OPERATION DONATE WITH HONOR: LIST OF ENFORCMENT ACTIONS, JULY 19, 2018

State/Agency	Office	Target Name	Case Caption	Short Description	Press Contact/Release
FTC	Federal Trade Commission	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	Federal Trade Commission, et al. v. Help The Vets, Inc., d/b/a American Disabled Veterans Foundation, Inc., Military Families Of America, Veterans Emergency Blood Bank, Veterans Fighting Breast Cancer, and Vets Fighting Breast Cancer; and Neil G. Paulson, Sr.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction The Federal Trade Commission, along with the Attorneys General of Florida, California, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, and Oregon, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Little to none of the donations were used for these illusory programs, but instead benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets. In addition, to ensure that Help the Vets' donors are not victimized again, Help the Vets and Paulson must destroy their lists of donor information, and direct their fundraisers to do so as well.	Frank Dorman 202-326-2674 | fdorman@ftc.gov
FTC	Federal Trade Commission	**TRAVIS DELOY PETERSON, a/k/a Travis Peterson and T.D. Peterson, individually and also d/b/a Veterans of America, Telefunding LLC, Vehicles for Veterans, LLC, Saving Our Soldiers, Donate That Car, LLC, Act of Valor, and**	FTC v. TRAVIS DELOY PETERSON, a/k/a Travis Peterson and T. D. Peterson, individually and also d/b/a Veterans of America, Telefunding LLC, Vehicles for Veterans, LLC, Saving Our Soldiers, Donate Your Car, Donate That Car LLC, Act of Valor, and Medal of Honor, Case No. 4:18CV00049 DN (D. Utah July 10, 2018)	Federal District Court Case; Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order FTC action for violations of the FTC Act and the Telemarketing Sales Rule; Defendant uses unlawful robocalls to solicit donations; robocalls misrepresent that the entity/name identified in the message is a charity and that donations to it are tax deductible.	Frank Dorman 202-326-2674 | fdorman@ftc.gov

		Medal of Honor			
California	Department of Justice- Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**American Veterans Foundation**		Cease and Desist Order Multi-state: misleading reports (IRS Form 990 and RRF-1 Forms) were filed with our office. We issued a Cease and Desist Order. Michigan also filed an action.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	Department of Justice- Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**American's Heroes Foundation dba Yellow Ribbons America**		Administrative Order Administrative Order Cease and Desist Order was sent by Registry of Charitable Trusts on March 17, 2017. Charity failed to register.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	Department of Justice- Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**Foundation for American Veterans, Inc.**		Registration Suspension Registration Suspended. Charity failed to file reports for 2016 and filed incomplete reports in 2015. No appeal was filed by the organization as such registration has been suspended.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	Department of Justice- CA Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**Healing American Heroes**		Healing American Heroes, Inc. DBA Help Our Wounded ("HAH") is a Texas based charity that claims to provide support to injured military and their families. In order to protect California donors, charities are required to disclose if they have committed violations outside of California. HAH failed to disclose that the Michigan Attorney General issued a cease and desist order related to HAH's misrepresentations and misleading information on its filings and financial statements. Moreover, HAH continued to operate and engage in correspondence with the California Registry of Charitable Trusts in an attempt to conceal the adverse action against it. The Registry of Charitable Trusts issued a cease and desist order against HAH on July 6, 2017 prohibiting it from soliciting in California.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov

California	Department of Justice- CA Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**Healing Heroes Network, Inc.**		Cease and Desist Order Healing Heroes Network solicited in California while delinquent with its reporting requirements with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. Also, in order to protect California donors, charities are required to disclose if they have committed violations outside of California. Healing Heroes Network failed to disclose that it had entered into a consent judgment with Iowa which involved the charity's operations. Moreover, HHN continued to operate and engage in correspondence with the Registry of Charitable Trusts in an attempt to conceal the adverse action against it. The Registry of Charitable Trusts issued a cease and desist order against HHN on July 13, 2018 prohibiting it from soliciting and operating in California.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	FTC, et al., v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction and Cease and Desist Order California Attorney General Becerra, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets. This lawsuit and settlement followed a cease and desist order issued by Attorney General Becerra which prohibited Help the Vets from operating and soliciting in California and assessed penalties, among other relief. The cease and desist order found numerous additional law violations, such as Help the Vets misrepresenting its joint costs for fundraising and program services in annual reports filed with the	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov

				Attorney General, and failing to disclose a self-dealing transaction with Paulson.	
California	Department of Justice- Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**National Paradigm Foundation**		Registration Revocation National Paradigm Foundation – solicited donations in the Bay area but never registered or filed annual reports with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. After multiple notices were sent to various addresses, the Registry revoked the organization's registration and a Cease and Desist Order was served on January 12, 2017.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	Department of Justice- CA Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts	**The Vet Hunters Project**		Administrative Order Administrative Cease and Desist Order was sent by Registry of Charitable Trusts on March 28, 2018. Charity failed to register despite numerous requests.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	CA Attorney	**VietNow**		Multistate Settlement	AG Press Office

	General Xavier Becerra	**National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	(916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
California	CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra	**Wounded Warrior Support Group and Central Coast Equine Rescue**		Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a civil lawsuit seeking to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable funds that were diverted from two California charities, Wounded Warriors Support Group and Central Coast Equine Rescue and Retirement. The two charities are run by Matthew G. Gregory, his wife Danella J. Gregory, and their adult children Matthew J. Gregory and Gina D. Gregory.	AG Press Office (916) 210-6000 agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov Walter.Garcia@doj.ca.gov; Bethany.Lesser@doj.ca.gov
Connecticut	Department of Consumer Protection and Office of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Jaclyn Severance, 860-808-5318
Delaware	Department of Justice	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy	

				bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Florida	Office of the Attorney General	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	FTC, et al., v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction The Florida Attorney General, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets.	Whitney Ray, Director of Media Relations 850-245-0150 Whitney.Ray@floridalegal.com Kylie Mason, Press Secretary 850-245-0150 Kylie.Mason@myfloridalegal.com
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**Heels for Combat Boots**	ENCH-170220	Cease and Desist Order The Division received a complaint that Heels for Combat Boots ("HCB") was soliciting donations from Georgians without being registered as a charitable organization. The Division's investigation showed that HCB was a South Carolina based charitable organization whose stated purpose was to support veterans; however, it was not registered with the Division. The Division attempted to contact HCB on several occasions to inquire about any dealings in Georgia but the HCB failed to respond to any requests. The Division contacted the South Carolina Secretary of State	

				and found that South Carolina	
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**Professional Fundraising Association, LLC**	ENCH-170203	Open Investigation - Pending Cease and Desist Order The Division received a complaint that the Georgia based Professional Fundraising Association LLC ("PFA") was conducting door-to-door solicitations in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas. The same individual who organized PFA organized Something for Soldiers. While PFA contends that it notified all participants that it was a for-profit corporation, the Division alleges that PFA held itself out in solicitations as a charitable organization that worked with veterans and active duty military. PFA was the subject of BBB and law enforcement warnings based on these representations. A Cease and Desist Order pending for further solicitations and any other violations of the Georgia Charitable Solicitations Act.	
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**Something for Soldiers Sales, LLC**	ENCH-160172	Cease and Desist Order The Division received a complaint that the Georgia based Something for Soldiers Sales, LLC ("SFS") was holding itself out as a charitable organization without being registered with the Division as such. Representatives of SFS were arrested in Texas, Nevada, and Washington for improper door-to-door solicitations. While SFS contends that it notified all participants that it was a for-profit	

				corporation, the Division alleges that SFS held itself out in solicitations as a charitable organization that worked with veterans. The Division issued a Cease and Desist Order for further solicitations and any other violations of the Georgia Charitable Solicitations Act.	
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**The Clear Coalition and AMVETS National Service Foundation**	ENCH-150142	Letter of Caution Clear Coalition was the subject of an investigation after the Division received a complaint alleging it was conducting unregistered activity in Georgia. The Division issued a Letter of Caution based on investigatory findings that Clear Coalition was not registered and was operating donation bins that did not display the proper statutory language.	
Georgia	Office of the Georgia Secretary of State	**United Veterans Foundation**	ENCH-160168	Letter of Caution The Division received a complaint from a Georgia resident that United Veterans Foundation ("UVF") was soliciting donations outside of a Rome area Wal-Mart. The complainant, a veteran, had concerns about several representations made by the UVF representative. Specifically, the complainant had concerns that the representative was not a veteran although he said he was and was using paperwork from other organizations to seemingly legitimize UVF's operations. The Division contacted the Rome police who also received a complaint on UVF. UVF is registered with the Division as a charitable organization (CH011170). The Division and the Rome police traded access requests. The main concern and investigation into UVF focused on representations that UVF donations were being used for charitable purposes and that UVF was using paperwork (990s, licenses, etc.) from other veterans organizations improperly to reflect the legitimacy of UVF. The Division served a subpoena on UVF dated July 20, 2016 requesting supporting documentation, financials, and tax returns. In response to the subpoena, UVF sent the Division a package containing unopened bank statements and non-responsive documentation. A letter accompanying the package included information that UVF never raised significant funds and that UVF was no longer operational. UVF's registration as a charitable organization lapsed on August 14, 2016. The Division amended UVF's registration status to reflect the expired registration and sent a Letter of Caution ("LOC") to the organization notifying them of this change. A copy of the LOC was also sent to the Rome police.	
Georgia	Office of the	**Veterans**	ENCH-180255	Open Investigation	

	Georgia Secretary of State	**Trauma Support Network**		Investigation is looking into the solicitation activities of Veterans Trauma Support Network ("VTSN"). It is alleged that the solicitation activity is misleading and targeting senior citizens. The complainant, a Georgia senior citizen, alleges that she only authorized a one-time payment to VTSN but multiple unauthorized withdrawals were taken out of the complainant's account.	
Hawaii	State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Tax & Charities Division	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	James Walther, 808-586-1284
Idaho	Idaho Attorney General's Office	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Idaho	Idaho Attorney General's	**Veterans Relief Association, Inc., & Wayne**	In the Matter of Idaho Attorney General Lawrence G. Wasden's	Assurance of Voluntary Compliance Wayne Longmore operates Veterans Relief Association (VRA), an Idaho	Scott Graf Director of Constituent Affairs

	Office	**Longmore**	Investigation of Veterans Relief Association, Inc., and Wayne Longmore	nonprofit corporation. The Attorney General's investigation revealed Mr. Longmore, while soliciting charitable contributions and selling goods on behalf of VRA, misrepresented to donors and consumers: (a) the tax-exempt status of VRA, (b) the Attorney General's approval of VRA's activities, (c) VRA's status as a registered Idaho telephone solicitor, and (d) how VRA uses or distributes the charitable contributions it receives.	scott.graf@ag.idaho.gov 208-334-4112 (No prior press release.)
Illinois	Illinois Attorney General, Charitable Trust Bureau	**Community Guide Magazines, Inc. (CGM)**	People of Illinois ex rel. Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois v. Community Guide Magazines, Inc., et al. – Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois	Case Filing The Illinois AG is suing CGM, an Illinois-based professional fund raiser (PFR), its owner, and 6 solicitors it employs in connection with 2 veteran charities, Viet now National Headquarters & American Veterans Foundation, where most of the monies collected went to pay fundraising costs. The complaint alleges that the CGM violated Illinois law by knowingly employing 6 solicitors who had felony convictions that, if disclosed, would have prevented them from legally registering as solicitors; filing PFR & solicitor registration and accounting documents that falsely stated that the 6 CGM solicitors had no criminal backgrounds; and using solicitation materials falsely suggesting that CGM is endorsed by the IL AG as a registered PFR. The lawsuit seeks to enjoin the defendants from continuing to solicit in violation of Illinois law, a full accounting, and the forfeiture of all fundraising fees and compensation received while operating in violation of Illinois law.	Press contact: Eileen Boyce EBoyce@atg.state.il.us http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2018_07/20180711.html
Illinois	Illinois Attorney General	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris	

				Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Illinois	Illinois Attorney General, Charitable Trust Bureau	**Safety Publications, Inc.**	People of Illinois ex rel. Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois v. Safety Publications, Inc. et al. – Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois	Consent Decree & Final Judgment In May 2017, we obtained a consent decree and final judgment against Safety Publications, an Illinois PFR of Viet now National Headquarters. This case focused on misrepresentations in connection with contributions collected for Viet now. Under the consent decree and final judgment, Safety Publications had to pay $159K in fines and penalties and was ordered to be dissolved, and its owners were enjoined from fundraising for charity. Admissions made in the consent decree were used in our complaint in Madigan v. Viet now to help shut down that charity, remove its directors, and appoint a liquidating receiver.	Press contact: Eileen Boyce EBoyce@atg.state.il.us
Illinois	Illinois Attorney General, Charitable Trust Bureau	**Supplemental Security Foundation, Inc. & American Veterans Foundation**	People of Illinois ex rel. Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois v. Supplemental Security Foundation, Inc.; Ronald L. Broadstone; Gary Neuburger; & American Veterans Foundation – Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois	Case Filing The Illinois AG is suing Supplemental Security Foundation, Inc. (SSF), an Illinois-based professional fundraiser in connection with solicitations conducted for American Veterans Foundation (AVF), a Florida-based veterans charity, where most of the monies collected went to pay SSF instead of to AVF. The complaint alleges that the defendants violated Illinois law by failing to disclose that they were paid professionals when soliciting the public and making false statements in filings with the Attorney General. The lawsuit seeks to enjoin the SSF and its owner from continuing to solicit in violation of Illinois law, a full accounting, and the forfeiture of all fundraising fees and compensation received while operating in violation of Illinois law. The complaint also names AVF as a defendant and seeks to hold AVF liable for failing to properly supervise fundraising conducted by SSF as required by the Solicitation Act.	Press contact: Eileen Boyce EBoyce@atg.state.il.us http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2018_07/20180711.html
Illinois	Illinois Attorney General, Charitable Trust Bureau (In conjunction with Multistate)	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**	People of Illinois ex rel. Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois v. Viet now National Headquarters, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; et al. – Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois	Case Filing, Consent Order, & Liquidating Receivership. In November 2017, the Illinois AG filed suit and had an agreed order entered against Viet now National Headquarters, a Rockford, Illinois veteran's charity that solicited nationwide ("Viet now"), and its 14-member board, in connection with a multistate settlement involving Illinois and 23 other states. Our complaint alleged that Viet now and its PFRs solicited the public by phone and by mail making various misrepresentations about how Viet now's money was spent. Under the IL Agreed Order, Viet now's directors were removed, its controlling officers were banned from profiting from any charity fundraising in the future, and a receiver	Press contact: Eileen Boyce EBoyce@atg.state.il.us Prior Press Release: http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2017_11/20171106.html

				was appointed to take control of Viet now and liquidate its assets. Settlement agreements were also entered between the defendants and the other participating states paralleling the terms of the injunctions in Illinois' agreed order but conforming to the specific requirements of each participating state (it permits enforcement in each of those respective state). This case is still ongoing, but after Viet now's assets are fully liquidated, all monies recovered will be distributed equally to Fisher House Foundation, Inc. and Operation Homefront, Inc., two national veteran charities.	
Iowa	Iowa Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division	**Advocate 4 the Aging LLC and Sonya Ackerson**	Iowa v. Sonya Ackerson and Advocate 4 the Aging	Consumer Fraud Lawsuit Defendant is accused of charging fees for veterans' benefits assistance without being federally accredited and of violating Iowa's Door-to-Door Sales Act. As a result of this lawsuit, AG Miller proposed Senate File 2200, which passed the Legislature and was signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds. The bill prohibits anyone from receiving compensation for advising or assisting someone with veterans' benefits or referring a person to an accredited veteran service representative. It also requires organizers of events or presentations on veterans benefits to disclose that the event is not affiliated with U.S. or Iowa departments of veterans affairs.	https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/attorney-general-files-consumer-fraud-lawsuit-against-government-benefits-advice-seller
Iowa	Iowa Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division	**Healing Heroes Network**	State of Iowa v. Stacey Spiegel	Consent Judgment Florida company used misleading sweepstakes mailings that said "A CONFIRMED WINNER" and other deceptions in seeking solicitations. HHN's tax filings for 2015 indicate that it received $2,437,451 in donations, and devoted only about $196,000 to grants for veterans.	https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/charities-claiming-to-help-veterans-barred-from-iowa-for-deceptive-sweepstakes-solicitations https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/media/cms/Consent_Judgment__Spiegel__FILESTAM_AC769409C1B3D.pdf
Iowa	Iowa Attorney General, Consumer Protection	**Veterans Relief Network and Helen Ignas**		Assurance of Voluntary Compliance Indiana company used sweepstakes mailings with deceptive features to entice recipients to send donations. Mailings often highlight exciting, personalized statements like "Mildred W----- has won our $7,241.00	https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/media/cms/AVC_fully_executed_32018_B0B02A39A98E1.pdf

	Division			Grand Prize!" while less prominently describing the exciting news as a mere possibility. VRN describes its mission as helping those veterans "who need it most," getting homeless veterans "off the streets" and providing them "a meal or a bed." But VRN records indicate that the help it provides often covers routine expenses for selected veterans, like phone bills, car insurance, property taxes, or even retirement benefits.	
Iowa	Iowa Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/deceptive-veterans-charity-dissolves-through-agreement-with-24-states-including-Iowa
Kansas	Office of the Kansas Attorney General	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Kansas	Office of the Kansas	**VietNow National**		Multistate Settlement	http://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-

	Attorney General	**Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	releases/2017/11/07/ag-derek-schmidt-deceptive-veterans-charity-shut-down-after-violating-state-solicitation-laws
Kentucky	Office of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Crystal.staley@ky.gov
Louisiana	Louisiana Attorney General	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	

Maine	Office of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	
Maryland	Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Secretary of State	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	FTC, et al., v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction The Maryland Attorney General and Secretary of State, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets.	
Maryland	Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Secretary of State	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy	

				bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Maryland	Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Secretary of State	**Southern Maryland Veterans Association and Daniel Brashear**	(1) In re Southern Maryland Veterans Association, et. al. (2) State v. Brashear, Price George's County Circuit Court, Case No. CT170551X - the referral resulted in the State's Attorney Obtaining a multi-count criminal indictment of Mr. Brashear including violations of the Maryland Solicitations Act, theft by fiduciary and embezzlement.	Two types of actions: (1) Administrative Cease and Desist Order against the organization, its founder, and assistant director, and (2) Following new complaints that Daniel Brashear continued to solicit even after the final agency order, the OAG and SOS referred the matter to the State's Attorney of Price George's County, Maryland for criminal prosecution Soliciting in Front of Retail Storefronts: Solicitors for the Southern Maryland Veterans Association had been a visible presence at several retail and grocery stores throughout Calvert County and elsewhere in Southern Maryland. Fundraisers for the charity would get permission from the large retail stores, stand outside, and ask for donations for homeless veterans programs from customers going inside and outside the stores. The solicitors would distribute false registration documents to customers that claimed to show that the organization was registered with the Secretary of State, when in fact it was not. Solicitation materials included misrepresentations about a homeless shelter for veterans in Calvert County that did not exist.	http://www.marylandattorneyg eneral.gov/Press/2016/021716. pdf (Announcing the initial agency Cease and Desist Order) http://www.marylandattorneyg eneral.gov/Press/2016/070116. pdf (Announcing Final Administrative Agency Action and Dismissal of appeal of the Cease and Desist Order)
Maryland	Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Secretary of State	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for	http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2017/110717.pdf

				Michigan for more information)	
Massachusetts	Attorney General Office	**Focus on Veterans, Inc.**	Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Focus on Veterans, Inc. (Super. Ct. Suffolk, 14-CV-02487-D)	Consent Judgment filed on 2/15/2018 as part of negotiated settlement Veterans charity was illegally soliciting in Massachusetts and falsely representing that money raised from Massachusetts residents would benefit Massachusetts veterans, when that was not the case. Negotiated settlement resulted in a Consent Judgment for $60,000. AGO asked the Court to transfer the $60,000, under the doctrine of cy pres, to two other veterans charities in Massachusetts that will benefit MA veterans. Court order granting transfer of funds granted on May 18, 2018.	Margaret Quackenbush, Deputy Press Secretary, (617) 727-2543, Margaret.Quackenbush @State.MA.US http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2014/2014-08-15-focus-on-veterans.html
Michigan	Department of the Attorney General	**American Veterans Foundation**	Bill Schuette, Attorney General of Michigan, v. American Veterans Foundation and Paul Monville. No. 18-77-CZ.	Civil Lawsuit in Michigan Court. In September 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette alleged deceptive solicitation violations against Florida-based American Veterans Foundation. AVF raised funds nationwide to send care packages to deployed servicemembers, but only 0.1% was used for this purpose. Most of AVF's funds raised were used to pay professional fundraisers; other funds raised to support AVF programs were diverted to other veterans charities in support of their programs. When AVF failed to resolve the allegations, in February 2018, Schuette sued. The case remains pending.	https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82915_82919_80762_80765-448404--,00.html
Michigan	Department of the Attorney General	**Foundation for American Veterans Inc.**	In the Matter of Foundation for American Veterans Inc., AG No. 2016-0139577-A	Civil and Criminal Investigation In May 2016, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette began investigating Michigan-based Foundation for American Veterans for diversion and misuse of charitable assets, breach of fiduciary duties, and deceptive solicitations. In response to that investigation, Foundation for American Veterans elected to voluntarily dissolve. The criminal investigation remains pending.	
Michigan	Department of the Attorney General	**Healing American Heroes, Inc.**	In the Matter of Healing American Heroes, Inc. and Rosalinda Babin, AG No. 2017-0180815-A	Notice of Intended Action and Cease and Desist Order resulting in Settlement In July 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette alleged thousands of acts of deceptive solicitation against Texas-based Healing American Heroes for raising millions to send phone cards to deployed servicemembers, but using the funds raised for other purposes. In November 2017, the Attorney General settled the case, with Healing	https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82915_82919_80762_80765-427273--,00.html https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82915_82919_80762-

				American Heroes agreeing to pay penalties, to dissolve, and to distribute its remaining assets to a reputable veterans' charity. Healing American Heroes' fundraiser Jeremy Squires and Associates also settled by paying a penalty and agreeing to a ten-year ban on Michigan solicitations.	452462--,00.html
Michigan	Department of the Attorney General	**Help the Vets, Inc.**	In the Matter of Help the Vets, Inc. Charitable Solicitation #49152	Notice of Administrative Revocation of Solicitation Registration Attorney General alleged that Help the Vets filed inaccurate financial statements that misrepresented its charitable programs. In response, organization agreed to a 5-year solicitations ban in Michigan. Michigan's action also led to investigations of Help the Vets in other states.	
Michigan	Department of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**	In the Matter of VietNow National Headquarters, Inc. and Joseph Lewis, AG No. 2016-0149626-A	Multistate Settlement In March 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette alleged thousands of acts of deceptive solicitation against VietNow, an Illinois-based veterans charity that fundraised nationally. Michigan alleged that VietNow's professional telemarketers were using deceptive fundraising scripts that misrepresented VietNow's charitable programs. During the fundraising calls, VietNow's professional fundraisers routinely told donors that a portion of their donation would help veterans in their home state. However, in response to the Michigan Attorney General's investigation, VietNow admitted that it had no local programs in Michigan; nor did VietNow have local programs in other states. Other VietNow telemarketing scripts were similarly false or misleading. Additionally, to the extent VietNow had charitable programs directly helping veterans, these programs were *de minimis*, totaling just 0.2% of the nearly $2 million VietNow raised annually. Instead of using funds raised for veterans or charitable programs, VietNow's funds raised were used to pay professional fundraisers and other expenses. Following the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and allegations against VietNow, Illinois revealed that it was already investigating VietNow and its professional fundraisers, and California announced an enforcement action against VietNow. Soon thereafter, other states opened investigations of their own or expressed interest in redressing VietNow's solicitation violations. In November 2017, VietNow and 24 interested states agreed to a resolution requiring VietNow's dissolution and including injunctive relief against VietNow's directors; by the settlement, VietNow's remaining assets were to be paid to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and	https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82916_81983_47203-406794--,00.html https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82915_82919_80762-451614--,00.html

				Operation Homefront.	
Minnesota	Office of the Minnesota Attorney General	**Communication Specialists, Inc.; Patrick Sharpe**	State of Minnesota v. Communication Specialists, Inc., f/k/a Agente	Lawsuit and Consent Judgment Attorney General Swanson settled a lawsuit brought against the fundraiser, Communications Specialists, Inc., and its employee, Patrick Sharpe, based on the fundraiser's alleged solicitation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in Minnesota without being registered, and Sharpe's alleged misappropriation of at least $34,000 in donations that Minnesotans contributed to Amvets Department of Minnesota, which he kept for himself. Under the settlement, the fundraiser and Sharpe will have to pay back this $34,000 and are banned from ever again operating in Minnesota.	Ben Wogsland, Director of Communications, 651-296-2069, benjamin.wogsland@ag.state.mn.us.
Minnesota	Office of the Minnesota Attorney General	**Foundation for American Veterans, Inc.**	In Re Foundation for American Veterans, Inc., Court File No. 62-CV-17-4304	Assurance of Discontinuance Attorney General Swanson banned the veterans charity Foundation for American Veterans, Inc., and its principals from ever further operating in Minnesota. This settlement was based on the allegedly deceptive solicitation practices perpetrated by FAV and its fundraiser, Associated Community Services, Inc. ("ACS"). ACS is similarly barred from soliciting in Minnesota until July 2019 due to its telemarketing practices on behalf of FAV as part of a related lawsuit the Office filed against it. See State v. Associated Community Services, Inc., Court File No. 27-CV-16-7913.	Ben Wogsland, Director of Communications, 651-296-2069, benjamin.wogsland@ag.state.mn.us.
Minnesota	Office of the Minnesota Attorney General	**Healing American Heroes**	In Re Healing American Heroes, Court File No. 62-CV-18-4056	Assurance of Discontinuance Attorney General Swanson barred the veterans charity Healing American Heroes and its principal from ever again operating in Minnesota. This settlement was based on Healing American Heroes' allegedly deceptive solicitations practices and its filing of false documents with the Attorney General's Office unlawfully inflating the impact of its charitable programing.	Ben Wogsland, Director of Communications, 651-296-2069, benjamin.wogsland@ag.state.mn.us.
Minnesota	Office of the Minnesota Attorney General	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	FTC, et al v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction Minnesota Attorney General Swanson, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a	Ben Wogsland, Director of Communications, 651-296-2069, benjamin.wogsland@ag.state.mn.us.

				suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets	
Minnesota	Office of the Minnesota Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**	In Re VietNow National Headquarters, Inc., Court File No. 62-CV-17-7170	Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Ben Wogsland, Director of Communications, 651-296-2069, benjamin.wogsland@ag.state.mn.us.
Missouri	Missouri Attorney General's Office	**Harold Hogarth & Gold Star College For Kids Foundation, Inc.**	State of Missouri, ex rel. Attorney General Joshua D. Hawley v. Harold Hogarth, et al.	Case Filing The Missouri Attorney General's Office alleged that Harold Hogarth and the nonprofit Gold Star College for Kids Foundation, Inc., solicited donations for scholarships for families of service members killed in action, known as Gold Star families. Instead, they allegedly used the majority of the funds on business overhead and personal expenses.	Mary Compton 573-751-3321 Mary.compton@ago.mo.gov
Missouri	Missouri Attorney General's Office	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for	Mary Compton 573-751-3321 Mary.compton@ago.mo.gov

				Michigan for more information)	
Missouri	Missouri Attorney General's Office	**Waylan Schiewe**	State of Missouri, ex rel. Attorney General Joshua D. Hawley v. Waylan Schiewe	Case Filing The Missouri Attorney General's Office filed a civil case against Waylan Schiewe to recover funds he solicited from Missouri donors under the guise of raising money for the following veterans' charities: Hidden Wounds, Pets for Vets, and the American Service Animal Society. However, the investigation revealed that Waylan Schiewe allegedly failed to transfer the donated funds to the charities.	Mary Compton 573-751-3321 Mary.compton@ago.mo.gov
Nevada	Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Nevada	Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	http://ag.nv.gov/News/PR/2017/Attorney_General_Laxalt_and_23_States_Dissolve_Deceptive_Veterans_Charity_and_Disperse_All_Remaining_Funds_to_Fisher_House_Foundation_and_Operation_Homefront/

New Hampshire	Attorney General's Office Charitable Trusts Unit	**Project VetCare**	Grafton Superior Court 215-2016-CV-00154	Court Complaint Complaint for removal of directors, appointment of receiver and for restitution. Executive director diverted organization's assets for her benefit and that of her family. Directors failed to investigate when presented with evidence.	https://www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/documents/20170824-preliminary-report-project-vetcare.pdf Thomas J. Donovan, Director of Charitable Trusts 603-271-1288 tom.donovan@doj.nh.gov
New Hampshire	Attorney General's Office Charitable Trusts Unit	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	
New Jersey	Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs	**Veterans Children Foundation Inc.**	Veterans Children Foundation Inc.; and Joseph Russo, individually as the Chief Executive Officer, owner, director, founder and/or manager of Veterans Children Foundation Inc.	Consent Order Falsely represented itself as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; failed to register as a charitable organization in NJ and failed to file a contract with its Independent Fund Raiser.	Lisa Coryell (609) 292-4791
New Mexico	Office of the Attorney General	**Delinquent Veterans Charities Compliance Sweep**		Registration Compliance All veterans' charities registered in our database who are delinquent with registration reporting requirements have been notified of their noncompliance. The Office is working to bring all NM veterans charities into compliance with the law.	

New Mexico	Office of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	https://www.nmag.gov/uploads/PressRelease/48737699ae174b30ac51a7eb286e661f/AG_Balderas_Shuts_Down_Deceptive_Veterans_Charity.pdf
New York	Office of the Attorney General	**Menacola Marketing, Inc.**	In the Matter of the Investigation of Menacola Marketing, Inc. et al	Settlement The NY Attorney General's Office investigated Menacola Marketing, a for-profit telemarketer that solicited on behalf of the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation, a sham charity also shut down by the AG, and other shell charities that exploited popular causes. From 2010 to 2016, Menacola raised nearly $190,000 from New Yorkers for NVVF, using paid solicitors who made telemarketing calls from phone rooms in Brooklyn. For some calls, Menacola callers said they were fundraising for "NVVF." At other times, the callers used an alternative name, "American Veterans Support Foundation," claiming that it was a "special project" of NVVF. The investigation found that there was no such special project, and that the use of two names was just a way to raise more money. Menacola's callers also told potential donors that their donations would be used to pay for help for veterans, including personal care packages, guide books of essential services, donations to food pantries, and transportation to and from medical appointments. In fact, 85 percent of the money raised went to Menacola, and an additional 4 percent went to companies controlled by Mark Gelvan, a New Jersey-based fundraiser who is banned from fundraising in New York. The little that went to the charity was squandered by abuse and mismanagement.	https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/operation-bottomfeeder-ag-schneiderman-shuts-down-brooklyn-telemarketing-operation
New York	Office of the Attorney General	**National Vietnam Veterans Foundation (NVVF)**	In the Matter of the Investigation of National Vietnam Veteran Foundation, Inc., aka American Veteran Support Foundation, John	Settlement NY investigated NVVF, which claimed to provide assistance to Vietnam Veterans. NVVF collected $5 million to $9 million a year through telemarketing and direct mail. Nearly all of the money raised through its direct mail campaigns was instead used to pay its fundraisers (including, in 2014, $7.7 million of the $8.6 million raised). In addition,	https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-announces-settlements-vietnam-veterans-charity-and-its-founder

			Thomas Burch, Jr., and David Kaufman	the remaining amounts were further depleted by a pattern of abuse, mismanagement, improper spending by NVVF's former president. NY, with assistance from the VA Office of the Inspector General, shut down the organization, permanently banned Burch from serving as an officer or director of a charity, and recovered $100,000.	
New York	Office of the Attorney General	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement A Multistate Investigation of sixteen (16) states investigated Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed servicemembers. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. OTA and Harris Jewelry had a years' long unwritten agreement wherein Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. During the period of the co-venture, Harris sent OTA checks without documentation outlining how the donated amount was calculated, and at times provided different information to consumers as to the amount of money that was donated to the charity. OTA has acknowledged that its operations lacked oversight, including ensuring that Harris was donating the full amount it was advertising to the public. OTA also acknowledged that it had insufficient oversight, kept insufficient records, and failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose. OTA further acknowledged that at times it made other purportedly charitable expenditures directly to individuals at the sole discretion of its chief executive, with no application or assessment process or action by its Board. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. As part of this agreement, OTA and its principal officer have agreed to cooperate with the multistate investigation into Harris. The investigation was conducted by lead states New York and Tennessee, executive committee states Nevada, North Carolina, and Washington, and participating states California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.	

New York	Office of the Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	
New York	Office of the Attorney General	**Wounded Warrior Foundation of Orange County, Inc.**	In the Matter of the Investigation of Sean B. McCarthy dba Wounded Warrior Foundation of Orange County, Inc.	Settlement The Wounded Warrior Foundation of Orange County, Inc. (WWFOC) sold raffle tickets at $50 per ticket to members of the public and claimed that the raffle's grand prize was a new 2016 Ford Focus. WWFOC also claimed that all proceeds would go towards purchasing mobility and lift equipment for veterans who had suffered severe injuries while serving in the United States' armed forces. The organization raised $4,200 from it's raffle ticket sales. However, after collecting the money for raffle tickets, WWFOC never actually conducted a raffle.	https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-underwood-announces-settlement-scam-veterans-charity
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division	**A Hero's Building Around Life's Lesson (B.A.L.L)**	CSL File No.: 2016 CSL 101055	Administrative Order for Penalties and to Cease and Desist Solicitation Activities Entity was, or currently is, soliciting charitable contribution in the State of North Carolina without a valid charitable solicitation license or an exemption from the licensure requirement of the Charitable Solicitation Act. Entity has failed or refused, after notice by the Department, to comply with the Charitable Solicitation Act.	George Jeter gjeter@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5342 Liz Proctor lproctor@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5341
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Charitable Solicitation	**Home Fires Burning**	CSL File No.: 2014 CSL 02868	Administrative Order for Penalties and to Cease and Desist Solicitation Activities and an Administrative Order to Enforce Prior Administrative Order. Entity was, or currently is, soliciting charitable contribution in the State of North Carolina without a valid charitable solicitation license or an exemption from the licensure requirement of the Charitable Solicitation Act. Entity has failed or refused, after notice by the Department, to	George Jeter gjeter@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5342 Liz Proctor lproctor@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5341

	Licensing Division			comply with the Charitable Solicitation Act.	
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Division, Financial Fraud Section	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	For NC Department of Justice: Laura Brewer lbrewer@ncdoj.gov (919) 716-6484
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division; North Carolina Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Division	**Steps & Stages: Disabled Veterans Resource Agency , Inc.**	North Carolina Dept. of Secretary of State v. Marshall, Barbara, individually and as President of Steps & Stages, Disabled Veterans Resource Agency, 13 CVS 006131 (North Carolina Superior Court, Cumberland County)	Administrative Order, Motion for Contempt, Settlement Agreement, and Dissolution The charity's stated mission was to provide transitional services to homeless disabled female veterans. After being selected for remodeling by ABC's Extreme Makeover, the charity received a large influx of donations. Shortly thereafter, the NC Dept. of the Sec. of State was contacted with allegations of misappropriation of charitable assets, failure of the organization to be appropriately governed, and refusal to provide services. The Dept. of the Sec. of State opened an investigation and issued a subpoena to which the charity refused to fully respond. The Dept. of the Sec. of State filed a Motion for Contempt, which resulted in the president serving jail time for contempt. The Dept. of Justice joined the investigation, and the two agencies jointly sent a letter of concerns, with a deadline to rectify the concerns or face a lawsuit for dissolution. The charity settled with the agencies. It elected a new board that agreed that (a) its president would no longer be affiliated with the charity and (b) it would wind down its affairs and transfer its assets to charities better-positioned to effectuate its mission. The board has complied with all of the terms of settlement	For Department of the Secretary of State: George Jeter gjeter@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5342 Liz Proctor lproctor@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5341 For NC Department of Justice: Laura Brewer lbrewer@ncdoj.gov (919) 716-6484

				agreement and dissolution is underway.	
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division	**Wags 4 Tags, Inc.**	CSL File No.: 2016 CSL 021016	Administrative Order for Penalties and to Cease and Desist Solicitation Activities Entity was, or currently is, soliciting charitable contribution in the State of North Carolina without a valid charitable solicitation license or an exemption from the licensure requirement of the Charitable Solicitation Act. Entity has failed or refused, after notice by the Department, to comply with the Charitable Solicitation Act and obtain a license or exemption.	George Jeter gjeter@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5342 Liz Proctor lproctor@sosnc.gov (919) 814-5341
North Dakota	ND Office of Attorney General, Consumer Protection & Antitrust Division	**Brittany Camacho, doing business as Nationwide Soldier Support**	State of North Dakota ex rel. Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General vs Brittany Camacho, doing business as Nationwide Soldier Support	State Consumer Fraud Action Nationwide Soldier Support (NSS) is not registered in North Dakota as a charitable organization or professional fundraiser. NSS is not registered in North Dakota as a transient merchant. NSS, through door to door salespersons, solicited orders of merchandise to be used in "care packages" for soldiers overseas. NSS also operated a website where they solicited charitable contributions. They represented that 80% of contributions were going toward care packages, and the 20% was retained by NSS. Camacho and NSS refused to cooperate with the investigation or enter into a settlement agreement to resolve violations. As a result the Attorney General issued a Cease & Desist Order on 11-22-17 banning Camacho and NSS from soliciting contributions in North Dakota.	Liz Brocker https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/news/phony-charity-pretends-help-us-soldiers-overseas ; https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/sites/ag/files/Recent%20Actions/2017-11-22-Nationwide-Soldier-Support-CD.pdf
North Dakota	ND Office of Attorney General, Consumer Protection & Antitrust Division	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	
Ohio	Office of the Ohio Attorney	**Band of Brothers Homes for**	State of Ohio, ex rel. Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General v.	Case Filing A judgment was entered against Band of Brothers Homes for Heroes	Media Contact: 614-466-3840

	General - Charitable Law Section	**Heroes /Geno Conley**	Band of Brothers Homes for Heroes, et al.	and its chief operating officer, Geno Conley, after they failed to respond to a lawsuit filed by the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section. The lawsuit accused the nonprofit and Conley of failing to register with the Attorney General's Office before soliciting for charitable contributions and failing to cooperate with an investigation into whether funds raised by the organization were used for charitable purposes.	https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/Newsletters/Nonprofit-news/April-2018/Enforcement-Actions-Help-Protect-Charitable-Sector
Ohio	Office of the Ohio Attorney General - Charitable Law Section	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and Neil Paulson, Sr.**	FTC, et al., v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction Ohio Attorney General DeWine, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets.	Media Contact: 614-466-3840
Ohio	Office of the Ohio Attorney General - Charitable Law Section	**Rebecca Drobnick/ Operation Homefront of Ohio**	State of Ohio, ex rel. Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General v. Rebecca Drobnick, et al.	Case Filing Following a civil lawsuit brought by the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section, Rebecca Drobnick was ordered not to hold a position in any charity in Ohio and ordered to pay penalties and damages. Drobnick was found to have misused charitable donations meant to help veterans and their families. An investigation by the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section found that she had established a new, local chapter of a national veterans' charity but that she used the local chapter's bank account as if it were her own, purchasing restaurant meals, hair salon services, and car repairs.	Media Contact: 614-466-3840 https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/April-2015/Woman-Ordered-to-Pay-$418-500-for-Misappropriating
Ohio	Office of the Ohio Attorney	**VietNow National Headquarters,**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations	Media Contact: 614-466-3840

	General - Charitable Law Section	**Inc.**		of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/November-2017/Deceptive-Veterans-Charity-to-Dissolve-Following-A
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Attorney General	**Jeff David McDougal**		Case Filing The Oklahoma Attorney General has charged Jeff David McDougal with sixteen counts of obtaining property by false pretenses for an alleged charitable purpose, one count of making false material statements on a charitable organization registration statement and one count of using a name similar to another charitable organization in connection with the solicitation of contributions for the purpose of deceiving the public. McDougal, through his professional fundraising business, Cornerstone Oklahoma, solicited and obtained contributions on behalf of American Oklahoma Veterans of Green Country for the purported purpose of helping veterans. However, an investigation revealed that American Oklahoma Veterans of Green Country is an organization created by McDougal, and McDougal allegedly failed to provide any assistance to veterans.	Communications Director Terri Watkins Email: terri.watkins@oag.ok.gov Office: (405) 522-2283 Cell: (405) 250-8792 Press Secretary Alex Gerszewski Email: alex.gerszewski@oag.ok.gov Office: (405) 522-3116 Cell: (405) 250-9230
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Communications Director Terri Watkins Email: terri.watkins@oag.ok.gov Office: (405) 522-2283 Cell: (405) 250-8792 Press Secretary Alex Gerszewski Email: alex.gerszewski@oag.ok.gov Office: (405) 522-3116 Cell: (405) 250-9230
Oregon	Oregon Attorney	**Help the Vets, Inc., et al. and**	FTC, et al., v. Help the Vets, Inc., et al.	Complaint and Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction	Ellen Klem Ellen.Klem@doj.state.or

	General	**Neil Paulson, Sr.**		Oregon Attorney General Rosenblum, along with the Federal Trade Commission and five other state Attorneys General, has filed a complaint and settlement in federal court against Help the Vets, Inc., a sham veterans charity in Orlando, Florida, and its founder, Neil Paulson Sr. The complaint charges Help the Vets took in approximately $20 million between 2014 and 2017 from donors nationwide based on misleading promises to assist veterans with grants, medical care, a suicide prevention program, therapeutic family retreats, and similar programs. Instead, donations almost entirely benefited the private interests of Paulson and the professional fundraisers he authorized to perform the deceptive solicitations. Help the Vets and Paulson have signed a Stipulated Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, in which Help the Vets will pay its remaining assets, at least $72,122.36, and Paulson will pay $1.75 million to be distributed to one or more legitimate veterans charities, subject to court approval. Injunctive relief against Help the Vets and Paulson includes a ban against soliciting charitable contributions. Paulson is further banned from charity management and oversight of charitable assets.	.us 503 378 6002
Oregon	Oregon Attorney General	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Ellen Klem Ellen.Klem@doj.state.or.us 503 378 6002
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of State, Office of Chief Counsel, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation	**Active Duty Support Services, Hearts 2 Heroes d/b/a Active Duty Support Services, Christopher L. Engle, Kayla N. Engle a/k/a**		Cease and Desist Order Issued 20 DEC 2017 Notice and Order to Show Cause Filed 20 DEC 2017 Three (3) counts include allegations of unregistered solicitations in PA from 16 NOV 2016 thru 12 SEP 2017 (177 separate in-person solicitations); unfair and deceptive acts or engaging in fraudulent conduct (represented affiliation with USO) and misrepresentation and misleading donors of a charitable purpose (when, in fact, is a for-profit entity).	Michael J. Gennett Prosecuting Attorney Governor's Office of General Counsel Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 306 North Office Building | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 Direct: 717.772.8512

		Kayla N. D'Angelo			mgennett@pa.gov www.dos.pa.gov
Pennsylvania	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, Attorney General Josh Shapiro	**Hearts 2 Heroes, Inc.**	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, Attorney General Josh Shapiro (to be announced)	Complaint in Equity Defendant conducted trade and commerce business within the Commonwealth of PA by soliciting or obtaining contributions from PA residents and advertising and selling care packages to PA residents which it claims to ship to Servicemembers currently deployed overseas. Defendant approached consumer donors at their residences and engaged in a pattern and practice of making various misrepresentations to consumers regarding the nature of their business, representatives, donations, and care packages. Specifically, Defendant caused confusion and misunderstanding by misleading consumers into believing that: Defendant was a charitable organization when it was not and the donations were tax deductible when they were not; Defendant's representatives were volunteers when they were not; and that the care packages were being sent to Servicemembers deployed overseas when they were not.	Joe Grace jgrace@attorneygeneral.gov 717-787-5211
Pennsylvania	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, Attorney General Josh Shapiro	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	Joe Grace jgrace@attorneygeneral.gov 717-787-5211
South Carolina	Secretary of State	**Feed Our Veterans**	17-ALJ-30-0317-IJ	Petition for Injunctive Relief & Assurance of Voluntary Compliance The South Carolina Secretary of State's Office filed a petition for injunctive relief with the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, after	https://www.scsos.com/From_the_Secretarys_Desk/Media_and_News_Releases/id/221

				Feed Our Veterans failed to comply with the annual financial report filing requirements of the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act. On September 28, 2017, Feed Our Veterans entered into an AVC and paid an administrative fine of $2,000.00.	
South Carolina	Secretary of State	**Heels for Combat Boots**	17-ALJ-30-0259-IJ	Petition for Injunctive Relief The South Carolina Secretary of State's Office filed a petition for injunctive relief with the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, after Heels for Combat Boots failed to respond to an investigative subpoena, file its annual financial report for FY 2016, and pay administrative fines totaling $2,000.00. The Court enjoined Heels for Combat Boots from soliciting in South Carolina until such time it complies with the terms of the order granting injunctive relief.	https://www.scsos.com/From_the_Secretarys_Desk/Media_and_News_Releases/id/221
South Carolina	Secretary of State	**Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc. and Purple Heart Services, Inc.**	17-ALJ-30-0219-IJ	Petition for Injunctive Relief The South Carolina Secretary of State's Office filed a petition for injunctive relief with the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, after the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc. and Purple Heart Services, Inc. failed to comply with the registration and annual financial report filing requirements of the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act. Together, the organizations owed $5,760.00 in fines. The Court granted the injunctive relief on September 13, 2017. On October 6, 2017, all outstanding filings and $5,760.00 in administrative fines were remitted to the Secretary of State's Office, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc. is currently in compliance. (Note: the two organizations merged in November 2015 and currently operate under the name Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc. The violations referenced in the enforcement action stem from delinquent filings for time periods prior to the merger.)	https://www.scsos.com/From_the_Secretarys_Desk/Media_and_News_Releases/id/221
South Carolina	Secretary of State	**Veterans Relief Network, Inc.**		Assurance of Voluntary Compliance The South Carolina Secretary of State's Office alleged that Veterans Relief Network, Inc. (VRN) had violated the South Carolina Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act by improperly using joint cost allocation on its FY 2015 and 2016 annual financial reports. VRN must file amended financial reports within 60 days of the effective date of the AVC and comply with SOP 98-2 if using joint cost allocation in the future.	
South Carolina	Secretary of State	**VietNow National**		Multistate Settlement	https://www.scsos.com/From_the_Secretarys_

		Headquarters, Inc.		Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Desk/Media_and_News_Releases/id/224
Tennessee	Secretary of State	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Tennessee	Secretary of State	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Adam Ghassemi adam.ghassemi@tn.gov 615-253-2668 https://sos.tn.gov/news/tennessee-joins-24-other-states-dissolve-deceptive-veterans-charity

Virginia	Office of the Attorney General of Virginia	**Hearts 2 Heroes Inc. d/b/a Active Duty Support Services Inc. (to be announced)**	Commonwealth of Virginia v. Hearts 2 Heroes Inc. (Henrico County Circuit Court, Case No. CL18-3920-00)	Case Filing Action under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act and Virginia's Solicitation of Contributions law regarding for-profit company doing business as Active Duty Support Services Inc., which makes door-to-door sales of "care packages" ostensibly to be sent to service members overseas; allegations include misrepresentations regarding the nature of the business and the care packages purchased, and the use of donated funds for purposes other than their solicited purpose.	Charlotte P.L. Gomer, Press Secretary, CGomer@oag.state.va.us, (804) 786-1022, press to be announced
Virginia	Office of the Attorney General of Virginia	**Operation Troop Aid (OTA)**		Consent Agreement Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	
Virginia	Office of the Attorney General of Virginia	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**	Commonwealth of Virginia v. VietNow National Headquarters, Inc., et al. (Richmond City Circuit Court, Case No. CL17-5644-4)	Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Charlotte P.L. Gomer, Press Secretary, CGomer@oag.state.va.us, (804) 786-1022, https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/1093-december-1-2017-ag-herring-announces-action-to-dissolve-deceptive-veterans-charity

Washington	Washington State Attorney General's Office	**Fallen Hero Bracelets, a Washington nonprofit corporation; The Benjamin Foundation, a Washington nonprofit corporation, also d/b/a The Roberts Ridge Foundation; and Michael Alexander Friedmann**	Pierce County Superior Court – State of Washington, Plaintiff v. Fallen Hero Bracelets, a Washington nonprofit corporation; The Benjamin Foundation, a Washington nonprofit corporation, also d/b/a The Roberts Ridge Foundation; and Michael Alexander Friedmann, Defendants	Civil Complaint for Injunctive and Other Relief Civil action alleging deceptive fundraising on web site that seeks to sell bracelets, hats, pins and other items by falsely claiming proceeds will benefit numerous veterans' causes	Brionna Aho, Communications Director BrionnaF@atg.wa.gov; 360-753-2727
Washington	Washington State Attorney General's Office	**Healing Heroes Network, a Florida nonprofit corporation, aka Injured American Veterans Foundation, Injured American Veterans, and Welcome Home Heroes; HeroGiveAways, LLC, a Florida limited liability company; Stacey Jill Spiegel; Allan Mark Spiegel; and Neal Aaron Spiegel**	King County Superior Court - State of Washington, Plaintiff v. Healing Heroes Network, a Florida nonprofit corporation, aka Injured American Veterans Foundation, Injured American Veterans, and Welcome Home Heroes; HeroGiveAways, LLC, a Florida limited liability company; Stacey Jill Spiegel; Allan Mark Spiegel; and Neal Aaron Spiegel, Defendants.	Civil Complaint for Injunctive and Other Relief Civil action alleging (1) misleading appeals to donate, enter a sweepstakes, or purchase tshirts and decals—including false claims that 100% of proceeds would be used to provide medical care to veterans injured after 9/11 in Iraq and Afghanistan; and (2) a for-profit company imitated a defunct nonprofit and falsely claimed that purchases would help veterans.	Brionna Aho, Communications Director BrionnaF@atg.wa.gov; 360-753-2727
Washington	Washington State	**Operation Troop Aid**		Consent Agreement	Brionna Aho, Communications

	Attorney General's Office	**(OTA)**		Consent agreement reached following multistate Investigation by sixteen (16) states of Operation Troop Aid (OTA), a Tennessee-based charity with a stated purpose that included sending care packages to deployed service members. OTA participated in an unlawful charity co-venture with nationwide retailer, Harris Originals of New York (Harris Jewelry) and its related incorporated stores. Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear's size, to OTA. OTA has acknowledged, among other things, that it failed to ensure that donated monies were expended for its stated charitable purpose, and it failed to request or receive periodic accountings from Harris of sales made. OTA has agreed to cease operating, wind down and enter into an agreement which includes dissolution, penalties, an injunction barring its chief executive from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting for, any nonprofit, and assistance in the States' continued investigation into Harris Jewelry. (*see full description of OTA action in New York's listing*)	Director BrionnaF@atg.wa.gov; 360-753-2727
Wisconsin	Office of the Wisconsin Attorney General and Department of Financial Institutions	**VietNow National Headquarters, Inc.**		Multistate Settlement Multistate settlement with Illinois-based VietNow following allegations of deceptive solicitations, including that VietNow raised nearly $2 million annually nationwide using professional telemarketers that exaggerated or misrepresented VietNow's charitable activities or otherwise deceived donors. 24 states participated in a multi-state resolution with VietNow. In November 2017, the settlement was finalized and a receiver appointed to dissolve VietNow and distribute its remaining assets to two national and well-respected veterans charities, Fisher House Foundation and Operation Homefront. (see entry for Michigan for more information)	Johnny Koremenos Director of Communications and Public Affairs 608-266-1220 koremenosj@doj.state.wi.us https://www.doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/deceptive-veterans-charity-dissolves-following-action-state-charity-regulators