



# BROOKS BAWDEN LLC

## Weekly Update

August 1 – 5, 2016

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### Latest News

\*\*\* Congress is out for an extended August Recess until after Labor Day. During August our updates will be forwarded every other week, unless special events or issues arise. \*\*\*

#### • **Laura Cooper Joins the Brooks Bawden, LLC Team**

We are pleased to announce that Laura Cooper has joined Brooks Bawden as Director of Government Affairs. Laura brings deep knowledge, experience, and relationships in the law enforcement and public safety policy fields.

Laura has managed legislative affairs for premier law enforcement organizations and remains at the forefront of today's leading public safety policy initiatives. Through her advocacy on behalf of local law enforcement executives she has worked extensively on judiciary, national security, and appropriations priorities such as criminal justice reform, asset forfeiture policy, federal grant funding opportunities, mental health, law enforcement equipment acquisition, immigration, encryption and privacy issues.

Laura is a Capitol Hill veteran with extensive experience managing complex legislative issues. She served Congressman Richard Nugent from Florida, a former sheriff, for nearly four years and earlier worked in the office of Representative Bobby Schilling from Illinois. She managed state level working groups and coordinated bipartisan efforts to resolve tough legislative issues.

Statement from Ben Bawden: "Laura has a proven track record of aggressive and effective advocacy on behalf of public safety practitioners. In the coming months and years, that experience will be valuable for our clients as we help them navigate challenging times and push for strong public safety laws and policies."

Statement from Ron Brooks: "Laura's nationwide network of relationships and her insights into the challenges facing the law enforcement and homeland security communities will enhance Brooks Bawden's ability to support our clients. We are excited to have her as part of the team and believe she will bring value to all of the work we do." Laura can be reached at [lcooper@brooksawden.com](mailto:lcooper@brooksawden.com) and (908) 268-2298.

- **Department of Justice Releases Report on Officers Killed in the Line of Duty** - The COPS Office released a report on July 29 titled, "Deadly Calls and Fatal Encounters" which identified the situations that present the most risk to officers safety, and made recommendations to enhance officer safety. The report found that calls related to domestic disputes and domestic-related incidents resulted in the highest number of officer fatalities. The study also concluded that there are high risks associated with traffic stops. The report provides three steps that law enforcement agencies can immediately implement: encourage officers to slow down when responding to calls (specifically, Officer Needs Assistance calls), wear seatbelts, and wear issued body armor. Read the report [here](#).

- **DOJ OIG Memorandum in Response to Reports of Violations of Federal Law relating to Sanctuary City Policies** - The DOJ Inspector General released a memorandum in response to a request to the DOJ by Congressman Culberson to examine concerns raised in a report that showed hundreds of jurisdictions with policies that contradicted federal law against policies that established barriers or prohibitions on cooperating with immigration officials. The OIG audited 10 jurisdictions that were included in the report, and issued four recommendations to the DOJ on ensuring that grant recipients are complying with appropriate laws on cooperating with federal immigration officials. You can view the memorandum [here](#).

- **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

- **N.J. bill would move state toward automated criminal justice data sharing system**

- **State Scoop | Alex Koma**

A new bill in New Jersey could clear the way for the state's scores of law enforcement agencies to start sharing data more freely with each other and even the federal government. State Sen. Linda Greenstein introduced S. 2467 last week, and the new legislation would pull together a council of criminal justice experts and charge them with setting standards for information sharing in the state. The bill puts a focus on breaking down "document silos" that can arise as police departments track vital information on paper, and is aimed at moving New Jersey's agencies toward sharing data on an automated basis to ease collaboration and make the state more secure. **Continue reading** [here](#).

- **Doctors warn of increase in Colorado toddlers exposed to recreational marijuana**

- **The Washington Post | Ben Guarino**

Many marijuana edibles are made to be eaten in limited portions. As Kari L. Franson, associate dean at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy, said to the New York Times on Monday: "But what kid doesn't eat an entire brownie?" In the five years since the case of the freezer cookies, as a study published Monday in the journal JAMA Pediatrics demonstrated, similar events have been on the rise. The scientists reviewed admissions to Children's Hospital Colorado and calls to poison control centers in the state from January 2009 to December 2015. Marijuana-related visits and calls ticked upward in the wake of Colorado's recreational weed legalization, the pediatricians say. The researchers, all based in Colorado, predicted that there would be a bump after the Colorado law took effect in 2014, said Genie Roosevelt, a Denver Health Medical Center pediatrician and study author, in an interview with Live Science. "What we didn't anticipate," she said, "is how much it was going to go up." **Read the article** [here](#).

- **Violent crime rising in US cities, study finds**

- **CNN | Wesley Bruer**

Violent crime is on the rise so far this year in major cities across the US compared to the number of homicides, rapes, robberies, assaults and shootings that occurred in the same cities by this point in 2015, a new report has found. The midyear violent crime survey released Monday by the Major Cities Chiefs Association shows 307 more homicides so far in 2016, according to data from 51 law enforcement agencies from some of the largest US cities. In addition to a large increase in homicides, major cities in the US have experienced more than 1,000 more robberies, almost 2,000 more aggravated assaults and more than 600 non-fatal shootings in 2016 compared to this time last year. The only category of violent crime not reflecting an increase when compared to last year is rape. **Continue reading** [here](#).

- **Bitcoin not money, Miami judge rules in dismissing laundering charges**

- **Miami Herald | David Ovalle**

A Miami-Dade judge ruled Monday that Bitcoin is not actually money, a decision hailed by proponents of the virtual currency that has become popular across the world. In a case closely watched in financial and tech circles, the judge threw out the felony charges against website designer Michell Espinoza, who had been charged with illegally transmitting and laundering \$1,500 worth of Bitcoins. He sold them to undercover detectives who told him they wanted to use the money to buy stolen credit-card numbers. But Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Teresa Mary Pooler ruled that Bitcoin was not backed by any government or bank, and was not "tangible wealth" and "cannot be hidden under a mattress like cash and gold bars." **Continue reading** [here](#).