*, a case challenging the Trump Administration's travel ban. ([February 8, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra on Filing an Amicus Brief in Darweesh vs. Trump: "People who risked their lives to support and protect our troops in Iraq deserve better"

Joined a friend-of-the-court brief filed in the Eastern District of New York in *Darweesh v. Trump*, a case involving two visa holders who were detained by officers and denied entry at John F. Kennedy International Airport due to the Trump Administration's travel ban despite having demonstrated considerable loyalty to the United States. ([February 16, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Joins Amicus Brief Against Muslim Travel Ban

Joined with 13 other attorneys general in filing a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Hawaii's lawsuit, which also seeks to block the President's revised travel ban. The amicus brief explains how the unconstitutional revised travel ban injures the states and their residents, including by harming our colleges and universities, medical institutions, and economies. ([March 13, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Continues Fight Against Unconstitutional, Unlawful Travel Ban with Brief in Fourth Circuit

Joined 16 fellow state attorneys general in continuing the fight against President Donald Trump's unconstitutional travel ban by filing an amicus brief in *International Refugee Assistance Project v. Trump* before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The brief urges the court to reject the Trump administration's request to reinstate the travel ban while it appeals a decision from the U.S. District Court for Maryland finding that the President's scaled-back second executive order still likely violates the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution. ([March 31, 2017](#))

May 3, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Files Amicus Brief in Fourth Circuit Continuing to Challenge Unconstitutional Travel Ban

Joined a coalition of 17 states filing an amicus brief urging the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the district court ruling that struck down the travel ban as unconstitutional. The states' brief explains the reasons that the district court's decision should not be overturned on appeal, including the overwhelming and un rebutted evidence of anti-Muslim animus, the lack of a genuine national security rationale, and the significant harms that the ban would cause the states, their residents, and their institutions. ([April 19, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Joins Amicus Brief Supporting Hawaii's Travel Ban Lawsuit

Joined a coalition of 17 states filing an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit to support the preliminary injunction obtained by the state of Hawaii which bars enforcement of unconstitutional provisions of the Trump Administration's revised executive order on travel. ([April 20, 2017](#))

Protecting California's Environment

Attorney General Becerra Announces \$3 Million Order for Payment of Civil Penalties from Golden Gate Petroleum for Underground Fuel Storage Tank Violations

Announced that the Contra Costa Superior Court yesterday ordered a payment of \$3 million in civil penalties in the case *People v. Golden Gate Petroleum, et al.* The penalties are to be paid by the defendants, the owners and operators of underground storage tank systems at retail gasoline stations in several counties in Northern California: Golden Gate Petroleum, Bay Area/Diablo Petroleum Company, Dennis O'Keefe, and Westgate Petroleum Company, Inc. The defendants had been sued in 2007 for violations of environmental protection laws at their retail service stations. ([March 14, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra, Along with Broad Coalition, Prepared to Defend America's Clean Power Plan

Responded to President Trump's executive order that threatens our nation's Clean Power Plan rule: "We strongly oppose President Trump's executive order that seeks to dismantle the Clean Power Plan. Addressing our country's largest source of carbon pollution—existing fossil fuel-burning power plants—is both required under the Clean Air Act and essential to mitigating climate change's growing harm to our public health, environments, and economies." ([March 28, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra: Energy Efficiency Standards Worth Fighting For

Challenged the U.S. Department of Energy's unlawful delay in enforcing several important energy efficiency standards. On Friday, March 31, Attorney General Becerra joined eight fellow Attorneys General in filing a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit challenging the Department's delay in issuing its Energy Conservation Standard for Ceiling Fans. ([April 3, 2017](#))

May 3, 2017

Attorney General Becerra Issues Letter to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Objecting to Withdrawal of Information Request to Oil and Natural Gas Industry

Sent a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt objecting to the EPA's unilateral withdrawal of an information collection request. The request was intended to gather information regarding the oil and natural gas industry on its emissions of natural gas or methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The letter requests that Administrator Pruitt reconsider his decision and reissue the information collection request. ([April 3, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Delivers Freedom of Information Act Request to U.S. EPA

Delivered a formal request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for thirty-two categories of documents related to known conflicts of interest of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and any actions taken by EPA or the Administrator to comply with federal ethics laws.

Administrator Pruitt, until February 17, served as attorney and chief law enforcement officer for the State of Oklahoma in numerous lawsuits against EPA in which California is supporting EPA. He has taken legal and factual positions contrary to EPA on these matters in court filings, press statements, and congressional testimony. ([April 7, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Intervenes in Lawsuit To Defend Energy Efficiency Standards

Filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit in order to defend energy saving light bulb regulations. In March, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) challenging energy efficiency regulations for lamps (light bulbs). California defends these laws to safeguard their massive energy savings and will fight any efforts that threaten to weaken or delay their implementation. ([April 18, 2017](#))

Other Key DOJ Actions

Attorney General Becerra Urges Review in People ex rel. Pierson v. Superior Court

filed a letter in the California Supreme Court today, urging it to grant review in *People ex rel. Pierson v. Superior Court*. In *Pierson*, the Third District Court of Appeal ruled unconstitutional a 2015 law that requires prosecutors to use public preliminary hearings, rather than closed-door grand jury proceedings, in cases involving peace officers' use of lethal force. The law's stated purpose was to increase transparency and accountability in court proceedings that determine whether charges will be brought against an officer who uses deadly force during an arrest. ([February 22, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra To Seek The Death Penalty In Seal Beach Multiple Murder Case

Announced that his office will continue to seek the death penalty in the case of Scott DeKraai, who pleaded guilty to murdering eight people and attempting to murder a ninth person at a Seal Beach hair salon in 2011. ([March 29, 2017](#))

Attorney General Becerra Announces Charges Filed Against David Robert Daleiden for Criminal Invasion of Privacy

Announced the filing of an arrest warrant detailing 15 criminal charges against David Robert Daleiden. Daleiden, along with co-conspirator Sandra Merritt, used manufactured identities and a fictitious bioresearch company to meet women's healthcare providers and covertly record the private discussions they initiated. ([March 28, 2017](#))